

The Advocate of Truth

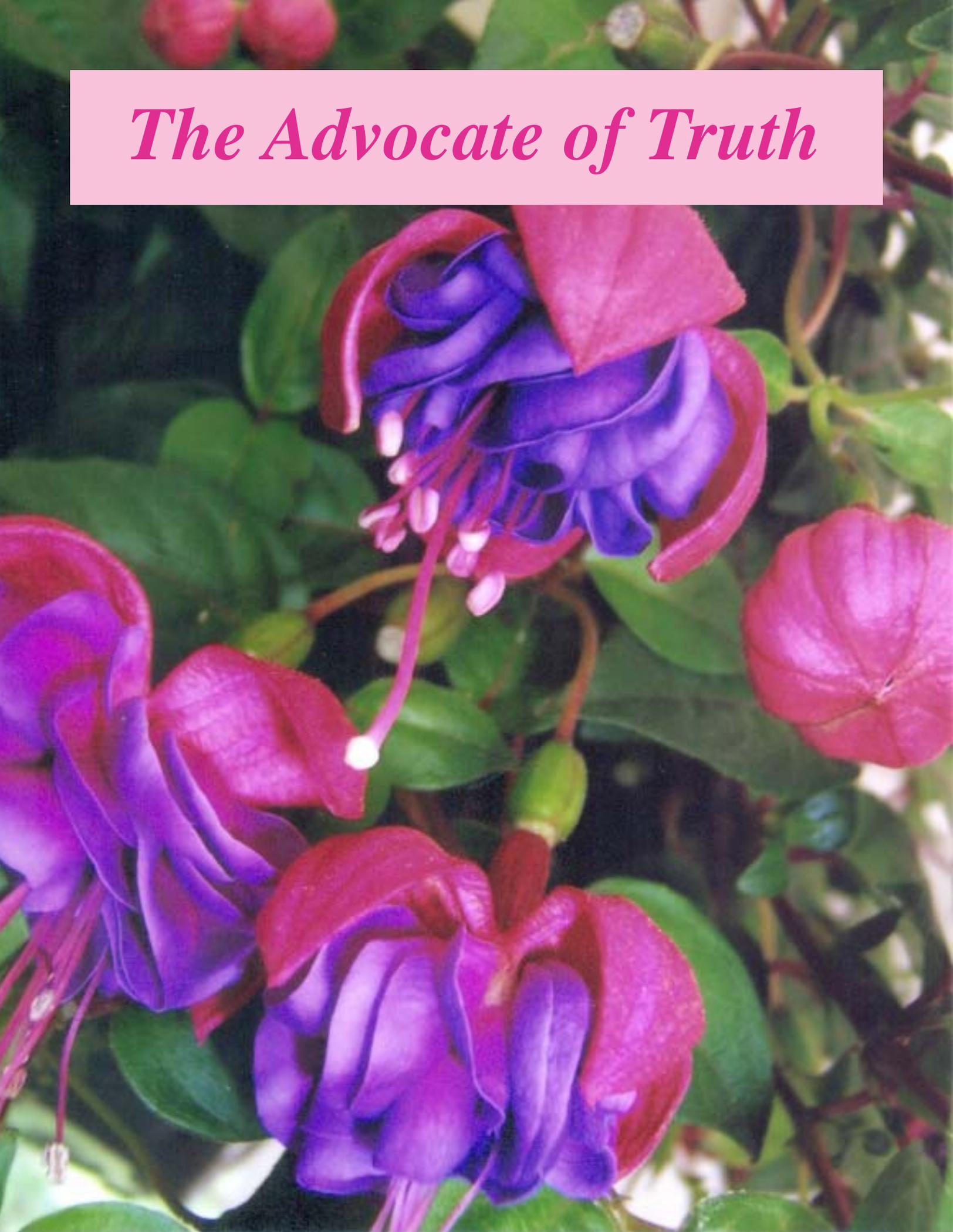


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The Brain, An Instrument Of Health

By Timoteo Mendoza

When God created the earth, sky, minerals, vegetables, animals and man, He gave man a powerful brain with the capacity of thinking and generating ideas. Thanks to this intelligence given by the Creator, he was able to communicate, invent and teach. Man was able to create and to develop diverse areas of knowledge in order to control and dominate all Creation on the planet earth.

The brain is the most impressive and complex organ in the human body. It performs a world of functions, many of them are incomprehensible for human science. It counts with a very complex web of neurons and neurotransmitters that control all the members of the body. This is where the thoughts, fears, traumas and feelings are created and processed. It also stores all knowledge and makes decisions.

The brain has intrinsic powers. It is able to generate an immune system made up by antibodies (true militias) to all members of the body against the invasion of strange agents which cause illness. When an organ or a member suffers an injury, there is a complex system of auto-healing that is put to work immediately, and in some cases auto-regeneration of organs that start acting even after some patients become “hopeless” by the medicine. The power of healing by the brain, which is “power of God,” is immeasurable when joined with faith, and it acts effectively. The miracle then occurs, and the children of God get up from the “bed of pain” against all medical forecasts. They resurface to keep on living. The brain and body is a type of Christ and His Church. Christ is the head, and He is always taking care of His body, which is the Church.

Recent investigations in the area of psychoneuroimmunology have revealed that the power of healing by the brain is closely related with the level of

emotions that are experienced. Some of the medical areas rely on psychology to convince the patient that he or she can keep on going and will be healed, cheering them up, giving them happiness and hope, and especially faith. When faith is great, you can see the extraordinary power of healing by the brain. Many times the use of medicine is not necessary. Jesus said, “...Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague” (Mark 5:34). We see the daughter was made whole instantly by the power of God. We were created by an implicit healing source. Our task is to keep the source open through faith. “And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up...” (James 5:15). The brain then becomes an instrument of the power of God. Just like we can open that inexhaustible source of healing through faith, we can also close it down with our disbelief, pessimism and lack of faith to a point that there will be no sufficient medicine to heal us.

