

The Advocate of Truth

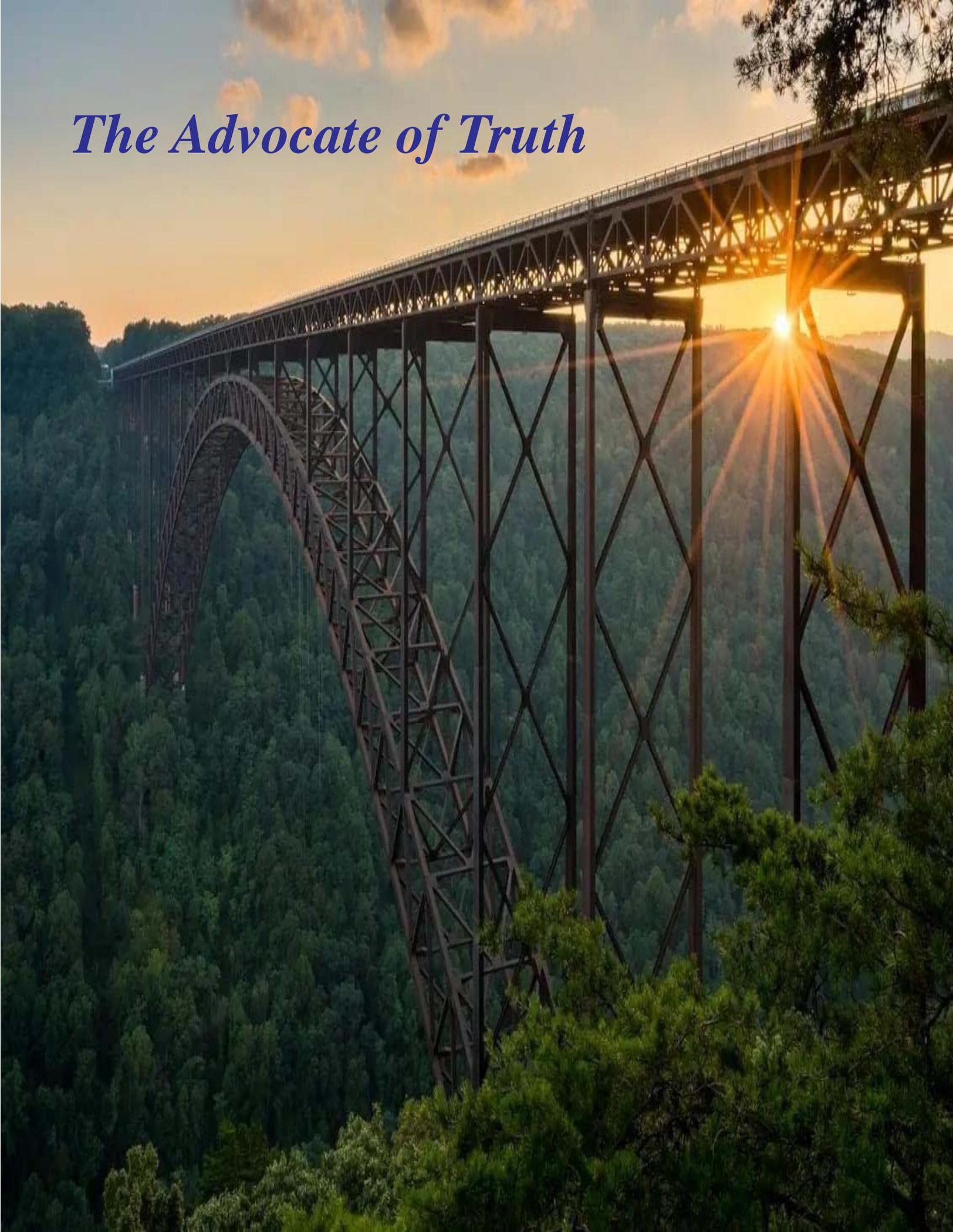




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The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

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

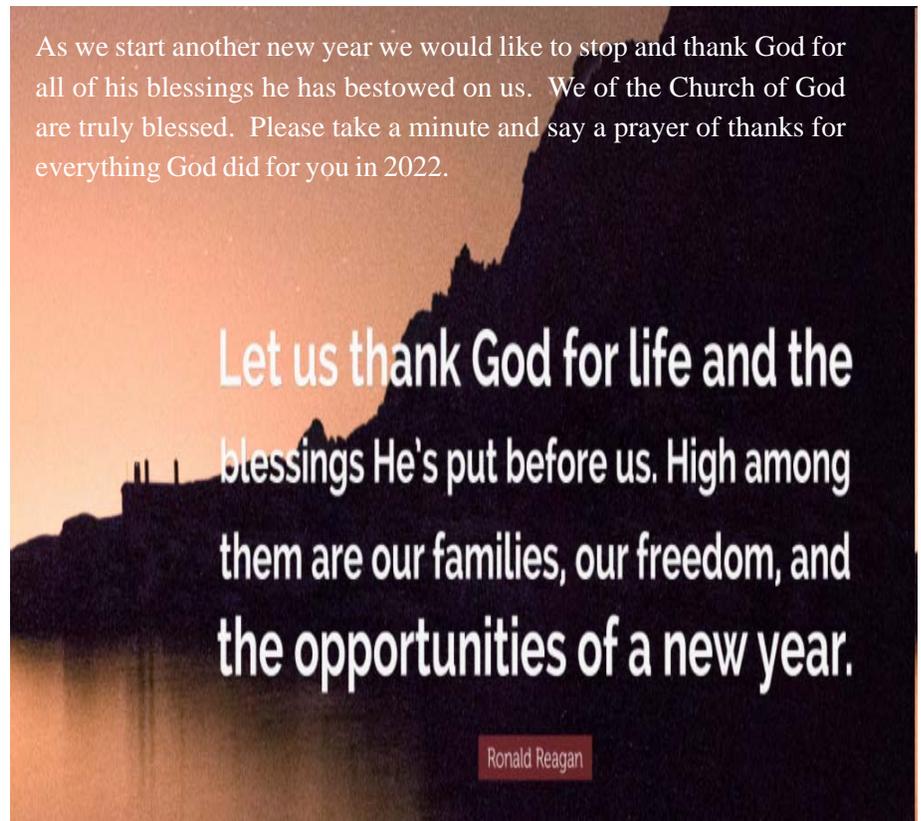
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Volume LXXI Number 8
January, 2023
The Advocate of Truth
USPS 542-940



As we start another new year we would like to stop and thank God for all of his blessings he has bestowed on us. We of the Church of God are truly blessed. Please take a minute and say a prayer of thanks for everything God did for you in 2022.

