



THE ADVOCATE OF TRUTH



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

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

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

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

David DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Volume LXX

Number 4

September 27, 2021

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940

<i>Jesus Wept</i>	3-4
<i>You Are An Evangelist</i>	5
<i>Give Thanks Every Day</i>	6
<i>Looking Unto Jesus</i>	7
<i>Two Men Of Great Love</i>	7
<i>Time Clocks</i>	8
<i>Will A Man Rob God?</i>	9
<i>What Is The Key To Bearing Fruit As A Christian? ..</i>	10-11
<i>Two Great Crossings</i>	11
<i>Word Keys That Unlocks Truth</i>	12
<i>Joy</i>	12-13
<i>The Food Corner</i>	13
<i>The Signs Of The Times</i>	14-15
<i>Questions And Answers</i>	16-17
<i>How To Edify The Body Of Christ</i>	18
<i>The Church Around The World</i>	19
<i>The Children's Pages</i>	20-23

*Cover Picture by Caitlyne Howell
Coopers Rock West Virginia*

Jesus wept.

By David Royer

The Bible records three times when Jesus cried. We assume these were not the only times He wept throughout His life, but these three events touched Jesus's heart and occurred during His public life. Let's look at the significance and meaning of these occasions.

THE DEATH OF LAZARUS

This event is the most known as it is also associated with the shortest verse in the Bible: John 11:35, "*Jesus wept.*"

Lazarus of Bethany was Martha and Mary's brother, and all lived in Bethany, on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives, about two miles from Jerusalem. Jesus was a close friend of this Bethany family and visited them several times. (Luke 10:38-39; John 12:1-2) His love for all three was well known (John 11:3-5, 36); Jesus also called Lazarus "our friend" (John 11:11), indicating additional friendship with the twelve disciples.

Martha sent a message to Jesus that Lazarus was ill and asked for Him to come. Jesus does not go immediately but knows that Lazarus has died. (John 11:14). Arriving in Bethany (four days after Lazarus's death) and after speaking with the grieving sisters, Jesus is overtaken by emotions. "Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. " (John 11: 32-35). Jesus wept for

Lazarus, showing us His humanity.

Jesus then went to the tomb, told the people to remove the stone covering it, prayed aloud to His Father, and ordered Lazarus to come out. The resurrection of Lazarus shows us His divine power. This was His 33rd recorded miracle and 3rd resurrection.

SORROW FOR JERUSALEM

Near the end of Jesus's three-year ministry and less than a week before His last Passover, Jesus began what is often referred to as his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The full account of this story is found in Luke 19:29-44.

In summary, Jesus mounted a colt (the foal of a donkey) found in the village of Bethphage located next to the Mount of Olives and traveled the two miles to Jerusalem.

Before entering the city, crowds of people begin to swarm the road and shout praises to God while laying palm branches and clothing in the roadway. They knew who Jesus was because many were from out of town and witnessed or heard of His miracles. In verse 38, they shouted: "...Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest." They were welcoming Christ, but for the wrong reason. The crowd was looking for political salvation. They were looking to Jesus to restore the literal kingdom to how it was in the days of David and Solomon. With this sad reality, we next read of Jesus's reaction in Luke 19:41-42: "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench

about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.”

Jesus sees the city of Jerusalem, and the sight brings him to tears. This is because he sees the sins of the past and future, and it breaks His heart. He is not accepted as the messiah by His own people. Also, Jesus wept because He knew the future for Jerusalem. Prophecy fulfilled forty years later in 70AD when the Romans invaded Jerusalem and killed more than a million Jews.

TEARS OF STRUGGLE

The same day after the Passover, mentioned above (also known as “The Last Supper”), Jesus led his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane, located at the base of the Mount of Olives, on a slope directly across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem. It is a garden no larger than a quarter of an acre and located close to the route to Bethany. The Bible account is found in Matthew 26: 36-50.

After entering Gethsemane, to await His arrest, Jesus became sorrowful, very heavy, and deeply grieved, even to death. He also profusely sweated and required an angel to strengthen His resolve. He prayed to God for the strength to endure what was to befall Him.

We are told that Jesus prayed three times while in Gethsemane. However, Matthew does not explicitly say Jesus cried. We are left with hearsay evidence by Paul in his letter to the Hebrews: “Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;” (Hebrews 5:7).

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus’ humanity becomes more evident than ever. He did not enter into the Garden to escape death or to hide from it. He went there to prepare for death. That preparation meant making the most significant decision in history. Wrestling with the decision before Him, Jesus broke down in assumed tears.

He was about to die. But as Jesus faced His fate, He prayed to His Father in heaven. He sought an answer, an alternative; but ultimately, he sought the Father’s will to be done.

CONCLUSION

It is comforting to know that Jesus understands what is happening in our life and sympathizes with us. Our faith is strengthened to know that Jesus experienced what we go through today. While on earth, Jesus, the Son of God, was a mortal human. He experienced hunger, fatigue, learning, love, anger, compassion, happiness, sadness, distress, temptation, betrayal, patience, grief, loneliness, joy, pain, disappointment, sorrow, agony, frustration, empathy, forgiveness, and yes, at times cried.

John, the Revelator, tells us about a time when there will be no sorrow or crying. God’s kingdom, the New Jerusalem is coming down from Heaven, and John writes: “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.” (Revelation 21: 3-5).

Let’s do our best to receive these rewards and a home in His Kingdom.



YOU ARE AN EVANGELIST

Did you ever look about you and see the Christless and restless multitudes and wonder how they could be reached with the gospel of Christ? There are multitudes today who are faint, scattered abroad and are as sheep having no shepherd. It was with compassion that Jesus beheld such a group. What is your attitude? Do you behold these individuals through eyes of compassion, or through eyes dimmed by indifference?

There are 326,000,000 million people in the United States. Did not Jesus make it plain that these are our responsibility? The cry and command of our Master was, "Go after that which is lost. Go and make disciples of all nations. Go and compel." We can do none the less and please the heart of our Blessed Christ.

Every member of the Church of God should be an evangelist. There are many methods of evangelism, such as: mass evangelism, preaching evangelism, personal evangelism, visitation evangelism, praying evangelism and contributing evangelism. There is no greater plan to bring the gospel to your neighbor.

Adopting this plan will give you a clear conscience that you have done your part in spreading the truth. Do you know that if you shirk your duty as an evangelist the blood of your neighbor will be required from you? For this reason this is a stable plan for evangelization. Too long the church has been near-sighted and has wholly depended upon the ministers only. This is not doing the best work of the Church because a minister is too busy to reach your neighbors with the truth. If we do not take it to them there are many who are sitting in darkness who will never see the light of the truth - the light of Christ, the Bright and Morning Star, the Day Star and the True Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, by you His evangelist.

