



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

Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248

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Volume LXIX

Number 2

July 27, 2020

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940

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FREEDOM

by David Royer

July 4th, 1776, is the celebration of our nation's independence from Great Britain. However, they did not recognize U.S. independence until September 3rd, 1783, with the Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of this treaty, which ended the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain officially acknowledged the United States as a sovereign and independent nation. This victory in war ultimately gave Americans self-governance and fundamental freedoms that the government could not take away. These freedoms were not free. They came at a high cost of blood and treasure:

1. Throughout the course of the war, an estimated 6,800 Americans were killed in action, 6,100 wounded, and upwards of 20,000 were taken prisoner. Historians believe that at least an additional 17,000 deaths were the result of disease, including about 8,000, 12,000 who died while prisoners of war.

Source: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/american-revolution-facts>

2. The American war cost approximately £165 million in 1783 values. It's always tricky to convert 200-year-old currencies gathered using imprecise war records, but that amount could roughly add up to about \$21.6 billion in 2010 dollars.

Source: <https://military.id.me/community-news/heres-how-much-the-revolutionary-war-cost-in-modern-dollars/>

The liberties we won and enjoy today are worthy of celebration. However, consider, a greater freedom, available to all the world: Our freedom in Christ. *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* (John 8:31-32) In other words, have faith, trust, and believe in Jesus; be a dedicated follower; receive Him as your Savior, and He will liberate you spiritually.

This “truth” which leads to freedom, that Jesus was speaking of above, is the resolute written Word of God. Praying to His Father in heaven (on behalf of His disciples), Jesus asked: *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17) As the Son of God, Jesus declared that He also was *“...the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* (John 14:6). When Jesus revealed Himself as the Messiah in Luke Chapter 4, He said that, among other things, He came to free the oppressed. *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”* (John 8:36).

Here are a few specific freedoms available to us:

Freedom from sin and anything that enslaves us.

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin,

but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17-18). As human beings, we will always battle with sin, but by following Christ’s words and precepts, we will not be slaves to sin. *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace”* (Rom. 6:14). Jesus’s sacrificial death and resurrection atoned for our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are free from the bondage of sin and



Freedom from works of the flesh.

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)

Freedom from condemnation.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines condemnation as “to pronounce guilty”. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law*

could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1-4)

Freedom from fear of death.

“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:” (2 Tim. 1:10). Apostle Paul said: *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* (II Peter 3:9)

Freedom to speak with God.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6). *“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.”* (John 16:23)

Freedom from Satan’s dominion.

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13).

Freedom to enjoy God’s blessings.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

Freedom to live our life as God planned.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2:10).

Freedom to enter the Kingdom of God.

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2–3).

Like our American Revolution, the freedoms and liberty available in Christ Jesus are not free. *“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).* Our obligations/cost to receive Their gift of everlasting life are vigilance and obedience. We must always fight against our sinful nature. There is an ongoing battle with the forces of evil for our survival. Peter said, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Pet. 5:8).*

The freedom God offers us through Jesus Christ does not have to be accepted. Each person has the free-will to accept or reject His salvation. I encourage all readers in search of independence from the slavery and bondage of sin, to read and study God’s Word. Throughout the Bible, we learn how to please God, embrace the teachings of Jesus, and be eligible for His gift of grace: true freedom in this life and beyond.



Can You Take Along The Lord?

By David DeLong

In your every day excursions
With your friends all aboard;
Can you go there with Jesus,
Can you take along the Lord?

While you live among the others,
Do you live in sweet accord?
Or, are there rival factions,
Can you take along the Lord?

Do you live within your means,
Buying what you can afford?
Or, do you live on credit,
Can you take along the Lord?

Are you always reading Scripture,
Letting it become your sword?
Do you, then, obey its precepts,
Can you take along the Lord?

Are you praying for your brethren,
And your blessings are outpoured?
Or, are your prayers self-minded,
Can you take along the Lord?



While we celebrate with fireworks, let's not forget the freedom that our founding fathers declared to the world over two centuries ago. Here are some fun facts that you may not know about the holiday:

Q. Why is the name “John Hancock” synonymous with “your signature?”

A. Hancock's bold signature on the Declaration of Independence dwarfed the signatures of the other signers. Legend says that Hancock wanted the king of England to see the rebellious signature without having to wear his spectacles!

Q. When did America actually declare independence?

A. Congress actually ruled in favor of independence on July 2, 1776. But it was two days later, on July 4, that Congress then accepted Jefferson's document. As a result, John Adams thought July 2 should be Independence Day.

Q. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4?

A. Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 – John Hancock, president of the Congress, and Charles Thompson, secretary of the Congress.

Q. What day did most people sign the Declaration of Independence?

A. August 2, 1776.

Q. When did Independence Day become a national holiday?

A. The Fourth of July was not declared a federal

holiday until 1938!

Q. Is there something written on the back of the Declaration of Independence?

A. Yes, but not a treasure map like a certain film suggests! The message “Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776” is written upside down on the back of the Declaration of Independence.

Q. Where is the Declaration of Independence document today?

A. Jefferson's original draft was lost and the one eventually signed is the “engrossed” document. It is kept at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., for all to see. Of the 200 printed versions of the Declaration made (called the Dunlap Broadside), only 27 are accounted for. One of these was found in the back of a picture frame at a tag sale and sold at auction for \$8.14 million to television producer Norman Lear. It now travels the country to be displayed to the public.

