

The Advocate of Truth

Bible Baptism

ABC's of the Gospel

Bitter Salt

Sinless Blood

**Two Strengths of
the Church**

Humility

A Spiritual Church



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The Lord's Supper, this coming year, will be held Thursday evening, April 5th (Roman time) after sundown. This is the beginning of April 6th. The footwashing is always done before the emblems are given.

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Bible Baptism

By Sister Maryane Charles

The Bible teaches that Christians should be baptized, specifically men and women. “But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women” (Acts 8:12).

Our Lord and Saviour instructed His disciples to teach all nations. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world...” (Matthew 28:19-20). Therefore, you can see that only after you have learned the teachings of Jesus and made a conscious decision to follow Him, you can and should be baptized, a choice for which no baby or toddler can make. Jesus did not teach or practice infant baptism, and He taught His disciples what was required, in some cases reiterating it several times both by precept and example. “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened” (Luke 3:21). Jesus, Himself, prayed for Simon, that his faith would not fail, saying, “When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:32).

Acts 18:8 tells us, “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.” Again we see that only after hearing the Word of God, and believing in those things which were spoken, did these believers receive water baptism.

To mislead bereaved families into thinking that their

relatives and loved ones may be in limbo somewhere, if they die and have not received baptism, and as a means of duping the innocent into practicing infant baptism, and frightening them into doing things which are not scriptural, is erroneous. You have to be alive, and of an age whereby you can repent in order to fulfill God's will. “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

The fallacy of limbo and purgatory is just a myth misleading those who do not know the truth of God's Word. We all are familiar with the story of Lazarus. Jesus told His disciples, “...Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep” (John 11:11). The disciples seemed to think it was a good thing if he was sleeping, but they did not understand what Jesus meant. “Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead” (verses 13-14). Ecclesiastes 9:5 tells us, “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” No one suffers after death while they are asleep in their graves.

If, as mentioned previously, Jesus taught His disciples what was required, and we have no mention of infants being baptized anywhere in the Bible, then let's look to Him (Jesus) as our example and keeper, and do this vital instruction in the correct manner. “When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made

and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)” (John 4:1-2).

In the summer, a colleague invited me to her daughter’s christening. Her daughter was eleven months old at the time. I asked why she was baptizing her daughter, and she explained it was because she was christened at an early age and wanted to do this for her daughter just in case anything should happen to her before she reached an age where she could choose for herself. I went through the Scriptures with her and the biblical examples that were there: that of belief, repentance, and then baptism. Needless to say, we ended the conversation, agreeing to disagree. The Scriptures tell us that we should, “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Colossians 2:8).

Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins was practiced by the disciples. It typified the burial and

resurrection of Jesus Christ. It should be performed in the name Lord Jesus Christ which is the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Just as we cannot pour faith into anyone, we cannot take whatever faith or belief they may have away from them either. We can only pray that God will open their eyes to the truth in due course.

Faith, belief or religion, personally experienced is the key. Baptism should then follow with the candidate being totally regenerated through the power of the Holy Spirit. For those who have chosen to do God’s will, I say with the voice of the Apostle Paul, “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6-7).

May God bless you as you consider to do HIS will!



THE A, B, C's, OF THE GOSPEL

A. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

B. Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

C. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

D. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you (James 4:8).

E. Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish (Matthew 18:14).

F. For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).

G. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

H. Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out (John 6:37).

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

J. Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent (John 6:29).

K. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you (Matthew 7:7).

L. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth (Isaiah 45:22).

M. My grace is sufficient for thee (II Corinthians 12:9).

N. Now is the day of salvation (II Corinthians 6:2).

O. Our passover is sacrificed for us (I Corinthians 5:7).

P. Peace I leave with you: my peace I give unto you (John 14:27).

Q. Quicken me according to thy word (Psalm 119:154).

R. Redeemed us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13).
S. Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God (Luke 18:16).
T. The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (I John 1:7).
U. Unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings (Malachi 4:2).
V. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life (John 6:47).
W. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on

the tree (I Peter 2:24).
X. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3).
Y. Ye are not your own, ye were bought with a price (I Corinthians 6:19-20).
Z. Zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).

--From an old reference Bible

Editorial Note: It is good for all of us to memorize the above verses. When only a portion of a verse is given, let us memorize the whole verse.



BITTER SALT

By Daniel Cruz

As we gather for a meal, we may look for spices to flavor the food to make it satisfactory to our taste buds. As we do this, we find putting the right amount of salt on the food will make it just right, too little and it will require more, and too much will make it bitter and ruin the meal. So, why write about a recipe of the obvious? Well, as we examine one of the world's most important spices, we can look at the doubt that the faithful have and how to avoid making the mistake of relying on the enticement of the world.

When we've come to know the Lord and see His goodness in our lives, what can take us away from such treasures? Anything that we put emphasis on in our lives will do it. The world tells us that being famous or obtaining riches will give us the joy and satisfaction that will fill these voids. For example, God sent men to Sodom, and what did they find? "For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the

LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it" (Genesis 19:13). Sodom was a place that was dominated by evil. To go against the people and not conform to their ways was unacceptable, and man followed the unruliness of the city. God could not tolerate the evil in Sodom and assigned these angels to cast His judgment upon the city.