When we close down the source of healing by the brain, the brain then can turn against us. If we harbor incredulity or estranged ideas in our mind, lack of faith principles and morals of the children of God, we shut down the fountain of health of the brain. It is not a secret that the way we manage our emotions such as guilt, stress, tension and depression directly influence our health. It is important to adequately manage the emotions and to channel them the right way in the right time. “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray...” (James 5:13). When we become a prey of stress, tension and depression, it is advisable to read or sing psalms, to sing songs of worship to God. The songs, psalms and especially prayer will comfort and produce peace to the soul. If we let negative emotions grow in an unconscious way, we’ll be helping

the apparition of the so called psychosomatic diseases. These diseases affect directly the central nervous system and show up as back pain, headache, neck pain, gastric ulcers or colitis, Many times the excess of tension and stress make us clench the jaw while we sleep (bruxism). In extreme cases, cardiovascular problems, hypothyroidism and many psychosomatic diseases can be presented.

When the emotions get out of control, our brain can pull all its potential against us. "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?" (Proverbs 18:14) In the negative aspect, the brain has the capacity to make a patient experience his own fleshly symptoms of diseases he doesn't have, but he can feel them as if they are real. As an example, it can make a woman to have pregnancy symptoms without being pregnant. We can see the power of the brain in the case of "anorexia". Anorexia is capable of making patients see themselves fat and excessively obese, even when the reality is completely contrary. This image causes the peoples' anxiety to keep on losing weight and puts them in a path of chronic anemia, alopecia, lost teeth, coagulation problems, bipolar disorders, hallucinations, polycystic ovary syndrome, osteoporosis and many other diseases that can put a person on the edge of death.

The brain is a repository of impressive healing capacities, many times inscrutable and incomprehensive. What we know is when these capacities are combined with faith, prayer and the anointing of oil, we can see the power of God in its splendor. We are only talking about a diminutive section of its healing capacity. This is only one of the thousands of functions that the brain performs. In the course of our lives, we only use a small part of our brain and its capacities. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14).

"The brain has intrinsic powers. It is able to generate an immune system made up by antibodies (true militias) to all members of the body against the invasion of strange agents which cause illness."

AN INTERESTING ARTICLE

NOTE: I read the following article in the KJIC NEWSLETTER. The title is *GOOD FRIDAY, or WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY?* The author, Bob Vaughn, does favor the correct time of our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection.

However, he writes that it makes no difference when Jesus was crucified and resurrected. However, it does make a difference. To believe any other time than the correct time would be believing a lie!

The good point of this article is that one can come to a truth by rightly searching the Scriptures and applying history. The article follows:

"As a very young Christian this thought troubled me. After years of reading scholars, talking to want-to-be scholars, studying the scriptures, & thinking, I have concluded that I can't "know" the answer. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday may have been the day of His crucifixion. Likewise, Saturday or Sunday may have been the day of His resurrection. The thing that I'm sure of is that He was crucified and that He was raised from the dead. I serve a Risen Savior.

John Chapter 19 verse 31 also tells us that this week contained a High Sabbath--and that Jesus was crucified on the preparation for this High Sabbath. This was not necessarily Friday. This High Sabbath was Passover. Jesus is our Passover Lamb (I Corinthians 5:7). Passover could fall on any day of the week.

That being said, I do favor a Wednesday crucifixion and a resurrection on Saturday evening. I do believe He was in the belly of the earth three days and three nights as He prophesied in Matthew 12:39-40. I see no way to get three days and three nights in the grave with a Friday crucifixion. Many books have been written on this subject by men much more knowledgeable than myself. Nevertheless, I can't help but have an opinion. Many scholars hold this opinion, but many more hold one of the other two.

Don't be distressed if you're not sure on which day of the week it happened. Just be excited that it happened."

--Selected by Bond Tennant



WHAT MANNER OF SPIRIT YE ARE OF

By Moises Torres M.

The title to this article was the answer of the Lord given to James and John, two of His disciples when they wanted to command fire to come down from heaven to consume some Samaritans. The Lord rebuked them and said: Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

It was the time for the feast of Tabernacles and the Lord Jesus desired to go to Jerusalem to end his redemptive work. So he desired to pass through a village in Samaria, and sent some messengers to a certain village to prepare a place for him to dwell sometime before coming to Jerusalem; but knowing the Samaritans, He was a Jew and that He would go to Jerusalem, they did not receive Him because the temple of the Jews was right there.

Let us read on this account: “And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, **ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.** For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them. And they went to another village” (Luke 9:51-56).

Even James and John had been close to their Master for almost three years already, but they had not assimilated that the Spirit of the Lord was not a Spirit of destruction

or revenge, but a Spirit of peace and salvation.

The same happened to Peter when he drew his sword and smote off the ear of one of the servants of the high priest when the Lord was betrayed: “And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest’s, and smote off his ear.” (Matthew 26:51; John 18:10). Then, immediately, the Lord said to Peter, “...Put up thy sword into the sheath...” (verse 11).

“Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword” (Matthew 26:52). What kind of spirit was in Peter in that moment which led him to commit such an act? For sure, the Spirit of the Lord Jesus was not leading him.

Job once rebuked one of his friends who in the midst of his anguish he harshly judged him rather than comforted him. He exclaimed: “To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee? (Job 26:4). Job used the same words of the Lord Jesus: What manner of spirit ye are of?

A good spirit was shown on King David, a man whose heart was after God’s heart. He rejected to smite the anointed of the Lord.

“Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time. And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD’S anointed, and be guiltless? David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD

shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that *is* at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go." (I Samuel 26:8-11).

