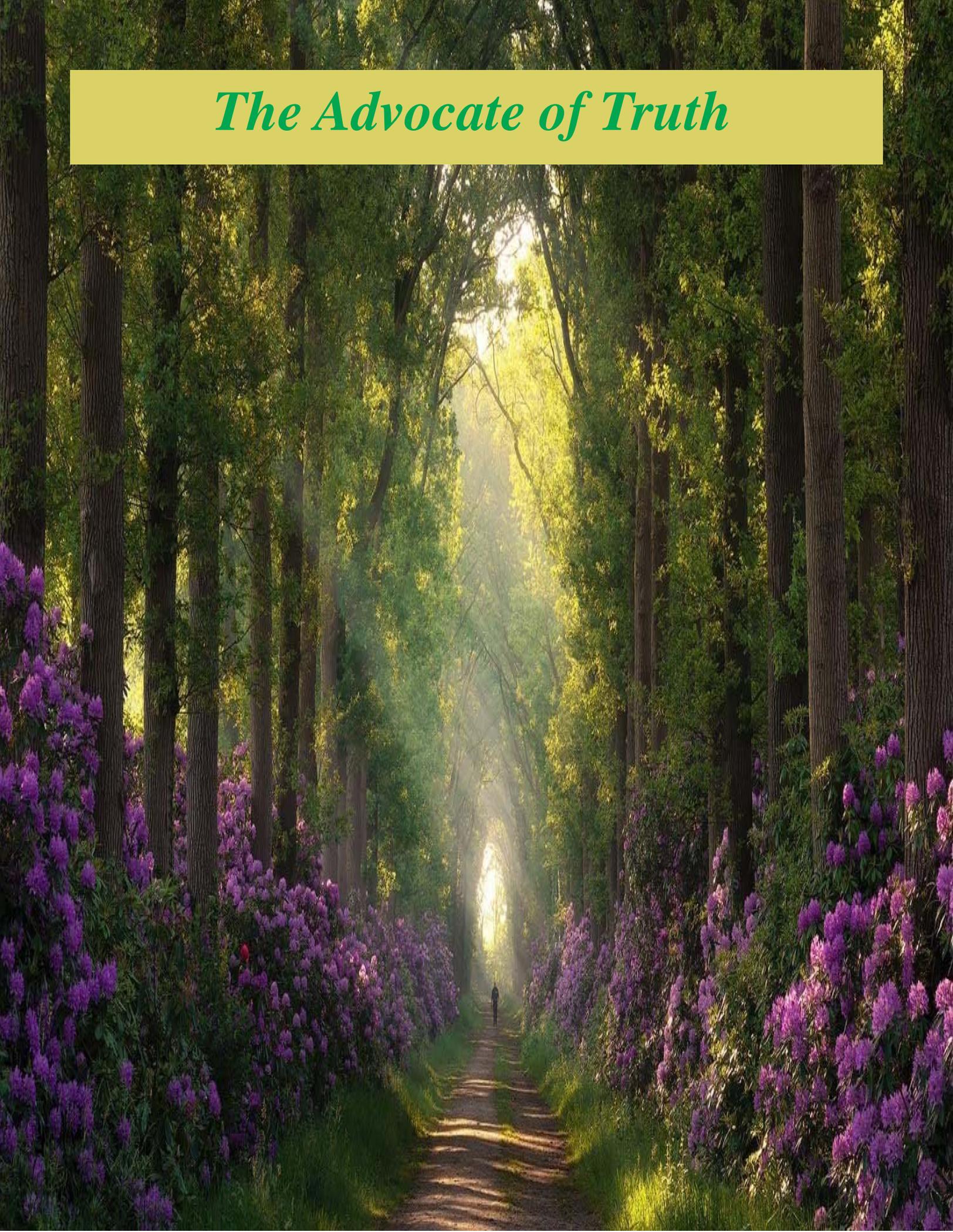


The Advocate of Truth





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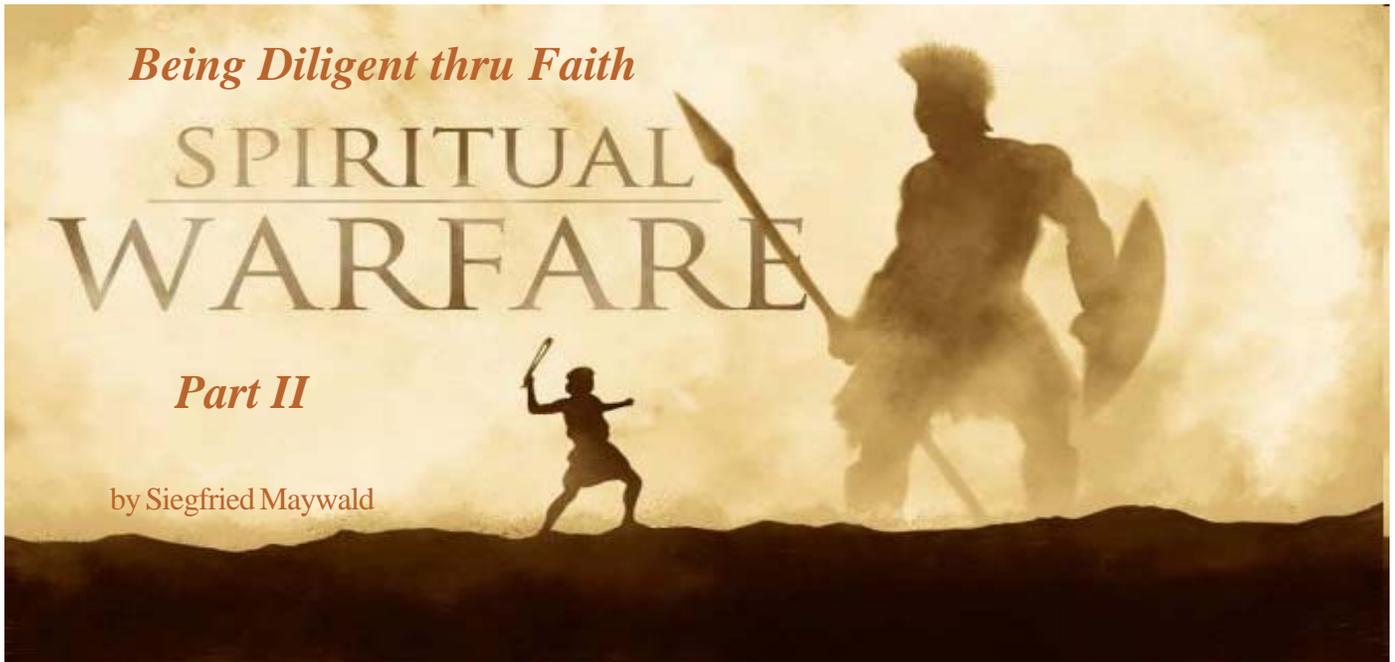
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If you, a family member or family friend are in need of prayer please contact us today at 304-782-1411 and we will get you in touch with a minister who can help you with your situation and prayer.



The Bible tells us that we need to always be ready for the second coming of Christ.