Let us thank God for life and the blessings He's put before us. High among them are our families, our freedom, and the opportunities of a new year.

Ronald Reagan



A Matter of Conscience

By: Alfonso Telesca

What is a conscience? As a general definition it can be the inner sense of what is right or wrong in one's conduct or motives, impelling you toward what is right. It can also be the complex of ethical and moral principles that controls or inhibits the actions or thoughts of an individual towards a sense of what is prudent. As children of God, we understand that it goes deeper.

In the world we live in, there are those who do not know or acknowledge the Word or Law of God. The absence of His Word and not knowing the Lord or having the Holy Spirit doesn't mean we don't know right from wrong. In Romans 2:14-15, we are told:

“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;”).

Here we see the apostle explaining that the Gentiles, who don't have the law, naturally have a law inside of them. Whether they do right or wrong, that is up to them, but they in fact have that sense “programmed” into them. There are good people in the world, who do many charitable deeds. They donate money to the most needy, they give of their time to help others out and always try to do the right thing. This is commendable in many ways, but some of these people do not feel they need the Lord in their lives. This shows us that there are people who have

a moral compass or conscience without the Lord. The Lord has put this in all mankind from their creation.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:27).

Being made in His image includes knowing right from wrong as the Lord sees it because that is part of His nature. The fall of man has prevented us from acknowledging that this is from Him, thus separating us from Him.

There is a thought that comes to mind when I think of a conscience. The story of the little cricket acting as Pinocchio's conscience. Try as he may to lead him to the right path, the wooden boy ends up eluding him. Our conscience is also that little voice that urges righteousness inside of us and it is often ignored. We may let our conscience guide us as the saying goes, but we must be careful of whom we are actually listening to. Jeremiah 17:9 warns us:

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

That is if we are only guided by the heart of this sinful flesh that dwells in us, we can go astray. The Bible also speaks of a conscience being corrupted:

“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;” (I Timothy 4:2). “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled” (Titus 1:15).

It also speaks of a good conscience being preserved:

“Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ” (I Peter 3:16).

We begin our lives with a good conscience, but it becomes corrupted through the sin that dwells in this flesh since the fall of man and through learned experiences of sin that we acquire along the way. But we are still urged by His Word to preserve our good conscience. In addition as children of God, we have something more powerful inside of us, the Holy Spirit of God. Romans 8:26-27 says:

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

The Spirit leads us in ways our conscience never could, it carries more influence in our lives, it gives us a power that we’ve never had before and it transforms us. Ephesians 3:16-19, tells us:

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

Understanding this gives us an advantage beyond that of your average “good person” who does not acknowledge the Lord.

God speaks to us in many ways. I would call it His “still small voice” that Elijah experienced in 1 Kings 19:11-13:

“And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a

voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?”

We sometimes expect God to speak to us in thunderous ways like a great wind, an earthquake or great fire, but most times He communicates with a still small voice. He uses His Spirit inside of us, His Word as we read it and sometimes the most unlikely messengers that we may overlook. But therein exists his still small voice and we have to pay attention. Young Samuel heard that little voice in I Samuel 3:3-10 and he responded: “Here am I”... “Speak; for thy servant heareth.”

Dear brethren, we answer to a higher moral authority than your average “good person”; we have to demonstrate a good conscience not only to mankind but our God also.

“And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men” (Acts 24:16).

As we continue in our journey to not only do what is right but to be considered righteous before God, we must remember our motivation. Obedience to righteousness cannot be practiced because of fear of punishment only, but because it is right according to our conscience and love toward our God. Romans 13:5 says: "Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."



1. *Sea of Galilee*
2. *pool of Siloam*
3. *Jacob's well*
4. *Elim*
5. *lion*
6. *Moses*
7. *Nathanael*
8. *Elijah*
9. *serpent*
10. *coat*
11. *lamps, pitchers and trumpets*
12. *Capernaum*



Every law and regulation, given to us from heaven, is for our own good, and this is exactly true regarding what we should eat, and what we should not eat, which God ordained from times of old.

It was given to us to preserve our bodies for His service. "...ye are not your own" (I Corinthians 6:19). Your body belongs to the Lord. What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?..." Your body was created for longevity of life, and to perfect a people with strong constitutions, robust bodies, with strength, wisdom and endurance. When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, there were no less than 2 million, yet the Lord tells us, "...there was not one feeble person among their tribes" (Psalm 105:37). Where would we find such a company of people today? In our small towns of only a few hundred, there are many sickly, feeble people. Our country is one of hospitals, asylums, nursing homes, physical weakness, suffering, and disease. There is a cause for all of this. God is not to blame, for He made the human body to endure and to overcome the disease germs of the enemy, if it has the right of way. The automobile manufacturer puts out a good car, capable of great endurance, but if a little sand is put into the engine oil, the engine quickly wears out and goes to pieces. That is exactly what millions of people are doing today with their own bodies. They are smoking!

During one twelve-months' period, the American people smoke two billion cigarettes, daily. That is a daily average of about 14 and one-half cigarettes for every man, woman,

and child, or about 20 and one-half for each of the 180 million who actually smoke. Since each cigarette contains about 2% nicotine by weight, it means that more than two million and a half pounds of one of the deadliest poisons in the world are used, each year, in the cigarettes consumed by these 180 million smokers. When reduced to its lowest terms, the amount of nicotine in the number of cigarettes an average smoker consumes every 24 hours would mean instant death if administered as a single dose. One fifteen-hundredth of an ounce, within itself, is a third of a fatal dose.