Now imagine that you live in such a place. Would you be knowing the Lord had sent His angels unto you to save you? It would be difficult however. We have to understand that the Lord loves us and is willing to rescue us from the evils of man. We see it in today's society. We are constantly surrounded by the influences of man and the need to sacrifice much to be accepted. This world is not for us. "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:10). We must examine God's Word and be in remembrance that God has given us a vision to see the future and the promises

that He has for us. We should not waiver and worry for the things of this world for they are vanity and fade away.

Constantly looking to acquire more and having a good relationship with the world is dangerous for our spiritual well being. Lot's wife was entangled with the things of Sodom and could not leave these things be. She became disobedient in the moments that God strictly commanded her not to look back. Genesis 19:17 gives the warning from the angels of the Lord to not look back "...lest thou be consumed". It wasn't enough for Lot's wife that God was sparing her husband and daughters' lives. She was still concerned with those of the city. Now, what did it cost her to look back and see the judgment of the Lord? Verse 26 tells us, "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." This is what the worldly state of being rewarded her. She could not give up the things of this world and trust in God, and the price

was her life. Judgment was cast upon her for giving thought for the city and not God.

Lot's wife is not only an example of God wanting obedience, it is a symbol for all today. We cannot become involved with the things of the world and be consumed to the point that we forget God and His commandments. I Thessalonians 2:12 says, "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." God has given us value through His Son, Jesus. Our hope should always be towards the promises of God. We cannot be overtaken with the world and all that it offers, but move forward and seek the Kingdom of God. Put the things of this world behind you and seek the Lord while there is time. Let us not falter as Lot's wife and become a symbol of bitterness, but a servant worthy to be called God's.

Echoes From The Past

The following article, written by Elder F. L. Summers who is deceased, appeared in the March 18, 1957 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*.

Saved By Sinless Blood



The very fact that sin is in the blood necessitated the virgin birth of Christ, if He were to be a Son of Adam and yet a sinless man. God found a way by which Jesus, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a woman, could be a perfect human being. It was because He had not a drop of Adam's blood in His veins. He did not share in Adam's sin through the blood of Adam. The whole plan of redemption revolves around the blood. "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve

the living God?" (Hebrews 9:13-14). The whole plan of redemption rests upon the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Man has learned a great deal about the blood since the discovery of the microscope and the development of blood chemistry. Although much is still a mystery, we have a reasonable understanding of its physical structure. The human body, with its five quarts of blood, depends upon circulation of this for its life, for the life of the flesh is in the blood.

As essential then as blood is to our bodies, so is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ essential to the (church) body of Christ. It too is fluid so that it can reach every

single member of that body, no matter how far the members be removed one from another. Just as the blood supplies the food elements for nourishment and life, then carries off the waste and poisons, so the Lord Jesus Christ is to every believer the only source of life, the only support and substance of life (eternal). He is the only One who keeps cleansing us day by day so that our life is really eternal, for "...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). Here is truly the marvel of divine chemistry. In Revelation, we read that the saints of God have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb. Think of it, washing their robes white in the blood of the Lamb! How could anything become white by washing it in blood? If you washed your robe in the blood of man, what color do you think it would be? God's chemical laboratory of redemption has found a way to wash away all filth and stain. His sinless blood leaves no stain. Blood counts are made by taking a few drops of blood when there is evidence of infection. If white cells are greatly multiplied, their army is being conscripted; it is fairly certain that there is an attack by the infection. We can appreciate David's words when he said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." What the blood in our bodies does for us in times of danger and attack, the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ does for each and every believer.

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the **blood of the Lamb**, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:10-11). They overcame him (Satan) by the **blood of the Lamb**. Do you believe the Adam blood of any man could do this? NO! I see no good in myself. I have no hope in myself and have no confidence in the flesh. Then we plead for the blood, and look to Calvary, and we point to Him who was there and shed His blood for us. I see it is not my goodness nor the awful motions of my sins, but it all depends on His blood. The blood fights for us. It is the army of the "white cells" in the blood of Christ which puts the enemy to flight. We then acknowledge our sins, and as a result we can claim the promise.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I

John 1:9).

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; ..." (Revelation 12:11).

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8).

Paul says: "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, ..." (Acts 17:26).

The one thing which relates all men to one another is the blood which flows in their veins. All men are of one blood, and that one blood is the blood of father Adam. That is why we speak of Adam's sin and not Eve's which all men inherit.