Q. Where was George Washington when the Declaration of Independence was written?

A. In July 1776, Washington was not in Philadelphia; he was in New York with his troops. On July 9, he received a copy of the Declaration with a note from John Hancock telling Washington to share the news with his soldiers! They were so excited that they rushed over to the Bowling Green and tore down the statue of King George III. Shortly after this, the British, as Washington expected, attacked the colonists and the American Revolution was under way. The colonists fought eight long, hard years (1775-1783) for their independence from Britain. After the war was over, Washington hoped he would be able to retire and return to Mount Vernon, Virginia. Instead, in 1789, the electors unanimously voted George Washington the first president of the United States. Because it was such an honor, and he felt a great duty to his country, he accepted. He left Mount Vernon on April 16 and arrived in New York City on April 30 for his inauguration. As he took the oath standing on the balcony of Federal Hall, the crowd broke into cheers. The members of his first Cabinet included Thomas Jefferson as secretary of state and Alexander Hamilton as secretary of the treasury.



The Last Tract

Author Unknown

Every afternoon, after the morning service at the Church, the Pastor and his eleven-year-old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel Tracts.

This afternoon, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside, as well as pouring rain.

The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said, "OK, Dad, I'm ready."

His Pastor Dad asked, "Ready for what?"

"Dad, its time we gather our tracts together and go out."

Dad responds, "Son it's very cold outside and it's pouring rain."

Despondently, the boy asks, "Dad can I go? Please?"

His father hesitated for a moment then said, "Son, you can go. Here are the tracts, be careful son." "Thanks Dad!"

And with that he was off and out into the rain. This eleven-year-old boy walked the streets of the town going door to door and handing everyone he met in the street a Gospel Tract.

After two hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking, bone-chilled wet and down to his VERY LAST TRACT. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to, but the streets were totally deserted.

Then he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the doorbell. He rang the bell, but nobody answered.

He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. He waited but still no answered.

Finally, this eleven-year-old trooper turned to leave, but something stopped him.

Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch!

He rang again and this time the door slowly opened.

Standing in the doorway was a very sadlooking elderly lady. She softly asked, "What can I do for you, son?" With radiant eyes and a smile that lit up her world, this little boy said, "Ma'am, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just wanted to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU and I came to give you my very last Gospel Tract which will tell you all about JESUS and His great LOVE."

With that, he handed her his last tract and turned to leave.

She called to him as he departed, "Thank you, son! And God Bless You!"

Well, the following morning service in Church Pastor Dad was in the pulpit. As the service began, he asked, "Does anybody have a testimony or want to say anything?"

Slowly, in the back row of the Church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. As she began to speak, a look of glorious radiance came from her face, "No on in this Church knows me. I've never been here before. You see, before last week I was not a Christian. My husband passed on some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world. Last week, being a particularly cold and rainy day, it was even more so in my heart that I came to the end of the line where I no longer had any hope or will to live.

So, I took a rope and a chair and ascended the stairway into the attic of my home. I fastened the rope securely to a rafter in the roof, then stood on the chair and fastened the other end of the rope around my neck. Standing on that chair, so lonely and broken-hearted I was about to leap off, when suddenly the loud ringing of my doorbell

downstairs startled me. I thought, "I'll wait a minute and whoever it is will go away."

I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get louder and more insistent, and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly...

I thought to myself again, 'Who on earth could this be? Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me.' I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door, all the while the bell rang louder and louder.

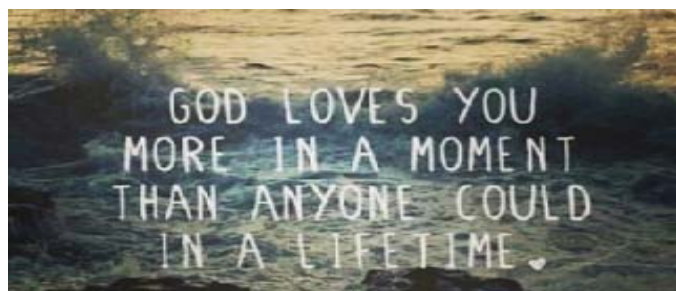
When I opened the door, I could hardly believe my eyes, for there on my front porch was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life. His SMILE, oh, I could never describe it to you!

The words that came from his mouth caused my heart that had long been dead, TO LEAP TO LIFE as he exclaimed with a cherub-like voice, 'Ma'am, I just came to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU.' Then he gave me this Gospel Tract that I now hold in my hand.


As the little angel disappeared back out into the cold and rain, I closed my door and read slowly every word of this Gospel Tract. Then I went up to my attic to get my rope and chair. I wouldn't be needing them anymore.

You see-- - I am now a Happy Child of the KING. Since the address of your Church was on the back of this Gospel Tract, I have come here to personally say THANK YOU to God's little angel who came just in the nick of time and by so doing, spared my soul from destruction.'

There was not a dry eye in the Church and as shouts of praise and honor to THE KING resounded off the very rafters of the building, Pastor Dad descended from the pulpit to the front pew where the little angel was seated. He took his son in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably.



George Washington



- Born: 2/22/1732
- Died: 12/14/1799
- Appointed as Commander-in-chief of American revolutionary forces in 1775
- Became first President of the United States in 1789

GEORGE WASHINGTON ON HIS APPOINTMENT

AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

THO I am truly sensible of the high honor done me in this appointment, yet I feel great distress from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust. However, as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service and for the support of the glorious cause. I beg they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation.

But lest some unlucky event should happen unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room that I this day declare, with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with.

As to pay, sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress that as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses. Those, I doubt not, they will discharge, and that is all I desire.

--From **Elbert Hubbard's Scrap Book**

GOD'S STANDARDS: DO NOT LOWER!

Bond Tennant

Although it was God's desire that Israel dwell alone and not mingle with other nations, they adopted most of the heathen practices around them. Psalm 106:35 says that the Israelites did not destroy the idolatrous nations in their midst, "But were mingled (mixed) among the heathen, and learned their works."

