

The Advocate of Truth



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"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" (Deuteronomy 24:19).

Rewards

By Carlo Rasmussen (deceased)

The proper understanding of rewards for deeds that are done appears to be lacking in these latter days throughout the world. The thought that for every deed there is a resulting reward is losing its significance in these times. The trend or popular way of thought is not to concern ourselves with the end result of an act or acts that we may do - but rather do it regardless of the outcome. One of the excuses coming forth in recent times is, "the end result will justify the means;" no matter what the means (methods) might be. As we examine this in the light of honesty and truth and common sense, we realize right away this thought to be completely out of line, to which the holy Scriptures confirm. The Apostle Paul wrote: "...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). The man Job confirms this thought when he said, "...they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same" (Job 4:8).

Consider these examples for a moment; when a farmer makes a decision to have a wheat crop, does he then plant barley seeds in the ground? If a person studies to become a lawyer does he seek knowledge from a carpenter? As we can see the answer to all these questions is no. To have wheat one must plant wheat. Here then we see that we reap the rewards of that which we plan an effort into.

There is a reward for all the deeds that we do. David said; "...the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness" (II Samuel 3:39). We are reminded in Proverbs 11:18 that, "The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a

sure reward." There are some rewards that will come sooner while others may not be given for many years; nevertheless all deeds will have their due rewards. As we read in the above texts, there are only two kinds of rewards, for there are only two kinds of deeds; those of righteousness and those of wickedness. Everything done under the sun falls in either of these two classes. There is no half-way point or shady area such as some may think. In these last days the thought of half-right is the trend, and in so called modern circles the idea that everyone has to have one "vice" in his life is a common place practice. This is an abomination unto the Lord, as we can understand in Revelation 3:3-16. The reward for half-way is the same as that of complete wickedness.

There are some who may confuse rewards and gifts. In the Scriptures those who follow the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ are given the gift of eternal life by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Also they are given certain other gifts with which they may further the name of the Lord to the world about them. These are the gifts bestowed upon all true believers and are not to be confused with rewards. The gifts in the Church of God are outlined in I Corinthians 12:1-11. These are not rewards for what saints have done but rather gifts to be used so that saints may do. After using these gifts to the best of our abilities as long as God gives us life, we then may reap a reward accordingly. Let us not confuse God's gifts and His rewards. This also shows to us that we are expected to place an effort into our lives each day in behalf of the Lord. Through the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit and

the other gifts for spiritual use we will be able to accomplish the mission, or work, that God has planned for us.

To all who study the Bible it is very plain to see that there is a coming reward for all wickedness on judgment day." Let us consider for a few moments some rewards that are given during our lives. One of the most outstanding examples of this is found in the record of David due to his committing adultery with another man's wife. Because of David's great wickedness which displeased the Lord, certain rewards were pronounced through Nathan the prophet of the Lord. The pages of Scripture tell of the fulfilling of these rewards for David's wickedness. Here we have an account of a reward given to man during his lifetime. In the book of Job we read of Job, who was blessed by the Lord for following the Lord even after all of his possessions were taken from him. Because of his faithfulness, Job received more after his trials than he had before his trials. This is a good example of a reward for righteousness. We need to consider, however, that just because we follow the Lord in our lives, we should not expect to receive abundant material blessings. There are spiritual rewards given to us during our lifetimes that far surpass any material possessions we can ever have. These spiritual rewards will help us to have a more content and peaceful life each day. It will also help to bring others to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and bring a future reward to us in the Kingdom during the reign of Jesus Christ.

Jesus made some wise statements about rewards when he said in Matthew 6:1-4: "Take heed that ye do not your alms (righteousness and good deeds) 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." These few words from the Lord certainly leave us with something to think about as we live our daily lives for Him. It is so easy to do things in the sight of our fellowman, knowing we will be complimented for it and all will think, "Oh what a nice person he or she is!" This can cause us to desire to do more, knowing it will be known and approved by all. This

is not what the Lord desires from His people, however. If we begin to act with the only intent of being nicely thought about by everyone, we care not for pleasing the Lord. Our reward for this will not be in heaven, but rather here on earth in the hearts of the world about us. When was the last time we did something for another person and no one ever knew about it? How long ago has it been since you allowed yourself to be moved back so another could have first chance, and that person never knew you did it. It is this kind of thinking and deeds the Lord is speaking of here. What we are speaking of here is that word "charity" and the Lord expects this in our lives each day as we live, for thoughts within us certainly will not reap any immediate material blessing, however, they will help to give us contentment and peace of mind that can not be obtained by any other living. This is the fruits of the Holy Spirit of God. For all those following in this way, Jesus promises a great reward in due time.

In the Scriptures we are given a brief look at the rewards to be given to those who follow the Lord during their lives. The Bible informs us in Revelation 5:10 that God's Saints will be "...kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." We are not given a detailed outline of the rewards given, but provide us with enough information to know that God's Saints will be rewarded. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25:14-30, and Luke 19:20-26 further outline God's rewards for faithfulness. Herein also is described a reward for unfaithfulness. These thoughts expressed by our Lord should cause us to examine ourselves to see if we are conducting ourselves according to His Word. We will be held accountable and a just reward given at God's appointed time.

As we conclude our thoughts on the subject of rewards, it is very plain to understand there will be a reward given for our actions during our lives, be it righteous or wicked. The so-called modern idea wherein we should not worry about the end results of our deeds is only another lie coming from the father of lies, the devil. The world so easily gives into this lie, because when covered over with some shady reasoning, it begins to appear logical. It is one of the tricks of Satan and God's people need to beware. Let us consider our deeds in the light of the Word of God, thereby pressing on "...toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

THE SIN AND FOLLY OF WORRY



Worry is like a bad disease, it ruins physical, mental and spiritual health. It is worse than this, for it is a sin against our loving heavenly Father who has promised to supply all our need. He knew how prone man is to worry, for all through His holy Word we find the living injunction, "Fear not," and as if this was not enough, He says through His servant Paul, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

After all these assurances, it is nothing short of sin to worry. Worry is a denial of trust in a loving Father who will not allow any harm to befall His children. "Who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" It is well to take note that the first mentioned thorns that choked the good seed, and made it unfruitful was, "The cares of this world."

