

The Advocate of Truth



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HAPPINESS

By David Royer



Many of us look to the future to bring peace and happiness we seek. "I'll feel happy when, or I'll feel happy if, or I'll be happy after accomplishing a particular goal, or obtaining a particular product". Living our life with the "carrot" just out of reach will end in disappointment.

Some people believe that acquiring "things" will make them happy. "Things" can contribute to your happiness, but they are not the source of happiness. It is quite all right to work for things you have and activities that bring pleasure. That is, people who pursue happiness by seeking out pleasant experiences as part of their everyday lives are happier. However, remember the adage: Be happy with what you have.

Happiness is not something that can be earned. Of all the "How To" books on the market today, I have yet to see a textbook published (without distorting the true definition of "happiness" and "earn") on How to Earn Happiness.

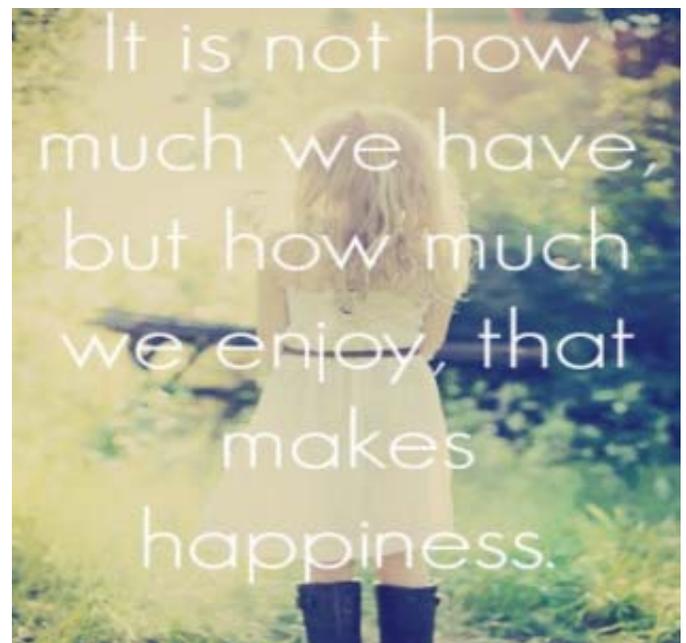
Many people expect happiness as a birthright and become distraught, depressed, and even angry with the world and people around them when sadness prevails; blaming external situations for their unhappiness. Unfortunately, these same people, many times, turn to the pursuit of PLEASURE. Pleasure is a momentary feeling of happiness that comes from something external; such as a good meal, watching a great movie, a physical workout, our 401K going up in value, a drive in the country and so on. This temporary happiness does not last long because it is dependent upon external events and experiences.

Pleasure is correlated with happiness but does not cause it. Ask any drug addict how their pursuit of pleasure turned out.

Happiness is a state of mind. You must first find the happiness that already exists within you, and only then will you find the happiness that you seek. Finding happiness equals pursuing happiness. One of my favorite quotes is from the preamble to our U.S. Declaration of Independence:

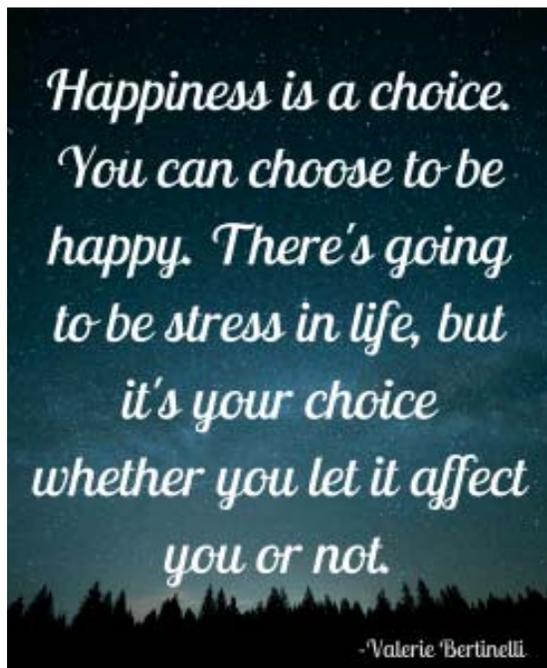
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

*In other words, God has given each of us the gift of happiness. Our job is to pursue this happiness and find the gift. Where is this gift? BETWEEN OUR EARS. I am attempting humor, but our thoughts are the source of happiness. **"You see, thoughts can come into your mind from all sides, but you can choose what will stay and what you will cast out. According to [Dr. Caroline Leaf](#), toxic thoughts—such as stress, worry, fear, anger, and unforgiveness—actually cause damage to the brain. Chemicals are released into the brain, causing chaos and damage. Those toxic thoughts can cause a loss of sleep or of the ability to do your job right, physical illness and more."



*"In a spiritual sense, those toxic thoughts connect you to the curse. But when you guard your mind and your thoughts and keep yourself in an attitude of faith, praise, thanksgiving, and truth, you come over to healing, deliverance, and victory. The Bible is clear about the power of the mind and the power of our thoughts."

*Source: Dr. Caroline Leaf, Author of [Switch On Your Brain: The Key to Peak Happiness, Thinking, and Health.](#)



Many biblical verses guide us in developing positive/healthy thoughts. Below are some examples:

Philippians 4:8 "[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.](#)"

Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Psalm 146:5 "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:"

Proverbs 16:20 "He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he."

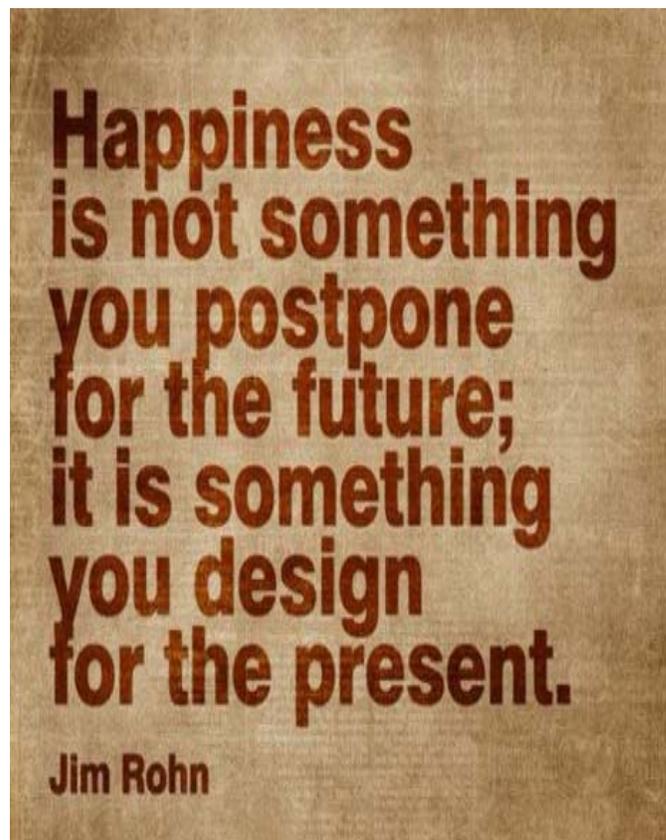
Psalm 139: 23-24 "[Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.](#)"

II Corinthians 10:5 "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" He will help direct our thought selection.

