

The Advocate of Truth

"I will make you fishers of men"

The First Epistle of John

That your joy might be full

**Yesterday, Today,
and Tomorrow Speak**

**The Agur
Principal**

**What Does God
Know About Me?**



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About the cover: This photograph was taken at the Kenai River in Alaska. This river is known for its excellent Salmon fishing.

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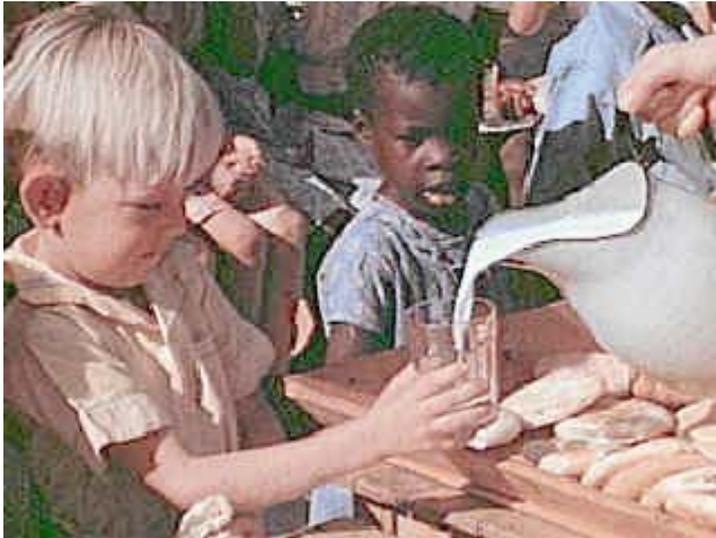
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The Agur Principle

By David DeLong

In Proverbs 30:1-3 we read: “The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal, Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man. I

neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.” Apparently nothing is known of Agur, Jakeh, Ithiel, and Ucal other than what is stated of them in Proverbs 30. Halley, in his “Bible Commentary,” suggests that Agur was a friend of Solomon’s. Furthermore, in the “Bible Commentary” it is proposed that Ithiel and Ucal may have been pupils of Agur. If that is the case, imagine a teacher with such humility that he says to his pupils, “Surely I am more brutish (stupid--NASB) than any man, and have not the understanding of a man. I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.” After Agur spoke these words, the Lord, by inspiration through the Holy Spirit, apparently then allowed this wonderful passage of Proverbs 30 to be penned, presumably by Agur, himself.

Is this situation an isolated incident in the Bible, or are there other examples given where God’s people plummet to the depths of humility in their perception of themselves, only to be given great honor by the Lord? We’ll examine that shortly. But first I want to say that after studying this subject, I have come to the conclusion that this should be the normal expression and experience that the Lord wants from His people. WHAT? You mean that it’s a part of God’s will for me to say that I’m the most stupid person who ever lived? Well, in a sense, yes!

In today’s world, there is a great amount of narcissism which can be defined as “a tendency to have self-love. A morbid or excessive self-admiration.” The word comes

from mythology, where the story is told of a beautiful, young man named Narcissus, who one day saw his reflection in the water and fell in love with it. This story later came to be related to those who have an improper love or affection for themselves. Narcissism fosters all kinds of selfishness. In fact, it has to do with many of the evils that we find in our world today.

The remedy for this is what I term “the Agur principle.” It’s not a sickness of running yourself down. It’s not some man-made inferiority complex. It’s not a philosophy of saying, “poor me,” and having a huge pity party. It’s not even wallowing in feelings of guilt. The Agur principle is recognizing our absolute dependence upon God in every area of our lives, and realizing that apart from Him we are totally nothing. It’s allowing Him to empty us completely from “self” so that we can become His devoted servants.

Why do we need to recognize this dependence? Because “self” has a way of rearing its ugly head and causing all kinds of problems in our lives: fightings, envyings, jealousies, pride, improper competitions, bad feelings, and so on. I believe that it’s possible for a person to have salvation, and yet not be totally empty of self (see I Corinthians 3:1-3). Perhaps we find ourselves in this condition. Recognizing our total dependence upon God is perhaps the first step in allowing Him to empty us of self.

Now, let’s look at examples in the Bible of the Agur

principle in action. In I Kings 3:5-14, we read of a dream that King Solomon had. The Lord appeared to him in this dream and said, "Ask what I shall give thee." Notice the great humility with which Solomon replied to the Lord in verse 7: "And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in." Solomon was, in essence, expressing his complete dependence upon the Lord in being able to judge the children of Israel. The Lord was so pleased with Solomon's request that He honored him with great wisdom, as well as riches and honor, and a promise of long life if he would be obedient.

In a second example, we read about the Prophet Isaiah in chapter 6 of this book, verses 1-8. The prophet saw an astounding vision of the Lord upon His throne with heavenly beings in attendance. This vision caused him to respond in self-deprecation in verse 5: "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." It has been said that "woe" is as low as you can go. Jesus pronounced woe upon the scribes and Pharisees for their sins (see Matthew 23:13-36). Isaiah pronounced woe upon himself for his sins. However, Isaiah was cleansed from his iniquity, and then was commissioned by the Lord with the important task of preaching to the children of Israel.

Coming to the New Testament, we find the Apostle Paul humbling himself to the Corinthian and Ephesian churches. He claims in I Corinthians 15:9: "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God." Not only does Paul state that he is the least of the apostles, he actually claims to be less than any of the saints. "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8). Incredible humility! The Lord honored him for his devotion with being possibly the most effective apostle to the Gentiles the world has ever seen.

John the Baptist gives us the key to how the Agur principle works. This key is extremely important, and yet it is very simple to understand. It is found in John 3:30, where John the Baptist, speaking of Jesus says, "He must increase, but I must decrease." The Lord Jesus is increased in our lives in proportion to how much we decrease.

A mathematical graph will help us to see this point.

Let's say that the horizontal line of this graph represents self, in which no spiritual fruit is produced. The vertical line represents God's will, in which much fruit is produced. Every believer will have some growth (fruit produced), and the Lord will be exalted to some degree. There may be plateaus, some rises, and some falls on the line drawn on the graph which shows the believer's spiritual progress. However, when "self" comes to zero, God and Christ are truly exalted.

Now, when a person humbles himself or herself, an amazing thing happens. As Christ is exalted in our lives, then we are exalted in Christ. Luke 14:11 reads: "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." The natural mind cannot understand this. One might think that if the self is put down, or humbled, that this could cause an inferiority complex. An inferiority complex, however, is caused when people compare themselves with other people, and feeling that they don't match up. Jesus said, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Denying self will actually destroy an inferiority complex, because it will subdue a person's ego which causes the complex. Christ needs to help the believer do this, in fact, because he or she has no power to do it alone. And Christ is the One who will exalt the believer.

Philippians 2:3,4 tells us: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." When we obey this Scripture and "esteem other better than" ourselves, then we are putting ourselves last. Yet, when we do this, we are promised: "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first" (Matthew 19:30). The Lord sees to it that when we consider ourselves to be last, He will honor us greatly.