Will you be one who is instrumental in showing your neighbor the Word of God? Perhaps you can help start a Sabbath School. Perhaps you have not sent in your tithe and offering to the headquarters for world evangelism? Perhaps you could request a copy of "The Advocate of Truth" mailed out to a friend? Or perhaps you could leave a copy of the magazine at a waiting area so someone can pick it up to read? Will you accept the challenge to be an

evangelist?

Please pray with us at headquarters that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers and that you will be a laborer, and will go into His harvest. The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

by Betty Whetstone

*How can we praise the Creator?
The words that we use are so weak;
He says we have only to obey Him,
And not anyway that we may seek.*

*He created the white clouds to please us,
Floating by on a sea of pure blue;
And every good thing you can think of
He created especially for you.*

*Do you lift up your eyes to the Heaven?
When a tiny bird bursts into song
Are you constantly striving to do what is right
By withstanding that which is wrong?*

*He gives us six days to labor,
And enjoy the things that we do;
The seventh day He uses to worship Him,
In a way that is right and true.*

*This day is to set an example,
By resting and worshipping our King;
Many blessing come to those who do this,
By knowing the peace that it brings.*

*And which day is the true Sabbath?
It is never on day number one;
The day is used by the pagans,
To honor and worship the sun.*

*The first six days are for using
When we may work, play and trod;
The seventh must be a true day of rest,
When we honor and worship our God!*

Delwin DeLong

February 23, 1981

Give Thanks Every Day

The winter season now holds us in her grip. Blowing snow and chilling temperature remind us daily that we must brace ourselves against her harsh icy fingers; yet, we hold a glow deep within us that spring and summer's warm embrace awaits us in the near future. We appreciate the summer much more because we have to endure the harshness of winter.

Can we bring ourselves around to saying thank you winter for your severity? Yet, we would not enjoy the spring or summer nearly as much if it had not been for that icy strangle hold we felt earlier.

Our life on this earth is much like the seasons. We often have hard times and difficult trials to go through; but like the harsh winter, these times pass, and we again enjoy the good things the Lord has given. Should we say thank you for those hard times? Without those hard times, the good times would not have been so good.

There was a family who had all the comforts of home. They had a nice house and a very comfortable living, but they took all these things for granted. One day lightning struck the pump in their well and destroyed the motor in the pump. This, of course, left the family without water. Parts had to be ordered, and the well had to be pulled. This process took several days. In the meantime the family had to carry water from the nearby stream. It took a lot of water to run the household. Bathing, cooking, drinking, and bathrooms took much more of the water than anyone had anticipated, and then came the washes. After two days of hard work, the pump was finally fixed, and the water was returned to normal. That evening, as the family knelt in prayer, each of the family members thanked God for their wonderful water.

Would that family have thanked God for their water if the pump had not gone bad? They would have never thought about it in their prayers. How many blessings do we have right now that we take for granted? Does

catastrophe have to happen before we realize what we have to be thankful for?

Catastrophe will come into our lives in one way or another. Sometimes we lose a loved one. Sometimes we have financial problems. Sometimes we lose material possessions, and sometimes we lose friends. These losses may be difficult to handle at the time, but when they happen say thank you. We will appreciate what we do have so much more.

Our spiritual lives are filled with trials and many obstacles, but they are with us to prove us and strengthen us as well as to make us appreciate the faith we have. There was one who suffered much more than we can possibly imagine, and He spent His life so that we may live eternally. Have you told Jesus thank you recently? Our trials are very small in comparison to what He did for us, but through our trials, we can better appreciate the sacrifice He made.

The chilling winter wind blows frost and chills us to the bone. Thank you winter wind, you make me appreciate the summer's warmth much more.

We run into a stone wall in our day to day lives. Thank you stone wall for making me realize how much I have, and how much I have to be thankful for.

Our faith is tempted and trials beat upon us relentlessly. Thank you trials, you have made me realize what the Lord Jesus has done for me. Thank you Lord Jesus for helping me to stand against the fiery darts of Satan, for I know that after each onslaught I will be a little stronger for thee.

The date for thanksgiving has come and gone. Have you ever heard anyone at that time of year, when asked, say Thankful for what? That sounds familiar does it not? Every day of the year should be a day of thanksgiving, and we should say thanks especially when it seems most difficult.



A locomotive engineer, making the trip between Boston and Bangor, once said that it was two or three years after some of the forests along the route had been cut down before he noticed their absence, so intently had it become his habit to gaze straight before him along the rails. If children of God would get into the habit of looking straight before them “unto Jesus the Author and Finisher” of their faith, they would meet with better success in the New Jerusalem. In some cases, a whole forest of a church scandal would be cleared away before they had noticed it, and they would thus be great gainers by the operation. As it is, in too many instances, people are fully occupied with this one’s faults and that one’s failings, until they become almost discouraged and disheartened with the way, and conclude that “there is none that doeth good, no, not one,” and so they fall behind in faith and every good work.

On the mount of transfiguration, where three disciples had fallen on their faces at the sight, when the vision had passed, and “they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.” It would be an excellent thing if many more could only meet with this same experience. The trouble with many is they see too many men – men who are only men; men who have no Christ in them.

It is a well-known fact that that which absorbs one’s attention has a powerful influence in molding one’s life. Every person we come in contact with for any length of time exerts some influence on our life for good or ill; some have more influence than others. Many are carried down to ruin by becoming infatuated with evil-disposed persons who charm them, as a snake is to charm a bird, until it gets in within its grasp by a kind of personal magnetism, or “hypnotism.” **“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into**

the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Corinthians 3:18). If we fix our gaze on Him, we may not be able to see everything in this world, but we can “...see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9). He tasted it for you and for me. Let us look to Him and live.

TWO MEN OF GREAT LOVE

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

Joseph from the town of Arimathea (identification uncertain) was a secret disciple of Jesus. We read in John 19:38: **“And after this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, ...besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.”**

Joseph, like Nicodemus, was a member of the Sanhedrin (Mark 15:43). Evidently, he was afraid that if he came out openly for Jesus he would be expelled from the job he held as counsellor. But his courage came to him when he saw Jesus being crucified. Pilate granted his request after he heard of the death of Jesus from the Roman centurion.

Nicodemus’ courage came to him also. No longer was he afraid. He did not wait until it became dark. He stepped up to Jesus’ body **“...and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight”** (John 19:39). It was a very expensive gift of love (about 75 pounds today). It was a very fragrant spice.

These two timid men, now giants in courage, took the body of Jesus and tenderly wrapped the body in fine linen. Joseph bought the linen, and Nicodemus furnished the spices. Can we imagine the love these two brethren felt for Jesus?

By the place of crucifixion there was a garden, in which was a new unused tomb. There the two men buried Jesus. One is constrained to ask: Why did not the men closest to Jesus ask for His body and bury Him? Only these secret disciples showed courage in the crisis.

TIME CLOCKS

By Vera Hutchcraft

Reprinted May 25, 1992



Let me ask you a riddle. Seventeen years in a dark dungeon and then released to live in the light for one or two weeks before death. What is it? Why, it is a seventeen-year cicada.

