

A black butterfly with orange and white markings on its wings is perched on a cluster of purple flowers. The background is filled with green leaves and more purple flowers, creating a vibrant and natural setting.

The Advocate of Truth



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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

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

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Fax: 304-782-2248**

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**Volume LXV Number 10
April 25 2016
The Advocate of Truth
USPS 542-940**

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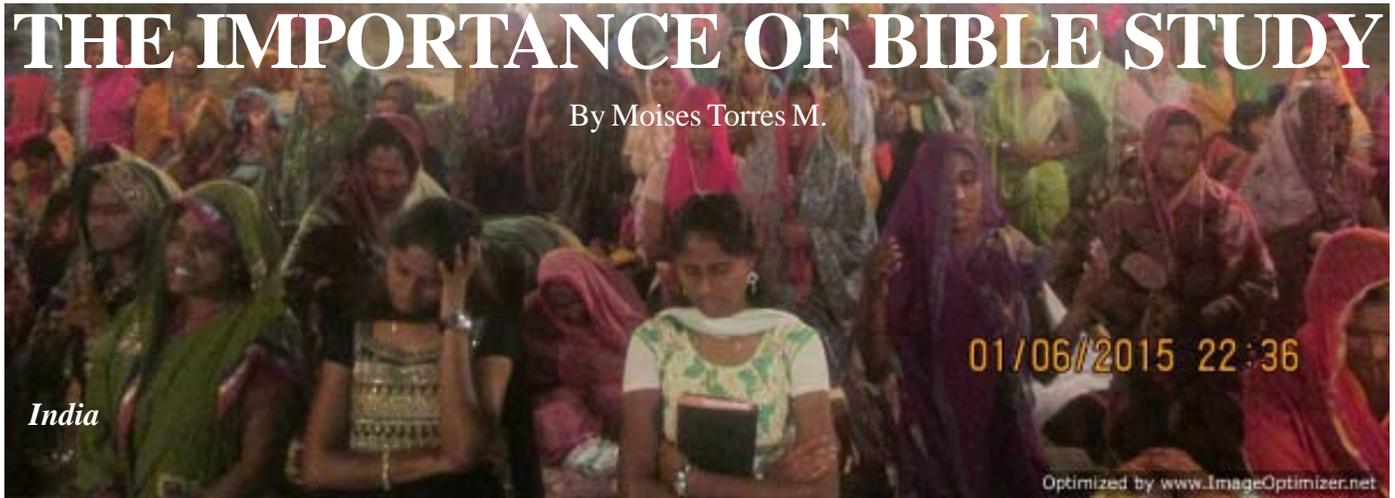
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THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

By Moises Torres M.



India

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Have you ever thought how important Bible Study is? What advantage do we get by studying the Bible? Let's consider some advantages:

1. Contact with Divinity. Probably it has never entered your mind that the Bible is the only book “divinely inspired.” Therefore, the Author is God Himself. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16).

When you read the Bible, you come in contact with an essence that is not human, but divine. When you study the Bible, your mind will enter into a dimension that is unknown to most mankind, and it will transform your thoughts to the will and ways of God. The Lord Jesus said that the words He had spoken were Spirit and Life. The world cannot receive this Spirit or “divine essence” because the world is in sin, but if you study the Bible, you will receive the experience of having “contact with divinity.” “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:16-17).

2. Know the Truth. You may have asked yourself, what's the truth of everything that exists and surrounds us? Many times these types of questions lock us into a state of discouragement. But the Lord Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

When you study the Bible, you will find the truth written in it, and it will free you from any doubt that you may have. In the Bible, you will find that everything that exists was created by God, and everything has a reason to be. You will also find that God has a reason for you to exist.

3. Everlasting Life. One of the greatest advantages that one could have by studying the Bible is to know that God offers us an everlasting life through His Son Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus said, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). The Bible teaches us that Jesus is the Son of God who came to show us the great science of His celestial Father. It is a science or power that is sufficient and able to resurrect the dead and bring eternal life. Jesus believed in this science or power of His Father and had faith that He would be resurrected from the dead if He obeyed everything His Father would say.

The Bible says that just like Jesus was resurrected from the dead, all the ones who died believing in His resurrection shall rise again. The only conditions are to believe in Jesus and follow His example, which is fully declared in the Holy Scriptures – **THE BIBLE.**



India

01/06/2015 22:36



BE STABLE IN THE LORD

By Bibi Shimoon Allicock

David, a man after God's own heart, was so stable in the Lord. Although Saul tried nine times to kill him, he failed because Almighty God kept him under His mighty hands. "Humble yourselves therefore under THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:6). "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble" (verse 5, last part). "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (verse 7).

David did cast his care upon the Lord, thus the Lord exalted him because he could have killed Saul twice instead of Saul killing him. However, Almighty God intervened. "And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of En-gedi. Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats. And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave. And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the LORD said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. And it came to pass afterward, that David's heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul's skirt. And he said unto his men, The LORD forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD. So David stayed his servants with these words, and suffered them not to rise against Saul. But Saul rose up out of the cave, and went on his way. David also arose afterward, and went out of the cave, and cried after Saul, saying, My lord the king. And when Saul looked

behind him, David stooped with his face to the earth, and bowed himself. And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words, saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the LORD had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave: and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed. Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it. The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee" (I Samuel 24:1-12).