John Wesley declared that he thought worry was as great a sin as swearing; it certainly is rank disobedience to the Savior's comforting command, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

"Worry," Dean Inge quaintly remarks, "is interest paid on trouble before it falls due." And, as an old man said, "My life has been full of trouble, but, most of it never happened." Therefore we may conclude that a great many are like this old man, who, by worrying paid interest beforehand on trouble that never happened. God never intended us to worry, or He would have told us to do so; instead he has given us hundreds of commands in regard to "not worrying." It is a great aid against worry or anxiety, to hunt up and study all these "rejoicing texts."

He who notes the fall of a sparrow, and counts the

hairs of our head (even the most loving mother could not do this), is abundantly able to look after all our needs.

Sometimes we have heard a mother say to a naughty, whimpering child, "If you do not stop crying, You are going in a timeout." This leads us to think that our loving Father may sometimes have to deal with us in the same manner.

Worry is like rust on the blade. It is not the revolution that destroys the machinery, but the friction. Eminent physicians have discovered that fear and worry play havoc with the action of the heart.

Some people make their troubles threefold, they suffer through anticipation of them, when the realization, doesn't happen, and lastly in retrospection, often making mole-hills into mountains by their foolishness.

"Strength is promised, strength is given, when the heart by grief is riven. But foredate the day of woe, and alone thou wilt bear the blow."

RECEIPE FOR MAKING A HOME

Take 1 cup of Friendship, add 1 cup of Thoughtfulness, mix together well with:

A pinch of powdered Tenderness, lightly beaten into a bowl of Loyalty to which has been added:

1cup Faith

1cup Hope

1cup Charity

Be sure to add 1 tbsp of Gaiety for signs with ability to Laugh at little things. Moisten with sudden tears of Heartfelt Sympathy. Bake in a Good Natured pan.

Serve Often.



1. They were created on the same day as the Sun and Moon.

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also" (Genesis 1:14-16).

2. Abraham's seed is to be as the stars in heaven.

"And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be" (Genesis 15:5).

3. Job was asked where he was when the morning stars sang together.

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding" (Job 38:4).

4. God knows the number of stars and their names.

"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel. He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names" (Psalm 147:1-4).

5. Satan said he would seat his throne above the stars of God.

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north" (Isaiah 14:12-13).

6. Apostate Teachers are warned of their fate.

"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward...Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars..." (Jude 11,13).

Our Lord places a great value upon humility, and He condemns those who are contentious. The Apostle Paul wrote, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:8-9).

In I Timothy 6:6, he writes, "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

Murmuring is a manifestation of a disposition that is discontented and fault finding. Those who indulge in murmuring make trouble for themselves and for others.

7. The seven stars are the seven angels of the seven churches in Revelation 1.

"The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches" (Revelation 1:20).

THE WILLING HEART

Psalm 51-57

*Have mercy Lord, upon me,
And cleanse me from my sin,
Create in me a clean heart,
A right spirit from within.*

*I acknowledge my transgressions,
And my sin for all to see,
Wash me through and through Lord,
Then Your truth shall set me free.*

*Cast me not out from Your presence,
And blot out my iniquities,
Against Thee I have sinned Lord,
Yet You paid the price for me.*

*It all depends on what is written
On the tables of the heart,
There is one path to salvation,
Are you willing to take part?*

*Have you checked your heart condition,
Are you ready for the call?
We all need the Lord's protection,
Without the Comforter we'll fall.*

*My soul remains among the Lions,
And amidst the sons of Man,
Yet You're my rock and my salvation,
You've got the whole world in Your hands.*

*The evil tongue is like a razor,
It cuts with mischief like a knife,
We must all fight to control it,
If we want eternal life.*

*The same goes with our actions,
The way we treat our fellow man,
If you don't obey the commandments,
Where do you fit into God's plan?*

Pat Evans



*Brother David and Sister Berta Royer
sent us this picture of the beauty of Panama*

SEVEN ASPECTS OF

Perfect



This word is used fifty-six times in the Old Testament, and forty-eight times in the New, but never once has it the idea of sinlessness. In the Old Testament Scriptures it conveys the meaning of complete, ended, whole; and in the New, of what has reached its end, fitted complete in all parts, accurate. This occurs in Acts 18:26, where Aquila and Priscilla took the eloquent Apollos, who, though "mighty in the scriptures," needed to be taught the "way of God more perfectly," or "more accurately," as it might be better rendered.

We give seven uses of this word "perfect," showing in some measure, though not exhaustively, the teaching of the Holy Spirit as we find it in the Word.

I. Perfect in Righteousness

"...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations..." (Genesis 6:9).

"...Noah was a just, or justified man, for we read he "found grace in the eyes of the LORD." He came as a sinner, and the God of all grace saved him, so he was enabled not only to "walk with God" in close communion, but before his neighbors he was "perfect," that is, upright, whole, blameless. No one could say a word against him. He walked in practical righteousness in his generation. He was not sinless, he still had in him the flesh, but by God's

grace he was enabled to talk in consistent uprightness, and in communion with his God.

II. Perfect in Trust in God.

"...I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Genesis 17:1).

Here Abraham got a new revelation of God, "El Shaddai," the Almighty, and Abraham's perfection consisted in his walking according to his revelation. Surely it needed an Almighty One to fulfill all the promises made to him.

Abraham was alone in the land, surrounded by Arab tribes, yet God had said to him, "...I will give unto thee...the land wherein thou art a stranger..." He was to walk before God, conscious of the power of the Almighty one to back him up. Moreover, Abraham was ninety-nine years old, and yet the promise was made to him..." "...I will make thee exceeding fruitful...I will make nations of thee." He was to walk before God, confident in his trust, not liking to nature, or "management" to help God, as we find he did in chapter 17, but assured that this Almighty God could enter into the domain of death - for he and Sarah were dead as to nature - and out of death bring forth life in resurrection power, as He did in Isaac.

Let us rejoice that the same power for us is now in our Almighty One, our risen, exalted and seated Lord and Savior.

III. Perfect in Separation.

"Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God" (Deuteronomy 18:13).

