



The Advocate of Truth

TABLE OF CONTENTS



PAGE

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Spring Cleaning 3-4
This is a good time of year to inspect our own lives.

Faith In Trying Times 4-5
Do we stand strong today in doing God's will?

The Tormented Soul 7-8
Sometimes our sins can drag us down in life.

How To Have A Good Day 8
This is good advice to help every day be more enjoyable.

Attitude And Aptitude 9-10
Aptitude is important, but attitude is even more so.

Tampering With Scripture 10
Many "Christians" tamper with Scripture without realizing it.

Fellowship 11-12
We must be very careful with whom we have fellowship.

The Signs Of The Times 14-15
Protestants and Catholics are theologically closer than ever.

Questions And Answers 16-17
What is the doctrine of imputation? and other questions.

The Church Around The World 18-19
This month we look at the passing of Septimus John
from Grenada

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story -- "Alone With God"
Games and Puzzles



SPRING CLEANING

By David Royer

I think of **spring cleaning** as opening the windows of our house and performing a thorough cleaning of all rooms. Here is a more thought-provoking history of **spring cleaning**, as provided by Wikipedia:

“Some researchers trace the origin of spring cleaning to the Iranian Nowruz, the Persian new year, which falls on the first day of spring. Iranians continue the practice of “khooneh tekouni” which literally means “shaking the house” just before the Persian new year. Everything in the house is thoroughly cleaned, from the drapes to the furniture.

Another possibility has been suggested that the origins of spring cleaning date back to the ancient Jewish practice of thoroughly cleansing the home in anticipation of the springtime festival of Passover. In remembrance of the Israelites’ hasty flight from Egypt following their captivity there, during the week-long observance of the Passover holiday, there are strict prohibitions against eating or drinking anything which may have been leavened or fermented with yeast (Exodus 12:15, 19). Jews are not only supposed to refrain from leavened foodstuffs (known in Hebrew as *chametz*), they are expressly commanded to rid their homes of even small remnants of *chametz* for the length of the holiday (Exodus 12:15). Therefore, observant Jews conduct a thorough “spring cleaning” of the house, followed by a

traditional hunt for *chametz* crumbs by candlelight (called *bedikat chametz*) on the evening before the holiday begins.....

In North America and northern Europe, the custom found an especially practical value due to those regions’ continental and wet climates. During the 19th century in America, prior to the advent of the vacuum cleaner, March was often the best time for dusting because it was getting warm enough to open windows and doors (but not warm enough for insects to be a problem), and the high winds could carry the dust out of the house. This time of year, is also when coal furnaces wouldn’t run, and you could wash all the soot from the walls and furniture left by the furnace. For the same reason, modern rural households often use the month of March for cleaning projects involving the use of chemical products which generate fumes.”

This history of house cleaning reflects a lot of work. However, the activity of **spring cleaning**, ----provides us with a valuable metaphor of cleaning ourselves. Clean out the closets of our heart. Get rid of all that “dirt” from our mind and soul. Our house/body needs to be thoroughly cleaned – we need to get rid of all that is stale, dead and leaven (see above, an element that produces an altering or transforming influence) in our life.

Seek forgiveness from others whom we may have harmed or slandered. Ask God for repentance of our sins and trespasses and for the renewing of our entire mental and moral nature. I John 1: 8-9 says:

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

As we clean our spiritual closets, we might find that we now have room for the very things that David was asking for in Psalm 51:10-12:

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

*¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

As we draw near to the partaking of the Lord's Supper on Saturday night at sundown March 31, 2018 (Roman time); the beginning of April 1, 2018 (Bible time), we must be as clean and humble, as humanly possible. We must be worthy to partake of the sacred emblems of Jesus's body and blood.

Our warning and admonition is found in 1 Corinthians 11:27 & 28 *"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."*

Finally, our personal **spring cleaning**, will improve relationships with others. Our personal **spiritual spring cleaning**, if done properly, will create the correct relationship with our Father in heaven, make us thankful to His Son Jesus for His sacrifice — allowing us to be free from sin and make us "worthy" to commemorate the annual Lord's Supper.



Faith in Trying Times

By Gary Mills

There are many things in the world today that are difficult for us to understand why they are allowed to occur. The Bible tells us to not get caught up in worrying about the things that are happening in the world. Rather we should concentrate our efforts on doing God's will. The Apostle Paul spoke on this in Romans 12: 1-3: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Paul said we have to stand strong in times of adversity and keep our love for our fellow man.

I Cor. 16 13: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

II Cor. 4: 8, 13, 14, 16, 18: "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Sometimes we get so concerned with the things going on in our day to day lives we let this distract us from God's teachings. We are all one in God's church. We should not let the things of this world cause divisions to

come between us. Gal 3:26-28: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

We need to encourage one another. Heb 10:23-25: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Paul wrote a very famous message on faith in his letter to the Hebrews. He uses great examples of people who were in difficult times and how they used faith to overcome their difficulties.

Heb.11: 1,3,4,6-13, 17-19, 32-40: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in

multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."

"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Of course Jesus Christ is our ultimate example of faith and how He endured extremely difficult times. Heb 12: 1,2: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Just as Jesus kept His faith in God all the way through His sacrifice, so must we do the same as we run the race of this mortal life, until we see the Lord at His return.