Although David spared Saul the first time, Saul still went after David to kill him. "And the Ziphites came unto Saul to Gibeah, saying, Doth not David hide himself in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon? Then Saul arose, and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, having THREE THOUSAND CHOSEN MEN of Israel with him, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul pitched in the hill of Hachilah, which is before Jeshimon, by the way. But David abode in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness" (I Samuel 26:1-3). "So David and Abishai came to the people by night: and, behold, Saul lay sleeping within the trench, and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster: but Abner and the people lay round about him. Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not

smite him the second time. And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless? David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go. So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them. Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them: And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king? And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? Wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? For there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster. And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king. And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand? Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods. Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains. Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly. And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it. The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD

delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed. And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation. Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place" (I Samuel 26:7-25). "And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him" (I Samuel 27:4).

We saw that Saul did not go after David again, because he was convinced that Almighty God was protecting David from him. David prayed, "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings" (Psalm 17:8). Once we are walking according to His will, we should continue to "... be strong in the Lord, and in the POWER OF HIS MIGHT" (Ephesians 6:10), and, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (verse 11). "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end" (Hebrews 3:1-14). "Therefore we ought to give the more

earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; 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" (Hebrews 2:1-3). "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). Amen.

**THE BIBLE PRESENTS
USEFUL PSYCHOLOGICAL
PRINCIPLES LEADING TO
GOOD MENTAL HEALTH**

Christianity is a guilt-relieving religion. Any student of psychology knows the role of forgiveness. The admonition to have unlimited and unconditional forgiveness for others is a sure cure for feelings of guilt and conflict. See Matthew 6:12, the Lord's Prayer, and 18:21-35. The wisdom of marriage and the role of husbands and wives in every part of the marriage relationship as described in the Bible works on a practical level. The notion that all humans have value because of their common creation in the image of God is very important. This is especially true in a society that has bought into the "survival of the fittest" watchword producing enormous self-image problems for people who are told that they are "less fit." The help that the Bible has in dealing with the issues of sex, death, disease, and family turmoil is beyond what human minds have been able to achieve throughout history.

The mental health issues that are producing widespread problems in the world today are rooted in human resistance to God's instructions. All kinds of abuse, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, addiction, suicide, racial conflict, and crime in general are the product of not living as God has told us to live. It is interesting to see many

"new" psychological treatment programs taking their recovery plans from biblical principles. Religion is frequently part of the cause of human mental illness, but that is caused by a dependency on man-made religious practice and not by what Jesus taught. Christ spoke eloquently about this in Matthew 15:8-9, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

From Does God Exist?

--Selected by Bond Tennant



CLEANSING OUR SINS

Reprinted

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" (I Peter 1:18-20).

It is only in the Bible that we know that sin is a spiritual matter coming forth from a heart that is in rebellion against God. The world knows nothing of this. A noted psychiatrist once said, "Crime is a disease and should be treated as any other sickness." This news item had a noted cartoonist on a New York paper to ridicule the idea in a series of drawings. Pictures showed a typical

gangster behind – not prison bars – but a hospital window with a sign, “Quarantined for chronic holdupitis;” a judge leaning over the bench and applying a stethoscope to the breast of a gangster while he says, “The jury finds you guilty of first degree murder. I sentence you to have your tonsils and adenoids removed and your hangnails trimmed;” a copy of a police record of one “Spike McSlugg . . . alias, the Cobra.” A crime is entered for each year beginning in 1930 to the present. In one column is the conviction and in the other column; the sentence. They are as follows: “Robbery; treated high blood pressure. Forgery; extracted teeth. Assault; trip abroad for nerves. Murder; treated for dandruff. Arson; prescribed and fitted glasses. Murder; corrected fallenarches. Murder; cured of halitosis;” etc.

We are glad to see that even the world can laugh at itself when such follies are suggested. Men commit sin because they are sinners, and they are sinners because they disobeyed God. Death passed upon the race. “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:7-8).



“Something good is going to happen to you,” proclaimed the television evangelist. Earlier in a sermon, he had gleefully announced that “Christianity is the best deal a person ever had.”

That day, before his sermon, he had interviewed a man who was introduced as a “new Christian.”

“John, tell me what happened when God came into your life,” he said.

John told how his once failing business had been turned into a great financial success. He was now the president of a multimillion dollar corporation. He had a beautiful home on a Florida island. His marriage was happier. His children were better behaved. His health was perfect, and “I have a smile on my face twenty-four hours a day.”