Since life is in the blood, according to the Scriptures, and the wages of sin is death, sin affected the blood of Adam. It caused Adam to die. Disease of the blood can only be cured by the application of sinless blood, "for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." As the first Adam's sin corrupted the blood of the human race, so the pure sinless blood of the last Adam (Jesus Christ) makes atonement for the sins of the world. For without the shedding of blood there is no remission. It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul. Adam's blood transmits the original sin. We are not called the seed of the woman, but we are Adam's seed. Only Jesus is called seed of the woman. Please read carefully Genesis 3:15. This verse speaks of Jesus Christ who would come into the world later. Jesus did not have one drop of Adam's blood in Him, therefore He could avoid the sin of Adam. Jesus could have a human fleshly body, but one drop of Adam's blood would have polluted His blood and made Him a sinner like unto us. There was only one remedy for sin, and that was sinless blood, or incorruptible blood. It took the sinless Son of God to do this. The blood of bulls and goats and lambs could not atone for sin, but merely pointed forward to the One who would come in the end of that age to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. God sent forth His Son, born of woman, and He shed His blood, precious, eternal, **once for all**. After that there was no more sacrifice. All other blood was corruptible, but the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ was sinless blood.

Peter says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold.... But with the precious blood of Christ,..." (I Peter 1:18-19). John the Revelator says, for "...they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their

testimony..."

Today it is as true as it was in Israel, that there is no remission without the blood. God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

The word "blood" is mentioned in the Bible about seven hundred times. The host of the redeemed are singing about

the blood which has washed away our sins. "... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Revelation 1:5).



Two Strengths Of The Church

Bond Tennant

While it is true that the church has some weaknesses, it is also true there are some things that make it strong. Let us just mention two of them.

THE DOCTRINAL POSITION OF THE CHURCH MAKES IT STRONG. Someone has said, "No church is stronger than its doctrine." Doctrine is the foundation of the church. Doctrine makes the church stable and durable. Many people object to the preaching of doctrine. They do not like a gospel that demands belief, loyalty and action.

Jesus said, "... My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:16-17).

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:41-42). This was after Peter preached his sermon on the day of Pentecost. They were accused of filling "...Jerusalem with your doctrine..." (Acts 5:28). Peter answered, "... We ought to obey God rather than men" (verse 29).

We know that there are false doctrines. Ephesians 4:14 speaks of "every wind of doctrine."

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Timothy 4:1).

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (II Timothy 4:3).

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines..." (Hebrews 13:9).

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (II John 10).

The church must have sound doctrine.

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained" (I Timothy 4:6).

"Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:9).

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).

THE MORAL STANDARD OF THE CHURCH MAKES IT STRONG.

Holiness must be the character of the church. When a person loses his character, his respectability is gone. This is also true of the church. There are negative elements that affect its holiness.

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:15).

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will

of God” (Romans 12:2).

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (II Corinthians 6:17).

The church can be holy.

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (I Peter 1:15-16).

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

Its doctrinal position and its moral standard are only two strengths that made the early church strong. May it be so today.



God’s Word commands us to be humble. The following is a compiled list of Scriptures that speak of humility:

“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4).

“And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Matthew 23:12).

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (I Peter 5:6).

“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6).

“Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud” (Proverbs 16:19).

“Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace

unto the lowly” (Proverbs 3:34).

“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life” (Proverbs 22:4).

“The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility” (Proverbs 15:33).

“A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit” (Proverbs 29:23).

“When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble” (Psalm 9:12).

“LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear” (Psalm 10:17).

“When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person” (Job 22:29).

Humility

--Compiled by Bond Tennant



A Spiritual Church

By David DeLong

The success of the early Church of God was its spiritual strength and power received through the Holy Spirit. We see this throughout the book of Acts as the apostles and other members of the church lived lives of holiness and zeal for the Lord. We read in Acts 2:42-47: "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

We see in the above text a number of events or circumstances which contributed to the well being of the early church. For one thing, "they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship". The apostles' doctrine was, of course, the very doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ. The teachings of Jesus, which He had given to the Twelve Apostles, were then passed down to the other disciples. It is of the utmost importance that a believer stand firm in "...the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). To stray from any of these original teachings is to fall into heresy. Also, the early church made a point to be in constant fellowship with each other which greatly strengthened them in their walk with the Lord.

This fellowship consisted "in breaking of bread" even

"from house to house". In today's busy world it seems hard, sometimes, to find the time, energy, and even the desire for people to get together for this kind of fellowship. However, for the early church it was a cause for them to "eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart". We see in this description a joy which those disciples had in each others' company, as well as a common purpose and inspiration that they received from each other. There was a mutual trust and confidence built up in these disciples without the backbiting, factions, and jealousy which all too often happens to those who fall out of fellowship.

Prayer was central to the church members' daily lives. Part of this emphasis on prayer was, "continuing daily with one accord in the temple". We see a classic example of this in Acts 3:1-11. Here we find where Peter and John went into the temple at the ninth hour, or the hour of prayer. A lame man, seeing Peter and John, then asked alms of them. "Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:6-8). This healing was a testimony to those who witnessed it of the wonderful power of God.

The Bible tells us in Acts 2 that, "fear came upon every soul". The disciples also were, "Praising God, and having favour with all the people." Then we read, "...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be

saved" (Acts 2:47). The attitude that one must have in relation to the Lord is a proper fear. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge..." (Proverbs 1:7). Psalm 2:11 reads, "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling." This fear, coupled with rejoicing, will cause one to praise God, and will be a powerful testimony to those around.

In Acts chapter 4 we see that it was only through being filled with God's Spirit that the disciples were able to overcome persecution. "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand" (verses 1-4).