Could not the same snares into which Israel fell also befall us, as we endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Christ? Instead of following the high standards of God, we may attempt to change them. Let us examine ourselves carefully along this line. We can lower God's standards in various ways. Let us not overlook what the Bible says and think that it is not of critical importance in a given situation. Let us not use the mantle of love to go against the clear teaching of God. We are not saying that we should not love. However, we must be careful not to use love to obscure what God says in His Word.

If we find any indication of such intencies in our lives, let us remember that we have a wily Adversary who makes darkness appear as light, and light as darkness. Concerning Satan, the Apostle Paul said, "...we are not ignorant of his devices" (II Corinthians 2:11). One of these devices is the attempt to gloss over sins with the mantle of love. This is a very subtle temptation.

In I Samuel 8:19-20, we read that the Israelites wanted a king in order to be like other nations. "...we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations..." They even went so far as to say, "...We will be as the heathen, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone" (Ezekiel 20:32). This was displeasing to God, and He sent prophets to remind Israel that they were to be different. "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen..." "...defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt..." (Jeremiah 10:2; Ezekiel 20:7). In these statements, the prophets pleaded continuously with Israel to maintain the high standards given to them by God. This same plea was made to the Israelites during Jesus' First

Advent, and it still applies today. God expects His children to be different from those in the world around them.

The standard Jesus presents in Matthew 5:44, "Love your enemies," is not popular today. This is because it is not an earthly standard. This standard is unique to God and His Son. None of us can keep this ethic without the help of our heavenly Father. However, it is a standard to which we must all adhere. We read in Matthew 5:48, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." To be "perfect," as used in this verse, means to be complete and mature. This means that we must set our standards after the pattern of Christ Jesus our Lord, who followed the example and pattern of His heavenly Father.

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus showed the Pharisees that their system was substandard. He warned them that unless they would come and learn of Him, they would never be able to live by His standards. As religious as they claimed to be, and as legalistic as was their thinking, yet they could not qualify entrance to the kingdom. They thought it was enough to perform the acts of the law, such as not to commit adultery, but Christ told them that one who even thought about it "in his heart" was guilty of the same sin (Matthew 5:27-30). Also, the Pharisees thought it was acceptable to get a divorce if all the legal paperwork was complete, but the Lord said divorce was not proper except in the case of fornication (verses 31, 32).

The Pharisees believed that it was proper to keep sworn vows. However, Jesus told them not to swear at all. They were to simply obey God (verses 33-37). They thought it was right to take "...An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," but our Lord said not to retaliate at all (Matthew 5:38-42).

In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus said that their prayers were inadequate, and told them how to pray (verses 5-15). He said their giving was wrong and told them how to give properly (verses 1-4). In verses 19-34, Jesus told them they were concerned with material things when they should be seeking the kingdom of God.

God calls His children to be a separated people with convictions and standards that are not of this world. The humanistic religious practices of the Pharisees and others of Jesus' day fell woefully short of God's standards.



THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

Jesus, speaking of Himself after the resurrection, said “...because I live ye shall live also” (John 14:19). Our assurance of a future life would rest on shady ground if it wasn’t for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because He lives, we know that we shall live as well. The same power that raised Jesus from death to immortality will also raise us to everlasting life at His appearing.

How do we actually know that He was resurrected? There are many proofs. The evidence of the empty tomb that was witnessed by a number of people; the soldiers who were as dead men and the fact that they had to be bribed to give a false report; and the many individuals who saw Him after His resurrection all prove that Jesus bodily arose from the dead.

The Apostle Paul records that over 500 brethren saw Him at one time. When this was written, most of those 500 were still alive. The early church had many enemies and, if the resurrection was a farce, it would have been easy to demand the names of these witnesses and show

the falseness of the church’s claim. Paul was very confident of his statement, and the fact that it was not challenged at that time proves the validity of Christ’s resurrection.

But the greatest proof is expressed in a song: “You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.” The presence of Jesus Christ within is a Christian’s greatest proof that He lives. The change in the lives of those who accept Him as Savior should convince others that He lives.

The assurance of eternal life through Jesus’ resurrection is great, but there is another benefit that is often overlooked. He defeated Satan through His resurrection and thus assures us that we, too, can defeat Satan in our daily lives.

Apostle Paul illustrates this principle in the sixth chapter of Romans. Here he teaches that, as new converts, we should be dead to sin but alive to God. Just as Jesus arose victorious over death, we should, by the same power that raised Jesus, live a life of victory over sin. Apostle Paul vividly describes the struggle of a carnal man to live righteously and concludes that it can’t be done outside of Jesus Christ (Romans 7:15-25). Apostle John adds his testimony: “...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (I John 4:4).

Our salvation is dependent on the shed blood of Jesus Christ and its power to cleanse. But our hope of a future resurrection and the power to live a victorious Christian life is a result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yes, because He lives we will live also. We can live a life of victory now, and we will live with Him forever because He lives.

--From an old Sabbath School Lesson



Covid--19

By David DeLong

Jesus and His disciples were discussing the subject of the temple. The story is found in Matthew 24:1-8. "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

One sign that Jesus indicated would take place as part of the beginning of sorrows was that of pestilences. Covid-19, the illness that comes from the coronavirus, could readily be called a pestilence. Is this pestilence a wake-up call for the world to turn to God? Very possibly.

The Lord has used pestilences, or plagues, to punish and wake up His people, Israel, and even His enemies, in the past. When the Israelites complained about the manna the Lord gave them to eat, and wanted meat, then God sent them quails. We find this episode in Numbers 11:31-34. "And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad

for themselves round about the camp. And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted."

