

THE ADVOCATE OF TRUTH





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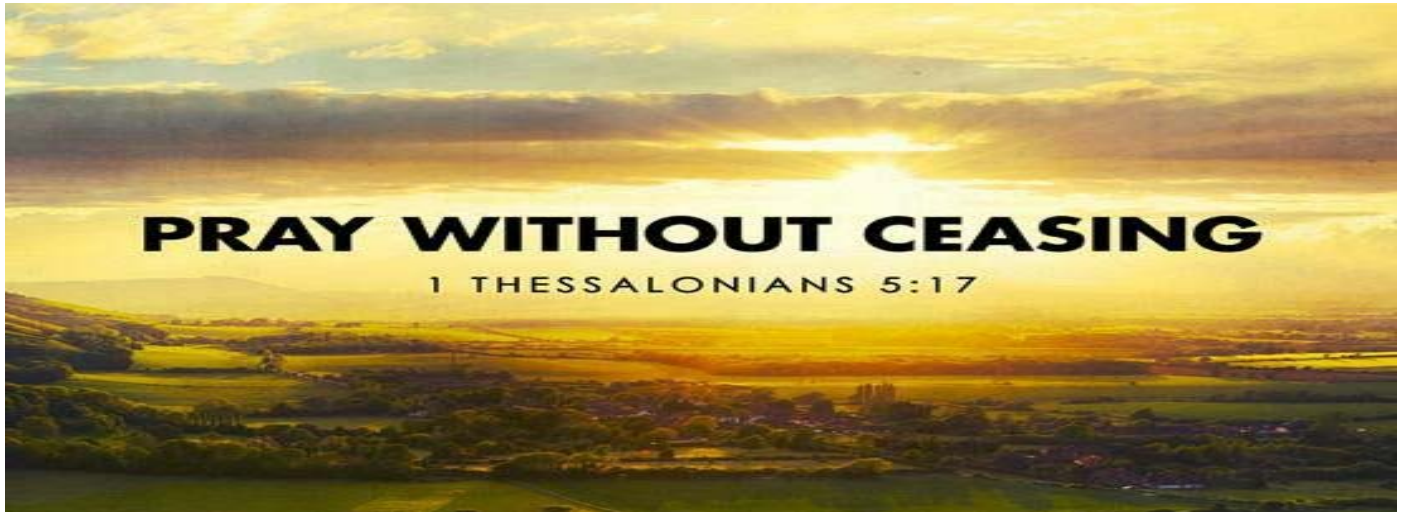
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This exhortation, given by the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonian Christians, is equally binding upon us today. Prayer is both a blessed privilege and a supreme duty. When ought we to pray and for what length of time?

Should we pray once a week, once a month? Should we have seasons of prayer at certain intervals? Should we pray when confronted with the unusual, and when other helpers fail? To such questions as these we find the answer in our little message, "Pray without ceasing." Prayer must always go on; there must be no stoppage, no cessation.

In order to be quite clear about this, we hasten to explain that the meaning of the word is not that we are to spend our lives in a kneeling posture, nor ever to have words of prayer falling from our lips. This is as unnecessary as it is impossible. We might illustrate by the analogy of breathing. All living creatures must keep on breathing, for to stop is to die. But that does not mean that everyone must always be consciously and laboriously inhaling and exhaling. There is no need to be forever giving thought and effort to draw in, and then to exclude, air from the lungs. It is a continuous condition of existence. So in the matter of the continuity of prayer, it cannot cease for, as the poet has said, "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air." Hence there cannot be in the life of a begotten person, from the day of his justification to the day of his glorification, a time in which he no longer prays. If he lives, he must pray; if he prays, he lives. The whole attitude, therefore must be one of a constant and unchanging dependence upon God, a looking up to God, and a drawing from God all the supplies which he needs. As a human being must breathe without ceasing, so must

a child of God continue in prayer.

In fact, there will be no day from the beginning to the end in which there will not be a definite need of the grace and goodness which comes alone from on High. In days of holiday relaxation and legitimate rest there must be the upward glance, for "calm seas have their dangers." And, of course, amid the multiplicity of cares and difficulties and duties, there must be a seeking of guidance and deliverance through prayer. Service for God, whether in a small or great sphere, can be effective only through prayer. Home and family life, when mingling among people or when engaged in quiet study; when training for the future or out in the busy places of mankind, all conditions call for the unfailing and unceasing practice of prayer. It is an inestimable privilege thru to be able to carry everything to God in prayer. If your own prayer life is sporadic and uncertain, then just ponder how very far short of your possibilities you are living. If you are not praying about the diverse concerns which make up your life, you are failing in your duty, with loss to yourself and to the cause of God which you have espoused. To go on from day to day prayerlessly, is a sort of spiritual suicide; or even to snatch at prayer only when catastrophe threatens is very far from what God requires from you.

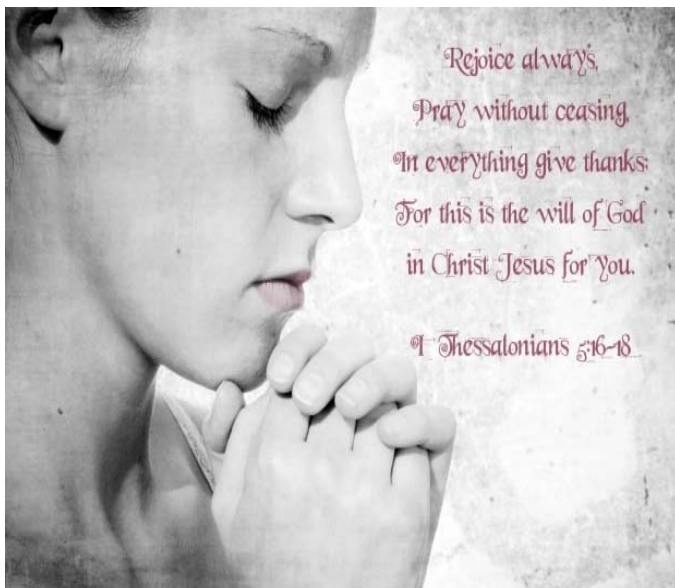
Then again, the fact of this exhortation being conveyed to us, certainly implies God's unceasing, unflinching, untiming interest in us, and His willingness to aid us always. This is a tremendous and a magnificent truth - almost beyond our comprehension. The great and the only true God, the Maker and Upholder of the universe, places Himself at our disposal, any time, day or night, to listen to the tale of our petty grievances, to regard our needs and

then to abundantly meet all our inadequacies out of His own boundless resources. This is a marvel indeed, and it is true! He who bids us to pray without ceasing on our part, stands ready and waiting to answer us without ceasing on His part.