It all starts out with a horde of cicadas living and singing in the trees of a certain Eastern state. Mother cicada punches a hole in the tender bark of the upper branches and lays an egg. This she continues to do until all her eggs have been laid.

A few days later these little eggs begin to hatch, and tiny nymphs crawl out onto the branches of the tree. They will drink from the juice of the tree for a few weeks and then drop to the ground and burrow down a few feet. There they will attach themselves to the roots of the tree with their sharp beaks to provide themselves with the only food they will need for seventeen long years. Then at exactly the end of those seventeen years, something within them drives them to the surface. Tunneling up and up, at last they see the light once again. Climbing up a tree trunk or a post, they grasp the wood with their feet. Now a little split shows up on their back and the cicada inside struggles and finally makes it out and into the open. After a while the wings begin to move back and forth, straightening and lengthening. At last the cicada is ready to fly, and fly it does – right to the top-most branches of a tree. Here they will spend one or two weeks in the bright sunlight until at last Mother cicada lays her eggs and falls to the earth to die.

What kind of time clock do the cicadas have to bring them to the surface after seventeen years under ground? We do not know, but we know that they are not the only animals that seem to have a built-in time clock.

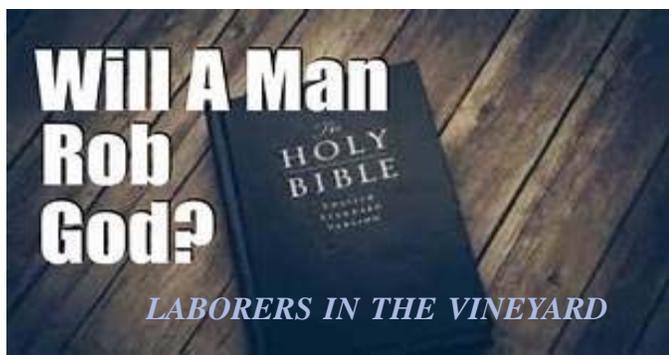
Take for example the many birds which migrate so many miles from year to year. How do they know when they are supposed to leave and come back? Some little birds travel an amazingly long way. The golden plover goes non-stop from Nova Scotia to Brazil, 2500 miles. The Arctic terns, though, travel 10,000 miles from one end of the world to the other – from the Arctic to the Antarctic. Is it the change in weather that makes them leave? Perhaps, but scientists do not believe that this is the complete reason, for an experiment was made with some warblers who travel at night. When they kept them in an artificial atmosphere where it was always summer, they found that the birds became restless in the autumn and flew about in the branches night after night for the length of time it would take them to go to Africa. After this they settled down to sleep at night as they do in their winter home. But when spring came, they once again became restless for the length of time it would take them to fly back to Europe once again.

Yes, God has given many animals what seems to be a sixth sense to know when to do a given thing. The salmon knows when to leave the salty ocean to swim up the same river which he came down as a young salmon, to spawn. The little sea worms know when to come up from the sand when the tide is out to feed on the seaweed and when to burrow down in the sand so they will not be washed away. If put in an artificial tank, they will still burrow under the sand at the time when the tide would come in. Considering that the tide comes in fifty minutes later each day, this becomes quite a mystery.

God has a time for things in our lives, too. And the most important of these is the time for us to get saved. The Bible says, **“behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”** (II Corinthians 6:2b). He wants us to have salvation because there is great danger in putting it off. “Put-it-off is one of the greatest weapons Satan has, because he knows that anyone who keeps saying, “Tomorrow,” will never bring salvation. You may die before that certain “tomorrow” comes, or you may get so used to saying “tomorrow” that it will not bother you at all. We call that hardening of your conscience or heart, and when that happens, it is a very serious and terrible thing. **“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the**

rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:37-41).

So decide and say, **“I will give my heart to Jesus right now.”** You’ll be glad you did.



"...Why stand ye here all the day idle" (Matthew 20:6)? Are you standing idle all the day long when there is so much to be done in the Lord's vineyard? If so, what excuse will you have, who have been doing so, to offer the Master when He comes to reckon with His servants? The command is to "Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right, that ye shall receive" (verse 7).

In the parable given in Matthew 20 it is shown that all who labor in the Lord's vineyard shall receive the same reward from the last to the first, even those who have labored through the heat of the day and those who enter at the eleventh hour. "For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

We beseech you, dear reader, to be a LABORER in the Lord's vineyard, if you have not already enlisted, and DO something to support the last warning message to the world before it is too late. Jesus our great example was moved with compassion when He saw the multitudes, because they fainted for lack of spiritual food, and were

scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd He said unto His disciples: "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." How can anyone professing to be a member in particular of the body of Christ, and a disciple of the Lord, ignore this direct command, and stand all the day idle?

We need your help, and may God bless you if you are rendering assistance in offering yourself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, by paying the Lord's tithe into the storehouse, giving offerings, and being instant in prayer. Above all things you need God in your heart to prompt your heart, mind, and body, to labor for Him in His vineyard in whatever capacity or calling you have been called.

"Consider what I say: and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

Read what the apostle Paul says about the maintenance of the ministry, and preaching the gospel in I Corinthians 9. "...Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? (tithes and offerings)

"Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (verses 9-11, 13-14).

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. And if a man will at all redeem ought (anything) of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part (20 per cent) thereof" (Leviticus 27:30-31).

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. ...Bring ye ALL the tithes into the storehouse (treasury), that there may be meat (substance) in mine house, and PROVE me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:8, 10).

Dear reader, do you believe God? Are you willing to prove Him NOW by sending in the Lord's tithes and offering for the gospel work?



What is the key to

BEARING FRUIT AS A CHRISTIAN?

Every Christian who is walking in the known will of God, who desires that his life be used of God to lead precious souls to the Lord Jesus Christ, also desires to be a fruitful Christian. As a dead tree in an orchard cannot bear fruit, no more can an inconsistent and independent person bear fruit for God. Furthermore, we read in John 15:2, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit He taketh away..." Possibly the disappearance of many a branch in the Lord's service is a the result of a fruitless life. How tragic to be a branch that is taken away! What joy and peace is lost by the disappeared branch!

On the other hand, "...every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." A fruitful branch receives special attention from the Husbandman, the Father. There is much activity in the life of a fruitful Christian. Note the activity most of us are familiar with -- a rush for the bus, a rush for work, a rush for lunch, a rush for this or that place. No, not that kind of activity; the fruitful branch may very quietly receive the purging-- a quick snap in a certain spot, and a patient, subdued spirit is the outcome, blessing many thousands. Or the Husbandman twists or turns another part of the branch, leaving the sweet, fragrant aroma of a consecrated life to wend its way into the lives of so many needed souls. Mark the individuals who are the greatest blessing to you. They are those who have been bearing fruit and are being purged to bear more fruit. The greater the crushing the sweeter the fragrance.