I Thessalonians 5:1-6

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

'Let us not sleep, be sober', what does that mean? It means that we are not left in darkness, but have knowledge of what is going to happen in the near future. We do not sleep, but read and prepare for what is to come. In the book of Revelation 1:3 we read: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

Apostle Paul teaches that it is sinful to be indifferent to the Word of God and to the signs which precede His return. Instead of man's speculation let the Word of God be your guide! Let it be preached and if it differs from what you had heard before, be open-minded. Some people do not

like to hear new evidence, because they get confused! What I say to them is - read the Scriptures - verify the facts to what was said before you dismiss what you heard! The Holy Spirit will speak the truth through human agents with convincing power and reveal error. Remember that Jesus called those who prefer tradition before truth hypocrites.

John 5:39-40 instructs us to: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." However many people do not want to listen to the advice of the Scriptures.

Jesus said in John 5:43-44:

"I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"

To accumulate knowledge of the Scriptures is necessary, but knowledge alone does not change us, but the understanding and willingness to obey and direct our lives in accordance to their teachings does. We must have the will and desire in our minds and hearts to do God's will and not build an attitude of resistance or self-reliance.

Growth in faith is based on 3 principles

1. We believe in certain salvation doctrines which involves

a person's mind and intellect.

2. We trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. We surrender self in the search for truth.

3. We abide by His will and act accordingly which changes our lives.

We must acknowledge that

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17). For "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him" (I John 2:4-5).

We ought to obey God rather than men! The Holy Spirit is the power of God that helps us to overcome transgression and turn to obedience. But we must have faith for "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Through faith we turn from transgression to obedience. But many accept theories as truth and make compromise with the world, with their desire and the devil. Be diligent, make your election sure and be convinced within your own mind so that the minds of others cannot mislead and deceive you!

"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).

Be diligent, "...add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance..." patience and godliness. To godliness add brotherly kindness and charity.

"For if these things be in you...ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see... for he has "forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore...brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do theses things, ye shall never fall" and your entrance "...into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" is assured (II Peter 1:5-11).

In the end the Bible and the Bible only becomes the au-

thoritative defense and weapon against the onslaught of evil and deceptive spiritual influence of Satan. The people of God are directed to safeguard the Scriptures against false doctrines and those who teach them. Satan will deploy any possible device to prevent people to obtain knowledge of the Scriptures. Therefore every statement and miracle must be tested and verified to be in alignment with the Scriptures. If you discover that your cherished understanding or opinion is not in harmony with the Scriptures, then at least be open minded to the light that has been revealed to you. Before rejecting, read, verify and check the Scriptures whether it is so or not and then open your mind and heart to receive the new light. He who hears the truth and thereafter turns from it, because acceptance would mean change in what he believed or becomes a hindrance in what he does, bears the fruit of darkness and disobedience.

In many people reproof arouses the spirit of hatred and resistance. Instead of correcting the error in humbleness, indignation against the reprover is propagated as if the reprover is the sole cause of the problem. For when God's message is brought to the attention of conscience, Satan immediately leads men to justify themselves and seek sympathy and help from others in their course of "injury." Why do they react in this manner? Well, their pride, their prior understanding, their belief and conviction are brought to question. Instead of immediately rejecting any new light, our consciousness should be aroused and brought into thorough scrutiny with the Scriptures. For we see many false prophets rise and deceive many. Therefore the Bible must be made the study book, not some other people's or prophet's writings about the Bible. Only if we surrender our hearts to the sanctified truth of the Scriptures will we:

1. Find balance in understanding
2. Be more open minded to the truth
3. Exercise our conscience to be more sensitive
4. Become more resistant to temptation
5. Find a better concept of God amongst brethren.

Trying to live as a Christian and still participate in the world causes trouble and confusion. People who do so have chosen the world, accepted its customs, and their characters have become marred. Their spiritual life is wea-

ried. They place upon themselves the burdens the Scriptures admonish us to leave behind, to come out of.

In Proverbs 11:14 and 15:22 we read:

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety...Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."

We can share information with people but unless they are willing to study for themselves and accept the workings of the Spirit and become converted within their own mind, we, as watchmen, are only wasting our time. Their hearts are hardened, therefore we see a persisting rejection of light. To this situation Hosea 4:17 tells us: "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone."

God wants men who cannot be bought or sold to compromise.

God wants men whose innermost conscience is true and honest.

God wants men who reveal sin for what it is.

God wants men who stand for what is right.

God wants men of noble and peaceful character.

God wants men who render service to God and man.

God wants men who abide by His Word and will.

But those people who resist the entreaties of the Holy Spirit and continue in disbelief, in doing what is wrong in the face of the clearest evidences against it, have "...a form of godliness, but (deny) the power thereof: From such turn away" (II Timothy 3:5). In their infatuation they may go to great lengths and flatter themselves in that they are doing the work of God.

To this attitude Proverbs 5:22-23 tells us that:

"His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."

Stubbornness prevails in our time and instruction is refused as it was in the time of Noah. This is why as it was in the time of Noah, so shall it be in the time of the end. Noah preached for 120 years, yet the people did not change their minds till the Flood came and destroyed

them all (see Matthew 24:37).

When man throws out the law of God, the Gospel loses its meaning and value! Because "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him (I John 2:4-5). This is the test of people who abide by His will. Every word that Jesus spoke is truth and should not be declared invalid, but if we do, then all Scripture is brought into question and nothing can be believed as recorded!

James 2:14, 19-20, and 24 tells us:

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?... Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?... Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

THE COMMANDMENTS

By Fabien Harford

*We have commands, the holy Ten,
'Twas given by God and not men;
Why should we not listen to Him,
And stay away from Satan and sin?*

*The commandment is just and holy and good,
Lord! Help me obey the way I should;
In one to four we get to know
Of how to love God evermore,
And keep His rest from eve to eve,
Or else we surely will not live.*

*Respect Father and Mother we must,
If not our days will be rather short;
And do not take another life
By lying tongue or wicked gun.*

*To have a happy, healthy life,
Make sure and stay true to your own wife;
And love your neighbor as your self
In word and deed and honesty.*

By Carlo Rasmussen, deceased



Since the time of the Creation the Lord has used signs to represent a special event or person that He desired to be remembered in Scripture. The Lord has always used signs to both the unbelieving of the world, as well as to His people. As an example, the sun and moon were created "to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years" (Genesis 1:14). Through the proper understanding of the signs of the sun and moon and stars we may determine reasonably close such things as coming weather conditions. Matthew 16:2-3 says, "He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red'. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring." Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times." Yes, the Lord has provided in His creation many signs, which may benefit us to learn about and understand that we may better know the Lord and come closer to Him.

The first sign we read of in Scripture is the Seventh Day of the week. This is the Day of Rest of the Lord, the Sabbath Day. The Seventh Day of every week is a sign between the Lord and His people. The Sabbath Day was already a sign of God before the children of Israel received the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. We read in Exodus 16 where the children of Israel were instructed "...that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily" (verse 5). This incident took place before the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai; thus the Sabbath Day was already a sign in effect to the people of God. In Exodus 31:13 the Lord instructed Moses saying: "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations..." This particular sign remains today as a memo-

rial to God's wonderful creation. "For (because) in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:11).