We need to take care and make sure about what kind

of spirit leads our daily different actions in life. Jeremiah the prophet, once said: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (17:9).

The admonition of Peter is: "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing" (I Peter 3:9).

FOLLOWING JESUS

Bond Tennant



One message comes clearly through the Gospel. It is the call of our Lord, "follow me." It is a commanding voice, and it rings with authority. The child of God realizes that there is good reason to follow Jesus. There is life, glory, honor and eternal happiness. See Romans 2:7.

"Follow me" was the call to each of His Apostles. We read that "when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him" (Luke 5:11). Whether casting nets or tax collecting, they left their former ways of life to follow Him.

Near the end of his life, the Apostle Peter was still thinking about the call of his Master. He realized that Jesus' call was not to the Apostles alone but to every believer. He wrote to his brethren, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Peter 2:21).

We can understand how the Apostles followed Jesus. Day after day, they listened to His dynamic preaching, as He went from city to village, "...preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God..." (Luke 8:1). They followed Him literally. As they followed, we can be sure that they observed His manner of life, His patience, His humility and His careful attention to the details of His own obedience. They marveled at His kindness and His

consideration for others. They marveled at His firm devotion to duty and His personal life of holiness.

When suddenly Jesus was taken from them, they continued to follow. They carried out the commission He left them by preaching His message of hope and the coming kingdom. They were captured by Him. Christ was the center of their thinking and their Hero. They preached Jesus Christ everywhere they went. They preached Christ – crucified, risen, ascended to heaven, and coming again. They were driven by His faith and motivated by His confidence in them. They were challenged by His goals. They were His servants and literally His slaves. Even though He was not present, everything they did was done for Him.

Most of all, they followed by imitating His manner of life. They followed Him by imitating His integrity, His fearless denunciation of evil, His courage, His faith, His single-minded desire to please His heavenly Father. If only they could suffer with Him, die with Him, live with Him, reign with Him (II Timothy 2:11-12).

The command to follow Jesus was not for the Apostles alone. It stands on record for us, clear and unmistakable: "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

THE VICTOR'S CROWN

Reprinted

In the days of the Apostle Paul, the famous Isthmian games were held every fifth year near Corinth. These games were national gatherings, and from far and near people came to view them. They were held in an amphitheatre. In the middle of this building was the arena, a sanded space where the contests took place, and all around were tiers of seats for the onlookers.

The competitors for these games had to fulfill certain requirements. For ten months, previous to the date of the contest, they had to undergo very severe training. They had many hardships to endure and much fatigue, and they were allowed only certain kinds of food. For the last thirty days, they were obliged to attend exercises at the gymnasium. No competitor should enter the lists unless he could prove that he had fulfilled all these requirements. Often one of the competitors would get his arm broken, or his foot and ankle sprained and be obliged to swallow mouthfuls of yeast, receive many stripes, and after all his hardships and trials lose the race.

There were many different forms of contests: running, wrestling, boxing, etc. In each contest, there could only be one victor. The winner of the contest was covered with a garland of pine leaves, and this prize was very much coveted. Perhaps you may think that this was a very poor reward, but those men were willing to undergo all the months of weary training just to have the chance of winning it, for the victor was greatly honored. Poets would write songs about him, and when he returned home, the wall of his village was thrown down that he might walk over it as though he were a conqueror. Often his fellow citizens erected a statue in his honor.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the people of the city of Corinth and told them that godly life is very much like one of the above contests. We have to be just as much in

earnest as those competitors. But we have entered a much grander contest, and we are striving for a much better reward. They do it to receive a "corruptible crown," a garland of leaves that will soon wither away. But we are promised an "incorruptible crown," a crown that will last forever. Only one could win in the Corinthian games, but on the road that leads to the New Jerusalem, everyone who runs in the race can win. Paul tells us that the Believer's life is the happiest life one could live, and if we want to win the victor's crown we must run straight ahead and never take our eyes off the goal. We must run with patience the race that is set before us. We must allow nothing to distract us from our aim. **"So run, that ye may obtain."** Be as much in earnest to get to the **"Wedding of the Lamb,"** as the Corinthian competitors were to gain the prize.

HONESTY IS A BY-PRODUCT

A man paid his bill at a hotel. "Do you want a receipt?" asked the clerk. "That will not be necessary" replied the guest. "God has witnessed the transaction." "But I do not believe in God" said the clerk. "In that case, then, please give me a receipt," said the guest.

There is no secret to our present wave of dishonesty! Honesty is a by-product of belief in God and obedience to Jesus Christ. When men consider God either "dead" or too indifferent to observe their evil ways, they are sure to be dishonest. When anyone feels that his life is all there is, and that there is no judgment day coming, dishonesty is sure to be manifested in some form.

Remember that God can see every move you make. He sends His angels to watch you and report all your actions. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12). You may try to get by now with some form of "situation ethics" and argue "everyone is a little bit dishonest." This is a lie, because genuine children of God are absolutely honest. Rationalization will not get you by at the judgment.

Nowhere does honesty manifest itself any more clearly than in the way we handle the truth. Jesus said: "...thy word is truth" (John 17:17). "But that on the good ground are they, which in an HONEST and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15).

--GENUINE HONESTY
Reprinted

The Shame of The Commandments

Daniel Cruz

During the time of the Exodus from Egypt, God's people were taken from their captivity and set off on a journey to a land that was to prosper them and set them apart from all other nations. Exodus 3:8: "And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites." This promise was to be given and they were to set out with promises already established. During this trek they were also protected and given sustenance. Chap. 16:4: "Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no." This occurred after they crossed the Red Sea and escaped the tyranny of Pharaoh and his last pursuit of them. God watched over them spiritually and physically. He never failed them during this time and even when they murmured against Him, He remained faithful to the promises told unto them. What could cause them to lose the protection of the Lord and the promises granted them?