A TALE OF TWO WARRIORS

*When God has a job that needs doing,
Do you, like Jonah, try to hide?*

*Or are you willing to stand up and be counted,
Knowing God will always be by your side?*

*The task won't be too hard for the Master,
And the help we need will always be there;
The job won't call for a blueprint,
Our help will come from a prayer.*

*Now to the captain of Israel's army
Who had fought many battles, back then;
God said, go up and fight against King Jabin,
For God's plan was for him to win.*

*Now Jabin was a very great warrior,
Several thousand fought under his command;
Many years he had fought against Israel,
And gave them no peace in their land.*

*Now Barak was Israel's brave captain,
He fought valiantly for the God he did serve;
But when faced with the might of King Jabin
He quickly began losing his nerve.*

*So off to the Judges he hastened,
Seeking to one Deborah by name;
As a judge she ruled over Israel
Where she earned a great deal of fame.*

*I will only go if you will go with me,
He said to the lady that day;
For you have witnessed the success of Jabin,
And I'm not sure we can win, even if we pray.*

*Yes, I will gladly go with you,
But this you must know from the start:
To a woman will go all of the honor,
And then she made ready to depart.*

*Then Deborah climbed into her saddle,
And the army of Israel she led;
And God gave to her a great victory,
And honored her, just like He said.*

*Only one man escaped the slaughter
Of the vast number of Jabin's men;
His captain took off, running,
And that was the ending of them.*

*Now Sisera had been a great captain,
And the tent of their allies did seek;
And commanded the tent of one, Jael,
Being a woman, he considered her weak.*

*And she gave him food and shelter,
And he was sure he had nothing to fear;
And he slept, being weary from battle,
Her mantle became the man's bier.*

*For she took a great nail and a hammer,
And drove it right down through his head!*

*So thanks to two lady warriors
God gave the victory, as He said!!*

--Betty Whetstone

(From the book of Judges, Chapter 4)

The Tormented Soul

By Daniel Cruz

It seems the title is speaking redundantly. A saint is tormented? How can this be? It can be that we struggle with burdens and sins that become a part of our lives. We tell ourselves "it's just a part of life". In this instance we make a very pivotal decision in our walk with The Lord. We become repetitive in our spiritual walk and begin to except things without regard. We live in a cloud of deceit and adopt the philosophies of man more than God. Insanity is defined in Webster's as "Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result." We pit ourselves in the sins that carry us away. I Peter 2:11: "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul". We see that sin can penetrate even to the soul. Peter states to abstain, why? He understood and contended with such things and the severity of it, that can carry us away. In I Peter 5:8 He leaves The Church with this encouragement: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour". Peter is giving advice to the saints that in all matters use caution and avoid things that may impair your judgment. How can we avoid this?

We are under protection when we are obedient to God and His Word. There is clarity in what God requires and will do for us when we are subject to Him. The Church has endured much persecution and constant questions of the Truth. Yet, God continues to comfort and provide

revelations that His Word will stand. I make this statement with the intent that we must also avoid things that seem good, however, are contrary to God's Word. We are tempted daily with things that distract us and can lead us astray. It may seem innocent however, we must be cautious. We must not be like Philip in John 14: 9: "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" He doubted after all that was revealed unto him and needed physical proof. We can become trapped in this mind set and begin to seek out things that will affirm God in our lives. We must trust that God is in our lives and the affirmation that we seek is constant. God reveals Himself in all things that pertain to the Saints and that gives us comfort and assurity that He is within us.

We are bombarded constantly in all aspects of our lives with many different avenues that the enemy uses to divert us and conform us to an ungodly life. Remember he is subtle and very deceiving. We cannot become weary in our walk and be grievous with the blessings of God. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. These are instructions that we can follow in our daily contentions and struggles and avoid the effects of becoming tormented by the enemy. Jesus understood our lives here on earth and encouraged the will of His Father to all those amongst Him. We have taken on that role and must not be displaced, however, knowing where we stand with God. How can we find refuge in our lives from the perils of the world?

We have an example in Daniel 9: 3-5: "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments". Daniel prayed for the people, and himself included, for God to find favor with them and to forgive them for the sins that were committed. We in like manner must not become engrossed in our

faults and sins that it takes us from God. Our lives before or when we have turned from Him is difficult and the enemy wants to continue to tell us that we are not worthy to receive God's Blessings and continues to oppress us from this. God wants us to merely ask for this forgiveness and guide us in His Truths. Daniel made this intercession for the people just as Christ does for us today.

I'm praying and pleading to God to take away those things that have burdened you and is trying to take you from seeing God's Mercy and Love that is there for you. Also, that we find peace in our souls to see the glory that comes in serving God and living the life that He has for us. Let us not become weary in our walk, however, seeing the goodness and freedom that can take place when we allow the Lord in our hearts. Blessings and Prayers upon all.

HOW TO HAVE A GOOD DAY

By Glen Mollette

Everybody needs a good day now and then.

Think of something or someone for which you are grateful. Maybe this is easy? Hopefully you have one person or maybe dozens of people who are meaningful to you. We all have someone who aggravates us or maybe worse. We're not going to emphasize that group in this column. They get enough glory. Today just think about those people whom you enjoy seeing or hearing.

Have something to do every day. It is better if you have three or more things to do. If you are going to work every day, you have plenty to do. If you are raising kids or earning for family, you have plenty to do. Don't run out of things to do. Clean your house, work in your yard or find a part-time job, but have something that requires

you to put out some effort.

Do something to take care of your health every day. Walking, bike riding, fervent exercise along with focusing more on healthy eating all have positive effects on our mental well being.

Try to reduce negativity in your life. Don't watch negative cable television four or five hours a day. They are saying the same things over and over. I suspect you could start talking before you turn on the channel and verbalize what is being said depending on the channel. Also reduce the negative people time in your life. That may be hard if you live with a negative person or have lots of negative family. Try to be the upbeat person and try to create happier conversations.