The Apostle Paul considered his own life to be dead. He wrote: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Today, we call a dead person a "flatliner." This refers to the flat line which shows up on a monitor after all vital signs of the person are gone. In God's eyes, we are all flatliners. Life, strength, intelligence, resources, and other things can only come from Him, and therefore, none of us can boast

of our accomplishments. Second Corinthians 10:17 says, "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." To God, the genius and the moron, the beautiful person and the ugly one, the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor, and all races of people are alike to Him. It is only man who makes the distinction.

Our Lord Jesus is our example in humbling Himself and putting Himself last. We find these amazing words written about Him in Philippians 2:5-11: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

We are told in this passage that we are to have the same mind in us that Jesus had. He humbled Himself to absolute zero. No one, not Agur, Solomon, Isaiah, or even Paul, humbled himself to such depths. Our Lord Jesus gave up His exalted place in heaven, became a servant of men, and was obedient unto death. And such a shameful, humiliating, agonizing death it was--that of the cross. Even before His death on the cross, He had been tried illegally, scourged, beaten, spit upon, insulted, abandoned, mocked, and had a crown of thorns placed upon His head. And then, for six tortuous hours He hung upon the cross. Psalm 69:7, a passage that is regarded as a prophetic reference to Christ, reads: "Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face." In a similar passage, Psalm 22:6, we find: "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people." Can you imagine the humiliation that Jesus felt, as if He was a worm? He did it, though, because He loved us. For all this, God has honored His Son above all others, too, and rightfully so.

We may appreciate deeply what Jesus did for us, but would we allow ourselves to be called a fool for the sake of Christ? Paul did. He is referring to the apostles, himself included, in I Corinthians 4:10, where he writes: "We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are

weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised." Then he gives a rather lengthy list of what it means to be a fool for Christ in verses 11-13. He continues: "Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day." The apostles were completely sold out to Christ. (See also II Corinthians 11:22-28; 12:11).

Would we walk naked and barefoot as a sign and wonder unto the nations simply because The Lord told us to? Isaiah did. We read of this account in Isaiah chapter 20. Verse 2 reads: "At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot." This wasn't only for a day or two, but was for three years! (See verse 3). It's hard to imagine the humility of Isaiah in doing this.

The Agur principle is putting self completely down so that the Lord can work His wondrous will through our lives.

The list goes on. Hosea married a harlot because of God's command. Noah spent a century or so building an ark in obedience to the Lord, probably hearing a multitude mocking him. Jehoshaphat sent singers ahead of the army, against his enemies, in absolute dependence upon the Lord for deliverance.

All of this, dear readers, is the Agur principle in action. It is putting self completely down so that the Lord can work His wondrous will through our lives. It is total surrender to every thought, word, or wish of our heavenly Commander as it is revealed to us. Let us not feel insulted when we think of ourselves as stupid with Agur, a child with Solomon, woeful for our sins with Isaiah, or less than the least of the saints with Paul. May we ever decrease with John the Baptist, so that Christ will ever be increased in our lives. The Lord Jesus, in reference to Himself said: "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (Matthew 21:44).

FORGET NOT HIS BENEFITS



"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:1-5).

David the shepherd boy was now king of Israel. Little did he dream, when he walked the lane that led from his father's house to the fields where the sheep were grazing, that in the providence of God he would one day walk across the carpet of a palace to sit on the throne of a king.

From shepherd boy to monarch.
From a farm to a throne.
But that is the way God does things.

We sometimes boast that in our democracy there is the opportunity for one who is willing to work and persevere to rise to the top.

An American artist, shortly after Lincoln's assassination, depicted in a newspaper cartoon a log cabin and above it circled by a halo the White House, home of the president. A ladder stretched from the cabin door to the White House door. Underneath were these words "The ladder is still there." President James Garfield did go from cabin to White House.

This world has never seen such lifting power as the grace of God. Our Heavenly Father can take a little babe lying in the bulrushes of the sleepy Nile and open the doors of a palace for the training of a slave. And then He could take the little slave boy and make him Moses, the emancipator of a race.

God could reach down to the lowest strata of society and breath into men's hearts the spirit of inspiration until their songs and their prophecies and their Old Testament writings would stand as long as the world itself.

God could take a fisherman of the blue waters of Galilee and name him John who would be privileged to see events.

From sinking sand He lifted me,
With tender hands He lifted me
From shades of night
To plains of light,
Oh, praise His name
He lifted me.

It is no wonder that David rejoiced as he contemplated what the Lord had done. Let us look at the four blessings that are listed in Psalm 103:1-5.

There Is Forgiveness

The only person who has ever lived, from Adam until now, who really knew how to forgive was Jesus of Nazareth.

History gives us accounts of noble characters but none like Him.

Memory brings back to us the unhappy events and brings back to mind the characteristics or the wrong of others.

But in the mind of Christ, there is not memory that brings up the forgiven past. He forgives everything!

He Healeth Our Diseases

It is not necessary to dwell on this point, but it is necessary to notice that the wording of the inspired text is exactly the same regarding healing as it is in regard to forgiveness. It may not be our individual sin that causes our sickness, but remember it is part of the effects of the fall. If Adam and Eve had not sinned, sickness would not be there.

Let us dwell now upon Jesus.

Mothers brought their babies to Him, and He touched them.

Lepers brought their disease-ridden bodies to His feet, and He Healed them.

The blind man of Jericho cried out to Him, and He healed him.

Let us remember how they brought the lame, halt and blind to Him.

At even, when the sun was set,
The sick, Oh Lord around they lay;
Oh, with what divers pains they met,
But with what joy they went away;
Thy touch has still its ancient power,
No word from thee can fruitless fall.
Hear in this solemn evening hour,
And in thy mercy heal us all.

There Is Redemption

How foolish it is for man to say that he is the master

of his destiny and captain of his soul.

Think of the storms and tempests of life. Changing circumstances will not allow a man to live his own life.

Every man who knows not the delivering power of Christ is under the control of the devil. The Bible says that such are Satan's children.

Sin and iniquity separates us from God. Man is just a plaything of the devil. Men try to break the powers that bind, but they cannot.

Our Coronation

He puts upon our head the crown of lovingkindness and tender mercy. A crown of righteousness is worth more than any crown of gold.

Kings do not crown themselves. Neither does a child of God wear his crown by his own accomplishment.

When I survey the cross
On which the prince of glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt upon my pride.

We owe much to Jesus.

May our hearts and voices be lifted in admiration with the Psalmist of old when he wrote: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits."

Contributed



The First Epistle Of John



In addition to his "Gospel" account of Jesus' ministry, the Apostle John wrote three epistles. The first is a "general" epistle because it is not addressed to any particular group or individual. John says, "And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (I John 1:4). What are "these things"? One of them is the affirmation that Jesus was the "Word" of God, that He had been "made flesh." Please read the first three verses of this letter.

