

*The
Advocate
of Truth*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Thanksgiving 3

We read of some origins of Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving Thoughts In 2007..... 3-4

We live thankful live by our actions.

The Seed..... 4-5

Who would take over the successful business?

Seven Tests To Prove

We Walk With God from I John5-7

Do you pass the test?

The Gospel7-10

The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the central theme of the New Testament.

The Importance Of Right Thinking 10-11

In Philippines, we read, "Finally brethren, ... think on these things".

Confession and Restitution..... 12-13

It is sad to see how lightly conversion is regarded today.

Friendship 13

What is the definition of friendship?

The Signs Of The Times 14-15

Pentecostal's power is showing up in global affairs.

Questions And Answers 16-17

Was Jonah swallowed by a whale or a large fish?

The Church Around The World 18-19

This month we look at Myanmar (formerly Burma).

The Children's Pages 20-23

Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "The First Thanksgiving"
Games and Puzzles

The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Advocate of Truth Press, Inc. PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. Entered as Second Class Matter on January 22, 1990 (now periodicals) at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
PUBLISHING HOUSE**
P.O. Box 328
Salem, WV 26426-0328

Telephone: 304-782-1411

Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Fred Hardman Printer

Volume LV II

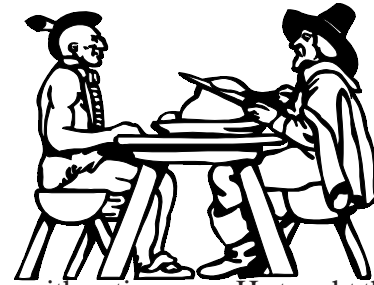
Number 5

November 26, 2007

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940

THANKSGIVING



Of the 102 Pilgrims who had set sail on the "Mayflower" the previous autumn, only 51 sat down to the festive board at the first Thanksgiving dinner in the New World many years ago. The other 51 had been buried on a nearby hill in unmarked graves, smoothed over in order that the Indians might not count the dreadful losses to disease.

The Pilgrims had feared the Indians ever since their encounter soon after they had landed at Plymouth Rock, in which bullets and arrows had been exchanged. But there had come a desperate plague among the Indians, which decreased their number, and soon after there came one day into the Pilgrim's settlement a lone Indian named Samoset who spoke to them in halting English. He was received kindly. A few days later he came back and brought Squanto into the Pilgrim village. That brought a new spirit to the discouraged colonists. Squanto spoke English fluently. He informed the villagers that he was the sole survivor of the Patuxet tribe from the plague.

Squanto proved to be a good friend of the Pilgrims. He showed them how to net fish in the brook, and he

supplied them with native corn. He taught them how to fertilize the corn with the netted fish. It was through Squanto and Samoset that the Pilgrims were able to make peace that summer with the besetting tribe of Massasoit.

And how thankful the Pilgrims were at the next harvest time! The Thanksgiving feast was celebrated for three days. More than ninety Indians were present and joined the feast. Of the Pilgrims, there were twenty-one men, four wives, one spinster servant, fifteen boys, and ten maidens.

The horrors of that fearful year were gone. And so William Bradford, the 31-year-old governor of the tiny colony, proclaimed December 11 as a day to be set apart for "Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His great and victorious mercies to our dear native country, for the comfortable and seasonable supplying us with moderate showers, and His mercy in withdrawing His afflicting hand from us."

Reprinted from a 1960 Advocate of Truth.



THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS IN 2007

BY BOND TENNANT

There is no better way to live a life of thanksgiving and praise to God than to show forth His virtues. Our debt of gratitude calls for nothing less than the devoting of our all to Him. David expressed this thought when he said, "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight

of the LORD is the death of his saints. O LORD, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people" (Psalm 116:12-18.)

The psalmist again calls upon us to remember the Lord's goodness with thanksgiving when he said, "Oh that

men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing" (Psalm 107:21-22). We can see that David associates thanksgiving with declaring the works of the Lord.

The Lord has favored us with rich blessings. The things He has promised to do for us are assured. In order to tell of all His works, it is necessary to publish the Truth as found in His Word.

Another thought, as we count our many blessings, is that we should not overlook the trials which the heavenly Father permits to come into our lives. If we had the choosing of our own experiences, we would avoid the things which try us. However, God sees that we need trials, and in His love, He permits them. If we resign our wills to Him, we will be thankful that He is providing all our needs. Trials are necessary for the establishing of our Christian character.

God may permit some of our trials to test our faith. He may permit other trials to develop our patience and longsuffering. At times, they may seem to be in the nature of chastening from the Lord. As children of God, all of our trials are permitted by our heavenly Father who is too wise to err and too loving to be unkind. Even though He may discipline us, we should thank Him because this is evidence that He is supplying all our needs. The Apostle Paul exhorted, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians

5:18.) None but sincere children of God can do this wholeheartedly! The sincere child of God knows that his heavenly Father is watching over his every interest.

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way" (Psalm 37:23). This is a promise which every child of God should apply to himself. Children of God will not go contrary to, or resist their Lord's will if they are truly thankful that He is directing their lives. They will continue to pay their vows unto Him.

"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). God knows the way His children take, and He is trying them as gold is tried. This means that He puts them through the fires of affliction that the gold of their characters might be refined. The Great Refiner tempers the heat, and He will not allow His children to be tested above that which they are able to bear. If He sees that the heat is becoming so intense that they are liable to be injured, He provides a way of escape. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

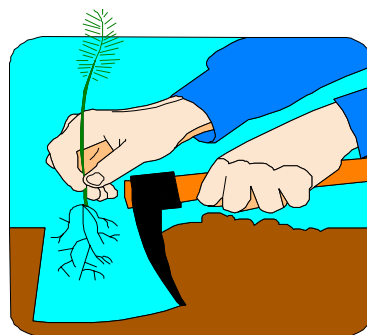
"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

THE SEED

A successful Christian businessman was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business.

Instead of choosing one of his directors or children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together.

He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you." The



young executives were shocked, but the boss continued, "I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO."

One man, named Jim, was there that day, and he,

like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost, and he planted the seed. Everyday, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown.

After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew.

Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by - still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil. He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by, and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach. It was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right.

He took his empty pot to the boardroom. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful--in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor, and many of his colleagues laughed. A few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be ap-

pointed the next CEO!" All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim in the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!" When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed. Jim told him the story.

The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it - Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said?

Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back today. But I gave all of you boiled seeds. They were dead. It was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

- If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.
- If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.
- If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.
- If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment.
- If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.
- If you plant hard work, you will reap success.
- If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.
- If you plant faith in Christ, you will reap a harvest.

Adapted from the internet



SEVEN TESTS TO PROVE WE WALK WITH GOD FROM I JOHN

FIRST TEST-WALK IN THE LIGHT

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in

the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:6-7).