Proverbs 23:7 "[For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:...](#)". With God's Holy Spirit within us, He targets our thought process. Since we are what we think, we conclude that we can become what we believe, as well.

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God..." Capturing and controlling our thoughts requires quiet reflection and prayer.

Without prayer, our carnal thoughts, feelings and emotions will have a chance to prevail. So, pray for purpose, inner power, peace, and happiness will be found. Brothers and Sisters take advantage of God's gift of happiness.



LOVE AND SACRIFICE

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). It was with love and compassion that our Savior sacrificed all the glories of heaven and was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Did He come in all the splendor and glory of heaven? No, He came as a babe, born of parents who had very little of this world’s goods. When He was born, there were no fancy clothes for Him to wear, nor was there a crib with soft downy pillows, but instead our Savior was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

As we follow His life from beginning to end on this earth, we can see very little but love and sacrifice. When He was but twelve years of age, He was found in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors both hearing them and asking them questions. He might have been with the other children had He not desired most of all to be about His Father’s business.

One might think because Jesus was the Son of God that it would not be such a sacrifice for Him to fulfil the mission on which He was sent. But we know that He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. See Hebrews 4:15. Just before His trial and crucifixion, we find Him in the garden agonizing in prayer to the Father, “...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39). It was this experience that enabled our Savior to stand in the hour of trial and to make the supreme sacrifice by His death on the cross.

Isaiah gives a vivid picture of the sacrifice and love of the Master in chapter 53 of his work. It reads as follows: “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity

of us all” (verses 3-6). As Paul tells us in II Corinthians 5:21: “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

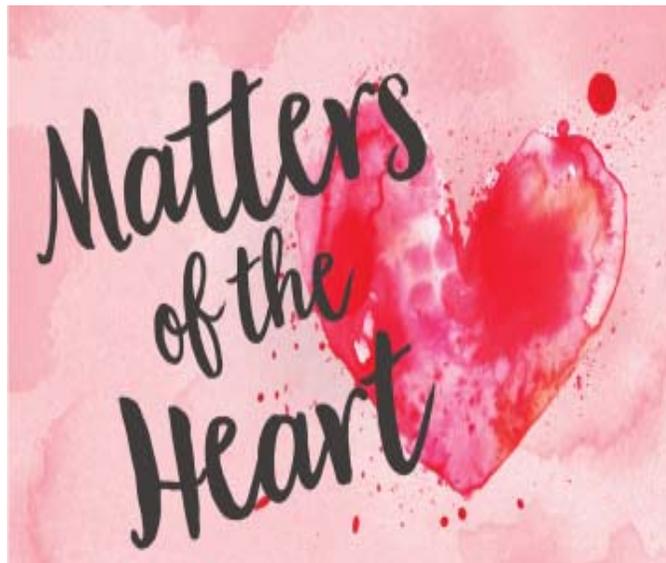
Did Christ murmur or complain because of the trials of the way as so many of us are prone to do? “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth” (Isaiah 53:7). How wonderful was the love and sacrifice of the Master. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

In Philippians 2:4-8, we find, “Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” The apostle further intreats us, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1). Before one is in a place to do this, he must sacrifice the selfish desires of this life and be dead to the world. Things pertaining to God and His kingdom will then be uppermost in his life. “And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 10:38-39). Stephen must have realized this when he made the supreme sacrifice. He must have known that his life was at stake, but he ceased not to declare the Word of God. All who accept the Gospel take upon themselves the obligation to pass its blessings to others. In this way, the work of salvation is extended. Every soul reclaimed from sin God expects to join in the same work for others which lifted him up, and placed his feet upon the Rock. The good things of God are not to be selfishly kept to ourselves. We receive to give. Says Whittier, “The soul is lost that’s saved alone.” And as love prompted God’s great gift, so His love in our hearts will prompt us to give, to minister, and to engage in

loving service for the welfare and happiness of others.

Paul, having testified of the good things of God, was willing to spend and be spent for the salvation of souls. He said, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Philippians 3:7-10). By his own words, we learn that he sacrificed many of the comforts of life for the Gospel's sake which could have so easily been his. "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day" (I Corinthians 4:9-13). To Timothy, his son in the Lord, he wrote: "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those that believe."

Believers, and lovers of the Gospel, let us seek to lay aside everything that might hinder the furtherance of the Gospel and give of our best to the Master. It is true that we cannot all be as Timothy or Paul in service to God, but there is a part for each one of us to do in giving, and loving, and prayer, that those who are called as Timothy and Paul might do their best. You remember that as long as Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed in battle. Moses could not do this alone, but needed help. Then Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands and the battle was won. At the present time, the forces of evil are waging war against the children of God, and how we do need volunteers to sacrifice to go and hold high the blood-stained



By Tommy Herrera Sr.

Hello Brethren, I hope this message finds you in good spirits.

Have you ever found yourself faced with a deep emotional decision or convicted deep in your heart to do something, only to find yourself not doing what you know is right? The matters of the heart are very tricky and sometimes even a little deceptive. We are reminded about this concerning Peter in Matt. 26:31-35. In this passage we see that Peter pledged to Jesus that he was willing to die for Him. We even see that the other disciples felt the same way. But as we know the story, hours later Peter and the disciples rejected Him (Matt 26:69-71). How could they do that? How could they reject Jesus after walking by His side, talking with Him, after seeing all the miracles and healings He performed? So I ask this question to you. When they confessed to Jesus that they would never leave Him and even die with Him, did they mean it with all their heart? Did they really mean what they were saying?

I truly believe that they did. I believe that they were convicted, that they meant it with all their hearts. But why did they fail? Why did they deny knowing Jesus? They denied knowing Jesus because that deep, heartfelt feeling was not enough! It's not enough just to have a deep feeling. We have to also have the capacity or maturity to follow through. You see, you can have the commitment of heart, but without a capacity of heart, you find yourself falling short. This is why we find ourselves many times promising God that we're going to change, but never do.