The second major sign of God in the Scriptures is found at the time of Noah. After Noah and his family went through the Flood and were back again on dry land, Noah built an altar unto the Lord, Genesis 8:20. Verse 21 reads, "And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth..." While speaking to Noah, in Genesis 9:12, God said: "...This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth...And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:12-15). To this very day God has remained true unto His covenant, and the rainbow we see when rain clouds are above us is God's sign to that covenant. What a truly wonderful and loving God we have.

Another time the Lord used signs was when He instructed Moses to go back into Egypt and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. At the time the Lord was instructing Moses, Moses became uneasy and said, "...they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice..." (Exodus 4:1). It was then that the Lord changed Moses' rod into a serpent, and changed it back again to a rod when Moses picked it up by the tail. Also the Lord allowed Moses' hand to become leprous, and then healed it again. After these things the Lord told Moses that these would

be as signs, "And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign" (Exodus 4:8). The Lord went on to say in verse 9: "And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land." We know from reading the rest of the account that many signs were wrought by God before Pharaoh finally released the children of Israel from their bondage. After the death of all the firstborn of the Egyptians, at the midnight of the first Passover, Pharaoh recognized the Lord.

An annual date of the Passover, which today is the Lord's Supper is in conjunction with still another of God's signs. This sign is the full moon. When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper (the Bread and the Cup), it was the same night of the year as when the children of Israel observed their first Passover. This night was the evening of the 14th day of the first month (Abib) in God's yearly calendar. On that very night there was a full moon in the sky. This was the same night in which Jesus was betrayed (see I Corinthians 11:23). Each year on the 14th day of the first month of God's calendar, at evening, there has always been a full moon. This is another of God's signs for all mankind.

One of the prophets whom God used for a sign was the prophet Ezekiel. This prophet of God was to be a sign of the nation of Israel. In Ezekiel 12, beginning in verse 2, the Lord said; "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house." The following verses show the Lord's instruction unto Ezekiel, and we read what the Lord intended for Ezekiel to be at the end of verse 6: "...for I have set thee for a sign unto the house of Israel." Verse 11 reveals what God instructed Ezekiel to say unto the nation of Israel that he was a sign unto them. This was to remind Israel why they were in captivity lest they forget.

A thought to consider would be God's two witnesses, who could be His signs unto the wicked world during the time of the Seven Last Plagues, which is the wrath of God upon the world after the saints are caught away. Like as Ezekiel was a sign unto Israel, so may these two be a sign unto a wicked and unbelieving world. In reading Revela-

tion 11:3-10, "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth." We can understand the mission and final outcome of God's two witnesses. Even though the Lord used these two witnesses to show the wicked world their errors and testify of Him, the world will not repent. The Scriptures record in Revelation 11:18 that "the nations were angry," or hardened in their hearts. They will not hearken unto God's sign.

People in general are interested in signs and will look for them, especially on the subjects of prophecy or other subjects of a religious nature. It is that part of the natural man within the person which seeks to be reassured that a given point is certain. The Jews during the time of Christ were no exception when it came to looking for a sign. The scribes and Pharisees who knew the Scriptures still were not satisfied to accept Jesus for what He actually was. They wanted to see a sign from Jesus to really prove He was Who He said he was. We read of this in Matthew 12:38-40, and Jesus answered them by saying, "...An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." This was the only sign Jesus gave unto them and it is on record for all to see and know today This sign was fulfilled when Jesus was

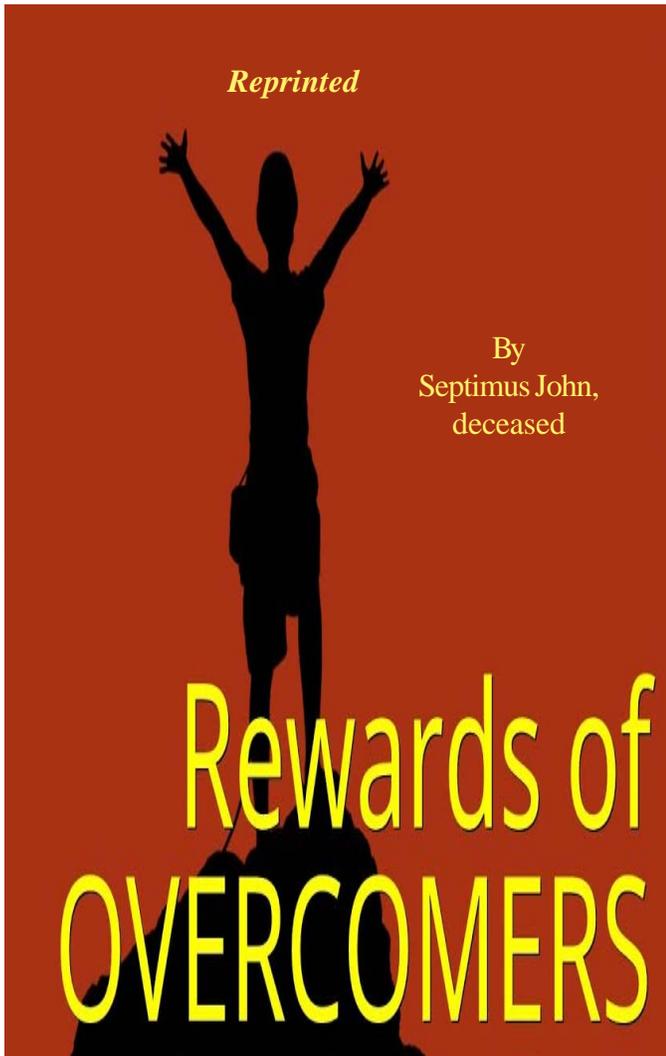
resurrected after being three days and three nights in the grave. This sign stands today and will remain. It is a written testimony to all who seek the true Redeemer.

Today we are at the end of a given age, which has been proclaimed by God through His Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, when He walked with His disciples, foretold of these days we live in today. He spoke of these days as the gentile times, and He called these days "the last days." Paul also wrote of these last days unto Timothy in his second letter and called this time "perilous times" in chapter 3, verse 1. When Jesus foretold of the events to happen during the last days His words were accurate as we can testify today. Concerning these troublesome times in which we live today, Jesus used these prophecies as signs of the time when He would return to help keep His disciples in remembrance. In Matthew 24:3-14, 21-22, 27-31 we see these signs are vividly recorded for our study. "Now as he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age? And Jesus answered and said to them: Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nations will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famine, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and receive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give

its light: the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." There can be no misunderstanding of what these signs mean. We are at the very end of this gentile age, and soon the great appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ will be fulfilled just as Jesus said it would. The signs of the times are telling everyone that the time of the earth's rest is nigh at hand. It would be well with all to know and understand these signs for they are pointing the way to the time when both the righteous and the wicked will be rewarded for their respective ways and paths.

