



The Advocate of Truth

TABLE OF CONTENTS



PAGE

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The Advocate of Truth

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In Memorial 3-5
Pastor Delwin DeLong

In His Image 5-6
As Jesus was fashioned after God's glory, so must we also be fashioned after their image.

Moderation 7
The Bible tells us to be moderate in all things.

The Wages Of Sin 8-10
The wages of sin is always deadly.

The Lord Appeared 11-12
The Lord made a number of appearances to Abraham.

Repent And Be Baptized 12-14
This is required of all those who want to be in God's kingdom.

The Signs Of The Times 15
A review of the year 2020.

Are You A Procrastinator? 16
It is never safe to procrastinate with the Lord.

Questions and Answers 17-19
Will you discuss the death of a Christian loved one?

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "Your Mother--My Mother"
Games and Puzzles



**In Memoriam –
Elder Delwin DeLong
1948 - 2021**

“Well done...thou good and faithful servant.”

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive, and remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive, and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words” I Thess. 4:13-18.

Delwin Paul DeLong, 72 of Salem West Virginia passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2021 at his home. He was born in Vermont, son of the late Vernon D. DeLong and Elisabeth Royer DeLong Schubach. He is

survived by his wife Fawzia Dawn Drake DeLong and two children, Benjamin Paul DeLong and his wife Melany and Todd Adam DeLong and his wife Carmen along with many Grandchildren.

Del has been a pastor of the Church of God 7th Day in Salem West Virginia, a member of the ruling body of the Twelve Apostles, and managing editor of the Church of God Publishing House publishing the Advocate of Truth for many years. He dedicated his life to Christ and the work of the Church of God.

Elder DeLong will be missed not only in Salem but all over the world. His letters and articles concerning church matters and relating to the Word of God have been an inspiration and have gone into nearly every country of the world.

A soldier has fallen in the midst of the fray
One who fought through the heat of day
Not by the sword, which is of man,
But by the sword of the Spirit-strong and grand.

We know this soldier, we helped him fight
We prayed together to banish the night
And light from his pen flowed out o’er the world
And the banner of Christ by his writings unfurled.

Good-by to this soldier, who fought with his pen
Good-by to this soldier and leader of men.
God knew him in life. He knows him in death
And someday He’ll give back the life-giving breath.

To some he was Dad, to us he was Brother
To some he was friend, known only by others
To God he was both brother and friend
Who kept him and loved him right to the end.

**A REMEMBRANCE
about Apostle Del DeLong
By Moses Torres M.**

I had the privilege of meeting Brother Del DeLong about 40 years ago back in 1983, on my first trip to a ministerial council in Salem, W, VA. I guess by that time he was already an apostle of the Church of God 7th day, and since then I keep in my mind many memories and

situations where he always showed his humbleness, respect, and consideration toward everybody. Brother Del had the gift to serve and attend in any situation of support to those who needed it in the most efficient and prompt way, mainly in the church environment where I was able to share and coincide with him in more than 50 council meetings.

He was a person one could trust and approach him not only as an authority in church, but also as a friend.

I will never forget a time we arrived in Salem at a Council, and I was feeling short of breath or breathing, and he immediately took me to his house at the top of a mountain where he had an oxygen tank that he used in a small workshop he had next to his house, he let me use it and left me there inhaling that oxygen; after a while I started to feel a lot better. I know it was not just the oxygen which helped me, but the Spirit of God dwelling in my brother. Nobody had to tell him what anyone needed, for that was an innate gift or intuition in him. He always used of mercy and consideration in a proper sense with intelligence and wisdom.

Although we were both the same age, and he said "we were twins," because of this, I always looked at him with great respect and considered him a pillar and authority in church in every way. We always had communication regarding literature, articles related to the "Advocate of Truth" and church business. He knew how to serve the Lord and how to take advantage of every moment of his life so the Lord blessed him with a beautiful family and many friends.

Now my brother is gone to sleep "the dream" to wait for the return of Jesus our Redeemer and soon coming King. We know we will see him again in the kingdom of God.

Much could be said about Brother Del, but above all I rather remind that his works are written in the book of Life. Thank you Brother Del for all your work, I know the first thing you will see at the Resurrection will be the Lord Jesus Christ in his glory "as you once said." (Revelation 14:12-13).

Obituary - Pastor Delwin "Del" Paul DeLong, 72 of Salem passed away on Monday, March 1, 2021 at his residence. He was born August 19, 1948 in Vermont, son of the late Vernon D. DeLong and Elisabeth Royer DeLong Schubach. Del graduated from Montpelier High School

in Montpelier, VT, Class of 1966, Salem College with a Bachelor's in Education and WVU with a Master's in Educational Curriculum.

Del was a minister with the Church of God (7th Day) and the pastor at the local church in Salem. During the forty plus years he has ministered, he traveled for many mission trips including to India and the Philippines. Del served as a member of the Church Council of Twelve Apostles and was the managing editor of the Church of God Publishing House.

Del retired from the Harrison County Board of Education as a Math Teacher at Bridgeport Junior High and Bridgeport High School. Currently, Del was teaching at Notre Dame High School. His teaching career spanned for over fifty years.

Del was a longtime member of the Fairmont Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). He was a pilot and loved to fly. He built his own airplane, a BD4, and he used that project to engage his Junior and Senior High math students.

Del is survived by his loving wife, Fawzia Dawn Drake DeLong whom he married September 25, 1969; two children, Benjamin Paul DeLong and wife Melany, Sheperdstown, WV; Todd Adam DeLong and wife Carmen, Henderson, NV; five grandchildren, Brooke Fisher and husband Logan; Alexis Victoria DeLong; Gabrielle Elisabeth Diane DeLong; Mackenzie Gayle DeLong; Adam Paul DeLong; one great granddaughter, Peyton Joyce Fisher; stepfather Wayne Schubach, New Martinsville, WV; seven siblings, David DeLong and Linda, Clarksburg, WV; Daniel DeLong and Lorie, Odessa, MO; Derwood DeLong and Connie, Goochland, VA; Damon "Skip" DeLong, Salem, WV; Sara DeLong, Wheeling, WV; Donne DeLong, Texas; Darren DeLong, Spring Hill, FLA; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Del was preceded in death by two children, Peter DeLong and Amy DeLong; and sister Gail Esther "Heidi" Waybright.

Family will receive friends at Davis Funeral Home of Salem, 1999 W. Main Street, Salem, on Sunday, March 7, 2021 from 10:00 until time of funeral Service at 2:00 pm with Pastor Ricky Herrera of Texas officiating. Interment will follow at Salem IOOF Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to www.davisfuneralhomesalemwv.com. Davis Funeral Home is honored to serve the DeLong family.

MYBAD

B - BELIEVE

In the father

In His word - the truth

In His Son (only begotten) born of a virgin, was sinless
who died for our sins, rose again
will come again for His saints

A-ACCEPT,ASK,ACT

accept the sacrifice Jesus made

ask forgiveness

accept our inheritance

act on being baptized

accept Jesus' example and follow the example

D - DO

read our Bible

Do his commandments

ten, tithing, law of clean and unclean

Pray

Follow in Jesus' example (footsteps)

Live his example.