This brings us to laughter. Laughter is good medicine for any mind and body. Families that laugh will be happier growing old together. Social groups that interact and laugh can't wait to gather again. Happy churches that are laughing together will stay together and even grow. Children need to hear their parents laughing and laughing with them. Don't make age the deciding factor. A friend of mine who had been on the sideline of life for a long time got another chance. Some tough things happened to him in life. He went through a divorce. After this life-altering event, he got into trouble and had to go to prison. That was a very dark period in his life. However, in time he got back on his feet. He went forward, tried to stay upbeat, and at the age of 77 was called to serve a very vibrant church as their senior pastor. For the last three years he has done a tremendous job. He didn't let his age along with his past failures cripple him for the rest of his life. Gain strength each day from outside of you. Look to God, a loving spouse, family, friends and good mentors. We all need time to be alone, but we also all have times when we need support from outside of ourselves.

We've all had a few bad days along the way. Here is to a good day for you and hopefully many of them.

NOTE: The preceding article is a guest commentary taken from The Ridgeway Record published in Pennsylvania. It has good advice for the sincere child of God. "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

ATTITUDE AND APTITUDE

By Gonzalo Hernandez

A person's attitude resides in the way that he behaves. On the other hand, the set of characteristics that enables and makes him fit for a certain function is called APTITUDE.

In the performance of any work, it is necessary to adapt a certain attitude, which varies according to the function at hand. When a person does not possess the right attitude, one could say that person is not suitable for that work.

On the other hand, putting aside the labor sphere, the most important attitude of a person is the one given on a daily basis towards everyone else, that attitude which was developed for years of education in the womb of the family who lives according to God's principles. This attitude is always accompanied with love, humbleness, respect, mercy and compassion.

“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). Our attitude is very important in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. When we decide to follow the Lord, we leave behind our old way of living and start living as new persons. However, those who look back and return to what they were before accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior, or do not behave as true children of God, are not fit for the kingdom of God.

A doctor could have finished his classes with honors. He may have taken the best special fields and be considered the best in his field, but if he has a nasty and cold attitude towards his patients, this will not help. Perhaps this specialist will prescribe the best treatment for the sick person, but this doctor wasn't warm and kind

towards the patient during the consultation. Perhaps emotionally this doctor did not help much. On the other hand, if a doctor is kind and attentive towards the sick person, and encourages this person and listens to him and tells him or her that everything is going to be fine, even if this doctor is not the best or the most recognized, only the attitude will greatly help the sick person. In many professions, a right attitude is required when dealing with people, and even so, many professionals excel and are successful in their field of work, being considered the best or more apt to develop their work.

To God, attitude is very important. To be considered His children, it is necessary to have the right attitude, just like the Lord Jesus Christ had! If we work for Him, the right attitude is an essential requirement to be considered apt and able to work in His Church.

Someone could have plenty of knowledge about the Word of God, and have the best aptitudes to become a good evangelist, but if he doesn't have the right attitude, he will never be truly good at what he does. True evangelism does not stop when a believer is baptized. It continues for the rest of his life. The person who evangelizes has to always show the same attitude of love, kindness, understanding, patience and humbleness that he had when he started to evangelize. However, if after accomplishing his objective, he starts mistreating and neglecting his brother, he shows his lack of constancy and truth.

Another example could be the one of a preacher. He could be very eloquent and have all the aptitudes of a good preacher, but after leaving the podium or the pulpit his attitude changes and he behaves completely contrary from what he preaches, then it becomes obvious that he is not whole on what he does. His attitude should have been his best example to motivate and cheer everyone else up into behaving as true children of God. If the preacher loses humbleness as soon as he steps down from the pulpit and starts behaving with arrogance and indifference, he is only showing that he is not apt to perform the role as a preacher.

We could mention one more of the many examples about which we could talk, the one of a believer like you or me, who changed our way of acting because we acted in a different way before we accepted Christ. Are we a better person today, or have we forgotten our first love? How do we react during tribulation, need, sickness or

sadness? Do we react to these things just like we did yesterday?

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” (II Peter 2:20-22).

When a person looks back, such a person is not apt or fit to enter into the kingdom of heaven. This person is not complete as a child of God. There are those who boast and don't get tired of saying they are Christians and that they are part of the true Church of God, but their attitude leaves much to be desired.

Attitudes can be controlled and modified, but only if that is what is desired. We have to eliminate completely and forever bad attitudes because the old man has died.

Aptitudes can be developed through studying and teaching. We must be filled with God's Holy Spirit through His Word. If we have the right attitude, we can be apt or fit to develop any work in the Church of God.

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).

TAMPERING WITH SCRIPTURE

Bond Tennant

Opening a child-proof prescription container, or a new bottle of mouthwash may be difficult. Life used to be so easy, and less secure, when one could simply snap off the lid or twist the cap. However, after that fateful day when a woman in New York took a Tylenol capsule from a bottle she purchased died of cyanide poisoning, a whole new science was born. From that day forward, shoppers wanted to be able to see that no one had tampered with the contents of the bottle or package they were purchasing.

Today the evil of tampering has gone far beyond bottles and packages. Witness academicians rewriting history (called “revisionist” history) to remove the fact that our nation's government was founded on Christian principles and denying that many of the founding fathers believed firmly in a supreme, Divine Creator. Many social standards seem not to need rewriting, only removing.

Let us look at the field of religion. Even among so-called Christians, the standards of Christ are continually challenged or ignored. Who is emphasizing the clear “Thou shall not” or “Thou shalt” commands in Scripture? Finding direct statements generally unacceptable, popular evangelists find it convenient to emphasize Christian philosophy rather than the absolute and practical teachings of the prophets, Jesus and His apostles. Some have even gone as far as to make evil acceptable. Patience, kindness and humility are virtues belonging to the past while bold, self-assertive, demanding temperaments are commended. This is clear evidence of tampering with the standards of the Bible!