The Family of God down through the years since the time of Christ have had certain signs which the individual will show forth. God's people will have the same signs as did the Lord Jesus Christ. Many people today are looking for the wrong signs when they seek the Lord and His people. The outward appearance is many times deceiving, however the Scriptures do provide a very simple guide. Upon finding the Lord Jesus in the Word a true disciple will repent and be baptized and receive the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. When one receives the gift of the Spirit of God and walks in newness of life, that person will produce certain "fruits," or certain characteristics. These fruits are listed in the book of Galatians 5:22-23. ""But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." Here we will find the true signs of the people of God. Only through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God will these fruits be manifested in their completeness. Are you filled with the Spirit of God? When Jesus appears in the clouds the only way to being reaped from the earth is to be filled with the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God within you is Christ within you, the hope of glory. This is the greatest sign any man can ever hope of having, for therein is a Jewel of greater value than the whole world. It is free from God the Father through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us consider these thoughts and through studies of the Scriptures let us be filled with the Holy Spirit of God and be as signs for Jesus along the paths of our daily lives.

May God bless you to understand these thoughts.



Becoming a part of the family of God is the single most important achievement that anyone can achieve. It was never the intention of God that man - whom he created perfect - should find himself in a lost condition. But because of Satan's deceitfulness, our fore parents in the Garden of Eden became sinners. Nevertheless, our heavenly Father in his love and mercy provided a sacrifice in the person of his Son to die in our place, thus making it possible for every one to be redeemed. Although salvation has been freely provided by God, Satan continues in his effort to keep us away from God by bringing different trials and temptations which we have to overcome in order to be able to enter the kingdom. Paul said that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (II Timothy 3:12). But many blessed promises await all those who will overcome Satan's wiles.

White raiment is promised to the overcomers in Rev-

elation 3:5. In the same verse, Jesus also promised to confess his servant's names before his Father and gather holy angels because their names will be found written into the book of life. The white raiment is the righteousness of the saints, which will decorate the bride of Jesus Christ (the new Jerusalem)-Revelation 19:7-8. Those who will be counted worthy to enter the marriage of the lamb will not be hurt of the second death, for they likewise are called overcomers in Revelation 2:11. The death which separates loved ones in this life is called a sleep in Daniel 12:2 and John 11:11-14. This is not the second death because Lazarus, Dorcas and many others have died more than once, but they have not been touched of the second death.

The overcomers will also be privileged to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God (Revelation 2:7). The leaves from the tree of life will be used for medicine to heal the nations. (Ezekiel 47:12; Revelation 22:1-2). The nations mentioned here refer to Israel who is now in spiritual blindness (Romans 11:7, 25) and the heathen who have never heard of God's salvation plan for mankind. The saints will not only eat of the tree of life and drink from the river of life, but they will also have hidden manna to eat. They will have a new body, a new dwelling place, new food and also new names (Revelation 2:17). At that time the overcomers will be sitting with Christ in His throne, as He is now sitting with His father in His throne (Revelation 3:21). Being co-rulers with Christ, we will rule the nations with a rod of iron. God promised in Daniel 7:27 that the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High. Revelation 3:12 says that the saints will then be pillars in the temple of God, and Jesus promised to write on them the name of His God and the name of the city, which is the New Jerusalem which cometh down from God out of heaven. The saints will be privileged to walk on streets of gold where there will be love, peace and happiness forever.

It is God's plan that every obedient child of His should share the joy of the new city. Revelation 22:14 says, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Do not allow the blood of Christ to be shed in vain on your behalf. Be an overcomer! Accept Him now while there is time.

PATIENCE

by Sister Makeda Richards

Grenada West Indies

There are times when I ask God for something,
And I feel like I deserve it because to Him only I cling.

So I get worried, frustrated, and anxious,

And I question over and over

Why this happens to the righteous.

But what I seem to forget or in my memory lag,
Is that my so-called righteousness is as filthy rags.
In fact, Jesus reminded us there is only one that's good,
And it's God Himself in which that title stood.

So I had to transform my thinking,
Change my mindset into consistent optimistic believing.

That whenever I ask God for something,
He will answer a yes, no, or to keep me waiting.

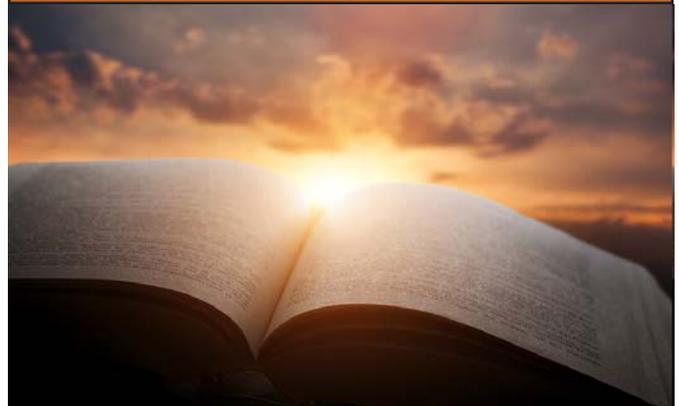
For experience had taught me,
God has a way of working things out
and setting me free.

Free from what you may enquire?
Free from my earthly lusts
and giving me what He truly desires.

Reasons and Principles

THE OBJECTIVE AND SUBJECTIVE REGARDING THE FAITH.

By: Moises Torres M.



Objective faith is grounded in the object: Christ. Subjective faith is in the subject: meaning the worshipper. The gospel is objective and is based on the life experience of our Lord Jesus. The subjective religion is originated in man, and depends on feelings, emotions, and impulses of the worshipper.

The Bible says: "...then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). So faith is acquired by hearing and understanding the gospel of Christ through the word of Christ.

The gospel of Christ is objective, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein (in the gospel) is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16-17).

Therefore the objective faith is fed off the gospel, the subjective is fed off emotions, and feelings of the individual.

The objective one feeds the spirit; the subjective one feeds the flesh; man's feelings come and go like waves in the sea. Faith does not depend on what is felt, but of what is believed.

I JOHN 5:10-13: "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

COLOSSIANS 3:3-4: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

Christ is the objective or the purpose of our faith. The gospel is full of Christ. And the faith relies on the life of Christ, not on our own.

Your faith is not based on yourself, but in Christ (our objective), therefore, our weakness should be united to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our fragility to His eternal power. Therefore, we should not, in anyway depend on ourselves subjectively, but in Christ. OBVIOUSLY.