By **Delwin DeLong**



And God said, Let Us make man in Our image,
according to Our likeness...

Gen. 1:26

IN HIS IMAGE - TRACT

Would you like to help spread the Word of God? This tract and many others can be obtained by contacting The Church of God Publishing House at PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426 or calling 304-782-1411. These tracts are the perfect size to distribute to your neighbors or throughout your community.

Jesus was made in the brightness of the glory of God, and fashioned after the express image of His person (Hebrews 1:2,3), while at the same time Jesus appeared as a man. This confirms the statement of Genesis 1:26, that God made man in His image and after His own likeness. Before the sentence of death had been placed upon man through sin, he ate of the fruit of the garden of Eden, but after having sinned, He was driven out and a sword placed to keep the way of the tree of life, for fear of his eating, and life thereby being eternally perpetuated (Gen. 3:23,24). Mankind today is living the natural fleshly life patterned after the first Adam, and during this brief period he is given opportunity to strive for that perfect state, that spiritual nature, fashioned after the second Adam which is Christ. In speaking of the resurrection of the dead through Jesus, we read as follows: "...It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body...And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.....And as we have borne

the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (I Cor. 15:42-49). From the foregoing, the fact is plainly set forth that as we have borne the image of the earthy, the first Adam, we will also bear the image of Jesus, the second Adam. The Bible giving us an account, as it does, of many events connected with Christ after His resurrection, we know considerable of that eternal state to which man will be exalted when fashioned after the likeness of the Son of God. Jesus is our pattern here, and to be fashioned like Him there, our every step must be in His path, and beholding as we do, His labor of love, and His precious life we will then finally be transformed to that image. We read again, "...our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body..." (Phil. 3:20,21). Turning to Luke 24:13 to 43, we have a remarkable account of the actions of Jesus while in the immortal state, after His resurrection from the dead, wherein He walked with the disciples from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of almost eight miles. He talked with them and showed them His hands and His feet, and also ate the honeycomband fish. As our bodies are to be changed and fashioned after the image of Him, these same characteristics will be possessed by the faithful in His kingdom. Thomas would not believe it was the Lord Jesus, however, until he had thrust his hand into His side and felt the spear marks there (John 20:24 to 29). Then he believed. In the following chapter the narration is given of the apostles meeting Jesus again on the sea shore and how they recognized Him as their Lord and Master. They knew Jesus after His resurrection from the dead because they had known Him before, and so it will be with us. We will recognize our friends and loved ones there, because we have known them here, and while they will appear with the same features, speak with the same familiar voice, still they will be spiritual, immortal and incorruptible, never again to die if faithful unto death. In looking upon the faces of multitudes, we could never see one that looked exactly like our father, our mother, or any of our dear loved ones, and for the very purpose that we would know each other there, God has stamped upon the features of every individual an expression different from every other. The kingdom of God is a real kingdom, with real tangible beings, where we will meet and greet our loved ones in the same form we knew them here, and as Jesus ate the

fish and the honey comb, so will we eat there. We read in Revelation 22:2, and are plainly told, of the tree of life again growing and bringing forth twelve kinds of fruit as food for the saved. In verse 14 it says that only those who keep the commandments of God will eat of the tree of life. Jesus kept all of these commandments. Space forbids further testimony in this little tract, but we hope the reader will commence in this life, if he has not already, to be like Jesus, and finally be changed to His image to live in the kingdom of God. There death will never come, forms will never grow old, and with our loved ones we can live forever and ever. For this excellent glory "...we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" (II Cor. 3:18).

"...we shall be like him..." (I John 3:2).

TAKE TIME FOR OTHERS EACH DAY

The things we want to do are often never done because we feel we do not have the time.

Many good deeds are never performed because in the hurry of daily living we think there is not time to perform the intended acts of kindness.

The world might be vastly different and a better place if those who say, "I do not have time," altered their schedules and did some of the things they know they should and really want to.

Take time to think. It is a great source of power. Take time to pray and play. It is the secret of perpetual youth. Take time to read the Bible first and then other good books. It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to love and be loved. it is a God-given privilege. Take time to laugh. It is the music of the soul.

Take time to be friendly. It is the road to happiness. Take time to give. It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work. it is the price of success. Take time to do charity. It is the key to the City of God. And take time to be yourself. You cannot successfully be another.

Moderation

By David DeLong

I have been reading from a supposed health journal which counselled that no animal products should be consumed, including milk. However, as I read from the Scriptures I find verses such as Proverbs 27:26-27 which says: "The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field. And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens." These verses tell us that not only is goats' milk acceptable for food, it is for the "maintenance for thy maidens." In other words, goats' milk is a superb food for promoting good health!

We need to be careful when reading things that supposedly give us advice for our well being, and believing every "scientific breakthrough" that is published. ONLY if the advice is supported by Scripture should it be believed. It "chaps my hide" (translation: makes me very angry) when people of supposed science think they know more than the Lord.

It is very true that we are not to eat unclean meats which the Bible does condemn. And everything that we can eat be done in moderation. The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Philippians, said: "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:5). Now, when it comes to eating honey, for instance, we are to do so in moderation. Proverbs 25:16 informs us: "Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it."

Many people are called "workaholics" which means they basically identify themselves by over work. Work is very necessary, of course, but too much work brings a person out of moderation. Jesus led a very balanced life. He made time for work, for prayer and Scripture study, for inter-personal relationships, and for the other necessary things of life such as sleeping and eating. Workaholism is actually a sin because it places work as more important than other God-ordained functions of life.

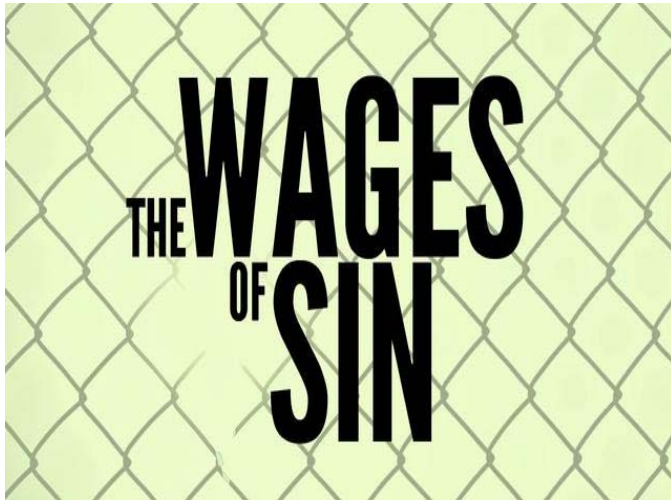
Other people go to the other extreme and sleep too

much. Though many do not get enough sleep with their very busy schedules, the Bible cautions us about getting too much sleep. In Proverbs 19:15 we read: "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger." And in Proverbs 26:14 we find: "As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed." There is an interesting text in Ecclesiastes 7:16-17 which reads: "Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself? Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?" At first glance this text seems to be saying that a person shouldn't be too righteous or too wicked, but take a middle of the road approach. I believe what it is saying is that a person should not pretend to be a super saint or to practice sinning. Let us follow the Scriptural example of what it means to be a child of God.