The next day, when Peter and John were questioned about the healing of the lame man, Peter gave this response: "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole" (verses 8-10).

After Peter and John had returned to the other disciples and reported what had happened, we learn that the group prayed to God and gave praises to Him. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (verse 31). I would like to emphasize that it is *only* by God's power, through His Holy Spirit, that can give a person the boldness necessary to speak His Word through such opposition.

The Apostle Paul admonished the Ephesians in chapter 5, verses 18-20: "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ". Being filled with the Spirit goes

hand-in-hand with praising God through singing and giving thanks to Him.

When the seven were chosen to serve in the church, only men filled with the Spirit were selected. "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:3-7).

Stephen, in particular, was noted for being filled with the Spirit. "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people" (verse 8). When false witnesses testified against him, we read in verse 15: "And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." Later, just before he was stoned to death, it is written of him: "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God" (chapter 7:55). Stephen declared: "...Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (verse 56). Then when they stoned him we find, "And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep" (verse 60).

Philip was instructed to go south where he met the Ethiopian eunuch who was returning from Jerusalem. The man was sitting in his chariot reading Isaiah the prophet. "Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him" (Acts 8:29-31).

After Philip preached Jesus to this man, the Ethiopian was baptized. We then read: "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away

Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing" (Verse 39). There is no limit to what God can accomplish through a person who is filled with the Spirit. The early church members found out this truth.

It may be fitting, at this point, to discuss what being filled with the Spirit is about. When a person repents of his or her sins, is baptized in Jesus' name, and then has hands laid on to receive the Holy Spirit, that person begins a walk with the Lord, being led of the Spirit. Most likely, he or she is filled with the Spirit at that time. Does this mean that the person referred to will always be filled with the Spirit, or that the person cannot gain more of the Spirit? Not necessarily. The Bible teaches us concerning Jesus: "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him" (John 3:34). Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure. All of His disciples, apparently, have the Spirit by measure. Why is this so?

The answer to this question can be found in Philippians 2:5-8. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Jesus was completely empty of self. He only, and always, did what the Father wanted Him to do. None of us are as empty of self as Jesus was. Therefore, as long as some "self" (selfishness) remains in us, none of us can be filled with the Spirit like Jesus was. However, the more selfless we become, the more God can fill us with His Spirit.

Returning now to the book of Acts, chapter 11, we learn somewhat about the disciple named Barnabas. After a number of people had turned to the Lord we read: "Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord" (Acts 11:22-24).

Shortly thereafter, Barnabas teamed up with Paul and the Lord sent them on a missionary trip. As they jour-

neyed, they encountered a sorcerer named Bar-jesus who opposed them in their work. Concerning Paul, we find in chapter 13:9-11: "Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand."

Not only were the disciples filled with the Spirit (see Acts 13:52), but they were led of the Spirit. A situation about keeping the law of Moses came before the apostles and elders which caused them to convene at a Jerusalem council to consider the matter (see chapter 15). "But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter" (verses 5-6). The conclusion to this question, which concerned newly converted Gentiles was, "For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well" (verses 28-29). Therefore, the early disciples were being led by God's Spirit in matters of faith and conscience.

We see in chapter 16 that the disciples were being led of the Spirit, not only in matters of belief, but also in where they should go to minister. Verses 6-9 records this latter situation concerning Paul and Silas. "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." These disciples were obedient to the Lord's leading.

Let us now recap some of what we have been studying in this article. Conditions were right in the early church for the members to be filled with the Spirit. They contin-

ued steadfastly in proper doctrine; they were careful to have frequent fellowship with one another; they made prayer and the ministry of the Word a priority; they were constantly praising and worshiping the Lord. The disciples were in proper submission to the Lord's appointed authority structure as we have seen from the acceptance of the decisions made in the Jerusalem council. They were obedient to the Lord's leading through His Holy Spirit, going, or not going, to places as directed by the Lord. The results of this were wonderful. The disciples at this time had a holy power in their lives to be overcomers.

Jesus had promised the disciples before He ascended back to heaven that they would receive power. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Many seek for selfish power so that they can control others for their own personal satisfaction. At times this occurs even in the church. The Apostle John wrote of this situation in III John 9-10: "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church."

We know that this is not the power that the Lord Jesus Christ had in mind when He promised the disciples that they would receive power. The power that comes from the Holy Spirit is given only for godly purposes. One of these purposes is so that the members of the church will have boldness to proclaim the Bible's message to the lost, even in the face of threats or persecution. Another purpose is so that God can work miracles and signs through His people as a witness to the world. A third purpose is so that the individual members of the church will have power to overcome sin and temptations in their own lives. This, then, will collectively form a church that is without spot or wrinkle at the appearance of the Lord Jesus.

Each of the Lord's followers needs this indwelling power. Without the filling of the Spirit, disciples will not have the strength in themselves to live pleasing lives for the Lord. For instance, we read in Proverbs 16:32, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that

ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." We know, however, that no one can completely rule his (or her) own spirit without the help of God's Spirit (see Galatians 5:23, where "temperance" refers to "self-control").