If sin is ever considered as a disease, the verdict of the Great Physician must be sought. He has said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). The Hebrew of this last phrase is even stronger: "The heart is incurably sick." This is not only God's verdict but through all the Scriptures it is seen that God acts upon this principle. He never uses anything in man in saving man. Alongside Jacob the crook, He plants the new creation, Israel, prince with God. He uses nothing in Simon in creating Peter. Saul has to be crucified with Christ, and it is no longer he that lives but Christ liveth within (see Galatians 2:20).

The Bible does not say that the Blood of Jesus Christ cures from sin, but thank God that it does say that it cleanses from all sin. The price is paid. The old nature is counted as being corruptible and dead. The whole weight of it is put over upon Christ and then punished. Day by day we yield it to God for crucifixion death, and when we are made like Christ, that old nature will drop away forever, and we shall know God in the splendor of His holiness.

BEAR YOUR CROSS

All of this came, he said, when “God came into my life.”

Undoubtedly, good things can indeed happen to us when we follow Jesus. The improved lives of countless people are testimony to how God can help us.

But what is the main point of Believers' discipleship? Ought we to proclaim the gospel so that we reply, “Come to Jesus, and all your problems will be solved and everything will be made right in your life?”

Is that the message of Christ?

Let us be honest. We are selfish. We want all our aches and pains to be cured. We want a life which is immune from heartache, pain, and struggle. We are looking for rewards from our religion, not responsibilities; a cushion, not a cross.

The trouble is, the one we follow walked up a narrow way, a way which led through suffering, rejection, and death, a way up a hill called “place of the skull.” Ought we to expect faith in Him to shield us from the same cross?

Jesus was glad when Peter had acknowledged Him as the Christ. “They are beginning to understand,” Jesus thought. But in Mark 8:32 it is observed that the disciples did not understand or accept Jesus’ role as the suffering servant. Their failure to comprehend inspired Jesus to declare, in verse 34, “**...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**”

There are two different words in verse 34, deny and cross. These words were important in Jesus’ life and teaching, although they may be offensive to would-be followers. This self-chosen way of Jesus – of self-denial and cross-bearing – was God’s will for Jesus, and thus also for Jesus’ followers. Only if they are willing to lose sight of their lives, for Christ’s sake and the gospel’s, is there a chance to save their lives. Mark’s earliest readers lived in a time of persecution and martyrdom: they understood.

Capernaum was the home base for Jesus. He had returned home from a teaching mission with the disciples. On this trip, Jesus had told the disciples (Mark 9:31) that He would be persecuted and killed. They did not understand the teaching and were afraid to ask Him. Anyway, they were busy discussing which of them was to be the greatest. The contrast between Jesus’ teaching and their discussion intensified their embarrassment when Jesus asked, “What were you discussing?” They could not bring themselves to tell Him; but Jesus knew.

These verses serve to illustrate the emphasis in verse 35. The point is, it takes childlike humility to enter the kingdom of heaven. To receive a little child in the name of Christ requires a spirit of humility that precludes feelings of greatness. Such humility opens the door to greatness in the kingdom.

Here is another instance in which the disciples, from the inner group, failed to understand the message of Jesus. James and John, of all people, ask a special favor of Jesus – to have the chief places in His kingdom. It seemed so out of character for James and John to make such a request that Matthew, in chapter 20:20, has their mother make the request. The reply of Jesus seems to be an answer to James and John, not to their mother.

They asked their favor out of ignorance and ambition. They said that they could drink His cup and undergo His baptism. They did not know that it was a cup of suffering and a baptism of disaster and death. It is probably, though, that both these apostles died as martyrs before Mark’s gospel was written.

In verse 40, Jesus seems to accept the position in the coming kingdom which they attributed to Him. However, He is unable to grant their request for the chief places. They are to be filled by right, not by favor. There are some who read foreordination or predestination in Jesus’ answer. Others think that God prepared the conditions to be met for the places but did not designate who would sit in them.

As might be expected, the other ten were upset and angry. Jesus had to start again. He called them together and told them that the Gentiles enjoy lordship and exercise of authority. In Matthew 20:27 Jesus said, “**And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.**” This statement transforms the traditional notion of greatness. Greatness is measured not in terms of the numbers of our servants, but in terms of the quality and extent of our service.

Reprinted



WHEN TROUBLE COMES OUR WAY

Bond Tennant



As I sit here in my office, I think of the many people who experience trouble. So I thought that I would cite some Scriptures that comfort us when trouble comes our way.

1. "The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).
2. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" (II Corinthians 4:8-9).
3. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1).
4. "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me" (Psalm 138:7).
5. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).
6. "I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities" (Psalm 31:7).
7. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16).
8. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (II Corinthians 1:3-4).
9. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).
10. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).

PREPARATION

*The day has been long and busy,
Done all that you had left to do;
For we all must prepare for the Sabbath,
For that's what God's chosen must do.
The past six days have been hectic,
When everything seemed to go wrong;
The days dragged by on leaden feet,
And each one seemed a week long.
And now God's peace rests upon us,
As the sun tiptoes down to the west;
And God looks with favor upon us,
As we honor His one day of rest.*

Betty Whetstone



A Vision of God

By David DeLong

Only as we truly discern who the Lord is in comparison to whom we are, can there be any real changes to our lives. We see this, for instance, in the life of the Prophet Isaiah. "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:1-8).