The plainest statement against any tampering of Scripture is found in Revelation 22:18-19: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Fellowship

By David DeLong

In the book of I John, chapter 1:3-7 we learn: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

This is a very important passage of Scripture on fellowship. John is saying that to have fellowship with him, an individual must receive what John tells him or her what he has seen and heard. What John has seen and heard involves directly the witness that he received of Jesus Christ. John was a disciple of Jesus, as well as an apostle, and the witness that he received of the Lord Jesus was crucial to him having fellowship with others who received this witness as well.

Furthermore, John declared that his fellowship was with the Father and the Son. He wrote: "...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." Another word for light is truth. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth" (verse 6). We must walk in the light as God does. This is the basis for our fellowship with one another and for having our sins forgiven through Christ's blood.

Many Christians today want to have fellowship with anyone else who claims to be a Christian. This is not the basis for fellowship, however. Only as believers walk in the light as God does do they have any basis for fellow-

ship. I remember many years ago that the church I was then attending wanted its young people to travel a long distance to have fellowship with perhaps 50,000 others who belonged to a group called Promise Keepers. They felt that the experience would be good for the youth. But this was only a recipe for disaster. It's no wonder that many young people are leaving the church. They are confused with whom they should fellowship.

Even Jesus proclaimed that not everyone naming His name are true disciples. In Matthew 7:21-23 we find: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Iniquity refers to lawlessness, or law breaking. It doesn't matter how many good works a person does in the name of Christ. It doesn't matter how holy a person seems to be. Only those who are observing God's Ten Commandments and other commandments will be fit to inherit God's kingdom when Christ returns. All others will be among those who work iniquity. And we must not have fellowship with those who work iniquity!

So adamant was John about this subject that he even wrote that we should not allow people into our homes who bring another doctrine than the doctrine of Christ. Second John, verses 8-11 reads: "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God.

He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

The Psalmist makes this point very clear when he wrote in Psalm 94:20: "Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?" God cannot have fellowship with any belief or doctrine which is against His will. Neither should we. The Apostle Paul makes this bold statement in Ephesians 5:11: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

On the other hand, the disciples continued fellowshiping with the other true disciples of Christ. We find this situation in Acts 2:42-43: "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." Of what did this fellowship consist? Paul wrote in I Corinthians 1:9-10: "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." True fellowship consists of all the members of the Body of Christ speaking the same thing; having no divisions; and being perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgment. Furthermore, Paul wrote to the Philippians in chapter 2:1-2: "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." This unity in the Body of Christ is absolutely necessary to having true fellowship with other believers.

Any person who claims the name of Christ, but who does not believe or practice the doctrine of Christ, is still an unbeliever. Paul wrote to the Corinthians about not having relationships with unbelievers. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an

infidel?" (II Corinthians 6:14-15). This involves not marrying unbelievers, not having business partnerships with them, and not fellowshiping with them on an equal footing.

Someone may bring up the point that Jesus had fellowship with publicans, prostitutes, and other sinners. Even the Pharisees accused Him of this. "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:10-13). The point is, Jesus did not have fellowship with these sinners on an equal footing. His purpose was to raise them up to God's level of righteousness by first calling them to repentance. This is also an acceptable thing for Church of God people to do today. Helping others to see the errors of their false beliefs, and bringing truth to them, is what the Lord would have us do.

To those who have received God's grace, which involves those who have repented of their sins and have received the truth of God's Word, we should heartily give the right hands of fellowship. We find such a case in Galatians 2:9: "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

Our fellowship must be based upon the gospel of Christ, His example and teachings. Paul wrote to the Philippians: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). Part of that gospel of Christ teaches us that we must also suffer with Him. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Philippians 3:10).

True fellowship is likened unto fellows in the same ship who are rowing together for the destination of the light-house.

The Seven Last Plagues

By David DeLong

The first angel sounded, and there followed hail,
And blood mingled with fire;
A third of the trees were all burnt up,
And all grass was burnt in this pyre.

The second one sounded, and as it were
A great burning mountain was cast
Into the sea, and a third became blood,
While a third of the creatures and ships didn't last.

The third angel sounded, there fell a great star
From heaven, it burned as a lamp;
Upon one third of rivers, and fountains we learn,
It came with heavenly stamp.

Wormwood is the name of the star,
One third of the waters were bitter;
And many men died because of this,
(I imagine their bodies did litter.)

The fourth angel sounded, a third of the sun,
And a third of the moon and the stars
Were smitten, and shone not for a third of the time
As if they were covered with bars.

"Woe, woe, woe" to the people of earth
Cried an angel with voice to astound;
For three angels, yet, with trumpets to blow
Are nearly ready to sound!

The fifth angel sounded, a star fell to earth,
A key to the bottomless pit
Was given to him, he opened it up
And smoke arose out of it.

Out of the smoke the locusts then came,
With scorpion tails did they sting
Only on men without God's seal,
But not on any green thing.

For five long months did the locusts give hurt,
And men, tormented, sought death;
But death fled away, not giving relief,
As none of the men lost their breath.

The shapes of the locusts resembled a horse,
And on their heads was a crown;
Their faces were as the faces of men,
But their hair was as women's, let down.

They had breastplates of iron, and sound of their wings
Was like chariots running anon;
A king over them from the bottomless pit
In Hebrew was named Abaddon.

