

The Advocate of Truth





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A Precious Mother
*Mom You've given me so much,
 Love from your heart and the warmth of your touch,
 The gift of life and you're a friend to me.
 We have a very Special Bond which only comes from
 God....I'm sure you agree.
 As a child I would say Mommy I Love You,
 Now you're my Mother so dear
 I love you even more with each and every new year.
 If I could have chosen, I would have picked no other,
 Thanks for you...to be my lifelong friend and Precious Mother.*





Giving
by *Tim Buechner*

Giving is what we should be doing as a church and as individuals. Our tithes go to the storehouse and are used to promote the gospel, to publish literature and to support all that is being done. Our offerings are normally kept in our local congregations to take care of the building and to take care of our needs within the local churches. But we need to be doing more with our offerings as individuals and as a church. As we look at this subject today we find three groups of people whom we need to be supporting with these offerings and some things that we can do to better utilize this money.

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:1-4).

What are alms? According to the Greek definition, alms are charity and compassion that is given to those who are poor and in need. Christ speaks and doesn't leave giving up to our own discretion; He says in verses two and three, "when thou doest alms." This is something he expects us to do. It is something we should be doing. "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away" (Matthew 5:42).

Borrowing in Greek means a loan with interest. If someone wants to borrow from you, Christ is saying not to turn him away. This is something that Christ taught and believed in Himself. He is our example and we should be following what he was doing.

The first group of people that we should be helping is found in I Timothy 5:3-6, 9-10, 16. "Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth... Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work... If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."

It is the churches' responsibility to help to take care of anyone that falls into this category of widows indeed. We should be supporting and helping them financially. This is part of the work that our offerings can do. Many times I've heard churches say, "We don't have enough money. We are too small. We can't help anyone." But we can! A few dollars 25, 50, 75, or 100 can help someone. How-

ever, this is not the government's responsibility as we would sometimes like to think. It is the church's responsibility. So we, in essence, have failed in this endeavor. We need to take care of this business.

In Acts 6:1-3 we find that the Board of Seven was set up exactly for this reason. "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." Today the Board of Seven has a little more responsibility, but this is included. This is the reason why it was started. This is the first group that we need to be helping with our offerings, widows indeed.

The second group of people to which we are to give are fellow church members that are in need. "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem" (I Corinthians 16:1-3). This is an example of the helping fellow church members in need. Here we have another example of brethren that the churches are helping. These brethren were fellow believers in need. They needed financial assistance. "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea" (Acts 11:29). There is much work that we could be doing in this area as a multitude of congregations. I've had many opportunities to visit these other countries like Mexico and El Salvador where you see great poverty. The standard of living is very different than ours, and their customs and ways are also different than ours. You will see people within these groups that need help and assistance. We need to practice what the Scriptures say and assist these people because they are fellow believers. So this is the second group of people that we need to help, fellow Christians that are in need.

The third category is just the poor in general. These are not necessarily believers but just the poor in general.

"For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land" (Deuteronomy 15:11). This group is not necessary composed of a fellow believer or Christians like we have seen in the examples in the New Testament but just of the poor and needy in general.

"Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always" (Matthew 26:6-11). We have a fine example here of how the early church felt about giving assistance to the poor. So those are the three categories that we need to assist and help. Widow indeed, believers in need of help and assistance and the poor in general.

How do we do this? We saw that Jesus told us directly to take care of it and not to turn down someone who needs to borrow. If someone needs help, give it to them. That is what Jesus said. But there are some limitations, guidelines we need to place on giving.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:6-7). How should we be giving and taking care of this business? We need to have a plan to do this, some method and means to be able to help whenever someone in this category asks for assistance.

How much do we give? Do we give until it hurts? Do we give until we don't have our own homes anymore? Do we give until we can't put clothes on our children's backs or food in our mouths? The answer to this is found in I Timothy 5:8. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." So we see that we should not be giving to the point that we can't take care of our own. Or manage our bills and families. So don't feel obligated when the time comes to give more than you

are able. Give what you can and still take care of your own business. In the verse we just read in Acts 11 it says that every man should give according to his ability. Everyone's ability is different, and some will be able to give more than others. We should be planning for the future and not giving more than what we can afford.

What are the benefits of giving? This is probably the most important one of all. "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Corinthians 9:12-15). When we are giving to the people that fall into these categories, it brings glory and praise to God. It serves as a good example of what we are supposed to be doing and can bring people to the gospel. This is something that we can do in our communities. These are homeless people, houses that need fixed up, the Salvation Army and different organizations that always need assistance. We can help in these matters in the name of the church.