Yes, one who desires the best God has for him, also desires the fruitful life. Are you, however, willing to pay the price of a fruitful life? The price is very costly, but so

are rare gems very costly: so is the rose crushed perfume very costly; so is the highly polished and beautifully painted pottery very costly. Are you satisfied to be only "five and dime" Christians, factory made and put on the counter with thousands just like you, or are you willing to be crushed, ground, put through the fire, water, floods, mellowed and melted to be a valued child of God, on display with God's rarities?

These are conditions to be met to be fruitful. First, one is to be clean to be a fruitful Christian. A fruit tree full of insects or worms cannot produce fruit that will be classed "Grade A". If one must be clean to be fruitful, then how can he be clean? "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3). Are you letting the Word dwell in you as the Apostle Paul exhorts in Colossians 3:16? How often do you let the cleansing water of the Word flow through the stream of your life to wash away the constantly falling soot of this earthly pilgrimage? A life that is touched upon once a week on Sabbath will not be as clean as one that is scrubbed every day.

Let us be clean through the Word by daily, quiet, earnest reading and study of the Word of God. Let us submit to the Lord as He shows through His Word, by the Holy Spirit, the dirty spots in our lives -- the unkind remarks about others, the self-exaltation, pride, self-pity, selfishness, slothfulness in prayer, unbelief, doubt, and many other things the Lord is not pleased with. Let us keep in mind, "...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

Then one is to abide in Christ, as we read in John

15:4: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." What does it mean to abide? The best way to abide in Christ is to have "nothing between" as the above verse states.

If you abide in Him there is no interest of yours into which you do not bring Him, no burden which you do not share with Him. All wisdom, strength, and life is claimed and drawn from Him. If you abide in Him you do not allow anything no matter how small it might be, or how great it might be, to separate you from Him. How sweet to have such a fellowship - a fellowship as close as the branch is to the vine. To have fellowship with Him one must walk in light and truth (I John 1:6-7).

Then another condition of a fruitful life is obedience. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" (John 15:10). It is quite natural for human nature to shrink from obedience. There are children of God who will do what God asks them to do, but not in exactly the way He asks them to do it. There are far too many who put off complete obedience to God, and the Lord tells you that to be fruitful, you must be obedient. **"If ye keep My commandments."** In other words, if you promptly and lovingly do exactly what God tells you to do, when He tells you, this is well pleasing to Him.

Good Company

Conversation filled with truth.

Motivational Oppertune.

From bad to good a chance to improve.

Fix problems with all the righteous tools.

Good company brings better **fruit**.

Good vibes in turn can better you.

God said when problems come

Don't run from Me.

Instead seek Me

And you'll be in good company.

Derrick Shaw

TWO GREAT CROSSINGS

Reprinted

There were two occasions when the people of Israel crossed waters that were wonderfully separated for them. Both events made great impressions on them and taught them that their God was Lord of both nature and history.

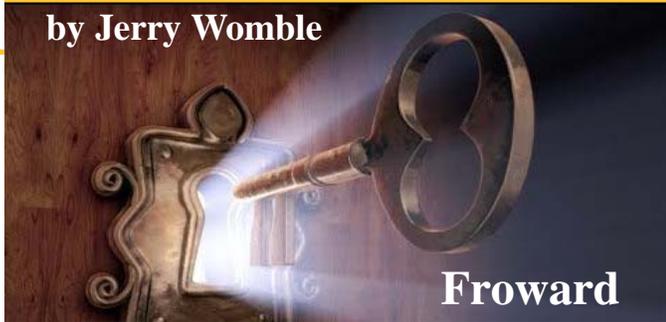
Although it was not stated in the Scriptural account, it seems that the miraculous crossing of the Jordan was regarded as a re-enactment of the crossing of the Red Sea. In both events, the Lord was leading His people across waters that barred their way. In both accounts, there are both natural and religious explanations. At the Red Sea, we are told: **"And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind ..."** the wind blowing caused evaporation and evaporation caused the waters to freeze. **"And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea"** (Exodus 14:21; 15:8). At the Jordan River, we are told that the waters were blocked upstream at a city named Adam.

Here is a key doctrine of the Scriptures. The God in heaven was in control of both nature and history. All events were under the direct control of God the great Creator. Therefore, a miracle that we might explain as due to natural causes was for them no less a miracle than an event that we might distinguish as "supernatural." Even though they knew that an earthquake had stopped the Jordan River, it was God that sent the earthquake. All these things happened as a direct result and action of the Father in Heaven.

We also need to know and understand that the crossing of the Jordan and the successful siege of the City of Jericho were all linked together into one event of faith. The Father in heaven who is Lord of all creation and works shows to us His great power He has over the Red Sea, Jordan and Jericho. So also Jesus reminds us that not a sparrow falls to the ground without God's being involved and concerned (Matthew 10:29).

WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

by Jerry Womble



No not forward but froward. I find it is an easy word to miss read in the Bible. Froward means perversity or a perverse thing and sometimes it refers to fraud. It is used several times in the Scripture to warn us of the wrong path that we may be following. In Deut. 32 Jeshurun was given many blessings from God including food to spare and blessings of daily life. He had oil and honey from unexpected places and meat, milk and grapes abundantly. He became so independent that he did not esteem “the Rock of his salvation” vs. 15. Instead he listened to his children which led him astray from God and God called this a froward situation. I think the lesson here for us is to count our blessings and give God the credit and not to think all of the good things in our life is due to our own abilities.

In Job chapter 5 Job compares a man’s trouble to sparks of a fire flying upward that if not controlled brings danger to him. Then when this grows in his life the advice he gives to others will cause failure to future generations. He says the advice of the froward “is carried headlong” in Job 5:13, meaning that bad advice will go forward and continue to grow. He compares a person following the froward path as he that is so blind he stumbles in the day time as if it were a dark night.

Prov. 8 shows us how to think of froward in a positive way when it says to understand wisdom, speak excellent things, speak truth and that wickedness be far from us then vs. 8 says “All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them”.

Let us all remember Psalms 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

JOY

Bond Tennant

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy” (John 16:20).

“And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you” (John 16:22).

The words of the opening Scripture were spoken by Jesus to His disciples the night before He was put to death. He told them that they would soon experience great sorrow because of his departure from their midst. Yet, He says that this sorrow would soon afterward be turned to joy. This joy came about in two ways. First, His resurrection on the “third day,” and the various appearances He made to His disciples in the forty days following, were “convincing proofs” that He lived again, with even greater power than He had prior to His death. This was a source of great joy to Jesus’ followers, and renewed their dedication to Him.

Jesus came to the disciples in an even greater degree on the Day of Pentecost when, through the enlightening power of the Holy Spirit, they understood more fully the details of God’s plan. Peter immediately was moved to expound this joyful message to the multitudes gathered (Acts 2:1-38). Many believed Peter’s words and were “pricked in their heart.” As a result, “about three thousand” were added to their number (verses 37,41). The great joy of that day is testified to in the chapter’s closing verses, which state that they all continued “...daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house,” and “did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God...” (verses 46-47). Indeed, the disciples’ sorrow as well as perplexity and uncertainty, had been “turned to joy.”