To have stated times for prayer may be wise and necessary, but let us remember that every time and all the time God hears us.

It is quite difficult to find anything in all the wide range of human activity to approximate to or parallel this. God never, never closes His ear to the cry of His people. Morning, noon or night in dark days, in youth or in old age, He hears and he responds, and therefore bids us never to cease coming to Him. Over against this Divine magnanimity is the simple injunction, pray without ceasing.

What is the condition of your prayer life, my dear friend? It may be that your personal needs are not so pressing as to constrain you to be constant in prayer. If such is the case, as it may well be, then consider seriously the needs of a lost world, and of the neighborhood in which you live. Your prevailing prayer might, in due time, bring about a mighty change. Or think of the great company of noble missionaries who are toiling in the harvest field and of those who are waiting anxiously to be sent forth. Your fellow church members need prayer, too, as well as the peculiar conditions associated with the end times, in which we are living. The Jewish people constitute a prayer challenge. Surely if only more and still more of God's redeemed men and women would pray without ceasing, mighty results would quickly appear. Will you not heed and do it?



THE CHRISTIAN FATHER

A SHORT MESSAGE FOR FATHER'S DAY

Bond Tennant

In order to be a good father, the father must be a dedicated Christian. Let us consider four reasons why this is true.

The Christian father will lead his children to salvation in Christ. This is the greatest need of every person. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). This is the most important duty of fathers. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

The Christian father must impart to his children an understanding of life. He must make it known to them that the purpose of life is not to satisfy self. "The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment" (Luke 12:23). The purpose of life is to glorify God. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

The Christian father must give his children moral guidance. The world displays a godless lifestyle. Fathers must have grounds for the demands that they make on their children.

The Christian father must love his children to the fullest. Human love will sometimes turn us from God's way. Sometimes fathers spoil their children and do not discipline them. Divine love must direct the good father's dealings.

Divine love always does what is best. Divine love is from the Spirit. "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). Christian fathers have God's indwelling Spirit.

In closing, a Christian father is committed to live for Christ every day. He is a Christian in both word and deed. He listens to God's Word and does what it says.

REASONS AND PRINCIPLES

Why did Abraham pay tithes?

By Moises Torres M.

“And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better” (Hebrews 7:7).

In this verse is enclosed the mystery about paying tithes of everything to our God.

If you have to solve a problem related to numbers, and you do not understand math, then you need to ask someone who does have that knowledge to help you. In this way you are blessed by this person who knows more than you on this matter. If you have to lift up something heavy, and you do not have enough strength to do it, then you have to go to someone stronger; then you are blessed by the strongest one. If you do not reach something because of your short stature, someone taller will have to do it for you. But first of all, there must be an acknowledgement on our part about our weaknesses, and let us be helped by the one who knows more or can do more than us. In this way, we will always be blessed.

When we analyze this verse in Hebrews 7:7, we can see God’s Word is telling the truth. It will never be the other way around, we will never be blessed of what it is less, but of it that is more. Therefore, we must always recognize that we need God’s help.

Hebrews 7:4, speaking of Melchisedec, says, “Now consider how great this man was, unto whom **even** the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.” This “**even**” is an indispensable INDICATIVE that Abraham was a very rich and famous man; yet he recognized

Melchisedec as a priest of the highest God and gave him tithes of all.

Melchisedec, on his part, also recognized Abram as “Abram of the most high God”. “And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.” (Genesis 14:19-20).

Melchisedec mentions that Abram was helped by God, and Abram acknowledged it by giving tithes of all.

Who was blessed by whom? Our opening verse says, “**The less is blessed of the better**”. Paying our tithes is a recognition of God’s blessings.



THE HUMAN NEED FOR PRAYER

The strength and assurance of God’s presence in the world that came to Jesus through prayer can also be ours. Almost any moment of leisure or release from the usual demands of life can offer us the opportunity for prayerful contemplation. They need not be used, as many of us often use leisure, merely as moments of escape for the sake of escape. Like those of Jesus’, ours can be occasions for accepting into our lives as great a portion of the plentiful and continuous outpouring of God’s love and wisdom and power as we can hold.



ANIMAL SUPER SENSES

To a sparrow the human voice sounds like the low rumbling of distant thunder, and the low notes produced by a bass singer may well be completely inaudible to the bird.

This is because the sparrow's hearing range is different from a human being's. Like many of the creatures in the world around us, it possesses the five senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. These are heightened or diminished according to the creature's way of life.

In birds it is the sense of sight that has developed to an unusual degree. The highsoaring buzzard, which needs to be able to pick out a meal as small as a lizard or even a beetle on the ground below, has eyesight eight times as keen as a man's.

Animals that hunt by following a trail, on the other hand, often have poor eyesight but a keen sense of smell. Dogs, for instance, see a world that is blurred and devoid of color – apart from shades of gray – for they are shortsighted and have no color vision.

But a dog's sense of smell is to a man's what a symphony orchestra is to a penny whistle. An Alsatian has 220 million olfactory cells, compared with a man's 5 million, and experiments suggest that this makes it a million times better at detecting odors.

This does not mean that the sense of smell in humans is rudimentary. Most of us are equipped with a far more

sensitive nose than we need in the modern world. The average human being can distinguish between more than 10,000 different odors and, if put to the test, could detect the presence of a single drop of musk inside a large concert hall.

Only one relevant smell

It is not always the ability to distinguish between a host of smells that is necessary to survival. There is a type of beetle larva that feeds on vine roots and is sensitive only to a single smell – that of carbon dioxide, which is given off by the roots of vines. Any other smell is irrelevant to the larva, but it will pursue the scent of carbon dioxide unswervingly through the ground until it reaches its goal.

The characteristic scent of every living creature is carried in molecules that leave the body in the form of sweat, breath, bodily wastes, and so on. With every step you take, you leave behind millions of sweat-borne molecules, which lay a scent trail.

Creatures that spend most of their time in the air cannot mark the ground with a scent trail; yet butterflies, in the mating season, can attract a mate from miles away by scent alone. The female butterfly carries a store of perfume weighing only 1/10,000 of a milligram, and she squirts minute fractions of it into the air. These scent molecules can be detected by a male seven miles away.