What does it do? It lets people see that we are doing what we should be doing, what the gospel says and what the Scriptures say brings glory to God. It may bring some to the truth and eventually to salvation. "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse" (Proverbs 28:27).

One time I was in Washington, D.C. walking in a mall, and I had change in my pocket. A guy came up to me and asked me for money, and I said I don't have any. I threw my hands down, and they hit my pants. You could hear

the change rattle in my pockets. I was very embarrassed about this, but it taught me a lesson. I had the change in my pockets that I was probably only going to use to buy a coke from a machine, and it would not have hurt me to give it to him. However, that was before I really started reading these Scriptures and studying what they say. I should have given it to him. It wasn't going to hurt me, it wasn't beyond my ability to give it to him. I could have helped him but instead I told a lie, and I looked like a fool in the meantime. Because I had people with me that heard the change rattle. I know that they heard it also.

It is not right for us to turn our backs and ignore the poor. They are not going to go away. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing" (I Corinthians 13:3). Even though we look at all these verses and see examples showing that we should give, if we do it strictly because of an obligation, then we are doing it wrong. If we don't give with love and respect for other people, then it doesn't profit us anything. Our giving is useless and worthless. We should give because God has granted us the ability, abundance and means to do it, not solely because we are charged by the Scriptures to do it. I think that we as a church, both as a general body and as local congregations, can make more impact on our community and on our world if we would follow these teachings a little more closely. If you know someone that falls into a category that needs help, bring it up and let's take care of it. It brings glory to God, to see that we are following the Scriptures and living the lives that we are supposed to be living and not just saying the words. We must not just say that we are full of love and kindness and have good intentions, but we must actually be out there doing and living it.

"Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. I speak of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love" (II Corinthians 8:7-8).



Don't Shoot The Messenger!



by
*David
Royer*

We frequently hear this saying: “DON’T SHOOT THE MESSENGER!” It means whatever information a messenger delivers; it is not their fault; it’s not even their message. A more scholarly way to explain is from Random House Dictionary of Popular Proverbs and Sayings by Gregory Y. Titelman: “Don’t shoot the messenger”: Don’t blame the person who brings bad news. This idea was expressed by an ancient Greek playwright Sophocles as far back as 442 B.C. and later by Shakespeare in ‘Henry IV, Part II’ and ‘Antony and Cleopatra’ (1606-07), where kill is a substitute word for shoot.”

In the Old Testament, we find several examples of prophets (messengers and authors) sent one at a time by God to warn the children of Israel to repent of their sins, give up idol worship, rely upon and trust in the Lord...to no avail.

Some were killed, but most prophets were persecuted, scorned, abused, or imprisoned.

“Some scholars believe there are more than 300 prophecies about a coming messiah in the Old Testament. These prophecies are specific enough that the mathematical probability of Jesus fulfilling even a handful of them, let alone all of them, is staggeringly improbable—if not impossible.” Source: Jesus Film Project 11/17/21, www.jesusfilm.org/blog/old-testament-prophecie

Luke, the Physician, writes in Acts: “Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:” (Acts 7:52).

In the New Testament, we read about the martyrdom of the last Prophet under the old covenant. John, the Baptist was beheaded for speaking out against Herod Antipas, Governor of Galilee. Jesus said: “For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John” (Matthew 11:13). John had the unique honor of closing the old covenant and ushering in the new covenant with the arrival of Jesus.

A new covenant and prophetic era began when Jesus, our Messiah, entered this world. Jesus confirms: “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it” (Luke 16:16). A new group of Messengers was created. “Shooting the Messenger” continued.

There are many legions of martyrdom of the original apostles. But the Bible tells the fate of only two: Judas, who hanged himself after betraying Jesus, and James, the brother of John, who was executed by Herod about 44 A.D. (See Acts 12:2). We do know that many were persecuted and jailed. We have an example in Acts 5:29 and 40-42.

Acts 5:29, “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

40-42, “And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

The twelve apostles were just ordinary working men. But Jesus formed them into the backbone of the Church and gave them the daunting task of calling on the entire world, including kings and kingdoms, to seek repentance, accept the gospel, and have faith in the risen Christ. Notice that the word “apostle” is derived from the Greek word “apostolos”, meaning a messenger sent forth with orders. Source: Bible Study Tools, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/apostolos.html>

The prophets of old and early church leaders were unpopular because they fearlessly told the truth instead of what the people wanted to hear. They revealed people’s sins and warned of their consequences. However, their messages were not all gloom and doom. They also offered words of Hope, Renewal, Redemption, and Love.