We can clearly see that man's inability to be obedient to God caused a rippling effect of doubt and fear. God showed His love and endured the lack of faith they'd proven time and time again. When He gave them manna it came with specific instructions. More importantly, they were to gather before the Sabbath. Keep in mind that the written Commandments had not been given unto them as of yet. God loved them dearly and allowed a converting period that would lead to obedience to God and the

promises that would be continual for years to come. Exodus 16:23: "And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning." The Holy Spirit confirmed in their hearts that keeping the established Commandments of God would be with understanding and obedience.

So, when did the shame come into play for the people of Israel? Exodus, chap. 32 shows the 10 Commandments and the lack of faith that Israel had towards God. They made a golden calf and honored it more than God, proclaiming it as their reason for good things that had come upon them. God is omnipresent and heard the commotions of the people in v. 7 and explained to Moses what he would encounter. Moses came back in vs. 19 and found them unworthy to receive the Commandments of God. They shamed themselves before God for their lack of faith and false following of other gods. We may find this a traumatic experience for the people of Israel. The shame that they placed upon themselves became an example of the disobedience towards the Word of God.

Do we find ourselves in an Exodus state, trusting in other things and not being obedient to God's Word? The Commandments are a guide to our spiritual walk and we need them to maintain salvation and look upon them to examine our lives daily. Placing these in our hearts gives us a life of obedience and blessings. We use The Commandments to ensure our walk is correct in God's sight. Life for a child of God cannot be compromised

but, accepted. We must give heed and become obedient to the Commandments. They become a way of life for the child of God and looking upon them in our situations can give us guidance. We cannot create a golden calf (figuratively speaking) and place reverence on it more than God. We cannot have tendencies that create chaos in our lives. Spiritual despair will lead to confusion and leading away from God. This can happen unknowingly and will cause more compromise than faith. God clearly states this condition in Revelation 3:15-16: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm,

and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." Who would care to be caught in that position? Yet, The Lord addresses those who know the requirements of a child of God and find themselves in this condition. To be spewed out and thrown to the ground illustrates that you become of none effect in the Kingdom of God both now and upon His return. Let us hold fast to our profession and use the guidelines established by the Lord for all mankind. This will be our pattern and promise, Rev. 22:14: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."



THREE GOOD CHEERS

Reprinted

There are some things in life about which a man needs to be assured. The conditions of life are as varied as their peculiar life is made up of a variety of experiences. These experiences affect all mankind and touch all men in various ways and degrees of experience. We all face trials and troubles--"...man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7). These touch the old and the young. Little tots have their difficulties and troubles. They have their problems, which are insignificant to grownups, but they are very real to little folks. We all feel the force of evil in us and around us. The reality of sin is no hallucination with us. Sin is real. Thank God we can all find help in the midst of our problems when we turn to the Bible. We are lifted above these things when we trust in the Lord. We are gladdened when we hear the Saviour speak a word of cheer to our hearts. We need to be cheered, that is "good cheer." Notice three good cheers in the New Testament.

The Good Cheer of Pardon

This is seen in the Lord's words to the palsied man in

Matthew 9:1-8. Notice some things about this man to whom the Lord spoke the good cheer of pardon. First of all, see his sad condition. He was sick and a sinner. It is bad enough to have either one alone, but he had them together. Poor man in the throes of pain and behind all of that still in his sins. Was he not in the same condition as millions today? The condition of mankind is sad indeed. They are sick spiritually and wallowing in sin. Man's need is tremendous. The need that young man had that day was met by a sympathizing Saviour. When Jesus saw their faith, He saw the man's sin also. The Lord was not as much concerned about his sickness as He was about his sin. These four men who carried him in may have been more concerned about his sickness than his sin. Of course, the Lord was concerned about both. Jesus always cares when He sees a man in any kind of a need. The Lord went to the heart of the man's trouble. Remember, the Son of God does not deal with externals. He went to the root of the man's trouble, which was sin. He spoke the word, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." Then we see the strengthened saint. The man

went away walking. Sin makes a weak man. Forgiveness of sins brings a man into a place where he can imbibe the grace and strength of Christ. What a joy to hear the good cheer of pardon.

TODAY

The Good Cheer of Peace (John 16:33)

These are the closing words of Jesus Christ to His own disciples before He left them to go to the place of prayer. In John 17, we find Him in prayer. He would soon be cast down in the world that He created and be despised by the people He loved and came to save. In the world, He had nothing but trouble from His birth to His burial. In the midst of the malicious treatment and misunderstanding from the children of men, He had peace within. "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). The problem of peace is spoken of by the world, but the world knows nothing of the deep-seated settled peace. The place of peace is "in Christ." What a shelter in the time of storm! What a pillow for a weary head! What a resting place for faith! Jesus knew that these disciples would find themselves in a cold, cruel world, and He reminded them that in that world there would be no peace, but what peace they would enjoy, would be because they were "in Him."

The Good Cheer of His Presence (Mark 6:50).

"It is I." Notice carefully what the narrative sets before us in Mark 6:45-52. We have the struggling sailors. They were tossed by the wind and the waves. Many a saint on the sea of life feels the over-whelming trouble, the overpowering temptation, the overcoming opposition and the overtaking persecution. Remember that He sees every struggling sailor--"He sees them toiling and rowing." He was arrested by their cry, He always is. In the midst of their trouble, they were deluded--"they supposed it had been a spirit." Don't be mistaken about Him and especially when you are in trouble. Recognize His presence, the presence of the Lord of glory. Rely on His promise, and then you will realize His power. The silencing Saviour spoke to the wind, and they were peaceful. He spoke to the sea and it became still. Every child of God must rest in His ability. He is the master of every situation. It matters not what the situation is. Are you resting in Him now? Then be of good cheer.