It is now common knowledge that the drug of tobacco, nicotine, is unmistakably a habit-forming drug compounded with side effects to match any so-called dangerous drug on the market. Here are a few of the conditions produced by smoking: chronic bronchitis often followed by TB. Chronic throat irritation and inflammation, chronic sinus congestion, cancer of the lungs, throat, tongue, thyroid gland, and other parts of the neck and mouth. It creates nervous sensitiveness, chronic digestive disturbances, chronic constriction effects of blood vessels that lead to arterial hypertension. Other effects include chronic congestion and the constriction of the bronchial tubes, diminishing breathing spaces, which produces the well-known shortness of breath.

Tobacco detrimentally influences fatty acid production, vitamin E and other vitamin utilization as well as all metabolic changes. You name it and you can be sure it was spurred on or caused by nicotine. A chronic smoker's

bronchitis never gets well as long as he smokes. It is the same with throat and sinus conditions. The threat of cancer is a continual dark cloud in the lives of all smokers. Yes, there are many people who seem to do all right, as they continue to smoke, but perhaps you can see them before serious effects have closed in on them. Are you willing to take the risk of not contracting these many illnesses?

We read in the third letter of John, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health..." This prayer is important to all. This tract is for both smokers and nonsmokers. Smokers should know what they are getting into when they smoke in the presence of nonsmokers. Nonsmokers should know where they received their sore throats or coughs, red eyes and running noses after inhaling someone else's secondhand smoke. This situation is very important and should not be ignored. There are entirely too many complacent individuals around. Inactivity born out of disinterest persists until the roof falls in on them. What a crazy upside-down world!

What is nicotine? The dictionary defines it as "a poisonous liquid alkaloid, found in the leaves of the tobacco plant." And the same dictionary further defines a poison as "a substance that, being in solution in the blood or acting chemically on the blood, either destroys life or impairs seriously the functions of one or more of its organs." The habit-forming effect of nicotine cannot be denied. Try to hide a chronic smoker's cigarettes and see what happens. Why? Because tobacco is a dope. What else can one call it? It was created by God as an insecticide and a medicine of disinfecting powers. Nicotine is a habit forming drug, in many types or forms, such as snuff, cigars, chewing tobacco, and cigarettes.

The overall effects of this drug do not stop at the effects associated with the craving. It also has a direct effect on the sympathetic nervous system, which is the automatic mechanism that controls the muscles and body tissues not under control of the will, such as the bronchial tubes, the blood vessels including the heart, the intestines and various glands that work entirely automatically. All these mechanisms are affected by the drug nicotine and with a constricting or deterrent effect. Circulation has cut down glandular actions, such as the digestion glands of the stom-

ach and other organs are reduced in efficiency. Contented cows give good milk, we are told. Glandular action of our endocrine system, in order to function properly, must also be in a state of relaxation. Why do those, who smoke, deliberately build up a general state of tension with this dope and then go to the doctor, who gives them tranquilizing pills to subdue the tension? True, all smokers do not fall rapidly into such a desperate state. But ALL smokers do create a physiologically abnormal condition that permits them to tolerate tobacco, some for a longer period than others. In other words, "You have to be sick to smoke." Makes sense, doesn't it?

Relighting Cigarettes: Because of the rising cost of tobacco, more smokers are relighting their half smoked butts. This has shown some interesting statistics. Of course smokers do not care for statistics, but please note this one: The use of the "Good to the last drop of the cigarette" causes the nicotine to concentrate at the stub. The incidence of lung cancer in smokers who practice this habit is double to what the "Surgeon General" places on every package of cigarettes.

Let us take the first simple steps in cleansing ourselves of all filthiness of the flesh, that we may present ourselves without spot or wrinkle before Jesus when He comes in glory. He is soon coming, and it is hard at the very best to overcome this wicked world when we live properly. Therefore, it makes it many times harder with our bodies and blood streams filled with poison. It takes healthy, vigorous, strong bodies and minds to properly serve our God.

Smoking Tract - is available to be sent to you by calling The Publishing House at 1-304-782-1411. Bundles can be mailed out to pass out to your congregation or any individual needing this information to help quit smoking.



by Bibi Shimon Allicock
Guyana South America

GIVE UNTO THE LORD THE *glory* DUE UNTO HIS NAME;
worship THE LORD IN THE BEAUTY OF *holiness*.

The most important thing that one should give unto the Lord is their self in service. The songwriter wrote, "give of your best to the master, give of the strength of your youth. Throw your soul's fresh glowing ardor into the battle for truth. Jesus has set the example; dauntless was He, young and brave. Give him your loyal devotion, give him the best that you have. Give of your best to the master, give him first place in your heart, give him first place in your service, consecrate every part. Give, and to you shall be given; God his beloved son gave; gratefully seeking to serve him, give him the best that you have. Give of your best to the master; naught else is worthy his love. He gave Himself for your ransom, gave up His all for your love, lay down his life without murmur, you from sin's ruin to save; give Him your heart's adoration; give Him the best that you have."

In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul admonished, "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. 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" (Romans 12:1-2).

We must remember the Lord in our youthful days, when we could be able to move around, spreading the gospel and doing the things pertaining to Him vigorously. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong

men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low; Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." "All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; as he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. "Let us hear the conclusion of

the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:1-7; 9:10; 2-6; 12:13-14).

Young queen Esther came in a timely manner unto the provinces from India even unto Ethiopia so that God's people could be saved by Almighty God from the hand of the wicked Haman, who had deemed himself to be a god, whereby when he passed through the king's gate daily, the servants that were there had to bow before him, but Mordecai refused to do so, because he was a child of God in the way that he was brought up. A man is not supposed to bow to another man but to Almighty God only. Because as it is written in the book of Matthew where the devil was there after the Lord had fasted 40 days, trying to tempt Him to bow before him, but since our Lord gained spiritually from his Father, He was able to abstain from the temptation and told the devil to get thee hence. "Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." In the book of Exodus, Almighty God Himself told Moses to tell the children of Israel that they should not bow down to graven images or anything or any god but to Him only. "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Matthew 4:8-10; Exodus 20:5).