When King David numbered the Israelites unlawfully, the Lord sent a plague to punish David and Israel. This story is found in II Samuel 24:1-25. "And again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah. For the king said to Joab the captain of the host, which was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and number ye the people, that I may know the number of the people. And Joab said unto the king, Now the LORD thy God add unto the people, how many soever they be, an hundredfold, and that the eyes of my lord the king may see it: but why doth my lord the king delight in this thing? Notwithstanding the king's word prevailed against Joab, and against the captains of the host. And Joab and the captains of the host went out from the presence of the king, to number the people of Israel. And they passed over Jordan, and pitched in Aroer, on the right side of the city that lieth in the midst of the river of Gad, and toward Jazer: Then they came to Gilead, and to the land of Tahtimhodshi; and they came to Danjaan, and about to Zidon, And came to the strong hold of Tyre, and to all the cities of the Hivites, and of the Canaanites: and they went out to the south of Judah, even to Beersheba. So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. And Joab gave up the sum of the number of the people unto the king: and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men that drew the sword; and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men. And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now,

I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly. For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me. And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite. And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house. And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite. And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee. And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David

bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel."

The Assyrian forces which came to defeat Jerusalem and the Israelites were slaughtered by the Lord as a punishment. Though the Bible doesn't specifically say the Assyrians died from a pestilence, we know that one hundred eighty five thousand were killed by the angel of the Lord in one night. We find this episode in II Kings 19:34-37. "For I will defend this city (Jerusalem), to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead."

During the Middle Ages it has been estimated that one-third of Europe was killed by the Black Death (Bubonic Plague). During the time of 1918-1919 a flu epidemic killed around half a million Americans and maybe 20 million people worldwide. AIDS, Ebola, MERS, and SARS have been, or still are, plagues that affect many. And now we have Covid-19, the latest of the pestilences that has been sent on the world.

Though there will be pestilences as Jesus predicted, God's obedient people have this encouragement: "Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee" (Psalm 91:3-7). This is usually a prophecy that is believed to take place during the seven last plagues. But, maybe it is also an encouragement for God's obedient people today.

A Reprobate, Or Castaway

By David DeLong

I was talking to a brother in our church in Salem, West Virginia about the topic of salvation. We discussed that once a person is baptized (in Jesus' name) with hands laid on for the reception of the Holy Spirit, it is hard to lose that salvation. The brother said, however, that one is not under "once saved, always saved." I agreed, but I also thought that it is close to that. In II Corinthians 13:5 we read: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" Christ is in the saved person's life, and will remain there, except he or she is a reprobate.

I looked that word "reprobate" up in Strong's Concordance. In the Greek the word is "adokimos", and it means "unapproved, i.e. rejected; by implication worthless (literally or morally) castaway, rejected, reprobate". I thought then that there are really only a few ways that a person can lose his or her salvation: two of them being by turning one's back on the Lord (see Hebrews 6:4-6) or wilfully living in sin--consciously breaking God's Commandments (see Matthew 7:22-23, iniquity meaning law breaking).

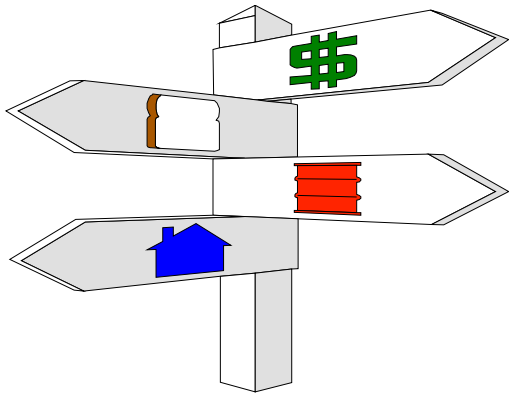
Romans 8:1 informs us: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." As long as we are sincerely making the attempt to walk after God's Commandments we are walking after the Spirit. Breaking His Commandments is walking after the flesh.

The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas, are classic examples of God's servants walking after the flesh. Two of the sins they were committing were being selfish with God's offerings (I Samuel 2:12-17), and committing adultery with some of the women of Israel (I Samuel 2:22-23). First Samuel 2:27-34 reads: "And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the

offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house. And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever. And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age. And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them." Both of these men sinned wilfully.

The Apostle Paul used the Greek word "adokimos" in I Corinthians 9:27 in reference to the English word "castaway". We quote now from I Corinthians 9:24-27. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Let me finish this article by saying that a person almost has to give away his or her salvation to lose it. Philippians 1:6 says: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ".



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.

SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH TO THINK

This month I want to present something different. I wish to copy an article by John Clayton which appeared in *Does God Exist?* Take note that the verses cited are not taken from the King James Version of the Bible, but they relay the same line of thought. The following is the article.

AMERICA FOLLOWS ISRAEL'S DEPARTURE FROM GOD

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

A cistern is a huge underground jug used in desert areas to hold rainwater. If they leak, they are useless. Jeremiah gives five causes for ancient Israel leaving God. What is amazing is that America today is doing the same five things that Jeremiah discusses. Look at the relevance of this ancient prophet's warning.

THEY REFUSE TO LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD

“To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it” (Jeremiah 6:10). Jesus repeats this in Matthew 13:14-15: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would

heal them.”

Peter warned us in 2 Peter 3:3-5: “You must understand that in the last days scoffers will come scoffing and following their own evil desires.” Romans 1:21-32 describes America today as there is continual effort to remove the Bible from all public places and all educational institutions.

THEY ARE OBSESSED WITH MATERIAL THINGS

“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit” (Jeremiah 6:13). Our culture rejects the wisdom of Luke 12:15: “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” The next six verses tell the story of the man tearing down his barns to build bigger ones to store possessions for himself. Then he dies, showing the futility of materialism. The warning follows “... this is how it will be with whosoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

As atheism grows in our country, people ridicule the message of 2 Corinthians 4:18-5:1 “So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built with human hands.”