For example:

“Lord I'll pay tithe next week”

“Lord I'll stop lying”

“Lord I won't sin again”

“Lord I'll never leave you”

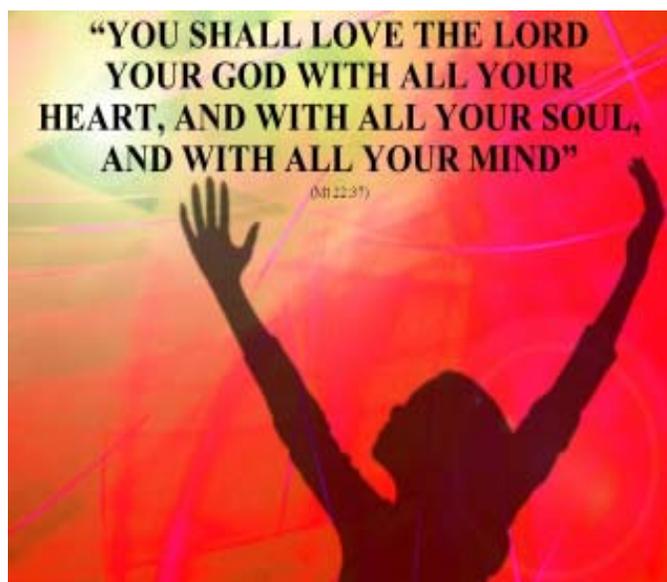
That is making promises to God with all our hearts, but not able to follow through. If you really think about how many times we have rejected the Lord in one way or another, I'm sure we would find ourselves feeling like Peter did when he heard the rooster crow for the second time.

Brethren there is hope for us, but we have to be willing to invest the effort to make change. Looking back at Peter and the other disciples it seems change was instantaneous, but it wasn't, even after Jesus presented himself to them after the resurrection. Jesus found them fishing because their mind could not comprehend what had happened (John 21:1-8). A lot of times our mind is not able to wrap itself around the spiritual things that God expects from us. So what can we do to change? What can we do to increase the capacity of our heart? What must we work on to put on a mindset that will follow through with action required to deliver on our commitment?

Look at what Jesus tells us to do in Luke 10:27. He says to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. He doesn't tell us to only love with all our heart and stop. Jesus is telling us that there are four parts of our

being that have to function together in order to express our love to God completely. A quarter portion is your heart, a quarter portion is your soul, a quarter portion is your mind, and a quarter portion is your strength. It takes effort with all four working together to make a whole heart after God. If not, one will eliminate the other and it will hinder you from fulfilling your commitment. Let us think about how this works.

1) Loving God with all your heart is to love God with all your emotions. We are to praise and worship God with our joy, gratitude, happiness, songs and smiles. But, it also means to worship Him when things are not going so well. When you are sick, hurt, when others have done you wrong, and even when God says no. Love with all your heart at all times.



2) To love God with all your soul is to love God with your spirit, who you are, your life, the essence that makes who you are. Our spirit has to be in tune with His. Remember that God tells us that He created us in His image. So there is a void in you that only God can fill, that's why Hebrews 11:6 tell us we must believe that He is the rewarder of all things. When we have this faith, that God alone is almighty, it can become a game changer. Why? Because God has confessed to your spirit who

you are (Romans 8:14-16). This understanding takes you to a whole new level because it's more than a deep feeling. Have you heard stories about adopted children meeting their biological parents for the first time? They frequently say, "Now I know who I am". You know now, you know that God is your Father, He really exists, that's why you cry out, "Abba, father". You can really trust him now, depend on Him because you know He Is there. But if you have a wavering spirit it will be impossible to love with your heart, mind, and strength because you will always refer back to you and not God.

3) This leads us to loving God with all our mind. All your mind is your thoughts, the way you think and make decisions. Many of the decisions that we make are based on what we feel, what WE think is right. And because we think it's right we continue in the same path as a carnally minded person (Romans 8:5-7). Here in these verses it is not speaking to someone who has not accepted the Lord.

A carnally minded person is someone who has been baptized, who has accepted the Lord but continues thinking like the old man. This is why God's Spirit confessing to our spirit is so important in our growth. Because this newly found trust in God can help us to start making decisions based on what God's Word tells us to do. Again, even the apostles struggled with this: to feel and think in a worldly manner, when Jesus was teaching them to feel and think in a spiritual manner (Luke 17:3-5). Our natural reaction to this passage would be to stop talking to this brother that is being offensive to us, to get mad, to not forgive until they come and ask for your forgiveness. But Jesus tells the disciples to confront the one that offends them and if they repent to forgive them. Ok, I can understand if they offend you one time, but seven times in one day? Wow, I'm getting overwhelmed just thinking about that. LOL. Look at the disciples' reaction in verse five. They said to Jesus, "Help us increase our faith", in other words help us to understand how to forgive a person that offends me seven times in a day.

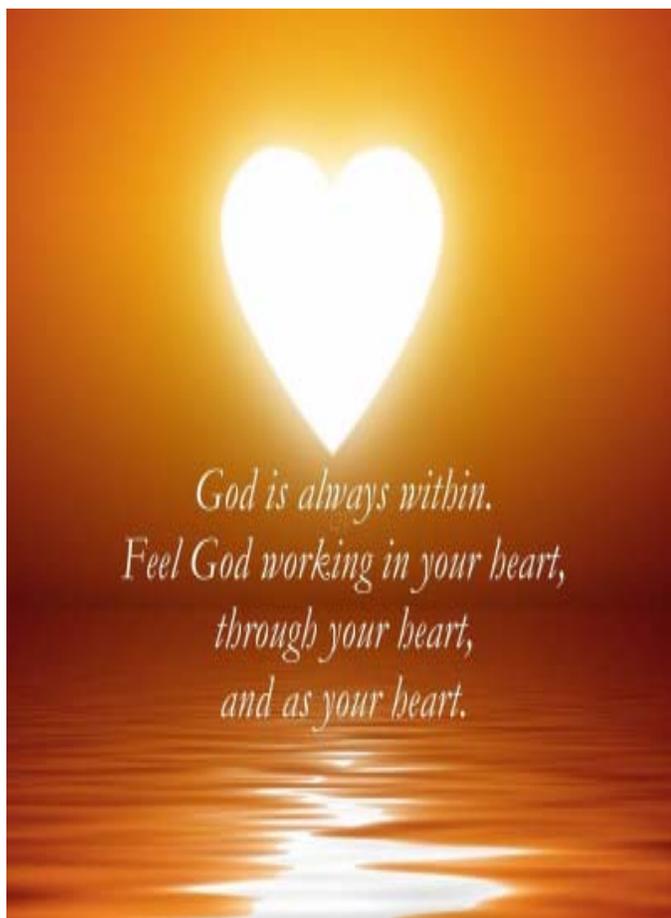
That is spiritual thinking! This is why we have to have a transformation by the renewing of our mind daily with God's Word (Romans 12:2). We have to know God's Word in order to start thinking and making decisions based on what God teaches us. What God teaches is right and not what we think is right. Because our thoughts will lie to us even if we know the truth. Example: We will convince ourselves that it's OK to look at a woman or a man with lustful eyes, as long as we don't touch. But the Lord tells us that we are already in adultery if we do that. Why? Because if our heart harbors evil thoughts then the next action is to carry them out. So brethren let's strive to love the Lord with all our mind as it teaches us in Philippians 4:8.