If there is sin in our lives, we are not walking with God. The presence of God's Son, Jesus Christ, throws light on our consciences and hearts and shows the presence of sin in our lives. When we pick up a stone that has been lying on the ground for a long time, loathsome things move in every direction to flee from the light. Light reveals sin. Known sin will keep us from fellowship with Christ, but fellowship with Christ will keep us from sin. Let us ask Him to throw His searchlight upon our hearts.

SECOND TEST - ADMIT WE ARE SINNERS

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8).

We cannot walk with God and practice sin in our lives at the same time. On the cross, Christ redeemed us from the penalty of sin once and for all. If we confess our sins, He keeps cleansing us from the sins that creep into our lives by our contact with this world. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (verse 9). Let us not pray in an indefinite way. Let us name it before God. It may be pride, lack of trust, anger, love of pleasure more than God. He is faithful and just, not only to forgive us our sins but to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. A human parent can forgive our misbehaving, but only God can cleanse us from sin.

THIRD TEST - OBEY GOD'S WILL

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

Obedience is a real test. God makes a very strong statement. True children of God keep God's commandments. What is the sum of God's commandments? Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and mind, and thy neighbor as thyself. Do we love God that way? Let us put ourselves to a few tests. Do we spend more time watching television than we do with God? If we do, we don't love Him with all our hearts. Are we ambitious to carry out some plan in our lives that we hope will bring us fame or wealth or just enjoyment?

We will begin to know what God wishes as we grow to know Him better. A group of fellows were going to a

nightclub of bad reputation. They stopped to ask a young chap to go along. "I can't go," he said. "Why not?" his associates asked. "Well, because my mother wouldn't want me to go." "How do you know she wouldn't? She doesn't even know we are going." "Because I know my mother," was his very wise reply. This is true when we learn to know God.

FOURTH TEST - IMITATE CHRIST

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6).

We should be Christlike in all our lives. Christ said that we are the salt of the earth. Salt preserves food from spoiling. Are we the preservatives of our crowds? Do we keep our language clean? Do we refrain from cursing? Does our presence keep others from doing questionable things?

A little Chinese girl said, "I know why Christ said, Ye are the salt of the earth. It is because salt makes folks thirsty, and Christians should make others thirsty for Christ." Are we making folks thirsty? People are too lazy to look up. Few try to find Christ. Therefore, Christ wants others to see Him reflected in us.

FIFTH TEST - LOVE OTHERS

"He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now" (I John 2:9).

Another acid test of the life of a child of God is love. Read I John 2:7-11. Love changes a person. Love makes us have a concern for the welfare of others.

God speaks of love to others, personal attitudes. There are three chief attitudes toward others: hatred, which is murder (3:15); indifference--a feeling akin to hate--no concern (4:20-21); love. Love shows itself in different ways (2:9-11; 3:14); physically--concern for welfare (3:16-18); spiritually--concern for another's soul.

SIXTH TEST - RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

We live in a present evil world. The scheme of things

as they exist today is not standard for the children of God. Whenever we find them obeying them, they are walking on forbidden ground.

All sins may be put into three categories: 1. Lust of the flesh; 2. Lust of the eyes; 3. Pride of life.

1. Lust of the flesh.

Temptations come through the body and its appetites and passions. Satan tempted Jesus in this way first. Jesus had been fasting forty days, and even every part of His being cried for bread. Satan's temptation was of the same nature as the one he made to Eve. Command that these stones be made bread.

The temptation for self-gratification is one of the strongest that can attack us. Appetite is still one of the most vulnerable points when Satan attacks us. The necessity for bread and pleasure is supposed by some to justify any means to get them.

2. Lust of the eyes.

When one weapon does not work, Satan quickly drops it to try another. Taking Jesus onto a high mountain, he showed Him (lust of the eyes) all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine" (Luke 4:7). Satan was working his second trick. Many worship at the altar of riches and honor because they long for what their eyes see of this world.

Let us be careful of what we see. If we throw a white tennis ball against a sooty wall, there will be a blackmark left upon it. If our eyes focus on impure objects, we can be sure that a mark will be left upon our minds and hearts. Let us beware of what we see.

3. Pride of life.

Everyone wants spectacular success. Satan took Jesus to the pinnacle of the Temple and told Him to cast Himself down. If He was the Son of God, He would be kept by angels. It was a proposal to leap from the pinnacle of the Temple into immediate popularity. It is a temptation for any person to be popular. We all have human ambitions. How many men of genius have been led astray because the glittering prize of ambition has been held up before them?

SEVENTH TEST - PROVE CHRIST IS RIGHTEOUS BY YOUR LIFE

"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him" (I John 2:29).

Others watch us to see if we "do righteousness." He who abides in Christ will bear the same fruit in his life that Christ bears, and that is righteousness. It is possible for children of God under strong temptation to fall into sin for a short time, but they will not keep practicing it.

Contributed



The gospel of Jesus Christ is a central doctrine of the New Testament Scriptures. It provides the teaching of how a person can be saved, and thus how he or she can enter into God's kingdom. Since this message is so important to us, a careful study of it is in order.

The gospel means "good news," and it is certainly good news that a forgiven sinner, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, can enter into the kingdom of heaven in a spiritual sense now, and in a literal sense when Christ comes again.

But just how does a person know what the provisions are in the gospel by which he or she can be saved? A number of teachings are being peddled today in the name of Christ under the heading of “the gospel.” Therefore, we must rely completely on the Word of God--the Bible--to give us a correct understanding of this vital subject.

Let’s begin our topic by taking a look at how facts about the gospel are stated in the Scriptures. The gospel is referred to as “the gospel of the kingdom” in Matthew 4:23. Therefore, a true understanding of God’s kingdom must be had before the gospel can be properly understood. The gospel must be believed (Mark 1:15), and obeyed (Romans 10:16; II Thessalonians 1:8; I Peter 4:17.) It is made up of God’s peace (Romans 10:15), His grace (Acts 20:24), and it comes in His Power (I Thessalonians 1:5.) It is something that God’s servants have been put in trust with (I Thessalonians 2:4.) It must be preached (Hebrews 4:2; I Peter 4:6; Matthew 11:5); in fact, it will be preached in all the world for a witness (Matthew 24:14.) It is something we must leave everything for (Mark 10:28-30), as well as lose our lives for (Mark 8:35.) It is how in Christ Jesus we are begotten into God’s family (I Corinthians 4:15), and is the essence of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13.) It is everlasting (Revelation 14:6), it had even been preached to Abraham (Galatians 3:8), and it is a mystery to the world until it is made known (Ephesians 6:19.) Now then, having seen a number of verses that present facts about the gospel, let us delve into the subject of the gospel, itself. What is it? How does one appropriate its provisions into his or her life to be saved?

Probably the clearest discussion of the gospel is found in I Corinthians 15:1-8. Here, we see all the various elements of the gospel as the Apostle Paul writes of them to the Church at Corinth. Let’s begin with verses one and two.