Even in child rearing one must be moderate in the way that he or she brings up children. Paul counselled the Ephesian brethren in Ephesians 6:3: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Discipline can be too harsh, causing the child to become wrathful and discouraged. On the other hand too little discipline, or none at all, is detrimental to the child. Proverbs 22:6 reads: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We also read in Proverbs 13:24: "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Finally, we look at the subject of studying. Of course, studying, especially the Scriptures, is a good thing. But even studying can be overdone. We learn from Ecclesiastes 12:12: "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

May the Lord help us to be, like Jesus, balanced in all areas of life so that we are moderate in all things.



It appears the wage problem has been existing since the beginning of the human race. As far back as Moses, it can be seen in the flight of the children of Israel from the land of Egypt. God had permitted them to be subject to cruel despotic rule, and caused their tyrannical oppressors to exact more and more labor from them each day.

Why?

Had God forgotten them? Were they not His chosen children still?

Despite the fact that they were growing naturalized to Egypt, had cultivated a taste for the cucumbers, leeks, melons and garlic, and could be distinguished from the Egyptians only by the contour of face and a slight difference in the tone of voice. God loved them still and intended they should be delivered. But they must first be physically and mentally prepared.

When the cruel, heartless taskmasters laid the merciless whip upon their tired backs until horrid gashes lay open to send rivers of blood down the spine of hoary sires; when youthful robust Jews smarting under the pain of the ignominious lash, turned their faces heavenward and began to groan and travail for deliverance, along with convulsive mothers whose children were torn from their arms and buried in watery graves, God began to roll up His sleeves, and He made bare His arm in their defense. But their WAGE problem made them aware and ready for their exodus.

In every war, the underlying cause is the wage problem. Some country feels it has not received enough territory, money or prestige for its services and position in the world, so off it goes to sacrifice its men, might and money on the altars of the god of war. Rebellions and revolutions

have been urged by this ever-present wage question. The neighing and prancing of the war horse has been hard. The thunderous tread of armies has been felt as it shook the very earth. Fortunes have been depleted, nations devastated and millions of people were destroyed, all because some country somewhere felt it was not receiving its just deserts.

Wages have risen constantly for hundreds of years. It is a fact that labor could be bought in the open market in England several centuries back for the sum of 10 cents a day. Time was when our forefathers worked for shelter, food and clothing alone. When but a lad, this writer of this article, worked for 10 cents an hour. Every employer has raised his wages except the devil. All through the Bible, account after account is given to prove the fact that the devil never gives a raise in pay. In the days of King Saul, Absalom, and Judas, the wages of sin was death, and it remains unchanged to this very day.

The Bible informs us that when God came walking leisurely in the Garden of Eden, as He was so accustomed to doing in the cool of the day, Adam and Eve, hid themselves among the trees, because they were unclothed. They were ashamed to face God their Creator.

We are further told, in the Bible, that when David came to realize the awfulness of his crime he committed to obtain Bathsheda, he watered his couch with his tears. What tears of remorse he must have shed when his son of Bathsheba was taken from him in retribution of his crime. We then read of another incident of shame and remorse in the New Testament. When our Lord Jesus was being led from the courtyard after the mock trial and brutal scourgings Peter, who was warming himself at the fires of the enemy, began to curse and swear and to deny the Lord Jesus. When Jesus turned and looked upon Peter, remorse and compunction shot through his soul so that he went out and "wept bitterly." I have often tried to imagine the penetrating look Jesus gave Peter that day. Whatever there was in that gaze, it made Peter ashamed.

I have been escorted through several penal institutions and have witnessed the execution of men in the death chambers and have observed that as we were passing the cells of "life-termers" they would resent the gaze of outsiders. In their look I could almost read, "You lucky dog!" You are outside with a family, home, and liberty, while I am shut up within the confines of this hellish place for the rest of my life. I am jealous of you for your liberties, but

I HATE MYSELF for the wreck I have made of my life." And so it is, dear reader, when one has a conscience. Either you are miserable or you are happy because you are "void of offence toward God and man." Life is beautiful, fully rounded and hopeful, but wretched is the man whose conscience is constantly rising within him to condemn him for his misdemeanors. Our conscience is as delicate as the seismograph which records every tremor of the earth. Keep it delicate and sensitive as God made it, and it will lead you to the Celestial City of God.

When an individual has met the master Jesus, who is the author of fine living, and has known and felt the joy of unity and holy living, that one cannot possibly admire a sinner. I have lived long enough to observe that when a saint falls from grace with a resounding crash to the gutter of iniquity, even though he makes restitution and comes limping back and rejoins, the old the scar of their fall will remain with them. As a weakling addicted to alcohol may feel the effects of alcohol in bodily disorders after conversion and repentance, so the scars of willful transgression will be worn by the transgressor throughout this earthly life.

I have taken careful notice in traveling over the country and meeting many various people that there is an unusual spryness in elderly saints that is not found among old reprobate sinners of the same ages. It is little wonder that Moses lived 120 years and his natural force was not abated nor his eyes dimmed. He lived a clean, sanctified life before his Creator.

I have watched with great pleasure the old people praising God, when, according to their age of others who do not attend church and do not believe are bent and worn and full of aches and pains. But so many more geriatrics, by comparison, that are children of God, have clear eyes, agile minds, and their conversation is so pleasant. Why? They have not let filthy habits to entwine themselves around and crush their lives. They have not engaged in associating themselves with the abominations of God.

We know that eating swine's flesh is one of the abominations of God. And many of our chronic diseases and ailments can be contributed to eating the unclean things. So eating what is not good for us is one of our greatest sins that we must guard against. The newspapers are interminably carrying reports of old and young alike who are dying daily because they are indulging in some sinful

act of taking something into their body that is contrary to nature. Many a child is fatherless or a total orphan because of sin created by their parents. The sin against your body is very severe.

Sin also kills our efficiency. It is an indisputable fact that cigarettes will dull the brain. Any honest smoker will admit that when he, or she, has been without a cigarette for several hours, and when they take the first drag that a dulling sensation creeps through their mind. Therefore they smoke slowly to regain back their balance. Then we know that our lungs are impaired, sometimes hopelessly, when too many poisons are lodged there by smoking. Just feel the ceiling in a smokers home. Do you notice how gummy and sticky they get from burned paper and tobacco? And that's what a smoker is polluting his body and air with around him. Space does not permit the many testimonies available that tell of the remarkable increases in efficiency because of quitting the devil's workshop and commencing to bear the cross of the Galilean. People who have thrown away the weed state they can breathe freely and have good appetites, quiet nerves and pleasant undisturbed sleep again. The clean habits, wholesome conversation, Christian graces, make the life of a child of God desirable, saying nothing of the "joy unspeakable" one has as he travels this pilgrimage to the City of God.

We read in Isaiah 57:20-21: "But the WICKED are like the TROUBLED SEA, when it CANNOT REST, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. THERE IS NO PEACE, saith MY GOD, TO THE WICKED." From out of my past come memories afresh of nights -- long, sleepless nights -- when I was a sinful, young man. I wriggled wrestled, and sighed, seeking rest that had been driven from me. Secret transgressions loomed in the darkness before my tired mind. They dangled and cavorted in sheer mockery. I knew that I had sinned and that I was practicing bad and evil habits. Clammy sweat stood on my brow as my mind would recall the deeds of unrighteousness and bacchanalian revelries. An indescribable shudder crept over me, as hoping to dismiss the horrible thoughts I fell into fretful sleep because my exhaustion overcame the thoughts of my mind. The inner man kept rising up, and kept them from peace for quite some time.