THEY DELUDE THEMSELVES WITH FALSEHOODS

“They dress up the wounds of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say when there is no peace” (Jeremiah 6:14). It has been said that when people do not believe in something, they will believe

anything. We regularly report on scams in this journal. Some are religious, and some are material. Ancient Israel was seeking false things. Isaiah says, “For these are rebellious people; deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD’s instructions. They say to the seers, ‘See no more visions!’ and to the prophets, ‘Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things’” (Isaiah 30:9-10).

In the New Testament, we see this challenge faced by the early church. Acts 8:9-11 tells us of a man named Simon who used magic and sorcery to gain a following. In Acts 17:18-21 we see philosophers spending all their time listening to the latest ideas. In Acts 19:13-16 we see religious charlatans conducting exorcisms. All of this is happening in the same way and seems to fit the prediction of 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12: “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved.”

THEY WERE NOT ASHAMED AND COULD NOT BLUSH

Jeremiah 6:15 says: “Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush.” What does it take today to make people blush – to be embarrassed by what is taking place? I seriously doubt that most Americans can blush.

In I Corinthians 5, Paul was confronted with a situation where a member of the church was shacked up with his stepmother. Paul said to the congregation that they were “proud” (I Corinthians 5:2) meaning they made a joke out of it. Ephesians 5:12 tells us, “It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.” In America today the word “shameful” has very little meaning to most people. Why did Adam and Eve try to hide from God in Genesis 3? We have come a long way in a bad direction in twenty-first century America. Philippians 3:19 describes us well: “Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.” In verse 18 Paul tells us, “many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.”

THEY REJECTED THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Jeremiah 6:16-19 tells them and us: “This is what the LORD says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said ‘We will not walk in it.’ ... ‘We will not listen.’ ... Hear, you earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, because they have not listened to my words and have rejected my law.” The “old paths” refers to what God has told us in his Word.

What can save America? As we plunge deeper and deeper into the pit of disbelief and greed, will the people of faith take seriously the work that is before us? Right now we seem as a people to fit the condemnation of Revelation 3:15: “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot.... So because you are lukewarm – neither cold nor hot – I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” Instead of being dictated by the values of our culture, can we call people back to the standards of Jesus Christ?

Maybe like the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32 our country can “come to itself” and reject the values around us. The politicians and philosophers will not fix what is wrong with our world. The only possible solution is the teaching and example of Jesus Christ taught in our homes and congregations and lived out in the lives of his disciples.

Comment - Please notice the last two paragraphs of the above article. What can save America is asked. God could save America as a whole nation, but that is not promised in His Word. It is true that many in America have plunged deep into the pit of disbelief and greed. The percentage of Americans who say they have no religious preference and adhere to the philosophy of live and let live has been increasing for several years. This reduces the number of those who have faith and can take seriously the saving of America.

The faithful in America can attempt to call people back to the standards of Christ, but the values of America’s culture are very strong. Even many of those who claim to be Christians may be called lukewarm. They fail to adjust their mind to do all that God commands. Yes, a portion of those living in America will be saved but as a nation it will cease.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

I read an article in **USA TODAY** entitled *We've come a long, long way*. The following is a small portion of the article that has to do with life expectancy:

Futurist Ray Kurzweil predicted in 1999 that human life expectancy would rise to “over one hundred” by 2019.

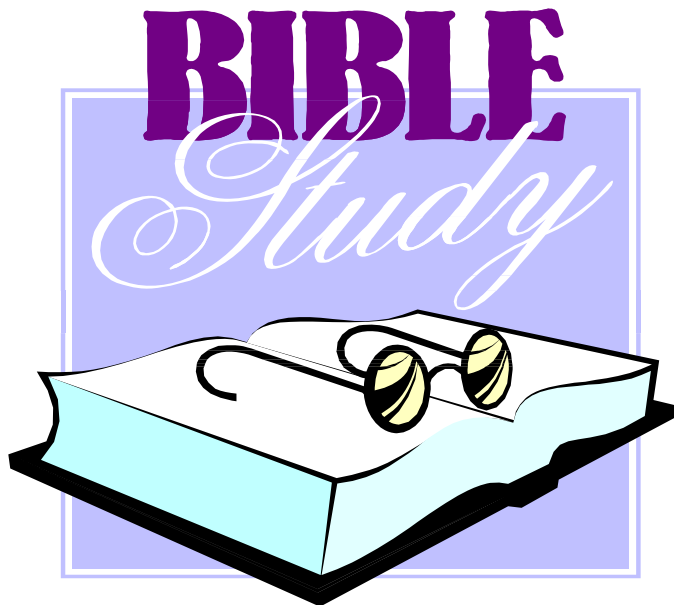
“Computerized health monitors built into watches, jewelry, and clothing which diagnose both acute and chronic health conditions are widely used. In addition to diagnosis, these monitors provide a range of remedial recommendations and interventions,” he wrote in “The Age of Spiritual Machines.”

Nope: While Kurzweil may have accurately predicted health-related gadgets (such as fitness watches, BioScarves and EKG apps for your smartphone), he jumped the gun on life expectancy.

In 2019, the average life expectancy of the globe population was 72.6 years, according to the United Nations. That average is slightly higher in the United States, at 78.6 years in 2017, according to a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Comment

Man determining life expectancy is really just an educated guess. No one knows how long he is expected to live. That determination is not up to him!



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Will you please comment on the Twelve whom Jesus named Apostles?

ANSWER: It all started by Jesus calling a few men to follow Him. This revealed immediately the direction His evangelistic strategy would take. His concern was not with programs to reach the multitudes, but with men whom the multitudes would follow. Remarkable as it may seem, Jesus started to gather these men before He organized an evangelistic campaign or even preached a sermon in public. Men were to be His method of winning the world to God.