We live in a world today that is likewise full of sorrow,

perplexity, uncertainty, and fear. Jesus prophesied of our day that it would be so, saying that men’s hearts would fail them for fear, as they look at the things happening on the earth (Luke 21: 25-26). Yet in spite of the religious, moral, political, and economic turmoil which surrounds us, the Lord’s people are counseled in the Scriptures to always “Rejoice in the Lord” (Philippians 4:4). We today, as consecrated believers, must take many sorrows which encompass our lives, whether personally or in the world around us, and “turn them” into a joy that “no man” can take from us. This is a mighty endeavor, and can only be accomplished by looking to the Scriptures to see what the basis must be for such joy.



Rice Crispy Treats are rare to find in the grocery store without containing pork gelatin. Gelatin is a clear, tasteless protein that thickens and solidifies liquid and semi-liquid foods, such as soups, marshmallows, and old-fashioned aspic molds. Commonly associated with Jell-O brand products, gelatin comes from animal collagen. Here is a recipe for rice crispy treats that you can make at home with marshmallow creme.

Ingredients

- 7 – 8 cups of Rice Krispies
- * amount depends on if you like your rice krispy squares gooey or dry. I used 7 cups because I like them gooey.
- 1/2 cup of butter
- * to make these vegan or parve, substitute the butter for an appropriate margarine
- 2 7 oz jars of Jet-Puffed Marshmallow Creme
- * Note...this marshmallow creme is vegan/pareve &

kosher...it does not have any gelatin in it.

1 cup M & M’s, or other candy pieces optional
 You can be creative and add dried fruit; ex: strawberries

Method

9 x 13 pan, grease the pan, I use butter but if you want this to be dairy-free use any suitable margarine. Put the Rice Krispies in a large bowl.

Add M & M’s to the Rice Krispies if using & toss them together to disperse the M&M’s throughout the cereal.

Melt the butter in a large enough saucepan that can hold the marshmallow creme.

Once the butter has melted, add the marshmallow creme & stirring constantly until it is well combined and the marshmallow creme is smooth & is not lumpy. Add the marshmallow mixture to the rice krispies & mix well.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared 9x13 pan & spread it out evenly.

*I used a spatula then my hands when the pan was covered.

Cover the pan with plastic wrap & once the wrap is on I made sure that the rice krispy mixture was evenly spread out by pressing down on the wrap.

Cut into any size pieces you want!

* Optional designs can be made by adding food coloring or shapes by cutting out with cookie cutters.



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



WHITE SUPREMACIST PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA

I read a report which stated that the population of America is now made up of just about 56% of white people while the minorities have increased. It has been estimated that soon the minorities will be in the majority. These days we hear much about white supremacy groups and their rhetoric. They do not wish at all to become the minority of American citizens.

The following is an article from **USA TODAY** entitled *White supremacist propaganda on the rise*:

Incidents of white supremacist propaganda hit an all time high in 2020, according to a new report from the Anti Defamation League's Center on Extremist which has traced racist propaganda for decades, anti-Semitic, racist and anti LGBTQ posters, flyers and graffiti recorded 5,125 times in 2020, according to the report, almost twice the number of incidents recorded in 2019.

The report, released today, details incidents in every state excluding Hawaii. It includes 130 incidents of white supremacists putting up banners, 56 inperson white supremacist events and 283 incidents of anti-Semitic language or propaganda that specifically targeted Jewish institutions, a 68% increase from 2019.

Oren Segal, vice president of the Center on Extremism, said the increase propaganda is another indication of how divided America has become.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

“As if a pandemic, social justice protests and a polarizing election were not enough, one of the other things we’ve been dealing with is a significant increase in efforts by white supremacists to spread their messages around the country,” Segal said. “What the numbers suggest is a doubling down on what they view as a successful tactic.”

At least 30 different white supremacist groups distributed flyers, put up posters or graffitied public and private spaces last year, the report says. The messaging varied from overt neo-Nazi propaganda to coded language that disguised white supremacist messaging inside expressions of patriotism and nationalism.

Three organizations were responsible for more than 90% of propaganda incidents. The most active group by far was the Texas-based Patriot Front, headed by white supremacist Thomas Rousseau, which was behind 4,105 of the incidents. Patriot Front masks its racism in vague phrases like “America First” and “Reclaim America,” but the group’s official manifesto makes its white supremacist goals clear.

The @ PatriotFront Official Channel on the secure messaging app Telegram calls regularly posts openly racist and anti-Semitic messages, as well as documenting the group acts as white supremacist vandalism.

Sarah Vinson, a forensic psychiatrist and associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Morehouse School of Medicine, said white supremacist propaganda has a dual impact on the communities where it appears:

“When you see signs up, it can make you less trusting

of the white people you are around, because you don't know who it is that put it up, and you don't know who is tolerating that", Vinson said. "White people who harbor those beliefs may also find those signs validating and reassuring."

In recent years, white supremacists have increasingly gathered online using social media, message boards and chatrooms. It may seem surprising, therefore, to see such a spike in school techniques like putting up posters and distributing flyers.

But Segal said the increase in propaganda isn't an alternative to online activity, but a reflection of how technology is helping white supremacist views propagate.

The propaganda factor

The increase in white supremacist propaganda mirrors an overall national increase in both the number of hate groups in the United States and hate crimes over the last few years.

The Southren Poverty Law Center's annual audit of hate groups showed a slight dip in the number of groups counted in 2020 from 2019. But experts were quick to point out that the number of hate groups remains high by historical standards.

The most recent statistics on hate crimes from the FBI, a tally that is deeply flawed but offers some historical perspective, suggested fatal hate crimes rising to record levels in 2019, the most recent year for which data is available.

More recently, there has been a surge in hate crimes toward Asian Americans, stemming from racist torpes about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hate crimes against Asian Americans rose 150% in 2020 in a study of America's largest cities by the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.

A failing grade on hate

Another report released this week by the Simon

Wiesenthal Center, a global Jewish human rights organization, assessed social media platforms' policies for targeting hate online.

It concluded that not one of the major platforms should receive an A grade.

The report criticizes social media companies for being too slow, and too selective, in tackling white supremacist, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQ and anti-immigrant content.

"It is worrisome to see us moving in the wrong direction at this juncture in history," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, who has led the center's digital terrorism and hate project for nearly three decades. "Social media giants, who for decades moved slowly and incrementally against online hate, suddenly entered the political arena, impacting on elections and Covid-related health issues."

The report gave the "Big 5" tech platforms – Facebook/ Instagram, Twitter and You Tube/Google – all B-minus grades. Telegram, which has seen a surge of new users who were kicked off Facebook and Twitter, got a D-minus grade. White supremacists favorite social media site, Gab, got an F.