OBEY OR DIE

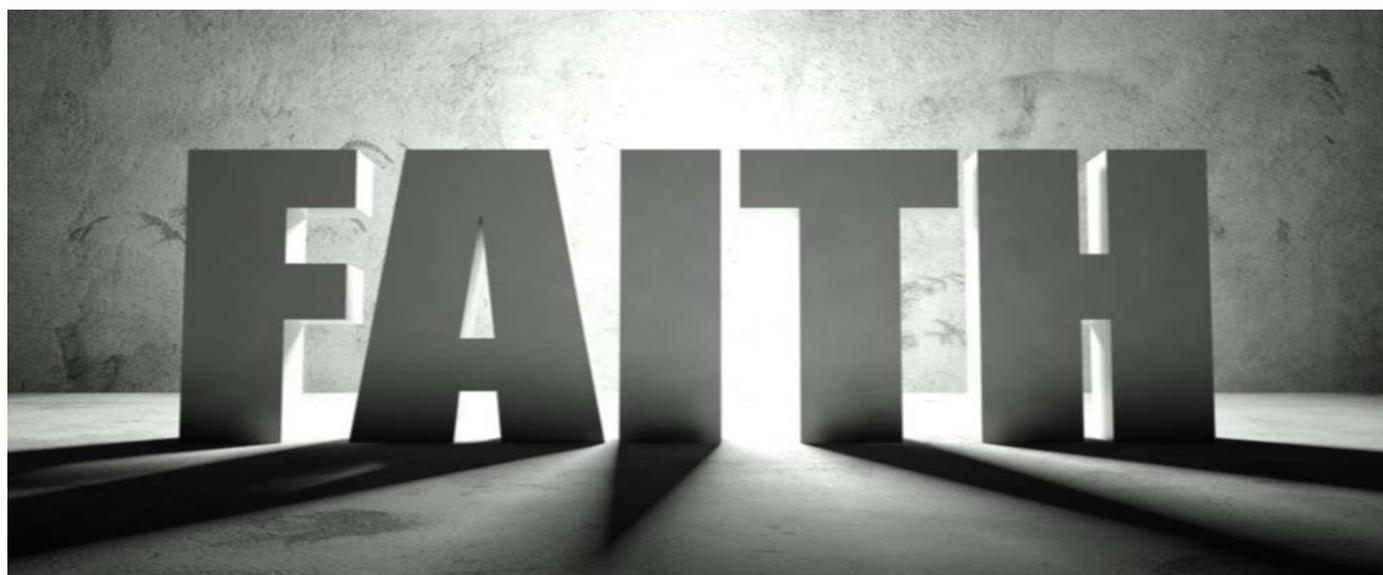
Dictatorships live and work in an atmosphere of fear. The higher one is in the dictatorship, the greater the distrust, uneasiness and fear.

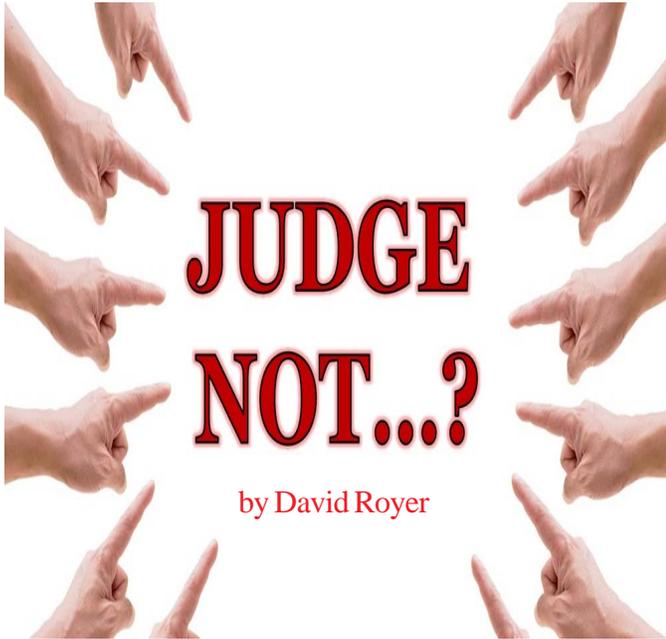
Why is this? Because there is no moral law. There are no standards of honesty, integrity - of right and wrong. There is no God and hence no laws of God by which mortals may live. There are no Ten Commandments. Nothing but brute force and the desire to satisfy the one in charge.

When men are not impelled by loyalty to God to be honest, truthful, kind and to refrain from murdering, stealing and coveting there is no basis on which they can trust one another.

The laws of God set forth in the Ten Commandments are the only means men have to developing an orderly, peaceable society in which they may work and play in confidence and trust of one another. They are the only means of banishing fear, hatred, suspicion and death.

Men must learn to obey God or suffer the consequences. It is just that simple.





One of the most widely known and quoted Bible phrases is “Judge Not.” This is most likely because we live in a time where the principal value of our culture is tolerance. Even our heart teaches us that true love is “acceptance.” A love that is tolerant with other people’s choices and lifestyles and any attempt to speak a word of correction to another person is seen as a closed-minded, arrogant, and intolerant position. After all, even Jesus said, people should not judge in Matthew 7:1.

“Judge not, that ye be not judged.”

But look carefully! That is not what this verse is saying. It says, judge in such a way that you will not be judged. This verse has so often been misused and taken out of context.

Before continuing, I need to clarify that this article deals with our relationship with individuals within our Christian family. Believers are called upon to support one another, build each other up and offer a friendly reminder if we go astray.

We are also called to be witnesses of Christ, including telling non-believers how they violate His law. That topic is for another day. For now, we pray for the non-believers and their conversion. Back to the article:

At first, I thought I could better clarify this issue by identifying the original Greek¹ words translated into the English word “judge.” There are many different meanings of this word in New Testament verses. For example:

KRINO = To Judge; The original Greek verb most frequently translated as “judge” in the New Testament. This Greek word can refer to various stations of judges offering multiple types of judgment in many circumstances. In other words, there is nothing inherent in this word to mandate a precise understanding of a specific judge, a specific subject being judged, the nature of the judgment given, the realm of judgment, or even the acceptability of the judging performed.

ANAKRINO = To Judge; This original Greek verb is related to **KRINO**, except it is necessarily more intensive or thorough. It is typically translated as to examine, search, judge, or discern carefully.

DIAKRINO = To Judge; This original Greek verb is related to **KRINO**, except it emphasizes the separation between the things being judged. Often it refers to arguing with others. It also frequently refers to being at variance within oneself, to doubt, or to waver.

Unfortunately, in Matthew 7:1, “judge” was initially written with the Greek word “krino.” This definition is too generic to permit us to confirm all usages to the same applied meaning. So, like many other words, we must examine the context of each verse to understand their meaning. As always, the Bible stands as its own best commentator.

Continue reading beyond Matthew 7:1; we find four verses and a cross-referenced parallel passage in Luke that gives us contextual clues to the meaning of Matt. 7:1. Matt. 7: 2-5 reveals what type of judging to avoid and the consequences.

If we judge others with hypocrisy, we will be judged by the level of the hypocrisy used. “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou

say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Matthew 7:2-5.

The cross-referenced parallel verses direct us to Luke 6:37-42 "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye."

In other words, check our ego. Consider the sin in our own life as a log compared to a speck in our eye. If sin remains undealt with in our lives, we will not be in a position to help others with their sin. Jesus says that until you remove the sin from your own life, you will not be able to see "clearly" enough to help someone else. If you are living a life that does not follow in Christ's footsteps, you are not in a place spiritually to lead someone else to holiness.

Based on the above, how can we ever judge another person? God has commanded believers to address the sins of our fellow Christians in a certain way and a narrowly defined path:

First, repent of your own sin, and then you can lovingly speak truth into another person's life. You must do this because God will judge you, and if you have not been cleansed of your sin, any judgmental attitude toward others will be one of the things that condemn us on our final judgment day.