These words were spoken to the Israelites, and their perfection was, as we find from the context, in being a nation separated from the abominations of the people whose land they possessed, and also in being the instruments in God's hand in driving out, exterminating them in righteous judgment. Their cup of iniquity was full, the very land "spued out" the nations on account of their sins. So we have to be perfect with our God and walk in holy separation in this world, in which we are strangers. "Be not conformed to this world." Throughout all the ages, God must have a separated people.

IV. Perfect in Manifesting Grace.

"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

The perfection here brought before us is in manifesting grace, especially grace to our enemies. Our Father in heaven maketh His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. We are to love our enemies, to bless them that curse us, and do good to them that hate us. If we are children, we ought to sustain the character of the family, there ought to be a likeness betwixt son and father, and this likeness, this perfection is, in being gracious to all, especially to those who are against us. The world knows something of righteousness; it is compelled to be just in its dealings, but it knows nothing of grace. Now we are here to let men have a glimpse of the acting of His heavenly grace, to walk here as heavenly men, imitators of Christ, our only object being to bless, and brighten all around us. In so doing, we will manifest ourselves to the children of our Father which is in heaven, the God of all grace.

V. Perfect as to Conscience.

"...in which (time) were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience" (Hebrews 9:9).

The blood of bulls and goats of the Old Testament dispensation sanctified, no doubt, to the purifying of the flesh; it kept the Israelites ceremonially pure, "until the time of reformation," or to give a better rendering, until the time of setting things right again, viz., until Christ came, our

great Sacrifice and High Priest. But these sacrifices could never put away sin, and consequently their conscience must ever and anon have been troubled. Their conscience would be right for a time, but speedily it would get wrong again, inasmuch as the sacrifices had to be continually repeated. But now, in strong contrast, we have a perfect conscience, because we see the Perfect Sin-purger, our blessed Lord, who on the Cross put away our sins forever, so God has not a sin now to lay to our charge, and thus, though conscious of failure, and conscious of sin, we have a perfect conscience, knowing that he who was once underneath all our sins, is now "set down at the right hand...of God"

VI. Perfected by the One Offering.

"...by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).

It behooves us to see clearly that the one offering, the one sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, not only justified believers forever, that is, made them righteous in God's sight, but perfected, or sanctified them. Sanctification in the Godward side of it is an act, just as much as justification, with which nothing can interfere. We are set apart or sanctified in Christ, and so in Him separated from evil. Our walk and conversation here ought to be in correspondence with this position, and we are helped in this, in living a consistent, upright life, in practical righteousness before men, and seeking to perfect holiness before God, by the aid of the indwelling Holy Spirit, who ever applies the Word to our conscience, and so sanctifies us or separates us from evil through the truth, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

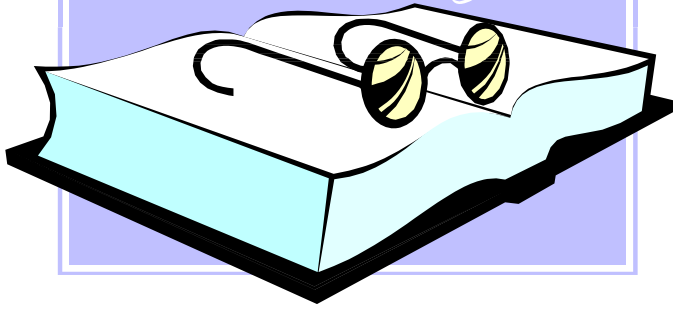
VII. Perfectly Furnished for Work.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God....That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

It is very delightful to notice here the double equipment for the work the believer has through the Word. The word "perfect" here means complete in all parts, jointed, as it were, with special aptitude for a given purpose. Moreover he is not only perfect, complete, but thoroughly "furnished," i.e., fully equipped, in perfect readiness, so that the believer is completely articulated, and equipped fully for all good works.

BIBLE

Study



Taken from **The Home Instructor Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

Part 9 - THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

QUESTION: Under what seal do the seven angels receive the seven trumpets?

ANSWER: "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets" (Revelation 8:1-2).

QUESTION: What shows that prayers will not ascend to God during the time of the seventh seal or blowing of the trumpets?

ANSWER: "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake" (Revelation 8:3-5).

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: How does John reveal this in another place?

ANSWER: "And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (Revelation 15:8).

NOTE: Here in symbolic language God shows that the prayers of the saints will not be heard by God for a period of time. There will be no need for the saints to pray as they will be on the sea of glass with Jesus. God will turn a deaf ear to the prayers of the wicked.

QUESTION: Is there repentance for the wicked during this time?

ANSWER: "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (Revelation 9:20-21). "And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds" (Revelation 16:10-11).

QUESTION: What will the seven angels do?

ANSWER: "And the seven angels, which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound" (Revelation 8:6).

QUESTION: What is the wrath of God?

ANSWER: "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plaques; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" (Revelation 15:1).

QUESTION: What will the seven angels with the vials do?

ANSWER: "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth" (Revelation 16:1).

QUESTION: Upon what will the first plague be poured?

ANSWER: "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up" (Revelation 8:7).

"And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image" (Revelation 16:2).

QUESTION: Where will the second plague be cast?

ANSWER: "And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed" (Revelation 8:8-9).

"And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea" (Revelation 16:3).

QUESTION: Where will the third plague be poured?

ANSWER: "And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Worm-

wood: and the third part of the waters became worm-wood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter" (Revelation 8:10-11).

"And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments" (Revelation 16:4-7).

QUESTION: What will happen to the sun moon, and stars under the fourth plague?

ANSWER: "And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise" (Revelation 8:12).

QUESTION: What else will happen during the fourth plague?

ANSWER: "And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory" (Revelation 16:8-9).

QUESTION: What are the last three plagues called?

ANSWER: "And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!" (Revelation 8:13).

NOTE: In this lesson the first four plagues are outlines, where they will be cast and the details of each. We will consider the last three separately since they are called woes and are set apart by this term, and since each one is a woe by itself we are sure that you the readers want to get the full impact of these plagues.

INCREASE OUR FAITH

How can we obtain an increase of faith? A very earnest question this is to many. They say they want to believe, but cannot. A great deal of nonsense is talked upon this subject. Let us be strictly practical in our dealing with it. Common sense is as much needed in religion as anywhere else. "What am I to do in order to believe?" One who was asked the best way to do a certain simple act replied that the best way to do it was to do it at once. We waste time in discussing methods when the action is simple. The shortest way to believe is to believe. If the Holy Spirit has made you candid, you will believe as soon as truth is set before you. You will believe it because it is true. The gospel command is clear; "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." It is idle to evade this by questions and quibbles, The order is plain; let it be obeyed.