Echo-locating system

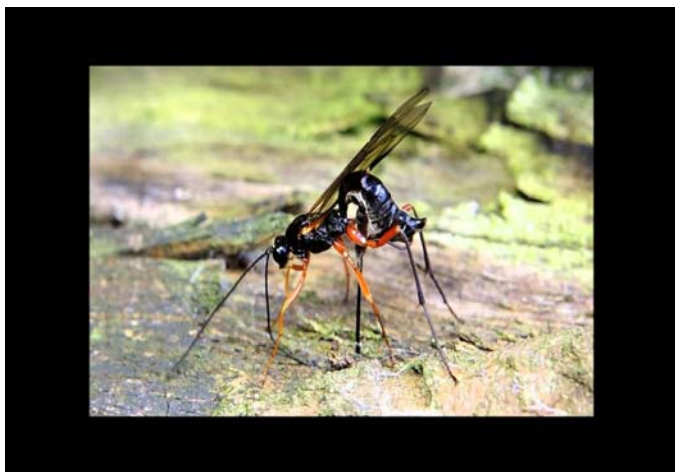
Just as remarkable is the echo-locating system used by bats to pinpoint their prey or obstacles in their way. Contrary to popular belief, bats are not entirely blind. Most can see in twilight; but in pitch darkness they rely on sending out high-frequency squeaks, some audible to the human ear, others inaudible. The returning echoes tell the bats the exact position of any obstacles.

In this way bats can flit about in great numbers without colliding. Even when they fly out of caves in the thousands, they respond only to their own individual echo signals and are not confused by their neighbors' noises.

How they manage to tune in so finely remains a mystery. Scientists have conducted experiments in which they tried to jam the radar signals of bats by drowning them with a volume of noise 2,000 times as intense and on the same frequency. It made no difference. Somehow, the bats managed to pick out their own echoes and ignore the foreign noise.

One of the oldest hearing systems in nature is that of the North American ichneumon fly. Its "ears" are in its feet, and it uses them to listen for the noise made by the larvae of the horn-tail thick-waisted wasp when they are chewing wood.

When the larvae of the fly hatch, they feed on the living bodies of the moth larvae. No other host is suitable. The female fly locates the moth larvae with deadly accuracy, both by her sense of smell and by running up and down tree trunks, listening with hearing cells in her feet for the sound of chewing inside.



THAT BLESSED HOPE

Mrs. J.P. Welles

*That same Jesus...shall so come in like manner.
(Acts 1:11)*

*He that shall come will come, and will not tarry,
(Hebrews 10:37)*

*And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear ye shall
receive a crown of glory. (I Peter 5:4)*

*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as
ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 24:44)*

*Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts, for the com-
ing of the Lord draweth nigh. (Jas. 5:8)*

*Little children, abide in him; that, when he shall
appear we may have confidence and not be ashamed
before him at his coming. (I John 2:28)*

*Every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth
himself, even as he is pure. (I John 3:3)*

*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;
and unto them that look for him shall be appear the
second time without sin unto salvation (Hebrews
9:28)*

*So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 1:7)*

*Every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced
him. (Revelation 1:7)*

*Death is swallowed up in victory. (I Corinthians
15:54)*

*Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice
in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain nei-
ther labored in vain. (Philippians 2:16)*

*Our conversation is in heaven; from whence also
we look for the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)*

Patient waiting for Christ. (II Thessalonians 3:4)

Even so, come Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Brother Ricky Herrera (Dallas, TX) visiting The Church of God 7th Day Salem, West Virginia.



Left to right -Brother David Royer (Florida) and Sister Caitlynne Howell (Salem, WV)

*Left to right -
Brother Tim Buechner (San Antonio, TX),
Brother Richard Santiesteban (Dallas, TX), David DeLong (Salem, WV), Ricky Herrera (Dallas, TX)*



Church of God (7th Day) Young Adults Retreat 2021 Registration Form

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As you all know, our youth have a summer retreat available to them that mentors ages 11-18. So, what happens after they are over 18? We are thrilled to inform you of the 2021 Young Adult Retreat! The retreat will be located in the beautiful natural setting of Cedar Hill, TX south of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex! The young adult's retreat will be held on the weekend of **September 3rd through September 5th, 2021** at Mt. Lebanon Camp 1701 Texas Plume Rd. Cedar Hill, Tx 75104. Check out the photos and directions at their website www.mtlebanon.com. The registration fee will be \$30 and is due with a signed Registration Form. Checks may be written to: Church of God (7th Day) or you can use the church's PayPal through our email c0g7thday@att.net ("c0g" being a zero). If you would like a camp shirt, please send an additional \$15 and your shirt size. *We will be accepting forms until July 4th 2021.* The camp will be co-ed and the lodging will be in separate male/female dormitories supervised by our local and visiting church leaders. For 2021 will continue to open this camp to men and women ages 19-27, married or not. Unfortunately, this year we will not have childcare available for married couples with children. The schedule is below:

	Arrival Date/Time	Departure Date/Time
Young Men/Women - 19-27 yrs.	Sept. 3, 12:00PM	Sept. 5, 4:00PM

Camper's Name _____ M or F Birthdate _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Phone # _____ Email address _____
What is your shirt size? _____
Name and Telephone of an emergency contact:
Name _____ Phone # _____

Circle Any That Apply:

Heart condition, diabetes, asthma, or other condition?: _____
Drug Allergies? Yes or No Drug _____ Reaction _____
Any other (food, etc.) allergies and reactions? _____
Any dietary regimen at this time? Yes or No.

If yes, list medications or dietary restrictions: _____

Any medication taken to camp must be in its original container and labeled, with directions, for the individual for whom it is intended.

I agree that the camp or its personnel will not be held responsible for accidents. I understand that attempts will be made to reach an emergency contact if the camper requires emergency medical/surgical treatment, but, if it is impractical to do so, and/or, until I can arrive at the scene, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel selected by camp staff to secure proper treatment, to hospitalize, to order injections, anesthesia, x-ray or surgery for me. Any financial obligation incurred will be covered by me personally, or by the insurance policy listed below.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE: _____ INSURANCE CO. & POLICY # _____

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are excited to inform you of the 2021 summer youth retreat in our beautiful Texas Hill Country north of San Antonio!!! Directions to the retreat are on the church website calendar www.churchofGod7thday.org. The Lord's retreat will be July 25th thru July 30th. Registration fee is \$35. If you would like a camp shirt please send an additional \$15 with your registration. Checks may be written to: Church of God (7th Day) and mailed with this registration form to: Cindy Buechner, 9608 Geronimo Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78254. We also will be accepting money through paypal at Buechner1@aol.com, choose the option "sending to a friend". Registration deadline is **July 12th**.