But I found peace!

I was asked, "Did you go to a psychiatrist?"

"No!"

"Did you solicit help from social workers?"

"No!"

"Well, then, what did you do?"

I found the "Prince of Peace," the heavenly Physician, who brought to me the bread of life. He said to my troubled heart, "Peace Be Still." As an Elder laid his hands upon me for a sin sick body a wonderful, happy feeling came over me. Then I was baptized and had an entirely new feeling of belonging to the Family of God.

No longer am I a bonds slave of the Devil but I have been led from death into life and enjoy the liberty of the Saints of the Most High.

The Bible tells us that God has appointed man to die once. From this we know that every individual will die once. This tells us then that there will be a second death for some, but not all. If we die a second time (in the lake of fire) we do it of our own free will and of our own choosing. It sounds preposterous that men would make such an absurd decision, but this is what the Scriptures tell us: "...for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat" (Matthew 7:13).

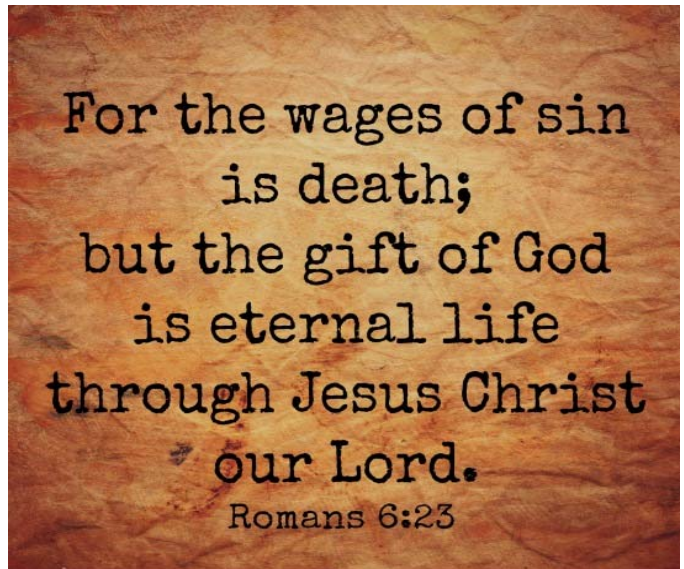
Sin and the wages of sin is death. Sin will tear apart and degrade every person that indulges in it. Sin will tear the bloom of health from a person. It will entrap a stalwart man and wreck him, body and mind, while his loved ones are powerless and suffer the indignities created by sin. Even the sins of parents can of times touch the unborn child and many of the birth defects can be contributed to the sins of either parent.

God states that He visits the iniquities of the fathers unto the third and fourth generations. Who is the man who would sin against the unborn? Jeremiah cried, "...the fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the CHILDREN'S teeth are set on edge" (Jeremiah 31:29).

Sinner, can you not see by now that you cannot win? As Jesus said: "...it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (Acts 9:5). You are at war with God, and you are fighting a losing battle, for again He said: "The name of the wicked shall rot." I beseech you, lay down your arms and quit this sinning business before it is too late and you will bankrupt your life.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

SALVATION IS FOR ALL



PEOPLE ARE EITHER SAVED OR LOST

The future of individuals, as well as the course of nations, is determined by personal contact with individuals. A sinner is lost because someone did not bring unto him the message wherein is salvation. A nation deteriorates and goes down the road to destruction, because the leaders are not spiritually minded, but as worldly, or outright sinful. This is because no one who is clean, upright, pious, spiritually minded, took the time to bring to these leaders the words of truth and righteousness, that would turn them from wrong to right. Of course the most effective sermon one can preach is a daily life, filled with goodness, righteousness, holiness, love, compassion. But that life must be supplemented with goodly words -- backed with a heart of love. It is not enough to know the truth, to love the truth, but one must tell the truth, scatter it forth, bring IT to others and win them to God, through Jesus the Saviour. Others can be contacted with personal visits, a word lovingly offered. But one can also bring the message by a personal letter to a friend, a neighbor, a relative and through tracts which carry the message of truth and salvation.

Tomorrow will be determined by the works or lack of personal works for the saved individuals living today. What shall the morrow bring? May we be used to bringing others to the Everlasting Father, and do our little part, wherever we live, to make our part of the vineyard a little brighter, cleaner, happier, and holier.

THE LORD APPEARED

Reprinted

“And the LORD appeared unto him ...” (Genesis 18:1).

God had His eye on Abraham long before Abraham’s gaze turned upward to behold the Lord. The first time we read that God spoke to Abraham is in Genesis 12:1. God spoke first: “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

At that time God was real to Abraham. Before that we do not know what relationship Abraham had with God. But we know that at the time God spoke the above to Abraham, God was so real to Abraham that he was willing to leave all and follow Him. He knew not what was before him, but we read, “So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him...” (verse 4). In Hebrews 11 we read that “Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (verses 8-10). Blessed are those who, when God speaks, obey from the heart. How precious the Lord becomes to them!

When Abraham reached the plain of Moreh, after he left all and followed the Lord, the Lord again appeared unto him (Genesis 12:7). At this time Abraham worshiped the Lord: “...and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him” (verse 7). Worship always follows obedience. Those who spend much time in real worship are usually those who are obedient in their daily walk with God.

After a period of trial and suffering, caused possibly by a lapse of faith and the forsaking of his place of blessing, Abraham again heard the voice of God. By this time Lot had chosen the plain of Jordan and had separated himself from Abraham. Left alone, and entirely dependent upon God, Abraham heard the voice of God again: “...Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee” (Genesis 13:14-17).

After obedience comes worship; after worship comes service. God said, “Arise.” God gave Abraham something to do. Thus it is with every child of God. Power to obey God and help others is privileged to the separated man. Since Abraham’s day God said, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” God’s will for His own was the same in Abraham’s day, and Abraham stepped out by faith and separated himself from the world.

After Abraham delivered Lot from the hands of his captors, Abraham made a heroic statement to the king of Sodom: “...I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich” (Genesis 14:22-23). Abraham was not afraid to take his stand for the Lord God. After these things the Lord again spoke to Abraham: “Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward” (15:1). These words of comfort gave Abraham boldness to approach the throne of grace. We, too, can boldly approach the throne of grace because of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. Because we have a High Priest which can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin, the writer to the Hebrews encourages,

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

When God spoke the comforting words of Genesis 15:1 to Abraham, it gave Abraham courage to speak to God. Because of this conversation with God, Abraham "...believed in the LORD, and he counted it to him for righteousness" (verse 6). In the testing days that followed, Abraham again heard the voice of God saying, "...I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly" (17:1-2). Abraham was much older, and down through the years had repeatedly heard the voice of God and had seen by faith the Lord in all His glory. In this great time of anxiety and need, Abraham fell on his face before God and listened to God speak to him. Several times after this we read in Genesis that "God said unto Abraham ..." "And the Lord appeared unto him ..." "Abraham stood yet before the Lord ..." In the closing days of Abraham's life, God's favor was upon him, for we read in Genesis 24:1: "And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things." How the life of Abraham and his walk with God should encourage us to press on, living moment by moment for the Lord!