The sixth angel sounded, a voice from the horns
Of the altar before the Lord God
Said, Loose the four angels in Euphrates bound,
And loosed, they were given the nod--

To slay one third of the part of men.
Now two hundred million the score
Of the army of horsemen, John saw in the scene
Were all prepared for war.

With breastplates of fire, of brimstone, and more
Like lion's, the head of each horse;
Out of their mouths issued fire and smoke
And brimstone with such a great force

That one third of men were killed by these three,
But the rest would not repent
Of all of their sins that they shamelessly did,
And that's why these plagues were sent.

The seventh one sounded, and voices above
Said, The kingdoms of this world are now
The kingdoms of God, and also of Christ,
And the twenty-four elders did bow.



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.

DWINDLING DIFFERENCES--REALLY

Have the theological differences that led to the Protestant Reformation which occurred 500 years ago lost their importance?

The following article by Emily M. Miller of the Religion News Service appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. It is entitled *Catholics, Protestants have seen theological differences dwindle*:

The Theological differences that led to the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago have dwindled since in both the United States and Western Europe.

That's the finding of a Pew Research Center survey released Aug. 31, weeks before late October's 500th anniversary of the schism in western Christianity.

Among U.S. Protestants, many seem unaware of the differences, voicing beliefs today that are more traditionally Catholic than they are Protestant.

"I think its fair to say the differences between the two groups have diminished to a degree that might have shocked Christians of earlier centuries," said Greg Smith, associate director of research at Pew Research Center.

"Maybe its not a huge surprise in the context of modern-day United States, but if you look back at the longer term – at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation – that would be quite surprising to a Christian of 300, 400, 500 years ago."

Of course, Smith noted, no survey data exists to measure responses to the same questions in the 1500's.

According to the survey, more Protestants reported

they believe salvation comes through a mix of faith and good works" (52 percent) – the traditional Catholic position – than through "faith alone" (46 percent). That belief – "sola fide" in Latin – is one of five "solas" that form the backbone of Protestant Reformers' beliefs.

The same shares of Protestants also reported they believe Christians should look to the Bible, church teachings and tradition for guidance – the Catholic position – rather than the "Bible alone," or the Protestant belief in "sola scriptura."

Only 30 percent of U.S. Protestants affirmed both sola fide and sola scriptura. Belief in both doctrines was highest among white evangelical Protestants (44 percent) than white mainline Protestants (20 percent) or black Protestants (19 percent) and jumped even higher (59 percent) among white evangelicals who reported they attend church at least once a week.

U. S. Catholics, in contrast to Protestants, voiced beliefs more in line with the teachings of their church: 81 percent reported both goods deeds and faith were needed to get into heaven, and 75 percent reported Christians should look to the Bible, church teaching and tradition for guidance.

And while differences between Catholics and Protestants once led to wars and persecution, most U.S. Catholics (65 percent) and Protestants (59 percent) now agree that they have more in common than not.

The U.S. survey of more than 2,500 adults, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, was conducted online from May 30 to Aug. 9. The margin of error for results based on each sample in that survey is plus or minus 2.9

percentage points.

Comment

The theological differences between Catholics and Protestants are still true in spite of any who think they have dwindled in importance. Many were persecuted and even burned to the stake protesting the false teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. There seems to be an ecumenical spirit circulating among many who call themselves Christian.

Those Protestant Christians who are unable to recognize the theological differences between the Catholic Church and Protestants do not follow the instructions found in God's Word – the Bible.

HOW ABOUT BEING GOOD?

Sometime ago, an article was published in **The Advocate of Truth** putting forth the fact that being good without God in itself is not enough for salvation.

The following is an article by Kimberly Winston of the Religion News Service which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. It is entitled *Good without God? More Americans say amen to that:*

For the first time, a majority of Americans – 56 percent – say it is possible to be a good person without a religious belief.

So says new Pew Research Center data drawn from two polls conducted among about 5,000 American adults in June and July.

“God is not a prerequisite for good values and morality,” Greg Smith, Pew's associate director of research, said in a post about the findings. “The public's increased rejection of the idea that belief in God is necessary for morality is due, in large part, to the spike in the share of Americans who are religious ‘nones.’”

Nones account for about one-quarter – 23 percent – of American adults, up from 16 percent in 2007. But their growth is not the whole story behind the numbers.

In the current pool, Protestants and Catholics also were polled, and 45 percent of them agree that God is not necessary for personal morality, up from 42 percent in (2001).

Even white evangelicals, who traditionally believe a relationship with God is crucial to morality, have budged. In 2011, one quarter of them (26 percent) said it was possible to be good without God, while now almost a

third (32 percent) say so.

“To be sure, most white evangelicals still say belief in God is necessary for morality.” Smith writes, “But the share who say belief in God is a necessary underpinning of being moral has declined from 72 percent to 65 percent in just six years.”

Hemant Mehta, who wrote about the poll on his Friendly Atheist blog, attributes the bump to the “coming out” of nonreligious people, including celebrities and friends and family members.

“Its getting to the point where even devoutly religious people know somebody who's an atheist,” he said in an email.

“Just as we say with the LGBTQ movement, it becomes a lot harder for religious people to demonize us when they know us, and knowing us poses a direct challenge to the absurd idea that people can't be good without God.”

Comment

Yes, it is possible to be good without God! I know several people who display their goodness, but openly say that they have no time for God. Consider the Atheist and the humanist. They may display good morality, but they are without God because they have never felt like they need Him, or that He really exists. They really reject Him and believe that salvation is just a fairy tale. Good is not good enough when it comes to salvation!