Group	Arrival Date/Time	Departure Date/Time
Boys – 11-18 yrs.	Sunday - July 25, 3:00 PM	Tuesday - July 27, 6:00 PM
Girls – 11-18 yrs.	Tuesday - July 27, 10:00 AM	Friday - July 30, 4:00 PM

Camper's Name _____ M or F Birthdate _____ Age: _____ as of July 25st

Parent's/Guardian's Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

What is your shirt size? _____ Is your shirt a child size or an adult size? _____

Name and Telephone of nearest relative if parent/guardian cannot be reached:

Name _____ Phone # _____

Circle Any That Apply:

Heart condition, diabetes, asthma (please bring inhaler), or other condition?: _____

Serious reaction to? poison ivy, oak, sumac, or other _____

What is the reaction to the above question? _____

Insect sting reaction? Yes or No what is the reaction? _____

Drug Allergies? Yes or No Drug _____ Reaction _____

Any other (food, etc.) allergies and reactions? _____

Is camper under any medication or dietary regimen at this time? Yes or No.

If yes, list medications or dietary restrictions: _____

Any medication taken to camp must be in its original container and labeled, with directions, for the individual for whom it is intended.

Any restrictions to Swimming, water sports, or, physically strenuous activities? Yes or No

List restrictions _____

SENSITIVE TOPICS for Ages 13 and OLDER. Bible studies and/or discussions related to, but not limited to, the following types of topics for ages 13 and older may be conducted: Sexual relations, abortion, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, homosexuality, "sexting", appropriate use of social media, etc. **List any of these types of activities your child is to be excluded from:**

Unless otherwise indicated on this Registration Form, my child, named above, has permission to take part in all activities, Bible studies and discussions. I agree that the camp or its personnel will not be held responsible for accidents. I understand that attempts will be made to contact me if my child requires emergency medical/surgical treatment, but, if it is impractical to do so, and/or, until I can arrive at the scene, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel selected by camp staff to secure proper treatment, to hospitalize, to order injections, anesthesia, x-ray or surgery for my child as named above. Any financial obligation incurred will be covered by me personally, or by the insurance policy listed below.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ DATE: _____

INSURANCE CO. & POLICY # _____

BLESSINGS BY TITHING

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 us appreciate our nine-tenths more; it makes God's special providence more real to us; it makes the conscience tender, and gives sweeter access to God in prayer. The faithful tithing 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 for 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." - Mal. 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, our training, may 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 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! 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 for 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 transgressions. 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. "...ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold...But with the precious blood of Christ..." (Peter 1:18-19). Grace, that unmerited favor of God toward undeserving human beings is heaven's only remedy that saves from sin (Ephesians 2:8). May we ever hearken to the voice of the Spirit as it urges us on in the footsteps of the blessed Master.





CHURCH COLUMN

Has it ever occurred to you the importance of a column? Generally speaking, a column is a solid body of greater length than thickness, serving as a support to something resting on its top. Columns date back to several hundred years before Christ. The Egyptians used columns chiefly as interior supports, the Greeks used them both as interior and exterior supports. In classic architecture, they are further distinguished by the name of the order to which they belong, such as Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian columns. Are we a column in support of the Lord's work? As Paul said, "What manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" there is always some niche that we can lift into "so that we walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called," whether it be an officer of the church, serving in the choir, assisting the Sabbath School, cleaning the church, supporting the church with our tithes and offerings.

Regular church attendance is important in that it upholds the pastor and church officers. The Apostle Paul reminds us not to forsake the "assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Dr. John Robertson tells of a Scotch village where, years ago, all the hearth fires had gone out. It was before the days of matches. The only way to rekindle the fires was to find some hearth where the fire was yet aglow.

Their search was fruitless until at last they found a flaming hearth away up on the hill. One by one they came to this hearth and lighted their peat, put it carefully in the pan, shielding it from the wind, and the fires were soon burning again throughout the community.

Are the fires getting low in your heart? Has the chill of worldliness settled down upon you? God has plenty of fire on the hill. Climb up into His presence through the path of surrender, and he will take the live coal from the altar and lay it upon your heart and upon your lips. This is the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This is being a column of the church. A column does not take but give. We must give ourselves to the cause of Christ and become pillars of righteousness.

By serving the Lord continually, we keep alive the Spirit of Christ, looking forward, waiting patiently for Him: to return, when "every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."

A FATHER by Betty Whetstone

*At the head of each home there should be one
To guide and protect us each day;
To set before our eyes an example,
Never telling us, "Just do as I say?"*

*We knew he could always be trusted
For he live every day by this creed;
He worked hard to set an example,
And to furnish all of our needs.*

*"You should stand up for what you believe in"
Many times he was known to say;
"If you don't then your word will be worthless,
And no good will you see, come what may."*

*His example was always before us,
And we always knew what he would say;
"When you are called on for what you believe in
Never falter, and don't turn away."*

*So thank God for our earthly father,
And all of his teachings we've had;
For someone who has been brave and honest,
The one that we proudly call DAD!*



THOUGHTS ABOUT LOVE

Bond Tennant

The attribute of love cannot be overemphasized. However, it cannot merely replace other important considerations in the life of God's children. Love cannot take the place of the fundamental doctrines taught in God's Word. However, love can guide them in the proper use of these teachings. Love cannot take the place of faith and activity which is done in the Lord's name, but it must be the motivation for faith and service acceptable to God.

God's children must "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27). As they do this, they must "love one another with a pure heart fervently," and "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (I Peter 1:22; Hebrews 10:24). They are not to antagonize. As far as possible, they must avoid every word and act that might incite to misunderstanding, strife, envy, bitterness, hatred, and evil speaking (Ephesians 4:31). All of these are the lust of the flesh brought on by the Adversary. If they "stand fast" in a faith which is impelled by love, they will have a living faith and surely be "kept by the power of God ... unto salvation" (I Peter 1:5).

Jesus said that there would be a time when "the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). This should not be true of God's children. Their love toward others, as they stand fast in the faith, must remain fervent, even though it may be ridiculed and spurned. They may be criticized and belittled, but they must see to it that "being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it" (I Corinthians 4:12). Though they may be persecuted, they must never join the ranks of the persecutors.

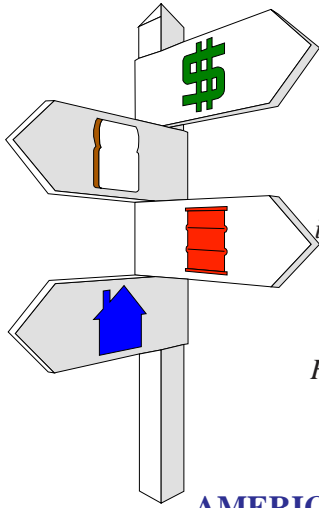
YOUR AMAZING SKIN from Does God Exist?