In verse 5 of chapter 1, is recorded: "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." Light is used in the Bible as a symbol of truth and righteousness and the joys which result from being in harmony with them. Truth embraces all the teachings that are found in the Word of God. Every teaching that is found in God's Word is prompted by love and designed to assure that all the obedient will have peace, joy, and eternal life.

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes" (I John 2:10-11). Therefore, love is another manifestation of truth. We read in John 3:16 that it was God's love which prompted Him to send His Son to rescue the world from sin and death.

John also says that love gives "...boldness in the day of judgment." Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world" (chapter 4:17). This is not a reference to the world's future day of judgment, for children of God will not then be on trial--they will not come into condemnation. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath

everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). Instead, together with Jesus, they will be judges of the people in the kingdom. The child of God's trial, or "judgment" day is now. He or she is tested along various lines, and one of them is willingness to confess the truth. John wrote, "Who-soever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God" (I John 4:15).

For anyone in John's day to make this "confession" required great courage, or "boldness." We recall that one of the charges the religious leaders brought against Jesus was that He claimed to be the Son of God. Jews who later espoused His cause and confessed their belief that Jesus was the Son of God would also be hated and persecuted by their countrymen. Gentiles, already in disrepute with the Jewish people would, when making this confession, be looked down upon more than ever.

John had the proper understanding of Christian love. He saw that it is a principle of unselfish devotion to God and to the divine cause which would not permit compromise of any kind. For example, he admonishes children of God to "try the spirits," that is, doctrines or teachings which are presented to them, and then he adds, "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" (chapter 4:1-3). This must be understood in keeping with John's own explanation of this great truth as set forth in the opening chapter of his Gospel. If Jesus had not come in the flesh, He could not have given his flesh for the life of the world. If he had not given His flesh for the

life of the world, then the world could not be redeemed from sin and death, and there would be no hope that anyone will ever be raised from the dead.

People who believe in the trinity point to I John 5:7-8 to try to prove their point. These are the only two verses in the Bible that even remotely suggest such a teaching.

Many scholars say that parts of these verses cannot be found in the oldest Greek manuscripts extant of the New Testament. They say that when we eliminate the spurious portion of these verses, they read: "For there are three that bear record, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."

Contributed



Somebody's Raising His Kid Right!

One day a 6-year-old girl was sitting in a classroom. The teacher was going to explain evolution to the children. The teacher asked a little boy: "Tommy, do you see the tree outside?"

TOMMY: "Yes."

TEACHER: "Tommy, do you see the grass outside?"

TOMMY: "Yes."

TEACHER: "Go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky."

TOMMY: "Okay." (He returned a few minutes later) "Yes, I saw the sky."

TEACHER: "Did you see God up there?"

TOMMY: "No."

TEACHER: "That's my point. We can't see God because He isn't there. Probably He just doesn't exist."

A little girl spoke up and wanted to ask the boy some questions.

The teacher agreed and the little girl asked the boy: "Tommy, do you see the tree outside?"

TOMMY: "Yes."

LITTLE GIRL: "Tommy, do you see the grass outside?"

TOMMY: "Yesssss!"

LITTLE GIRL: "Did you see the sky?"

TOMMY: "Yesssss!"

LITTLE GIRL: "Tommy, do you see the teacher?"

TOMMY: "Yes."

LITTLE GIRL: "Do you see her brain?"

TOMMY: "No."

LITTLE GIRL: "Then according to what we were taught today in school, she possibly may not even have one!"

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7).

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW SPEAK



Yesterday, today and tomorrow speak very clearly to us, and we should heed their advice.

Yesterday Speaks

Yesterday says unto us, "I am gone, but learn from me." There is no way to go back to yesterday and straighten out mistakes and unsolved problems. Oh, how some of us would like to go back and change some things, but it is utterly impossible. The door is closed. Yesterday is in the unreachable past. It is gone forever!

Though yesterday cannot be relived, our Lord would have us remember our mistakes and learn from them. Some of us have faltered many times in the past. Let us learn from these mistakes and misunderstandings of yesterday. We can profit from them and avoid doing them again.

Let us learn the futility of fighting our own battles. It is said, "Experience is the best teacher." If so, we should have already learned that lesson and learned it well. Jesus tells us, "...without me ye can do nothing (John 15:5). However, the Apostle Paul declared, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

"...with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Again the Word declares, "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). His help is available at all times. We not only need His help, but we must have it if we are to be conquerors in this great battle.

Let us learn that victorious Christian living is not possible without daily prayer and Bible reading. When we pray, we talk to God. When we read His Word, He talks to us. Many children of God (especially young converts) fail at this point. The Psalmist declared, "...in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:2). Job said, "...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). His Word is our strength and our guide.

Let us remember that our happiest moments were when we were fully obeying God. We look back and reminisce over those blessed, happy days. Following afar off is a miserable life. Living "near to the heart of God" is the happy life. Let us recall the lukewarm, lackadaisical times when we walked away from His presence.

Finally, let us remember that after we profit by mis-

takes and faults and are forgiven, it is best to forget them. There is no value in mulling over and mourning about things that happened yesterday. Paul declared, "...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Today Speaks

Today says, "I am at your service, use me." Yesterday is gone. There is no way to bring it back and no way to go back to it. It is foolish to grieve about past failures or about what might have been. The story of Humpty Dumpty illustrates this point.

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall;
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

How true this is! You cannot change things that happened yesterday. Yesterday is finished! It is ended forever.

Use today for prayer and Bible study. This is really important. You cannot make up tomorrow that which is neglected and lost today. We need the strength and direction prayer and Bible study provide for today.

Use today for doing good deeds for others. There are many opportunities today that could be lost by procrastination or laziness. There are lost men and women all around us. Sickness is everywhere, spiritual sickness, physical sickness and mental sickness. Let us have compassion and do something for them today.

Use today for praising the Lord. He is worthy, so praise Him today.

Use today for personal soul winning The fields are white unto harvest today. Let us reap the golden grain ere it perishes in the field. We must work the work of the One who called us and sent us because "...the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). If we put things off until tomorrow, they may never get done.

Tomorrow Speaks

Tomorrow says, "Don't worry about me, trust me with God." Many people fret and fume about the future. They say it looks so dark, and there seems to be no way out.

It is true that we live in a day of uncertainty, a day of frustration, wickedness and utter confusion. It is a day when "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." (Luke 21:26).

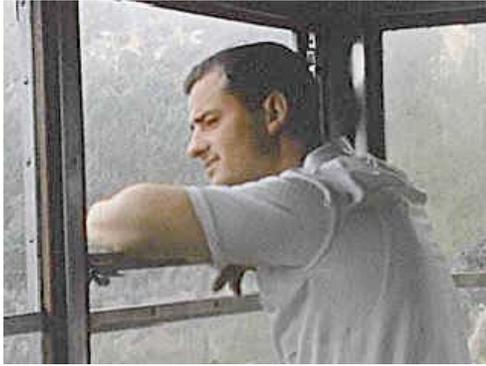
The Apostle Paul states, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (II Timothy 3:1-5).

Paul also states, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4).