REPENTANCE AND BAPTISM

O.D. Grimm

Reprinted, *The Advocate of Truth* May 6, 1957

REPENTANCE

Repentance is a requirement for salvation due to sin which entered the world by transgression of God's commandments. In I John 3:4 we read: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." This law is spoken of in James 1:25 and 2:8 as the "perfect law of liberty" and the "royal law according to the scripture."

Repentance is required of all, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). How many have sinned? The Scriptures, say that ALL have sinned therefore ALL Need of repent, or have a change of service in their lives to obtain salvation.

What is the will of God concerning His promises toward the multitude of unrepentant people? We find the answer to this question in II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men could slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance."

If it is the will of God that all should come to repentance, surely there is something to lead people to that condition in life. Therefore the question: What is repentance? First read Romans 2:4: "Or despiseth thou the riches of his goodness, and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" And second, read II Corinthians 7:10: "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." True repentance is manifesting godly sorrow for sins sufficient to be sorry enough to quit them, and not commit them any

more insofar as is possible while living in this body of sinful flesh.

What will show that anyone has repented? In Luke the third chapter we read about John (the Baptist) who was the forerunner of Jesus. "...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (verse 4). John was preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, and saying that all flesh shall see the salvation of God. As a result multitudes came forth to be baptized, but they had to meet the requirements (verse 7). In verse 8 (first part) is the answer to the question asked in the beginning of this paragraph. "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance..." And verse 9 (last part) "...every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." "Ye shall know them by their fruits..." (Matthew 7:16).

Paul, in explaining his heavenly vision to king Agrippa, said he was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: "But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and DO works meet (worthy) for repentance" (Acts 26:19-20).

The doctrine of repentance and baptism for the remission of sins is called in Mark 1:1, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God". John came "...preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:1-2). And Jesus after his baptism by John, and temptation by Satan in the wilderness, "...began to preach and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). This message will continue as long as probation lasts, or until Jesus comes. the result of John's preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins is found in Mark 1:5. "And there went out unto him all the land of Judea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, **confessing** their sins."

Why was Jesus, the Son of god, sent into the world? It was God's great plan of salvation, and we read John 3:16: "For God so loved the world? It was God's great plan of salvation, and we read John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And when Jesus had come into the world He made known His mission in Mark 2:17: "...They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are

sick (in sin): I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

All had sinned, and all needed to repent. If all need to repent then all need to be baptized.

BAPTISM

Ephesians 4:5 says: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." The world practices many so-called modes of baptism, but the Scriptures teach only one, and that is a burial in the water (immersed) to come forth a new creature. So the question is asked, Why be baptized? The answer is found in the following Scriptures.

Romans 6:3-6: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we (in like manner) also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man (of sin) is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Colossians 2:12: "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

These Scriptures teach that baptism is a burial so that they are destroyed, and a coming forth, or resurrection from the watery grave, to become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

The words of Ananias to Paul in Damascus are very significant of the reason to be baptized: "And now thy tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and **wash away thy sins**, calling upon the name of the Lord." Paul was destined to do a great work for the Lord, but there needed to be a great change in his life wrought by repentance (godly sorrow), followed by baptism to wash away his sins.

What is the importance of baptism relative to salvation? This we find in Mark 16:16.

"He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (condemned).

Our greatest example for being baptized was Jesus. We find this in Matthew 3:13-15. "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering

said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to **fulfill all righteousness**. Then he suffered him."

Jesus gave the example, and we are to follow Him in all things. Therefore, how are we to be baptized and in what name? Jesus gave the commission to His disciples in Matthew 28:19.

"Go ye therefore, and teach ALL nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost". Father Son and Holy Spirit are only titles but the name is **Lord Jesus Christ**. The apostles understood this and baptized in His name, not just titles. Turn to Acts 2:38 and read: "Then Peter said unto them (men of Israel), Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." To prove that Jesus who was crucified for the sins of the world is also Lord and Christ, read verse 36. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Rightly dividing the Word of Truth we have the name as a whole in which to be baptized - **Lord Jesus Christ**.

As a result of Peter's preaching, great things were accomplished. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about 3,000 souls."

"...Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them...and when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the **name of Jesus Christ**, they were baptized, both men and women." Acts 8:5,12.

The name "Lord Jesus Christ" is salvation. In Acts 4:12 we read: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Philip baptized the eunuch after preaching unto him Jesus. "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God...and they went **down both into the water**, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:36-38). This is an example of the only "one baptism" taught in the Scriptures.

Paul baptized certain disciples in the name of the Lord Jesus which had already been baptized by John unto re-

pentance only (Acts 19:1-5). Now who can say that "the Lord Jesus" is not the Christ? This was shown in Acts 2:36.

Now that is received by baptism: Turn to Galatians 3:27: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." This is for both Jew and Gentile: "...for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (verse 28).

The going down into the water and coming (forth) up out of the water is the operation of faith by God (Colossians 2:12) and produces a new creature, born of the water.

John 3:5: "...Verily, verily, I (Jesus) say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

After Jesus had said these things unto Nicodemus, He and His disciples came "into the land of Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized. And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized" (verses 22-23).

PAY ATTENTION - From The Harvest Messenger

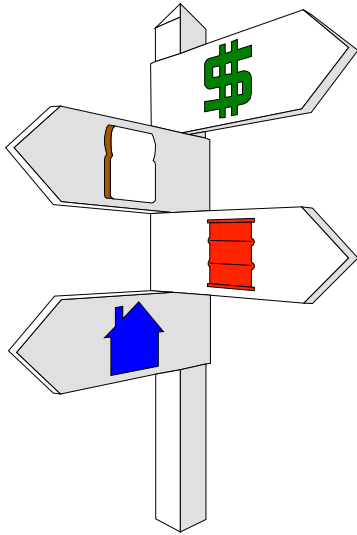
Pay attention to what you are doing is the slogan. How often we hear, "If you had paid attention to what you were doing, you would not have run into a snag." These are sayings of philosophers, but nevertheless they are true.

If everybody would pay attention to what God says in His Word, there would be less trouble and sorrow in the world. God blessed and sanctified everyone that paid attention to His law. Very few people of today are taking heed to it. It was the seventh day that God especially had us remember. The word *remember* is a synonym for paying attention. We must pay attention to keep this holy day.

The Lord's Supper is a yearly institution, but leading churches pay no attention to what the Word says about it. It is celebrated at any convenient time.

These are just two illustrations given to show you how little the world pays attention to the Bible. Nearly everything that Christendom adheres to is contrary to the Bible.

We had better pay attention to what God has told us and what He demands of us. By giving our time and our energy to do what we are told to do will give us the right to enter into the Kingdom of God.