But still, **if you have a difficulty, take it before God in prayer.** Tell the heavenly Father exactly what it is that puzzles you, and beg Him by His Holy Spirit to solve the question. If I cannot believe in a statement in a book, I am glad to inquire of the author what he means by it; Much more will the divine explanation of the hard points of Scripture satisfy the heart of the true seeker. The Lord is willing to make himself known: go to Him and see if it be not so. Repair at once to your closet, and cry, "O Holy Spirit, lead me into the truth! What I know not, teach Thou me." Furthermore, if faith seems difficult, it is possible that God by the Holy Spirit will enable you to believe if you **hear very frequently and earnestly that which you are commanded to believe.** We believe many things because we have heard them so often. Do you not find it so in common life, that if you hear a thing fifty times a day, at last you come to believe it? Some men have come to believe very unlikely statements by this process: and therefore I

do not wonder that the good Spirit often blesses the method of often hearing the truth, and uses it to work faith concerning that which is to be believed. It is written "Faith cometh by hearing," therefore hear often. If I earnestly and attentively hear the gospel, one of these days I shall find myself believing that which I hear, through the blessed operation of the Spirit of God upon my mind. Only mind you hear **the gospel**, and do not distract your mind with either hearing or reading that which is designed to stagger you.

If that, however, should seem poor advice, I would add next, **consider the testimony of others.** The Samaritans believed because of what the woman told them concerning Jesus. Many of our beliefs arise out of the testimony of others. I believe that there is such a country as Japan: I never saw it, and yet I believe that there is such a place because others have been there. I believe that I shall die: I have never died, but a great many have done so whom I once knew, and therefore I have a conviction that I shall die also: the testimony of many convinces me of that fact. Listen, then, to those who tell you how they were saved, how they were pardoned, how they were changed in character. If you will look into the matter you will find that somebody just like yourself has been saved. If you have been a thief, you will find that a thief rejoiced to wash away his sin in the fountain of Christ's blood. If unhappily you have been unchaste, you will find that men and women who have fallen in that way have been cleansed and changed. If you are in despair, you have only to get among God's people and inquire a little, and you will discover that some of the saints have been equally in despair with yourself and they will be pleased to tell you how the Lord delivered them. As you listen to one after an-

other of those who have tried the Word of God, and proved it, the divine Spirit will lead you to believe. Have you not heard of the African who was told by the missionary that water sometimes became so hard that a man could walk on it? He declared that he believed a great many things the missionary had told him, but he never would believe that. When he came to England, it came to pass that one frosty day he saw the river frozen, but he would not venture on it. He knew that it was a deep river, and he felt certain that he would be drowned if he ventured upon it. He could not be induced to walk the frozen water till his friend and many others went upon it: then he was persuaded, and trusted himself where others had safely ventured. So, mayhap, while you see others believe in the Lamb of God, and notice their joy and peace, you will yourself be gently led to believe. The experience of others is one of God's ways of helping us to faith. Be it how it may, you have either to believe in Jesus or die; there is no hope for you but in Him.

A better plan still is this - **note the authority upon which you are commanded to believe**, and this will greatly help you to faith. The authority is not mine, or you might well reject it. It is not the Pope's or you might question it. But you are commanded to believe upon the authority of God Himself. He bids you believe in Jesus Christ, and you must not refuse to obey your Maker. The foreman of a certain works in the North had often heard the gospel, but he was troubled with the fear that he might not come to Christ. The factory owner one day sent a card around to the works - "Come to my house immediately after work." The foreman appeared at the owner's door, and the owner came out and said somewhat roughly, "What do you want, John, troubling me at this hour? Work is done, what right have you here?" "Sir, said he, "I had a card from you saying that I was to come after work." "Do you mean to say that merely because you had a card from me you are to come up to my house and call me out after business hours?" "Well, sir," replied the foreman, "I do not understand you, but it seems to me that, as you sent for me, I had a right to come." "Come in, John," said his the owner, "I have another message that I want to read to you," and he sat down and read these words; "come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Do you think after such a message from Christ that you can be wrong in coming to him?" The poor man saw it all at once, and believed in the Lord Jesus

unto eternal life, because he perceived that he had good warrant and authority for believing. So have you, poor soul! You have good authority for coming to Christ, for the Lord himself bids you trust Him.

If that does not breed faith in you, **think over what it is that you need to believe**, - that the Lord Jesus Christ suffered in the room and place instead of sinners, and is able to save all who trust Him. Why, this is the most blessed fact that ever men were told to believe; the most suitable, and the most ever comforting, the most divine truth that was ever set before mortal minds. I advise you to think much upon it, and search to the grace and love which it contains. Study for our Evangelist, study Paul's epistles, and then see if the message is not such a credible one that you are forced to believe it. If that does not do, then **think upon the person of Jesus Christ** - think of **who** He is, and **what** He did, and **where** He is, and **what** He is. How can you doubt **Him**? It is cruelty to distrust the ever truthful Jesus. He has done nothing to deserve distrust; on the contrary, it should be easy to rely upon Him. Why crucify Him anew by unbelief? Is not this crowning Him with thorns again, and spitting upon Him again? What! Is He not to be trusted? What worse insult did the soldiers put upon Him than this? They made Him a martyr, but you make Him a liar - this is worse by far. Do not ask **how can I believe**? But answer another question - **How can you disbelieve**?

If none of these things avail, then there is something wrong about you altogether and my last word is, **submit yourself to God!** Prejudice or pride is at the bottom of this unbelief. May the Spirit of God take away your enmity and make you yield. You are a rebel, a proud rebel, and that is why you do not believe your God. Give up your rebellion; throw down your weapons; yield at discretion, surrender to your King. I believe that never did a soul throw up its hands in self-despair, and cry, "Lord, I yield," but what faith became easy to it before long. It is because you will have a quarrel with God, and resolve to have your own will and your own way, that therefore you cannot believe. "How can you believe," said Christ, "That have honor one of another?" Proud self created unbelief. Submit, O man. Yield to your God, and then shall you sweetly believe in your Saviour. May the Holy Ghost now work secretly but effectually with you, and bring you at this very moment to believe in the Lord Jesus! Amen.