4) Now, to love God with all your strength is to love with ALL your energy, power and action at all times. Our worship of God should not only be done on Sabbath day but every day. God deserves to be worshiped 24/7. There are some who think that after Sabbath worship they are good for the rest of the week, only waiting for the following week to be cleansed or reenergized again. But our worship isn't just a day of worship, it is a Way Of Life. It does no good to fill your head with knowledge if you don't put it to use. The Apostle Paul tells us that we must not only be a hearer of the Word but a doer. We are also told by Jesus at the Lord's Supper that He was a servant and we must too be servants. How is this possible if we are not active in our faith? Every aspect of our life must mirror our Lord. The way we walk, talk, dress and even the things we eat and drink. Let us present ourselves as a living sacrifice for the Lord (Romans 12:1).

In conclusion, Romans 7: 21 says that even when I'm doing good I'm in the presence of evil, "my flesh". This is why we need our emotions (heart), our trust in God (soul) and our thoughts (mind) in check. So that we are able to mortify the deeds of the body and walk in the Spirit (Romans 8:12,13). This process in our life will help

us to mature and the capacity of our heart to increase therefore having the heart to fulfill the will of God .

"Now, to love God with all your strength is to love with ALL your energy, power and action at all times. Our worship of God should not only be done on Sabbath day but every day. God deserves to be worshiped 24/7. There are some who think that after Sabbath worship they are good for the rest of the week, only waiting for the following week to be cleansed or reenergized again. But our worship isn't just a day of worship, it is a Way Of Life."



AN IMPOTENT MAN HEALED

Memory Verse: "...Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14).

Let us imagine we were invisibly following Jesus at the time He went to the pool of Bethesda. Around this pool, we see five porches and many people there who needed healing. There are blind folk, lame or crippled folk, and others in a sad condition. Jesus looks at them with pity.

Jesus comes up to a certain impotent man, that is, a man who was possibly so crippled he could hardly move about. He had this infirmity for thirty-eight years, and it seems on one cared to help him. You see, these folks thought they would be healed if they were the first to step into this pool at a certain time.

The Master asked this poor man, "Wilt thou be made whole?"--do you want to be cured? He replied that no one would help him into the pool, and that others had always gotten ahead of him. He didn't know who Jesus was or what He could do--so it appears. Then we hear Jesus say, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." We watch the man obey immediately and are delighted to see he is healed, and great joy comes over him.

Let us remember that while Jesus was and is always interested in having people accept Him so He can give them eternal life, He is also interested in our welfare while we are in these our mortal bodies. When we are sick, He does not overlook us as though it means nothing to us. Hebrews 4:15 tells us Jesus can be "touched with the feeling of our infirmities." He has pity for us, but He wants us not only to call on Him, but to do so in faith believing He can heal us. Can't we have more faith in His great healing power?

--From An old Sabbath School Lesson

A short New Year's thought
**WAIT UPON THE LORD
DURING
THE YEAR 2020**

Bond Tennant

God's children are often perplexed as to why the Lord continues to permit injustice and wickedness to flourish in the earth. The wicked are often the ones who prosper while the meek and the pure suffer. Read Psalm 94:1-7 and Malachi 3:14-15. Man's inhumanity to man makes countless children of God mourn.

It is in answer to this quandary of His people that the Prophet Zephaniah records these words, "...Wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy" (Zephaniah 3:8). This tells us that at no time has God been unmindful of conditions in the earth which are so contrary to His will. He has proposed to rid the earth of all the corrupt ways of man which are largely responsible for the world's problems.

Isaiah 42:13 tells us, "The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies."

May all of God's children continue to wait upon the Lord during the year 2020 and beyond!

NO OTHER PLAN

It is a silly optimism which presumes that the Church will somehow succeed in spite of the lack of support from its members. While God is absolutely sovereign and

unlimited in power, His Church will be adequately established only through His people. God has chosen to make it that way. He depends upon men, women, boys, and girls to become instruments through which He will save the world.

An imaginary conversation between Jesus and Gabriel at the time of our Lord's return to heaven has been supposed by S. D. Gordon. "Master," asked the archangel, did you not die for the whole world down there?" "Yes," responded Christ. "Do they all know about it?" asked Gabriel. "Oh, no, only a few in Palestine thus far." "Well, Master, how will they know? What is your plan?" Smiling, Jesus said, "I asked Peter, John, James, and little Andrew to make it their business to tell others and so to pass it on." "But suppose Peter fails? Suppose John and James become weary and neglect to tell others? Suppose their descendants in the twentieth century get so busy they fail to pass on the good news?" Quietly but very clearly, the Master spoke, "Gabriel, I haven't made any other plan, I am counting on them."

Church history gives graphic testimony to the fact that the progress of the Church is always conditioned by its members. When they abuse their religious privileges or throw their spiritual obligations to the wind and expect God to make up for their error in some mysterious way, they are sadly disillusioned. When church members write decay and death upon the church services by their failure to actively participate in the Kingdom work of Christ, they need not expect that the Church will succeed. No church can possibly sustain itself without the aid of its members.

In John 15 Jesus made clear the relationship which believers have to Him and to the world. Christ is the true vine and remains the ultimate source of life. The branches, however, are necessary extensions from the vine by which the fruit is produced. It is the responsibility of the branches, or the believers, to constantly produce an abundance of fruit in keeping with divine source.

Through the centuries, God ceaselessly sought to perfect the Church by cleansing it from its impurities and stimulating it toward greater goals.

--Reprinted

DANDY DESIGNS - Planting Trees

From Does God Exist?

For plants to grow, there must be soil, moisture, and the planting of the seeds. Many places have moisture, and the soil that could support plant life, but how do you get the seeds to that area? The solution is God's horticulture system.

Around the interstate highway system in our area (southern lower Michigan), we see the growth of red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*). These desirable trees are slow growing and can become valuable timber. The state does not plant trees, and yet many red cedars are growing along our highways.

The animals planting those evergreens are birds. The cedars provide valuable habitats for the birds, and the birds plant the trees. Cedars produce blue berries that the birds eat. If you put one in your mouth, you would cringe at its bitter taste and obnoxious consistency. Birds eat them with zeal and in large quantities. Birds get nutrition from the berries, and their digestive systems are specifically designed to process the seeds for growth. The birds drop the seeds along with natural fertilizer in barren places. Birds and trees benefit from this symbiosis in God's horticulture system.

Other important seeders are squirrels. They are designed to bury seeds such as acorns, but their brain limitation causes them to forget a percentage of the seeds they bury. The design of fruits and nuts provide nutrition for animal life while the animals provide a means for the plants to grow in places far from their ancestors.