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

THE YEAR OF 2020

I am sure that many of you remember the many disasters that occurred in the year 2020. There appeared an article in **USA TODAY** entitled *2020 An American Nightmare*. It had a subheading of Many Americans are experiencing “disaster fatigue” as they strain to deal with stressful events unfolding simultaneously across the country, including fatal wildfires in the West, unrest following the deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police, natural disasters such as Tropical Storm Beta, and the coronavirus pandemic. The following are excerpts from that article:

It’s too much.

First the pandemic, which divided us, economically devastated us and has killed more than 200,000 of us. Then the racial unrest, erupting at the deaths of more Black Americans at the hands of police: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Daniel Prude.

Now the extreme weather. For only the second time in history, the National Hurricane Center has moved into the Greek alphabet for storm names. This season’s wildfires are bigger, deadlier and more frequent than in past years. In the West, people can’t breathe.

Add the headlines: Feminist icon and Supreme Court associate justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dies of

complications of cancer, 46 days before the presidential election. Black Panther star Chadwick Boseman, a hero in the Black community, is gone at 43 after quietly battling colon cancer. Another woman accuses the president of sexual assault. A whistleblower claims federal immigration detainees underwent full hysterectomies without their consent.

And the polarization, worse than ever. We don’t agree on masks, on reopening schools, on what to do when a vaccine becomes available.

Many of us are vacillating between horror and disbelief at what can only be described as an American nightmare. It is impossible to know if the worst is behind us or still lies ahead.

Comment

The worst still lies ahead. Jesus said, “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” (Matthew 24:7-8). Jesus also said, “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:26). That includes America! We really have not reached that point so far.

Are You A Procrastinator?

By David DeLong

In some areas of my life, I must confess, I am a procrastinator. However, with my relationship with the Lord I try my best not to be a procrastinator. There are some areas of life where it doesn't matter as much if you procrastinate. But when it comes to the Lord we should **never, never, never** procrastinate! Jesus told a couple of parables in Luke 14:28-33 that has a direct bearing on being a procrastinator. He said: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

These parables that Jesus taught are about counting one's resources for following the Lord. One resource that perhaps many do not consider is their time. If we procrastinate in giving our lives to the Lord, and then in following Him when and where He directs us, we are squandering our resource of time as well as a chance for eternal life. When it comes to giving our lives to the Lord we are instructed in Hebrews 3:12-15: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."

When the governor, Felix, listened to Paul preach to him he became a procrastinator in accepting the message about Jesus. Acts 24:24-26 gives us the story. "And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which

was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him."

The Scriptures don't tell us if Felix finally became a child of God, but according to his tendency to procrastinate, concerning making a decision to follow Christ, we can speculate that he probably did not become one. This is true of many people who procrastinate in making a decision to be a follower of Christ. Days turn into weeks, months, and years, and finally one's life is over. Some have less time than others to make this decision, too.

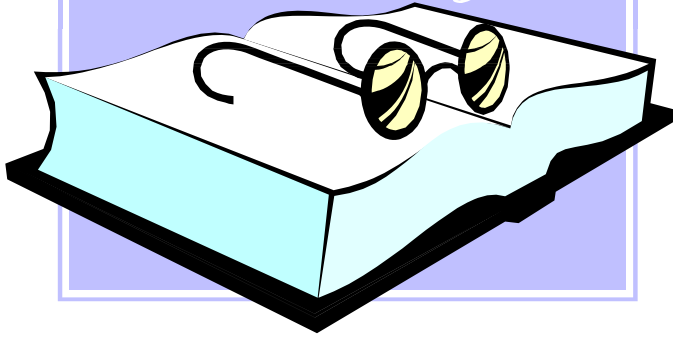
Even some believers, who have a relationship with the Lord, are procrastinators when it comes to doing the Lord's work. Paul reminded the Roman brethren to be: "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11). The Lord's work is the most important work upon earth. It deserves to be given our best effort, our best time, and our best planning.

To those who have been entrusted with preaching God's Word we find Paul's admonition in II Timothy 4:1-2: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." The word in the Greek for "instant" means to "be at hand, present, stand (before, by, over)." In other words, when it comes to preaching the word, those who have been called to do so, are to be ready, prepared, and not to procrastinate in doing so.

Being a procrastinator is a big problem in today's world, and those who do so concerning the Lord may lose out on more than just a reward. They may lose eternal life.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUESTION: Will you discuss the death of a Christian loved one?

ANSWER: When a loved one is taken from us in death, grief and loss strike forcefully. We can sympathize with others in a similar situation, but when it happens to someone close to us it is so much worse to bear.

If they are Christians, and the one who had died was also a Christian, we have a bond of consolation that comes directly from God that consoles us in our deep loss, in spite of the numbing shock of that loved one being gone.

We read in Isaiah 57:1, 2, "*The righteous perisheth, and no man (of worldly understanding) layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.*" The righteous survivors, who understand God's words, know the meaning of this. God sometimes takes a good person while he is still in his righteous state, if God sees something in the future that could cause that one to err from the way, or some more severe death or other catastrophe.

Stephen was martyred while apparently still in his early

years of ministry, at the point where he was reaching high results. It may be that God permitted this death for a purpose at the time to demonstrate to others the extent to which a mortal could achieve the loving, forgiving character of Jesus. Here was a faithful Christian, true to his principles. Could you, could I, endure to the end in that fashion? Our Lord tells us in Revelation 2:10, "... *shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; ... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*" But keep this in mind, - NO MAN BY HIS OWN POWER CAN EVER BE TOTALLY FAITHFUL. It is only through the Spirit that we can hold on.

The psalmist writes for us in Psalm 116:15, "*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*" This does not mean that God is elated or happy because someone died, but rather that He is pleased that the saint involved has continued in faith until the moment of death, and his or her soul is safe in God's record of the faithful.

Read Revelation 14:13, "... *Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord ... they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*" There is no more toil or trouble for them who die in faithful service to the Lord. Meanwhile, the record of their good works has gone on before them, which record reflects to their honor and glory in God's sight.

We read earlier that the death of a saint is precious in the sight of God. Just how precious can this be? What value does God place on the life and works of a saint? For the answer let us go to Hebrews, chapter 11. The whole chapter deals with those saints who kept the faith even unto death. Verses 32-38 especially tell of those who went through horrible tortures or were terribly deprived. Now we come to verse 39, first part. Still speaking of these saints who endured, we find the phrase: "(Of whom the world was not worthy)". The value then of each of these saints at death equals more than the value of all worldly substance.

So, "... *let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*" (Galatians 6:9). Let us live in such a manner, faithful to the end, that God may esteem us with the countless saints who did not fail Him. Let us remember at the same time that we are

not to boast of our own righteousness. *“For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth”* (II Corinthians 10:18). It is not for us to decide our reward, but we must allow God to make His decision as to how much or how little honor we have to our credit. To be with Him in His glory will compensate for it all.

Therefore, when we feel shock and loss when a righteous loved one passes on out of this life, let us feel this consolation, that God has added the value of another precious saint to His jewels of faith.

QUESTION: What was Jesus’ reward for His complete obedience to the Father’s will which led to His death on Calvary?