The largest organ in the human body is your skin. I asked a group of five-year-olds one time, what their skin did for them? One young man after thinking about the question for a minute said, "It holds everything together, so nothing falls out." Another volunteered, "It keeps the bugs and worms out of my stomach." A young lady said, "it lets me smell good when I take a bath." Then her little brother belched causing her to look at me and say, "Not like that smell!"

The fact of the matter is that our skin does all of those things. But there are a large number of other designs built into the skin that we may not realize. Our skin reduces water loss from our bodies. It helps regulate temperature, insulates our bodies, and helps produce vitamin D. Under our eyes our skin is only .5 mm thick, while on our back it is 14 mm thick. Sweat glands, hair follicles, and connective tissue are strategically placed to allow us to live on a planet that has large swings in surface temperature. The highest concentration of touch receptors in our skin (aside from genitals) is in our fingertips. That gives us the important sensations we need and treasure.

The structure of our skin is amazingly complex. There are two different layers separated from each other by a membrane which is a thin sheet of fibers that transmit nutrients and remove wastes. This sits on a layer called the hypodermis which supports the upper layers. The outer layer called the epidermis has no blood vessels of its own but carries on its functions with the outside world by capillary action and diffusion.

One area of mystery even today is why our skin wrinkles when it is wet for too long. Recent studies show that there is a lattice in the epidermis made of a fibrous protein called keratin. The lattice expands when it gets wet and carries water away leaving the wrinkles. Some researchers believe that wrinkles give the fingers or toes better traction on wet surfaces, but not all agree on that. We do not have to go far to see God's wisdom in the design of our bodies. Just look at your hand. "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, ..." (Psalm 139:14).



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.

AMERICA'S CRISIS CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH

In past columns of *The Signs Of The Times*, the many crises that America is experiencing has been mentioned in passing. At the time of this writing, the COVID-19 pandemic heads the list. The pandemic brings to the fore-front the need for more awareness of mental health. The following is a brief excerpt of an internet article entitled **Facing new fears during the COVID-19 pandemic: The State of America's mental health:**

The state of America's mental health is clearly at risk amidst the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Since the first U.S. confirmed case in January 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic is and will continue to create both individual and systemic challenges requiring significant mental health intervention. Clinicians and practitioners will need insights into how individuals respond to fear, anxiety, and stress in a way that informs what they should be preparing for in weeks, months, and years ahead. General population-based research, primarily out of China and Europe, first established a baseline of point prevalence for mental health symptoms, as well as a catalog of social and psychological factors associated with a wide range of mental health consequences (i.e. depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress, panic disorder, etc.)

Comment

Sincere children of God have good mental health. They know that no matter what happens to them their faith in God's promises is sure. They do not sorrow in any circumstances because their eyes are not set on the things

on earth that may affect them. They remember Romans 8:18 which states, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." They also believe II Corinthians 4:17 which tells them "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

TRUTH MAGNIFIED

Let us quote an article that appeared in **USA TODAY**. It is entitled *COVID-19 magnifies race, gender pay gap:*

Loma Lopez has worked since she was a small child, when she picked peaches, potatoes and other produce beside her parents, who were migrant workers in the fields of California.

But Lopez's work ended in April when she was laid off by the school where she'd worked for 16 years because of the coronavirus pandemic. Lopez 76, could no longer afford her \$1,500 rent. And now she and her great-great-grandson are homeless, living with friends

"This happened, and everything is upside down," says Lopez, who will now rely on \$800 a month in social security payments – an amount she believes would have been greater if she'd been paid fairly throughout her working life. "I know now that I should have gotten more – But I did not have an education."

At a time when the nation is reeling from the twin crises of an economic downturn and a global pandemic, long-standing gaps in pay are exacerbating the struggles of many Blacks and Latinas who can barely make ends meet.

Among Latinas, 51% do not currently have enough money to pay for the basic needs like food and housing, while 48% of Black women cannot cover such fundamental expenses, according to a survey commissioned by the Time's Up Foundation and conducted by the firm PerryUndem.

Many more lack a financial cushion to fall back on, with 60% of Latinas and 55% of Black women saying they have less than \$200 in savings.

"We've known for a very long time that women, especially women of color are breadwinners," says Jennifer Klein, chief strategy and police officer at Time's Up, who

added that these women additionally take on many unpaid tasks at home. “We also know, sadly, that we don’t have sufficient public policies and private sector practices to support these two roles that they play, and I think the pandemic has only magnified and made this situation worse.”

Latinas bear biggest financial losses

The challenges faced by Latina and Black women – who on average make 54 cents and 62 cents, respect, for every dollar earned by a white man – are being compounded by COVID-19, a virus that had led to the deaths of nearly 150,000 Americans, erased 14.7 million jobs, and is disproportionately impacting the physical and financial health of communities of color.

Latinas are most likely to say their work has been impacted by the pandemic with 72% saying they have lost a job, hours or pay. Among those who are working, 61% say their jobs require them to leave home in the midst of the health crisis, the largest segment of any group. And nearly 6 in 10 Latinas say they’ve not felt safe on the job amid the health crisis. Those pressures come as 29% of Latinas are caring for an ill or elderly loved one – more than any other segment of Americans. And Latinas worry most that juggling those responsibilities will hurt their chances to get a raise or promotion. Mental health issues are also most acute among Latinas, with 54% saying they experience panic or anxiety at least once a week – though many other groups are also struggling.

Among all women, 44% are regularly feeling emotional distress, compared with 31% of men, and 43% of white women, 37% of Black women and 35% of Asian American women have felt anxious during the pandemic.

“When I look at ... the number of women who are crying themselves to sleep, that’s the reality of what women are going through as they do the uncompensated care at home and try to figure out what to do with their jobs,” says Tine Tchen, head of Time’s Up, “Over the long term, that’s going to take a real toll if we don’t address it.”

Race and gender matters

Meanwhile, 40% of Black women say someone at their job has said or implied that they don’t work as hard as others because of their gender, race or responsibilities

at home, compared with 37% of Latinas and 31 % of white women who had similar experiences.

Black women were also least likely to feel that they had a job that provided them with the ability to pay their bills, put money aside and also maintain their health, with 42% saying they had such stability, compared with 51% of Latinas and 54% of white women.

Many of those surveyed said they were aware of inequities in expectations as well as pay. Among married women with younger children, only 42% said they could take a good paying job that lacked flexible hours and required them to prioritize work over their responsibilities at home. That’s compared with 56% of married fathers who said they’d be able to grab such a professional opportunity.