*There are many games we can play everyday
From football, soccer, to chess;
There are crosswords and jigsaw puzzles
And many others, that call for our best.
There is a game that is far more important
That I ask you to play now with me;
Just look around you that what life has given,
And play the game of pretend with me.
Just pretend that you woke up tomorrow
And all you've ever known is not there;
And there is nothing left in your keeping,
Not even a word of your prayer.
For today has vanished like vapor,
Not even one thing left to behold;
For today is as if it never had been,
And you're left standing there in the cold.
As you look back on what is now today,
And the things you have left undone;
Do you realize all you've been given,
Did you cherish a daughter, or son?
Today is now gone forever,
Taking with it the things we have done;
The good and the bad gone forever,
Along with your pleasures and fun.
And what about all those clothes in your closet?
Have you said "Thank You, Father, for that?"
And the good car that's parked in your driveway,
And even your dog and your cat?
And all the good things that come from the Father
Should be recounted each time that you pray;
For all of the good that will come to tomorrow
Will be what you thanked God for today!!*

--Betty Whetstone

Eating God's Word

By David DeLong

In many passages of Scripture, eating the Word of God symbolically represents taking that Word into one's very being and making it a supreme part of his life. The Patriarch Job recognized that God's Word was even more important than eating one's daily food. He said: "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). Jesus, Himself, said in Matthew 4:4: "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

In the book of Ezekiel, chapter 3, verses 1-4 we find where the Lord told Ezekiel to eat His Word. "Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them." We, too, must eat God's Word, so to speak, before bringing that Word to others. It should be so familiar to us that we will be able to answer practically any question that is brought to us concerning God's Word.

The Apostle John was told by an angel to eat God's Word. We find this episode in Revelation 10:5-11. "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the

little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

Like the Apostle John, God's Word in our mouths is sweet but the end result of speaking that Word can cause us bitterness because many hearing that Word will not accept it. In some cases those that hear the Word of God may even persecute us. But, we must be faithful to deliver His Word to anyone whom the Lord sends us.

The Lord's wisdom, which is summed up in His Word, is something that all of us need to consume on a daily basis. In Proverbs 9:1-5 we learn: "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city, Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled."

Many people are seeking for the right way in life, and are even willing to pay great sums of money in books, CD's, and seminars to find it. But notice Isaiah's plea to anyone who is seeking the right way. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (Isaiah 55:1-2). This goodness is only from feasting upon the Word of God.

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness they had the opportunity to feast upon God's Word. We learn of this in I Corinthians 10:1-4: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our

fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

We are told that Christ is the living Word of God (see John 1:1-5). In John 6:51-56 we learn more of Christ, the living Word of God. "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him." Of course, we eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood symbolically, by eating the unleavened bread and drinking of the fruit of the vine during the Lord's Supper at the time He instituted it.

One place where we find Christ instituting the Lord's Supper is found in Matthew 26:26-29: "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remis-

sion of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Jesus feasted upon the Word of God and told His disciples that He had meat to eat about which they knew nothing. In John 4:31-34 we read: "In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

When we don't feast upon God's Word we become confused as were two disciples found in II Timothy. Actually, then, we and others can become consumed ourselves by false doctrines and beliefs. In II Timothy 2:15-18 we find this episode: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

To the overcomer this promise is given by the Lord Jesus: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it" (Revelation 2:17). Let us so eat of the Word of God that we will be overcomers and be able to also eat of that hidden manna.

"Set Your Affection on Things Above"

By David DeLong

The Apostle Paul, addressing the Church of God at Colosse, wrote: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall

appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:" (Colossians 3:1-6).

Many people who claim to follow Christ have set their affections on things of this earth. It's like they want to have their cake and eat it too. Many feel that they can have their worldly pleasures here and still experience the joys of heaven, later. This is because they feel they are exclusively under grace with no laws to follow. These are the ones to whom the Lord will say, "...I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23).

When Paul wrote to "mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth" he was implying at least two things: to be continually praying to the Lord to help you overcome the world, and to be consciously avoiding the things of the world. The Lord will not do it all for you, but neither can you completely overcome the world without His help. So, we all must stay away from places or situations that tempt us or make it difficult to overcome. These places or situations will be somewhat different for each individual.

We are "risen with Christ" through the process of baptism. Romans 6:1-13 is very instructive on this process. It reads: "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. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

What are some of the things that we should be setting our affection on and seeking above? One of those things is the very kingdom of God, itself. Matthew 6:33 tells us: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This involves seeking the Lord on a daily basis. Ask the Lord to reproduce His character within you. He will. Isaiah 55:6-9 informs us: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

That we can be changed to be more like Jesus is assured us in II Corinthians 3:17-18: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But 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." As we read and meditate upon God's Word the Spirit of the Lord will change us. And the more we do so the faster the change will come. We are admonished in Isaiah 34:16 to: "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read..."

We must set, as a primary goal, seeking the Lord or we won't do it. David made it his goal to seek the Lord. We see this from Psalm 27:8: "When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek." It will be much easier to seek the Lord's face when we are in love with Him. In the song of Solomon, which is a depiction of Christ and His people, we see the love that the woman has for her beloved. "By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me" (Song of Solomon 3:1-4).

David felt this passionate love for the Lord when he

expressed it in Psalm 63:1-8: "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me."

Part of seeking the Lord is also seeking His commandments. Psalm 119:1-2 reminds us: "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." Verses 44-45 testify: "So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts."

Setting our affection on things above goes to the very heart of Christ for the lost. He said in Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." And Jesus spoke a parable about how He (and we) should feel about helping to save lost souls. "Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:8-10).

Jeremiah, chapter 29, has a very interesting concept. In verse 7 the Lord says: "And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace." Even though this command was given to the children of Israel during their captivity, I believe that the same concept holds true for us today. When we pray for the peace of the city in which we live, I believe the Lord will let us enjoy the peace of that city. In any case, I Peter 3:10-11 informs us: "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew

evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it." Part of our duty, then, is to be seeking peace.

