

The Advocate of Truth





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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

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

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Fax: 304-782-2248**

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**Volume LXXI Number 10
March 2022
The Advocate of Truth
USPS 542-940**

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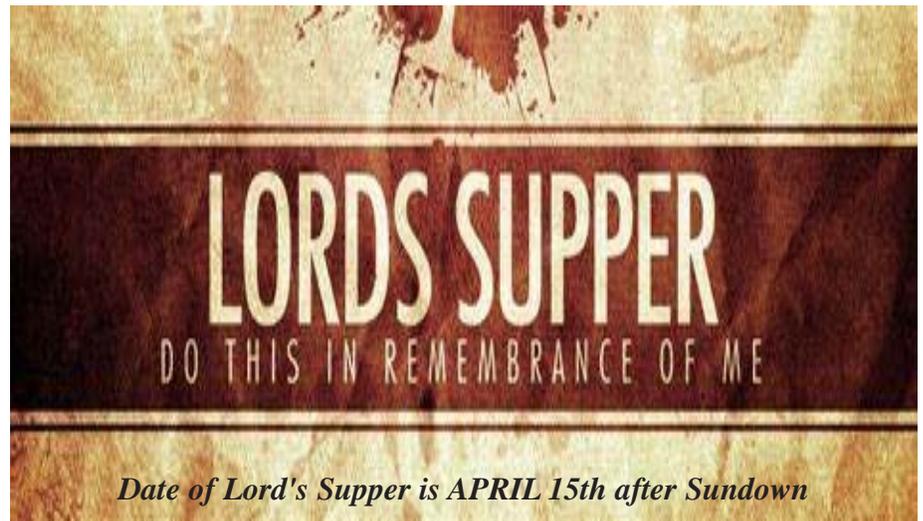
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THE “MARK” AND A SMELL

By David Royer

Our pastor, Warren (Bud) Randall, edited a terrific Bible Study in a recent Quarterly entitled “The Mark of the Beast.” During Sabbath services, we discussed this lesson associated with the future Tribulation Period of seven years and the dragon in charge. The topic arose about the identity of this “mark” given to unbelievers who disobey God’s commandments and reject faith in His son, Jesus.

Who is this dragon? See Revelations 12:9 “*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*”

Revelations 13: 16-17 tells us what Satan will do: “*And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*”

This “mark” is not something that could be accidentally taken or received since Revelations 14:9 says it is for those who worship the beast. “*And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*”

A question was asked:

Will this be a physical, visible mark for all to see? In other words, would the mark of the beast be an actual mark on

the forehead or right hand, or was this an analogy for thoughts and deeds of the unrighteous receivers?

Whatever the answer to this question, I learned of another, more noticeable, evidence of the mark of the beast. Read Revelation 16:1-2 “*And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.*”

At first glance of this verse, one may assume noisome means bothersome or noisy. However, noisome does not come from the base word “noise”, but from the Middle English word noysome. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines noisome as:

- 1: Noxious, Harmful...a noisome pestilence
- 2: Offensive to the senses and especially to the sense of smell...noisome garbage

Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noisome>

This definition says these sores, created after the mark has been received, will smell foul. So, there may be another identifier of those people receiving the mark of the beast: They will stink! How appropriate.

May God bless you as you consider these things and make your calling and election sure to avoid receiving the mark of the beast. “*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*” (II Peter 1:10-11).

PRAYER

*By Sister Nesta John
Grenada West Indies*

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22). The wonders of prayer how effective it is, but we must believe and have faith. God wants us to tell Him what is on our mind, that's why we have to pray. God knows what we need and he understands, but He needs us to speak and be closer to Him. Prayers can be defined as having communication earnestly with God, speaking to the Lord and drawing closer to Him. When we pray we speak to God of all our problems; He is understanding and trustworthy. We should always let our requests be known unto God. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

As much as we all pray we have to remember to keep the commandments of God. Proverbs 28:9 informs us that, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." By praying to God we always have to keep our end of the bargain, which is obeying His words. Then our request will be made known.

"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayerest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which... seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do; for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them;; for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him" (Matthew 6:5-8).

Prayer of confession is of vital importance because sin separates us from God. "For all have sinned, and come

short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin is known as the transgression of the law.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14). When we pray for forgiveness, we have to be sure that we also forgive our fellowmen. "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:15). It is good to pray with supplication, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

Praise the greatness of God with the prayers of adoration, expressing the wonders of God. He has done so much for us and we must always praise Him morning, noon and night. Earnestly ask favors of the Lord with the prayer of petition. Whatever we ask of the Lord we must have faith and believe that we are going to receive. The prayer of healing calls for great faith. There are times when we pray and ask for healing and it may not work on the first prayer. We have to keep on praying and believing. Some healing takes time, while some are instant. The second that the healing is made, we must pray the prayer of thanksgiving. Express thanks for the faith and the believing that was there to make the healing process a success.

Jesus was always communicating with his Father while He was on earth. Mark 1:35: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." The constant prayer had him praying even the night before His crucifixion. Matthew 26:39: "And he went a little further, and fell on this face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Jesus prayed earnestly at all times to his Father; He even asked "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Always pray without ceasing. Constantly praying will cause us to develop a closer relationship with God. A prayer a day keeps the devil further away. Prayer is our weapon against the devil; he hates when we are on our knees. It must be an everyday practice in our lives whereby we can resist the devil; so he can flee from us. We can defeat the devil but not with self. God must be our helper and we can only communicate to him through prayers and fasting.

Easter: Worshipping the Queen of Heaven

By David DeLong

In the book of Judges, chapter 2 verse 13 we read: "And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." This verse, of course, refers to the children of Israel forsaking the Lord and worshipping Baal and Ashtaroth. It doesn't take much investigating to learn that Baal worship involved some of the early customs that became Christmas, and Ashtaroth worship involved some of the customs of Easter. The celebration that later became Easter involved the worship of the Queen of Heaven, known as Ishtar to the Assyrians, Astarte in Syria, Isis in Egypt, and by other names in different countries. Jeremiah 44:16-19 reads: "As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine. And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?"