The magnificence of the Lord, seated upon His throne amidst the heavenly court, was so awesome to Isaiah that he immediately cried out concerning his own sins and the sins of Israel. This was a true confession of his sinful condition and it brought about a life-changing situation for Isaiah. Not only was his sin purged, but Isaiah was given an opportunity to serve the Lord as His messenger to Israel.

Many might think that Isaiah's mission to Israel was a failure, but this is not so. Though many of the people re-

jected Isaiah's message to them, still we learn in verse 13: "But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof." Any time that a child of God is obedient to God's Word, he or she is never a failure.

Many people do not get serious about serving the Lord until they recognize His sovereignty over them. This sovereignty includes the Lord's loving, but exacting, character; His wonderful power; His gentleness, but firmness, in leading His people; the fact that He has purchased us through the precious blood of Christ; and even His wrath upon folks for not taking His Word and will seriously. When we realize that the Lord has a total claim upon our life, this is the time that He can begin to use us in a productive way.

Moses was changed when he saw the Lord's glory before him. Concerning Moses we learn: "And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen" (Exodus 33:18-23).

Moses was to bring with him a second set of stone

tables for the Lord to write the Ten Commandments upon when he went up upon Mount Sinai in the morning. We then learn: "And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped. And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance" (Exodus 34:5-9).

After Moses had seen the glory of the Lord, and had come down with the two tables in his hands, his face shone because of God's glory. We now quote from II Corinthians 3:17-18: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 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." We cannot remain unchanged when we behold the Lord's glory. It is the Spirit of God who will change us into the Lord's image by His glory.

Ezekiel experienced visions of God when he and the Israelite captives were by the river of Chebar. Chapter 1, verses 25-28 shows some of these visions which included living creatures and the Lord upon His throne: "And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I

fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake."

Ezekiel, like Isaiah and Moses, witnessed firsthand the glory of the Lord and it changed him. Chapter 2, verses 3-5 informs us: "And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them."

Peter, James, and John witnessed the glory of the Lord Jesus when they were with Him upon the mount of transfiguration. In Matthew 17:1-9 we read: "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead."

This experience of seeing the Lord's glory so changed Peter that later in his life he wrote: "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath

showed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount" (II Peter 1:10-18).

In II Corinthians 12:1-6, we learn that the Apostle Paul knew "a man in Christ" who was "caught up to the third heaven." I personally believe that the apostle was speaking of himself in this situation. In any event, this passage informs us: "It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me."

In the next verse Paul tells us that he had an "abundance of the revelations". Verse 9, the last part, further tells us: "...Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Paul's visions of God's glory allowed him to actually glory and take pleasure in his weaknesses and problems that surrounded him. The same can be true of us today. Only as we comprehend the Lord's wondrous glory can we ever come to the position in our lives that we take pleasure in the struggles with which we are faced. This is because "...that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (verse 9).

Finally, we are shown the glory of the Lord Jesus as John saw it in the Book of Revelation. Chapter 1, verses 10-18 gives us a glimpse of that glory. "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and

the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

John was changed by this revelation of the glory of the Lord. It likely helped strengthen him for what he was about to experience in the rest of the visions of Revelation. What about you, dear Brother or Sister in Christ? Have you perceived the glory of the Lord in your personal life? Probably not many will witness a literal vision of the glory of the Lord, like Isaiah, Moses, Ezekiel, Peter, James, and John, or the Apostle Paul. But, through their experiences and writings in the Scriptures, we can also experience this glory in our lives. Also, we should pray like Moses: "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." We will also then be changed just like we read from II Corinthians 3:18: "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."





How To Confront Someone

By David DeLong

To confront another person, especially one who has hurt us, is one of the hardest things to do. At least this is true for me, and I suspect it is also true for many others. Confronting another person, though, may not be because he or she has offended you, but just because the person has become entangled in a sin of some sort. In any case, we must check our own attitude first. We read in Galatians 6:1: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

To "restore" someone will of necessity involve a confrontation with that person. The verse in Galatians that we read above informs us that we, as the confronter, must first be spiritual. This means that we have no current sins in our own lives, and that we have been reading the Word of God sufficiently, with prayer, to be able to counsel the offender. Next, we must come to the offender in a spirit of meekness. This is of the utmost importance because very few people will listen to someone who has an attitude of superiority, or is coming to "fix" their problem while pretending to be perfect himself. This meekness also considers that he or she who is doing the counselling could fall into the very same sin.

We are reminded in Ephesians 4:15: "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ". This is the way that the Lord Jesus confronted others. He always told the truth, but He always did it in love. For instance, when He confronted the woman taken in adultery we find: "When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and

sin no more" (John 8:10-11). Through love, Jesus did not condemn the woman, and in truth, He told her not to sin any more.