But even though there is darkness, despair and even desperation in the earth, God still sits on His throne! He still lives! There are battles to fight, but the same God who helped us fight them yesterday and is helping us today, will be with us in our conflicts tomorrow. God's Word declares, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). It also declares, "...If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Let us meditate on the following powerful words: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-39). Let us adhere to Paul's words and forget things behind and reach forth for those things before us.

We cannot remedy the past, but we can make straight our path today. We know who holds tomorrow. Let us trust Him until the end of the way.



GOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF ME

"O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it" (Psalm 139:1-6).

David declared, "Thou hast searched me." He admits that God's mighty searchlight was upon him. He also said, "Thou understandest my thought." God knows what I am thinking about before my thoughts transfer into actions.

Our Lord knows His sheep. "To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out" (John 10:3). It is not what we think, but what God knows. "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him:

for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). His knowledge surpasses all human comprehension.

God knows my ways. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). David said that God is "acquainted with all my ways" (Psalm 139:3).

God knows my path. "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). He knows how to guide my path, and He knows the pitfalls, the snares and the traps of the enemy. Thou compassest my path..." (verse 3).

God knows my needs. "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him" (Matthew 6:8). Don't worry or fret about tomorrow. He knows every need I may have.

God also knows all about you!

Selected

JUST A MINUTE!



For a number of days I had been wondering how true were the words spoken by the little girl who lived down the street. Periodically she would knock persistently at the door. And when I answered, it was always, "Mommie said..." You know, "Mommie said it would be all right if I got my swimming suit on and ran through your sprinkler," or "Mommie said it would be all right if you gave me a cookie." That is, I wondered until one cold, cloudy spring

day. It was a perfect day for baking, which I was doing, when again I heard the familiar knock. "Maybe she smells the cookies," I thought as I walked to the door.

"Yes, Nellie, what would you like today?" "Mommie said I can run through the sprinkler if you will turn it on." The past incidents became absolutely clear. Mommie would no more want her four-year-old to run through cold water on a dreary drizzly day than I would have wanted her

to. This time I wasn't going to give in and stated firmly, "No, you tell your Mommie it is too cold."

This incident reminds me of the Scripture verse in Numbers 32:23b, "...be sure your sin will find you out." Nellie had probably got into the lying habit gradually. Perhaps I even encouraged it. She soon discovered that all she had to say was "Mommie said," and everything went

as she wanted. But finally the time came when the lie was so obvious that even I could detect it!

Are we always absolutely truthful in what we say? Or do we find ourselves beginning to shade statements just a wee bit and then a bit more? Look out! Some day the sin of lying will find you out.

Selected

BEING EFFECTIVE WITNESSES

There was a young man who was discouraged because his supervisors resented the imposition that his witness brought to his work environment. What can we do to be effective witnesses in our workplaces for our Lord Jesus Christ?

First, I am sure that we all want to honor Christ with our obedience by being effective witnesses for Him. People at our work are included in our scope of witnessing. Prior to Jesus' glorious ascension into heaven, He informed His disciples: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Second, our witness needs to be attractive. Within the word attractive is the word attract. An attractive witness is one who attracts people to Christ. If co-workers and supervisors are repulsed by the witness, the witness needs a quality-control correction. What doesn't attract? Being someone whom no one else wants to be like may be one thing. The people you are trying to win to Christ could be saying, "If becoming a Christian is becoming like someone who can't hold a conversation without witnessing, or someone who seems compelled to annoy people, I don't want to be one."

What attracts? Back in the early 70's and on into the middle 90's I assisted an old gentleman from France. His manner was incredibly attractive. His personality was one

of kindness, compassion, concern, goodness, and balance. His witness made a lasting impression in my heart. I think of him quite often.

Integrity attracts at work. Giving a day's work for a day's pay is necessary. Being a positive influence is required. Do not join in on the roast-the-boss or bad-mouth-the-company sessions. Do not lie about reasons for leaving work or not reporting to work. If you see something that needs to be done, do it without being told. In other words, be a part of the answer rather than a part of the problem (unless uncompromising principles are involved).

Third, witnesses are what we are, not what we say. For example, here is a true story. A local supervisor asked an employee to come in on a holiday. The employee was bewildered. He knew there were no assignments requiring immediate attention. He did busy work in the morning, still puzzled. Then the boss came by and said, "I'd like to take you to lunch." While awaiting for food orders, the boss said, "I know you must be wondering why I brought you in today. It's because I wanted to find a time and place where I could ask you a question. I've watched your life, and you have peace and happiness that I don't have. I've come to believe it's because you have Christ in your life. I just wanted to ask you, "How do I invite Christ into my life?" Parenthetically, he hadn't stepped inside a church door since childhood. So how can we be attractive witnesses at work? We must model our lives by our Lord's!

Contributed





MERCY TRUMPS "THEOLOGICAL HYPOTHESIS"

Panel rules that Catholics are free to reject church's teachings on limbo

By Alan Cooperman
Washington Post

Ann Druge grew up in a Catholic family with eight children and the haunting knowledge that a ninth was still-born. Because the baby, Mary Ellen, had not been baptized, she was denied a Catholic burial.

"When we would go to the cemetery...we'd always stop where they threw the dead flowers. That's where the little one was buried," said Druge, 80, of Storrs, Conn. "My mother and father were very upset every time. She was stillborn, so she couldn't be buried in the consecrated ground. We were told she was in limbo."

No more.

After three years of study, a Vatican-appointed panel of theologians has declared that limbo is a "problematic" concept that Catholics are free to reject. The 30-member International Theological Commission said there are good reasons to believe instead that unbaptized babies go to heaven, because God is merciful and "wants all human beings to be saved."

"We emphasize that these are reasons for prayerful hope, rather than grounds for sure knowledge," said the commission's report, published last month with the Pope's approval.

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.

Late-night television hosts and internet satirists have had their yuks over this change, but the idea of limbo was a real anguish to many Catholic parents and grandparents grieving over miscarriages or stillbirths. Its abandonment may say something about the afterlife, but it also says something about the current pope, who is turning out to be more pastoral (read: compassionate) and less rigid than many expected.

For about 750 years, from the beginning of the 13th century until the middle of the 20th, the common Catholic teaching was that babies who died without baptism--as well as adults who lived holy lives but in ignorance of Jesus--would spend eternity in limbo, which is neither heaven nor the full fury of hell.

Because babies are guilty of no personal sins (only the taint of original sin) the thinking went, surely God would not consign them to perpetual torment. But because the church teaches that baptism is a necessity, theologians also asserted that unbaptized babies could not enjoy eternal life in God's presence.

To faithful Catholics, the Vatican's pronouncement does not mean that limbo once existed and suddenly is abolished; it means there are grounds for hope that unbaptized babies are in heaven--and have been all along.

Druge said she felt long ago that her sister was in heaven, and Druge sees no need to move the 75-year-old grave.

"Limbo never made sense to me," she said. "I always thought that if the baby came from God, it would go right back to God. I think that's what my mother believed, too."