The Israelites in this passage of Scripture had things just twisted, or reversed. They thought that they were being blessed by offering these sacrifices to the Queen of Heaven and were being cursed by stopping these sacrifices. God, of course, had different ideas about this. Satan always tries to twist the truth into some sort of falsehood.

The "cakes" which were used here in the worship of the Queen of Heaven are thought by some to be the fore-

runners of today's hot cross buns. Ishtar was a fertility goddess and had rites which were extremely licentious. Her consort was a young god known as Tammuz about which the Bible also has things to say.

In Ezekiel chapter 8 we find: "Then he (the Lord God) brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz. Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east" (verses 14-16).

Tammuz, it was believed, died in the fall of the year and was resurrected every spring. We see in this passage of Scripture women weeping for Tammuz. This was probably a part of his worship in which the women were desiring Tammuz's resurrection. Thus, we can see that Tammuz was actually a false Messiah. History apparently records him as being the son of Nimrod and Semiramis. Later, he became deified and was worshipped as a god. In this passage of Scripture we see that there were about 25 men "and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east." This sounds very similar to today's Easter sunrise service, though the people will tell you that they are actually worshipping Jesus.

The Catholic Church calls Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Queen of Heaven. In effect, they worship her as the pagans worshiped Ishtar, the Queen of Heaven. Many of the pagan customs are also associated with the celebration of Easter.



MARK 8:34

SELF-DENIAL

THOUGHTS ABOUT LENT

by Bond Tennant

Lent, as practiced by many Christian churches is supposed to be a period of time each year of self-denial and self-examination. To the extent that these are actually practiced, it can be beneficial. However, self-denial and self-examination as taught in the Scriptures for the true followers of Jesus has no relationship to a period of Lent. A true child of God must deny himself or herself all the time and keep close watch over his or her thoughts, words, and actions.

Jesus said, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Notice that this does not refer to a refraining from the enjoyment of certain things pleasing to self, but a denial of self. The denial of self should be so complete that the child of God will not consult his or her own preferences as to a way of life, but look to the Lord, through His Word, to be guided in the way in which he or she should go. In other words, a true child of God is one who has given over the rulership of his or her life to the Lord, and who endeavors at all times to be guided by the divine will as that will is expressed through the Word of God.

In addition to denying self, Jesus invited His followers to take up their cross and follow Him. Under the Roman law in Jesus' day the death penalty was inflicted by crucifixion, and often those who were condemned to death were compelled to carry their own cross from the judgment hall to the place of crucifixion. This was true in Jesus' case. This meant that anyone carrying a cross, and accompanied by soldiers or officers, was known to be on his way to death.

Jesus knew of this custom, and knew also that He eventually would be crucified, so He used it as an illustration of His own sacrifice unto death; and He invited His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him. Actually this means that Jesus was inviting His disciples to lay down their lives in sacrifice as He was doing.

Jesus really began to sacrifice His life at the time of His baptism, and after a brief period of sacrificial ministry was actually put to death on a literal cross; but symbolically He carried that cross during the entire period of His ministry. During that time, He was constantly giving Himself in doing His Father's will, and in bestowing blessings upon others through His teaching and miracles.

Therefore, if we really deny self, and take up our cross, it means that our lives will be lived not for self, but for the glory of God, and in the service of others, our chief service to them being the imparting of a knowledge of the glorious Gospel of the kingdom. If we have truly taken up our cross to follow Jesus, it means that like Him, we will be laying down our lives in sacrifice, and this service will not be complete until we have been faithful even unto death.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "I am crucified with Christ..." (Galatians 2:20). This was a symbolic crucifixion which is experienced by all dedicated followers of our Master who are faithful in denying self that their lives may be governed by the will of God. This is the self-denial of the Scriptures, and it is the way of the true child of God every day of the year.



The Lord's Supper

"When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not. For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another. And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in

order when I come" (I Corinthians 11:20-34). The Lord's Supper is called a coming together! It is a mutual consent, a oneness, a fellowship. It is also a time of dedication, of consecration and sharing His suffering. "Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another" (I Corinthians 11:33). The Lord's Supper is from the Lord! "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (I Corinthians 11:23-25). "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28). This is important! He is saying that this service and admonition came from the Lord. It was by divine revelation. We are commanded to partake of the Lord's Supper! "Take, eat..." (Matthew 26:26). "...Drink ye all of it" (vs. 27). "...this do ye..." (I Corinthians 11:25). We cannot call ourselves His followers and not obey His command. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

The Lord's Supper is a remembrance and a commemo-

ration of our Lord's death. It is a sharing of His suffering and death. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come" (I Corinthians 11:26).

The Lord's Supper is to be observed on "the same night which he was betrayed" each year just as we observe our birthday only once a year. Our Lord did not die many times during the year, but only once. Therefore, "as often as" we eat the unleavened bread and drink from the cup containing the fruit of the vine is once a year. Please read again I Corinthians 11:23, 26.

Let us not forget to examine ourselves before partaking of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. This is very important! "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep" (I Corinthians 11:27-30).

May God's richest blessings be with us this year as we partake of the Memorial of our Lord's death. May it be a stimulus and encouragement to us to endure until the end.

WHITED SEPULCHRES

In the time of Jesus, white washed tombs marked the place of the dead. They all received a new whitening before days or seasons of feasting and worship. This custom is still practiced today. The people believed that to touch or come in contact with a tomb was to defile oneself.

Death was the result of sin, and therefore caused contamination. Therefore, sepulchres were always whitewashed so they could be easily seen and avoided.

In addressing the scribes and Pharisees, Christ made mention of this practice. Whitewashing a tomb did not change the nature of the grave itself. It still contained a dead man's bones. The tomb might be attractive without, but there was no difference within. Christ insisted that religion was not to be an outward decoration just for special occasions. It was to be a life principle, giving readily to all we do.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but

within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (Matthew 23:25-28).