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

At some point in the past, Paul had preached the gospel unto the Corinthians. They had received it, were standing in its provisions, and thus, for the present time they were experiencing Christ’s salvation. However, Paul ap-

parently wanted to explain to them the gospel a second time, now in the form of a letter, to emphasize that their salvation is conditional: “if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you...” Some of them may even have turned away from the gospel, and thus had “believed in vain.”

What is it that Paul then writes about to the Corinthians concerning this wonderful message of the gospel? Let’s see in verses 3-8.

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”

Paul makes it plain that it was the Lord Jesus Christ who “died for our sins according to the scriptures.” This is an extremely important point. In today’s world, especially, many people believe that there are different paths to salvation, and that these paths, in some cases, can be interconnected. But the Bible makes it perfectly clear that it is only through Jesus Christ, not through Buddha, Confucius, or any other personality or religious system, that mankind can find salvation. Jesus said in John 14:6, “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” The first point in the gospel, then, is our looking to Jesus Christ as the only Source of our salvation.

The next point in the gospel message for us to consider is that Christ “died.” It wasn’t Jesus’ life and teachings only that bring salvation to us, but also His death. And, it couldn’t have been just any type of death, either. It was only by His shed blood upon the cross that Jesus’ death could bring about salvation. Hebrews 9:11,12, and 22 reads, “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us...And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

Point number three in the gospel sequence is that Christ died for “our sins.” This is why mankind needs saving in the first place. If no one of the human race had ever sinned, there would be no need of a Saviour. And the penalty for sin is death. Romans 5:12 reads, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Furthermore, Revelation 21:8 tells us, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Therefore, it is the second death, or eternal death, that one needs to be saved from.

Our sins have built up a great debt that must be repaid. Someone once remarked to me that we have no debt toward God, including our sins that we have committed. But this is not true. Jesus taught His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:12, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Furthermore, Romans 8:12,13 reads, “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” Also, a debt is implied in Romans 6:23, the first part: “For the wages of sin is death.” Wages are payment for services rendered. Since we all have sinned, God is under obligation to make payment to everyone for those sins, which is death. But thank God, Jesus paid the price of sin for us when He died on the cross. By repenting of our sins and receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we are freed from the debt of sin (see Matthew 4:17; John 1:12.)

Now, an important question for us to ask is, “what is sin?” The Bible gives us a number of definitions such as “...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23.) “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17.) “All unrighteousness is sin...” (I John 5:17.) However, possibly the most basic definition of sin is in I John 3:4, which reads, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

Therefore, the gospel is linked to the keeping of God’s law. This may surprise many, because they believe that the gospel and the law of God are opposites. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was our disobedience

to God that caused Christ to give His life for us, and therefore, our salvation must be accompanied by obedience to God’s Word, including the keeping of His law.

“...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures...” Let us never forget the fact that the gospel can only be defined by what the Bible has to say about it.

Now we come to the conjunction “and” which begins verse four of I Corinthians 15. This word connects the words just preceding it, and therefore, it shows that there is more to the gospel story. Let’s continue: “And that he was buried, and that he rose again...” This is portrayed by the symbol of baptism as found in Romans 6:1-7: “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 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 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 is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

Jesus expressed this thought in John 12:24: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.” And the Apostle Peter gave this command: “...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.”

Continuing on in the thought of I Corinthians 15:4, we read, “And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...” The amount of time that Jesus was dead and in the tomb appears to be also a part of the gospel message. As a matter of fact, the only sign that Jesus gave about His Messiahship was the truth concerning how long He would be in the grave. Let’s read this fascinating incident in Matthew 12:38-40: “Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas (Jonah): For

as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (See also Jonah 2:17.)

This is a very important point. Jesus, Himself, said that He would be "three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Any teaching, therefore, that does not include this time element about Jesus' entombment, is false. That includes the teaching that Jesus died and was buried on a Friday, and that He was resurrected on a Sunday morning.

Paul emphasizes how important the belief in Christ's resurrection is by informing us that it is a requirement for salvation. He writes in Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

The last part of the gospel is found in verse 5: "And that he was seen..." Here again, we find the conjunction "and" which links the preceding words to the last part of verse 5, and then to verses 6-8. The Lord Jesus was seen alive after His resurrection by a number of people including Cephas, the twelve, more than 500 brethren, James,

and even Paul.

It is not enough for us to know that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and that He rose again the third day, even if we have the correct biblical understanding of this wonderful theme. We also must be personal witnesses of His resurrected life. That, of course, does not mean that we must see Christ in a physical sense. But we must witness His life within our lives spiritually, proving to ourselves and to others that He is risen.

These verses in I Corinthians 15: 1-8 relate to us the gospel message. It is a simple message, and yet it provides the key to our eternal salvation. It must not be diluted by the teachings of man. The Apostle Paul gives a strong warning to those who preach a false gospel. Galatians 1:8,9 teaches us, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." May we be diligent to study the gospel, to live it out, and to share it with others.



THE IMPORTANCE OF RIGHT THINKING

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

In scrutinizing our thoughts from the viewpoint of purity, we should consider first the nature of the thoughts, and second, their influence upon others. Not only should our thoughts be true and honorable and just and right, but

they should be pure, and such as will not entice others to impurity. We should avoid anything that, while not impure in itself, might have the effect of arousing impurity in another. The Apostle Paul's thought seems to be that we should guard our thoughts at all times.

"Whatsoever things are lovely" calls to our attention the fact that we should not allow our minds to dwell upon things that are not lovely, that are not praiseworthy. We might permit our business to so fill our thoughts that we would think continually about that particular thing. For instance, one interested in the iron business might always think about structural iron; another about the coal busi-

ness; another, about potatoes, etc. These things might be just enough, true enough, honorable enough, but constant thought along these lines is not profitable to the new man in Christ Jesus. When we are employed in digging, we should give attention to that business; when we are in the ironwork business, we should not allow our minds to dwell on the things which the Apostle stipulates to be injurious. We must endeavor to bring our thoughts into subjection and train them along the lines that will transform us more and more into our Lord's character-likeness.

Our thoughts must not only be true, honorable, and just, but they must be pure, and they must be beautiful. By the word, beautiful, we understand not only the thoughts relating to the beauties of nature, the flowers, and animal creation, the fruits, etc., but also chiefly the things of character--the fruit and graces of the Holy Spirit--meekness, gentleness, patience, longsuffering, brotherly kindness, love. With these things, our minds can become filled and enamored. If on the contrary, we allow ourselves to neglect here things that are pure, just, lovely, we shall not grow in the fruit of the Spirit. By thinking on these things and cultivating them in our hearts, we become more and more godly. If we do not cultivate these desirable qualities, we will be developing envy, hatred, strife, works of the flesh and of the Devil. These things are contrary to righteousness.

We see that we can hardly overestimate the importance of right thinking. There are on record instances of persons who were naturally depraved in mind, but who, by giving their attention to the things of the truth, have become very noble characters indeed. We can scarcely overestimate the power of the mind over the body. If we take pleasure in the cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit, it will prove a rich blessing to ourselves and to others. Therefore, we shall follow in the Master's footsteps and eventually become overcomers and rulers with Him in the kingdom.