Second, any judgment is to be done righteously according to God's holy Laws, not our opinion. Our opinion is meaningless compared to God's eternal words. We are not to judge people in the sense of condemning them. Jesus teaches us to — with love — tell fellow believers about their sins. "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." (John 7:24). The meaning of this is that we should judge biblically, not worldly. Such biblical judgment should be redemption-oriented, with the motive of gently helping a fellow brother or sister move back into a right relationship with Christ.

The challenge that all of us face in making a righteous judgment is that we cannot see into the other person's heart; we do not know their intentions and attitudes. We have a hard enough time understanding ourselves, let alone someone else! In Jesus' comments about judging during His Sermon on the Mount, He cautions us about being too critical. Therefore, it is far better to lean toward patience, forbearance, and mercy if we have to make a judgment call.

And finally, Jesus told His disciples: "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." (Matt. 18:15). So, we are to take our concerns directly to our brother in private. We are not to shame or humiliate or gain a superior spiritual standing over someone else. No, Jesus says that sin and trespass should be first confronted privately.

It is an uncomfortable subject, but the conversation must happen so that we may keep our brothers and sisters in Christ from the awful effects of sin and express our sincere love toward them. The most unloving and least Christian thing one can do is withhold the saving knowledge of holiness and not approach a fellow brother or sister in Christ about their sin. We are to be "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God;..." (Heb. 12:15). In today's English: See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God.

Source for Greek words and definitions:
[www.insearchoftruth.org/articles/
word_study_judge.html](http://www.insearchoftruth.org/articles/word_study_judge.html)



The Food Corner

Chocolate Zucchini Cake

Last summer our local church was blessed by Sister Fawzia DeLong and her abundance from her garden. She grew so many zucchinis that each sabbath we would arrive to church to find a row of baked goods that she had made for each of us to enjoy. Each week we would be surprised by a different variety of lemon zucchini bread then blueberry zucchini muffins, then zucchini cookies, and we would all laugh about what new recipe she'd make next week for us. But the most important part was seeing all the smiles and love that was exchanged as we all thanked her for thinking of us during the week and making our favorites.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).



Thank you Sister Fawzia for the recipe; she hopes everyone will enjoy it. She is pictured to the left with her husband, the late, Apostle Delwin DeLong

If you'd like to contribute a kosher recipe to The Food Corner please send to Church of God 7th Day P.O. Box 328 Salem, West Virginia 26426 or email christylgiggles@aol.com

Ingredients:

- 1 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup buttermilk (can use whole milk)
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup baking cocoa
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp cloves
- 2 cups finely shredded zucchini
- 12 cup sliced semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds (optional)

Directions: In large mixing bowl, beat sugar, oil and flour. Add eggs, milk and vanilla, mix well. Combine flour, cocoa, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and cloves; gradually add to creamed mixture. Stir in zucchini, chocolate chips and almonds.

Pour into a greased and floured 13X9 pan. optional: Bundt pan, muffins or mini loaves
Bake at 325 for 55-60 minutes or 'til a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean.

Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack. Let cool then drizzle frosting over top.

Frosting:

2 cups powdered sugar, 1/4 cup butter, 1/4 cup cocoa, 1/4 cup coffee or enough to make it thin, beat until smooth.



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

New Church Building at Biayon Sergio Osmena, Zam. Del Norte Philippines.



BIBLE

Study



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.

7 - THE REAPING PHASE OF CHRIST'S COMING

Question: Where did John see the saints?

Answer: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (Revelation 15:2).

Question: What song was sung?

Answer: "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest (displayed)," (verses 3-4).

Question: What did John see happen after that?

Answer: "And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever" (verses 5-7).

NOTE: The seven last plagues are poured out after the catching up of the saints to the sea of glass (new Jerusalem). This catching up permits all saints, dead and living, to escape these last plagues.

Question: What then happened to the temple?

Answer: "And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple (pray to God), till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (verse 8).

NOTE: During the seven last plagues there will be no prayers accepted by God and there will be no opportunity for salvation; this is from the reaping of the saints until the thousand year reign of Jesus.

Question: What did John see?

Answer: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud," Revelation 14:14 first part.

Question: Who was upon the white cloud?

Answer: "and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man (Jesus Christ)," verse 14 second part.

Question: What was upon His head?

Answer: "Having on his head a golden crown" (verse 14 third part).

Question: What was in his hand?

Answer: "and in his hand a sharp sickle" (verse 14 last

part).

Question: What did another angel say to Christ?

Answer: "And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe" (Verse 15).

Question: What did Christ do?

Answer: "And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped" (Verse 16).

NOTE: Christ comes to reap the saints from the earth.

Question: What happened then?

Answer: "And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle" (verse 17).

Question: What was this angel told to do?

Answer: "And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe (verse 18).

Question: Where were the clusters of the vine of the earth cast?

Answer: "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God (seven last plagues)" (verse 19).

NOTE: Christ and His angels reap the saints, after which the wicked represented by the vine are cast into the winepress of the wrath of God (the pouring out of the plagues upon the earth).

Question: What did John see happen under the sixth seal?

Answer: "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun

became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places" (Revelation 6:12-14).

Question: What did the wicked do?

Answer: "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains" (Verse 15).

Question: Upon what do they call?

Answer: "And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Verse 16).

Question: When the wicked call upon the rocks and mountains will God's wrath be past or will the wrath just come? What question will they ask?

Answer: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (verse 17).

Question: What will happen immediately after the tribulation?

Answer: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Matthew 24:29)

NOTE: These are the things that happen under the sixth seal, so here Matthew outlines the same things that John does in Revelation 6.

Question: What will then appear?

Answer: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn (compare with Revelation 6:15-16), and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with

power and great glory" (verse 30).

Question: How does Isaiah describe the church?

Answer: "Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD" (Isaiah 26:17).

Question: What is her lament?

Answer: "We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought (worked) any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen" (verse 18).

Question: How does God promise a resurrection of his people?

Answer: "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body (all dead men will arise at the same time as Isaiah) shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead" (verse 19).

Question: At the resurrection what command is given to God's people?

Answer: "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers (New Jerusalem), and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation (wrath of the seven last plagues) be overpast" (verse 20).

Question: Why does the Lord reap the church at this time?

Answer: "For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity (sins): the earth also shall disclose (reveal) her blood (those who belong to God's church), and shall no more cover her slain (no saint will die again) (verse 21).

Question: After their reaping, under what will the saints abide?

Answer: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1).

Question: How complete will the protection of Christ be?

Answer: "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 (Plague) 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" (verses 4-7).

NOTE: Remember this is because the saints are safe in God's secret chambers, the sea of glass, the New Jerusalem.

Question: Will the saints be present among the plagues?

Answer: "Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked" (verse 8).

NOTE: The plagues and their results will be seen through the transparent walls of the city.

Question: How safe will the saints be in their habitations, or dwelling place, which is the New Jerusalem?