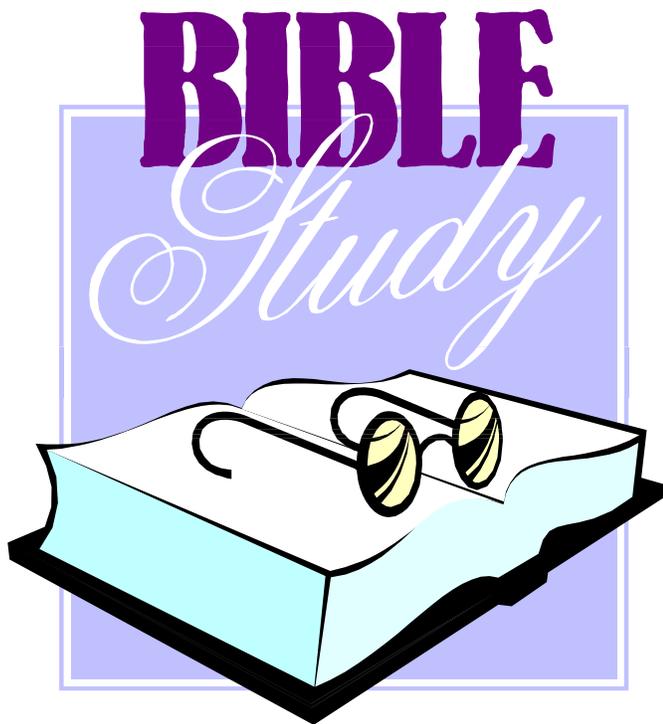
Comment

White supremacy and racism go hand in hand. Why is it that certain white American citizens do not wish to live beside a person with differently colored skin who is also an American citizen?

THINK ABOUT THIS

There is little to no good news to report these days. That is because we are living in the last days. Crisis keeps popping up. Many people here in America are excited about the programs put forth by President Biden, but the benefit from them will only be temporary.

Some are looking for the light at the end of the tunnel in regard to this present evil world. They want it to end and peace begin to reign. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and that is when the thousand-year Kingdom of God is established.



Questions and Answers

Question: What are some of the danger signals that warn us of an impending fall?

Answer: One of these signals is the spirit of pride. Proverbs 16:18 reads, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." The spirit of pride can easily enter our hearts. This causes us to be haughty and self-important. On the other hand, the spirit of humility engenders meekness, gentleness, teachableness, patience, and forbearance. It is important that none "think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Romans 12:3).

Another danger sign is that of indifference toward the truth of God's Word. The Word of God is His voice speaking to us. If we are to maintain our standing in Him, how alert we should be to listen to His voice, and how attentive and obedient we should be to the message. Our standing in the Lord depends upon our obedience to His truth, for it is by the truth that we are sanctified (John 17:17). Satan would like to have us believe that to stand in the Lord is one thing, and that to stand in the truth is something else. He would like to have us believe that it does not make any difference where we stand with respect to the Word of truth as long as we love the Lord. However, this is one of those wiles of the devil by which he is endeavoring to draw us away from God by causing us to

lose our appreciation of His glorious message of truth, through which He speaks to us and guides us in the narrow way. Let us continue to cherish the truth, to feed upon it, that thereby we may grow strong, and remain strong, so that we will not fall, because we have made the truth our buckler and our shield.

Failure to assemble together with the brethren, or indifference to the privilege of fellowship, is another danger signal. God has so arranged the church's affairs as to make fellowship with others of like precious faith one of the most important means of grace. If we fail to appreciate this provision of the Lord for our strengthening in the faith and in the spirit, whenever possible, we are neglecting one of the important means by which we are kept from falling.

The spirit of "bitterness, and wrath, and anger" is another danger signal which should be quickly discerned by those who are properly taking heed (Ephesians 4:31). These unholy manifestations of character are the very opposite to the spirit of love, which is the Spirit of God. To permit their entrance into our hearts, and still worse, to harbor and act upon them, will sooner or later result in great loss as to our standing in Christ Jesus. Let us diligently take heed in this respect, by quickly and effectively rooting out every evidence of these sinful

qualities from our hearts through prayer, and instead seek to be filled with, and controlled by, the spirit of love.

We should also not permit the spirit of the world to take control of our hearts and lives. The spirit of the world is one of self-seeking, ambition and vainglory. In short, it is the spirit of selfishness which is the spirit of the adversary. If we find the spirit of the world beginning to encroach upon our minds and hearts, we should recognize it as a danger sign of pitfalls and snares ahead by which Satan is endeavoring to bring about our fall from steadfastness. Let us seek to be filled with the Spirit of the Lord, and so occupied with the things of the Spirit, that there will be no time or place for the spirit of the world to gain even the slightest entrance into our lives.

Question: Will you please comment on The Lord's Prayer which is found in Matthew 6:9-13.

Answer: First, let us quote Matthew 6:9-13, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

One of the most important sayings of the Master on the mount is The Lord's Prayer which He provided as a pattern for His followers to use throughout this Gospel Age. If we have a desire to serve God in an accepted manner, we will joyfully commune with Him daily and seek to be guided by this outline of the fundamental principles of Christian prayer. We will delight to address God as "Our Father," and will recognize the hallowedness of His name. Prominent in our prayers will be the desire to see the world blessed by the setting up of God's kingdom – "Thy kingdom come" – on earth as it is in heaven. We will not make elaborate requests for ourselves, but ask only for the needful things, both temporal and spiritual-- "Give us this day our daily bread."

Realizing how far short we come in thought, word and deed, and our great need for divine mercy, we will also petition God for His forgiveness. Meanwhile, we must

forgive those who trespass against us, else we cannot expect His compassion toward us. "Lead us not"--that is, abandon us not--in temptation, the Lord teaches us to pray. God does not tempt His people, and will not abandon us when we are tempted by the Adversary (James 1:13). Rather, he will "deliver us from evil," and desires that we seek His delivering power and providences through prayer.

Question: Is there knowledge in hell?

Answer: Ecclesiastes 9:10 reads, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave {sheol, the Bible hell}, whither thou goest."

The Prophet Job understood this, and in a period of extreme suffering asked the Lord to let him die. Job prayed, "O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave {sheol, hell}, ...until thy wrath be past..." (Job 14:13). Suffering as he was, Job surely would not ask God to let him go to a place where he would suffer even more, and where his torture would last forever. No, Job wanted release from suffering, so he asked God to let him go to sheol, to hell.

According to tradition, hell is a place where God visits His wrath upon sinners, but in Job we have a righteous man asking to go to hell to escape God's wrath. What did he mean? The wrath of God here referred to by Job is the curse of death which came upon all mankind through original sin. David referred to it as God's "anger," and assures us that it endures but for a moment, and added, "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).