The Vatican commission stressed that there is no mention of limbo in the Bible and that it was never a part of church dogma. Nor, by the way, is the commission's own

advisory opinion. But there is little doubt that Pope Benedict XVI agrees with its conclusion. In a 1985 book-length interview, "The Ratzinger Report," then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said limbo was "never a defined truth of faith," and "personally...I would abandon it, since it was only a theological hypothesis."

Some Catholics, however, are standing firm on limbo.

"The Vatican is suggesting that salvation is possible without baptism. That is heresy," said Kenneth J. Wolfe, Washington columnist for the Remnant, a traditional Catholic newspaper.

He predicted the report, titled "The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who Die Without Being Baptized," would undermine the church's advice to parents to make sure that children are baptized within the first 10 days of life. It might also undercut the church's position against abortion, since "one of the reasons for opposing abortion is that the baby's soul is lost," he said.

The Catholic Church still adheres to the related idea of purgatory--a period of punishment and purification before the full joy of heaven--but it has been inching away from limbo for decades.

The Baltimore Catechism, an official compendium of Catholic teachings used in the United States until the 1960s, described limbo as the destination of unbaptized babies. But there is no mention of limbo in the new catechism, published in 1992, said Monsignor Daniel J. Kutys, director of religious education for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In 1969, the Catholic Church introduced a funeral rite for unbaptized babies, negating the policy that had kept Druge's sister from being buried in consecrated ground. While the church is often viewed as a top-down organization in which bishops tell ordinary Catholics what to believe, the commission's report suggests that in this case, the process worked partly in reverse.

A commission member, the Rev. Paul McPartlan, a professor of theology at the Catholic University of America, said that in the run-up to the Second Vatican Council, which met from 1962 to 1965, there were proposals to add limbo to the central teachings of the church.

But the senior bishops who prepared the council's agenda rejected those proposals, noting that the idea that unbaptized babies cannot go to heaven simply did not match the *sensus fidelium*, Latin for "the sense of the faithful," McPartlan said.

Before becoming pope, Benedict was known as a fierce defender of traditional teachings as head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Yet he also served as president of the International Theological Commission when it decided a few years ago to revisit the issue of limbo.

Comment

This shows that the Roman Catholic Church really is Babylon. If the teaching of limbo is just theological hypothesis, what are the other ideas that are taught?

The rejection of limbo puts the church in a very awkward position. If limbo is not and the babies go directly to heaven, then the church would have to drop the demand that all babies be baptized (sprinkled).

We know that babies or no one else goes to heaven.

WHICH DO YOU KNOW BETTER?

Americans know what's on a Big Mac better than what's in the Bible

**By Helen T. Gray
McClatchy Newspapers**

More Americans can name the ingredients in a Big Mac than list the Ten Commandments.

A recent survey by Kelton Research in conjunction with the Oct. 19 release of the animated film *The Ten Commandments* indicated that 80 percent of the 1,000 people polled knew that the Big Mac contained two beef patties and 62 percent even knew that pickles were an ingredient.

But less than half were familiar with seven of the Ten Commandments.

In a related study, "man on the street" interview tested knowledge of the Ten Commandments against knowledge of cultural trivia.

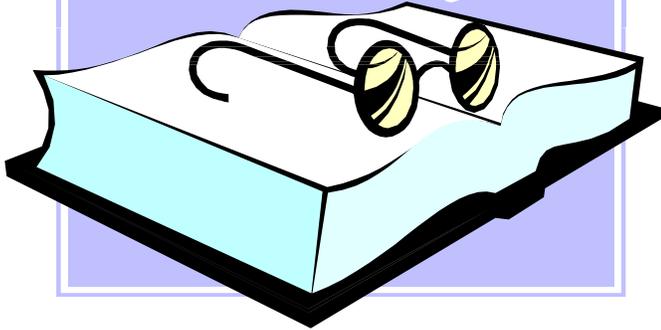
Trivia won out.

For example, most respondents knew the names of the four Beatles, but many couldn't recall even one Commandment.

-From the *Houston Chronicle*

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Why should I tithe?

ANSWER: There are marvelous spiritual blessings connected with giving a tenth to the Lord. It is a wonderful stimulant to faith. It strengthens obedience in all other lines. It brings light to the mind on other subjects. It is a safeguard against greed and stinginess. It makes benevolence a fixed affection in the soul and not a spasmodic action. It makes the conscience tender, and it gives sweeter access to God and prayer. The faithful tithe payer is made rich spiritually. God is not dependent upon a visible earthly church or upon any single man and his money to carry the gospel. He is not conditional by the covetousness of human hearts or limited in His plans because men refuse to give up their hoarded gold stocks of wealth. It is not for these reasons that God earnestly entreats us to render Him service in gifts of heart and hand, but rather because of His great love for humanity He desires to give us the priceless privilege of being His helping hand, and laborers together with Him.

He who enters this working arrangement with God and renders Him a faithful tithe is conscious of a spiritual reaction that invigorates the soul with increased power of doing good. Faith reaches out in fuller dependence upon God's promises of spiritual and material blessings. Heaven's retaining walls will burst asunder, its windows open wide, as God makes good His pledged work which

says: "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" (Malachi 3:10).

God wishes to take every Christian in partnership with Him in promoting the program of salvation. Every person who accepts Christ assumes the responsibility of a worker with God. In truth, if we have fellowship with God, we become His ministers, though we may never preach a sermon. Our talents and our training might not fit us for public service, but whether one be a professional man or a mechanic, or a servant, a physician, or a minister of the work, a toiler in the forest, or a farmer following the plow, he is regarded as one of God's workers.

We are admonished to love God "...with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength..." (Mark 12:33). The product of the heart, the mind, the hand, whether that product be a life devotedly lived, or a sermon earnestly preached, or money honestly earned, if all is consecrated to the one end, the advancement of the gospel, the giver is counted as a worker with God. What a joy, what a privilege this is! How wonderfully kind God is to allow us to share in the great work of saving souls for His eternal kingdom. Shall we not be more faithful in the part He has allowed us to

play in human redemption? The Lord takes these gifts and by power of the Holy Spirit, these gifts become channels of salvation of the lost whom we may not personally reach. Thus, does the giving of money for the support of the work fulfill that law which honors God as supreme and calls upon us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

God does not accept money as a ransom from transgression. All the riches of the wealthy are not sufficient to cover a single sin. We cannot earn God's favor through the payment of money. Not by human works or deeds of righteousness are men saved. "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:18-19). Grace, that unmerited favor of God toward undeserving human beings is heaven's only remedy that saves from sin. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). May we ever hearken to the voice of the Spirit as it urges us on in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ!

QUESTION: Who is the author of the Epistle of James?

ANSWER: We believe that it is the personal brother of Jude, Simon, Joses, and Jesus (Matthew 13:55). In James 1:9, is about the strongest clue to prove this answer: "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he (Jesus his brother) is exalted." Please read also the other brother's epistle: Jude 1 where James is definitely the brother of Jude.

The author identifies himself only as "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ..." (James 1:1). This James was not one of the twelve. James, the brother of John the apostle, was killed by the sword by King Herod Agrippa I about 44 A.D. (Acts 12:2).