When we confront a person, we might use a different approach to that of Jesus' approach. But, our approach, shamefully, is never the right one. For instance, we may have a tendency to lighten the confrontation by flattering the other person first so that he or she won't feel threatened. Proverbs 28:23 assures us: "He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue." In most cases, however, we should not have to rebuke a person, and never should we flatter them.

On some occasions, Jesus did confront certain people by rebuking them. Usually the case was with the scribes and Pharisees. By rebuking them, Jesus was still speaking the truth in love. The scribes and Pharisees would not listen to Jesus' message. As a last resort, and for the good of these religious leaders, He rebuked them for their stubbornness in refusing to repent of their sins. Jude, in his epistle, chapter 1 verses 22-23 wrote this: "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." In Psalm 141:5 we learn: "Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head..." It is better to be treated harshly and gain eternal life, than to be coddled and lose it.

In every confrontational situation we should let the Golden Rule take precedence. Jesus taught in Matthew 7:12: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Doing this will always be the right approach.



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.

WORSE THAN 2008 CRISIS

Several months ago, it was featured in this column about a person who has issued a warning to America that a financial crisis will hit America which will be worse than the 2008 crisis.

The following is one page, taken from the internet, in regard to this upcoming crisis: Dr. Ron Paul Reveals #1 Step to Prepare for America's Next Big Crisis 09.08.2015 BY MIKE PALMER, STANSBERRY RESEARCH Washington, D. C. – This is a fascinating story with implications for every American...

Dr. Ron Paul--the former U.S. Presidential candidate and 22-year Congressional veteran--was briefly back in Washington, D.C., recently.

Dr. Paul was in the nation's capital to educate Americans on what he believes our country's next financial crisis will look like.

He says America is on the verge of a real "currency crisis", the likes of which we have not seen in more than 50 years. RELATED: Why America is NOT Normal – Dr. Ron Paul's 8 facts prove how bad things really are.

While in D.C., Dr. Paul announced that he's found a way for citizens of every political party to prepare, including the specific steps you should take. He released a short video presentation to explain all the details. (You can watch it here.)

Few people in America today have Dr. Paul's knowledge of the inner workings of both the government and U.S. financial system...

After All, Dr. Paul spent more than two decades in Congress. He served on the House Banking Committee and the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

He sponsored more than 600 legislative bills. He met with every President of the past 40 years and every Fed Chairman. He spent thousands of hours in top secret, closed-door meetings.

SEE ALSO: Dr. Ron Paul Describes Exactly What America's Next Crisis Will Look Like.

Comment - Perhaps many of you readers did watch the video that Dr. Ron Paul released. We know that things are really bad in America mainly because many no longer honor God especially in the keeping of His commandments and the practicing of the Golden Rule that Jesus spoke which is found in Matthew 7:12: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

It is for sure that a drastic financial crisis is brewing in America. Will it happen just exactly as Dr. Ron Paul reveals? It may be much worse! In fact, the financial systems all over the world are in trouble. This situation is a Sign Of The Times.

It is imperative that children of God be prepared. God does not want His children to be thoughtless in being good stewards of the substances that He has bestowed upon them.

No matter what crisis may befall America and the whole world before Jesus comes to take His saints to the New Jerusalem, Jesus gives His children the assurance found in Matthew 6:25. He said, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought (do not worry) for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?"

ABOUT DRONES AND AMAZON

The following article, by Jay Greene, entitled Amazon delivers a few drone details was published in the Houston Chronicle:

SEATTLE – Just in time to grab headlines for Cyber Monday, Amazon released a video showing footage of a prototype of the drones it is developing to deliver packages.

The video is hosted by Jeremy Clarkson, one of the stars of the BBC'S "Top Gear" automobile show who is now working on a new program for Amazon Studios. Clarkson narrates a scene in which a young girl desperately needs a new pair of cleats for an upcoming soccer match. Her parents turn to Amazon Prime Air, the drone delivery service the company has been developing.

When Amazon first announced its drone development two years ago, it cobbled together a drone to illustrate the concept. But the company said the drones it has been developing would be quite different.

More like an airplane?

The video shows an entirely new look for the vehicles. They look a bit more like an airplane than a helicopter. Small parcels fit inside the body of the vehicle, which are then flown to customer homes for delivery.

Amazon didn't announce a time frame for the service. Clarkson describes the scene as "a story from the not-too-distant future." According to Clarkson, there will be "a whole family of Amazon drones, different designs for different environments." The drone shown in the video can fly 15 miles.

In the video scenario, a family receives a message from Amazon notifying them that the package is ready to be delivered, and a request to "make sure your yard is clear." The drone drops off a package on a placard with Amazon's logo on it that the family placed in the yard.

The company had been developing drone prototypes and lobbying to create public policy that will allow it to test and ultimately roll out a fleet of drones in the U.S. In March, for example, Amazon won approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to test a specific drone design outdoors.

Amazon's drone delivery announcement this week came, in part, to get its name in front of shoppers on one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

The retailer says Prime Air will one day deliver packages up to 5 pounds in 30 minutes or less using small drones. The drones will fly under 400 feet and weigh less than 55 pounds, according to details posted on the company's website. It says it will use technology and automation to operate safely.

