

The Advocate of Truth

*The Doctrine
of the Trinity*

*Sitting at the
Feet*

*Our True
God*

Hezekiah



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Trinity Myths

The Doctrine of the Trinity

By David DeLong

Almost every denomination in christendom accepts the doctrine of the trinity as truth. Indeed, some denominations make this doctrine a qualification for membership, or fellowship, within their groups. But is the doctrine of the trinity really truth? Does it matter what one believes on this subject? What does the Bible teach about it?

First, I would like to say that a recognition of the trinity was universal in all the ancient nations of the world. In India, for example, in a cave-temple, their trinity is shown with three heads on one body with the name Eko Deva Trimurti (one God, three forms). In Japan, Buddhists worship Buddha with heads in the same form under the name San Pao Fuh.

In the countries of Babylon and Egypt, the equilateral triangle was used to symbolically show, or depict, their trinity. The Papacy later adopted this symbol. With regard to the doctrine of the trinity, a change took place in the Babylonian mind. Now the trinity was seen as, "the Eternal Father, the Spirit of God incarnate in a human mother, and a Divine Son, the fruit of that incarnation." (See, "The Two Babylons", pp. 16-19).

The trinity doctrine was not established into christendom until the latter half of the second century after Christ (150 plus, A.D.). The Church of God did not, (and still does not), teach such a doctrine. None of the apostles, including Peter and Paul; none of any of the early disciples of Jesus ever taught a trinity. It was not even an

official doctrine of Rome until it was adopted by the Roman Emperor, Constantine, at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.

History is good and it can give us information on various beliefs and practices in the past. But the real test of truth is whether any teaching can stand up to the scrutiny of the Scriptures. Can the doctrine of the trinity do so? We must know the answer to this question because the very nature and being of God are at stake. To know God, one must have a proper understanding of Who He is as portrayed in the pages of the Bible. In other words, we must understand the Self-revelation that God has given to man.

To start with, let us go to the passage of Scripture which is used, perhaps, as the foundation for the teaching of the trinity. This is I John 5:7, and it reads, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." This sounds like a good verse to prove the doctrine of the trinity. It appears to be saying that the Father, the Son (the Word), and the Holy Ghost are manifested as one being. However, when we examine this verse we find that it has, tragically, been added to the Bible. The Scofield Bible note on this verse reads, "It is generally agreed that v. 7 has no real authority, and has been inserted."

Nowhere in the Bible do we find the teaching of three co-equal, co-eternal individuals (a trinity) in the Godhead.

Rather, we find that there are only two Persons--the Father and the Son--in the Godhead, and the second Person, the Son, is *always* subordinate to the Father. In other words, not only is the doctrine of the trinity not taught in the Scriptures, but the doctrine of a *binity* (two co-equal persons) is not taught as well. Let us examine some texts from the Bible which shows this.

In Daniel chapter 7, verses 1-12, we read where four beasts (nations or empires) were to rise upon the earth. Then in verses 13 and 14 God's Kingdom is given to Jesus, Who rules with great authority. We read the words of Daniel's prophecy: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Only two divine Persons are recorded here--the Son of man (Jesus), and the Ancient of days (God, the Father).

This is a significant revelation which was given to Daniel (and to us). It was the Father Who gave the Kingdom to the Son. Everything that Jesus has, or is, was given to Him by His Father. Even after Jesus' millennial reign, He will turn the Kingdom over to God. I Corinthians 15:24-28 informs us: "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

After His resurrection, we read about our Lord, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). This power, as we have seen, will enable Jesus to reign until all of His enemies are destroyed. In the book of Psalms, chapter 110, verse 1, we read David's prophecy concerning this: "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." "The LORD" (Yahweh) is the One speaking to "my Lord"

(Jesus) in this verse. (See Matthew 22:41-45 for confirmation of this).

The power and authority that Jesus received from the Father will also be shared with those who overcome in this life. We learn from Revelation 3:21; 2:26,27: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne...And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

So pleased was the Father with His Son, Jesus, that He has entrusted Him with everything. Colossians 1:17-19 tells us: "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell..." Acts 2:36 puts it this way: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Some may contend that Jesus, in these passages, was just being submissive to the Father as an example to His followers. These people teach that He was actually co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and, therefore, was only subordinate to Him as a lesson in humility. But this is *not* what Jesus taught. In John 10:29, where Jesus is referring to His sheep, He said, "My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." When Jesus said, "My Father...is greater than all...", did He mean Himself as well? Absolutely! John 14:28 records Jesus' statement which plainly says, "...my Father is greater than I."