The contents of the letter point sharply to James, head of the church at Jerusalem, as its author. This James was one of the four brothers of Jesus Christ who are listed as James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). These four, together with the sisters of Jesus, were all younger than Jesus. Joseph did not cause Mary to conceive a child until after she had borne a Son, Jesus (Matthew 1:25). Luke records that Mary gave birth to her first-born (Greek, protokos) son. Luke, the physician,

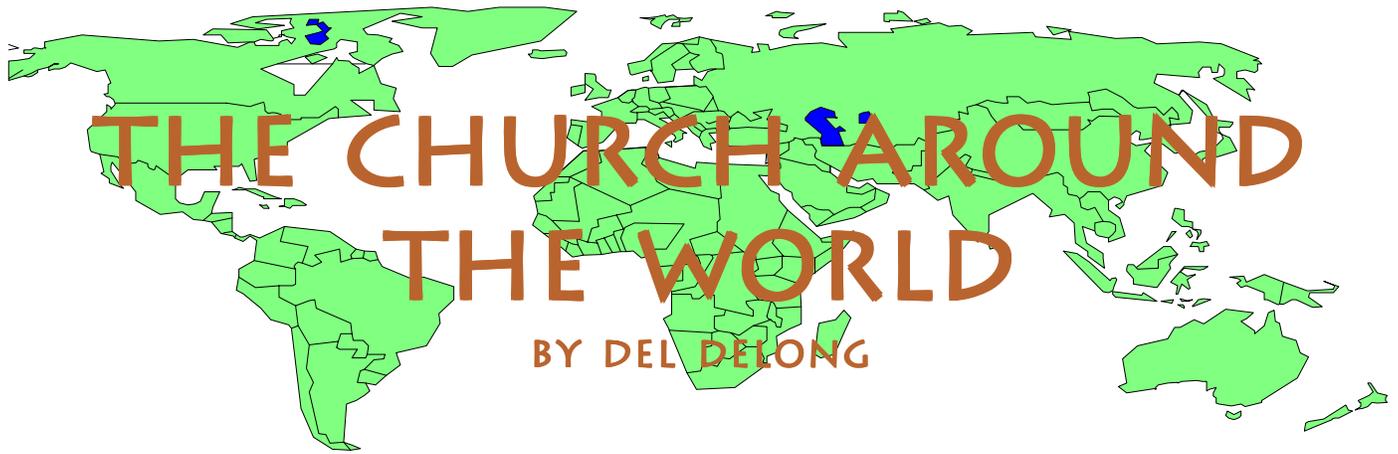
did not refer to Jesus as an only (Greek, monogenous) son of Mary. Luke would certainly have noted that Jesus was an only child, had it been true. Luke noted that the son of the widow of Nain was an only son (Luke 7:12) and that the daughter of Jairus was an only daughter (Luke 8:42). Luke, who had much detailed information on the Virgin Mary, never heard of the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary. This unscriptural speculation, that Mary bore no children after Jesus, was invented near the end of the fourth century in order to glorify the rising tide of monasticism.

"...James the Lord's brother" (Galatians 1:19), together with the other brothers of Jesus, spent a few days with Jesus and Mary and Christ's disciples in Capernaum (John 2:12). The brothers of Jesus urged Him to go to Judea (John 7:3), although they did not believe in Him (John 7:5). After the resurrection, the brothers of Jesus were among the one hundred twenty persons gathered for prayer before Pentecost (Acts 1:14).

James, the Lord's brother, was one of the witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:7). Peter, after he was led out of prison by an angel of the Lord, gave specific instructions to "...shew these things unto James, and to the brethren..." (Acts 12:17). James presided at the Council of Jerusalem, about 50A.D. (Acts 15:13). The Apostle Paul on his final visit to Jerusalem went with Luke and others to see James (Acts 21:18).

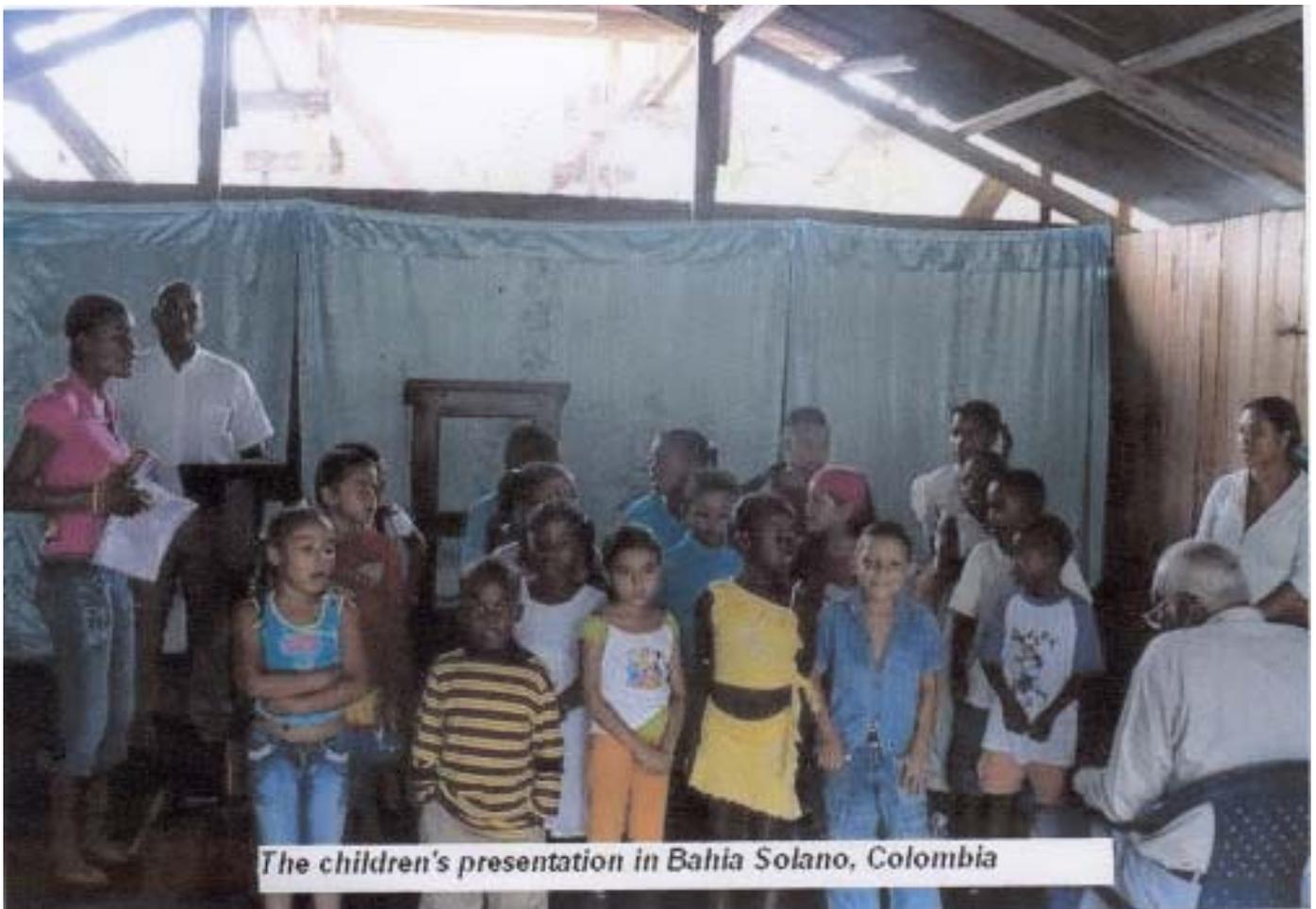
QUESTION: What do you believe Romans 8:28 means?