The Food Corner

Let all your Sisters know you were thinking of them this week by making these friendship starter kits to pass out at church on Sabbath.

AMISH FRIENDSHIP BREAD STARTER

Ingredients:

- 1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast*
- 1/4 cup warm water*
- 3 cups all-purpose flour, divided*
- 3 cups white sugar, divided*
- 3 cups milk*

Directions:

Step 1

In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in water. Let stand 10 minutes. In a 2 quart glass, plastic or ceramic container, combine 1 cup flour and 1 cup sugar. Mix thoroughly or flour will lump when milk is added. Slowly stir in 1 cup milk and dissolved yeast mixture. Cover loosely and let stand until bubbly. Consider this day 1 of the 10 day cycle. Leave loosely covered at room temperature.

Step 2

On days 2 through 4; stir starter with a spoon. Day 5; stir in 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar and 1 cup milk. Days 6 through 9; stir only.

Step 3

Day 10; stir in 1 cup flour, 1 cup sugar and 1 cup milk. Remove 1 cup to make your first bread, give 2 cups to friends along with this recipe, and your favorite Amish Bread recipe. Store the remaining 1 cup starter in a container in the refrigerator, or begin the 10 day process over again (beginning with step 2).



Amish Friendship Bread

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Amish Friendship Bread Starter (to the left)*
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil*
- 3 eggs*
- 2 cups all-purpose flour*
- 1 cup white sugar*
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon*
- 1/2 teaspoon salt*
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda*
- 1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder*
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract*

Directions:

Step 1

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease 2 (9x5 inch) loaf pans.

Step 2

In a large bowl, combine the Amish bread starter with oil, eggs, 2 cups flour, 1 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon baking soda, 1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Mix well. Pour into prepared loaf pans.

Step 3

Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes.

Below - Banana Nut Friendship Bread - When making the basic recipe, reduce oil to 1/3 cup. Omit cinnamon.

Increase vanilla extract to 1 1/2 teaspoons.

Add 3 large very ripe bananas, mashed (banana skins should be almost black) and 1/2 cup chopped nuts.



Below - Lemon Amish Friendship Bread Substitute Lemon Extract for the vanilla flavoring. To the basic recipe add 1 box of lemon pudding and an additional 1/2 cup milk. Omit the cinnamon and nuts, and add 1/4 cup of poppy seeds.

For extra flavor, add 2 cups shredded coconut



Thank you Sister Ludina Mills from Ohio for submitting this idea to be shared.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:12-13).



Above - Amish Friendship Apple Bread - To the basic recipe add one cup of raisins and one ripe, medium diced apple.

Below - Amish Orange-Cranberry Friendship Bread - When making the basic recipe, substitute orange juice for milk. Before baking, stir in 1 tablespoon grated orange zest (colored portion of peel) and 1 cup dried cranberries.



Remember your Pastor and take him a Fall treat of Pumpkin Spice Amish Friendship Bread - When making the basic recipe, reduce oil to 1/3 cup. Reduce cinnamon to 1 teaspoon. Use brown sugar instead of white sugar.

Add 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice.

Before baking, stir in 1 cup canned pumpkin.

If you have a kosher receipte to contribute to The Food Corner email to christylgiggles@aol.com

Plagues And Pestilences

By David DeLong

In Matthew chapter 24 we read of a situation in which Jesus' disciples asked Him questions about His return and the end of the world. He replied to them in verses 5-8: "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

One of the conditions that Jesus mentioned as being "the beginning of sorrows" is that of pestilences. This word, in the Greek, is "loimos" and it refers to a plague or disease. Interestingly, we have been hearing a lot recently about the H1N1 virus, or "Swine Flu" as it is called, and the Covid-19 epidemic. Could these worldwide epidemic be a part of the pestilences that Jesus warned His disciples about? In any event, I believe that the Swine Flu and Covid-19 are partly meant as a wake-up call to the world.

Historically, the Lord has used plagues and pestilences in at least a two-fold way: to punish people for their sins, and to show forth His glory to the world. For instance, when a famine hit the land of Canaan, Abram took Sarai his wife and went into Egypt. There Pharaoh, not knowing that Sarai was Abram's wife, wanted to take her for his wife. In Genesis 12:17 we read, "And the

LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife."

To another Pharaoh (and his people) years later, the Lord sent plagues upon Egypt to show them His might. Regarding this series of events, Exodus 7:5 informs us, "And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them." The Lord then sent ten great judgments upon the land of Egypt. These were: the waters turned to blood; the multitudes of frogs; the infestation of lice; the swarms of flies; the murrain (pestilence) upon the livestock; the affliction of boils; the hail; the locusts; the thick darkness; and the death of the first-born (chapters 7:17-12:30).

A distinction needs to be made between a plague and a pestilence. A plague can involve many different types of afflictions upon man and beast, including illnesses. A pestilence, however, appears to involve only illnesses upon them. The Lord uses both types of afflictions to render His judgments upon a sinful world.

We will now reflect upon some other instances, given in the Bible, in which the Lord used plagues or pestilences as punishments.

After the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, Moses went up into Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. While he was gone, Aaron made a golden calf for the people. In His intended judgment upon the people, the Lord would have completely destroyed them, and made a great nation of Moses. However, after Moses' intercession for the Israelites, we read, "And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people" (Exodus 32:14). Nevertheless, God still inflicted a partial judgment upon the evildoers as we read in verse 35: "And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made."

In warning the children of Israel of what He would do to them if they continued in future disobedience, the Lord solemnly declared to them in Leviticus 26: 21-25: "And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate. And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; Then

will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins. And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.”

While wandering in the wilderness, the children of Israel murmured against the Lord because they had manna to eat, but not the foods they had eaten in the land of Egypt. Because of this, the Lord commanded Moses: “And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?...And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague” (Numbers 11:18-20,33).

Not long thereafter, The Lord told Moses to send twelve spies to search out the land of Canaan. When they came back to make a report about what they had seen, ten of the spies gave an evil report of the land, thus discouraging the people. Only Caleb and Joshua brought back a good and encouraging report of the land. Relating to those ten men which brought back the evil report, we read, “And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land, Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD” (Numbers 14:36,37).