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:7-8).



FEET WASHING - Read John 13:4-17.

This service was instituted by our Lord. Most churches say this does not literally mean washing feet, but the doing of good deeds and acts of brotherly kindness.

However, God's word declares, "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded" (John 13:4-5). This picture of humility by our Lord is incomprehensible. The Son of God is taking the servant's place.

Yes, Jesus actually washed His disciples' feet. Since our Lord did this humble service, who could object to washing his brother's feet? Who could possibly say that he is better than his Lord and Saviour? He said, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). Peter tells us, "For even hereunto were

ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Peter 2:21). John says, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6). Jesus emphatically declared, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also OUGHT to wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). This is straight forward language! The Bible says we OUGHT to pay tithes. "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these OUGHT ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matthew 23:23). We are told that we OUGHT always to pray. "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men OUGHT always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1).

The Apostle Paul said, "We then that are strong OUGHT to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (Romans 15:1). The Apostle John said, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we OUGHT also to love one another" (I John 4:11). It is strange that most professed Christians will accept the just mentioned oughts and absolutely refuse to accept the direct command from our Lord, "YE ought to wash one another's feet."

Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him" (John 13:16). In other words, our Lord is saying, "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed the servant's feet, shouldn't the servant" (His followers) wash one another's feet? Why should we consider it below our dignity? We cannot afford to neglect or reject this injunction about humility!

One of the qualifications of church widows becoming benefactors of the church was, "...if she have washed the saints' feet..." (I Timothy 5:10). There are eight qualification listed in verses nine and ten. The before qualification is number six on the list. Since Jesus commanded and practiced it, and the early church practiced it, we have no other alternative but to obey and do it!



THE LORD'S SUPPER

by Del DeLong

***Jesus gave His life for you -
It was on the fourteenth day;
He told us we should follow, too,
His example in every way.***

***'Twas on the prior evening,
He girt a towel around
And washed all His disciples' feet
As He kneeled there on the ground.***

***He then arose, and took the bread,
And asked God's blessing there;
He broke unleavened bread and gave
To everyone a share.***

***Next the cup was prayed upon,
And to each a sip was given;
The grape juice that He used was pure,
For in it was no leaven.***

***The bread signified His body,
And the juice signified His blood;
This feast comes only once a year,
Let's do it like we should.***



The young adults youth retreat "His Strength Is Perfect" was held this past September. This camp was hosted by Dallas Texas Church. Say a prayer for our youth as they continue to grow in the Lord and plan to attend our camp in the fall.