ANSWER: First, let us quote the verse: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." This passage means that the events of life, including things that we call misfortunes, will be overruled to spiritual advantage. The child of God is not promised immunity from trouble, but that his troubles will tend to make him a better man. He is not encouraged to seek discipline, or to act recklessly, with the idea that howsoever an enterprise turns out, it will benefit him. But if after he has sought divine guidance and if after he has carefully considered the matter, it turns out disastrously, he is not to be cast down, but to expect that in some way God will make the disaster a blessing to him.



Colombia

These photos were taken during the last trip that Apostle Daniel Mena took in Colombia. As you can see, he was very busy here.



The children's presentation in Bahía Solano, Colombia



The Church in Bahia Solano, Colombia



Wedding in Bahia Solano, Colombia



Bahia Solano, Colombia



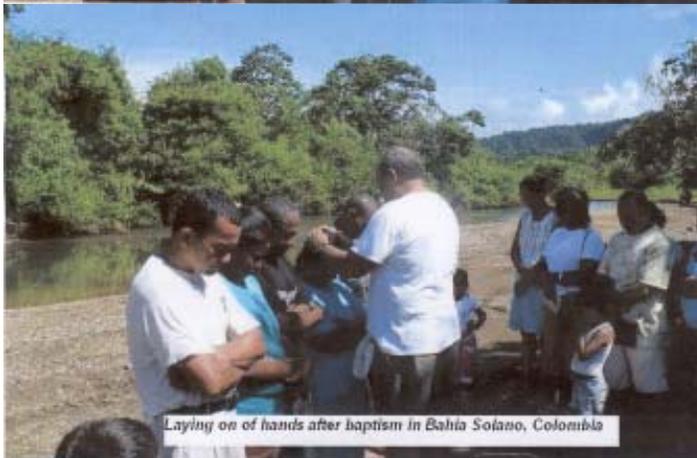
Part of the congregation in Bahia Solano, Colombia



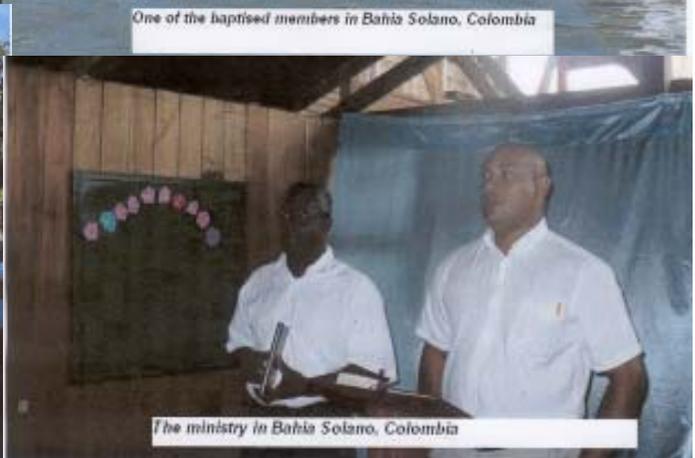
Candidates for baptism in Bahia Solano, Colombia



One of the baptised members in Bahia Solano, Colombia



Laying on of hands after baptism in Bahia Solano, Colombia



The ministry in Bahia Solano, Colombia

LESSON I

HONESTY

Scripture Reading: Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11.

Golden Text: Acts 5:4 (last part).

"...why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God."

1. What do we find the believers doing in Acts 4:32-35?
2. Name three things we learn about Barnabas. Acts 4:36-37.
3. What husband and wife sold their possession, kept part back, and laid the rest at the apostles' feet? Acts 5:1-2.
4. What did Peter say Ananias had done, and to whom did he do it? Acts 5:3-4.
5. What happened to Ananias after he heard the word of Peter? Acts 5:5.
6. How much time passed before Sapphira came to Peter? Acts 5:7.
7. What did Peter then ask Sapphira, and what was her reply? Acts 5:8.
8. What was Peter's reply, and what then happened to Sapphira? Acts 5:9-10.
9. How did the people react when they heard what had happened to Ananias and Sapphira? Acts 5:11.

LESSON II

SIMON THE SORCERER

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:9-25.

Golden Text: Acts 8:17.

"Then laid they their hands on them, and they received

the Holy Ghost."

1. Who was Simon? Acts 8:9.

NOTE: Sorcery is another name for magic.

2. How did the people of Samaria feel about Simon? Acts 8:10-11.
3. What happened to change the views of the people? Acts 8:12.
4. What did Simon do in Acts 8:13?
5. Who was sent to Samaria? Acts 8:14.
6. For what did Peter and John pray? Acts 8:15-17.
7. When Simon saw what happened after the laying on of hands, what did he offer Peter and John? Why? Acts 8:18-19.
8. What did Peter tell Simon to do? Acts 8:20-23.
9. What did Simon then ask Peter to do? Acts 8:24.

LESSON III

SAUL SEES A LIGHT

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-9.

Golden Text: Acts 9:6 (first part).

"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

1. What did Saul start out to do? Acts 9:1-2.

NOTE: Saul was sincere in his attack against God's people. Though wrong, he believed these people were God's enemies.

2. What did Saul see as he journeyed towards Damascus? Acts 9:3.

3. As he fell to the earth, what did he hear? Acts 9:4.
4. What did Saul say to Jesus? Acts 9:5.
5. What did Jesus then tell him to do? Acts 9:6.
6. Why did the men with Saul have to lead him, and what was his condition during the first three days? Acts 9:8-9.

LESSON IV

SAUL AT DAMASCUS

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:10-19.

Golden Text: Acts 9:16.

"For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

1. What was the name of the disciple at Damascus to whom the Lord spoke in a vision? Acts 9:10.
2. What kind of man was this disciple? Acts 22:12.
3. What did the Lord tell Ananias to do in Acts 9:11-12?
4. What reports had Ananias heard of Paul? Acts 9:13-14.
5. What did the Lord say about Saul to make Ananias change his mind? Acts 9:15-16.
6. Name the two things that were to happen as a result of Ananias' visit? Acts 9:17.
7. What immediately happened to Saul when Ananias put his hands on him, and what did Saul then do? Acts 9:18-19.

NOTE: We will now refer to Saul as Paul (Acts 13:9). Paul was three days without his sight. Perhaps it was necessary for Paul to lose his sight in order that he could "see" more clearly.