The initial objective of Jesus' plan was to enlist men who could bear witness to His life and carry on His work after He returned to the Father. John and Andrew were the first to be invited as Jesus left the scene of the great revival of John the Baptist at Bethany beyond the Jordan (John 1:35-40). Andrew in turn brought his brother Peter (John 1:41-42). The next day Jesus found Philip on His way to Galilee, and Philip found Nathaniel (John 1:43-51). There is no evidence of haste in the selection of these disciples; just determination. James, the brother of John, is not mentioned as one of the group until the four fishermen are recalled several months later by the Sea of Galilee (Mark 1:19; Matthew 4:21). Shortly afterward Matthew is bidden to follow the Master as Jesus passed through Capernaum (Mark 2:13-14; Matthew 9:9; Luke 5:27-28). The particulars surrounding the call of the other disciples are not recorded in the Gospels, but it is believed that they all occurred in the first year of the Lord's ministry.

As one might expect, these early efforts at soul winning had little or no immediate effect upon the religious life of His day, but that did not matter greatly. For as it turned out these few early converts of the Lord were destined to become the leaders of His church that was to go with the Gospel to the whole world, and from that standpoint of His ultimate purpose, the significance of their lives would be felt throughout eternity. That is the only thing that counts.

MEN WILLING TO LEARN

What is more revealing about these men is that at first they do not impress us as being key men. None of them occupied prominent places in the Synagogue, nor did any of them belong to the Levitical priesthood. For the most part they were common laboring men, probably having no professional training beyond the rudiments of knowledge necessary for their vocation. Perhaps a few of them came from families of some considerable means, such as the sons of Zebedee, but none of them could have been considered wealthy. They had no academic degrees in the arts and philosophies of their day. Like their Master, their formal education likely consisted only of the Synagogue schools. Most of them were raised in the poor section of the country around Galilee. Apparently the only one of the twelve who came from the more refined region of Judea was Judas Iscariot. By any standard of sophisticated culture then and now they would surely be considered as a rather ragged aggregation of souls. One might wonder how Jesus could ever use them. They were impulsive, temperamental, easily offended, and had all the prejudices of their environment. In short, these men were selected by the Lord to be His assistants represented an average cross section of the lot of society in their day. Not the kind of group one would expect to win the world for Christ.

Yet Jesus saw in these simple men the potential of leadership for the Kingdom. They were indeed “unlearned and ignorant” according to the world’s standard (Acts 4:13), but they were teachable. Though often mistaken in their judgments and slow to comprehend spiritual things, they were honest men, willing to confess their need. Their mannerisms may have been awkward and their abilities limited, but with the exception of the traitor, their hearts were big. What is perhaps the most significant about them was their sincere yearning for God and the realities of His life. The superficiality of the religious life about them had not obsessed their hope for the Messiah (John 1:41, 45, 49; 6:69). They were fed up with the hypocrisy of the ruling aristocracy. Some of them had already joined the revival movement of John the Baptist (John 1:35). These men were looking for someone to lead them in the way of salvation. Such men, pliable in the hands of the Master, could be molded into a new image. Jesus can use anyone who wants to be used.

QUESTION: Who should receive thanks for the ability of a Christian to overcome the world, the flesh, and the

devil and to be found worthy of eternal life?

ANSWER: The answer is found in I Corinthians 15:57 which states, “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

QUESTION: Every child of God should bear fruit. What do you think is meant by the term “fruit of our lips?”

ANSWER: Confessing to His name and giving thanks and praise to the Lord is spoken of as “the fruit of our lips” in Hebrews 13:15.

QUESTION: Are the feasts on a par with the Ten Commandments?

ANSWER: We must never be guilty of accepting the feasts on a par with the Ten Commandments. Most people who teach them to be necessary do that very thing. Let us remember, the Ten Commandments were instituted in the beginning. There were no feasts until many years after the creation.

QUESTION: I have a friend who argues since the Feast of Tabernacles will be kept during the reign of Christ, it should be binding now. Is this so?

ANSWER: Let us turn to Zechariah 14. Here we read of the coming of the Lord, of the great battle, and of the establishment of His kingdom. In verse 16 we read, “And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.” “And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles” (verses 17-18). From reading these verses, we find that it is for the heathen to observe during the reign of Christ.

QUESTION: What doctrine do you believe is responsible for much blindness concerning the “breadth, and length, and depth, and height” of God’s abounding love?

ANSWER: The doctrine of eternal torment. It is not believed by analytical students of God’s Word.

QUESTION: Ephesians 3:17-19 reads, "...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." How can one comprehend and know that which "passeth knowledge" or is beyond understanding?

ANSWER: The great spiritual truths surpass all human knowledge. They are comprehended only by those who are consecrated to God, whose minds are illuminated by the Holy Spirit of God.

QUESTION: What is the real object of our Lord's return?

ANSWER: Jesus was born into the world as a man in order that He might sacrifice His human life for the sins of the people, and therefore redeem them from death. It was for this purpose that He gave His flesh, His humanity, for the life of the world (John 6:51).

The work of the Lord in the earth since Jesus' death and resurrection has not been the restoring of the people to health and life on earth (though this was provided by His death and resurrection), but the selection from mankind of those willing to suffer and die with Him, that they might live and reign with Him. This company of people is described in the Bible as a "people for his name" (Acts 15:14).

However, the Scriptures assure us that as a result of the redeeming work of Christ mankind will be restored to life on the earth. Christ returns to earth to accomplish this great working during what the Bible describes as "times of restitution of all things." These "times of restitution" have been foretold by all of God's holy prophets (Acts 3:19-21).

Isaiah was one of God's holy prophets, and he foretold a day when the people would not say they were sick (Isaiah 33:24). Isaiah also forecast that blind eyes would be opened, and that the deaf ears would be unstopped; and that those redeemed by Jesus would return from death (Isaiah 35:5,10). Isaiah wrote that God would wipe away the tears of the people, and that death would be destroyed (Isaiah 25:8).