The same is true with the controlling of our tongue. James informs us: "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:2-8). Only God can help us control our tongue.

We are living in perilous times (see II Timothy 3:1). All around us there are enticements to fall away from the Lord and His Word. The Bible teaches that many will seek for salvation but will not find it. Luke 13:23-24 reads: "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." (See also Matthew 7:13-14, 22-23; 20:16; Revelation 3:4). We need the filling of the Spirit on a continual basis to be overcomers.

It is easy to be filled with the Spirit if we are true believers. Immediately after baptism we have hands laid on us (see Acts 2:38; 8:14-17). Then in our walk with God we ask Him to keep us filled. "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:9-13).



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.

About The Economy

Please consider the following article which is taken from *The Houston Chronicle*. It appeared in the October 20, 2009 issue.

It could be 'different this time'

Higher jobless rates may be the 'new normal,' economists say

By Tom Raum
Associated Press

Washington – Even with an economic revival, many U.S. jobs lost during the recession may be gone forever, and a weak employment market could linger for years.

That could add up to a “new normal” of higher joblessness and lower standards of living for many Americans, some economists are suggesting.

The words “it’s different this time” are always suspect. But economists and policy makers say the job-creating dynamics of previous recoveries can’t be counted on now.

Here’s why:

* The auto and construction industries helped lead the nation out of past recessions. But the carnage among Detroit’s automakers and the surplus of new and foreclosed homes and empty commercial properties make it unlikely these two industries will be engines of growth anytime soon.

* The job market is caught in a vicious circle: Without more U.S. jobs, U.S. consumers will have a hard time increasing their spending; but without that spending, businesses might see little reason to start hiring.

* Many small and midsize businesses are still struggling to obtain bank loans, impeding their expansion plans and constraining overall economic growth.

* Higher-income households are spending less because of big losses on their homes, retirement plans and other investments. Lower-income households are cutting back because they can’t borrow like they once did.

That the recovery in jobs will be long and drawn out is something on which economists and policy makers can basically agree, even as their proposals for remedies vary widely.

Retrenching businesses will be slow in hiring back or replacing workers they laid off. Many of the 7.2 million jobs the economy had shed since the recession began in December 2007 may never come back.

“This Great Recession is an inflection point for the economy in many respects. I think the unemployment rate will be permanently higher, or at least higher for the foreseeable future,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist and co-founder of Moody’s Economy.com.

“The collective psyche has changed as a result of what we’ve been through. And we’re going to be different as a result,” said Zandi, who formerly advised Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and now is consulted by Democrats in the administration and in Congress.

Even before the recession, many jobs had vanished or been shipped overseas amid a general decline of U.S. manufacturing. The severest downturn since the Great Depression has accelerated the process.

Many economists believe the recession reversed course in the recently ended third quarter and they predict modest growth in the nation’s gross domestic product over

the next few years. Yet the unemployment rate is currently at a 26-year high of 9.8 percent – and likely to top 10 percent soon and stay there a while.

“Many factors are pushing against a quick recovery,” said Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the labor-oriented Economic Policy Institute. “Things will come back. But its going to take a long time. I think we will likely see elevated unemployment at least until 2014.”

At best, many economists see an economic recovery without a return to moderate unemployment. At worst, they suggest the fragile recovery could lose steam and drag the economy back under for a double-dip recession.

“We will need to grind out this recovery step by step,” President Obama said earlier this month.

Thoughts

Although this article was written over two years ago, it is appropriate for us today to consider it. The point is that we must place our faith and trust in God in order to survive tough times. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:11-13).

Most of the present generation say that they want a better life for their children than what they have. God does not guarantee such!

As far as the economic reports are concerned, they vary each week or month. The economists keep looking for even one little bright spot in the reports.

What is not realized is that God is left out of consideration. Jesus predicted that there would come tough times before He comes to catch away His saints.

Some blame politicians for a recession and poor economic conditions. Perhaps they are no doubt responsible to some extent. The president is especially blamed. President Herbert Hoover was taken over the coals during the "Great Depression," but the “Great Depression” and the “Great Recession” did come as signs of the times.

It also has been suggested that the economic conditions in the “Great Recession” is a punishment to America for forgetting God and not obeying Him. No doubt this is a valid consideration. However, we must

remember that the other inhabitants of the world have forgotten God, and they are experiencing the same poor economic conditions as Americans. Some experience poorer economic conditions than Americans. The whole world is in an economic mess! “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” (I John 5:19).

Let all children of God pray for one another during these trying times, and let us be ever mindful of the needs of others. “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

No matter what the economic conditions are when we receive this issue of *The Advocate of Truth*, let all children of God take heart in the following Scriptures:

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (I Timothy 6:6-8).

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Matthew 6:31-34).

Editorial Note: When a young boy, the members of my Sabbath School class memorized Matthew 6:31-34.

Amazing

I read from a poll taken in Canada that more than half of the people believe in heaven, but less than a third of them believe in hell. About 53 percent believe in life after death, and about 27 percent believe in reincarnation.

Thinking things over, this may be why more believe in heaven than in hell. It is because those who believe in reincarnation would in no way believe in hell.