Unlike the old covenant, all believers today have a direct connection with God and can hear Him speaking to us personally through the Scriptures. Therefore, the definition of prophecy today is confirming what is already heard through our relationship with Him.

Not everything we hear from the pulpit will give us a warm and fuzzy feeling - but if we have a good Bible-based Pastor, it needs to be heard. When we do hear a person claiming to be speaking for God, do not initially treat prophecy with contempt. Compare what is said with what the Bible says. “Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” (I Thessalonians 5:20-21).

God does not contradict Himself. Our responsibility is to examine and judge prophecies based on God’s Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit within us. Keep the good and reject false teachings, but Don’t Shoot the Messenger!

In Honor Of Our Mothers

By David DeLong

Proverbs, chapter 31 gives us a glimpse of the most dedicated of women that we would place in the class of motherhood. Let us quote from this chapter, verses 13-29: "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

May the Lord richly bless our mothers this upcoming year. We thank God for them!



NOBODY IS YOUR ENEMY

**ANYONE THAT ANNOYS YOU* --is teaching you patience and calmness.*

**ANYONE THAT ABANDONS YOU* --is teaching you how to stand up on your own feet.*

**ANYBODY THAT OFFENDS YOU* --is teaching you forgiveness and compassion.*

**ANYTHING THAT YOU HATE* --is teaching you, unconditional love.*

**ANYTHING THAT YOU FEAR* --is teaching you the courage to overcome your fears.*

**ANYTHING YOU CAN'T CONTROL* --is teaching you to let go.*

**ANY "NO" YOU GET FROM A HUMAN* --is teaching you to be independent.*

**ANY PROBLEM YOU'RE FACING* --is teaching you how to get a solution to problems.*

**ANY ATTACK YOU GET FROM PEOPLE* --is teaching you the best form of defence.*

**ANYONE WHO LOOKS DOWN ON YOU* --is teaching you to look up to the CREATOR (*GOD*).*

Always look out for the lesson in every situation you face in every phase of life.

Be polite, calm, gentle and thankful to God because He will be with you to the end.

Life had taught me lessons. I do not see people at my cross road, because humans are not reliable.

I only see God as the author and finisher of my faith.

REFLECTIONS

When you live your life without anyone betraying, hurting, disappointing, disgracing or offending you, then it means you never did anything worthy.

The beauty of life, is that it comes with disappointments and betrayals, from people you least expect.

Unfortunately, some of us spend so much time crying over these betrayals and disappointments, and then end up becoming victims of all circumstances.

Remember One Thing:* *Holding unto anger is like knocking your head on the wall and expecting the other person to feel the pain. You are only hurting yourself.

The fact is that the world is full of annoying, naughty, stupid and ungrateful people, and you will always come across them at one point or another in life. But the best thing to do, is to deal with them with wisdom and maturity.

You can't get everyone to love you, think like you or behave like you... never.

**We must learn to tolerate and overlook certain things, we must try to bury the faults of others and move on*

*with life.**

Anger, Hatred and Intolerance have caused most of the world's problems and solved none.

Life is short, you don't know how much time you have left

I beseech you to take the pain and forgive that special person you hold grudges against, and iron out your grievances.

Muster the courage and apologise to that person you have offended.

**Life is not measured by the amount of money, houses or companies you have, but by the positive impact you have made in the lives of others.*

Would your children benefit from Church Camp?

Boys and Girls Summer Camp Ages 11-18 contact Tim and Cindy Buechner at 210-622-3191

Would your Young Adults like to meet other Young Adults of like faith?

Young Men and Women Fall Retreat Ages 19-27 contact Richard Santiesteban at 214-908-2027



**SAY YES TO TIME
WITH YOUR KIDS.
You won't regret it.**



PHILIPPINES - Apostle Ricky Herrera (Texas) and Brother Gary Mills (Ohio) along with their wives traveled to the Philippines this past November for the rededication of the church headquarters building in Cebu City.

The top picture is a service that was held on the in our church building on the Philippine island of Bohol.

The bottom two pictures are the refurbished sanctuary in the church headquarters for the Philippines in Cebu City.





LESSON I

PAUL IS SENT TO ROME

Scripture Reading: Acts 27:1-20.

Golden Text: Revelation 21:7.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and will be his God, and he shall be my son."

1. Who was Julius, and what was his duty? Acts 27:1.

2. Tell of the different places Paul sailed to on his trip to Italy? Acts 27:1-8.

NOTE: You may want to use a Bible map to follow the trail that Paul took.

3. What did Paul say concerning this voyage? Acts 27:9-10.

4. To whom did the centurion listen? Acts 27:11.

5. What decisions were made by the centurion and why? Acts 27:12-13.

6. What does Euroclydon mean? Acts 27:14.

NOTE: God uses nature to show His power. Think about two incidents when God used the elements of nature (wind, rain, etc.) to change events.