When scientists look at the diet of dinosaurs by examining their petrified excrement, they find that dinos were the seeders of their day. The plant-eating dinosaurs spread the seeds of the plants they ate along with nutrients that allowed fantastic jungles to form. The meat-eating dinosaurs kept the population of plant eaters under control so they would not eat all the plants.

When we look at all the different kinds of seeds, the nutrients they contain, and where they can grow, we see a plan and design. Humans are still learning how to copy God's horticulture system to feed our growing population.

Case Dismissed!

(An allegory of my conversion)

By David DeLong

Once, I was a forlorn sinner,
Breaking faith with God's dear Law;
But, I became a blessed winner
When, my Savior, I then saw.

Then, kneeling in the Court of Heaven
With my Savior by my side;
It's then, this plea for me was given:
Upon the cross, for him, I died.

And when the cries of condemnation
Echoed from the great abyss;
Then, countered Christ with jubilation:
He's bathed in Blood of righteousness!

And when the searching Eyes of Heaven
Found no stain on my life's page;
It's then, the keys of death were riven,
Releasing me from Satan's cage.

And when the demons of destruction
Shook at me their vengeful fist;
The air went out, as from a suction,
God's gavel pounded, "Case dismissed!"



Returning To One's Folly

By David DeLong

"As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly" (Proverbs 26:11). This proverb brings to mind a most disgusting picture. As a boy I remember such an episode as I saw a dog do just that. It is forever etched in my mind. What is even more disgusting, however, is what the second part of the proverb brings out, "so a fool returneth to his folly."

The Apostle Peter, when referring to false teachers who shall come among God's people, had this to say: "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (II Peter 2:18-22).

There are some in a Sabbatarian church that I know of who wish "to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." They have come to believe that tithing is optional, that eating unclean meats is optional, celebrating pagan holidays are optional, and even the keeping of the holy, seventh day Sabbath is optional. The writing of Peter in the above text says that "it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment".

Such believers who have once been enlightened to the truth of God's Word need to be careful to hold on to that truth. We are severely warned in Hebrews 6:4-6: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made

partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." When Jesus forgave the woman taken in adultery He also gave her this strict command: "...Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

The sin which Christ came to earth to take away is based upon the breaking of the Law of God. I John 3:4 reads: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." Deuteronomy 4:13 informs us: "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." And in Revelation 22:14 we find: "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." We must keep all of God's commandments that He has given to us.

We must remember that the Lord gave two sets of commandments in His Word. One set is the Ten Commandments. The second set was the law of Moses. In Deuteronomy chapter 5, immediately after the Lord gave to Moses the Ten Commandments, we find in verse 22: "These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me." God "added no more" to the Ten Commandments. They are a unit of Law unto themselves. They are a moral Law, written with the finger of God on two tables of stone, thus signifying their permanency. The unit of law known as the law of Moses was dictated to Moses by God and was written down by Moses on a scroll of parchment with a pen and ink. This signifies that

this unit of law was only temporary. It was abolished when Jesus died on the cross. The books of Galatians and Hebrews generally address this law of Moses. Romans and James generally address the Ten Commandments.

How do we know this? The books of the Bible give us the clues to which law is being addressed. For example, Romans chapter 7, verse 7 says: "What shall we say then? is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Therefore, we know that the Ten Commandment law is being addressed. Likewise, James 2:10-12 tells us: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." Again, this is the Ten Commandment Law.

Now, when we go to the book of Galatians chapter 3, verse 10, we read: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." Therefore, we know that this text is referring to the book of the law which is the law of Moses. In Hebrews we also find such clues. Chapter 8, verses 4-5, in speaking about Jesus, reads: "For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." This law has to do with the tabernacle service which, again, is the law of Moses.

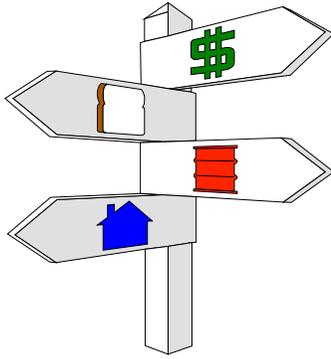
Hebrews 9:9-10 refers to this law of Moses. These verses read: "Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation." This law was made up of "carnal ordinances" (fleshly ordinances) because they involved sacrifices of animals, etc. They were only in effect

"until the time of reformation." This is when Jesus came and ended them with His death on the cross. Therefore, Ephesians 2:15 tells us: "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace". This law of commandments contained in ordinances were the "carnal ordinances" of Hebrews 9:10, which involved animal sacrifices, and thus were of the law of Moses. This law has been abolished, but not the Ten Commandments which was a law of righteousness and of liberty (see James 2:12).

Any law, or ordinance, which contained animal sacrifices has been done away. This includes the seven feast days given to Israel. Someone might object and say that sacrifices were done on the Sabbath day (see Numbers 28:9-10). So shouldn't the Sabbath day be abolished, too? When the law of Moses was abolished by Christ on the cross the sacrificial law was abolished. However, the Ten Commandment Law is still valid with the observance of the seventh day Sabbath. No sacrifices are mentioned in the Ten Commandments.

Earlier, we implied that tithing and the law of the clean and unclean are still binding on us today. Though they are not of the Ten Commandment Law they are still binding on Christians as moral laws. Why? Because they were under the Melchizedek Priesthood of Abraham's day and Christ is after the order of Melchizedek today (see Genesis 14:18-20 and Hebrews 7:15-21). The Ten Commandments, tithing, and the law of the clean and unclean were all under the Melchizedek Priesthood of Abraham's day. Abraham kept God's commandments (Genesis 26:5); he paid tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:20); and the law of the clean and unclean was even in effect at Noah's time (Genesis 7:1-8), and will still be in effect when Jesus comes again (Isaiah 66:15-17).

Some of God's law abiding saints are being fooled by false teachers who are teaching a form of Gnostic Christianity. They believe, and teach, that we are not under any of God's commandments today, Mosaic or otherwise. Please don't be fooled by these false teachers. The law of Moses has been abolished, but not God's moral laws. Let us be diligent to keep them. Otherwise, we may be like the dog that returns to eat its vomit!



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.

PONDER THIS

In many circles today, the plain teaching of the Bible regarding the fall of man and his present state of separation from God are made light of and discounted as too primitive a belief to be retained in modern theology. The authenticity of the Genesis account of the entrance of sin into the world is often rejected by labeling the book as mythology, noteworthy only for its literary style. Instead, man is pictured as making steady progress toward the sublime state as a result of his own exalted efforts. However, the Scriptures view the matter much differently!

GROWING HUMAN ORGANS

I read that researchers in Japan aim to grow human pancreases in rats. They believe that this project carries the potential for a futuristic resolution to the shortage of organs and organ donors.