So coming back to wicked Haman, usually he was always wrathful against Mordecai for not bowing down to him. "And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai." "And Haman said unto King Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the

king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries. And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy" (Esther 3:5-6; 8-10).

"And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee. Then were the king's scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king's lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king's ring. And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, that they should be ready against that day. The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan (where God's people dwelt) was perplexed." "When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mortdecai, to know what it was, and why it was. So Hatach went forth to Mortdecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's

gate. And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai. Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days. And they told to Mordecai Esther's words. Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer, Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him" (Esther 3:11-15; 4:1-17).

We saw here what the young queen did: She did not think of herself as being queen, but she thought of the life of all her brethren, friends, relatives and especially her cousin Mordecai. Thus, she, her maidens, Mordecai and all the people of God fasted three days and three nights, without eating or drinking anything. Thus Almighty God granted a very good favour unto her: because as everyone in the kingdom knew that no one can go in unto the king except they be summoned. "Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in

the royal house, over against the gate of the house. And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre. Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom" (Esther 5:1-3). Oh! What an awesome answer from the king. Can we really fathom the awesomeness of Almighty God, when you really and truly put your trust and confidence in Him? The songwriter declared: "O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder; consider all the works thy hands have made. I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder: Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul; my Savior God to thee: How great thou art. How great thou art." The awesomeness of Almighty God enabled Esther the queen to gain the king's favour plus half of the kingdom, meaning to grant her wishes to his heart's desire. And Esther answered, "...If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him. Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed. Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is; If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said. Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeres his wife. And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king. Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see

Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate. Then saith Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made" (Esther 5:4-14).

Haman was the happiest man because he alone was being invited to the banquet that queen Esther had prepared, being haughty and proud with himself, not knowing it was to his detriment because only Almighty God knows one's future, and as the saying goes, that when you dig a hole for others, prepare yourself to fall into it. So let us see what happened to this wicked Haman and how Almighty God dealt with the situation, after the young queen conveyed her supplication and humbled herself, along with her people, praying, fasting, and afflicting themselves before Him. Nevertheless, the king could not sleep because in his mind something was not right. "On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, let him come in. So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?" (Esther 6:1-6).

Only thinking every good thing for himself, not knowing that he was the one that would be dishonoured and Mordecai would be honoured before all. "And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the

man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour. And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered. And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him. And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared. So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen. And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom."

"Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request: For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage. Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so? And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and queen. And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king. Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the

king's mouth, they covered Haman's face. And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified" (Esther 6:7-14; 7:1-10).

"On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king, And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king's provinces: For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred? Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews. Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse" (Esther 8:1-8).

So we saw, as the Scripture says, when God is for you no man can be against you. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose...And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God...What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:28, 27, 31). Also there is another Scripture which says, "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" (I Peter 3:13).

Once we give Almighty God the glory, honor, and praise which are due unto His holy name, He will always be there for us. As it is written in the introduction of the book of Esther, God's hands of providence and protection on behalf of his people are evident throughout the book of Esther. Although his name does not appear once, Haman's plot brings grave danger to the Jews and is countered by the courage of beautiful Esther and the counsel of her wise cousin Mordecai, resulting in a great deliverance. Although Almighty God's name was not written once in the book of Esther, yet there were people there in the province that feared Him. Thus, their prayer and supplication and fasting were heard by Him: whereby they were saved despite the situation. That is why the Psalmist David declared: "O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. For the LORD most high is terrible; he is a great King over all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. He shall choose our inheritance for us, the excellency of Jacob whom he loved. Selah. God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted" (Psalm 47:1-9).

The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God. I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me. I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry,

I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalm 50:1-15).

O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth" (Psalm 96:1-13).

We must give unto the Lord His dues which belong to Him because we were made for His pleasure, meaning that we do have to live pleasing and acceptable unto Him, by doing what He commands. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11). But as we can see in the Scriptures, young, beautiful queen Esther humbled herself before Almighty God and got great results. Thus it can be done unto us as the songwriter wrote: "It is no secret what God can do; what He's done for others, He can do for you. With arms wide open, He'll pardon you." So brethren, friends, and the world at large, "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" (Isaiah 55:6-7).



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

Part 13 - THE WARRING PHASE OF CHRIST'S COMING

QUESTION: What does Christ ride? What is He called? What does He do?

ANSWER: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war" (Revelation 19:11).

QUESTION: How are His eyes described? What is on His head? What is written?

ANSWER: "His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself" (Verse 12).

QUESTION: How do we know this is Jesus?

ANSWER: "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God" (Verse 13).

QUESTION: Who followed Him, and how were they dressed?

ANSWER: "And the armies which were in heaven (air or atmosphere) followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (Verse 14).

QUESTION: Can the armies be identified?

ANSWER: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Revelation 19:7-8).

QUESTION: To what are the saints called?

ANSWER: "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Verse 9).

NOTE: The saints are called to the wedding before the plagues are poured out and are with Him when the Lord fights under the seventh plague.

QUESTION: What does He have in His mouth? What does He do with it? What will He do to the nations?

ANSWER: "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron..." (Revelation 19:15 first part).

QUESTION: When Jesus comes in this warring phase how is it described?

ANSWER: "...and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Verse 15 last part).

QUESTION: What will His title be then?

ANSWER: "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Verse 16).

QUESTION: What will the ten kings receive?

ANSWER: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast" (Revelation 17:12).

QUESTION: To whom do they give their power and strength?

ANSWER: "These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (Verse 13).

QUESTION: With whom will they make war? What will He do? Why? Who are with Him?

ANSWER: "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful (the saints)" (Verse 14).

QUESTION: How do we know the saints will be with Christ when He appears to fight?

ANSWER: "Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle...and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee (him)" (Zechariah 14:3, 5 (last part)).

QUESTION: What day is near?

ANSWER: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh (near) at hand" (Joel 2:1).

QUESTION: What kind of a day will it be when the Lord fights?