Some time later, in Numbers 16, we find still another disturbing situation among God’s people in the wilderness. This time we read about a rebellion that was staged against Moses, Aaron, and, of course, the Lord. Korah was the apparent ringleader of the rebellion and was accompanied by others, including 250 “princes of the assembly”. The Lord punished these rebels by allowing the earth to swallow them up, or by sending a fire to consume them.

The next day, surprisingly, the people blamed God’s two leaders for the incident. We find in verse 41, “But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.” In response to this we are informed: “And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun. And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed. Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah” (vss. 46-49).

In still another episode of iniquity and punishment, the Bible records: “And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel” (Numbers 25:1-8). Verse 9 informs us that 24,000 people died from this plague. (Please see also Psalm 106:28-31).

When the ark of the Lord was captured by the Philistines, it was brought “into the house of Dagon”. I Samuel 5:6 records, “But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon

them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods (“tumors”, NASB), even Ashdod and the coasts thereof.” This may have been a case of bubonic plague that the Lord sent among the Philistines. Later, the ark was sent to the cities of Gath and Ekron where a similar judgment was given to the inhabitants (see vs. 8-12).

King David sinned a great sin by numbering the children of Israel. The Lord apparently “...moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah” (II Samuel 24:1), by allowing Satan to be the one who “stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel” (I Chronicles 21:1). After Joab, who was the census taker, had given his report to the king, David recognized his iniquity. The Lord then gave him a choice of one of three punishments. David decided to “...fall now into the hand of the LORD”... We read in II Samuel 24:15, “So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.”

The Lord’s use of plagues and pestilences, as judgments upon sinners, will continue into the future. We read in Zechariah 14:12,15, concerning the battle of Armageddon, “And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth...And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague.”

The two witnesses of Revelation 11, who stand “before the God of the earth”, will be given supernatural powers during the time of God’s great wrath which will be poured out upon His enemies. The Scriptures proclaim, “These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will” (vs. 6).

And speaking of God’s great wrath--“the seven last plagues”--which is described in Revelation chapters 8-11 and 16, we find that it (God’s wrath) will be “poured out without mixture” upon the earth for those who “worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark...” (see chapter 14, verses 9 and 10.) These plagues will involve: a “grievous sore”; the sea becoming “as the blood of a

dead man”; the rivers and fountains becoming “blood”; men being “scorched with great heat”; those in the beast’s kingdom gnawing “their tongues for pain”; the world being gathered “together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon”; and “a great earthquake” and “great hail out of heaven”.

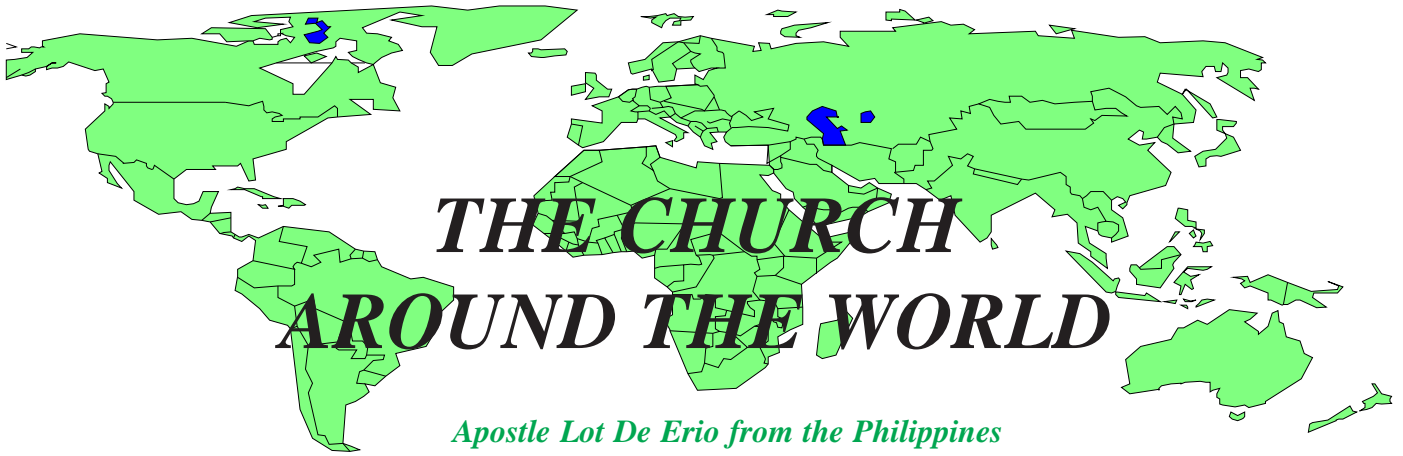
The Lord assures His people, concerning this time, however, that “Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence...Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday...There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling” (Psalm 91:3,5-6,10).

We must still look to the Lord as our Protector and Healer today. When a “great multitude” followed Jesus and “came unto him”, we are told, “And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him. For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues” (Mark 3:9,10).

In conclusion, let us remember two very solemn warnings that are issued in the book of Revelation. The first one concerns those who continue to cling to the evil practices of Babylon. This warning proclaims, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4).

The second warning concerns those who would tamper with the Word of God. It declares: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18,19).

Plagues and pestilences have historically been used by the Lord as a wake-up call to those who lived unrepentant lives. That purpose is still seen today and will be in the future as well. However, when people look to the Lord in faith, He becomes their Protector, Healer, and Supporter through every circumstance, including times of plagues and pestilences. The final result is that the Lord’s great glory will be known in the earth.



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Apostle Lot De Erio from the Philippines



LESSON I

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17.

Golden Text: Matthew 3:13.

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."

NOTE: We continue the study of John the Baptist and of Jesus being baptized.

1. Where did Jesus go to be baptized, and who was to baptize him? Matthew 3:13.
2. Why didn't John want to baptize Jesus? Matthew 3:14.
3. What answer did Jesus give him? Matthew 3:15.
4. Was Jesus baptized by being put under the water? Matthew 3:16 (first part).
5. What happened when he came out of the water? Matthew 3:16 (last part).
6. What did the voice from heaven say? Matthew 3:17.