Knowing that God's wrath would not continue forever upon the human race, Job prayed for release from it until it was past. Job knew that then he would be restored to life. He said, "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time {in death} will I wait, till my change {from death to life} come. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands" (Job 14:14-15) Here we have definite assurance that those who go into the Bible hell do not remain there, that a time will come when hell will give up its dead.

HOW TO EDIFY THE BODY OF CHRIST

By Salomon Torres M.

One of the most relevant aspects that marked the Apostle Paul's ministry was his tireless exhortation in regards to edifying the church. When we read I Corinthians chapter 12, we find a great explanation about this matter. Therefore, these verses should be taken as a lesson of humbleness and teamwork.

We could ask why Paul wrote this message for the Corinthians? Undoubtedly at that time they were prideful and haughty, believing that because they had a different spiritual gift, they had a greater authority or deserved a greater respect. Instead of edifying the Body of Christ, they were dividing it. The gifts that God gives us have to be used for a common purpose, and not for something specific for our own benefit.

Today, members of the Body of Christ should pay attention to how we exercise our gift, because instead of edifying the church, we could be dividing it. Our capabilities and knowledge should always be used for the service of a common cause, where we can all be of benefit in a Holy purpose, and not for an individual cause where we are looking for a personal benefit or for our own praise.

As we mentioned in the beginning, chapter 12 of the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians teaches us some principles on how to edify the church. First of all, we should understand that God is the one who gives the gifts, and each one of us has been placed to fulfill a particular purpose. *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body?"* (I Corinthians 12:18, 19).

Once we understand this, we should learn to recognize our individual gift, in order to develop it, and to put it in the service of the entire church for its edification.

The apostle Paul compares the Body of Christ with the church, just like a human body in which each body part has a special and needed function. We cannot leave out the work of any of the members, as verses 21 and 22 says, *"And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary."* All members of the body are different and each one has a function to fulfill. Despite the differences, they all have to work together.

In the same way, the church is composed of many members, and each member has a gift and ability. We all have to work together for the edification of the body of Christ with humbleness, and we all need to recognize everyone's gifts, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ who came to serve. *"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:28). If we do not do so, our gifts have no meaning.

Let us attempt to always use our gifts for the serving and edifying of the church, and not for dividing or boasting.

I Corinthians 14:26, says: *"How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying."*



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

St. Martin, West Indies

Brother Christian Germain and fellow members of The Church of God 7th Day St. Martin, West Indies gather to meet in this tent sitting on the foundation of the church, which was destroyed by Hurricane Irma in 2017.



LESSON I

AHAZIAH SUCCEEDS JEHORAM

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 22:1-12.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 22:3.

"He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counselor to do wickedly."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Jehoram was king of Judah for eight years. He was the son of a good father, Jehoshaphat, but he caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit evil. He finally died of a horrible disease. Now let us see who will succeed him as king of Judah.

1. Who was made king after Jehoram's death? Who was he? II Chronicles 22:1.
2. How old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and who was his mother? II Chronicles 22:2.
3. Did he do evil or good in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 22:3-4.
4. Against whom did Ahaziah go to war? Why did he go down to see Jehoram, the son of Ahab? II Chronicles 22:5-6.
5. What did Jehu do with those who ministered to Ahaziah? II Chronicles 22:7-8.
6. When they found Ahaziah who was hid in Samaria? What did Jehu and his men do to him? II Chronicles 22:9.
7. When Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, saw that her son was dead, what did she do? II Chronicles 22:10.
8. Whom did Jehoshabeath hide and why? II Chronicles 22:11.
9. How long was Joash hid in the house of God? Who then reigned over the land? II Chronicles 22:12.

LESSON II

JEHOIADA RESTORES THE WORSHIP OF GOD IN JUDAH (PART 1)

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 23:1-11.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 23:8 (first part).

"So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded,..."

NOTE: Ahaziah had been reigning over the land and was a wicked ruler. Now we shall study about the reign of Jehoiada, the priest, to see how he rules the land and how he restores the worship of God.

1. Whom did Jehoiada take into covenant with him in II Chronicles 23:1?
2. What did these men do in the cities of Judah? II Chronicles 23:2.
3. All the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. What did the king say unto the people? II Chronicles 23:3.
4. What did the king direct the people to do? II Chronicles 23:4-7.
5. Did the Levites and all Judah do according to all the things that Jehoiada had commanded? II Chronicles 23:8.
6. What did he deliver to the captains? II Chronicles 23:9-10.
7. Who was now made king? II Chronicles 23:11.



LESSON III

**JEHOIADA RESTORES THE WORSHIP
OF GOD IN JUDAH
(PART II)**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 23:12-21.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 23:16.

"And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people."

NOTE: We studied how Jehoiada, the priest, strengthened himself and led the people to follow God. Joash is made king of Judah, and we will now find what happens to the wicked queen Athaliah.

1. What did Athaliah do when she heard the people praising the king? II Chronicles 23:12.
2. What did she see when she entered the house of the Lord? II Chronicles 23:13.
3. What did Jehoiada do and say concerning Athaliah? II Chronicles 23:14.
4. What did the captains do then to her? II Chronicles 23:15.
5. Jehoiada made a covenant between him, the people, and the king that they would be the Lord's people. What did they do to the house of Baal? II Chronicles 23:16-17.
6. How did Jehoiada set the house of the Lord in order? II Chronicles 23:18-20.
7. Did the people now rejoice? II Chronicles 23:21.

Answer to Word found in Scriptures on page 23:

STRAIGHTWAY

Answers to Matthew 4:10-11 Puzzle:

Across: 1.Worship 3.Devil 5.unto 6.angels 9.ministered Down: 1.written 2.serve 4.leaveth 7.shalt 8.him

LESSON IV

**JOASH REIGNS WELL ALL THE DAYS
OF JEHOIADA**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 24:1-16.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 24:2.

"And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that Jehoiada restored the worship of God in Judah, and that Joash was made king. We shall study now to see if Joash keeps the kingdom in this condition or if he lets the people return to idolatry.

1. How old was Joash when he began to reign? How long did he reign? II Chronicles 24:1.
2. Did he do that which was right in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 24:2.
3. Joash directed to repair the house of the Lord. How did he plan to do this? II Chronicles 24:4-5.
4. Why did the king call for Jehoiada? II Chronicles 24:6-7.
5. What did they set at the gate of the house of the Lord? What was this to be used for? II Chronicles 24:8-10.
6. What was done with the collections in the chest? II Chronicles 24:11-13.
7. When the house of the Lord was finished, what was the rest of the money used for? II Chronicles 24:14.
8. How old was Jehoiada when he died? II Chronicles 24:15.
9. Where was he buried? Had good been done in Israel? II Chronicles 24:16.



JUST IN TIME

Dennis was camping with his aunt and uncle. They had a trailer house parked near a beautiful lake in the mountains. Right now, Aunt Molly was taking a nap, and Uncle Dan had gone for a boat ride with another man.