ANSWER: "A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations" (Verse 2).

QUESTION: How does Zechariah describe this same day, and how do we know it is a twenty four hour day in which the Lord fights?

ANSWER: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light" (Zechariah 14:6-7).

QUESTION: What will go before Christ and His army?

ANSWER: "A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them" (Joel 2:3).

QUESTION: What will be their appearance?

ANSWER: "The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run" (Verse 4).

QUESTION: To what are they compared?

ANSWER: "Like the noise of chariots of the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array" (Verse 5).

QUESTION: What will be the expression of those against whom they fight?

ANSWER: "Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness" (Verse 6).

QUESTION: How concise are the army's movements?

ANSWER: "They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks" (Verse 7).

QUESTION: Can anyone hurt them?

ANSWER: "Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded" (Verse 8).

QUESTION: What other description of them is given?

ANSWER: "They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief" (Verse 9).

QUESTION: Describe the earth and the heavens at this time?

ANSWER: "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining" (Verse 10).

QUESTION: Who gives the orders to this army?

ANSWER: "And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" (Verse 11).

QUESTION: What are the texts referring to the two phases of Christ's coming?

ANSWER: REAPING (Catching Up Of Saints)

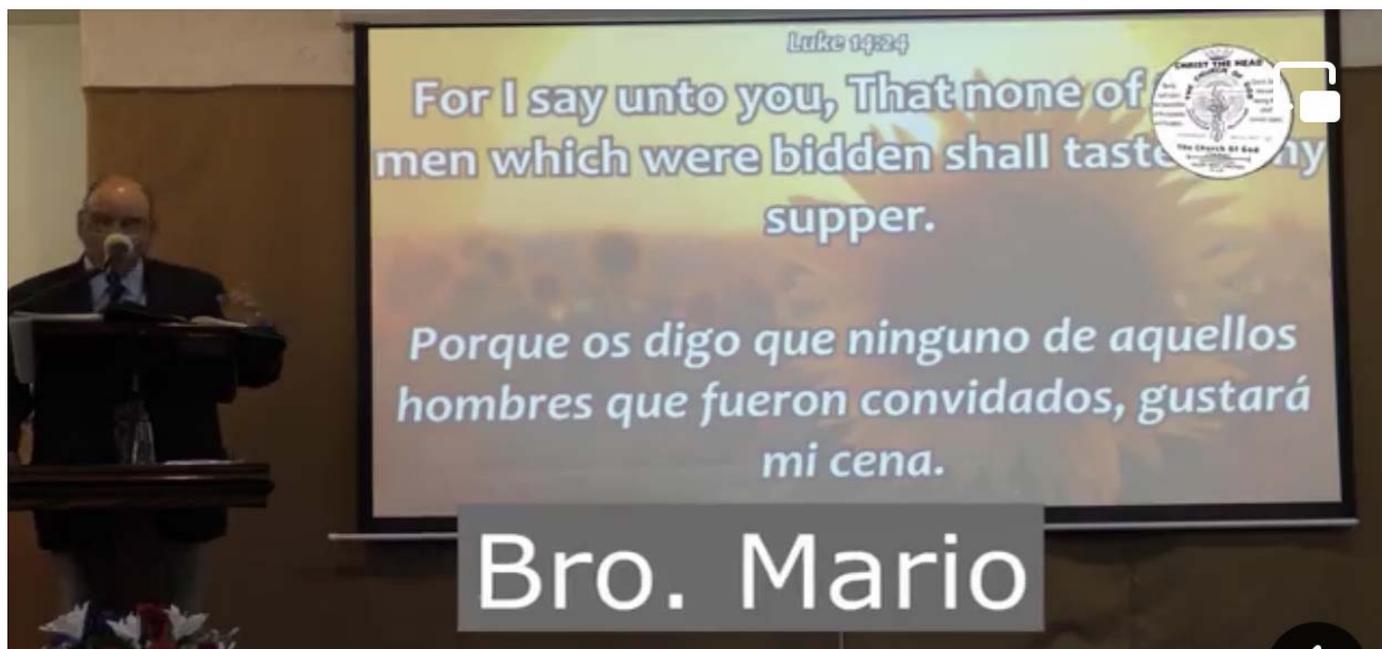
1. Revelation 14:14 - On a white cloud
2. Revelation 15:3 - King of saints
3. Revelation 14:14 - A golden crown
4. Revelation 14:14 - A sharp sickle
5. Revelation 14:15-16 - Reaps

WARRING

1. Revelation 19:11 - On white horse
2. Revelation 19:16 - King of kings, and Lord of lords
3. Revelation 19:12 - Many crowns
4. Revelation 19:15 - A sharp sword
5. Revelation 19:15 - Smites the nations



We are fortunate in this day and age that we can view on line some of our churches and the messages they deliver. A good example is the San Antonio, Texas Church. If you go onto Facebook Search, type in Church of God 7th Day SA and you will find many sermons and Bible studies from Brother Jerry Womble, Brother Tim Buechner and pictured below Brother Mario Cantu. If you don't have a physical church location to attend, join in on Facebook and watch the church services live, weekly.





*A Study
on Tithing
by Gary Mills*

Is tithing only mentioned in the Old Testament and was it done away with by Jesus' sacrifice? What is the purpose of tithing? There are many questions around tithing and giving money to the Church and the Bible has plenty to say about it! Tithing and offerings are mentioned 206 times in the Bible and money is mentioned over 800 times! God knew money would be something we would hold tightly to and place a lot of importance on. Let's take a look at what the Bible says about tithing and giving 10% back to God. A study on tithing should help you decide how you can thank God for what He has blessed you with.

The word "Tithe" comes from the Old English word "Teogotha" which means "Tenth". And from this, Tithe is defined as a contribution to the Church that equals to one-tenth of your income or possessions.

With that definition, now let's get to know Tithing as it is written in the Bible. To do that, let's take a look at its history found in the Bible.

We can trace tithing way back in Abraham's time and his dealings with the priest Melchizedek. In Genesis 14:19-20, "And he blessed him, and said, 'Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand'. And he gave him tithes of all."