Jeremiah was another of God's holy prophets. He

foretold that children who had died would be restored to life, brought back from "the land of the enemy" (Jeremiah 31:15-17).

The work of restoring mankind to health and life on the earth will be accomplished through the agencies of Christ's kingdom. This kingdom is symbolized in the Bible by a mountain, "the mountain of the Lord," and the prophet Micah foretold that in this "mountain," or kingdom of the Lord, the people would learn war no more, and that none would make them afraid (Micah 4:1-4).

In the Old Testament, those who have died are likened to prisoners who are held captive. Their awakening from death is described as a release from their captivity. Ezekiel, another of God's holy prophets, foretold the restoration of the Sodomites, the Samaritans, and the Israelites (Ezekiel 16:53).

The prophet Habakkuk foretold that following the return of the Lord the earth would be filled with a knowledge of the glory of the Lord (Habakkuk 2:14). All of these blessings will come to the peoples of the earth as a result of our Lord's return.

From KJIC Newsletter - I was never very good at kite flying. I usually blamed it on the kite, or the wind or on anything else that happened to come to mind. Now that I'm old, I am sure that most of the time the problem was me. It's been that way with a lot of other situations in life. All too often, at the very least, I've contributed to life's problems. There were even times when I was the problem. That was hard to say. Honest hindsight reveals a lot.

There are times when we fail because we really don't know how to do the task or are not able to do it. Until you know how to be a good spouse you will probably spend a lot of time sleeping on the couch. Because you are married doesn't make you a good spouse. Until you know how to be a good parent you will probably be going to see the school principal often. Because you have children doesn't make you a good parent. You may be well educated, but still do not know how to fly a kite, or to be a good spouse or parent.

[Ask for God's help in all that you do.](#)



The Philippines



The brethren at Cebu City during Sabbath service before the construction of the new building



The brethren at convention after lunch.



Elder Lot gave a message during the 2019 convention at Camp Bato, Sibonga, Cebu



Baptism at Bago, Don Salvador, Benedicto, Negros Occidental

LESSON I**SAUL'S THIRD ATTEMPT TO KILL DAVID**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 19:1-11.

Golden Text: I Samuel 19:10 (first part).

"And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin..."

NOTE: We have learned in our previous lesson that Saul has tried two times to kill David. Now let us see what his third attempt will be to try to kill David.

1. What did Saul tell Jonathan, his son, and all his servants to do? I Samuel 19:1.
2. Did Jonathan warn David of his father's desire to kill him? I Samuel 19:2.
3. Jonathan told David to hide from Saul. Did Jonathan then plead with his father to not slay David? I Samuel 19:3-5.
4. Did Saul hearken unto his sons? I Samuel 19:6.
5. Did Jonathan bring David to Saul? I Samuel 19:7.
6. Did David again fight for the king? I Samuel 19:8.
7. When an evil spirit fell upon Saul, what did he try to do to David? I Samuel 19:9-10.
8. David escaped that night from Saul. Then how did Saul pursue him? I Samuel 19:11.

LESSON II**DAVID ESCAPES TO SAMUEL**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 19:12-24.

Golden Text: I Samuel 19:18 (first part).

"So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him..."

NOTE: We last learned that Saul tried to kill David, but he slipped away in time. Saul still continues to hunt for David, and we will learn how he escapes again from Saul's evil attempts.

1. Who helped David to escape from Saul this time? I Samuel 19:12.
2. What did Michal do to help David escape? After reading the verses, tell in your own words the story. I Samuel 19:13-17.
3. Where did David go after this escape? I Samuel 19:18.
4. Did Saul again find out where David was? I Samuel 19:19.
5. What did Saul attempt to do this time? What happened to the messengers? I Samuel 19:20.
6. How many times did Saul send messengers? I Samuel 19:21.
7. Where did he usually follow David after this? I Samuel 19:22-24.

LESSON III**JONATHAN'S COVENANT WITH DAVID**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 20:1-23.

Golden Text: I Samuel 20:16.

"So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the LORD even require it at the hand of David's enemies."

NOTE: Saul has tried several times to kill David. Jonathan, the son of Saul, loved David and protected David from death. Jonathan is a very noble and unselfish person. Let us study now to see what kind of covenant he is going to make with David.

1. David has fled from Natioth in Ramah. To whom has

he gone, and what does he ask him? I Samuel 20:1.

2. Jonathan tells David that whatever his father does he will know about it. What does David tell Jonathan to be aware of? I Samuel 20:2-3.

3. What request does David make of Jonathan in I Samuel 20:5-8?

4. What did Jonathan promise David? I Samuel 20:9-14.

5. Does Jonathan make a covenant with David? I Samuel 20:16-17.

6. What does Jonathan tell David to do within three days? I Samuel 20:18-19.

7. What signal would Jonathan give to warn David of his safety or danger? I Samuel 20:20-23.

4. Did Jonathan tell his father where David had gone? I Samuel 20:28-29.

5. Was Saul angry? What did he command Jonathan to do? I Samuel 20:30-31.

6. What did Saul try to do to Jonathan when he asked his father what evil David had done? I Samuel 20:32-33.

7. What did Jonathan do, and how did he feel toward his father? I Samuel 20:34-38.

8. Did David flee? What feeling did he, David, and Jonathan have for each other? I Samuel 20:41-42.

LESSON IV

JONATHAN WARNS DAVID

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 20:24-42.

Golden Text: I Samuel 20:36.

"And he said unto his lad, Run, find out now the arrows which I shoot. And as the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him."

NOTE: Jonathan had made a covenant with David because he loved and cared for him. He wanted to protect David from Saul. When Jonathan learns of Saul's continued hatred of David, he gives David a signal. Let us now study how Jonathan warns David.