ABOUT REFUGEES

From listening to most news anchors and reading most newspapers, I, and I am sure many others, have the idea that the majority of refugees entering the U.S. over the last decade and a half have been Muslim.

However, I read an article in a newspaper which stated the fact that although the number of Muslim refugees have increased in the past decade and a half, the number of Christian refugees have far outpaced them in coming to the United States during the same period.

Comment

Let us remember in prayer all the refugees that come to our country, no matter what their religious affiliation may be. It is no little matter to have to flee a person's home country in order to escape war, political, or civil strife.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What is the doctrine of imputation?

ANSWER: The doctrine of imputation is important in the understanding of Christ's sacrifice. Impute means to reckon to another's account. As such, the doctrine of imputation refers to: 1. Adam's sin being placed upon all persons. Read Romans 5:12-21. 2. Man's sin being placed on Christ. Read Isaiah 53:4-6; II Corinthians 5:21. 3. God's righteousness being placed on the believer. Read Romans 3:21-5:21.

QUESTION: Will you please give a brief summary of I and II Kings?

ANSWER: The books of I and II Kings cover the period during which Israel was a kingdom nation, beginning approximately at the time of David's death, and continuing until the nation lost its independence, ten of the tribes being taken into captivity in Assyria, and the other two to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah was the last king to rule over the two-tribe kingdom. The nation has never had a king since he was overthrown. Under Solomon, the third king to reign over the Israelites, the nation reached its highest pinnacle of fame and glory. Solomon's own glory and wisdom became famous throughout the then known world. The Queen of Sheba heard about it and traveled all the way to Palestine to see for herself, and she reported that "the half" had not been told (I Kings 10:7).

Although Israel became a kingdom nation by rebelling against God's arrangement to care for their needs through "judges," the Lord overruled this to make a very interesting illustration for us of a much greater kingdom which He would later establish over the whole earth, a kingdom in which Jesus would be the "King of Kings."

QUESTION: Psalm 2:7-8 says: "I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." To whom do the words, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee" apply?

ANSWER: They apply to Christ and is another link in the chain of evidence that Christ is the Son of God. We rejoice that the time is near when His kingdom will destroy evil and establish good.

QUESTION: Will you please name some characteristics of the Bible?

ANSWER: Yes we will! Following are eight characteristics of the Bible:

1. The Bible is one of the simplest books in the world. Where is the devout child of God who does not understand and enjoy its delightful stories?

2. The Bible is the most profound book in the world. It contains also the deep things of God.
3. The Bible is the cheapest book in the world for its size; yet more money has been expended for a single copy than for any other book in the world. \$100,000 was paid for the Sinaitic Manuscript.
4. The Bible is the most available book in the world. It has been printed in more languages and dialects than any other book.
5. The Bible has had the greatest moral influence in the world, enlivening man's conscience, elevating womanhood, and sanctifying family life. It condemns falsehood, covetousness, hatred, impurity and idolatry in all its forms.
6. The Bible is the most quoted book in the world – by all classes, creeds, and persuasions. Men cannot get away from its wisdom, knowledge and influence.
7. The Bible is the most hated book in the world. Men have sought to destroy it and to forbid its possession.
8. The Bible is the most loved book in the world among all classes and all nations in all lands. Some have sold their all to obtain a copy and walked long distances to obtain it and hear it read.

QUESTION: Why do you think Jesus condemned the fig tree mentioned in Mark 11?

ANSWER: On the surface, this incident is difficult to understand. On their way to the temple, on the first day of the Passion Week, Jesus and His disciples saw a fig tree which had leaves on it but not fruit. Jesus passed a sentence of judgment upon the tree because it was unfruitful. We cannot be dogmatic about the answer as to why Jesus condemned the fig tree. However, there are a few possible considerations.

First, the characteristics of the fig tree is that it has fruit first and then leaves. Hence the presence of leaves should mean that fruit was there also. So it seems that the tree was a barren tree.

Second, it seems probable that the tree was symbolic of Israel (Matthew 24:32-33). Throughout the entire chapter, Jesus denounced the insincerity and empty religious profession of Israel. During the triumphal entry

on the day before (Sabbath) there were those whose shouts of praise were short-lived and lacked depth and genuine response. In the temple, Jesus' anger was expressed in the face of insincerity. So in passing upon the barren tree, Jesus passed sentence upon hypocritical Israel with its leaves of profession but no corresponding fruit.

Uselessness invites destruction. Israel had been chosen to serve. Her failure to do so led to her barrenness. We are saved also to serve – to be obedient to the Words of God and to fulfill His purposes. Unless we are obedient and fulfill God's purposes, we become barren. The we read that: **“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire”** (Matthew 7:19).

Profession without practice is perilous. But the radiant, transparent reality of consistent godly spirit and example attracts the unconverted and causes them to glorify God.

QUESTION: Did Jesus have the support of the religious leaders of His day during His ministry?

ANSWER: No! He had not been graduated from the school of the rabbis.

QUESTION: The Bible speaks of three different ways. They are The narrow way (Matthew 7:14), The broad way (Matthew 7:13) and The highway (Isaiah 35:8-10). Will you please distinguish between these three ways? Where does each one lead, and who walks on each?

ANSWER: The narrow way is the way of sacrifice which the followers of Jesus take during this age. It is entered through the gate of faith and consecration. It leads to immortality with Christ on His kingdom throne.

The broad way is the easy, worldly way that Adam took through the gate of disobedience to God's commands, and in which all of Adam's posterity have been born. It leads to destruction (death).

The highway is the way the people of earth will take all through the thousand-year reign of Christ, during which He will establish His earthly kingdom. It is the way of holiness over which the nations will return to God's favor. They will obtain joy and gladness. Sorrow and sighing will give place to happiness and everlasting life.