In fact, Jesus even claims the Father to be *His* God. After His resurrection, Jesus confronted Mary Magdalene near His sepulchre. Notice what He said to Mary. "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17). In His intercessory prayer for His disciples, Jesus spoke these wonderful words, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).

The Father, in Jesus' Own words, is "the only true

God". Referring to the Father, Paul wrote that Jesus will show Him when He comes again. "Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen" (I Timothy 6:15,16). So, no man has ever seen God. (See also John 1:18; I John 4:12).

When Moses wanted to see the LORD'S glory, God told him, "...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 33:20-23). This, apparently, was the Father Who spoke with Moses. According to verse 20, seeing the Lord's *face* is tantamount to seeing Him. Moses was not allowed to see His face. However, Jesus' face was seen, and men lived. This was true when He was a man on earth, when He was in resurrected form, and when He was in glorified form (see Luke 22:64; Acts 1:3; Matthew 17:2; Revelation 1:13-15).

Since the Father is "the only true God", why then did the Apostle Thomas call Jesus "...My Lord and my God"? (John 20:28). Jesus is also called "God" in Hebrews 1:8: "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." This is from a prophecy in Psalm 45:6. Verse 7 is the second part of that prophecy, and is restated in Hebrews 1:9: "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." In this verse, once again, we see that the Father (God) is Jesus' God. Because of Jesus' love for righteousness, the Father "...anointed thee (Jesus) ...above thy fellows."

Now, in Ephesians 1:19-23 we find, through God's "mighty power", how high Jesus was elevated. He was placed far above any principality, power, might, dominion, and name, in this world and in the world to come. As the Son of God, He has a place, as we know, within the Godhead (see Colossians 2:8-10). He was given His Father's power and authority which enables Jesus to share, at least for a time, in the throne of the Father. Remember

that in Acts 2:36, Jesus was *made* "both Lord and Christ."

Let's notice carefully what Jesus told the Jews in John 10. They had accused Jesus of blasphemy. Verses 33-36 reads: "The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?"

Jesus was partially quoting from Psalm 82:6. This complete verse, along with verse 7, informs us: "I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes." The word for "gods" in Psalm 82 is "elohiym", the same word used, in many places in the Old Testament, for God, Himself. In some instances it can refer to magistrates, or judges, or even to angels (see Strong's Concordance). Jesus was apparently referring to the leaders of Israel when He was quoting the passage about "gods".

Since even rulers of people can be termed "gods", then certainly Jesus, Who has a name above all names, Who is the only begotten Son of the Father, and Who presently shares in the Father's throne, can rightfully be termed "the Son of God"--a designation placing Him into the very Godhead. Now, the Father is supreme since He is eternal (Self-existent), omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. Jesus is none of those things (see John 5:19,30). Jesus, for instance, is not omniscient because in Mark 13:32 He said He didn't know the day of His return, and this was apparently true even after His resurrection (see Acts 1:6,7). Though Micah 5:2 refers to Jesus as "everlasting", the Hebrew word is "Olam", and can have the sense of being "concealed" or "time out of mind (past or future)". Jesus, as the Son of God, was apparently placed into the Godhead by inheritance and by begetting. He is "...the beginning of the creation of God" (Revelation 3:14). But, when was Jesus begotten by the Father?

There appear to be three times when Jesus was begotten as the Son of God. For the first possible time, we quote from John 1:18. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." This verse may be indicating that Jesus, as "the only begotten Son", came from the

very "bosom" of the Father. This could have been when Jesus was created, or begotten, by God before our universe existed.

The second "begettal" may have been when Jesus was born of Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 1:4-6, referring to Jesus, reads: "Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him."

The third time that Jesus was begotten, it appears, was at the time of His resurrection. Paul, in preaching to the men of Israel proclaimed in Acts 13:32,33: "And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee."