This was the time when Abraham had successfully rescued Lot and defeated the armies of the four kings. And in gratitude to God's blessing, Abram gave a tenth of his possessions to Melchizedek. Note that Abram did not give this tithe before his victory to invoke God's favor, but he did it after the victory. He gave the tithe in thanks as a response to God's blessing.

Tithe is not just the sum we give to the Lord when we experience victories, but it is the sum we return to God knowing that it is already His. And in doing so, we acknowledge that He is the ultimate source of everything that we possess and will possess.

Moving forward in Moses' time. Here the tithe was now introduced as a law. In Leviticus 27:30, 32, 34, it says, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD...And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD...These are the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai."

The blessings mentioned in the Bible are not just financial however. After all there's more to life than money. Each time you tithe carefully observe how God blesses you in every other area of life as well as finances.

By nature man is selfish. And to get rid of this selfishness, God made a way for us to change our selfish nature through giving. In this text, Jesus shows the perfect example of obedience over selfishness. (Mark 12:41-44) "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance..."

He brought His disciples into the synagogue and asked them which had given more, the rich man or the poor widow. And to their surprise, Jesus told them that it was the widow.

This account in the Bible shows us that it is not the amount of money we give that matters, but the amount of selflessness you invested to obey God's commands. God wants us to be rid of selfishness and keep His commandments. He wants us to be more and more like Christ and to support His Church. And as members of the Church of God, followers of Christ, that is our ultimate goal –to reflect being Christ-like so that others will see His light in us and would be drawn to follow Him as well.

Was tithing done away with in the New Testament? Jesus did not come to change God's commandments. He says this in Matt. 5:17: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." He also says in Matt. 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

In every blessing or income that we receive, God only requires us to give back ten percent to Him. And that ten percent is our tithes. So, after we receive our salary or any other income, we should always separate first our tithes for the Lord. It's the first thing we must do before we budget our money — before we pay debts, make a mortgage payment, buy groceries, or fill our car with gas.

When talking about tithing the book of Malachi is usually the most referred to book.

Malachi 2:1 : "Listen, you priests; this command is for you! Listen to me and take it to heart. Honour my

name," says the Lord Almighty..."

What is said again and again in the book of Malachi is the need to give proper honour, worthy honour to God. God makes it clear, that it's not about the money! It is about giving honor and respect to God.

What does it mean to give honour to God?

* A mark of respect by paying tribute to him.

* We honour God when we give FIRST FRUITS, a sample of the best of what we receive, not the worst, not the last remnant.

* Paying a tribute is as much about HOW we give as WHAT we give.

* The whole book of Malachi is all about getting right with God. It's about giving Him the honour that is due to Him.

Now, after we give our ten percent and we decide to give more, that is what we call "offering". Offering is beyond what is required, beyond our tithes. It is something that we do out of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and for the ministry or church that He put us in. Offering should not be an obligation but an expression of love for Christ. We should remember Paul's words in II Cor 9:7: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." This means that though God did not obligate us to give offerings to Him, He loves those who decided in their hearts to give cheerfully.

In summary, tithing is obedience to God's command while offerings are a reflection of what is in our heart. It is not up to us to judge what others give and how they give, but is up to each individual to determine for ourselves how we have given. We should ask ourselves the following questions. Am I following God's commands, am I giving my best as tithe, and am I giving offerings with a cheerful heart? I would like to close this article with a short prayer. Lord, I am so grateful for all of the blessings you have bestowed on me. My family and the nice job I had over the years. I am glad I can do a small part to help support your Church and the work that is done in your name throughout the world. I pray this in Jesus' Holy name. Amen.

BIBLE TRIVIA

Answers found on page 4

1. Jesus walked on the water of the (Red Sea; Jordan River; Sea of Galilee). Mark 6:45-56
2. Jesus told the man who was born blind to wash in the (Jordan River; pool of Siloam; pool of Bethesda). John 9:6-7
3. Jesus met the woman of Samaria at (Solomon's porch; her home; Jacob's well). John 4:6
4. The Israelites found twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees at (Elim; the wilderness of Sin; Marah). Exodus 15:27
5. Samson found a swarm of bees in the carcass of the (lion; bear; ox). Judges 14:8
6. (Elisha; Moses; Joshua) was buried in the land of Moab by the Lord. Deuteronomy 34:5-6
7. (Philip; Nathanael; Jesus) asked if any good thing could come out of Nazareth. John 1:46
8. (Elijah; Joshua; Elisha) challenged the prophets of Baal in a contest to see if God would answer them by fire. I Kings 18:17-40
9. When Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, it became a (frog; burning bush; serpent). Exodus 7:10
10. Samuel's mother brought him a little (food; lamb; coat) every year when she came to offer the yearly sacrifice. I Samuel 2:19
11. Gideon's army defeated the Midianites with (swords; lamps, pitchers and trumpets; slingshots and stones). Judges 7:16-18
12. Peter's mother-in-law lived in (Capernaum; Cana; Joppa). Mark 1:21-30

What Means The Most To You?

By David DeLong

Jesus said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21.) Where is your heart?

Let's ask some very humbling questions: is your heart set on doing the will of God in every situation? Or, is it only in tune with His will when it is convenient? Would you rather lose some body parts to do the will of God? Jesus also taught: "Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire" (Matthew 18:8-9). I believe that Jesus taught this literally; however, there are things we can do to overcome sin in our lives first, such as prayer and fasting, before we cut off body parts.

I think about the circuit riding ministers of a couple of centuries ago in America. The tremendous sacrifices that they made to travel to the outlying settlements to preach the Word of God to the settlers there is astounding. They usually traveled by horseback to these settlements. It didn't matter if they traveled through violent rain storms, cold weather, threats by Indians or wild creatures, they were determined to preach the Word of Christ to these back woods people. It is shameful that sometimes our brothers and sisters don't even make it to church each week. I'm not talking about those who are truly ill, weak, or elderly. I'm talking about those who would rather sleep through services than attend them. Again I ask: "what means the most to you?"