ANSWER: The answer is found in Philippians 2:8-9: *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name”*

QUESTION: What book in the Bible records the following prophecy: *“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”*

ANSWER: Daniel 2:44. This is one of many prophecies which tell of the kingdom of God to be established on the earth, removing all other kingdoms, and once established, *“it shall stand forever.”* This kingdom of God and His Christ is the only hope for enduring peace and life everlasting.

QUESTION: Will you please name four approaches to the tithe?

ANSWER: You may come to the tithe idea by several separate ways. It is not one of those peculiar doctrines that depend on giving a special twist to a single verse of Scripture.

LAW

There’s the way of the law. Some object to traveling that way. But there it is – not merely the law of the Old

Testament. It is older than that.

Like the law of the Rest-and-Worship Day; like the law of *“One-man-for-one-woman,”* it is a law which got into the thought of men before there were any Hebrew tribe, or any Code of Hammurabi.

It is old, old; and thought there are those who think it has been repealed entirely, nobody ever thought of changing its form. You never hear of a seventh, a twelfth, or a twentieth. As a law, it was always the Sacred TENTH. If you come by the law road, you arrive at that.

EFFICIENCY

There’s the way of Godly efficiency. The tithe really works for the Church; just as we have been told it would.

The testimonies in its favor are on record by multiplied thousands. It works almost too well. When a group in a church begins to practice it, or a group of churches, the tithers always carry a large overplus beyond their numerically proportionate share of the load.

Whenever it is applied, it settles the question of the support or every Religious enterprise, so far as the appliers are concerned. They are always *“over the top”* in their offerings.

SELF-INTEREST

There’s the way of self-interest. People who think spirituality means something ethereal are apt to sniff at the linking of tithing with prosperity. But they cannot sniff it away. There it is. Other things being equal, the tither is more prosperous than the non-tither, and always will be. He cannot help it.

This is not magic. It is not *“materialism.”* It certainly is not superstition for superstition naturally cannot be proved. The prosperity of tithers can be.

We pray for material blessings. Why be surprised when they come?

Tithing does not make poor land fertile. It does not turn tornadoes aside. It does not make up for the tither’s lack of any other Believer’s virtue, or for the limitations that produce differences of ability.

But it works for prosperity, none the less.

It calls for conscience in dealing with what possessions we have.

It develops foresight.

It fosters an increasing dislike of waste and needless spending.

It requires the keeping of records, and encourages budgeting, which always tends to cut down useless and wasteful expenses.

The tither must think about his income not only when he is earning it, but also when he is spending it.

That habit alone will protect him at times from spending uselessly as much as his tithe amounts to.

LOVE

And, best of all, **there's the way of grateful love.** In glad recognition that all we have is God's giving. We devote a definite proportion of His gift directly to the work we believe He wants done in the world.

This way is the way of liberation. No man can follow it and be unhappy. Either it will bring its own happiness or it will not be practiced.

The tither cannot be a pinch-penny, or a doleful contributor to the running expenses of the Kingdom to which he belongs. He is so free he can be hilarious about it.

This way takes all the nuisance-value out of "appeals." To the tither, "appeals" are like his banker's list of possible investments. He does not invest in every one he hears about, but he is not annoyed when the banker submits the list.



GODLINESS IS A MEANS FOR GAIN ???

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself" (I Timothy 6:3-5).

It is such a disservice to the Lord when preachers encourage God's people to set their affections on worldly things and wealth. This is the opposite of what the scriptures teach.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which some covet after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (versus 6-10).

God would have us to be content whatever our station in life. Content while being Godly is great gain. The problem arises when we live to be rich.

"Charge them which are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (versus 17-19).

Being rich can be a good thing. Letting love for your wealth control you is a bad thing. There are wealthy saints and there are poor saints. It's a heart thing.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain." (verse 6).

Adapted from KJIC NEWSLETTER

LESSON I

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 9:1-14.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 9:12 (first part).

"And King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king..."

NOTE: We have studied about the building of the temple, the worship of the people and how the sacrifices were offered. Solomon has become a very wealthy man with many buildings. We are now going to study about the Queen of Sheba's visit to King Solomon and about the gifts he receives.

1. The Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon. About what did she come to see Solomon? II Chronicles 9:1-2.
2. What did the Queen of Sheba see? II Chronicles 9:3-4.
3. What did she tell King Solomon in II Chronicles 9:5-8?
4. what did the queen give Solomon? II Chronicles 9:9.
5. What else did King Solomon receive, and what did he do with them? II Chronicles 9:10-11.
6. What did King Solomon give then to the Queen of Sheba? II Chronicles 9:12.
7. How much gold and silver was brought to Solomon in one year? Who brought some of this to him? II Chronicles 9:13-14.

LESSON II

THE DEATH OF SOLOMON

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 9:15-31.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 9:31 (first part).

"And Solomon slept with his fathers, and he was buried in the city of David his father:..."

NOTE: We studied about the Queen of Sheba visiting King Solomon. She was amazed at his wisdom and wealth. We are now going to learn more about his great wealth and his last days as ruler over Israel.

1. King Solomon has much gold and silver. What did he make with the gold? II Chronicles 9:15-20.
2. Where did the king's ships go, and what was the purpose of these trips? II Chronicles 9:21.
3. Was there any king as wealthy or as wise as Solomon? II Chronicles 9:22.
4. What did the kings of the earth seek from Solomon? II Chronicles 9:23.
5. Name the many things which were brought to King Solomon in II Chronicles 9:24-25.
6. Who did King Solomon reign over, and what was brought to him from Egypt and other lands? II Chronicles 9:26-28.
7. How many years did Solomon reign in Jerusalem? Where was he buried? II Chronicles 9:30-31.

LESSON III

REHOBOAM, KING OF JUDAH

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 10:1-19.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 10:1.

"And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for to Shechem were all Israel come to make him king."

NOTE: We have just finished studying about King Solomon, and how he was the wisest and richest king who ruled over Israel. The temple which he built for the

people to worship in was a magnificent building. Solomon reigned over Israel forty years. Now Rehoboam, his son, has been made king after the death of his father.

1. For what purpose did all Israel come to Shechem? II Chronicles 10:1.
2. Who was Jeroboam, and why did he come at this time to see Rehoboam? II Chronicles 10:2-4.
3. What did Rehoboam tell Jeroboam and his people to do? II Chronicles 10:5.
4. With whom did Rehoboam take counsel, and what did they tell him to do? II Chronicles 10:6-7.
5. did Rehoboam obey the old men? With whom did he council with next? II Chronicles 10:8-9.
6. What did the young men advise Rehoboam to do? II Chronicles 10:10-11.
7. When Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, what did King Rehoboam tell them? (II Chronicles 10:12-14). Did he hearken to the old men's or to the young men's advice?
8. When all Israel saw that the king would not hearken unto them, what did they say to the king? II Chronicles 10:16-17.
9. When King Rehoboam sent Hadoram to the children of Israel, what did they do to him? Did Israel rebel against the house of David unto this day? II Chronicles 10:18-19.

LESSON IV

THE DEATH OF KING REHOBOAM

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 12:1-16.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 12:16 (first part).

"And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David..."

NOTE: King Rehoboam is now ruling over Judah. You may read the eleventh chapter of II Chronicles to learn now the priests and Levites strengthened Judah. The kingdom of Judah is strong. We shall study now how Shishak, King of Egypt, invaded Judah.