In this study, do we show the Son of God to be of lesser importance to us since He is subordinate to the Father in every way? May God forbid! Jesus is the Person most highly exalted of God. Please read Ephesians 1:19-23. It is just that everything, including His very life and being, and His extremely exalted position in the Godhead, were given Him by the Father. We, along with the angels of God, are to *worship* Him!

In the above passages, we have seen that the Godhead is made up of only the Father and the Son. But what about the Holy Spirit? The following passages of Scripture will show that the Holy Spirit is not a separate Person, but is the Power of God and of His Son.

John 4:24 explains to us that "God is a Spirit..." He is also holy (see I Peter 1:15,16). He is able to send forth His Spirit (as an extension of Himself, if you will) to create things. Psalm 104:30 reads, "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth." God's Spirit begot Jesus in Mary's womb. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost...But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou

son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:18,20). (If there was a trinity, the Holy Spirit would have been the Father of Jesus. God, however, sent forth His Spirit--a part of Himself--and, as we know, He is the Father of Jesus).

Since God can think, act, testify, etc. God's Spirit can do the same (see, Acts 15:28,29; Acts 13:1,2; I Peter 1:11). The Holy Spirit also comes through Jesus Christ (Acts 2:32,33; Colossians 3:11; Colossians 1:27). It is the *same* Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9). Jesus identified Himself with the Spirit in John 14:15-18. "If ye love me, keep my commandments. 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. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."

The Holy Spirit is referred to as being poured out. In Acts 2:17,18 we find: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy..." The Spirit was shown as a "...rushing mighty wind..." and "...cloven tongues like as of fire..." (Acts 2:2,3).

The Spirit of God was mighty upon Jesus so that He could do the will of God. We find this in Isaiah 11:2,3: "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears..." (See also Luke 4:17-19). May God's Spirit be mighty upon us, as well.

The Bible teaches not a trinity, but rather, one true God (the Father); one obedient, submissive, only begotten Son (the Father and the Son comprise the Godhead); and their one Spirit--the Power of God--to accomplish their will.



Morning devotion at the April conference in Myanmar

Sitting At The Feet Of ...

By Carol Buechner

Imagine yourself sitting in a lush field of green grass in a quiet and peaceful valley. You look up and behold the beauty and grandeur of the mountains surrounding the valley. You are filled with inspiration by what you behold and thank God for this wonderful pleasure. You have been lifted in your spirit by the experience. Suppose now that you are sitting on the ground and when you look up you see a huge volcano erupting, spewing fire and brimstone all around. Hot lava is flowing down the mountainside rapidly approaching where you are sitting. It is not likely that you are going to sit very long admiring this scene, for such action would have deadly consequences.

So it is true also in life that where you are sitting and what you are focusing upon can make life peaceful and blessed or frustrating and chaotic. There are many choices of sitting positions you may have in life and it is up to you to decide which ONE position will be the one that will bring God's blessings. You cannot take more than ONE position!

You are probably familiar with Mary and Martha, sisters to Lazarus, and have read their story before. Mary and Martha had each chosen their positions but Jesus approved only one. Carefully examine the scriptural

passage that relates to this occurrence in Luke 10: 38-42: "Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

What a contrast these two sisters present. Both had probably looked forward to the visit of their dear friend, Jesus. Upon the arrival of Jesus, Mary immediately sat humbly at Jesus' feet, heard Him teach, felt His presence, savored what He taught, bowed her head in prayer and listened intently to what words He would speak to her to enhance her spiritual life. It is easy to picture Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus, with a happy, contented and relaxed look on her face.

Martha, in contrast, was anxious and struggling, even angry because she had physical tasks that she wanted to

do. She probably had been checking the food that was cooking, counting to see how many guests were present, arranging and rearranging sitting positions for her guests, fluffing the pillows and flitting from place to place constantly, not ever really settling down to concentrate on what Jesus was saying. Her face would not be reflecting the peace and contentment that Mary's face did. Jesus told Martha that she had many choices of what to do and that she had made the wrong one. Mary had chosen the ONE necessary choice and that was settling down to listen to Him teach and minister to the group. Poor Martha must have been very upset because she wanted Mary to get up and help her but Jesus said that this was not what they should be doing. Her MANY choices were keeping Martha from sitting quietly and concentrating on what Jesus spoke. Had Martha just waited until Jesus finished speaking, the two women could have quickly taken care of all the things she was so worried about. That way both Mary and Martha would have gotten the ONE choice needed, time with Jesus, their Lord and Savior.