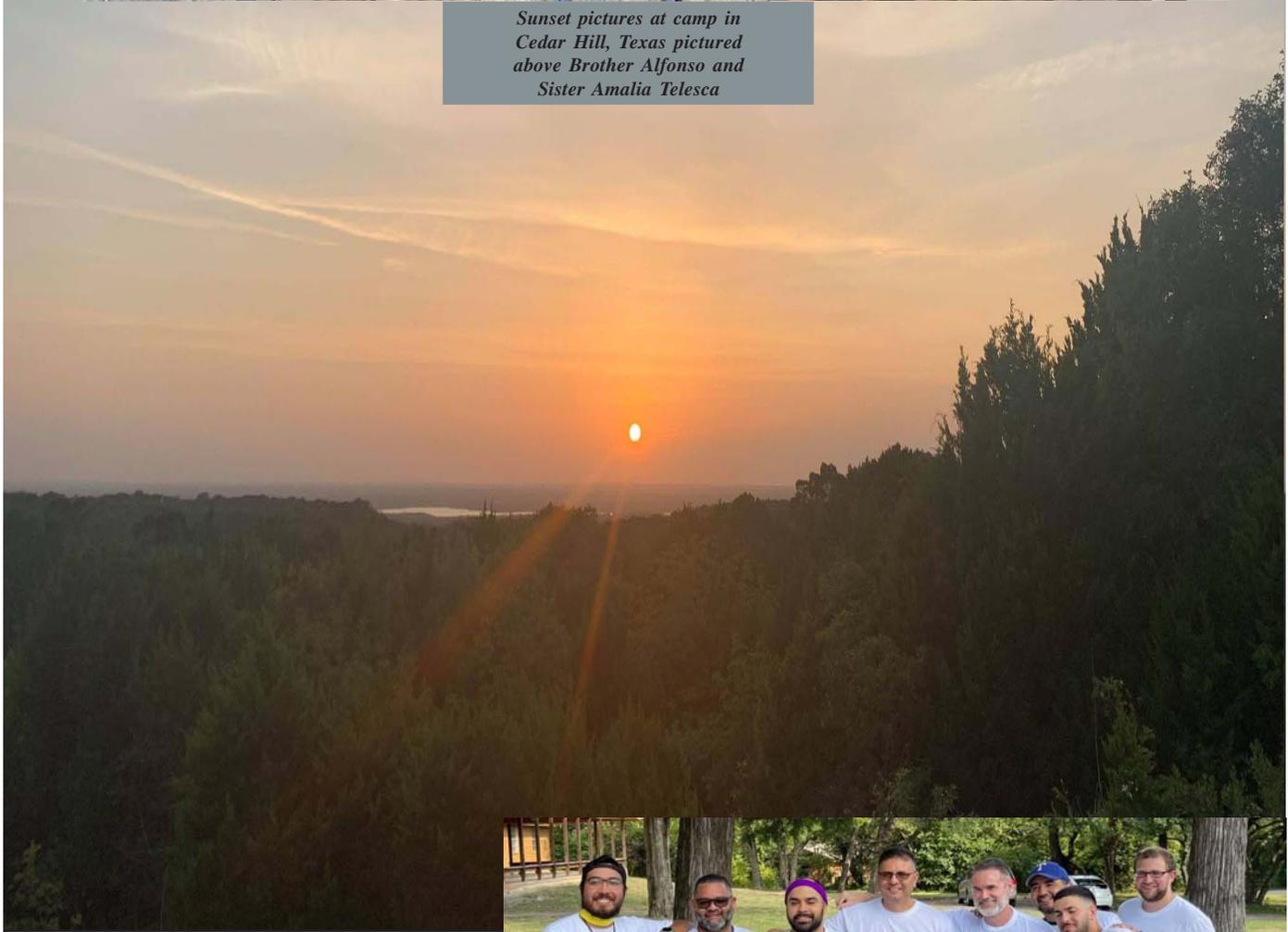


FUTURE LEADERS





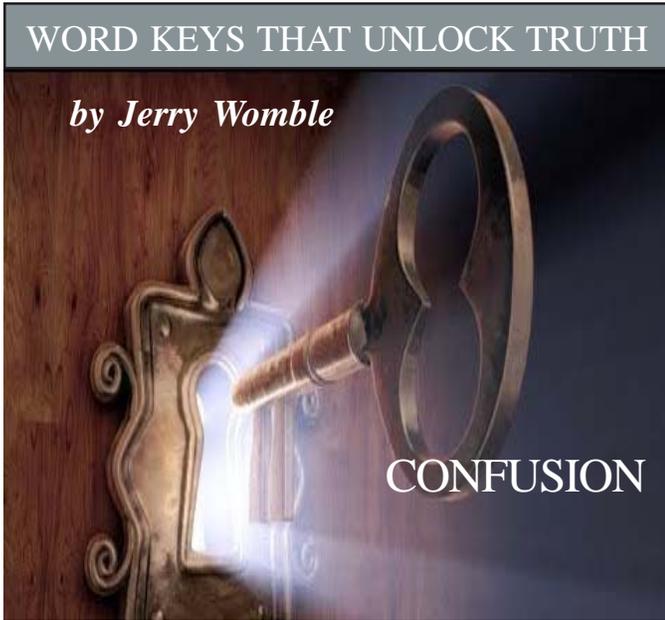
Sunset pictures at camp in Cedar Hill, Texas pictured above Brother Alfonso and Sister Amalia Telesca



Pictured to the right - Brother Tim Cruz (Dallas TX), Brother Alfonso Telesca (Dallas TX), Brother Andrew Cantu (San Antonio TX), Brother Richard Santiesteban (Dallas TX), Brother Tim Buechner (San Antonio TX), Brother Tommy Herrera (Houston TX), Brother Jordan Smith (Dallas TX), and Brother Scott Mills (Brecksville, OH)

WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

by Jerry Womble



When we think of confusion, we may think of "disorientated about something" more than any other meaning of the word. However; in the Scriptures it has several meanings. Starting with Ezra, then David, Isaiah, Paul and James, we see it used as embarrassed, ashamed with self and nations and also as disorientated.

Ezra talks about the kings and priests of Israel being taken over by the kings of the world and says that Israel's kings and priests are confused about what to do and what authority they have and the people are confused about how to follow their kings and priests which have lost their power and how to follow the kings of the world. This confusion was a disorientation in their lives as how to live godly and out of punishment to the king of the land at the same time.

David is stressed and wants his followers to see confusion with those that are against him and here he says he wants that confusion to be an embarrassment of his enemies. He knows the facts and the false accusations of the enemy but his followers do not see it and he wants God to show an embarrassment to those against him so it will be plain to his people that he is the one standing for the true God of Israel. The word here is ignominy and means a severe public disgrace and dishonor and with it being that evident the people will surely see the truth. David goes on using the word confused to mean that he is ashamed by thinking his people are seeing him in a disoriented way and he wants to show stability and not confusion. God will then strengthen him so the people can see that he is not confused with God or the people.

Isaiah has an interesting way to state confusion and uses it in relation to false gods. He tells the people not to be confused of those idols as they are empty of being, they are not alive and cannot hurt you, but fear the God of Israel because there is no emptiness or confusion with Him.

The Apostle Paul brings this forward to the New Testament reminding the Corinthians to follow God 100%, as He is not the God of confusion or disorientation, but is the God of truth.

James wants us to know that envy and strife are the confusion of his day. If this is predominated in our life, then we have a confusion and this is disorder in our daily life and will allow evil to creep in.

To avoid spiritual confusion in our lives, keep the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus.



Pictured on the left - Cousins brought together at Young Adults Camp - Brother Tim Buechner and his daughter Sister Morgan Buechner (San Antonio, Texas), Sister Caitlynn Howell (Salem, West Virginia), and Brother Scott Mills (Brecksville, Ohio)



PAYING TITHES ELECTRONICALLY

Our Church is offering an alternative to mailing tithes into the “Storehouse” via Zelle.

What Is Zelle?

Zelle is a [mobile payment application](#) that allows peer-to-peer (P2P) money transfers, simplifying the process of paying for things and making it easier to move money without handling cash or visiting the bank. Users transferred \$187 billion in 2019 using Zelle, an increase of 57% since 2018.

Zelle was developed by more than 30 major U.S. banks,

and has a standalone app that users can download to their smartphone. The service is also integrated within the mobile banking apps of [major participating banks](#), including Bank of America, Chase, Citi and Wells Fargo. Consumers who already have their bank’s mobile app can start using Zelle right away.

How Does Zelle Work?

Money transferred using Zelle moves directly from one bank account to another. Most banking transfers between accounts require account numbers to initiate transactions, and these transactions can take up to several business days. However, Zelle eliminates this need, allowing users to transfer funds from one checking account to another in a matter of minutes.

To initiate a transfer, all you need is the email address or phone number of the person/Church you’re sending money to. Zelle sends the recipient (our Church) a text or email indicating there’s a payment waiting for them, along with a link to accept it. Our Church will accept your payment if they recognize your email address. So, you need to let HQ know that you will be using Zelle and provide your own Email address. Our Church is a participating partner through Truist Bank.