LESSON II

THE VICTORY OF JESUS OVER TEMPTATION

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11.

Golden Text: Matthew 4:7.

"Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

1. Why did Jesus go into the wilderness? Matthew 4:1.
2. How long had Jesus been fasting? Matthew 4:2.
3. Who came to Him, and what did he ask Jesus to do? Matthew 4:3.

4. How did Jesus answer Satan? Matthew 4:4.
5. Where did the devil take Jesus, and what did he ask Him to do now? Did Satan also know the Scriptures? Matthew 4:5-6.
6. How did Jesus answer Satan this time? Matthew 4:7.
7. Where did the devil take Jesus after this? What did he offer Jesus? Matthew 4:8-9.
8. Read Matthew 4:10, and then give Jesus' answer to Satan.
9. Did Satan leave Jesus alone after Jesus refused to give in to him? Matthew 4:11.

LESSON III

CHRIST'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-20.

Golden Text: Matthew 5:14.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

1. Jesus went up into a mountain to teach His disciples. Verses 3-11 of Matthew 5 contain what we call the Beatitudes. Read these verses and see if each one in the class can name at least one. Try to memorize these within the next few weeks.
2. What did Jesus say His disciples were in Matthew 5:13?
3. Were they to be the light of the world? Matthew 5:14. Should we be the same today? Name some ways we can let our light shine in the world.
4. What will happen if we hide our light? What will happen if we put it on a candlestick? Matthew 5:15.
5. What did Jesus tell His disciples, as well as us today, to do in Matthew 5:16?

6. What did Jesus say about the law (Ten Commandments) in Matthew 5:17?

7. Should anyone take any words away from the commandments? Matthew 5:18.

NOTE: Jot and tittle means smallest possible amount.

8. What will happen to those who break the commandments? What will happen to those who keep the commandments? Matthew 5:19-20.

LESSON IV

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:5-15.

Golden Text: Matthew 6:14.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

1. What should we not do when we pray? Matthew 6:5.
2. How should we pray and where? Matthew 6:6.
3. What does Matthew 6:7 tell us not to do?
4. Does our heavenly Father know what things we need before we ask? Matthew 6:8.
5. After what manner should we pray? Matthew 6:9-13. How many can say the Lord's prayer from memory?

NOTE: This prayer is a model and a good one for little children to learn. We also need to remember that God wants us to ask Him for the things we want and need, and to depend on Him.

6. If we forgive men their trespasses, what will our heavenly Father do for us? Matthew 6:14.

7. What will happen if we do not forgive men their trespasses? Matthew 6:15.

NOTE: The Lord's prayer was part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This sermon is continued through the rest of Matthew, chapters 6 and 7. Read these chapters to enjoy Jesus' words that He spoke to man that day.

Answers to Character Builders on page 23:

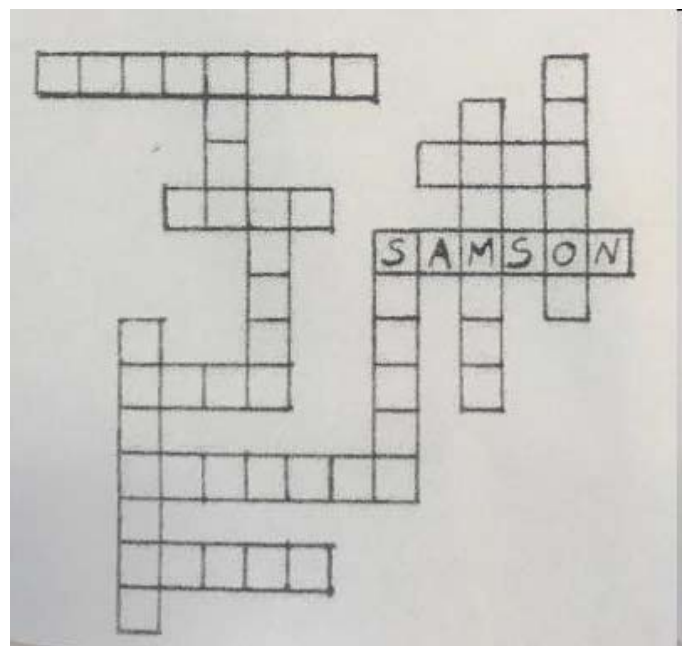
1. Gratitude
2. Temperance
3. Compassion
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Ambition
7. Unselfishness
8. Friendly
9. Charity
10. Faith
11. Loyalty
12. Joy
13. Honesty
14. Modest
15. Purity
16. Content

Judges Puzzle

1. *Abdon*
2. *Deborah*
3. *Ehud*
4. *Elon*
5. *Gideon*
6. *Ibzan*
7. *Jair*
8. *Jephthah*
9. *Othniel*
10. *Samson*
11. *Samuel*
12. *Shamgar*
13. *Tola*

Judges Puzzle

For 400 years the Israelite people were ruled by judges. Count the number of letters in each name and fit the judges' names into the puzzle. Use the list provided above.





"The Cover Up"
By Olive Branch

Ricky was looking for a different target. That morning, he had cut a small fork from one of the trees and made himself a slingshot. He had shot at bottles, cans, and various targets, but now he was looking for something that was new and challenging to test his skill. His eyes began to twinkle when he noticed his mother's ornament in the flower bed. Mother had made it last winter in ceramics class and was proud of it. It was a little girl, holding a watering pot, as if she were watering the flowers. Ricky did not want to break it, but he thought it would be fun to put a rock between the girl's watering pot and her sun bonnet.

Choosing a good-sized rock, Ricky put it in the slingshot, took careful aim, pulled back on the elastic bands, and let the rock fly. It sailed inches away from the watering pot. Ricky chuckled. He was getting to be quite a shot.

He picked up another rock, fitted it into his slingshot, and sent it whizzing through the air. Ping! It hit the little figure squarely in the head. The pottery cracked; the head fell off in pieces. What was Ricky to do now?

Quickly, he looked around to see if anyone had witnessed his telling shot. No one was in sight. Stuffing his slingshot into his pocket, he picked up the broken pieces and the rest of the figure that was still standing and hurried out through the orchard. As fast as he could, Ricky pulled back some of the brush, threw the broken pieces to the

bottom of the ditch, covered it all with dead leaves and brush. The evidence of what he had done was buried. He hoped his mother would think someone had stolen the figure.