7. What was the result of this wind? Acts 27:15-17.

8. Was the water rough for the second and third days? Acts 27:20.

NOTE: Paul gave a warning to which no one listened. We too are given a warning by our heavenly Father. Please read Revelation 21:7-8. Listen to God's warning!

Answers to Alphabet Code on page 15 - "A soft answer turneth away wrath but grievous words stir up anger."

LESSON II

THE SHIPWRECK

Scripture Reading: Acts 27:21-44.

Golden Text: Acts 27:22 (first part).

"And now I exhort you to be of good cheer."

1. Paul reminded the men that they would have listened to him about staying in Crete. What does he now tell them? Acts 27:21-22.

2. Who came to Paul in the night, and what was said to him? Acts 27:23-24.

3. What happened on the fourteenth night? Acts 27:27-30.

4. What words did Paul speak to the men? Did they obey? Acts 27:31-32.

5. What did Paul ask the other men to do, and did they listen to his words this time? Were they still afraid? Acts 27:33-36.

6. How many were aboard the ship? Acts 27:37.

7. Describe what took place after they ate and saw land? Acts 27:38-41.

8. What did the soldiers want to do to Paul and their other prisoners? Why? Acts 27:42.

9. What did the centurion command them to do? Acts 27:43-44.

LESSON III

THE VIPER'S BITE

Scripture Reading: Acts 28:1-15.

Golden Text: Acts 28:5.

"And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm."

1. To what island did the men escape? Acts 28:1.
2. What kind of people were on this island? Acts 28:2.
3. What happened to Paul as he gathered sticks for the fire? Acts 28:3.
4. What did the barbarians of the island think about Paul when the viper bit him? Acts 28:4.
5. Did the viper's bite harm Paul? Acts 28:5.
6. What did the people think of Paul when they saw that he was not harmed? Acts 28:6.
7. Who was Publius, and what did Paul do for him? Acts 28:7-8.
8. What did Paul do for the people, and what did the people do for him and the sailors? Acts 28:9-10.
9. Within three months the ship was ready to sail. Tell of the places the ship stopped at before it arrived at Rome. Acts 28:11-15.

LESSON IV

PAUL'S ARRIVAL IN ROME

Scripture Reading: Acts 28:16-31.

Golden Text: Acts 28:31.

"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."

1. When the ship arrived in Rome, where were the prisoners taken, and what became of Paul? Acts 28:15.
2. What did Paul do when three days had passed? Acts 28:17.
3. What did Paul say to the chief of the Jews in Acts 28:18-20?

4. Had the chief of the Jews in Rome received any word about Paul, or had anyone spoken against him? Acts 28:21.
5. Did the people want to hear Paul's words about Jesus? Acts 28:22-23.
6. Did some of the Jews believe what Paul spoke? Acts 28:24.
7. What words did Paul leave with the men? Acts 28:26-28.

8. How long did Paul dwell in Rome, and was he a prisoner during this time? Acts 28:30-31.

NOTE: As we close this study of Paul, let us remember our mission - to preach the kingdom of God (in word and deed by our example) and teach those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence.

Answer to
Name of Jesus
on page 15 -

- 1.Savior, Christ
- 2.Son the Lord
- 3.Son of man
- 4.Son of David
5. Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace
- 6.I am the way, the truth, and the life
- 7.I am the



- bread of life.
- 8.I am the good shepherd.
- 9.I am the rose of Sharon, the the lily of the valley.
- 10.The Son of righteousness, I am the bright and morning star.

HIS MOTHER'S TRAINING

Roland stopped and looked at the sign, "Boy Wanted." It hung outside a big cutlery establishment, next to a store where there had been a big fire. He had made up his mind that he was old enough to look for work and try to relieve Mother. Should he go in? He hesitated, then with all the courage he could command, went inside. He was sent back to a room where men on high stools were writing in big books, too busy to notice him, but a tall gentleman did, and questioned him so fast that he could hardly answer. "What kind of work do you expect to do? Don't know? Most boys do. Never worked before. Suppose you think it's all play?" Well, "pointing to some steps, "go down there and the man at the foot will tell you what to do."

Roland went down and found half a dozen boys at work with their sleeves rolled up, cleaning and polishing knives. The man at the foot of the steps looked up and said: "Come to try your hand? Well, three have just left for disgust: doesn't seem to be a boys' work, somehow, but it's got to be done. You see," he said, picking up some knives and scissors and showing spots of rust on them, "The water that saved our building the other night injured some of our finest goods. If you want to try your hand at cleaning, I'll show you how. We pay by the dozen."