Enroll through your bank’s on-line app. With the recipient being: Church of God Seventh Day. Using their email address: cogsevday@aol.com

What Banks Use Zelle?

Zelle is compatible with nearly all major banks, and most even have the service integrated into their mobile banking app. To see if your bank offers Zelle, go to www.Zellepay.com for a list of banks offering this service. Most participating banks offer Zelle with no fee, such as Regions Bank. Some may charge a fee. (I personally would not use the service, if there was a fee.)

I would test the system by sending \$5.00 to our Church via Zelle. If you are comfortable with that transaction, you can send future tithes in this manner. If you are uncomfortable, continue mailing in your tithes. I find the Zelle process to be efficient, fast and convenient.

David Royer, Board of Seven

7

THINGS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT

GOD

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. He is the one who heals us.

"And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:1-3).

2. He is omnipotent. (Having unlimited power or authority)

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Al-le-lu-ia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Revelation 19:6).

3. He is omniscient. (Having infinite knowledge)

"O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether" (Psalm 139:1-4).

4. He is omnipresent. (He is everywhere)

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee" (Psalm 139:7-12).

5. He cannot lie.

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" (Titus 1:1-2).

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:" (Hebrews 6:17-18).

6. Everything will be turned back over to Him.

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all" (I Corinthians 15:24-28).

7. His glory will light up the new Jerusalem.

"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Revelation 21:22-23).



THE RIGHTEOUS CRY

*Your righteousness is like the great mountains,
Your judgments are like the great deep,
Your mercy is in the clouds and the heavens,
Lord, our salvation is Yours to keep.*

*I've called out, Lord and You've heard me,
For Your Word, Lord, is true and right,
You deliver me from all my fears, Lord,
For within You is the fountain of life.*

*The meek shall inherit the earth one day,
And on the meek His bright light will shine,
Their inheritance shall be forever,
When He will establish the upright for all time.*

*The riches of the wicked are nothing
Compared to the little of a righteous man,
He'll not cast us away nor forsake us,
Those who shall follow His guiding hand.*

*The wicked shall plot things against me,
But the Lord will just laugh at them,
I fret not because of evildoers,
They will receive their reward in the end.*

*Let them be ashamed and be brought to confusion,
Let them not say, we have swallowed him up,
In Your day, Your wrath will fall upon them,
And God's final judgment will pour into their cup.*

*Let us all shout for joy and for gladness,
Those who follow the Lord's Holy Plan.
He'll destroy everyone that is against us,
He'll save the righteous from the evils of man.*

*We feel our prayers sometimes go unanswered,
We stew and fret and ask the Lord why?
We should remember to always have patience,
For His ears are open to the righteous cry.*

Pat Evans

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Will you please explain the first part of Ephesians 4:26?

ANSWER: This question is often asked. Let us write out this short clause, “Be ye angry, and sin not”.

This sentence comes in the middle of a chapter that includes many teachings on character and conduct. It should be noted that it recognizes “anger” as a natural expression but also recognizes that the expression of anger needs to be controlled and directed.

Several ministers were given this text to study and prepare thoughts on it. It received a variety of responses. Most answers had to do with “anger” rather than “sin”. Typical answers were: “Do not let anger destroy your faith.” “Use only responses that are not angry.” “Use appropriate anger.” “Practice restraint.” “Do not carry grudges.” One minister said, “This would be good to practice in marriages.” Some felt that this verse meant that we should seek forgiveness or that we need forgiveness. All were good answers. Let us go a little further with this text.

Part of our makeup by creation is to have anger. Those who say that “anger” has not been a problem for them might do well to reevaluate themselves. It is possible that they are blocking out or denying the presence of anger. When such emotions are denied or repressed, they still

exist and will result in feelings of guilt, headaches, or other physical symptoms. To those who admit they have anger to be a problem, it is the first step in conquering anger. Not to be angry in the presence of evil, cruelty, injustice, and the practice of sins is, in itself, very wrong and a sin. It is a sign of weakness and not of strength.

Recognize the fact that God the Father in heaven has been angry. Jesus was angry when he threw out the money changers from the temple because they had desecrated His Father’s House. Prophets and saints in the Bible were often angry. Leaders of reform have been angry. There are times when anger produces good results. There are times when anger can be very harmful, destructive and definitely evil. Anger that is running wild and is vindictive and malicious is dangerous. This is malicious sin. Never let anger become a “...sin which doth so easily beset us...” (Hebrews 12:1).

Get anger out of your system before another day approaches. Let us ask the Lord to help us to be angry, but not to sin. Let us understand our anger. Let us control our anger. Let us work off our anger. But let us never harm another person with our anger. Let us find ways in which our anger can be used creatively.

QUESTION: Do we need other people?

ANSWER: Young people often say impatiently to parents, “Don’t worry about me. I can take care of myself.” Older people often say it to their families and friends. They want to be “utterly free,” to come and go as they please.

But mark it down in your little black book: No one is ever entirely able to take care of himself under all circumstances. And it isn’t good for one to be too long alone and not be responsible to someone.

Of course there are times when we want to be alone for a time. Almost everyone enjoys some solitude with time to think, relax, and ponder one's problems. One time to seek solitude is prayer. Matthew 6:6 says, "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

No matter how self-sufficient a person is, he should feel responsible to someone for his actions and attitudes, and activities for his own good, if not for the good of someone else. There is a practical aspect of the question—the side that is concerned with safety.

Persons who say they are able to take care of themselves don't know whether they can or not. If all goes well, they may be, but the unexpected often happens. Anyone can become ill, meet misfortune, or foul play, or be involved in an accident. If no one is expecting him or is responsible for him, his adversities, illness or complete disappearance might go unnoticed until he is well beyond help.