It is right that we seek for glory, honor, and immortality if we have the proper heart attitude. Paul wrote in Romans 2:6-7: "Who (God) will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life". Let us always be setting our affection on things above.

This is God's will for us. As the Psalmist wrote in Psalm 105:4: "Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore." But, we must seek Him diligently. The writer of Hebrews wrote: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." We must be diligent to seek His Word: "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:1-5).

Hosea 10:12 tells us: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." And Jeremiah 29:12-13 assures us: "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Gain The World, But Lose Your Soul?

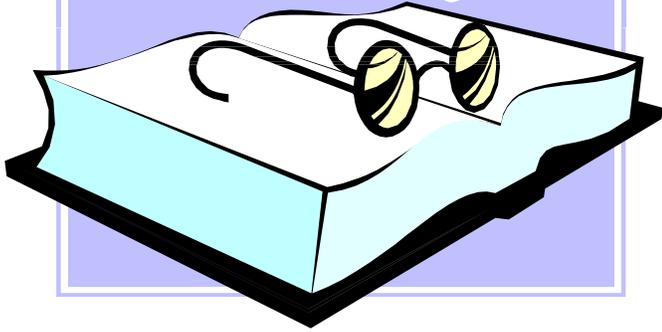
By David DeLong

*How would it be, my brother
If the world you one day gained;
But, then you lost your soul to sin,
Being unrestrained?*

*The Word of God, you laid aside,
His Commandments, disobeyed;
Your lofty goal, was not your soul,
But, merchandise and trade.*

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: I Peter 1:23 reads: “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” Why is God’s Word called incorruptible seed? How does it grow?

Answer: “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (James 1:18). If we are faithful unto death “...this corruptible must put on incorruption...” (I Corinthians 15:53). This seed which begets to incorruptibility is planted in the mind and heart and produces the fruitage of the Spirit.

Question: Will you please comment on the three worlds mentioned in the Bible?

Answer: The entire period of time from Adam to the Deluge is referred to in the Bible as a “world”-- “the world that then was.” Such faithful servants of God as Abel, Enoch and Noah lived in this world. It was toward the close of this world that God instructed Noah to build an ark.

The period of time beginning with the Flood and ending with the return of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom is what the Bible speaks of as “this present evil world.” It is called an evil world not because there is no good in it, but because evil predominates. Satan, the devil, is the prince, or ruler, of “this present evil world.”

A third world begins at the return of Christ and the

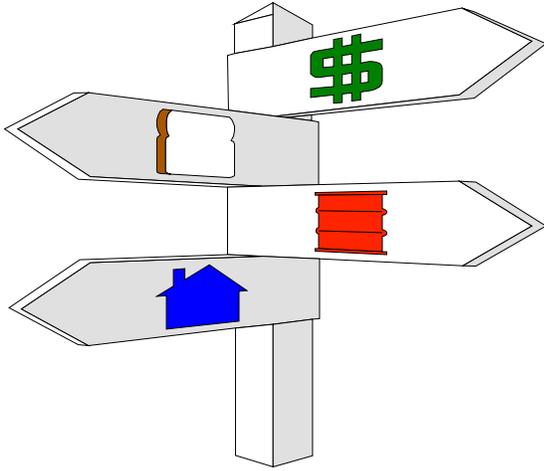
establishment of His kingdom. It is referred to in the Bible as “the world to come.” Jesus will be the supreme ruler, and the purpose of His reign will be to establish the will of God throughout the earth and to destroy all the enemies of God and of righteousness.

Since evil has predominated in the first two worlds, it is obvious that any reference in the Bible to the general conditions during these two periods of time would take this into account. Only on special occasions, and for special purposes, has God intervened in the affairs of mankind during these two worlds to halt wrong doing. Most times it has seemed as though the wicked have flourished.

The sins committed by the people in this life will be taken into account at the time of the resurrection, but for the present it appears that evil practices are almost unrestrained. It will be different in “the world to come.” For then Satan will be bound, and the kingdom of Christ will be in control.

During “this present evil world” the righteous servants of God are often persecuted. Persecution is referred to in the Old Testament as the “rebuke” of God’s people, and we are assured that this rebuke will be taken away in the kingdom. Then the righteous will flourish and the great evils of sickness and death will be taken away.

Concerning the third world, Revelation 21:4 states, “...God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).



ADDICTED KIDS

There appeared an article in **USA Today** entitled *Survey: Parents worry over kid's device addiction*. The author of his article is Brett Molina. Following is that article:

“Parents berate themselves for staying glued to their smartphones. But they're even more worried their kids can't detach from their small screen.

A survey from Common Sense Media and SurveyMonkey found 47 percent of parents worry their child is addicted to their mobile device. By comparison, only 32 percent of parents say they're addicted themselves.

Half of parents also say that they are at least somewhat concerned about how mobile devices will affect their kids' mental health. Nearly one in five say they're “extremely” or “very” concerned.

“For as much attention as technology addiction receives among adults, parents – particularly those with teenagers – are far more concerned about their children's device usage than their own,” John Cohen, chief research officer with SurveyMonkey, said in a statement Thursday.

According to the survey, 89 percent of parents believe it's up to them to curb their children's smartphone usage.

The survey conducted between Jan. 25 and Jan. 29 included a sample of 4,201 adults, including 1,024 parents with children under age 18. Data was weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the U.S. for adults over 18, based on Census data.

Recently, tech giants including Facebook, Google and Apple have been pushed to come up with solutions to prevent kids from growing addicted to technology.

This month, Common Sense Media and the non-profit

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.

Center for Humane Technology launched a campaign to explore the mental health consequences of technology.