Answer: "Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation (dwelling place); There (in this dwelling place) shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh (near) thy dwelling" (verses 9-10).

NOTE: In the New Jerusalem, in the air, the saints will be safe with Christ, and no plague will be able to enter there.

Question: For what should we constantly pray?

Answer: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

THE ATONEMENT

By David DeLong

The atonement that Jesus provided for us upon the cross was immediate and complete. I have even heard it said that atonement means "at-one-meant" meaning that Christ's atonement was meant for each person, individually. The Greek word, according to Strong's Concordance, means "exchange, i.e. restoration to (the divine) favor: atonement, reconciliation." The blood of Jesus Christ, shed upon the cross, brings the believer back into a restored relationship with God, the Father.

In Exodus chapter 29, verses 32 and 33 we read: "And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And they shall eat those things wherewith the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them: but a stranger shall not eat thereof, because they are holy." We should readily see that Aaron and his sons eating the flesh of the ram and the bread that was in the basket points to Jesus who performed a blood sacrifice and became the bread of life for us. Verse 36 goes on to say, "And thou shalt offer every day a bullock for a sin offering for atonement: and thou shalt cleanse the altar, when thou hast made an atonement for it, and thou shalt anoint it, to sanctify it." Every day we need the cleansing blood of Jesus to be our atonement.

The children of Israel were even to give a ransom for themselves when they were numbered. We learn in chapter 30, verses 11-16: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD.

The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls."

These verses show that the atonement of Christ is equal for all. Yes, some have definitely sinned more than others but even so, Christ's atonement is still equal for all. It only takes one unrepentant sin to keep a person out of the kingdom of heaven. Romans 5:15-18 reads: "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

We now enjoy the benefits of Christ's atonement for us. Romans 5:11 reads: "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement." When Jesus' blood was shed upon the cross then His atonement for us became effective immediately, and the atonement of animal blood sacrifices stopped immediately.

We thank the Lord for the at-one-meant of Jesus who has restored us to divine favor with the Father in heaven. We don't have to wait for this restoration, but we can receive it today!

LESSON I

OUR CONDUCT IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 95:1-11.

Golden Text: Psalm 122:1.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."

NOTE: The more we worship the Lord God, the less attraction the world will have for us and the less opportunity the devil has to deceive us. let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

1. How are we to come to church? Ecclesiastes 5:1; Psalm 100:4.
2. How must we worship God? John 4:23-24.
3. Is it possible that some types of worship may be in vain? Matthew 15:7-9.
4. Can we worship God fully and not be holy? I Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 29:2.
5. How should we serve God? Hebrews 12:28.
6. What should prompt worship to God within us? Romans 5:6-11; John 3:16.

LESSON II

OBEDIENCE

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:1-11.

Golden Text: Ephesians 6:1.

"Children , obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."

NOTE: We should begin to serve the Lord while we are young. We must be obedient to our heavenly Father as well as to our parents here on earth.

1. What is promised to all who honor their father and

mother? Exodus 20:12.

2. Should parents teach their children the Word of God? Deuteronomy 6:7.
3. How are children to be brought up? Ephesians 6:4.
4. Sometimes we think our parents do not love us because they chasten us or correct us for things which we do that are not right. Is this true? Proverbs 13:24.
5. When we do wrong in the sight of God, we will be chastened by Him also. Hebrews 12:9.
6. When should we begin to serve the Lord? Ecclesiastes 12:1.

NOTE: If we are not obedient to our parents, we certainly will not be acceptable to God. Remember that your parents love you and want to see you saved in the Kingdom of God. And that is why they correct you when you do wrong.

LESSON III

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-18.

Golden Text: Proverbs 18:21.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

NOTE: In considering some of the hindrances to a holy life, there is none so dangerous as an unbridled tongue. Not only have people lost their own spiritual power through wrong use of the tongue, but often poisoned arrows have been sent to many hearts through an untamed tongue. Let us study how we can try to control our words.

1. What is said of the person who bridles his tongue? James 3:2.
2. What blessing is promised for properly governed conversation? Psalm 50:23.

3. Is it possible for man to tame the tongue through his own power? James 3:8.
4. If we do not bridle our tongue, does our religion amount to nothing in the sight of God? James 1:26.
5. What shall be given to the false tongue? Psalm 120:3-4.
6. Can our words be called a true index of our heart? Matthew 12:34-35.

LESSON IV

OUR CONVERSATION

Scripture Reading: I Peter 1:3-16.

Golden Text: Psalm 50:23.

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth this conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."

NOTE: This lesson is a continuation of our last lesson. Just as we are to bridle our tongue, we are to watch all our conversations. There is One who hears all the unkind criticisms and harsh judgments we often whisper behind the backs of those who are attacked. Let us all remember that what we say and even what we think is known by the Father in heaven.

1. To become a child of God, what must be done concerning our former conversation? Ephesians 4:22-23, 25.
2. What is it that should not proceed out of our mouths? Ephesians 4:29-31.
3. Should not we (the people of God) be examples in our conversation? I Timothy 4:12; I Peter 1:15-16.
4. Would God be pleased with just any kind of conversation that we might use? Philippians 1:27.
5. How must our conversations be among other people?

I Peter 2:12; 3:16.

6. If we use the right conversation, what promise is made to us? Psalm 50:23.
7. When the Lord comes, what manner of persons ought we to be? II Peter 3:10-14; James 3:13.

WHO ARE THESE MEN?

1. He built a boat when the world was new and led in the animals, two by two.
2. This one man's descendants, God promised, should be like the stars in the sky or the sands of the sea.
3. He stood alone in the lion's cave, and promised Jehovah, strong to save.
4. Mysterious writing on the wall, and foretold the kingdom's certain fall.
5. He stilled a storm on Galilee, and He said to Matthew, "Follow me."
6. When his mood was black and his voice was sharp, young David could soothe him with his harp.
7. He was not a prophet, a king nor a sage, He simply lived to a very great age.
8. He dipped in the river - one-two-three-and found it a cure for his leprosy.

Answers to Shepherds on page 23:

1. Amos
2. Judah
3. Abel
4. Joseph
5. Rachel
6. Moses
7. Israel
8. David
9. Jesus



Bible Riddle -

I am a city near Jordan
 Two spies were sent to me
 Jesus healed here and also Elisha
 My walls fell down.
What's my name?

TWO BRAVE PREACHERS

Do you girls have a linen dress to wear to Sabbath School this summer? Or, do you boys have a pair of linen pants? Linen is such nice material for many things.

The flax plant is one of the most valuable of all plants, not counting the ones we use for food. From the flax, those threads of linen are obtained. Mother's most prized tablecloth came from the flax plant.

The plants are first drawn through iron teeth which remove the seeds. They then are soaked in water for several days, after which the outer fibers are separated from the core. It is from the inner part that the linen threads are made.

When the stalks are taken out of the water, they are laid out to dry. Then they are put through sharp teeth once more, which divide them lengthwise. It seems like rough treatment for a plant, but that is the only way linen threads can be obtained.