I also think of the men and women listed in Hebrews chapter 11, of their tremendous sacrifices to serve the

Lord. Here we read : "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (verses 32-40).

Truly, the Lord and His kingdom meant the most to those pilgrims on the earth. The greatest example of serving the Lord with all of His heart was the Lord Jesus Christ. First John 2:6 reads: "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." We must use the Lord Jesus as our example in all walks of life. The joy of looking ahead helped the Lord Jesus to endure the suffering on the cross and to be an overcomer. We learn in Hebrews 12:2: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

The Lord and His kingdom must be absolutely first in our lives. Jesus told us in Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things (our necessities) shall be added unto you."

LESSON I

JESUS - THE SAVIOUR

Scripture Reading: John 8:12-23.

Golden Text: John 8:12 (first part).

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world..."

1. On whom did Paul say we are to believe? Acts 16:31.
2. What did Peter confess concerning Christ? Matthew 16:16.
3. How was God's love proclaimed by sending Jesus into the world? John 3:16.
4. Was Jesus accused before the people? John 8:37-40.
5. Did Jesus tell the people of their sins? John 8:43-45.
6. Did Jesus come into this world to save sinners? I Timothy 1:15-16; John 10:11.
7. Because we are all sinners, what must we do to be saved? Acts 2:38-39; John 14:15.

LESSON II

JESUS - THE FORETELLER

Scripture Reading: John 8:24-32.

Golden Text: John 8:32.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

1. Did the evil spirits know who Jesus was? Luke 4:33-34.
2. Did Jesus know why He came into the world? Matthew 18:11.
3. Did He know what was going to happen to Him? Matthew 20:17-19.

4. Did He possess the power to escape from His enemies? Matthew 26:53.

5. If He had power to escape, why did He not escape? Matthew 26:54.

6. Was Jesus the victim of sinners or did He lay down His life for them willingly? John 10:17-18.

LESSON III

A BLIND MAN HEALED

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-14.

Golden Text: John 9:5.

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

1. As Jesus passed by, what did He see? John 9:1.
2. What did His disciples ask Him? John 9:2.
3. What answer did Jesus give them? John 9:3-5.
4. What did Jesus put on the eyes of the blind man? John 9:6.
5. What did He tell the blind man to do, and what happened when he obeyed? John 9:7.
6. What did the people say to the healed man, and what was his answer? John 9:8-9.
7. What else did they ask, and what was his reply? John 9:10-12.
8. On what day was the blind man restored to his sight? John 9:14.

Answers to Ruth on page 23

Across: 3.Obed 5.Naomi 6.Bethlehem 8.Boaz 9.feet

Down: 1.Moab 2.Mahlon 4.Elimelech 7.ephah

8.barley

LESSON IV

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

Scripture Reading: John 11:21-44.

Golden Text: John 11:25.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live".

NOTE: Jesus had some very dear friends when He was here on the earth. Their names were Mary, Martha and their brother, Lazarus. One day Lazarus became ill and died. The sisters sent for Jesus, and He could not come immediately. Let us study the story to see how Jesus helps His friends.

1. Did Martha have faith to believe that Jesus could heal? John 11:21-22.
2. What did Jesus say to Martha, and what did she think Jesus meant? John 11:23-24.
3. What wonderful words did Jesus say to Martha in John 11:25-26?
4. Martha called her sister Mary, and Mary immediately went out where Jesus was. What did Mary say and do when she saw Jesus? John 11:32.
5. Did it trouble Jesus to see His friends weeping? Did Jesus also weep for His friends? John 11:33-35.
6. When Jesus came to Lazarus' grave, what did He ask them to do? How long had Lazarus been dead? John 11:38-39.
7. When the stone was taken away, what did Jesus do and say? John 11:41-42.

NOTE: Jesus did not have to say this prayer out loud because His Father in heaven knew what He was going to request and would grant it. He did it for those that they might believe.

8. He then cried with a loud voice. What was this cry? John 11:43.

9. Did Lazarus come forth? Describe Lazarus as he came forth from the grave. John 11:44.



A LESSON EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW

*How many people would change their acts,
If they were aware of these true facts?*

That:

*The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
Beholding the evil and the good (Proverbs 15:3).*

*Wherever you go, wherever you be,
Whether in city, country, or on the sea,
Whether riding a train or up into skies,
Remember the all-seeing eyes!*

*He sees every deed both good and bad,
He sees many deeds that make Him sad,*

*Oh, we must be careful, you and I,
And remember the all-seeing eye!*

*His eye sees all of what we do,
And we will get paid when our life is through.*

*Our works are known beyond the skies,
So remember the all-seeing eyes.*



A WHITE STONE WITH A NEW NAME

REVELATION 2:12-17

It is seldom one finds a boy or girl who does not like his or her name. As a girl, I acquired many nick names - some I did not like so well. As I grew older, I learned the thing that really counts is your heart; and your name, regardless of it, will grow charming if your heart keeps right.

Some foreign names sound strange to us but have a beautiful meaning. Indians name their children meaningful names, and the children are expected to live up to their names.

Do you know the meaning of your name?

A long time ago a good woman named Hannah was sad because she had no children. One day she told God that if He would give her a son, she would lend him to the Lord all the days of his life.

Finally God granted her request, and she named the boy Samuel. Samuel means, "asked of God." When he was old enough, his mother took him to the temple of the Lord where he served Eli, the minister. God talked to Samuel in the night and gave him messages for Eli.

Years ago, in the days of Herod, a man named Zacharias asked God for a son. An angel appeared to him and told him his prayer was heard, and that he would have a son, and that his name should be called John. John means, "the Lord's Gracious." He was great in the sight of the Lord, and he turned many people to God. He prepared them to meet Jesus. In those days, an angel also appeared to a young woman by the name of Mary. He told her she would have a son and that His name would be called Jesus. "Jesus" - how sweet the name sounds. His name means "Saviour." He came to save the people from their sins. Think of it, boys and girls, the only "Son of

God" was sent down from heaven to save us. It is hard to understand it is so, how Jesus was with the Father when the world began, how He came as a baby, grew up, and then returned to heaven again to be with the Father. We must accept this by faith, for by faith we are saved. Do you want to be saved and have your name written in the book of life? Of course you do. You will want to be on the New Earth, described in Revelation the 21st chapter, where there will be no sickness, sin or sorrow. You will not want to miss being in the great city, the holy Jerusalem that comes down from God out of Heaven (see Revelation 21:10). It is a place where you can eat of the tree of life, and live forever.