He was putting on the last dead branch when he heard a slight noise and looked up to see his sister standing nearby. "Did you see anything?" Ricky asked quickly.

Minnie nodded her head. "I saw it all."

"You--you will not tell, will you?" Ricky asked hopefully.

"Well," Minnie drawled, "Maybe I will not tell. That depends on you."

Ricky walked slowly toward the house. What had Minnie meant? He did not want Mother to know what he had done, even if he had not meant to break her ornament. He would probably get punished. But it would not be like Minnie not to tell.

Later Ricky heard Mother calling, "Minnie, go down to the garden and get some radishes for dinner."

"Ask Ricky, Mother," Minnie answered. "He will be glad to go."

"NO, I will not," Ricky told her in a low voice. "I got radishes yesterday."

Minnie snickered. "Remember what I saw, Ricky?"

"O.K., I will go," Ricky agreed wearily. So this was to be the price she would charge for not telling!

Shortly after Ricky returned from the garden, he heard Mother calling again, "Minnie, run down to the hen house and get some eggs."

"You go, Ricky," Minnie said.

"I will not," Ricky answered. "It is not my turn."

Minnie smiled like she was pleased with herself. "Ricky," she reminded him, "If you do not--"

Reluctantly, he went for the eggs. For the next few days, Minnie enjoyed the power she had over her brother. He did not only his work, but hers, too, with the constant threat of her telling hanging over his head.

That was not the worst of it. Mother had been so busy she had not missed the broken ornament, but he knew he was doing wrong by trying to cover up what he had done. His heart felt heavy deep inside. He lost his appetite, and he had trouble sleeping at night. He had not really lied to his mother; however, he had tried to cover up what he had done. He knew God was not pleased

with him. He remembered a Bible verse he had learned in Sabbath school: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." He kept thinking about the verse all day. He knew that the brush he had put on the broken pottery did not really cover his sin.

Later in the afternoon Ricky went to his room. He took his Bible and turned to Proverbs 28:13 and read, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." He knew that already. His heart was getting heavier and heavier. He read the verse, "but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

What would happen if he confessed to his mother? Maybe she would give him the whipping of his life, but he could not go on like this. Minnie would demand more and more pay for not telling, and his guilty conscience would get worse and worse.

Slowly, Ricky walked down to the dining room where Mother was sitting by the window, darning socks. He climbed up into her lap, put his arms around her neck and began to cry.

Mother put aside her mending and asked, "What is the matter Ricky? I know something had been wrong with you for several days. Do you want to tell me about it?"

Slowly, Ricky confessed all about the slingshot and the broken pottery. Mother put her arms around him and patted him and kissed him. "You did wrong, Ricky," she said, "But I am glad you came to me and told me the truth. I will forgive you, but you had better not play with the slingshot for awhile." Ricky took his slingshot from his pocket and gave it to his mother. He felt so much better after he had told her about it, but still there was a question in his mind. "Mother," he asked. "do you think Jesus would forgive me too?"

"Oh for sure, Ricky. The Bible says, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I forgave you and Jesus is more willing to forgive than I was, if you will confess to Him."

Together they bowed their heads, and Ricky confessed his sin to God. When he left the dining room, he was feeling very happy.

Later, when Mother went to get supper, Ricky heard her calling, "Minnie, come and peel the potatoes for me."

"You go, Ricky," Minnie commanded, "I want to go

play."

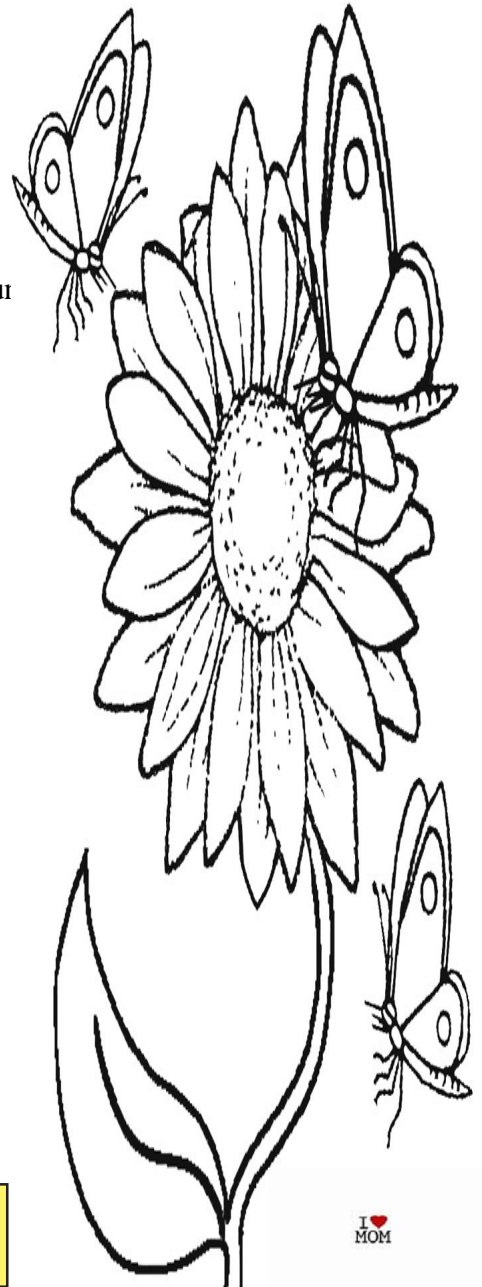
"I will not go," Ricky told her. "It is your turn."

"If you do not go, I will tell," Minnie threatened. With a sigh of relief, Ricky said, "I have already told." He put his hands in his pockets and started toward the barn, whistling as he went.

CHARACTER BUILDERS

The scrambled words below are character builders or qualities that we should all try to have. See how many you can solve.

- 1. Teguairtd
- 2. Petneeamer
- 3. Somaspcion
- 4. Tenapiec
- 5. Dseiknns
- 6. Tnoabmii
- 7. Felhesshassiuur
- 8. Ydnlerif
- 9. Iayhterc
- 10. Tahif
- 11. Ylolyta
- 12. Oyj
- 13. Syohetn
- 14. Smdtoe
- 15. Reyupti
- 16. Tnonetc



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