Government rules

Seattle-based Amazon.com said Monday the program will start once government regulations are in place to support it. It has development centers in the U.S., the United Kingdom and Israel.

The FAA currently bans commercial drone flights except for a few dozen companies that have been granted waivers. It has granted Amazon approval to fly drones for research.

Comment

Amazon's plan to deliver packages by drones sounds like a story from a fiction book. The design of drones is very interesting in that some look like helicopters, and some are designed looking like airplanes. The yard of a family who receives several packages a day from Amazon would almost have to look like a small clear airport.

Technology has made the development of many machines possible. The drone is only one of them. Most of these devices, made possible by modern technology, can be used either for good or for evil.

After reading about Amazon's plan to deliver packages by drones, Genesis 6:5 came to my mind. When speaking of the people on the other side of the Flood, it is stated, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

This verse may not seem to have anything to do with Amazon's plan to deliver packages by drones. My thought is that the idea of the drone was first in the imagination of man. It was not an evil imagination from the heart, and the drone was developed.

Now the drone can be used either for good or for evil. It is used in war to kill the enemy and to spy on the enemy. It can target and destroy just one person. On the other hand, it is used in rescue operations and the delivering of necessary goods that are needed in different areas.

Since the development of the drone was only in the imagination of man, not the imagination of his heart, how much more must we guard the imagination of our hearts when we are tempted to use that imagination to do evil?

HACKING CONTINUES

I heard on the news that every internet device can be hacked. It said that by 2020, there will be several billion Inter-net connected devices in use. It also said that each one will provide an entry point for hackers. It said that every one of them can be used to launch an attack.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What do you think Jeremiah 29 means when it says “The fathers have eaten a sour grape”?

ANSWER: This verse speaks about the time of the kingdom of God. Let us read Jeremiah 31:29-30: “In those days [the days of Christ’s rule] they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children’s teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge.”

Let me give you a possible meaning. It was father Adam who ate the original “sour grape” of sin. The result has passed on to the entire human race. All have suffered from this act of disobedience, and all have died, or are dying. But this is to be changed. In the kingdom, Jesus will be dispensing blessings of health and life.

This will be possible because Jesus took the sinner’s place in death. During His reign, He will offer every individual of the human race an opportunity to obey and live. No longer will people die because of Adam’s sin. If they die, it will be because they have individually eaten the “sour grape” of sin.

This will be during the “times of restitution of all things. In Acts 3:23, Peter explains that it will be only those who disobey who will be “destroyed from among the people.”

QUESTION: I grew up in a church-going home. Now I

have thrown all that out the window. Now I’m on my own! Now I am having fun. Perhaps when I get older I will turn to God. What would you say to someone like me?

ANSWER: You must stop and examine your life! Do you really have a real satisfying life? Will your life provide you with a solid foundation for the future? Is your constant pursuit of “good times” hiding something about yourself that you wish not to admit? Only you can answer these questions.

You must be honest about the dangers you may face. It’s easy to say that someday you’ll turn to God, but will you really? As we get older, the harder it is to turn to Him, because our hearts become calloused and insensitive toward God. And we may no longer hear His call.

Proverbs 29:1 states, “He, that being often reprov’d hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.” You may not have time to repent and turn to God before death takes you. An accident, a sudden health crisis, a violent attack. In an instant, you could die. Why gamble with your life?

Life’s greatest joy comes from knowing Him! Don’t let anything keep you from Christ!

QUESTION: From where does the Book of Leviticus get its name?

ANSWER: The name of the third book of the Bible is derived from the name Levi. Levi was the head of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. This tribe was the one selected by God to perform the religious rites and services of the nation. The Book of Leviticus presents in detail these different services, including the offering of many and varied sacrifices. As the religious servants of the nation, they, as well as the sacrifices and other services which they supervised, are referred to in the New Testament, and are shown to be typical of Jesus and His followers during this present age and of their sacrificial work and service.

QUESTION: Who was the woman that Jesus met by Jacob's well? Please summarize the story of their meeting.

ANSWER: The woman Jesus met by Jacob's well was a Samaritan; this alone condemned her in Jewish eyes. This meant that no religious Jew would have any contact with her. It is no wonder then that the woman was amazed when Jesus spoke to her when she came to the well.

In the conversation, Jesus' intimate knowledge of her life convinced the woman Jesus was a prophet. When Christ identified Himself as the promised Messiah, the woman believed. She hurried back to the village and told everyone about Jesus, and the people came out to see Him for themselves. We read that many of the Samaritans of the city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "...He told me all that ever I did" (John 4:39). After listening to Jesus, many more believed. They told the woman, "...Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" (verse 42).

You can read the complete account in John 4:6-42.

QUESTION: What is wrong with believing in polytheism?

ANSWER: If there is more than one god, then who is in charge? Wars are fought and wives are exchanged by many of the gods in polytheism. There is no one to set the standard and be accountable. There is no basis for morals

or truth.