Also the poll revealed that 30 percent of respondents agreed with the statement, “I know God really exists and I have no doubts.”

According to the poll 20 percent conceded that they “have doubts” but “feel that I do believe in God.”



Questions and Answers

Question: Is Hebrews 2:3 for the saved or unsaved?

Answer: Let us quote this verse. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." This verse is for the unsaved. The saved are saved because they have not neglected "so great salvation."

Question: Can the promises to Israel in the Old Testament be claimed by the church?

Answer: There are many who do claim them as applying to the church. However, there is no ground for such a claim. God is not through with Israel. His chosen people are at the present time blinded, but this is not to be forever. "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Romans 11:25-27).

Question: What is the difference between the resurrection of Lazarus, recorded in John 11:33-34, and

the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Answer: We know nothing about the resurrection of Lazarus except what is written in John 11. There certainly was a vast difference between it and the resurrection of our Lord. Our Lord was raised from the dead with a glorified body. It was on account of His death and resurrection that we are assured of having a glorious resurrection. Lazarus was not raised with a glorified body. He had to die a second time.

Question: How does God determine what is in our hearts?

Answer: Many times God determines what is in our hearts by the words we speak, the things we say. When speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus said, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matthew 12:34-35).

Jesus continued to warn us to be mindful of the words we use. He then said, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou

shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (verses 36-37). We would not feel comfortable being asked by Jesus to account for every word which we have spoken.

Perhaps the most powerful epistle in the New Testament concerning the words that we speak was written by the Apostle James. He wrote, “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; and it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh” (James 3:6-12).

James then tells us two causes of evil speaking which are envy and self-seeking. “Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace” (verses 13-18). Envy and self-seeking have been the downfall of several in years past whom we thought were true spiritual leaders. Our job as children of God is to seek God’s will and to make sure that envy and self-seeking are not motivating us.

Let us never lose sight of the fact that God is watching our every move and knows all of our thoughts.

Question: Jesus said, “...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Matthew 26:39). Don’t these words of Jesus prove that He feared the cross?

Answer: Jesus did not fear the cross. It was not the thought of intense pain that He faced that made His sweat seem like drops of blood. Instead, He dreaded becoming the very thing that He hated, and that was sin. The Apostle Paul confirms this. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

Question: Some of my Catholic friends admit that they pray to Mary while others deny it. What is the truth?

Answer: Roman Catholic apologists generally deny that they offer prayers to Mary and the saints. They insist that they only ask Mary and the saints to pray for them just as one might ask of a friend. They promote this deceit vigorously to counter valid criticism from Protestants.

Question: Can we deny Christianity just because many innocent people have been tortured and killed in its name?

Answer: This question is easily removed by using just a little thought. We should not blame Jesus Christ for whatever anyone who claims His name happens to do unless Jesus Himself taught and practiced the same.

Question: How many appearances are recorded of Christ after His resurrection?

Answer: Eleven: 1.) Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18. 2.) Matthew 28:8-10; Luke 24:9-11. 3.) Luke 24:34. 4.) Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35. 5.) Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23. 6.) John 20:24-29. 7.) Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18. 8.) John 21:1-24. 9.) Matthew 28:16. 10.) Acts 1:3-8. 11.) Acts 9:4; I Corinthians 15:8.

Question: What was the question Christ asked Peter three times at the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection? Why was it repeated three times?

Answer: The question was, “Lovest Thou me?” It gave Peter the opportunity to reaffirm his confidence and publicly declare his love for the Master, even as he had previously denied Him three times. (See John 21:15-24.).



This is a photo of some of our brothers and sisters in the Tay Tay Church.

These are some pictures of various gatherings of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.



LESSON I

THE MARVELOUS FEATS OF SAMSON

Scripture Reading: Judges 15:1-20.

Golden Text: Judges 15:15.

“And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.”

NOTE: We have learned how Samson was appointed by God to be Israel's deliverer from the Philistines, even before his birth. We have also learned that Samson had great strength. Now let us see how he used this strength to deliver his people.

1. What happened to Samson's wife in Judges 15:1-2?
2. What did Samson do to the Philistines as a result of this? Judges 15:4-5.
3. After Samson destroyed the Philistines' corn and vineyard, what did they do to Samson's wife and her father for causing this trouble? Judges 15:6.
4. Was Samson pleased by this act? What did he do in return and where did he go? Judges 15:7-8.
5. The Philistines were still angry and wanted to destroy Samson. What did they do to him? Judges 15:9-13.
6. After Samson was bound and taken to Lehi, how did he slay the Philistines? Judges 15:14-17.
7. Samson slew 1,000 men with the jaw of an ass. He then called on the Lord because he was athirst. Did the Lord hear his pleas? Judges 15:18-19.
8. How long did Samson judge Israel? Judges 15:20.

LESSON II

SAMSON AND DELILAH

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:1-21.

Golden Text: Judges 16:17.

“That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.”

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned of the great strength of Samson, and now we shall see how his great strength was broken.