“Parental concerns about technology addiction and the content children are exposed to on devices is very real, yet parents feel that they alone are responsible for managing these issues,” Common Sense Media CEO James P. Steyer said. “It would be nice if the tech companies would partner with parents in this effort.”

Former employees of Facebook and Google are among those leading the charge to urge tech companies to act.

Last month, two major Apple investors implored the company to explore ways to fight smartphone addiction among children. The investors collectively control about \$2 billion in Apple shares. In response, Apple said it was adding more “robust” parental controls to its devices.

Common Sense and other children advocacy groups have particularly criticized Facebook for recently rolling out a Messenger Kids app aimed at kids under 13. Facebook has defended its decision to go ahead with it, pointing to the advice it received from a team of child experts and efforts it took to make sure parents had control over the app.

But a recent *Wired* report detailing Facebook's financial support of these exports, which Facebook says covers logistics costs for their time, added more momentum to the controversy over whether tech companies are trying to get kids hooked too early. Many

devices and services feature parental controls, but some parents may not be aware they exist. The Common Sense-SurveyMonkey survey found 22 percent of parents did not know YouTube – which has faced scrutiny over how easy it is for kids to find inappropriate videos – offered parental controls. Also 37 percent have not used the controls before.

That’s a problem as YouTube often is the go-entertainment platform of choice for kids, who have made creators such as Logan Paul superstars.

Among parents surveyed who say their kids watch YouTube videos, 62 percent said their kids have seen inappropriate videos on the site.

Most, or 81 percent, said it’s the parents’ job to prevent kids from seeing these videos.”

Comment

Kids device addiction is a real problem here in the United States, and many parents are concerned as the article states. These devices, such as a smartphone, are easy for kids to operate.

Having decent conversations by the children of parents who try to rear their children in the fear (reverence) of God is very vital! Yes, it is up to the parents to monitor their children’s use of these devices! I know of several parents who did not monitor their children’s use of these devices, and they were most put out when they found the essence of what their children were seeing and hearing.

There is no substitute for sitting down and talking to a person face to face. Kids may get the feeling that they are forming a good companionship with the person to whom they are talking on a smartphone, but they have no idea of the real intent of that person who may be evil. I Corinthians 15:33 tells us, “Be not deceived: evil communications (companionships) corrupt good manners.”

WHAT IS TRUTH?

I have heard two unbelievable statements made by politicians on the subject of truth. They are, “Truth is not truth” and “Truth is not relative.” If truth is not truth, what is it? If truth is not relative, why is it not? Presenting the correct facts and statements yields truth, and truth is necessary to arrive at the correct conclusion of any subject. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CRIMES

There are those who believe that illegal immigrants

commit many crimes. However, on the average, U.S. born people far outnumber illegal immigrants in committing crimes according to a newspaper article.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE

According to a news report, violent incidents in schools increased 113 percent during the past school year. Schools say 279 violent incidents during the 2017-18 school year, up from 131 the previous year.

RED TIDE IN FLORIDA

Southwest Florida is suffering from an unusually severe red tide outbreak as this column is being written. Red tide is a burst of algae growth in the ocean that can kill marine wildlife and negatively affect humans. During this time, beaches are shut down, business has temporarily closed, and Floridians wonder when it will end.

SMARTPHONES IN SCHOOLS

There is a debate about the use of smartphones in schools. Many want to know if they are a distraction or just another learning tool!

Comment

The schools can set times when it is appropriate for students to use their smartphones and when it is not!

ABOUT BANKRUPTCY

Older Americans are filing for bankruptcy now more than ever.

Comment

This is a wake-up call for older Americans to more carefully plan their spending and their retirement portfolio.

U.S. LIFE EXPECTANCY

It has been reported that the U.S. Life expectancy has dropped as more Americans are dying from drug and alcohol use.

Comment

This is a sign of the times. Most, if not the majority, of Americans do not realize that their bodies are the Temple of God, and God will destroy those who destroy His Temple.

BRICKLAYING ROBOTS

From a newspaper article, I read that robots are doing the work of bricklayers. It read that the robots are slow, but they don’t get tired.

THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The president said that his administration would improve the conditions at the VA hospitals in order to serve veterans better. However, according to the news, very little if any conditions, have improved.



Myanmar

This is the dedication of the new Mountain Church in Myanmar.





LESSON I

ISRAELITES MURMUR AGAINST MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:22-27.

Golden Text: Exodus 15:24.

“And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?”

1. After Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea, where did they travel? Exodus 15:22.
2. Why could they not drink of the water at Marah? Exodus 15:23.
3. What did they do against Moses? Exodus 15:24.
4. Moses could only seek the Lord for help. What did the Lord show Moses? Exodus 15:25.
5. What more did the Lord tell them in Exodus 15:26?
6. What place did they come to next? What did they find there? Exodus 15:27.

LESSON II

ISRAELITES MURMUR FOR WANT OF BREAD

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:1-19.

Golden Text: Exodus 16:4 (first part).

“Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you....”

1. After the children of Israel left Elim, where did they go? Exodus 16:1.
2. Who murmured against Moses and Aaron, and what did they say? Exodus 16:2-3.
3. What did the Lord tell Moses He would do for them? Exodus 16:4-5.

4. What did the Lord promise Moses He would give them to eat? Exodus 16:8.

5. As Aaron was speaking to the congregation, what appeared in a cloud, and what was spoken unto Moses? Exodus 16:9-12.

6. What came upon the camp that evening? Exodus 16:13.

7. When the dew was gone up, what lay on the ground? Exodus 16:14-15.

8. How much were they to gather? Exodus 16:16-18.

9. What were they not do with it? Exodus 16:19.

LESSON III

THE MANNA NOT FOUND ON THE SABBATH

Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:20-36.

Golden Text: Exodus 16:25.

“And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field.”