The reason the flax stands hard usage is because of the inner fiber which is made stronger and finer by it. All these harsh processes must take place before the flax can be spun into fine, strong linen threads.

Peter and John had to undergo rough treatment many times. Turn in your Bibles to Acts 3 to see if you can find the reason Peter and John were put into prison. It was for a good deed done to a lame man.

Nothing in all the world that Peter and John might have possessed, aside from their gift of healing, could have meant so much to the lame man. They might have given him the most comfortable home imaginable, with servants to do his bidding, but he still would have been helpless and lame.

No wonder he leaped up and praised God with all his heart and voice! No other but God, working through Pe-

ter and John, could perform this great cure. No wonder the people standing about, who had always known the lame man, were filled with amazement!

It was then that Peter had the chance to preach about Jesus. At the beginning of their sermon, he told them it was not by their own power he and John had done this. No, it was through Jesus, the one they had crucified. Peter told them they ought to repent.

That struck them pretty hard. When Peter told them that God was even then ready to forgive them for treating His Son so, they felt a need to make a decision. Five thousand of them believed the words Peter preached. Just think! Five thousand!

The rulers were not among this group. They had taken hold of Peter and John, threw them into jail, and left them there all night. Peter and John were not discouraged, they went right on preaching about Jesus.

How is it, do you think, that those two men did not lose their courage through all this rough treatment? Remember about that strong, inner fiber of the flax that came out stronger and finer after harsh treatment? Peter and John possessed a strong inner fiber: their Father, God and Jesus, their Lord. The rough treatment made their faith stronger and brighter.

When the rulers were ready to let Peter and John out of prison, they threatened them with great punishment if they did not quit preaching. Did that scare them? They answered, "We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. We ought to obey God rather than men." It took courage and faith to say this.

Young people, you may never be put to death nor even be imprisoned because of your faith in God. But remember, when you are laughed at or treated roughly because of your faith in God, that, like the flax, will help you come out stronger and better, if you are true.



SHEPHERDS

Fill in the names of some shepherds from the Bible.

1. Who was a prophet, and one of the books of the Bible was named after him?
2. He is the 4th son of Jacob.
3. Who was the first shepherd recorded in the Bible?
4. Who had a coat of many colors?
5. She met Jacob at the well.
6. He saw a burning bush.
7. His name was Jacob, but God changed it to ___ ?
8. Who said: "The Lord is my shepherd?"
9. He is the Good Shepherd.



LITTLE, BUT WISE

*Who showed the little ant the way
Her narrow hole to bore;
And spend the pleasant summer day
In laying up her store?*

*The sparrow builds her clever nest
Of wool and hay and moss;
Who told her how to weave it best
And lay the twigs across?*

*Who taught the busy bee to fly
Among the sweetest flowers;
And lay his store of honey by
To eat in winter hours?*

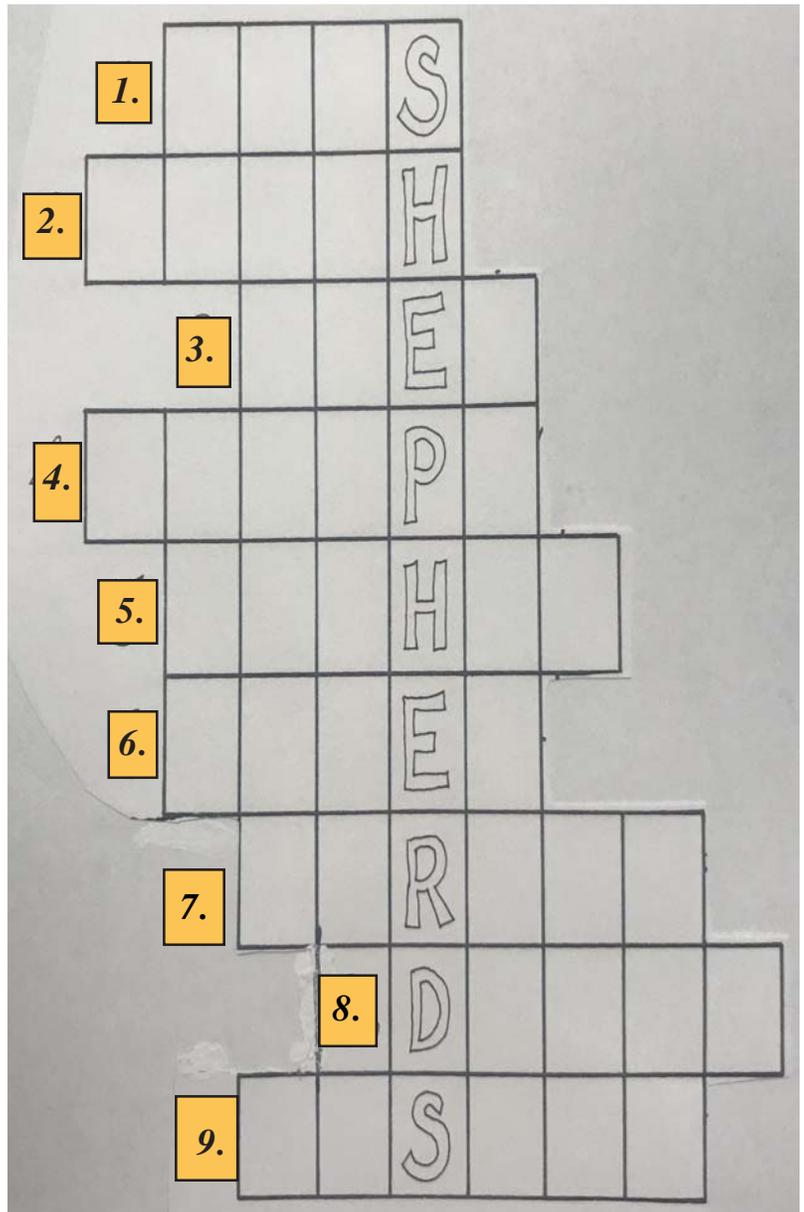
*'Twas God who showed them all their way,
He gave them wondrous skill;
And teaches children, if they pray
To do His holy will.*

Answers to Who Are These Men on page 21:
1. Noah 2. Abraham 3. Daniel 4. Belshazzar 5. Jesus 6. Saul 7. Methuselah 8. Naaman

A PRAYER

*Dear God, who watches from above,
Help us to love all those You love.
Amen.*

Answer to Bible Riddle on page 21:
Jericho Numbers 22:1



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GOD'S BOAT

by Delwin DeLong

*A wave rose high and tossed the boat,
It rocked from side to side;
T'was Noah's folk and animals
Who lodged there-safe inside.*

*The world had done its very best
To break God's laws and ways;
Noah's group had passed the test,
The rest received their pay.*

*The Flood - it covered all the earth-
The wicked were destroyed;
It left behind a terrible dearth,
The fruitful all were bouyed.*

*The world again has done its best
To follow Satan's way;
All unrighteous will be left
On Jesus' returning day.*

*The people now are like those then
In all their wicked ways;
It's time to listen to God's words
Before the judgment day.*

*Just repent and keep God's laws,
That is the only way.*