THE MILITARY

It is reported that the military pool of recruits is drying up. There's even competition from within. Seventy one percent of Americans ages 17 to 24 are ineligible to join the military because of obesity, lack of a high school diploma or a criminal record, according to 2017 data.

Comment

Where will the military get the recruits required to keep it strong as many member troops serve their time and return to civilian life? Would the draft system have to be restored?

FLYING CARS

I read that flying cars might be closer than we think. Sometime ago we featured that inexpensive helicopters that take people above the fray of traffic congestion is on

the horizon. We have often seen flying cars in the comic pages.

STILL RECOVERING

Some still feel the blow of the Great Recession. The following is a portion of an article from **USA Today**. "There have been many advances, but they are uneven. Older, college educated, white and higher-earning individuals have recovered the best, while the financial fortunes of younger people, lower earners, those with no college degree and African-Americans improved more slowly.

"We've seen an impressive recovery on important measures, but certain groups continue to struggle," says Gerri Walsh, senior vice president of investor education at FINRA. "We're entering into a new normal where even as the economy improves, financial capability is not keeping pace for all Americans."

CHILDHOOD POVERTY

A report on childhood well-being shows that the number of children living in poverty has swelled over the past three decades in fast-growing, ethnically diverse states such as Texas, Arizona and Nevada as the nation's population center shifts south and west.

MASS SHOOTINGS

According to a newspaper article, there were 251 mass shootings in just 216 days. The most recent two have been in Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas. The Dayton incident left at least nine dead and more than two dozen injured.

The second mass shooting was at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas. It was crammed with people who were doing school shopping. This incident left 20 dead and 26 injured.

FIGHTING HATE IN AMERICA

I read an article in a local weekly newspaper that stated two legislators and representatives gathered one morning to speak on House Resolution 3545 which is called the “National Opposition to Hate, Assault and Threats of Equality Act of 2019”. It is also called the “No Hate Act”. It was sponsored by one Republican congressman and one Democratic senator which makes it bipartisan.

It stated that the leaders and members of the public met at the historic St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church, which was founded by former slaves in 1869. It was almost destroyed by a suspected hate crime in 2006 when a large portion of the building was lost to arson and only the sanctuary was saved.

The pastor of the church said “Evil, again is not only hatred, but it’s a disease. The CDC annually reports on different diseases within our country, but it does not report on hatred and hatred is something – it is a disease and it can be eradicated.”

The proposed legislation would provide grants to states wishing to set up hotlines for the purpose of hate crimes, and grants for state and local entities to report hate crimes into the National Incident-Based Reporting System to monitor the Nationwide prevalence of hate crimes.

Comment

There is a dark cloud of hate hanging over America and the world more so now than in earlier years. At least that is the way it seems! Consider that hate is a main device of Satan.

II Corinthians 2:11 states, “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” We know that this is just speaking to children of God. Satan has the advantage of hate in the hearts of all others in the world. They have never stopped to think what the devices of Satan are.

Ephesians 6:10-13 states, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Satan). For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,

(Satan and evil angels) against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

Hate will be eradicated, but not by man. It will be eradicated by the establishment of the Kingdom of God when it covers the whole world.

A True Witness

"A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies" (Proverbs 14:25). We may relate this verse to a witness speaking under oath in a court of law. And it does pertain to such a situation. But, more than that, this verse speaks to every day believers teaching the truth of God's Word to everyone they have opportunity to do so.

First, a true witness will always speak the truth of God's Word and will not be silent. To be silent in not speaking the truth can be just as devastating as telling an outright lie. For example, we may witness someone telling a dirty joke and not say anything against it. Worse yet, we may even laugh at the joke. Or, someone is using foul language and cursing the Lord's name, and we just ignore it. A true witness will lovingly address these issues. It is not good enough to think that we may offend someone by confronting them. We offend the Lord by keeping silent.

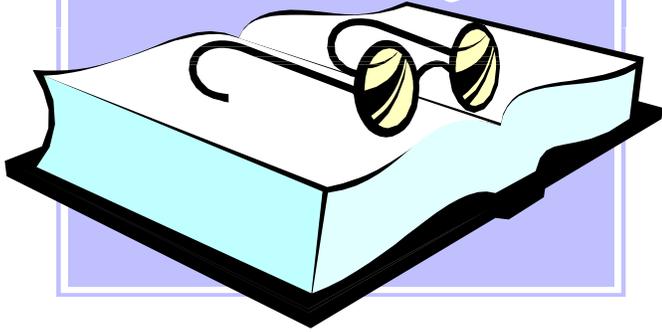
Second, a true witness will be always ready to give an answer to everyone who asks him or her about their faith. Let us never be ashamed of our faith, but be willing to lovingly defend it. This will take a lot of Bible study on our part so that we can readily speak the truth to others. Many objections will be given by others to what we believe, so we will need to be prepared to truly answer them back.

As the proverb indicates, "A true witness delivereth souls..." By speaking up for God's truth when we have opportunity to do so does deliver some souls. Some will reflect upon what we have told them and will repent and change. Others, of course will not. But we should leave the results of our witnessing to the Lord. Our job is to be a true witness.

Let us be like the Lord Jesus who is called "...the faithful and true witness..." (Revelation 3:14), who always spoke up for the truth of God's Word.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: When did the Apostle Paul write II Timothy, and what was Paul's circumstance at that time?

ANSWER: The Apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy was written during his second imprisonment at Rome. He was soon to end his earthly course in death, and these are among his last written words. His wise admonition and counsel represented many years of experience and hardship in the narrow way of sacrifice, and in preaching the truth to those who had an ear to hear his message.

QUESTION: What is just one Scripture that proves that Jesus had an existence before coming to earth?

ANSWER: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" (John 17:5).

QUESTION: Will you please comment from a biblical standpoint why it is wrong to compare ourselves with others?

ANSWER: The *Contemporary English Version* of the Bible renders Galatians 6:4 as "Do your own work well, and then you will have something to be proud of. But don't compare yourself with others."

We may like to compare ourselves with others—sometime with those who have less than we have, often with those who are stronger, wealthier, or more talented than we are. Either way, the effect is negative. We must

Questions and Answers

not assume that a person's wealth is determined by what he has or what he is able to do. When we do this, we may stir up feelings of envy and a spirit of competition.

Let us see ourselves as God sees us. We should allow His view to influence our sense of self-worth. "... the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). God gauges our worth, not by comparing ourselves with some other humans, but by reading our hearts, examining our thoughts, feelings, and intentions. See Hebrews 4:12-13. God understands our limitations and urges us to respect them too. If we measure our own worth by comparing ourselves with others, we will end up either haughty or chronically discontented. We should accept that we will not excel in every endeavor. "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (Proverbs 11:2).