"It isn't fair," said one the boys "Some have more rust on them than others."

"If you don't like our terms, you needn't work for us," said the foreman. Then the boy, muttering that he wanted to be an errand boy and see something of life, left while Roland went to work with a will. As he finished each piece, he held it up, examined it critically, and wondered if Mother would think it well done.

When the hour for closing came, the gentleman who had sent him downstairs appeared, and looking around at the boys, said: "Well?"

"There is the boy we want," said the foreman, pointing to Roland. "He will take pride in doing anything you give him to do. He has been well trained."

Again, the tall man spoke quickly.

"That's what we want. 'Boy Wanted' does not mean

any kind of boy. Does you mother know you came? No! Well, take her your first wage, and tell her there's a place open for you here. Then put your arms around her neck and thank her for teaching you to be thorough. If more boys were thorough, more boys would succeed in life."

"I guess."

"Mother," said Roland, when he told her about it, "it was because I tried to do everything as you would like it. I forgot I was doing it because there was a 'Boy Wanted.'"

The Bible says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

NATURE'S MELODY

How happy we should be that we can see and hear and feel and taste and smell. Today, we have a poem that was written by a blind man, Dr. Kallenbach, who was killed in an accident, November 16, 1946, before his poem was published.

I cannot view the bloom upon the rose,
 But oh, the scent is very dear to me,
 And I can feel the cooling breeze that blows
 Through pearl-tipped peaks of hills I cannot see.
 I cannot see the wild birds on the wing,
 But I can hear the swallows in the caves;
 I hear the song that nature has to sing;
 The gentle music of the rustling leaves.
 I cannot see the children going by,
 But I can hear their laughter as they pass;
 I cannot see the sunset in the sky,
 But I can feel the swaying of the grass.
 I cannot see the moonlight on the sea,
 But I can hear the waves beat on the shore;
 I feast upon all nature's melody,
 And thank my God and do not ask for more.



NAMES OF JESUS

In the Bible, Jesus is given many beautiful names and titles. Let us see how many we can find.

Here are the places in the Bible where the names may be found:

1. What two names did the angels give Jesus in speaking to the shepherds on the night of His birth? Luke 2:11.

2. What did God call Jesus at His baptism? Matthew 3:17.

3. What did Jesus often call Himself? Matthew 8:20.

4. What name did the two blind men give Him? Matthew 9:27.

5. What names did the Prophet Isaiah give Him? Isaiah 9:6.

6. What names did Jesus give Himself in John 14:6?

7. To what did Jesus liken Himself in John 6:35? In John 10:11?

8. To what two flowers is He likened sometimes in hymns? Song of Solomon 2:1.

9. To what heavenly bodies is He likened in Malachi 4:2 and Revelation 22:16?

10. What title of Jesus is made up of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet? Revelation 22:13.

THE WORLD GOD MADE - God made all things. He made the day and the night. God made heaven and earth. He made the water and dry land. He put the warm sun in the sky to make light in the daytime. God made the moon and stars. They give light at night. He wanted something to live in His pretty world. So God made animals, birds and fish. God made the world and everything that is in it. Only God could do this.

ALPHABET CODE

To discover the secret message, write about each letter which comes before it in the alphabet. We've helped you get started.

*A
B*

*S _ _ _
T P G U*

*_ _ _ _ _
B O T X F S*

*_ _ _ _ _
U V S O F U I*

*_ _ _ _
B X B Z*

*_ _ _ _
X S B U I*

*_ _ _
C V U*

*_ _ _ _ _
H S J F W P V T*

*_ _ _ _
X P S E T*

*_ _ _ _
T U J S*

*_ _
V Q*

*_ _ _ _ _
B O H F S*

Answers on page 13.

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*MOTHERS PRAYERS
by Delwin DeLong*

*Mother's prayers are for her sons,
And daughters every day;
She prays for health and safety
As they go on their way.*

*Mother's prayers are for God's love
To shine down from on high -
To light the path her children trod
And stay right by their side.*

*Mother's prayers are for her sons,
And daughters to stay strong;
To keep God's truth they've all been taught,
And stay away from wrong.*

*Mother's prayers thank God for strength
As she lives day to day;
She thanks Him for His Son He sent,
And for the price He paid.*

*Mother's prayers are for the church
And those who enter in;
She prays that each will love the rest,
And asks pardon for each sin.*

*Mother's prayers are for the chance,
Her family will be there;
When Jesus comes to catch them up,
And meet Him in the air.*