We are to love and cultivate that which is pure to such an extent, that which is impure will become painful to us, distressing, and we shall desire to drop it from memory. This will be accomplished only by continually thinking upon those things which are pure and avoiding the giving of thought to the things that are impure. We are to recognize true loveliness and to esteem it. When we think on the purest of things, we must of necessity lift our mental vision to as high a point as possible and, as nearly

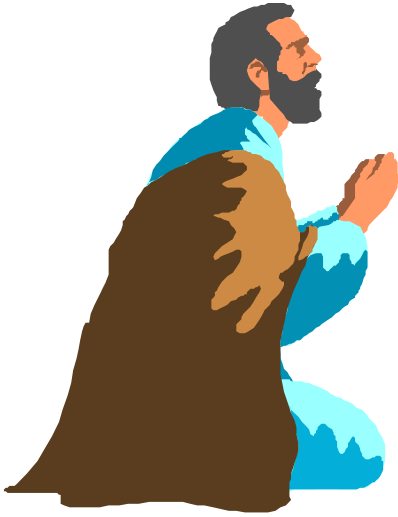
as we may be able, discern the loveliness of the perfect character of our God and of our Lord Jesus Christ, and proportionately, the loveliness of our brothers and sisters in the faith.

"If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." While we should not think to praise ourselves nor to strive to obtain praise, yet we should strive to be praiseworthy. We should think about the praise of God. If there is anything that has any value, any merit, that has anything worthy of praise, we should recognize it. We should note in those about us, and particularly in the church, the elements of character which are worthy of praise. We should not underestimate gentleness, faithfulness, patience. We should take note of constancy, of energy, of devotion to duty. We should not think of the trifling failures of others or even of their greater failures. If we continue to fill our minds with unhappy thoughts we shall do injury to ourselves. As we continue to recognize the commendable things in our own lives and in the lives of those about us, we shall become more godly.

If we meditate on things of virtue or excellence, or things in any degree praiseworthy--the noble words, or noble deeds, or noble sentiments of anyone--we will, as a consequence, find ourselves growing toward those ideals upon which our minds thus feed.

Is faith a "substance" as would appear from Hebrews 11:1? As one writer says: "It is no mere dream, shadow or supposition. It is a sea as sight, more substantial than any bank note." Way renders: "Faithful satisfies us of the reality of things beyond our ken" (power to know). It is known that the word translated "substance" has the meaning of "title deed"--a technical expression of the first century referring to property and documents bearing on ownership. Archaeologists have found ancient property deeds using this very word. The exercise of true faith--taking God at His Word--is itself a title deed of a sure answer (Hebrews 12:1-2), and must make good His promise. A bank note has value because an authority with ample reserves has issued it. The Holder of all resources is the Inspirer of real faith.

From Prophecy Monthly
March, 1956



CONFESSION AND RESTITUTION

It is sad to see how lightly conversions are regarded today. This present generation, in professing Christianity, has departed a long, long way from the pure gospel of earlier days, which was the power of God unto salvation. One can see very few genuine repentances and conversions nowadays. Very few are humble and penitent enough to get down upon their knees and confess their past sins to their Creator who would be willing to forgive.

God at one time said that His spirit would not always strive with men. Because man has grieved and rejected the pleadings of the Holy Spirit so much is evidently the reason why so few really have spiritual experience with God. The Holy Spirit at one time worked mightily in the life of the Psalmist David, and not until he confessed his guilt did he have peace. Listen to his testimony:

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." (Psalm 32:1-5).

After a person acknowledges that he is a sinner and sees the lost condition he is in, he will confess his sins if he is sincere about wishing to be saved. Not only is it necessary to confess sins to God who is faithful and just to forgive and to cleanse from all unrighteousness; but confession and restitution must also be made to man where wrongs have been committed. Our Master said, "There-

fore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).

That many people need to make restoration in order to be saved may further be seen from the following: "Again when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die" (Ezekiel 33:14-15).

You will remember the story of Zacchaeus, chief among the publicans, how he climbed the sycamore tree in his endeavor to see Jesus, and then was asked to come down, for Jesus wished to abide in his house that day. At his home, this Zacchaeus made a confession, and promised to make restitution wherein he had taken anything by false accusation. And upon that Jesus said, "... This day is salvation come to his house..." (Read the account of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-9). Those who try to cover their sins any other way will not be able to do it well enough to get by altogether. Fig leaves were not sufficient originally to cover sin (Genesis 3:6-7); it took the blood of a lamb to atone for the same. Unconfessed sin will leak out sooner or later anyway.

"But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).

"For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can

wrap himself in it" (Isaiah 28:20).

There is altogether too much hypocrisy manifested in so-called Christians. Just think of it! Some will boast of how they were able to put something over on someone else. Others tell how they are going to get even with those that have mistreated them, and so on. Many deceive them-

selves. Don't people know that they will have to appear before the judgment bar of God some day?

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

From an old tract

FRIENDSHIP

BY MRS. MABEL BUMGARDNER (DECEASED)
SALEM, WEST VIRGINIA



In defining friendship, it is an attachment to a person, intimate acquaintance, kind and favorable or benevolence, the love of mankind, affectionate. There are many more words to describe and illustrate the meaning of friendship. The definitions are numerous. However, complications arise when we tend to blend our characters and form friendships.

For instance, our personalities constitute distinction. Therefore we can readily conceive the difficulty in blending personalities that harmonize and develop into friendship.

In looking back, I recall an article in one of our leading magazines defining friendship. This author had chosen this as a career and studied it exclusively. His conclusion was if you have made three staunch, honest, dependable friends in your lifetime, you have accomplished more than he had. He referred to people as acquaintances. The author of the article is unknown.

The secret of retaining friendship lies in the positive side of character, the commendable qualities such as virtue, beauty, integrity and charity. We would never lose a friend if we would search for the good qualities and omit the negative.

Instead, the negative seems more outstanding and prominent. We are prone to pick flaws. We see the imperfection and defects. Have we not all experienced the frivolous whims of human nature?

They will devour you one day with admiration and exalt you with compliments, and pass you by the next day without even as much as a glance your way. Like a flash from a clear sky, your friendship seems ended, at least for the time being.

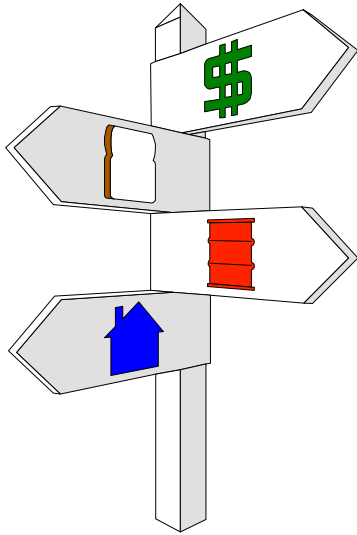
The two major negative qualities that tend to defeat and sever friendships are jealousy and envy. A minor cause is offense, yet its hold is immense.