1. Samson went to Gaza, and when the Gazites found that he was there, what did they try to do? Judges 16:1-3.
2. Samson went to the valley of Sorek, and there he met Delilah. What did the Philistines want Delilah to do, and what did they promise her? Judges 16:5.
3. Delilah did as the Philistines wanted her to, but did Samson tell her the truth about his strength? Judges 16:6-7.
4. How did Samson prove his strength in Judges 16:8-9?
5. Delilah realized that Samson did not tell her the truth, so she tried again to find out wherein his strength did lie. What did Samson tell her the second time? Judges 16:11-12.
6. What was the third story Samson told Delilah about how his strength could be broken? Judges 16:13-14.
7. Delilah pressed him daily and urged him to tell her how he received this strength. Did he finally tell her the truth? Judges 16:17-18.
8. After Samson fell asleep, what did the Philistines do to him? Judges 16:19-21.

LESSON III

SAMSON'S TRAGIC DEATH

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:21-31.

Golden Text: Judges 16:28.

"And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how Delilah betrayed Samson and how he lost all this strength when his head was shaven. Now we shall see how Samson gained back his strength long enough to take revenge on the Philistines.

1. What did the Philistines do to Samson after his strength was gone? Judges 16:21.
2. Did Samson's hair grow back as it had been? Judges 16:22.
3. What boasts did the Philistines make after they had put him in prison? Judges 16:23-24.
4. Why did the Philistines call Samson out of prison? Judges 16:25-26.
5. What was Samson's request of the Lord in Judges 16:28?
6. Did the Lord grant Samson's plea and what was the result? Judges 16:29-30.
7. Where was Samson buried? Judges 16:31.

WRITE THE MEMORY VERSE IN THE SPACES BELOW

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 PROVERBS 3:5a

LESSON IV

NAOMI AND RUTH

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:1-22.

Golden Text: Ruth 1:16.

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God".

NOTE: We're beginning a new study in this lesson about a Bethlehem family who sojourned in the land of Moab. Moabites were descendents of Lot; thus distantly related to the Jews. They were, however, heathen.

1. What was the name of the man and his wife who came to Moab, and for what reason did they journey there? Ruth 1:1-2.
2. What happened to Naomi's husband? Ruth 1:3.
3. Who did his two sons marry, and how long did they dwell in Moab? Ruth 1:4.
4. Then what happened to Naomi's sons? Ruth 1:5.
5. Where did Naomi and her daughter-in-laws go after the death of her husband and sons? Ruth 1:6-7.
6. What was Naomi's request for her daughter-in-laws? Ruth 1:8-9.
7. Did both daughter-in-laws return to their own families? Ruth 1:14-15.
8. What did Ruth do after Orpah left? Ruth 1:16-17.
9. Into what land did Naomi and Ruth go? Ruth 1:19-22.



WHAT A LITTLE BIRD TAUGHT BEULAH

By Ellen Mary Stewart

Even though Beulah Mays was a very little girl, there were certain little tasks about the house that Mother Mays insisted on her doing. The most important of these was keeping her playthings together.

Beulah didn't mind putting her toys away when she was in a good humor, but - oh, dear - if she happened to be sleepy or tired or cross, then the task became extremely unpleasant.

One day just when she was ready to go with her Aunt Sallie for a walk in the park, Mother discovered she had left her playthings scattered about the floor, and called her back to pick them up. Then what do you think happened? This dear child began to whine and fret, and when her mother began to talk to her, she began to cry, and the first thing she knew, Aunt Sallie had taken off and declared she would not walk in the park with a red eyed little girl.

Of course, after that Beulah tried to get her face straightened up again, but by the time she succeeded it was too late to go to the park, so the day was spoiled.

"I know what I'll do," pouted Beulah when the annoying playthings were out of the way. "I'll go off in the garden and play by myself."

"That could be a nice place for an ill-tempered child to go," answered Mother. "But do not go outside of the gate."

Pretty soon Beulah's attention turned to a mother bird that seemed to be having a hard time. It did not take her long to find out that she was feeding her babies with food. Again and again she would fly away and soon came back carrying a worm to the hungry birdies. Then she would lift her bill toward heaven, and she would sing a beautiful song. Off she would fly again to find another worm for another hungry baby. And this was the way she kept on doing as long as Beulah watched her.

Suddenly a bright thought entered her brain, and she ran back to her mother faster than she came.

"Oh Mother, Mother," she cried. "I've learned a lesson. From this time on when I have anything to do, I will sing while I work."