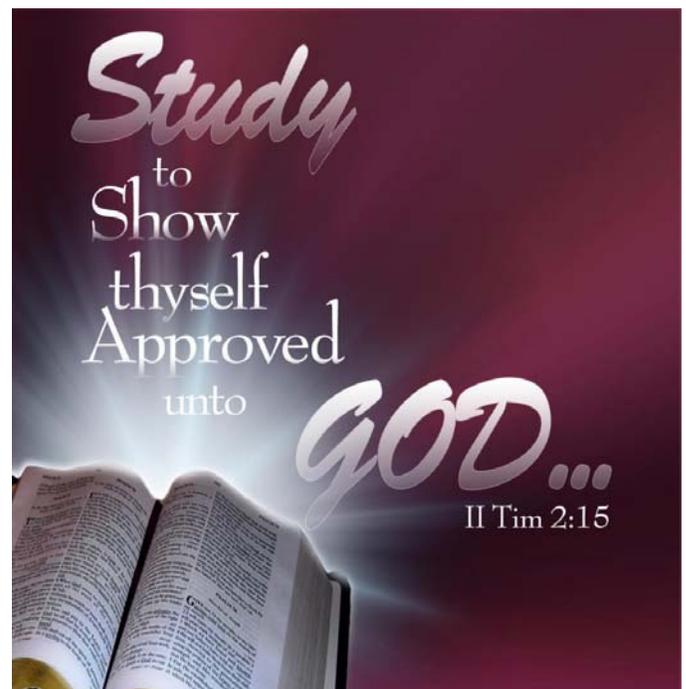
Young people often resent their parents asking them where they are going, whom they are going with, and when they will be back. Parents aren't prying when they ask for this information. It is simply that unlooked-for things can happen, and parents have a right and a duty to know these things. Common sense demands it if love and duty didn't.

Besides the matter of safety, a person simply doesn't do his best if he doesn't have the interest of others to keep him at his best. Young people, old people, all people need the comparisons, competition, and appreciation to keep their standards up. They need to know people are depending upon them, waiting for them, pulling with them. They need folks who believe in them, trust them, and expect much of them. This will keep them looking, thinking, and doing their best. Anyone will be better when he knows that there are others who expect him to do better. A person needs to be somewhat responsible to someone else all the time to keep him at his best, and in the interest of his own safety.

QUESTION: Why should we believe the Scriptures?

ANSWER: Some people answer this question by saying that the reason is found in the fact that the Bible is the only book handed down to us through the ages. That is not the best answer! Some ancient writings, like the Vedas, for instance, are almost as ancient as the Bible. And many tablets and monuments are in existence containing words written as long ago as the writings of the Scriptures. There are many powerful arguments for the Bible, but the greatest is that every person who will really study it finds that it does tell the truth about the human state. When a man reads in an arithmetic book that two and two make four, he does not stop to ask himself why he should believe the arithmetic. He knows instinctively and intuitively that the arithmetic is telling him the truth.

So when an honest man studies the Bible, he finds it full of truths about himself. The Bible tells him that he is a sinner, and he knows that is true. The Bible tells him about God, and he finds in his heart a deep conviction that just such a God exists. The Bible offers forgiveness, and the man knows that he needs it. Step by step, and point by point, the Bible shows the man what he is and what he needs and points the way to finding the fulfillment of his needs and desires. People find in the Bible help for bearing their trials, power to resist temptation, assurance of eternal life and friendship with God.





2021 Youth Retreat - Expedition of Faith - hosted by San Antonio, Texas Church.

Upcoming 2022 Camp information for youth and young adults will be presented in our May Edition.

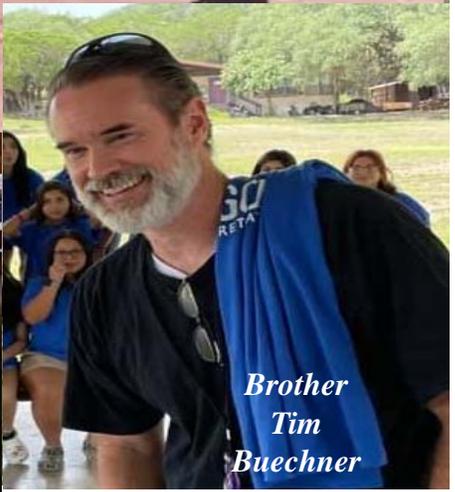




Picture on left -
Camper with Sister
Cindy Buechner
Picture below -
Sister Christina
Herrera and Sister
Gina Williams
at their regular post
making everyone's
favorite food in the
kitchen -
Big Smiles
Full Bellies
Lots of Laughs



Brother
Richard
Santiesteban



Brother
Tim
Buechner



Happy Campers!

LESSON I

GOD FEEDS ELIJAH

Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:1-16.

Golden Text: I Kings 17:6.

"And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook."

NOTE: We are going to learn about Elijah who was a prophet during the time of king Ahab who ruled over Israel and brought much wickedness and idol worship to the people. Elijah was completely devoted to the Lord and was given power to perform mighty deeds and wonders. Let us now learn more of Elijah.

1. What message did Elijah give to King Ahab? I Kings 17:1.
2. After Elijah prophesied against Ahab, where did the Lord send him? I Kings 17:2-3.
3. Did Elijah obey God's order? I Kings 17:5.
4. Who brought him bread and meat to eat? I Kings 17:6.
5. After the brook dried up, where was Elijah sent? I Kings 17:7-9.
6. Elijah goes to Zarephath as God had commanded, and he meets the widow woman. What does Elijah say to the woman? I Kings 17:10-11.
7. What was the woman's reply to Elijah? I Kings 17:12.
8. Did the Lord still feed and care for Elijah? I Kings 17:13-16.

Answers to Hidden Verse -

Answer to I am the way, the truth and the life -

LESSON II

ELIJAH PERFORMS A MIRACLE

Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:17-24.

Golden Text: I Kings 17:24.

"And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth."