Dennis wanted to find an especially nice fern for his Mother, who was home in the city. He looked among the vines and flowers beside the shady trail along the creek. He had found a lovely maidenhair fern, and was getting ready to lift it carefully from the ground when he heard a child's shrill cry.

Jumping to his feet, Dennis raced up the path until he found two little girls crying loudly. "What's the matter?" he called. "Are you hurt? did a snake bite you?" Both girls shook their heads and pointed to the creek.

Dennis ran close to the water and looked where they were pointing. There was a little boy in a deep hole! He was splashing and splashing, but his head soon went under the water. Dennis tried to reach him as he came up again, but the child was too far out.

Dennis looked for a long stick, but there was none to be found. He tried to break a branch from a tree, but it was green and would not snap. He felt in his pocket for his knife, but remembered he had left it in the trailer house after peeling an apple that morning. He closed his eyes and prayed, "Dear Jesus, please help me to know what to do."

He seized the green branch again and tugged with all his might. The branch did not break off, but it pulled loose from the limb. He held it out toward the little boy, but the little fellow's head had gone out of sight again.

Oh, how Dennis wished that he had learned to swim and dive. He wasn't sure what to do. He knew that he must get help immediately. There were only a few people camped near the lake, and most of them were out in their boats. Then Dennis thought of the short cut to the lake. He ran as fast as he could and prayed that Jesus would help him get someone's attention, so they could save the

boy.

The boats were way out in the water. When Dennis got to the shore, he waved his arms and shouted, "Help! Help!"

Two men saw him, and their boat made the spray fly as it raced toward him. Dennis told them a little boy was drowning in the creek, and one man jumped out of the boat and ran as fast as he could toward the creek. The other man pulled the boat out of the sand and ran, too. The first man was the little boy's father, but Dennis did not know it then.

Dennis' legs were so tired now that he could not run fast. He only trotted along behind. He prayed all the way to the creek. Again, he asked Jesus to please keep the little boy alive until the men could get there.

When Dennis reached the creek, he saw that the boy was out on the ground. The first man was breathing into his mouth. After quite a while, he began to cry. Then Dennis knelt down in the damp leaves and vines and thanked God for His help and mercy.

Everyone in camp thought Dennis was a hero. The little boy's father told him that they had reached his son just in time. Another minute would have been too late. He thanked Dennis and tried to give him some money, but Dennis wouldn't accept it.

Aunt Molly and Uncle Dan both hugged their nephew tightly. They were proud of him.

Dennis was worried about one thing though. When he got home, he asked Mother about it.

"Mother, was it right to pray while I was running?" he asked. "I didn't have time to kneel down."

"Jesus is always ready to listen when we talk to Him, no matter where we are or what we are doing," answered Mother. "I am glad that you remembered to ask Jesus for help."

"I would never forget Jesus," answered Dennis. "He is the first one I think of when there is trouble. Our Sabbath School teacher helped us hunt all the verses in Psalms that tell us how God helps."

"One verse says, 'God is... a very present help in trouble.' Another one says, 'he is our help and our shield.' Then one says, 'our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.' Aren't those good verses?"

"They surely are," Mother said. "I am glad that you have learned about God's love and protection."

What word found in the Scriptures can you put in the middle that makes three-letter words of the letters going down?

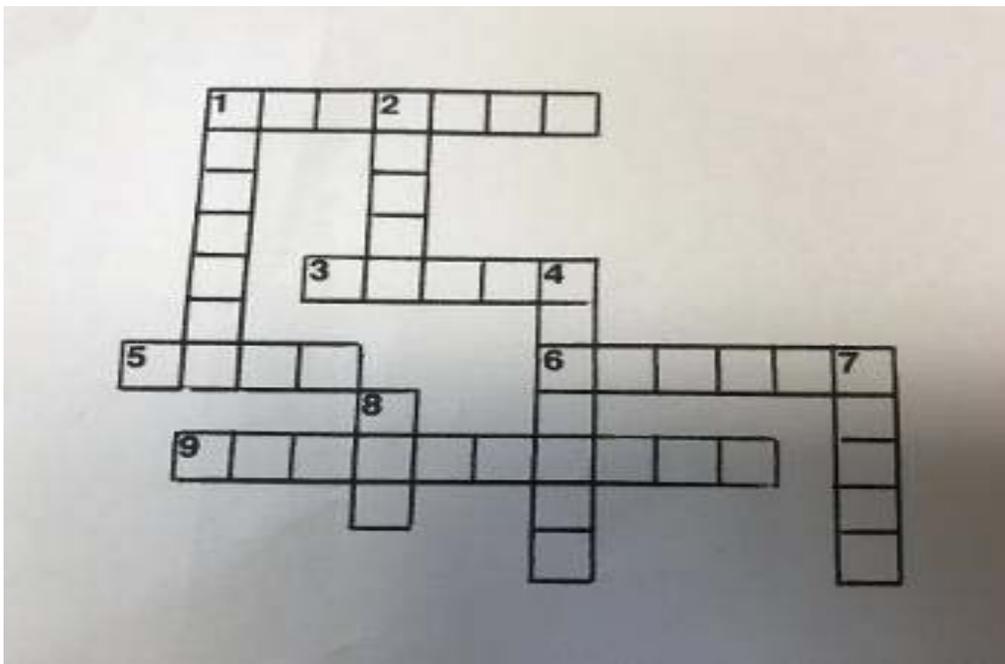
A	A	A	P	S	E	T	I	O	B	A
K	E	E	T	T	G	E	S	L	Y	E

Name _____

MATTHEW 4:10-11

Let the Scriptures help you solve this crossword puzzle.

"Then saith Jesus (5 across) him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is (1 down), Thou (7 down) (1 across) the Lord thy God, and (8 down) only shalt thou (2 down). Then the (3 across) (4 down) him, and, behold, (6 across) came and (9 across) unto him."



*The Advocate of Truth
PO Box 328
Salem WV 26426-0328
Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed*

*Periodicals
Postage Paid At
Salem WV 26426-0328*

THE POWER OF THE PEN

*I have written down many poems in a very short time
Telling the world of God's mercy and love;
How trust in His faith and His goodness
Brings His blessing down from above.*

*I've written of very small children
Who are forced to question the teachings
Of rabbits that lay chocolate eggs,
Deer that do not run, but fly.*

*I've written about young folks of today
Who complain they can't do even one thing;
They whine and complain there is nothing to do,
And waste all their time to complain.*

*I've written of sad faced old couples
Whose lives have not come near the end;
They are often abused and neglected,
And die without leaving a friend.*

*The poems I've mentioned all carry my name
But their message has never been mine;
I was given the words that my pen's written down,
But their meaning dear Lord, has been thine.*

*So try to remember some of what I've said
As my pen moves to praise the Lord;
For when it comes to the battles we're fighting today,
The pen always wins over the sword.*

Betty Whetstone