CODED VERSE

Find the verse below by using the code given. If you need help read Joshua 24:24 (last part).

A ●	E ■	L ◆	S ☿	W □
B ☿	G ☉	N →	R ○	Y ☼
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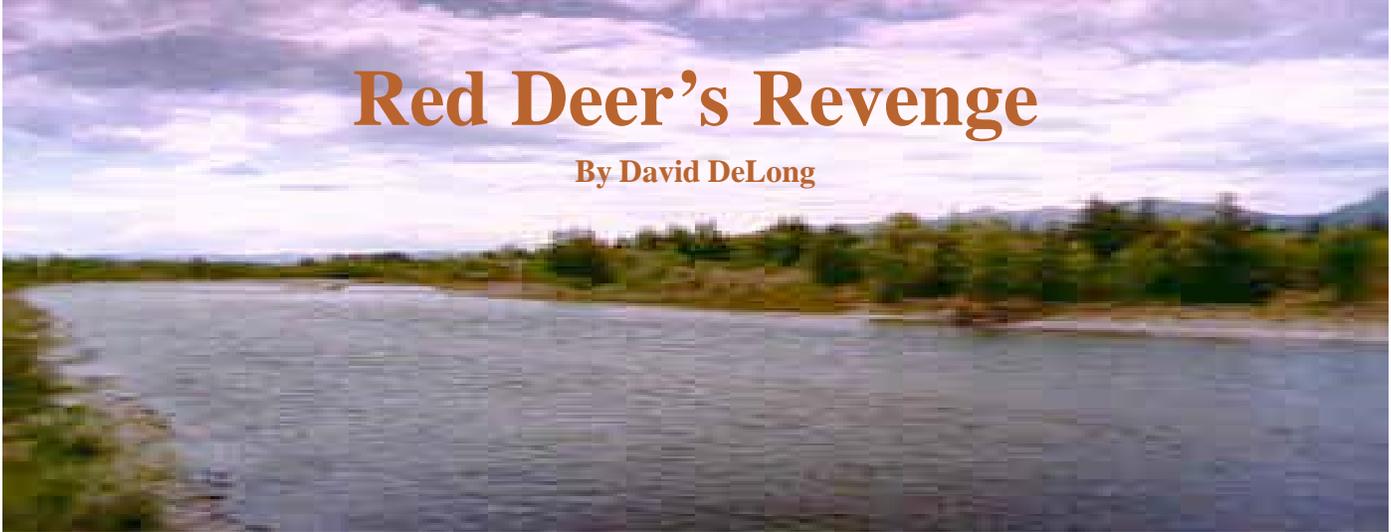
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Red Deer's Revenge

By David DeLong

“Look at the little savage, Pa!” Billy mocked, as he pointed a finger at a Shawnee Indian boy standing along the banks of the Ohio River.

“I see the little varmint, Billy,” John Harden replied with a smirk upon his weathered face.

The Hardens were riding a home-made raft on the mighty Ohio River, its current making the craft difficult to steer at times, especially since trees and other snags threatened to upset it. Their journey would hopefully lead them to the fine homestead that they had picked out months earlier in the beautiful interior of the Ohio country-- “a land of paradise” some had called it. This would be a new start in life for them. Billy’s mother, sister, and two younger brothers were still back East, depending upon these two for the success of the trip.

Billy now decided to “make fun” of the Indian youth. He hopped up and down on the raft, mimicking a war dance, all the while whooping and yelling, and shaking his fist at the Indian boy who was known as Red Deer.

Suddenly, the raft struck a tree trunk which was submerged just below the water line. John, who had been smiling at his son’s antics, did not have time to react to the situation. As the force of the collision threw John to his knees, Billy was tossed like a rag doll into the swirling waters of the Ohio.

“Help!” he begged as he floundered to the surface of the river. “Help me, I can’t swim!”

John Harden looked with desperation upon his son, knowing full well that he couldn’t swim, either.

Red Deer, who had been watching the whole scene with a deep sense of humiliation, now hoped to get his revenge.

“Serves him right for shaming me!” he muttered.

But deep inside of himself, Red Deer knew he could not let the boy drown. Instantly, he dove into the murky waters of the river. With powerful strokes he swam to Billy’s rescue, grabbing him before he lost hold on the log he was barely clinging to.

By now, John had recovered his senses, and he pulled the two boys onto the raft with renewed energy. He stared for several moments in disbelief at the Indian boy who, along with Billy, was gasping for breath. Finally, he spoke to Red Deer.

“Do you speak English?”

Red Deer nodded his head that he did.

“I owe you my son’s life,” John said softly with tears in his eyes. “But why did you risk your life to save him?”

Red Deer looked into John’s eyes and spoke with conviction.

“I am a Christian, having learned the Bible at a white man’s Mission. I could not let your son die, even though he was mocking me. I did as Jesus would have done.”

For a long time, John and Billy listened with interest as Red Deer explained his life story to them, including his stay at the Mission. A feeling of great respect for this Christian Indian boy was formed by the two.

And for the Hardens, in more ways than one, this journey to the Ohio country really was the start of a new life.

KINGS OF ISRAEL

(Names Are Given In Chronological Order)

Jeroboam	Jehu	Nadab	Jehoahaz	Baasha
Jehoash	Elah	Zechariah	Zimri	Shalum
Omri	Menahem	Ahab	Pekahiah	Ahaziah
	Pekah	Jehoram	Hoshea	

P R O U I J Y T R E W Q A S D M
 F E G H J E K L M A S H P E Z E
 J X K C V H B N J M O K L Q W N
 E R S A T U I O E S P A G F D A
 H Q W S H X C B H B H N M J K H
 O Q W E R I S E O T R I O P U E
 R S A D F R A G A S H A L L U M
 A G R A D F S H S A J K L H N M
 M S D F G H Y U H I B A D A N O
 H O J P E K A H U K I A H L O Z
 M E N A G F M R I B A A S H A A
 J W Q U Z I S A T R Z N P O I C
 E L Y T R R E W O Z X I C B N H
 H M J M H G F R E B S W M B F A
 O K O L J H G F B P O I U R T R
 A H A Q W E R T A Y U R I L I I
 H A S D F G H J H K L H E M N A
 A H A Z I A H P A R Y S T J K H
 Z F R E D S A Q W U I T Y P O L

More Valued Than **Gold**

By David DeLong

All the Lord's grace that He's given to man,
And all of His blessings untold;
All His love lavished since time began,
These are more valued than **gold**.

For courage to calm a tremulous heart,
And for a firm faith that is bold;
For knowledge of truth right from the start,
These are more valued than **gold**.

Feelings of family, open to all,
The chance to belong to God's fold;
To come to the Lord, and answer His call,
These are more valued than **gold**.

To know that you're never out of God's reach,
You're protected by His strong hold;
To take the Lord's Word, to learn and to teach,
These are more valued than **gold**.

Having the hope of our home to come,
For ever, of this, I am sold:
All the world's wealth could not equal its sum,
This is more valued than **gold**.