1. At the time of the new moon, what did David do? I Samuel 20:24.

2. What happened at the king's place when David did not appear? I Samuel 20:25-26.

3. On the second day when David did not appear, what did King Saul say to Jonathan? I Samuel 20:27.

RHYMING WORDS

Find words from the Sermon on the Mount that rhyme with the word given.

A word in Matthew 5:13 rhymes with halt.

A word in Matthew 5:17 rhymes with mink.

A word in Matthew 5:19 rhymes with leaven.

A word in Matthew 5:41 rhymes with rain.

A word in Matthew 5:44 rhymes with gray.

HOW TO MAKE A NEW LIFE

We can easily make a new word from many combinations. But there is only one combination that will make a new life: a repentant sinner and Jesus Christ.

Word Scramble

Unscramble these words about how Jesus grew. (For help look in Luke 2:40-52).

IDMOSW RATESUT OVFR A
GROSTN GERSINDTUNDAN EEBDONIT



**WONDERS IN THE SEA:
GOD'S HERMIT CRAB**

"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day" (Genesis 1:20-23).

Today, we are going to look at another of God's wonders in the sea, the hermit crab. These small wonders live everywhere along rocky ocean beaches, and sometimes along sandy beaches. God made more than one kind of hermit crab, though they are basically the same. They can be found inside a shell that has belonged to some kind of snail or sea animal. The hermit crab is different from other crabs; he has an unusually soft body, so soft that many sea animals like to eat him. So, by borrowing a hard shell to live in the hermit crab can stay alive without much trouble. He can pull his entire body into the shell, and leave only his largest pincer outside. He has long feelers which can be used to test the water to find out if there is any food nearby for him to eat. The right claw, larger than the left is used to close the entrance of the shell. The two pairs of legs behind the claw are used in walking, but the next two pairs are small and are used to grip the shell. The last pair of limbs on the abdomen are sickle-shaped and used for holding onto the central column of the shell.

There are swimmerets on the left side of the abdomen only.

As a hermit crab outgrows his shell, he must go and find a larger one. Since he must leave his old shell behind while he looks for a bigger one, this is a dangerous time for the hermit crab. Some fish may swallow him before he finds a new shell that is the right size for him. If he finds a shell that is too big, he is not able to carry it around with him.

The hermit crab must go into this shell tail first for he cannot turn around inside. The crab examines the new shell all over for several minutes with its claws, then if it seems good enough and no enemy is near, it hurriedly transfers its abdomen from the old shell to the new. Sometimes one hermit crab may try to drive another from its shell.



It is fun to watch two hermit crabs in a small tide pool. They do not like each other very well. They will rush at each other, each one trying to make the other run away in terror. They can bluff each other like this for a long time. If you keep very still and do not move, they will not know you are around.

To common hermit crabs of European seas is the soldier crab. Usually only the young are found on the shore. They make their homes from winkle, topshell or dog whelk shells. They are well-protected from the pounding waves and from drying up when the tide is out. The older soldier crabs live in deeper water and occupy the larger shells of common and hard whelks.

If we were to go to a tropical coast we would find hermit crabs that are semi-terrestrial (live partly on land). These crabs occupy ordinary snail shells, but have been found in joints of bamboo or coconut shells.

Another hermit crab found in deep water in the Indian

Ocean, lives in pieces of bamboo. Those found in the West Indies live at 600-1200 feet in hollow cylinders of wood.

Hermit crabs eat both plants and animals. They are scavengers, tearing up food with their smaller left claws and transferring it to their mouths. The methods of obtaining food may vary with each type of hermit crab.

Just as a hard object lying on the sea bed, the shell of a hermit crab becomes encrusted with weeds, sponges, barnacles and hydroids. Certain sea anemones regularly associate with hermit crabs and form close partnerships with them. Some types of hermit crabs carry the anemone on their shells, sometimes several of them. While the hermit feeds the anemone can be seen sweeping the ground with its outstretched tentacles as it gathers fragments left by the crab. The hermit crab may also benefit from bits of food caught by the anemone.

There are still other characteristics of this small creature which we have not listed. Each species of the hermit crab seems to have its own traits. Each of God's creatures are uniquely different, designed for a specific purpose and to survive in its own territory.

If you live near the ocean, why not hunt for one of these small creatures. You can keep a hermit crab in an aquarium or a gallon jar of sea water. Plant some seaweed in the jar, and drop a worm or large insect about two times a week for him to eat. Replace the evaporated water with distilled water. If you live near the ocean, change the sea water every week. It is most interesting to have some pet crabs. Remember to put each crab in a separate jar.

The next time we see a hermit crab along the shore or perhaps even in your friend's collection, remember that this small wonder did not just happen by chance, but was created by a grand Designer, our heavenly Father.



A FUN MAZE

Can you find your way through the maze? It starts with loving thoughts and leads to our heavenly Father. There are lots of surprises, so be careful.



HIDDEN WORD SEARCH

The hidden words appear in John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

All the words in this verse will appear in the puzzle. They will be found forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. Find each word and put a line around it.

T	L	E	O	N	O	N	M	A
I	U	B	Y	F	E	W	L	A
A	N	D	M	A	E	A	U	S
C	T	H	A	T	H	Y	R	U
N	O	I	N	H	T	I	A	S
L	L	M	E	E	R	H	B	E
L	I	F	E	R	U	U	E	J
S	A	E	H	T	T	I	D	N
U	N	T	O	T	H	E	B	O

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THIS IS MY BIBLE

Words and Music by Carmen

*This is my Bible,
I am what it says I am,
I have what it says I have,
I'll do what it says I'll do.
This is my Bible,
It has given me new life,
It is the WORD of God.
When I'm lost and gone astray
It helps me find my way,
When I quote it I will see
The devil has to flee.*