Think about the word: BUSYNESS. Busyness is a good description of how people act today. People can be involved in so much, and they spend their time running from here to there and there to here and everywhere. Often there is little time left from the day's activities and people fall into bed exhausted, unable to sleep because they are worried about the next day's activities and how everything will get done. A family can be like that as they spend their time going from one activity to another and have little time to spend together at home as a real family. Perhaps a person should stop and ask himself, "Why am I so busy, and is all of this really necessary?"

Doesn't the word busyness describe Martha quite well? Yes, Martha was serving her Lord, but she was so involved in all the preparations that she did not have the time to ENJOY His presence. It could be that she wanted everything just perfect for Jesus' visit but several things were actually unnecessary. Mary, however, was not worried about the physical things that needed to be done because she was excited about the opportunity she had to learn more from her Master.

As you can see from the example of Mary and Martha, there are some facts that need to be considered. The first fact has to do with physical activities, and the second has to do with spiritual activities.

Life is full of physical activities. There are jobs to go to, children and even grandchildren to be taken care of, meals to be prepared, housework (inside and outside) to do, meetings to attend, school activities to go to after school, church to attend and on and on. Physical involvement is necessary to live, but it can "get out of hand" as more and more things are added to the list. The list can get so long and complicated that the second fact is shoved out or neglected. This is what Martha was doing.

The second fact to be considered is the spiritual activities in one's life. Contemplating Mary's actions will give understanding into how she was reacting to life. Mary was sacrificing (offering her whole body, mind, soul, spirit, time, abilities, etc.) herself to Jesus because she knew from being with Him that He was the Savior, and she must live her life entirely for Him. Mary put Jesus as top priority in her life and nothing or no one would come before her devotion to Him. She showed her love and devotion to Jesus by an act of true sacrifice as recorded in John 12:3: "Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment." Most people who came to "sit at the feet of Jesus" were there to have their own needs met but Mary was there to honor Him rather than take from Him. This is true sacrifice. Could it be that Mary had a feeling deep in her heart that the time was near for the Master to die and wanted to sacrifice for Him while she still could? When some of the people that were present saw Mary do this, they murmured and complained about her wasting the ointment, which could have been sold, and the poor would have benefited. Jesus' response to these people told a clear message: "And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" (Mark 14:6-9). Jesus commended Mary for her sacrifice. Would you be commended or condemned by your actions?

What does it mean to sacrifice as Mary did? How important are sacrifices? God gave the ultimate sacrifice.

He sent His beloved Son to live on earth and to be offered, sacrificed, and killed for the sins of all human beings. Can you imagine what it must have been like for God to watch His Son go through the horrendous and inhumane treatment that was done to Him? It must have been agonizing for God but He did it for all of us because: "...God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Now consider what Jesus went through for you as a living sacrifice. The physical mistreatment is incomprehensible. The beatings, humiliations and then being nailed to the cross to die, are what Jesus did for you and me and every human so that we can have our sins forgiven and enter into the gates of the New Jerusalem when Jesus returns. Could you ask for more? What if you had to go through this? Think about it as you read only a portion of what Jesus went through as written in Matthew 27:22,27-31,34-35: "Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified...Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him...They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots..." This is only a sample of the humiliation Christ suffered for us. There is something very important to keep in your heart as you meditate on this sacrificial act that Jesus did. "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34). In the midst of all this degradation, pain, ridicule and suffering, Jesus forgave those who did all of this to him! What a remarkable thing to be able to do! This in itself is a tremendous sacrifice. Do you have others in your life that you need to forgive? What they did to you cannot in any way match what was done to your Lord Jesus.

How important are sacrifices? Without the sacrifices of God and His Son what would you be facing? Your sins and death! Jesus went through all of this for you, me, and anybody else that will accept Him as Savior, and those that do accept Him will have the right to enter in through the gates of the New Jerusalem to enjoy eternal life.