1. What happened to the widow's son? I Kings 17:17.
2. What did the widow say to Elijah in I Kings 17:18?
3. Where did Elijah take the widow's son? I Kings 17:19.
4. What did Elijah say to God, and what did Elijah do to the son? I Kings 17:20-21.
5. Did the Lord listen to Elijah and heal the widow's son? I Kings 17:22.
6. What did Elijah do with the boy after God received him? I Kings 17:23.
7. What did the widow woman say to Elijah after she saw her son alive again? I Kings 17:24.

LESSON III

ELIJAH AGAINST BAAL'S PROPHETS

Scripture Reading: I Kings 18:17-40.

Golden text: I Kings 18:37.

"Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again."

NOTE: We have been studying about Elijah, and we will continue to learn about another miracle that is performed to show the children of Israel that God is the true God. Three years have passed since Elijah told Ahab there would be a drought. They will now meet each other again.

1. What did Ahab say to Elijah, and what did Elijah respond back to Ahab? I Kings 18:17-19.
2. What did Elijah tell the people that he would do as a prophet of the Lord against the 450 prophets of Baal? I Kings 18:21-24.
3. What did the prophets of Baal do with the bullock they received? I Kings 18:25-26.
4. What did Elijah do to the prophets of Baal, and what did he say? I Kings 18:27.
5. What did the prophets of Baal do to get their god to hear them? I Kings 18:28-29.
6. What did Elijah do to prepare his altar and the bullock? I Kings 18:30-35.
7. What did Elijah do at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice? I Kings 18:36-37.
8. Did God answer Elijah's prayer, and what did the people do? I Kings 18:38-40.
2. How was Elijah fed while in the wilderness? I Kings 19:5-7.
3. How long did Elijah stay on Mount Horeb, and what did he do? I Kings 19:8-9.
4. How did the Lord appear to Elijah while on Horeb, and did God speak to him in any of these? I Kings 19:11-12.
5. Elijah hears God speak in a still small voice. What does God ask, and what did Elijah reply? I Kings 19:13-14.
6. What does God instruct Elijah to do in I Kings 19:15-16?
7. What was Elisha doing when Elijah found him, and did he follow Elijah? I Kings 19:19-21.

LESSON IV**ELIJAH ANOINTS ELISHA AS PROPHET**

Scripture Reading: I Kings 19:1-21.

Golden Text: I Kings 19:19 (first part).

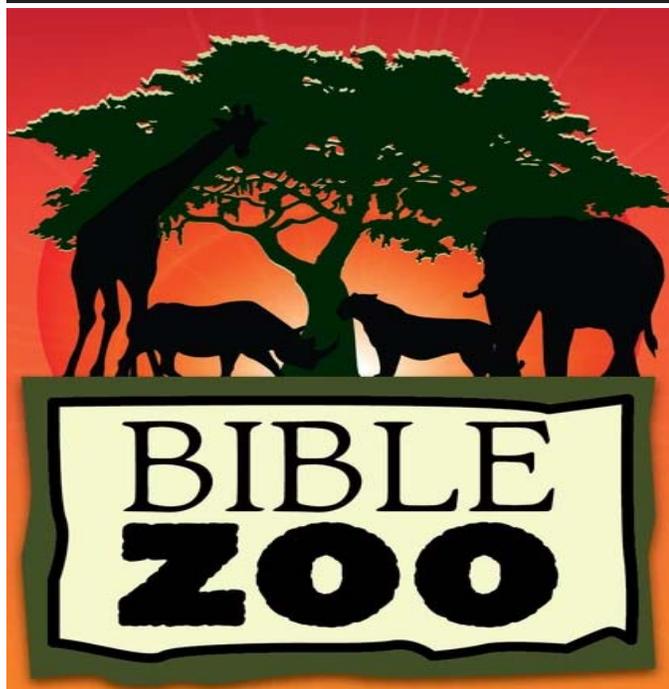
"So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth..."

NOTE; In our last lesson, we learned how Elijah showed the people that God was the true God and not Baal. Elijah's life is now threatened by the wicked queen, Jezebel, and he escaped to the wilderness. God will then lead him to Elisha, Let us now study more about Elijah.

1. When Elijah goes to the wilderness to escape, what does he do and say? I Kings 19:4.

**IF BIRDS COULD TALK**

*Said the robin to the sparrow,
 "I should really like to know
 Why these anxious human beings
 Rush about and worry so."
 Said the sparrow to the robin,
 "I am sure that it must be
 That they have no heavenly Father,
 Such as cares for you and me."*



by Mabel D. Cowie

There are a number of animals spoken of in the Bible from which we can learn many valuable lessons. I could not mention them all, but there are a few which are particularly interesting.

The Bible speaks about "A cunning fox." Have you ever seen a fox? I never did, but they say they live in holes under the ground. Foxes make big holes in the ground, and they often spoil the roots of the vines. These animals are very cunning and sly and usually come out at night when no one is around.

A certain farmer had been missing a number of chickens. Often into the night, he would hear loud noises down in the chicken yard. He decided to watch for the one who was stealing his chickens. He got up just before dawn one morning and went out to the chicken house. He saw a beautiful fox. It was going in after another chicken.

Mr. Farmer was ready for him this time. He had his gun with him, and he aimed it in the right direction and pulled the trigger. The fox went rolling on the ground. Soon he was dead.

A few days later, some folks that were visiting on the farm walked through the woods. When they came near the creek, they found a lot of chicken feathers scattered all over the ground. It was here where Mr. Fox had his

last chicken dinner.

We read in Song of Solomon 2:15, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes."

Foxes have a little value except for their fur. They are very cunning and crafty and often hide under the vine leaves spoiling the vines and often eating the grapes.

Our sins, we often call them little sins, are like little foxes. They are cunning. We are often successful in hiding them for a while, but sooner or later they are found out. The fox at the barn got away with the chickens for a few nights, but finally, he got caught.

The sin one tries to hide may not be found out right away. Then it begins to grow, and one sin leads to another. Unless it is confessed to Jesus, one will get into a lot of trouble.