We often times are abrupt in our speaking and careless in our remarks, and many times it occurs intentionally. What does the Bible say? "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle" (Proverbs 18:19).

How can we cope with such actions and enemies? The Bible suggests to pray for them. Note the Scripture quotation in Psalm 41:9, "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

So we have no assurance of tomorrow of our earthly friendships of today. We are told in Matthew 10:36, "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

Our only hope of friendship is Jesus Christ. He is a friend that will not forsake us, neither will He turn us away in time of need if we will keep His commandments. The only true friend and the only one we can depend on is Jesus. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15).



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.

PENTECOSTAL POWER PROVING ITSELF MORE THAN A HYMN TITLE

**Survey indicates charismatics wield widening
influence on global affairs**

**By Rachel Zoll
Associated Press**

New York- A new 10-nation survey of Pentecostal and charismatic Christians, considered the faster growing stream of Christianity worldwide, indicates that they are deeply influencing the Roman Catholic Church and mainstream Protestant churches and are poised to make a big impact on global affairs.

The poll released Thursday by the Washington-based Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found that "spirit-filled" Christians, who speak in tongues and believe in healing through prayer, make up at least 10 percent of the population in nine of the ten surveyed countries.

The study also found that followers are more willing than once thought to bring their traditional values into public debates, potentially shaping future government policies.

The surveys were conducted over the spring and summer in Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, India, The Philippines, South Korea, and the United States.

Researchers polled Pentecostals, who form their own denominations such as the Assemblies of God, and charismatics, who have adopted some Pentecostal beliefs but remain members of traditional Protestant and Catholic churches.

The survey estimated that Pentecostals and charismatics together comprise at least half the population of Brazil, Guatemala, and Kenya, and 44 percent of the Philippines.

They make up about one-third of the population of South Africa and Chile and nearly one-quarter of Nigerians and U.S. Residents. The figure for South Korea is smaller, at 11 percent. In India, the poll was limited to three states with large Christian populations, so a national estimate could not be made.

The study found Pentecostal beliefs have a strong hold in major churches in many countries.

In the traditionally Catholic nations of Brazil, Guatemala, and the Philippines, charismatics are a larger share of the population than Pentecostals.

In six of the ten countries, Pentecostals and charismatics together make up the majority of the overall Protestant population, according to the survey.

The Pentecostal movement, which began a century ago in Los Angeles, spread quickly overseas because of its adaptability to local cultures, whose indigenous beliefs often include healings and castings out of evil spirits, and because of the exuberance of its worship.

The polls were conducted by phone in the U.S., and

in person overseas; margins of error ranged from plus or minus 4 percentage points to 9 points for some subgroups. Polls in Brazil, South Africa, and South Korea focused on urban areas.

COMMENT

Jesus said, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:20-23).

SERMONS NATURALLY SELECTED FOR CHRISTIANS

Some churches celebrate Darwin's birthday with the idea that the faithful can also believe him

**By Lisa Anderson
Chicago Tribune**

New York- Nearly 450 Christian churches around the country plan to celebrate the 197th birthday of Charles Darwin today with programs and sermons intended to emphasize that his theory of biological evolution is compatible with Christian faith.

"It's to demonstrate, by Christian leaders, and members have to make that choice. You can have both," said Michael Zimmerman, dean of the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, who organized the event.

Darwin's theory holds that all life on Earth, including humans, shares common ancestry and developed over millions of years through natural selection and random mutation. The concept is repugnant to many conservative Christians because it conflicts with their belief that man was specially created in the image of God.

"Evolution Sunday" has drawn participation from a variety of denominational and nondenominational churches.

The event grew out of Zimmerman's The Clergy Letter Project, another effort to dispel the perception among many Christians that faith and evolution are mutually exclusive. Since its inception in 2004, the project has drawn 10,000 Christian clergy members to sign a letter that concludes, "We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge."

COMMENT

Just how any right-thinking person can believe that Charles Darwin's theory of biological evolution is compatible with the Christian faith is beyond logical reasoning! In order to believe that, a person must spiritualize the account of a literal creation of man by God which is found in Genesis.

It is the tendency of carnal men and women to believe anything they wish even when the facts are in front of their eyes. So called Christians who believe in the theory of evolution are calling God a liar. They are among those mentioned in II Timothy 3:5 who have a form of godliness but deny His power.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND LEADERS GIVE A WARNING

Church of England leaders warned yesterday that calling God "He" encourages men to beat their wives.

They told churchgoers they must think twice before they refer to God as "He" or "Lord" because of the dangers that it will lead to domestic abuse.

They also warned that clergy must reconsider the language they use in sermons and check hymns they sing to remove signs of male oppression.

The recommendation, fully endorsed by Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. Rowan Williams, puts a question mark over huge swathes of Christian teaching and practice.

It throws doubt on whether the principal Christian prayer should continue to be known as the Lord's prayer and begin "Our Father".

-The Berean Call



Questions and Answers

Question: Please comment on the story of Jonah. Was it a large fish or a whale that swallowed him? I understand that a whale is not classified as a fish.

Answer: The Bible account of Jonah and the large fish has always fascinated many young people as well as adults. Whenever the Scriptures about Jonah are read, many thoughts are considered. The story of "Jonah and the Whale" is a very important part of the Bible. Jesus used the account of Jonah to predict how long He would remain in the grave before being resurrected. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40).

Because Jesus used this example as evidence to prove His identity, it becomes very important that the account of Jonah be understood as completely accurate in every detail. True believers have always accepted what happened to Jonah without reservation. Children of God have always had to accept the Scriptures as complete fact, even though at times the devil attempts to discredit the Word of God.

To have these "doubting Thomases" can work for one's benefit however. These things can cause the child of God to "Search the Scriptures" and "Study to shew

thyself approved unto God," as we are admonished to do in His Word.

There are some in the scientific community who do not accept the biblical account of Jonah. They say that a "whale" is not able to swallow something the size of a man. The throat of the whale is too small. This scientific fact is very true. Therefore the story of Jonah spending three days and three nights is given a shadow of doubt.

As children of God, we must do our best to try to clear up this smoke-screen which is used. "...Let God be true but every man a liar... That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged" (Romans 3:4).

In the book of Jonah, we have recorded the actual account. In Jonah 1:17 we read, "Now the LORD prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." This verse tells us how a special fish was made by God that it might swallow up Jonah. Based upon this account in Jonah, we have to accept the fact that there was such a huge fish which did swallow up Jonah. God has never failed in His own time and way to give total proof that His Word never fails. Such is the case with this large fish that swallowed Jonah.

Consider this remarkable incident which took place sometime in the early 1920's off the southern Florida coast.

On a very peaceful morning, a small group of men were lounging on the deck of an idle fishing craft. Suddenly, out of the peaceful waters came a huge black fin, which resembled a small shark. Three of the men quickly lowered a small lifeboat and moved towards the large black shape thrashing about in the water. The three men, of whom were Capt. Charles H. Thompson, and one of the yacht's crew accompanied by a winter visitor to Florida prepared themselves for some fun as they anticipated a shark kill.