What about you? Do you claim to be a Christian? Do you need to make a sacrifice of your life? As always the Scriptures will tell you what is needed. Carefully scrutinize each passage and decide what can be learned from what is spoken and how it can be applied to your life. Start by reading Romans 12:1-2: "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." This passage speaks clear instructions. You are to give your body as a living sacrifice, being holy (dedicated to serving God) and living in a manner that is worthy and pleasing to God. It is showing that you are sincere and showing good judgment in your life choices. Here you can see two choices. The first one to consider is clinging to and living by worldly standards. Or, you can make the other choice of being transformed or completely changed by the renewing, refreshing or reviving of your mind. How would you do that? Do you suppose that a steady diet of television, movies, computer games, cell phones and other such activities (worldly busyness) would lead you to the kind of mind you need to have? It can only be done by spending time with God in His Word and talking to Him in prayer. Worldly activities lead to worldly thinking and acting. Godly activities lead to spiritual thinking and acting. How can you know what is expected of you if you do not know how God thinks?

Other important passages to consider are found in the following two references: "And he (Jesus) said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through

nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also...No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon...But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things (needs) shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:19-21,24,33). The world has so much to offer and is a great temptation. It doesn't take long to be drawn into the deception of all the things that exist for pleasure and perceived needs. You can only serve ONE and that is the Father because the world is temporary and God is eternal. How much of your time is spent for Him now? Do your worldly ways come before God's ways? Worldly ways “rub off” onto you easier than you may realize. The things you treasure the most are the things that will master your life. Worldly people “rub off” onto you and change your way of thinking without even noticing it. A diary of how you spend your time might help you determine where your “treasure” is.

Two more vital passages, with advice from Jesus and the Apostle Paul, will enlighten you more as to how you must be a living sacrifice. “And when he (Jesus) had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:34-38). Paul states: “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin...” (Romans 6:11-13). Jesus said that you MUST refuse or reject the ways of the world and follow His ways in your life. Do you want to follow Jesus or not? Are the ways of the world worth it as compared to meeting Jesus in the air when He returns? Paul's admonition is similar in that he is telling you to give up sin and not obey

the lusts of your flesh by letting the world control you. Spend your life truly alive through following the words of God and the Lord Jesus.

Examination of some Scriptures from Ephesians chapter four will remind you of what happened to you as a new Christian. If you have been a Christian for several years, you may need reminders as to how you are to be conducting your life. Sometimes a person drifts away from the ways of righteousness and they do not even realize it. “If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye PUT OFF concerning the former conversation the OLD MAN, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye PUT ON the NEW MAN, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:21-24). The passage actually continues to a list of things that you need to PUT OFF. They include lying, anger, wrath, Satan's influence, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, clamour, evil speaking and malice. The things you must be sure to do are be kind, forgiving and edifying others. Have you gone back to some of the “old man ways of the world” that characterized you before you accepted Christ as your Savior? If so, you must revive the NEW MAN again that you may be right with God.

This article has discussed the fact that you must be a living sacrifice unto God with your whole being. That is your reasonable service, and this leads you into following the will of God. It may seem almost impossible but it is attainable. Carefully examine the eleven Scriptures given below and decide what will help you become like Christ with the mind that He would have. You may want to make a list of what you think is being pointed out.

John 8:31-32: “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

II Timothy 2:15: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

I Thessalonians 4:11-12: “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”

Luke 18:1: "And he (Jesus) spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

II Chronicles 7:14-15: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place."

I John 3:22: "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

Philippians 4:6-7: "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."

Acts 5:29: "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

Romans 6:16-18: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness; But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

I Peter 1:13-16, 22-23,25: "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy...Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently; Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever...But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

I Peter 4:7-11: "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all

things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

There is an abundance of knowledge and instruction in these eleven scriptural passages. It can be put into four different categories for summary purposes: 1. STUDY 2. PRAYER 3. OBEDIENCE 4. GLORIFICATION.