What must we do to have value in God's eyes? The Prophet Micah was inspired to write, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8) Let us heed that advice.

QUESTION: As children of God, how are we to live for others?

ANSWER: The Apostle Paul writes to the Church of God at Corinth telling them not to be stumbling blocks to others. They must not do anything which would hinder or harm others. They were to do nothing that would offend or cause others to stumble. Listen to Paul's words, "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak." Paul told the children of God at Corinth his own rule of life, "Wherefore,

if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth lest I make my brother to offend" (I Corinthians 8:9,13).

God wants each one of His children to be good examples to others. We are never to do those things which hinder or harm others. We are to do nothing that will hinder them in following the Lord Jesus. The Bible says, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Timothy 4:12; "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works..." (Titus 2:7).

On the tombstone of a little girl were these words: "It was easier to be good when Mary was with us." Is it easy for others to follow Jesus when you are with them? Are you a good example to others? Are you careful not to offend or hinder others in following Jesus? One day, two little boys were getting ready to go to a birthday party. They had washed their hands and faces and put on their best clothes. While they were brushing their hair, Mother said to them, "I want you to be good boys at the party. I want you to remember to whom you belong!" The little boys went to the party. They remembered to whom they belonged. They remembered their mother and were kind and good and polite. We must remember to whom we belong. If we belong to the Lord Jesus and are called His children, we must be careful to bring only glory and honor to Jesus. We must never do anything or say anything that will bring shame to Him.

A young man in China was studying the life of Jesus. He said to an American, "Your Jesus is wonderful! How sad it is that you Americans are not like Him!" God wants us to be like the Lord Jesus. He wants us to be honest, obedient, truthful, loving, and kind. He wants us to live without sin. He wants us to do only the things that will honor Him.

I must be like Jesus. You must be like Jesus every day if we want to please Him. We must be like Jesus at home, at school, at work, at relaxation. One day a neighbor said across the fence, "I know that George down the street has become a child of God." I asked, "How do you know that George became a Christian?" The neighbor said, "I know he became converted because now he acts differently than he used to. He used to be selfish, now he

pays his share of the gasoline we use going to work. He does not use bad language any more like he used to. He does not take things home from the factory in his dinner pail like he used to. He thanks the Lord before he eats his meal. He helps his associate to finish up at the bench when he gets behind. He encourages others to become Children of God. He does not get angry anymore. I just know he is a changed man from observing his actions."

Let us be careful to keep our lives pure and clean and shining so others will not stumble over us. The Psalmist said, "Blessed is the man that does not stand in the way of sinners" (Psalm 1:1). A blind man went about carrying a lighted lantern on his arm. He could not see its light, but he carried it to keep others from stumbling over him. Let us remember the words of the Apostle Paul, "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak."

QUESTION: Matthew 28:18 says, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Will you please comment on the power that Jesus had after His resurrection?

ANSWER: When Jesus was crucified, His clothing was divided among the Roman soldiers on guard and lots were cast for His seamless robe. He was wrapped in "linen clothes" for burial. Now He suddenly appeared to Mary dressed as a gardener. She did not recognize His features. Not until He spoke her name in the old familiar manner to which she was accustomed did she realize that it was her Master. From where came the clothes of a gardener? Let us say that the "all power" which Jesus possessed included an ability to create. He also used this power to assume a body in which He could appear to and communicate with Mary.

Then there was the experience of the two disciples who, while on the way to Emmaus, were joined by the resurrected Jesus. They did not recognize Him. Not until He asked the blessing at the evening meal did they realize who their journeying companion had been. Then He vanished from their sight. Perhaps it was His familiar way of asking the blessing upon the meal that revealed His identity to them. This was a different-appearing body and different clothing. Here, also was the ability to "vanish out of their sight." Please read Luke 24: 13-31.



Salem, West Virginia

Sister Pearl Golden and brother Dave DeLong at the Salem University Fair, 2019.



The Congo, Africa, part II



Apostle Henry Miroro preaching in the Congo, and with a Church choir.



A gathering of children in the Congo.

LESSON I

SAMUEL RECOGNIZED AS A PROPHET

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 3:1-21.

Golden Text: I Samuel 3:10.

“And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.”

NOTE: In our last session, we learned how the sons of Eli, the priest were very wicked. The Lord told Eli that his sons would die and that He would raise up a faithful priest that would do according to His way. We shall study now how Samuel became a prophet of the Lord.

1. When Samuel lay down to sleep who called Samuel? I Samuel 3:3-4.
2. What did Samuel do, and who did he think had called to him? I Samuel 3:5.
3. Who called to Samuel a second time, and did Samuel know yet who was calling him? I Samuel 3:6-7.
4. Did the Lord call Samuel the third time? I Samuel 3:8.
5. What did Eli advise Samuel to do after the Lord called the third time? I Samuel 3:9.
6. Samuel answered the Lord the next time He called. What did the Lord tell Samuel? I Samuel 3:10-14.
7. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what the Lord had said to him. When Eli called Samuel to find out what the Lord had said, Did Samuel tell him? I Samuel 3:15-18.
8. Did all Israel know that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord? I Samuel 3:19-20.

LESSON II

THE ARK CAPTURED BY THE PHILISTINES

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 4:1-22.

Golden Text: I Samuel 4:11.

“And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.”

NOTE: We learned in our last session how the Lord called Samuel and appeared to him through a vision. Samuel is now prophet and priest for Israel.

1. Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. How many were slain in this battle? I Samuel 4:1-2.
2. What did the leaders of Israel think would save them out of the hand of the enemy? I Samuel 4:3.
3. Did they bring the ark of the covenant into the camp? I Samuel 4:5.
4. When the Philistines heard their shouting, were they afraid, and what did they do? I Samuel 4:6-9.
5. Did the Philistines again fight Israel, and what happened to the ark of the covenant? I Samuel 4:10-11.
6. How old was Eli at that time? I Samuel 4:15.
7. When a messenger told Eli that his two sons had been killed and that the ark had been captured, what happened to Eli? I Samuel 4:17-18.
8. What happened to Phinehas' wife in I Samuel 4:19-20?
9. What was the name of her son, and what did this name mean? I Samuel 4:21-22.

LESSON III

THE ARK OF GOD;

A CURSE TO THE PHILISTINES

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 5:1-12.

Golden Text: I Samuel 5:6 (first part).

“But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod...”

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned the Philistines captured the ark of God. We shall study now how God punished them for taking His ark.

1. Where did the Philistines take the ark after they captured it? I Samuel 5:1.

2. Into whose house did they take it, and who did it set by? I Samuel 5:2.

NOTE: Dagon was a God of the Philistines.