And among men who play a role in hiring, 1 in 3 believed that male applicants should be given priority for getting the job when work is scarce.

“That means we don’t understand the number of women who are the engines of our economy,” Tchen says. “And so that’s the long-term battle that we still have to fight.”

A tipping point?

There was some promising news, with 83% of those surveyed saying that in the midst of the current economic crisis, equal pay for women remains just as or more critical an issue.

And women were clear about what they needed to address the pay gap and other inequities, including child care, more flexible work schedules and paid sick leave.

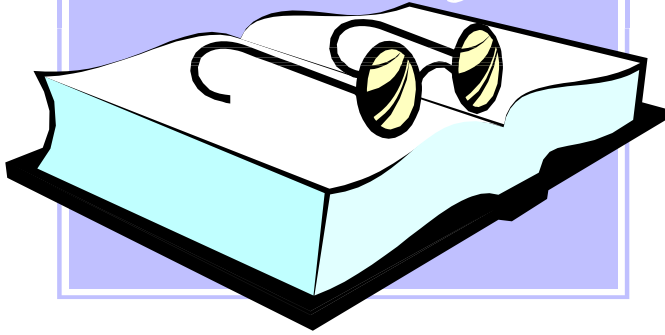
“This data makes visible what has for too long been invisible,” Klein says. “I never use the word ‘opportunity,’ but I think this moment may be a tipping point that both demands big structural changes (and) also makes them possible.”

Comment

Really, the race, gender pay gap has not been invisible. It was known long before COVID-19 came on the scene. Just what is the solution? [continued on page 18](#)

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Will you please comment on the first three chapters of the book of Acts?

Answer: The full name of the fifth book in the New Testament is, “The Acts of the Apostles, although it is usually referred to simply as “The Book of Acts,” or “Acts.” As its name implies, it is, for the most part, a chronicle of activities in which the apostles played an active part. Acts, like the four gospels, is largely historical in character. In addition to its historical facts, it also includes some of the most important doctrinal and devotional lessons to be found anywhere in the Bible.

The writer of this book is Luke. It opens with these words, “The former treatise {The Gospel of Luke} ... of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Spirit had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen” (Acts 1:1-2). The first chapter of Acts is a transition from the life of Christ to the era of the apostles, for it records Jesus’ last appearance to them, and His commission for the service they were to render in His name after He left them (versus 4-11).

Verse eight of the first chapter records a promise given by the resurrected Jesus. He stated that the Holy Spirit would soon come upon the apostles, and that in the power,

and by the authority of the Spirit they were to be His “witnesses ... in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The second chapter records the fulfillment of the promise Jesus made to send the Holy Spirit. In the *King James Version*, the expression “Holy Ghost” is often used. This is a mistranslation. It was designed by the translators to give the impression that the Holy Spirit is a person, but this is contrary to the teachings of the Bible. The Holy Spirit is simply the holy power, or influence, of God, sent forth to accomplish whatever He purposes.

It came upon the within disciples at Jerusalem in a miraculous manner, to establish their faith and confidence in Jesus as the Messiah. He had left them, and even though they had been convinced of His resurrection from the dead, they would have been in a difficult position to represent Him without this definite evidence of His return to the heavenly courts. Therefore, in fulfillment of His promise, He sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon them.

This wonderful experience occurred “when the day of Pentecost was fully come” (Acts 2:1). Pentecost was one of the special feasts and assembly days of the Jews, and many thousands of them visited Jerusalem each year for the occasion. This meant that there were Israelites in the city at the time from many countries, speaking the language of the country in which they lived.

This afforded a wonderful opportunity for the Lord to

demonstrate that His favor was upon the disciples, by miraculously empowering them to speak to their kinsmen from the various countries in their own native language tongues. Thus, one of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit at that time was the ability to “speak with tongues” -that is, other languages (versus 4-8). It was a very practical demonstration of divine power, and accomplished God’s design to give all the scattered ones there a witness concerning the Messiahship of Jesus.

The enemies of Jesus were now opposed to His followers and charged that they were intoxicated. The Apostle Peter quickly and energetically refuted this charge, and in one of the most eloquent sermons ever preached, he explained to his hearers the true significance of what was taking place. He established the fact of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, and showed it to be in fulfillment of Psalm 16:10, where Jesus is prophetically represented as saying to His God, “Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Acts 2:27).

The account states that the people were “pricked in their heart” by Peter’s sermon, especially by the forthright manner in which he charged the nation with the crucifixion of Jesus. They asked what they could do under the circumstances, and he called upon them to “Repent, and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (verses 36-38). Three thousand responded to Peter’s message that day and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (verse 41).

The third chapter records another marvelous sermon by Peter, preached a short time after Pentecost. The setting was quite different from that in which he delivered his Pentecostal sermon. Together with John, Peter had gone to the Temple at the hour of prayer. At the gate of the Temple called “beautiful,” he saw a man who was unable to walk from the time of his birth. In the name of Jesus, Peter healed the man enabling him to walk, even to the point of “leaping” (Acts 3:1-8).

The crowd was curious, and Peter took advantage of the occasion to explain to them that this miracle had been

performed in the name of, and by the power of, the resurrected Christ, the one whom they had crucified. Then he added, “Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).

The lesson from reading Acts 3:19-21 is plain. Based upon the miracle of healing the man who had been unable to walk, Peter is saying, in effect, that following the Second Coming of Christ, miracles of this sort will become universal, that there are to be times of “restitution,” or restoration of all things. Then he adds that this glorious Gospel, or good news, had been spoken by the mouth of all God’s holy prophets.

Now we have one of the key texts which helps to unlock the meaning of the entire Word of God. When we examine the various books of the Bible, in particular the prophecies of the Old Testament, the theme of redemption and restoration is repeated again and again. Now Peter confirms what has been said, for in this outstanding sermon he tells us that the “times of restitution” was the theme of all God’s holy prophets. Other writings of the New Testament also reaffirm and corroborate this fundamental teaching of God’s plan.

Question: Does God have the capacity for suffering and experiencing pain?

Answer: The fact that Adam disobeyed God by partaking of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden undoubtedly was a source of grief to the Creator. That is why He made provision for mankind’s eventual recovery from sin through the Lamb that was “slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). John 3:16 says, “...God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” This act reflects His unfathomable compassion. Also, as He looked down upon the cross as His crucified Son cried out “it is finished,” surely God suffered greatly.

continued from Signs of the Times on page 15

Employers are always going to have preference in hiring and the wages they wish to pay. This is in their mindset. The race, gender pay gap will never cease. It is a perplexing (no way out) problem!