The first category, comes down to some extremely important considerations of how to study God's Word. Study is not merely a process of reading but it involves particular attention in order to acquire knowledge, understanding, revelation, wisdom and so much more. The process requires concentrating, making comparisons, scrutinizing, absorbing, exploring, investigating, meditating and memorizing so that true knowledge will be the result. You cannot take one Scripture and base your belief on it, but it is a necessity to find other Scriptures to back it up. When you truly STUDY, you will know the truth that makes you free, be approved of God, not ashamed because of right interpretation of the Word, are quiet, doing you own business, working for the Lord, walking honestly and lack nothing. Keeping yourself right will be more important than trying to keep others right.

Category two is prayer and it is simply talking and listening to God. It is not a two minute emergency talk but a continuous discourse with God throughout every waking hour of life. Prayer sessions are a time to humble yourself, seek the presence of the Lord, confess your sins, make requests, praise and offer thanksgiving. As you study His Word and beseech Him and pray earnestly and sincerely, you will be doing what pleases God because you know what He requires. Doing this will get God's attention, and He will bless you and give you peace for your faithfulness.

Obedience, the third category to be considered, is so important because when you yield to someone you become his servant and obey him, which can lead to death or righteousness to life. To obey is to be guided by, carry out instructions or orders, submit to the control of, respond to and to do the will of. When you obey God you are that

NEW MAN and not the OLD MAN following lustful ways. His holiness is your holiness. Along with obedience comes soberness, hope, godly speaking, pure love for others, and growing more and more to be like Jesus every day in a sacrificial life.

The last category is glorification and that means to exalt and honor, praise abundantly, venerate and acclaim. To whom are you bringing glorification? Is it God or Satan? The choice is yours. As Peter warned, "The end of all things is at hand." You need to be sober (serious, solemn, earnest, temperate, steady, clear-minded), prayerful, fervently (having or showing great warmth of feeling, intensely devoted) involved in charity (love, affection, kindness, compassion), no grudges, hospitable, good stewards, ministering the truth from the ability God gave you and so much more. This will bring glorification to God and the Lord because it will set an example for others and encourage others to do the same.

Be extremely careful as you answer the following questions for they may give you clues as to your sacrificial condition. Are you serving God and the Lord Jesus for what THEY CAN DO FOR YOU? Or are you serving THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE? Are you expecting God to do it all for you? Or are you willing to sacrifice and do your part? Where are you sitting? Is it at the "feet of" the world, other people, pleasures, self-gratification, having your own way, money, job, addiction, and on and on? Or are you SITTING SACRIFICIALLY AT THE FEET OF JESUS?

Remember Martha and Mary as you memorize and study with all your heart the following Scriptures:

Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech (beg, earnestly plead) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present (place, give) your bodies (mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically) a living sacrifice, holy (dedicated, consecrated, pure), acceptable (adequate, satisfactory) unto God, which is your reasonable (level-headed, rational, intelligent, worthy) service (condition of being a servant and doing what is required). And be not conformed (adapted, shaped) to this world: but be ye transformed (changed, converted) by the renewing (make fresh and strong, reviving, rehabilitating, reinvigorating) of your mind, that ye may prove (demonstrate, confirm, substantiate) what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 13:14: "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,

and make not provision (preparation, supply, arrangement) for the flesh, to fulfill (satisfy, carry out, obey) the lusts (bodily appetites, pleasures, intense desires) thereof."

Our True God

By Alisha Bernard(Grenada)

God Who made the heaven and earth,
creatures and man.

God Who put the breath of life in us, so that
we can live and grow.

Our true God He is, your true God He
should be.

The God who made the law,

The God who made it all.

He made humanity, the world and life itself.

Of course He did!

He made it all.

He is supreme and just, the only true God.

O yes He is! O yes He is!

The true and only God.



HEZEKIAH DARE TO DO RIGHT

Contributed by Bond Tennant

Elder Kawl performing a baptism during the April Conference in Myanmar

"Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses. And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city" (II Kings 18:1-8).

Hezekiah chose the right motive. He did "...that which was right in the sight of the LORD..." (II Kings 18:3). He was not so foolish as to trust in his own heart or to be guided by the light of his own eyes.

It takes courage to do what is right in the sight of

God. Any dead or sickly fish can go with the stream. Joshua made the same choice when he said, "...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

Hezekiah put things in their right place. "He removed the high places and brake the images, and cut down the groves..." (II Kings 18:4). He caused all the uncleanness to be cast out of the Temple and all the vessels to be restored (see II Chronicles 29:16-18).