None of the gods can really be God if one god is stronger than the others. The Bible says, "Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone" (Psalm 86:8-10).

QUESTION: How long was it from the time Noah entered the ark until the ark came to rest? Where did the ark land when the waters receded?

ANSWER: The ark landed on "the mountains of Ararat" five months after the Flood began, but Noah remained in it seven months and ten days. Noah was in the ark in all, one year and seventeen days. See Genesis 7:4, 9-11; 8:4, 14-19.

QUESTION: In I John 2:1 we read, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." What is the purpose of an advocate?

ANSWER: An advocate pleads the cause of another. Christ is our intercessor before God, and we are acceptable to God through Him. See Hebrews 7:25; 4:15-16.

Christ is not the world's advocate. The world has no advocate. Therefore, they are at enmity with God through wicked works.

QUESTION: What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the world?

ANSWER: Jesus gives us the answer in John 16:7 which reads, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."



Philippines/India

Church of God members meeting at Bayawan Negros Occidental.



A photo of brothers and sisters at Bayawan Negros Occidental.



Church of God brethren during a church service in India.



LESSON I

LESSON II

PAUL PREACHES

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:20-31.

Golden Text: Acts 9:20.

“And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.”

1. What did Paul start doing after he was baptized and received the Holy Spirit? Acts 9:20.
2. What did the people think of Paul’s actions? Acts 9:21.
3. How did the Jews feel about Paul preaching Jesus? Acts 9:23-24.
4. How was Paul’s escape made? Acts 9:25.

NOTE: Name two similar escapes in biblical history. Joshua 2:15 and I Samuel 19:12.

5. When Paul returns to Jerusalem, who did he wish to see, and did they want to see him? Acts 9:26.
6. Who defended Paul, saying he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus? Acts 9:27.
7. What was about to happen to Paul again as he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus? Acts 9:29.
8. Where did the brethren send Paul to escape from Jerusalem? Acts 9:30-31.

NOTE: Already we see Paul begin to suffer for Christ’s sake. We see him speaking boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and for this his life was threatened. Did he give up? No!



GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:1-48.

Golden Text: Acts 10:34.

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.”

1. Who did God tell Cornelius to send for, and what kind of man was Cornelius? Acts 10:1-5.
2. Did Cornelius do as the Lord had told him? Acts 10:7-8.
3. What vision did Peter see, and what did the voice speak? Acts 10:10-16.
4. What was Peter’s reply to the voice, “...Rise, Peter; kill, and eat”? Acts 10:14.

NOTE: Peter thought the Lord was referring to the eating of clean and unclean foods. God knew that Peter did not eat unclean animals, but He was showing that if a clean animal touches an unclean animal it does not become unclean.

5. Why was it necessary to prepare Peter for the meeting between him and Cornelius? Acts 10:20, 28. Peter was a Jew and Cornelius was not.
6. Did Peter go with the men even though it was against all customs? Acts 10:21, 29.
7. What did Peter tell the people? Acts 10:34-35.
8. What proof was there, that day, that God is no respecter of persons? Acts 10:44-48.

NOTE: Remember the parable of the Good Samaritan? Jesus taught the people that the Jews were not always right and that often those disliked do more real work for God than professed members. Jesus was

trying to tell them that whatever part of the world you are from (race) made no difference, but the fruit of the people's labor did.

LESSON III

BARNABAS SEEKS PAUL

Scripture Reading: Acts 11:19-30.

Golden Text: Acts 11:24.

“For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”

1. Who do we find preaching to the people that are scattered abroad? Acts 11:19-20.
2. Did the people there believe in the Lord? Acts 11:21.
3. Who did the church send for, and where was he to go? Acts 11:22.
4. How did Barnabas feel about going to Antioch? Acts 11:23.
5. What kind of man was Barnabas? Acts 11:24.
6. Where did Barnabas first go, and why did he go there? Acts 11:25.
7. What did Paul and Barnabas do in Antioch? Acts 11:26.
8. What did the prophet Agabus report to the brethren in Antioch? Acts 11:28.

NOTE: Dearth means famine.

9. Who was sent to help relieve the brethren in distress? Acts 11:29-30.

NOTE: Are you willing to go to the aid of your brethren even if it means a time of affliction for you?

LESSON IV

THE ARREST OF PETER

Scripture Reading: Acts 12:1-25.

Golden Text: Acts 12:24.

“But the word of God grew and multiplied.”

1. For what deed was Herod known? Acts 12:1-4.

NOTE: We see the early church being persecuted, but still prevailing.

2. While Peter was in prison, what did the church continue to do for him? Acts 12:5.
3. Tell in your own words what happened to Peter that same night Herod was to bring him forth. Acts 12:6-10.
4. Who did Peter give credit for his escape? Acts 12:11.
5. What were the people doing at the house of Mary? Acts 12:12.
6. Who answered the door when Peter knocked, and what did she then do? Acts 12:13-14.
7. Did those in the home believe her, and what was their reaction when they saw Peter? Acts 12:15-17.
8. What happened when Peter's escape was made known to Herod? Acts 12:18-19.
9. What was the final outcome of Herod? Acts 12:21-23.
10. Did God's work continue to grow, and who joined Barnabas and Paul? Acts 12:24-25. This is the same young man in whose house the brethren prayed for Peter.