WEALTH

I read a newspaper article which reported on the financial state of the general population during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It reported that a quarter of those surveyed say they're very confident in reaching their financial goals, down from a third in January.

It also reported that 52.5% say they're financially stressed, up from 45.9% before the crisis.

It also reported that 39% say relationships are most important to their overall happiness, followed by health (27%) and money (17%). Pre-crisis, relationships led at 36%, followed by health (30%) and money (16%).



I John 5:4-5

"Let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7). (Note Revelation 22:2).

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt

of the second death" (Revelation 2:11). (Note Revelation 21:8 with 22:15).

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it" (Revelation 2:17). (Note Revelation 7:13-17.)

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 2:26-29). (Note Revelation 11:1-14).

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 3:5-6). (Note Revelation 19:8-9).

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God; and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 3:12-13). (Note Revelation 21:9-22:7).

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Revelation 3:21-22). (Note Revelation 20:1-21:8).

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Revelation 21:7). (Note Revelation 21:5-8).

"And they overcame him...the great red dragon" (Revelation 12:1-17, verse 11).

Paganism and Christianity: (Why The Two Can't Mix)

By David DeLong

Church of God, 7th day members have heard for years that we shouldn't keep holidays such as Christmas and Easter. But, maybe they're not sure why. The reason, quite frankly, is that God will not allow a mixture of paganism and godliness to occur.

Job brings out a very good point in Job 14:4. This verse reads: "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." Job is saying that nobody can bring something clean out of something that began unclean. This also has to do with holidays such as Christmas and Easter. Both of these holidays began as pagan celebrations, and just throwing the name of Christ onto them cannot make them holy or clean.

Let us turn to Deuteronomy chapter 12 and quote from verses 1-5: "These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree. And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God. But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come".

The Lord could have made it easy on the children of Israel and could have told them to take the existing altars which the pagans used to worship their false gods on and to use them instead to worship the Lord upon. But, rather, He told them to destroy those altars and then they were to build new ones to sacrifice to the Lord upon. The message is quite clear: the Lord will not accept the mixing of

pagan worship with godly worship.

In the book of second kings we find a situation where some of the inhabitants of Samaria combined the pagan worship of their gods with the worship of the true God. Verses 27-33 tell us: "Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, Carry thither one of the priests whom ye brought from thence; and let them go and dwell there, and let him teach them the manner of the God of the land. Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD. Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt. And the men of Babylon made Succothbenoth, and the men of Cuth made Nergal, and the men of Hamath made Ashima, And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. So they feared the LORD, and made unto themselves of the lowest of them priests of the high places, which sacrificed for them in the houses of the high places. They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence." The Lord did not accept this practice, of course.

Someone might object and say, "Well, we are not worshipping false gods today. We only worship the true God. However, the principle is still the same. Whether you actually bow down to a false god or just accept the customs that were involved in the worship of that god, it is an acceptance of the paganism that is behind it.

And God will not allow a mixture of paganism with His true worship. One must tear down the paganism and start worshipping the Lord on new altars and with new customs.

LESSON I**LESSON II****ABIJAH MAKES WAR AGAINST JEROBOAM****KING ASA'S GOOD REIGN**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 13:1-20.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 13:17 (first part).

"And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter."

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 14:1-15.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 14:2.

"And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God."

NOTE: We have just finished studying about the reign of king Rehoboam. King Rehoboam died, and his son, Abijah, reigned in his stead. Abijah reigned as king of Judah from 915-913 B.C. We are going to study now about how he made war against Jeroboam.

NOTE: In our lesson, we learned that Abijah reigned over Judah for three years. He defeated Jeroboam in battle. Abijah died, and his son, Asa, was king in his place. Let us study about the new king and see if he proved to be a good ruler over the people.

1. In what year did Abijah reign over Judah? II Chronicles 13:1.
2. How many years did he reign in Jerusalem? With whom was Abijah at war? II Chronicles 13:2.
3. How many men of war did Abijah have? How many did Jeroboam have? II Chronicles 13:3.
4. What did Abijah say to all Israel when He stood upon Mt. Zemaraim? II Chronicles 13:4-5.
5. What did he say Jeroboam had done, and who had gathered unto him? II Chronicles 13:6-9.
6. Was Abijah still serving the Lord? What did he say about the Levites and about Israel? II Chronicles 13:10-12.
7. Did Abijah and the men of Judah call upon God at this time, and did God hear their plea? II Chronicles 13:14-16.
8. Abijah and his men slew the Israelites with a great slaughter. Why did the children of Judah prevail? I Chronicles 13:17-18.
9. Did Abijah pursue Jeroboam? What was the result? II Chronicles 13:19-20.

1. Abijah died and was buried in the city of David. Who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 14:1.
2. Did Asa do what was right in the sight of God? II Chronicles 14:2.
3. What did he take away from the land and command the people of Judah to keep? II Chronicles 14:3-4.
4. What else did he take away from all the cities of Judah? What did he build? II Chronicles 14:5-6.
5. Did the people of Judah build cities and prosper, and how many men were in Asa's army?
6. Who came against him? Where did this battle take place? II Chronicles 14:9-10.
7. What did Asa ask from the Lord, and did God answer Asa? II Chronicles 14:11-12.
8. When the Ethiopians fled, what did Asa and his men do? Did they destroy the Ethiopians? II Chronicles 14:13-14.
9. What did they carry away with them to Jerusalem? II Chronicles 14:15.

LESSON III

KING ASA ABOLISHES IDOLATRY

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 15:1-19.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 15:8 (first part).

"And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin...."

NOTE: Asa was the son of Abijah, and he did that which is good and right in the eyes of the Lord. He took away the altars of the strange gods and broke down the images. He completely abolished idolatry and made a covenant to seek the Lord in the chapter we are studying today.

1. Who went out to meet Asa, and what did he tell King Asa? II Chronicles 15:1-2.
2. What further did Azariah tell all Israel in II Chronicles 15:3-6?
3. What did Azariah tell them would happen, and what did Asa do when he heard these words? II Chronicles 15:7-8.
4. Whom did he gather then with him, and during what year and month of his reign did this happen? II Chronicles 15:9-10.
5. What did they offer unto the Lord, and what kind of covenant did they make with Him? II Chronicles 15:11-12.
6. What would happen to those of Israel who would not seek the Lord? II Chronicles 15:13.
7. Did all Judah rejoice at the oath, and how did they show they were happy over it? II Chronicles 15:14-15.
8. Why did Asa remove Maachah, his mother, from being queen? What did he do to her idols? II Chronicles

15:16.