As they came closer, the sailor realized the fish to be far greater than any shark and advised the captain... "Do not harpoon that thing; we will be crushed like an egg-shell!!"

Disregarding the sailor's words, Capt. Thompson sunk the harpoon into the huge black hulk. The resulting experience lasted a total of thirty-nine hours wherein were some of the wildest of rides as the captain battled with the fish while the other two bailed out of the boat and gave support whenever there was a need. The giant fish was taken to Miami, Florida where it was viewed by thousands of people.

At first the creature was called a whale. However, it was later classified as a fish because it breathed through 5 gills. The total weight of the fish was listed as 30,000 pounds, with a length of 45 feet. Inside the stomach was found an animal which weighed 1,500 pounds, (far greater than any man). That it was strictly a deep-sea fish was indicated by the small eye. The water pressure at the bottom of the sea is so great that any large eye would rupture. The pupil of the eye did not dilate and contract which gives more proof that the fish must have lived at a depth of probably 1,500 or 2,000 feet where there is little light. It is generally believed that some volcanic eruption drove the fish to the surface where, because of the great difference in water pressure, the swim-bladders burst, making it impossible for it to return to the deeper levels again.

Thus, we now have evidence which supports the Word of God. Here was a fish, which we know God created, and it is surely capable of swallowing up any man. To any who may be skeptical about the account of Jonah, this should help to cast away any doubt. This may also help us to realize that we should never doubt God's Words. Every detail found in the Scriptures is accurate and true.

What can we say then of the word "whale" as used in Matthew 12:40? When the translators came upon the

word in Greek, the only fish known to them which fit that description would have been the whale. Therefore, the word whale was used. This in no way adds or detracts from Jesus' words, for it certainly must have been a "whale" of a fish which God prepared.

Question: Is there a difference between the terms "kingdom of God" and "kingdom of heaven?"

Answer: In the Gospels, we encounter both the terms "kingdom of God" and the kingdom of heaven." In times past, many commentators argued that the two terms were distinct, each having its own theological significance. However, the two terms are synonymous and interchangeable.

It has been argued that the "kingdom of God" refers to the reign of God throughout the universe, while the "kingdom of heaven" denotes God's kingdom on earth only. But this idea is not according to the Scriptures.

The phrase "kingdom of heaven" appears only in Matthew's Gospel in instances where Mark and Luke use "kingdom of God." The substitution of "heaven" for "God" perhaps reflects the Jewish habit of avoiding direct utterance of the name of God. (Matthew also refers to God as the "Father in heaven" fifteen times, whereas Mark uses it only once and Luke, the Gentile, not at all.

Frequently, the two terms are used interchangeably in the Gospels. For example, Jesus speaks of the difficulty of a rich man getting into the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 19:23, but in the next verse he speaks of how hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus is quoted as saying, "...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). In Matthew, the words are "...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

Question: What was the "needle's eye"?

Answer: The needle's eye, mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 19:24, was the small gate or wicket at the side of the big gate at the entrance to the city wall. When the big gate closed for the day, all entrance had to be gained through the small gate, and to a loaded camel, or indeed to any body of considerable size, passage was impossible.



Myanmar

The brethren in Myanmar are suffering many oppressions and hardships. They request that we continue to pray for their ministries. Our leader, Brother Kawl Lian Thanga, sent these photographs of church members in Tayakone, Kalaymyo and Hakha respectively.





LESSON I

JESUS CHOOSES TWELVE APOSTLES

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:1-22.

Golden Text: Matthew 10:22 (last part).

"But he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

1. Name the original twelve apostles. Matthew 10:2-4.
2. What did Jesus give the twelve apostles? Matthew 10:1.
3. To whom did Jesus send the apostles? Matthew 10:5-6.
4. What were the twelve apostles to do? Matthew 10:7-8.
5. What else did Jesus instruct the apostles to do? Matthew 10:9-14.
6. What do you think Matthew 10:16 means? Are God's children still sheep in the midst of wolves?
7. Did Jesus tell the apostles they would be well liked, and could they endure to the end? Matthew 10:22.

NOTE: The word "apostle" means one sent forth, a messenger or an ambassador. Jesus knew His mission on earth would be a short one, so He chose Twelve Disciples and taught them so they might go out and preach the gospel.

LESSON II

JESUS SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-35.

Golden Text: Mark 1:22.

"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes."

1. What did Jesus say in Mark 1:15?

2. Who did Jesus see as He walked by the sea of Galilee, and what were they doing? Mark 1:16.

3. What did Jesus mean in Mark 1:17?

4. Where and why did James and John leave their father? Mark 1:19-20.

5. Where did Jesus go at this time, and what did He do there? Mark 1:21-22.

6. What did the man with the unclean spirit cry out? Mark 1:23-24.

7. What miracle was performed in Mark 1:25-27?

8. Who was sick with a fever, and was she healed? Mark 1:30-31.

9. What do we find Jesus doing in Mark 1:35? Why do you think He did this?

LESSON III

JESUS FORGIVES THE SINFUL WOMAN

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-50.

Golden Text: Luke 7:48.

"And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven."

1. Who invited Jesus to eat with Him? Luke 7:36.

2. Who wept at Jesus' feet? Luke 7:37.

3. How did she wipe Jesus' feet? Luke 7:38.

4. What did the Pharisee think of Jesus when He let the woman touch His feet? Luke 7:39.

5. What story does Jesus begin to tell Simon in Luke 7:40-42?

6. Jesus asked Simon a question in verse 42. What was

Simon's answer? Luke 7:42-43.

7. Did Simon give Jesus water, a kiss, or anoint Him? Luke 7:44-46.

8. What did Jesus say to Simon and then to the woman? Luke 7:47-48,50.

NOTE: This parable can also be found in Matthew 13:3-17 or Mark 4:3-20. Read, and try to find some other parables that Jesus told.

Mini-Maze

Please help the Pilgrim get to the Thanksgiving Day picnic.