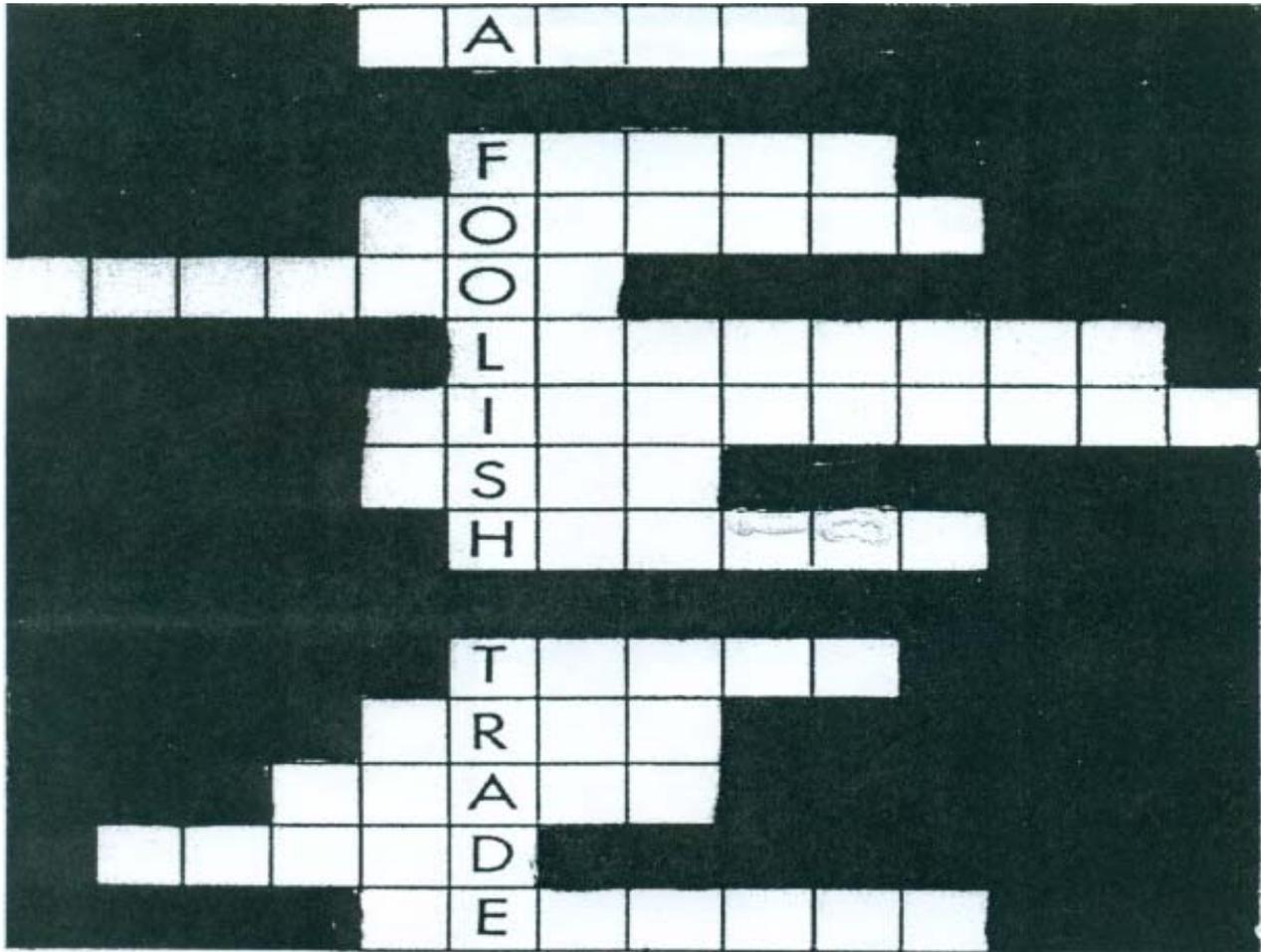
"That is a beautiful idea," answered Mother. "I wonder where you got it."

"From a little bird," answered Beulah, and Mother knew from the bright smile on her face that she meant to do what she said.

BIRD QUIZ

1. What bird fed Elijah?
2. What bird brought an olive leaf back to the ark?
3. What bird was given to the Israelites in the desert?
4. What bird do you associate with Peter?
5. What bird does Isaiah say "chatters"?
6. What bird does Solomon say "makes its home in the fir trees"?
7. Name two birds of prey mentioned in the Bible.
8. What bird was sold at "two for a farthing"?
9. What bird is mentioned by Jesus in a figure of speech as He gazed over Jerusalem in sorrow?
10. What birds did Jesus' mother offer in the temple as a sacrifice after Jesus' birth?

*A FOOLISH TRADE
GENESIS 25:27-34*



A - One of the twins (verse 27).

F - Weak (verse 29).

O - A thick soup of meat and vegetables (verse 30).

O - Deer meat (verse 28).

L - Beans or peas (verse 34).

I - right of the oldest son (verse 32).

S - One of the twins (verse 27).

H - One who searches for game (verse 27).

T - Canvas shelters (verse 27).

R - "The boys _____" (verse 27).

A - Father of the twins (verse 28).

D - Food made from flour (verse 34).

E - Mother of the twins (verse 28).

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The Commander

By David DeLong

**The Commander spoke, creation sprang,
The universe was born;
The morning stars in joy all sang
Upon that earthly morn.**

**The Commander spoke, the storm was stilled,
The wind and waves did cease;
Thus was the word of Christ fulfilled
By bringing in such peace.**

**The Commander spoke, diseases fled,
And souls were then set free;
Some were raised up from the dead
By the Lord of liberty.**

**The Commander spoke His word to all,
Will we, with haste, give heed;
And answer like the Apostle Paul
To serve where there is need?**