Read Revelation 22:14 to know how you may have a right to enter into the city, and to eat of the Tree of Life, and live forever.

You will also want to receive the white stone with your new name written on it, which no one will know, except the one who receives it.

Boys and girls, what is your aim? Jesus is coming soon. Are you preparing to meet Him, and to live on the New Earth? Be prepared. It is too wonderful to miss.

You can then rejoice and say, "This is my God. I have waited for Him."

**"Children, obey your parents
in all things: for this is well
pleasing unto the Lord"
(Colossians 3:20).**

RUTH

Across

- 3. Ruth's first son's name (Ruth 4:17).
- 5. Name of Ruth's mother-in-law (Ruth 1:2).
- 6. City to which Ruth and her mother-in-law traveled (Ruth 1:19).
- 8. Relative Ruth met in the field (Ruth 2:4-9).
- 9. When Boaz was sleeping, Ruth went and layed at this location (Ruth 3:7).

Down

- 1. Country which Ruth was from (Ruth 1:4).
- 2. Ruth's first husband's name (Ruth 4:10).
- 4. Name of Naomi's husband (Ruth 1:2)
- 7. Unit of measurement equal to 1.1 bushels (Ruth 2:17).
- 8. Grain Ruth gathered in the fields (Ruth 2:17).

HISTORY MIX UP

The first column contains a list of famous Bible names. The second column are things they are noted for. The second column is mixed up. Can you arrange them so that what they are noted for will come after the right name?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>David</i> | <i>Strength</i> |
| <i>John</i> | <i>Wisdom</i> |
| <i>Methuselah</i> | <i>Bulrushes</i> |
| <i>Moses</i> | <i>Baptist</i> |
| <i>Noah</i> | <i>Old Age</i> |
| <i>Prodigal Son</i> | <i>Psalms</i> |
| <i>Samson</i> | <i>Ark</i> |
| <i>Solomon</i> | <i>Fatted Calf</i> |

GOLDEN KEYS

"Everyone likes Ned," said Bob. "It must be nice to have people feel that way about you."

"Do you know why everybody likes him?" asked Roland.

"Well, no, not exactly. Do you?"

"Yes," said Roland. "It's because of his golden keys."

"His golden keys? I never see him have any golden keys. What do you mean?"

"He has a whole bunch of golden keys which unlock peoples' hearts and let them walk right in," explained Roland. "And he keeps them on a wonderful key ring."

"Oh, do tell me more about them!" exclaimed Bob.

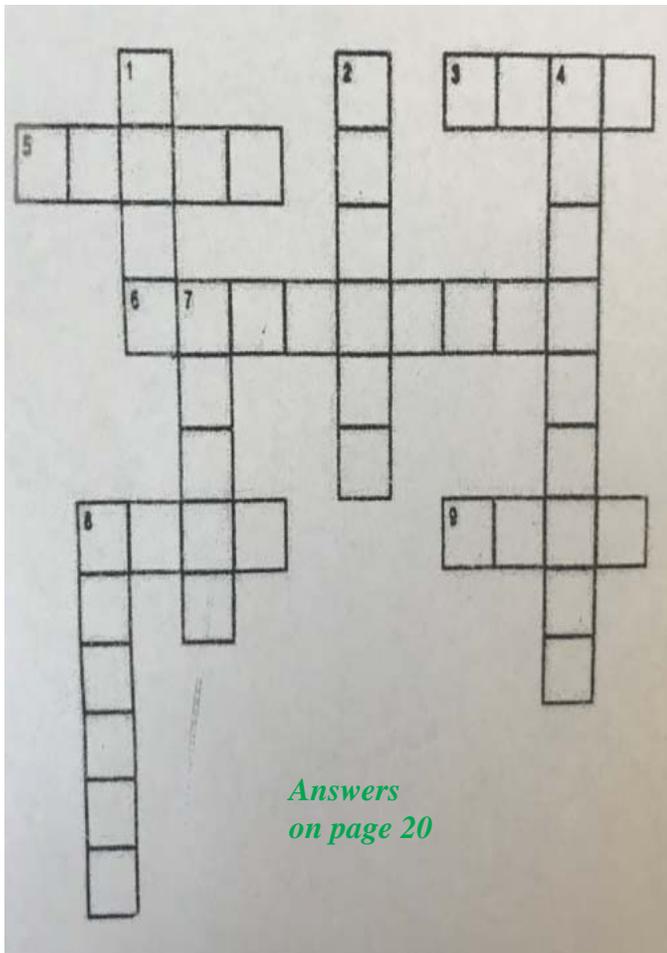
"On one his golden key is, 'Good morning.' He uses it to start the day right. When he wants something, or is asking a favor, he uses the golden key, 'Please'. When anything is done for him, he uses the 'Thank you' key. Even a fine boy like Ned sometimes makes mistakes, but again he has a key to help him; it is called 'Excuse me'. He always closes the day with the golden key of 'Good night.'"

"And how about his wonderful key ring?" asked Bob.

"It is called 'kindness,' and it binds all the golden keys together."

"How wonderful it would be if all of us had golden keys like Ned," said Bob very thoughtfully.

"And how fine it is that all of us who want these golden keys can have them," added Roland.



*Answers
on page 20*

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The Bridge

By David DeLong

There are some bridges in our life
That we must safely cross;
One is upon God's narrow way
So we don't suffer loss.

Another bridge is God's commands
That we must all obey;
These commands Lord Jesus kept,
The Life, the Truth, the Way.

A third bridge is the Lord, Himself,
Who gives us a new birth
So that we can experience
A new heaven and new earth.