LESSON IV

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

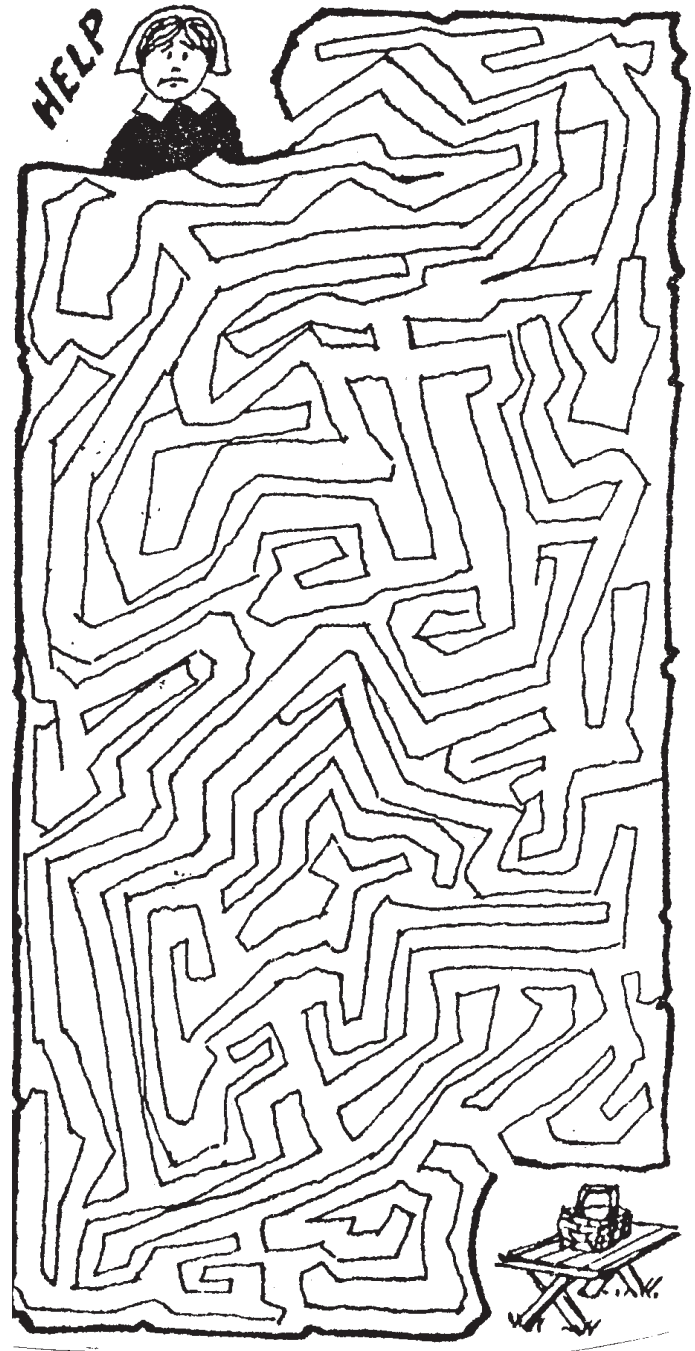
Scripture Reading: Luke 8:4-18.

Golden Text: Luke 8:11.

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."

NOTE: A parable is a story using something real in life to give a different meaning than what was first thought. Jesus told many parables.

1. How did Jesus speak to the people that came to hear Him? Luke 8:4.
2. Tell in your own words what Jesus said in the parable found in Luke 8:5-8.
3. What did His disciples ask Him, and what was Jesus' reply? Luke 8: 9-10.
4. What does the seed represent? Luke 8:11.
5. What do "those by the way side" represent? Luke 8:12.
6. What do "they on the rock" represent? Luke 8:13.
7. What does "that which fell among thorns" represent? Luke 8:14.
8. What does "that on the good ground" represent? Luke 8:15.
9. What were Jesus' final words in Luke 8:16-18?



THE FIRST THANKSGIVING DAY

Mrs Porter had been looking out from her window for several minutes, watching the beautiful country scenery and busy with her own thoughts. When they passed a field where a farmer was loading his wagon with golden grain, she said to Lois, sitting beside her, "Look dear. There is a farmer harvesting."

Mary Jane heard her mother's remark. "What does harvesting mean?" she asked of her Dad, who was driving the family car to grandmother's, where they planned to spend Thanksgiving Day.

"A farmer harvests when he cuts his grains and when he gathers any of his crops, Mary Jane," answered Mr. Porter.

"I have heard of harvest," said Herbert. "At school our teacher told us a story of the First Thanksgiving day. The pilgrims were thankful because God had given them a good harvest."

"Oh, do you know that story, Daddy? Will you tell it to us please?" asked Mary Jane.

"Yes, I believe, I remember it. When the first summer was over and fall came around again, Governor Bradford called the people together. When they were seated around his fireplace, he said, 'Friends, God has blessed our work, and we have gathered in a bountiful harvest. We have plenty of food and our houses are well built and ready for winter. Let us rest from our work for a few days and spend the time in giving thanks to God for His goodness.'"

"Let us ask Massasoit and some of his Indian men to join in our celebration,' suggested one of the men. All were in favor of this plan, and an Indian at the settlement, Squanto by name, was sent to invite them.

"There was great excitement everywhere. The men went into the woods and hunted wild turkeys. The women baked pies and puddings, cookies and tarts. The children cracked nuts and picked out the nut meats for the cakes and cookies.

"It was Thursday morning and every one was up bright and early. They all met in the log building that was both

their church and the fort, to offer prayers of thanks to God for the blessings He had so graciously showered upon them.

"Massasoit and his men came and brought corn, deer, and more wild turkeys. When the church service was over, they began their feast. The Indians sang songs and taught the white men some of their games.

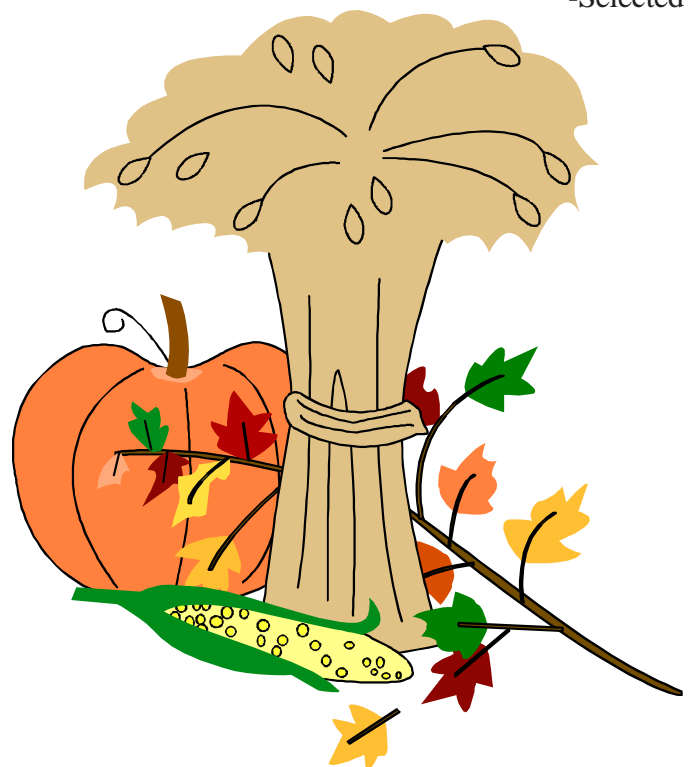
"This first Thanksgiving Day was a very happy one, and down to our day we follow the example of the Pilgrims."

THANKSGIVING

The happy thank-you day has come
And harvest time is past,
We've gathered fruits and nuts and grains,
We'll say good-by at last;

Good-by to Autumn, Autumn dear,
And with our parting words
We'll sing our thanks to God above,
For fruits and trees and birds.