3. What did Dagon do before the ark of the Lord, and what happened to him? I Samuel 5:3-4.

4. How did the Lord punish the men of Ashdod? I Samuel 5:6.

5. When the men of Ashdod saw what was happening to them, what did they do with the ark? I Samuel 5:7-8.

6. What did God do then to the city of Gath? I Samuel 5:9.

7. Where did they take the ark then to try to escape punishment from God? I Samuel 5:10.

8. Did God bring destruction upon the city of Ekron? I Samuel 5:11-12.

3. What was the trespass offering to consist of? I Samuel 6:7-8.

4. What were they to make to place the ark on? I Samuel 6:7-8.

5. What is said about the ark's trip to Beth-shemesh? I Samuel 6:9.

6. What did the people at Beth-shemesh do with the ark? I Samuel 6:15.

7. Did the Lord punish the men of Beth-shemesh? I Samuel 6:19-20.

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

“In thee, O LORD,

Do I put my trust:

Let me never be put

To confusion.” Psalm 71:1

LESSON IV

THE PHILISTINES RETURN THE ARK

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 6:1-21.

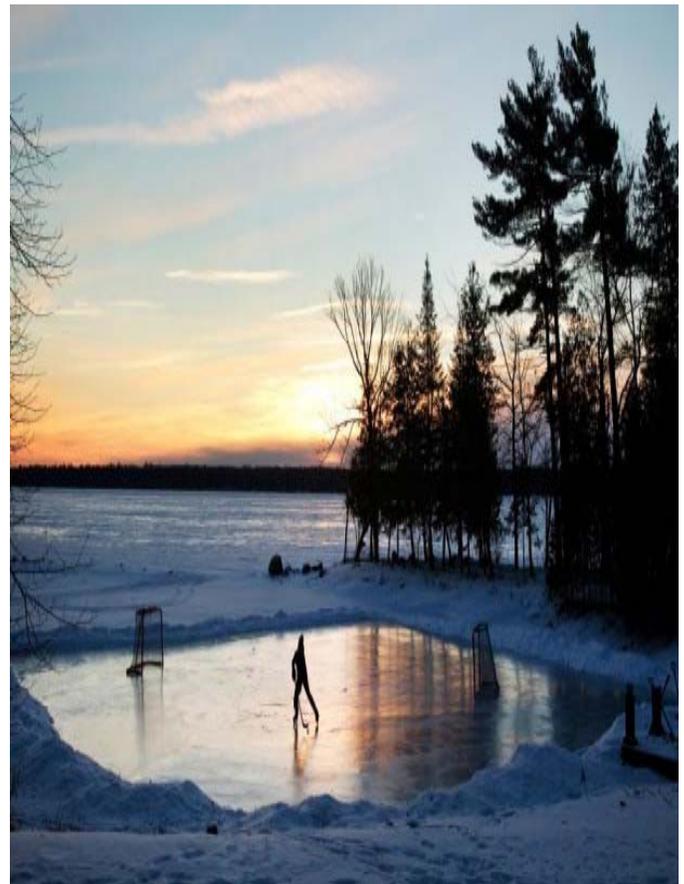
Golden Text: I Samuel 6:8.

“And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.”

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson how God smote the Philistines for taking the ark. Now let us study about the return of the ark and how those who were curious were smitten by God.

1. How long was the ark of the Lord in the hands of the Philistines? I Samuel 6:1.

2. The Philistines called for the priests to ask what they should do with the ark of the Lord. What did the priests tell them to do? I Samuel 6:2-3.





THIN ICE

by Janet Craig James

As Larry trudged up Beacon Hill, he met Evan Hughes, the big boy who lived next door. Larry wanted to be exactly like Evan when he grew up. Evan was tall with a friendly grin. He played on the football team, and he never teased the younger boys.

"that is a fine looking pair of new skates you have got there," said Evan as he stopped for a moment. "I thought you were not going to get any until your birthday."

"My others were so small that I could not get them on, so Dad said I could have my new ones now," replied Larry happily.

"Just as long as you do not try them out on Miller's Pond," said Evan as he turned ot go. "Everyone has been warned about skating there. The ice is too thin."

"Um-m-" muttered Larry under his breath, and he kept on climbing Beacon Hill.

He waited until Evan was out of sight, and then he turned into the path that led to the pond. He had been going to skate there, and it certainly wouldn't do any harm just to take a look at the ice.

Miller's Pond looked perfect for skating. Larry walked around the edge, and thought, I am sure it is perfectly safe, even though he saw a sign that said, "No skating. Thin ice."

Larry sat down in the snow and started putting on his skates. There would be no harm in skating just around the edges. Then he would go home.

As he skated swiftly, Larry felt more sure of himself. He tried to skate backwards, and before he knew it, he found himself right in the middle of the pond.

He had not meant to skate out so far, and he started skating back. Under his feet the ice went "Crack!" And before he could see himself, he plunged in the icy water. He tried to hold himself up with ice but it broke uner his weight.

"Help! Help" he screamed, and his heart gave a bound as he heard a voice reply, "Hold on, I am coming, Larry. Try to keep still." It was Evan Huges, putting one foot carefully after the other as he crawled across the icy pond. Larry's teeth were chattering, but he kept as still as he could . Evan laid down on the ice and began crawling toward him, his arm outstretched.

Larry's heart pounded as Evan came nearer and nearer. At last he was able to clasp Evan's hand, and very, very, slowly, Evan pulled him out of the chilly water.

He was safe! Larry could hardly believe it. How foolish he had been to skate on Miller's Pond. He knew it was wrong, but he had gone ahead anyway. Standing shivering in his wet clothers, he looked at Evan and thought if Evan had not saved me, I would never have been able to save myself. He might even have drowned, and it would have been all his fault.

"Thank you, Evan," he gasped. "I am sorry I did it. How did you know where I was?"

Evan smiled.

"Even though you said you were not going to the pond, I could not be sure, so I thought I would just check up on you. Let us run home before you catch cold." As they sped home, Larry remembered someone else who had given His life to save others -- Jesus. And he was glad his friend, Evan, had not to suffer for Larry's wrongdoing also.



Names of Jesus

Look up the verses below to find some different names Jesus was given.

Hebrews 6:19 I Peter 2:8 Revelation 5:5 II Peter 1:19 John 10:9 Hosea 14:5
Isaiah 4:2 Jeremiah 2:13 John 1:29 John 9:5 Isaiah 53:2

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is
LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFEREING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS,
FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE:
against such there is no law."*



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PERFECT TRUSTING

*I cannot understand
The why and wherefore of a thousand things;
The crosses, the arrogances and the daily stings,
I cannot understand,
But I can trust.*

*For perfect trusting, perfect comfort brings,
I cannot see the end;
The hidden meanings of each trial sent,
The pattern into which each tangled thread is bent,
I cannot see the end,
But I can trust.*

*In God's Changeless Love,
I am content.*

--George A. Tyson