Elder Septimus John



1949 - 2018

Septimus John was born on June 22, 1949 to Philina (Vikey) and Nathaniel (Melford) John of Seamoan.

The plains of Grenada are filled with his artisan work, and he was good at his craft. He was a top class carpenter, and many houses in Grenada contain his windows.

Septimus married the love of his life, Adoulta Mitchell (Tanty) on September 15, 1974. They had nine children, and they were very good parents.

Septimus came to know and accept the Lord and the truth of God's word in 1974. He continued steadfastly in God's truth until his untimely passing. He was baptized in October 1974.

Brother Septimus became an ordained elder and was the youngest elder in the Church at that time. He played the piano, and he was instrumental in leading the Beam of Light choir.

Later, Elder Septimus John became Apostle John and one of the Twelve Apostles of the Church. He was a great advocate of God's Word.

He worked as an overseer in the Caribbean, and he worked with churches in Jamaica, St. Croix, St. Martin, Trinidad, Tobago, Guyana, and many other churches and congregations around the world.

He often attended the general council meetings in the United States, sometimes in Salem, West Virginia, and sometimes in Dallas, Texas.

He had a number of sayings:

Inculcate in your cranium.

Fair to fine.

Quite in order.

Your head hard like Strom.

Septimus John was a man with firm convictions in the Lord, and he always carried tremendous faith and respect for the Lord.

On his final Sabbath, while he had some strength left, he presented his final message. While exhibiting the determination of Job, on his bed, he proclaimed "One Fold". His voice was powerful and his message was clear. His admonition was for God's people to obey. His final Scripture was Matthew 20:22 "But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able."

His parting fairwell was to pray for his family, and also he asked God to keep the Church in one accord.

We all look forward to reuniting with Brother John at the resurrection when we are caught up in the clouds. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we which remain will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. (I Thessalonians 4:17)

Brother John will be well remembered by all of us.

LESSON I**JOSEPH ARRIVES IN EGYPT**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37:31-36; 39:1-6.

Golden Text: Genesis 39:2.

“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.”

NOTE: In the last lesson, we learned how Joseph’s brothers plotted to kill him but then decided to sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites. We will now study how Joseph’s father feels and what happens to Joseph in Egypt.

1. What did Joseph’s brothers do to his coat of many colors? Genesis 37:31.
2. When they brought the coat to their father, what did they ask him? Genesis 37:32.
3. What did he think had happened to Joseph? Genesis 37:33.
4. What was his attitude when he thought that something had happened to Joseph? Genesis 37:34-35.
5. Who bought Joseph when he arrived in Egypt? Genesis 37:36; 39:1.
6. Who was with Joseph all the time? Genesis 39:2.
7. Why did his master make him overseer over his house? Genesis 39:3-4.
8. While Joseph was overseer of the Egyptian’s house, did he prosper, and why? Genesis 39:5-6.

LESSON II**JOSEPH IN PRISON**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 39:19-23; 40:1-23.

Golden Text: Genesis 39:21.

“But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”

NOTE: We studied last week how the Lord blessed Joseph and his master, Potiphar. Potiphar’s wife falsely accuses Joseph, and he is put into prison. We will now learn about Joseph in prison.

1. How was Joseph treated in prison? Genesis 39:21-22.
2. Who were placed in prison with Joseph? Genesis 40:1-3.
3. Was Joseph in charge of the butler and the baker while in prison? Genesis 40:4.
4. What did these two prisoners say? Genesis 40:5-8.
5. What was the chief butler’s dream, and what did Joseph tell him it meant? Genesis 40:9-15.
6. What was the chief baker’s dream, and what did Joseph tell him? Genesis 40:16-19.
7. Did the dreams come true? Genesis 40:20-23.

LESSON III**JOSEPH INTERPRETS PHARAOH’S DREAMS**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 41:1-17.

Golden Text: Genesis 41:16.

“And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”

1. What happened after Joseph had been in prison for two years? Genesis 41:1 (first part).
2. What did Pharaoh dream the first time? Genesis 41:2-4.

3. What did Pharaoh dream the second time? Genesis 41:5-7.

4. Who did Pharaoh call to interpret his dreams, and could they do it? Genesis 41:8.

5. After no one else could interpret the dreams, who was recommended to Pharaoh? Genesis 41:9-13.

6. Who did Joseph tell was the only one who could interpret his dream? Genesis 41:14-16.

7. Who caused Pharaoh to dream the dreams? Genesis 41:32.

8. What did Joseph tell Pharaoh to do about the dreams? Genesis 41:33-36.

9. Did Joseph's interpretation and advice please Pharaoh? Genesis 41:37.

41:47-49.

6. What happened after the first seven years of Joseph's rule? Genesis 41:53-55.

7. Did the famine extend over the face of the earth, and did other countries go to Joseph to buy corn? Genesis 41:56-57.

FIND THE WORDS

Find these words in the letters below.

**DISCIPLES BOAT
WIND AFRAID
QUIET FAITH**

LESSON IV

JOSEPH A RULER IN EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 41:39-57.

Golden Text: Genesis 41:41.

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.”

1. Did Pharaoh realize that Joseph possessed the Spirit of God? Genesis 41:38-39.

2. How did Pharaoh reward Joseph for giving an interpretation to his dream? Genesis 41:40-41.

3. What else did Pharaoh give to Joseph? Genesis 41:42-45.

4. How old was Joseph when he stood before Pharaoh? Genesis 41:46.

5. What did Joseph do as governor of Egypt? Genesis





ALONE WITH GOD

Often a boy or girl asks the question, "How can I get acquainted with God so that I may know Him?" A little girl recently told me. "I try to get to know Him so that I can get my sins forgiven, but I don't know how."