-Selected



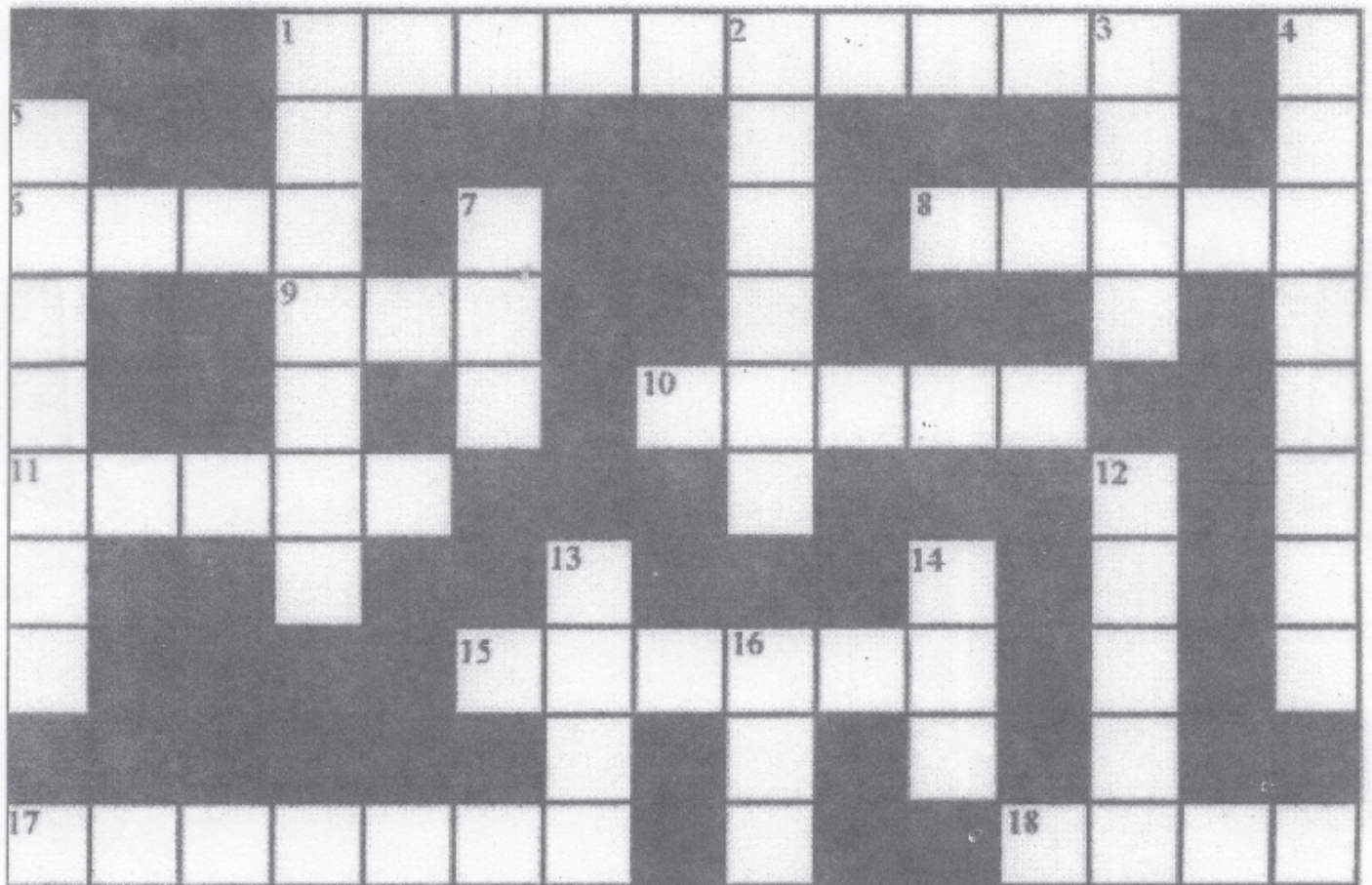
ACROSS

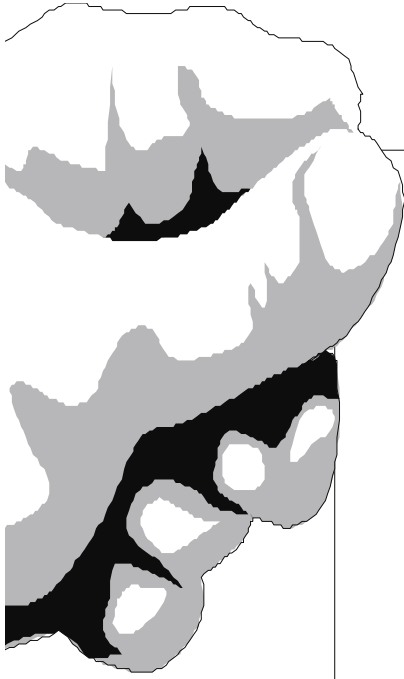
1. Noah's age when the rains came (Gen. 7:11-12.).
6. Another word for Father that we call God (Romans 8:15).
8. God had Noah bring the animals into the ark by pairs, male & female. How many pairs of clean animals went into the ark (Gen. 7:2)?
9. How many pairs of unclean animals went into the ark (Gen. 7:2)?
10. How many days and nights did it rain (Gen. 7:4)?
1. The place where God confounded (or changed) the language that men spoke was called... (Gen. 11:9).
15. The ark was made of what kind of wood (Gen. 6:14)?
17. This was the name of one of Noah's sons (Gen. 6:10)
18. This was another one of Noah's sons (Gen. 6:10).

DOWN

1. God knew, that if He changed the language men spoke into many different languages, that they would... (Gen.

- 11:8).
2. What was the name of the leader of these people when they sought to go against God by building the tower (Gen. 10: 8-9)?
3. What type of bird brought back an olive leaf to the ark (Gen. 8:11)?
4. And the whole earth was of one... (Gen. 11:1).
5. What do we see even today that is a symbol of God's promise that He will not flood the whole earth again? (Gen. 9:13-15).
7. Who commanded Noah to build the ark (Gen. 6:13-14).
12. The ... was filled with violence (Gen. 6:11).
13. Who was considered just and perfect because he walked with (obeyed) God (Gen. 6:9)?
14. The measurements used to build the... were called cubits. A cubit was about 18 inches (Gen. 6:15).
16. This was the name of one of Noah's sons (Gen. 6:10).





The Tool

By David DeLong

A hatchet in a skillful hand
Is wonderful for cleaving wood;
And anyone can understand,
Its purpose is for doing good.

A shovel used for digging dirt
Can make a very wide, deep ditch;
Then, folks are kept from getting hurt,
By filling in this open niche.

A saw and hammer rightly used,
Will build a big, and sturdy boat;
But if the wood has been abused,
The vessel will not even float.

Tools are nothing by themselves,
Though designed by master draftsmen,
They should be taken down from shelves,
Used best by master craftsmen.

Lord, let me be a trusted tool,
Used by You with utmost skill;
And help me not to be a fool--
Doing my own selfish will.