9. Was there any more war during the reign of Asa? Was he perfect all his days? II Chronicles 15:17-19.

LESSON IV

ASA'S LEAGUE WITH SYRIA

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 16:1-14.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 16:9 (first part).

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..."

NOTE: We are going to study the last years of Asa's reign. In the chapter which you just read, King Asa made a league with Syria, so let us see if he did that which was pleasing to God.

1. During what year of Asa's reign did Baasha come up against Judah? What did he do? II Chronicles 16:1.
2. Asa sent to Ben-hadad, king of Syria, and what did he desire of him? II Chronicles 16:2-3.
3. Did Ben-hadad hearken unto King Asa? II Chronicles 16:4.
4. What did Baasha do when he heard that the armies were sent against the cities of Israel? II Chronicles 16:5.
5. Asa then took all Judah. What happened to Ramah? Did they continue to build Ramah? II Chronicles 16:6.
6. What did Hanani, the seer, tell Asa would happen because he relied on the King of Syria instead of the Lord? II Chronicles 16:7-9.
7. Was Asa wroth with the seer? What did he do to him? II Chronicles 16:10.

THE LIGHT THAT HELPED

by Katherine Blake

Are we almost there, Daddy?" Billy asked. "Will it be much longer until we get to Aunt Susan's?"

"I don't know," said Daddy. "I thought we were almost there, but I'm not sure. I can't find any sign that tells where we are."

"Don't you know where we are, Daddy?" Alice asked. "Are we lost?"

Daddy kept on driving down the road. "No," he said. "We're not exactly lost. But I don't know for sure where we are, either."

"I'll get out the flashlight," said Mother, "and look at Aunt Susan's letter again. Maybe it will help us." She turned the flashlight on the letter. "We're all right so far," she said. "We passed the old store and the big red bridge. Then we turned at the next corner."

"How far past the corner are we to go?" Daddy asked.

"Until we come to a white gate," said Mother.

"But we can't see the gate," said Billy. "It's too foggy to see anything much."

"It can't be far from here," said Daddy. "Everybody watch and maybe we'll find it soon."

Daddy had to watch the road carefully so that he wouldn't drive off the road, so he couldn't watch for the gate. Mother looked and looked, but the fog swirled closer and whiter until the headlights would hardly shine through it at all. The children helped Mother look. But no one could see the white gate. "I'll drive a little farther," Daddy said "If we don't find it we'll have to look for a house and ask where we are."

"If we can't find the gate, we can't find a house, either, Daddy," said Billy.

"Perhaps you're right, son," Daddy said. "We'll see." Finally the fog got so thick that Daddy had to roll his window down and stick his head out before he could see the white line down the middle of the road. "If we don't get there pretty soon, we aren't going to be able to travel at all," he said.

Suddenly Billy saw something. "Daddy! Daddy! He said. "There's a light."

"Where?" Daddy asked.

"Right there," said Billy. He pointed ahead and to one

side.

At first Daddy could not see the light. Then as they turned around a corner, he could see a giant glow through the fog. "A house!" he exclaimed. "I'll stop and ask where we are."

But it was not a house. As they went closer, they could see that the light was right by the road. Closer and closer they crept though the fog. At last they reached it.

"It's a lantern," Mother exclaimed. "It's hanging on the gate. Aunt Susan must have hung it there so we could find our way. Now we know where we are."

"That reminds me of a Bible verse," said Daddy. "Can you guess what it is Billy? Something about a lamp."

Billy thought for a moment. "Is it my memory verse?" he asked. "That verse that says, 'Thy word is lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path?'"

"That's the one," Daddy answered, "God's Word, the Bible, helps us find His way just as the lantern is helping us to find Aunt Susan's house."

"A helping light," said Billy softly. "Its light shines for us, and we can let it shine for others. I'm glad for helping lights, aren't you?"

Everyone agreed.

**MY DAD**

*When I see my father smile,
I'm happy as can be,
To know he is a gift from God
Sent down to earth for me.
When I see his big, strong hands
So rough from honest toil,
I know my heart too will be
Always true and loyal.
When I hear his tender voice
With words so wise and kind,
In my heart I give deep thanks
To God, that Dad is mine!*

-Grayce Krough Boller

MEN OF THE BIBLE

MY DADDY

1. Who was the first man in the world? Genesis 2:19
2. Who was the oldest man in the Bible? Genesis 5:27
3. Who was the strongest man in the Bible? Judges 15:3
4. Who was the wisest man in the Bible? I Kings 3:9-14
5. Who was the bravest man in the Bible? Daniel 6:22
6. What man built the first ship? Genesis 6:13-22
7. Who slept on a stone pillow, and dreamed about a ladder which reached up to heaven? Genesis 28:10-22
8. Who was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire and horses of fire, and by a whirlwind? II Kings 2:11
9. What man betrayed Jesus? Matthew 26:47-50
10. What great giant was killed by David? I Samuel 17:23, 49

*Daddy is the dearest man-
Find one like him if you can.
Yours may be a nice one, too;
But for ME he would not do.*

*I love Daddy best, you see,
'Cause he is so good to me.
He's MY daddy, don't you know?
That is why I love him so.*

*IF YOUR daddy he should be,
You would love him but, you see.
Now I guess you understand,
Why I think he is so grand.*

*Find these foods you might like to eat
that are found in the Bible.
Look up the verses.*

*Use the clues below
to help you find the missing word.*

- _____ Judges 6:19
- _____ Luke 4:4
- _____ Numbers 11:5
- _____ Luke 15:23
- _____ Luke 24:42
- _____ & _____ Numbers 11:5
- _____ Ezekiel 4:9
- _____ Isaiah 28:4
- _____ I Kings 17:13
- _____ Isaiah 7:15
- _____ OR _____ Isaiah 55:1

The 1st letter is in SCARF but not in SCARED 1.

The 2nd letter is in LACE but not in CELL 2.

The 3rd letter is in RATE but not in BARE 3.

The 4th letter is in HOUR but not in FLOUR 4.

The 5th letter is in FOREST but not in FROST 5. _____

The 6th letter is in RAT but not in BAT 6. _____

ANSWER: _____

*Find these foods you might like to eat
that are found in the Bible.
Look up the verses.*

_____ Judges 6:19

_____ Luke 4:4

_____ Numbers 11:5

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

*Faith of our fathers living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our father, holy faith,
We will be true to thee till death.*

*Our fathers chained in prisons, dark,
Were still in heart and conscience free,
How sweet would be their children's fate
If they, like them, could die for Thee.*

*Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach Thee, too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith
We will be true to Thee till death.*