1. Did some not obey Moses in the gathering of the manna? What happened to that which was left until the morning? Exodus 16:20-21.

2. How much were they to gather on the sixth day and why? Exodus 16:22-23.

3. Was there to be any manna to gather on the Sabbath? Exodus 16:24-26.

4. Did some go out on the Sabbath to gather, and what happened? Exodus 16:27.

5. What did Moses tell the people they must do on

the Sabbath day? Exodus 16:29.

6. What had the Lord commanded Moses to do in Exodus 16:32? What did Moses then command Aaron to do? Exodus 16:33-34.

7. How long did the children of Israel eat manna? Exodus 16:35.

LESSON IV

AMALEK IS OVERCOME

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-16.

Golden Text: Exodus 17:11.

“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.”

1. Into what country had the children of Israel journeyed? Did they find water to drink there? Exodus 17:1.

2. Did the people again murmur against Moses for want of water? Exodus 17:2-3.

3. Moses cried unto the Lord, and what did the Lord instruct Moses to do? Exodus 17:5-6.

4. What did they name this place and why? Exodus 17:7.

5. Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. What did Moses tell Joshua to do? Exodus 17:8-10.

6. Joshua fought with Amalek. What did Moses do on top of the hill? Exodus 17:11-12.

7. Did Joshua discomfit Amalek? Exodus 17:13-14.

8. Moses built an altar. What did he call it and why? Exodus 17:15-16.

MY FRIEND

By Muriel C. Norris

*At night when I kneel down to pray,
I know that God is near;
He watches o'er me while I sleep,
So I need never fear.*

*I'm not afraid that harm will come
Or dangers there will be;
For though the night is very dark
God will take care of me.*

*And in the morning when I rise
He still is by my side;
He watches o'er me all the day,
My needs He does provide.*

*When I'm in school or at my play
I know He's with me there;
He helps me to be kind and good,
His love I always share.*

*And so I thank Him every day
That I His child can be;
I'm glad to have a Friend like Him
Who watches over me.*

THE COVENANTS

God made covenants to some people in the Bible. A covenant is a promise to someone. Look up the Bible verses below to find who received the covenant and what God promised them.

VERSE

1. Genesis 9:8-17

2. Genesis 15:18

3. Exodus 19:3-6

4. Numbers 25:10-13

5. II Samuel 23:1 & 5

6. Hebrews 8:6-13

THE COVENANT - WHO RECEIVED IT



HOW THE BLOCKS WERE PUT AWAY

"Bedtime!" called Mamma. "Put the blocks away dears."

"No!No!No!" cried the children in a chorus of disapproval.

"Do not want to go to bed," said Jimmie, the youngest.

"It is so early," said Gerald, "I am not tired."

"And I am not going to put the blocks away," said Sheila, "because I did not put them out."

"And I did not," repeated Jimmie.

"But you cannot leave the dining room looking like this," said Mamma. "Daddy will be home soon and he always likes to see the place tidy."

"Well, I am not going to put the things away," said Gerald. "That is Sheila's job."

"It is not my job, Mamma, I think Gerald's mean; he should do it himself."

"I cannot do it," said Jimmie with a sigh, "for I am too tired."

"Well," said Mamma, "somebody must do it, and

I will give you just five minutes to decide. If the blocks are not away then -- well, you know what will happen."

So Mamma went into the kitchen and closed the door behind her. The three children sat on the floor and looked at the pile of blocks. Then they scowled at each other.

"You should put them away," said Sheila to Gerald. "You are mean."

"So are you. I will not do it, so there," and Gerald pulled his feet up under him and locked his hands over his knees in an attitude of grim obstinacy.

Slowly the minutes ticked away.

"Mamma will be here in two minutes, and then you will catch it," said Sheila."

"So will you."

"But it is your job," insisted Sheila.

"It is not; it is yours," replied Gerald. Sheila looked at the clock.

"There is only another minute," she said, "and you know Mamma always does what she says,"

"Well, put things away then."

"I will not; it is your job."

"It is not; it is yours."

"I will tell you what," interrupted little Jimmie. "Let s each put one away, one after the other; and I will start."

"Not a bad idea, Jimmie," said Gerald.

So Jimmie brought the box and put in the first block. Sheila followed with another, and then Gerald. Soon they were trying to see who could pick up the blocks quickest. Before the last minute had gone, all blocks were put away.

When Mamma came in, they were all smiling and happy. They were glad they had taken Jimmie's suggestion and their Mamma was happy and proud of them.



Word Search

Men Mentioned in the Old Testament

NOMOLOSSKBEOBRE
ELIJAHECQUBOOAH
SHDHBMADAWJACGA
AHIAUVOAYAOWALN
SAVHEKHPDSEJEO
OOABHAERWAEICIJ
MNDWIACLMAPZANM
APLAQUCSNHHEEAA
KLSLACOIAKFIELDH
GIDEONWIMZXUGDA
NESESOMLDOAUPHR
DOPWLEUMASCPANB
MCOERSPLWVTNSKA
AOLEIKEZENOWMOS
QUJOSHUACJOELEP

ADAM

DAVID

SOLOMON

JEREMIAH

JOSHUA

JOEL

SAMUEL

SAUL

ABRAHAM

ELIJAH

EZEKIEL

DANIEL

SAMSON

MICAH

NOAH

ISAAC

JACOB

MOSES

GIDEON

JONAH

NAHUM

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Trust

By David DeLong

We are only made of earth,
God formed us from the dust;
But, He has made a way to Him
By giving Him our trust.

We must place our faith in Christ,
And this is one big "must";
We're saved by faith, through God's great grace,
By giving Him our trust.

Yes, we must keep God's holy Law
And give up all our lust;
But, sin can only be redeemed
By giving Him our trust.

How does God forgive our sins
When He is pure and just?
It's through the precious blood of Christ,
And giving Him our trust.