The little foxes may be lies, or stealing, or jealousy. Could such things be found in the hearts of nice people? Do not try to hide your sins, but ask Jesus to come into your hearts and take those things away. Then you will be happy.

The Bible also tells us about the almighty lion. In Proverbs 30:30 it says, "A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any." A lion is a very great beast. In fact, the Bible says it is the strongest of beasts. We do not see many lions in our country, only in a zoo or circus. Most of us have seen pictures of them, but I dare say none would choose one for a pet. I Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be brilliant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." There is no lion in God's way. Isaiah 35:9 says, "No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon..."

When we get away from God, we put ourselves in the lion's or devil's way. When we do right, God promises to deliver us out of the lion's mouth. Let us keep out of the lion's way or he might open his mouth and swallow us. If we walk in God's way, He will protect us.

We also read about a patient ox in the Bible. The ox is a very strong animal. It is not a fast runner like the horse, but it can pull very heavy loads. The ox is a very patient animal and never complains of the hard work it has to do. It either stands and waits or goes ahead without showing any signs of not liking it. It is a dumb animal, but it does

whatever its master tells it to do. God accepted this animal for His service and sacrifice. This shows us that God can use those who are not afraid to work. He is glad when we enjoy our work and are not always complaining that it is too hard. Do you desire to be like the patient ox? How do you perform those duties which are given to you? Do you always think it is too hard or it takes too long, or you would rather do something else? The ox is not like that, it is obedient. It does whatever it is told to do and never talks back.

Last of all, we have a gentle lamb. A lamb is a very common animal and is often seen on the hillsides as you travel through the country. A lamb is very meek. It never has to be driven. It always follows where it is led.

When storms arise, the little lambs usually find protection under trees. They go there for a hiding place during the storm. God's people also have a place of protection a hiding place in times of storms. Our shelter is the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ - in Him we hide.

Names of Jesus

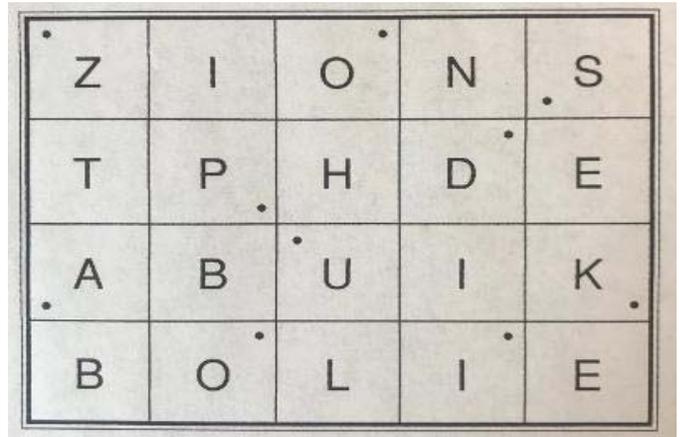
In the Bible, Jesus is given many beautiful names and titles. Let us see how many we can find.

Here are the places in the Bible where the names may be found:

1. What two names did the angels, give Jesus in speaking to the shepherds on the night of His birth? Luke 2:11.
2. What did God call Jesus at His baptism? Matthew 3:17.
3. What did Jesus often call Himself? Matthew 8:20.
4. What name did the two blind men give Him? Matthew 9:27.
5. What names did the Prophet Isaiah give Him? Isaiah 9:6.
6. What names did He, Jesus, give Himself in John 14:6?
7. To what did Jesus liken Himself in John 6:35? I John 10:11?
8. To what two flowers is He likened sometimes in hymns? Song of Solomon 2:1.
9. To what heavenly bodies is He likened in Malachi 4:2 and Revelation 22:16?
10. What title of Jesus is made up of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet? Revelation 22:13.

I am the way, the truth and the life. John 14:6

Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Where can we find out more about Jesus? X out all the squares that have a dot in them. Put the remaining letters on the lines.

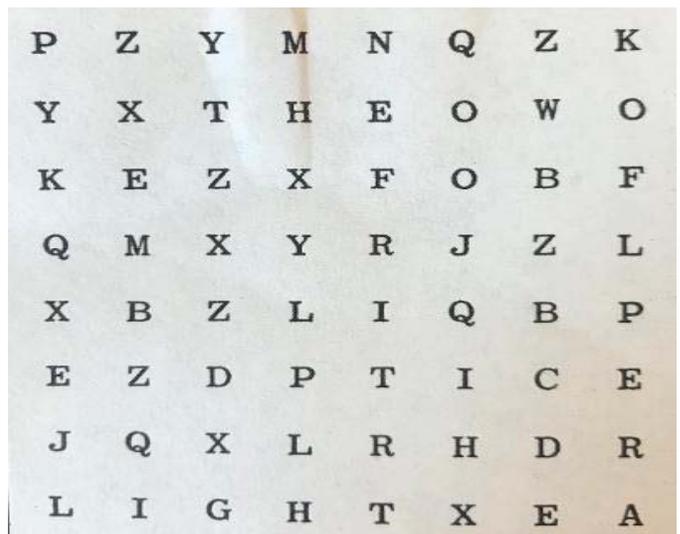


HIDDEN VERSE

The words in the text below (Matthew 5:14) have been hidden in the word square. Some words are backward or diagonal. As soon as you find a word, fit it into the text.

" _____

 _____." (KJV)



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SPRING

By Delwin DeLong

*God spreads a warmth upon the land,
The Robin starts to sing;
We know the season is at hand-
The one we all call Spring.*

*The leaves reach up into the sky,
And ask the rain to fall;
And from the cocoon the butterfly
Holds tight against the wall.*

*The flowers start to open wide,
Their colors all displayed;
The breeze then nudges them aside,
But still they're all arrayed.*

*The signs tell us it now is Spring,
And Summer's on its way;
There are signs of the soon coming King,
And a resurrection day.*

*So look for Jesus's soon return,
Just like the sign of Spring -
Make your call and election sure,
Be ready to meet the King.*