The question is: How can a boy or girl get to know the Lord and grow into an increasing knowledge of Him? You do it the same way that you would get acquainted with another boy or girl. If you desire to make friends with someone, you spend much time in his or her company. You learn their ways and their likes and dislikes.

If something wrong happens at school and your school friend should be blamed, you would quickly come to his rescue. And because you understand the character of your friend so well, you know that he could not do a wrong thing.

We do not in a day, or week, or even in a month gain such a knowledge of our friends, but it takes constant companionship with them to know what they would do in different circumstances. This is easily understood in human friendship, but if we would know the divine friendship of Christ and the knowledge of Him, we must spend much time with Him, too, the same as we do our earthly friends.

We can do this by prayer and by spending much time with God. We should pray at regular times daily, and we can pray when resting or walking.

Learning to be alone with God, even in crowds, and using every unoccupied moment thinking of Him, will cause you to become more and more acquainted with Him.

You cannot learn to be alone with God in one day, but after awhile it becomes a habit like being with a faithful friend.

Begin the habit now. Thank Him for everything He does for you. Ask Him to guide you in all things that you do, and study His Word to know what He has to say to you.

If you spend much time alone with God, you will become well acquainted with Him. You will find He is a faithful friend who will never fail you.

Answers to crossword puzzle

Answers Across

1. Honey 2. Owe 5. Nest 7. Esther 8. St 11. On 12. Out 13. End 15. Eden 17. Lie 19. Leg 20. Aven 21. Ever 22. Er 23. Or 24. And 26. Toe 27. Wrote 28. Re 30. Yea 32. See 33. If.

Answers Down

1. Honest 3. Owest 4. Nest 6. Ye 9. Thou 10. Enter 12. Order 14. Nor 15. Ed 16. Eleven 18. Niger 19. Laver 24. At 25. Now 29. Eye 31. Seek.



A CROSSWORD PUZZLE
By Marcille Bartholomew

ACROSS

1. The food that John the Baptist ate, besides locusts, Matthew 3:4.
2.no man anything. Romans 13:8.
5. A bird that wandereth from her.....Proverbs 27:8.
7. The book of the Bible that follows Nehemiah.
8. The abbreviation of street.
11. Jesus taught in the synagogue...the Sabbath. Luke 13:19.
12. Be sure your sin will find you...Numbers 32:23.
13. Something that will come after the gospel is preached in all the world. Mathew 24:14.
15. The name of the garden in which the Lord placed Adam. Genesis 2:15.
17. He maketh me to ..down in green pastures. Psalm 23:2.
19. To make bare theIsaiah 47:2.
20. The young men of what place fall by the sword? Ezekiel 30:17.
21. For thine is the kingdom , and the power, and the glory for ...Amen. Matthew 6:13.
- 22...is the prefix of the word (endue) found in Genesis 33:14.
23. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,....of likeness of anything, Exodus 20:5.
24. Six days shalt thou labor...do all thy work. Exodus 20:9.
26. The children of Israel were to put ram's blood on the great...of their right foot. Exodus 29:20.
27. Jesus...with His finger on the ground. John 8:6.
28. The prefix of word recall.
30. Martha said..., "Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ." John 11:27.
32. When Jesus comes, every eye shall ...Him. Revelation 1:7.
- 33.....we are Christ's when we are Abraham's seed. Galatians 3:29.

DOWN

1. Seven men ofreport. Acts 6:3.

3. "pay me that thou...." Matthew 18:28.
4. The sparrow found a house and the swallow a...Psalm 84:3.
6. Jesus said, "...are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13.
9.shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3.
10. Jesus said, "If thou wilt ...into life, keep the commandments." Matthew 19:17.
12. Thou art a priest for ever after the ...of Melchizedek. Psalm 110:4.
14. Thou shalt not do any work (on the Sabbath), thou, ...thy son. Exodus 20:10.
15. The children of Reuben and Gad called the altar by what name? Joshua 22:34.
16. Peter stood with the ...and lifted up his voice. Acts 2:14.
18. Simeon, that was called...was in the church at Antioch. Acts 13:1.
19. The Lord told Moses to make what out of brass? Exodus 30:18.
24. The kingdom of God...hand. Mark 1:15.
25. Remember...thy Creator. Ecclesiastes 12:1.
29. If thine...offend thee, pluck it out, Matthew 18:9.
31. ...and ye shall find. Matthew 7:7.



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THE GOSPEL

*(Psalm 78)
By Pat Evans*

*Be not stubborn like our fathers,
A rebellious lot were they;
They even stood there in His presence,
And heard Jesus say His say.*

*A generation that set not their heart aright,
In His covenant they were not steadfast;
Many times their actions provoked Him,
And they continually stirred up His wrath.*

*But He, being full of compassion,
Remembered they were still only men;
Just like the wind that passes by quickly,
Or a wisp of vapor, never seen again.*

*He taught us the gospel in parables,
And He uttered dark sayings of old;
We are to cherish His truth and His wisdom,
More valuable than silver or gold.*

*For the law of the Lord is perfect,
And His statutes are right and pure;
Converting souls and making wise the simple,
The testimony of the Lord is sure.*

*We should teach these truths to our children,
And keep sharing with generations to come
About the signs, and wonders, and miracles,
And all the great things that He's done.*

*More desirable than jewels or treasure,
We should study to show us approved;
We shall not want if the Lord is our shepherd,
And on us His Spirit has moved.*