1. Rehoboam has established the kingdom and strengthened himself. Was he still obedient to the law of the Lord? II Chronicles 12:1.
2. In what year did Shishak come up against Jerusalem? Why was this brought upon King Rehoboam? II Chronicles 12:2.
3. How many chariots, horsemen and people were with Shishak, King of Egypt? Did he invade Judah? II Chronicles 12:3-4.
4. Why did Shemaiah the prophet come to Rehoboam and the princes of Judah? II Chronicles 12:5.
5. Did the princes of Israel and the king then humble themselves? Did the Lord grant them some deliverance because they humbled themselves? II Chronicles 12:6-8.
6. Shishak came up against Jerusalem. What did he take away from the house of the Lord, and what did King Rehoboam do then? II Chronicles 12:9-11.
7. Rehoboam again humbled himself before the Lord. Did the Lord not send his wrath upon him this time? II Chronicles 12:12.
8. How old was King Rehoboam when he began to reign in Jerusalem? How many years did he reign there? II Chronicles 12:13.
9. Were there wars continually between Rehoboam and Jeroboam? Where was Rehoboam buried, and who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 12:15-16.

Answers Page 23: 9 - 5 - 10 - 6 - 8 - 4 - 3 - 1 - 2 - 7



YOUR MOTHER - MY MOTHER

By Mrs. E. G. Marsh

The world is full of mothers -- all kinds of mothers, but there is only one you can call "my mother." I do not know what you think of your mother, but I love my mother dearly, and I am proud of her. Even from girlhood, Mother has been my best earthly friend, and we have always been comrades; have you ever seen anyone else's mother and wished that she could be your mother -- thought that she was nicer than your mother? Do you really know how beautiful your mother is? I will tell you a story to make plain what I am trying to tell you. Two girls were walking along the street when Mrs. Hunter, a handsome, rightly dressed woman, came out of her splendid home to enter a car. "That's Grace Hunter's mother! Isn't she the prettiest woman you ever saw?" said Mamie to her friend, Phoebe. "Guess Grace is awfully proud of her!" Phoebe had always thought her mother was a little round shouldered, with a tired face and gray hairs.

After the girls passed on, Mamie made a few more remarks, and ended by saying, "Wouldn't you be proud if you had a mother who looked like that?" The question stayed with Phoebe long after the girls had parted. *How would it seem, she thought, to have a beautiful mother like that?* The mere sight of Grace Hunter's mother had made her heart beat faster. Oh, if she too, had a mother of whom she could be very proud!

The house was very still when Phoebe entered. In another minute she remembered that her mother was over

at the neighbor's taking care of sick Willie. But the house was all in order, just as her mother had left it, although it was a humble home.

Soon there was a knock at the door, and almost immediately in walked Miss Crone, a neighbor. Phoebe loved this little woman, whose sweet smile now greeted her. Then came the question, "Is your mother at home?"

"No, Mother's at Gray's. they're sick over there. Mother stayed with them last night and Sunday night."

Miss Crone drew a long breath. "Phoebe," she said, "you must be very proud of your mother!"

Phoebe did not know how to answer. She stood, looking at Miss Crone blankly.

"I wonder if you realize, Phoebe, what your mother means to her friends and neighbors here! No, you do not. None of us can. If ever I feel discouraged, I think of her beautiful, helpful life, lightening other's burdens. You are a fortunate girl, my dear, to have such a mother. I only hope that you are as proud of her as she deserves. Now I shall go over to Mrs. Gray's and send your mother home for a little rest." And the little woman went out, not knowing what flood of thoughts she tired up in Phoebe's mind.

Phoebe stood looking thoughtfully out of the window when the door opened, and her mother came in. She was no longer young and looked years older than she was. Her face was a little weary, but her eyes had shining brightness like clear sunshine as she said, "Little Willie is better, and we are so thankful to our heavenly Father. I thought last night that we would lose him, but now it looks as if he will get well!" She started towards the stove to start dinner, when Phoebe caught her in her arms saying, "Mother, O Mother! Why didn't I ever know before how beautiful you are?"

And now, children, let this be a lesson to us. Let us look upon Mother as beautiful, not because she can dress prettily as Grace Hunter's mother did, but because of her loving heart and her gentle ways. Let us give her the tokens of love she deserves, but above everything else, give her the true love of our hearts.

*"Dear Mother, ne'er shall I forget
Thy brow, thine eyes, thy pleasant smile;
Oh, never shall thy form depart
From the bright picture of my heart."*

"FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS"

Faith of our mothers, living yet
 In cradle song and bedtime prayer,
 In nursery love and fireside lore,
 Thy presence still invades the air.
 Faith of our mothers, living faith,
 We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, living faith,
 The fount of childhood's trust and grace,
 O may thy consecration prove
 The wellspring of a nobler race.
 Faith of our mothers, lavish faith,
 We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
 For youthful longings,--youthful doubts,
 How blurred our vision, blind our way,
 Thy providential care without.
 Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,
 We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
 In truth beyond our man-made creeds,
 Still serve the home and save the church,
 And breathe the spirit through our deeds.
 Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,
 We will be true to thee till death.

-Arthur B. Patten, 1920



OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE COUPLES

Can you match these Bible couples?
 If not, look up the Bible verses for help.
 Draw a line from the names in the first column
 to the correct names in the second column.

- | | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| ISAAC | BATH-SHEBA (II Samuel 12:24) |
| JACOB | EVE (Genesis 3:20) |
| ABRAHAM | RUTH (Ruth 4:13) |
| MOSES | REBEKAH (Genesis 24:20) |
| ADAM | JEZEBEL (I Kings 21:25) |
| AMRAM | HANNAH (I Samuel 1:8) |
| ELKANAH | RACHEL (Genesis 46:19) |
| AHAB | ZIPPORAH (Exodus 18:2) |
| DAVID | SARAH (Genesis 23:19) |
| BOAZ | JOCHEBED (Numbers 26:59) |

MATCHING GAME

What occupation had each of the following characters
 of the Old and New Testaments?
 Place the correct number beside the occupation
 in the second column.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Peter | __Tax-collector |
| 2. Paul | __Priest |
| 3. Luke | __Housewife |
| 4. Boaz | __Lawgiver |
| 5. Eli | __Overseer |
| 6. Moses | __Farmer |
| 7. Joshua | __Physician |
| 8. Joseph (O.T.) | __Fisherman |
| 9. Matthew | __Tentmaker |
| 10. Martha | __Warrior |

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MOTHER

*In my many poems about blessings,
It seems I have left an important one out;
So I am setting forth now to correct myself,
For this one is worth telling about.
I tell about this one special person
Who has been there right from the start;
She has been with us for every moment,
And we have always been close to her heart.
She cherished each of us as babies,
And as we grew remained always the same;
Her love for us never once faltered,
It always burned, bright as a flame.
She was with us on up thru adulthood
Sharing all our worries and pain;
And offered up a prayer for our comfort,
Never speaking one word of blame.
How do we thank God for this blessing
For someone who has always been there?
This special one we call our mother,
And thank you, our God, is our prayer.*

--Betty Whetstone