FOUR PENNIES FOR JESUS

Diana was on her way to Sabbath School, feeling very happy. She wore the new red coat she had received for her birthday. In her new red purse was a bright, shiny silver dollar. It was her birthday offering for Sabbath School. Diana had saved the pennies herself, and that very morning her father had given her the dollar in exchange for them.

Each member of her class gave a birthday offering every year. The offerings were "Thank You" to Jesus for all the blessings they had received from Him throughout the year.

Diana had more to be thankful for than many of her classmates. Her heart was singing a little song as she skipped along thinking how glad she was to give Him the offering she had saved.

As she went by the fruit shop Diana saw a girl staring into the window with delicious fruit. The girl was pale and thin, and her head was bare. Diana felt very sorry for her shivering there in the cold. As she passed by, the girl turned from the window. There were tears in her eyes.

Diana stopped. "What are you crying for?" she asked gently. The girl only shook her head and began to sob. "Please tell me, I want to help you," Diana urged.

Finally the girl stopped crying and held out her hand. In it were four brown pennies. "They're all I have," she

said sadly, "and tomorrow is Mother's birthday - and she's sick. I wanted to buy some grapes. Mother said she believed she could get well if she had some grapes, but these few pennies won't buy any," she added looking at the pennies with tears in her eyes.

Diana looked at the girl, then at the clusters of luscious grapes in the window. She thought of the shining piece of money in her red purse. It surely would buy a big cluster of those delicious grapes for the girl's mother. But it was her birthday offering. Diana hesitated, but only for a moment. Then quickly she opened her red purse, and taking out the money, pressed it into the child's hand. "Here," she said, "you can get a beautiful, big bunch for this. Now tonight, after the Sabbath, you can come to the store and get them."

The girl looked at Diana through tears. "You're very good," she said. "I'll take your money if you'll take mine," she added, and she thrust the four pennies into Diana's hand.

Diana ran down the street toward the church. When she got there, she began to feel ashamed of the four little brown pennies that were all she had to give. "It's too little for a birthday offering," she said to herself. The more she thought of it, the worse she felt. By the time she reached her class, Diana was about to cry. She had given away her "Thank You" to Jesus and she had only four pennies for Him. He would think she did not love Him.

She stood outside the door for a long time. She was standing there when Miss Field, her teacher, opened the door and saw her.

"Why Diana, what is the matter?" she asked.

Slowly, Diana raised a puzzled face to Miss Field. Then she told of meeting the girl in front of the fruit shop.

"I wanted the sick lady to have the grapes and now I have only the four pennies to give Him for all the blessings He has given me last year" Diana said.

"Why, dear child!" said Miss Field. "You gave Him the gift He loves best of all. Do you remember where it says in His Book, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these....ye have done it unto me'? I think you made Jesus very happy by what you did."

Diana studied a moment, then a bright smile chased away her tears.

"Oh, Miss Field, I never thought of that. I'm so glad I gave her my 'Thank You' money!"

KINGS OF ISRAEL

(Names Are Given In Chronological Order)

- Jeroboam Jehu Nadab Jehoahaz Baasha
- Jehoash Elah Zechariah Zimri Shalum
- Omri Menahem Ahab Pekahiah Ahaziah
- Pekah Jehoram Hoshea

P R O U I J Y T R E W Q A S D M
 F E G H J E K L M A S H P E Z E
 J X K C V H B N J M O K L Q W N
 E R S A T U I O E S P A G F D A
 H Q W S H X C B H B H N M J K H
 O Q W E R I S E O T R I O P U E
 R S A D F R A G A S H A L L U M
 A G R A D F S H S A J K L H N M
 M S D F G H Y U H I B A D A N O
 H O J P E K A H U K I A H L O Z
 M E N A G F M R I B A A S H A A
 J W Q U Z I S A T R Z N P O I C
 E L Y T R R E W O Z X I C B N I I
 H M J M H G F R E B S W M B F A
 O K O L J H G F B P O I U R T R
 A H A Q W E R T A Y U R I L I I
 H A S D F G H J H K L H E M N A
 A H A Z I A H P A R Y S T J K H
 Z F R E D S A Q W U I T Y P O L

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"WONDERFUL CREATION"

by: Gloria Degamo Ygay

*As I went from place to place,
A lot of things made me amazed;
Some in my sight are not common,
Oh, what a wonderful creation!*

*Oh, what a wonderful creation
That attracts everybody's attention;
God made it perfect and beautiful,
For He gave His love to His people.*

*As I went from place to place,
I said, "it's an amazing grace";
Flowers and mountains, birds and fountains,
Down to the rivers--a place of peace.*

*From place to place I felt at ease,
By the sea and its gentle breeze;
All the wonderful creation of God,
Feeling deeply that I am blessed.*