The things which dishonored God were broken down and cast out, while those things that honored Him were set up. Things that hinder our service to God must be removed. There must not be "places" or "images" in our hearts or homes that would occupy a higher position in our esteem than the things of God. We must put things in their right place by putting first things first. Moses did this. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26).

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Hezekiah called things by their right name.



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.

BATTERED HAITI CALLS ON VODOO PRIESTS FOR HELP

After quake, Island's religion gets practical role
By Brian Macquarrie
Boston Globe

Mariani, Haiti - To the outside world, their faith has long been shrouded in mystery, ministering as much to the dead as the living, and associated with images of animal sacrifices and human skulls.

But in post-quake Haiti, the practitioners of voodoo have taken on a more practical role, enlisted by the government to help count the dead, tend to the injured and soothe the psychologically damaged.

"One must understand that Haiti is voodoo," said Max Beauvoir, 75, the "pope" of Haitian voodoo and a former biochemical engineer who once worked for Digital Equipment in Maryland, Mass. "Helping Haitians is nothing else but helping ourselves."

The United Nations has reached out to the vast network of about 60,000 voodoo priests in Haiti, Beauvoir said. And the priests, entrenched in their communities, are eager to lend a hand.

In a nation where government barely functions, and where more than half the population of 9 million is believed to practice voodoo in some form, the assistance of these priests is critical to assess the situation.

Looking for healing

In addition to conducting an informal census of the dead and injured, the priests--"houngan" if a man, "mambo" if a woman--have been busy practicing their healing arts.

In a tent city in the Port-au-Prince suburb of Petionville, the local mambo, Lamerce Charles Pierre, recently stood beside a pregnant woman who had been bleeding heavily. After a treatment of voodoo medicine, Pierre said, the bleeding stopped.

Another woman, ambling into the conversation, said that she had been traumatized by the earthquake, but that Pierre and a voodoo ritual involving coffee leaves had restored her sanity.

"If not for her," the woman said of Pierre, "I would be running crazy in the street, I would be hit by a car."

The living are the priority, of course, but the dead hold an essential place in voodoo culture.

A few hundred yards down a steep hill, a voodoo sanctuary that survived while all around it disintegrated, Pierre walked among three "spirit rooms," where human skulls, voodoo dolls, murals of dancing skeletons and the belongings of the newly dead had been stored.

"This is where we call the spirits," Pierre said. "In the voodoo, we only do good."

Respecting religions

Beauvoir stressed that he respects all religions, despite what he sees as others' disrespect for voodoo.

Christian televangelist Pat Robertson, for example, said Haitians had been cursed by a "pact with the devil," referring to a 1791 voodoo ceremony that began their revolution against the French.

"Do we sacrifice animals? Of course we do," Beauvoir said. "There is nothing we do that does not implicate nature."

Haitian voodoo holds that a single spirit has 16 lives, equally divided between male and female lives.

After each death, the spirit returns to the sea, Beauvoir said, where it is cleansed before "a proper body" is found for the next incarnation. Throughout the cycle, he said, the spirits of the dead are a constant, accessible presence. In a striking symbol of the belief, a sculpture in the sanctuary's amphitheater shows a skeleton locked in an embrace with a woman who represents Haiti.

"She dances with her tradition," Beauvoir said, "and with all of her ancestors who are dead."

The calamity, Beauvoir believes, is a chance for Haiti's voodoo culture to reassert itself by taking a prominent role in the recovery.

"It is inconceivable," Beauvoir said he hopes, "that people will think about Haiti without thinking about voodoo."

Houston Chronicle

Comment

The voodoo priests cannot help battered Haiti. What little consolation the people receive there will give them a false security. The evil spirit world has the power to perform miracles and cures such as the stopping of blood and restoring sanity by a voodoo ritual.

Voodoo is among the religions that give heed to

seducing spirits and doctrines of devils which we read about in I Timothy 4:1.

Survey reveals nearly 1 in 4 Christians dabble into Eastern, New Age Beliefs

By Adelle M. Banks
Religion News Service

Washington - The vast majority of U.S. residents may be Christian, but nearly a quarter of them delve into a range of Eastern or New Age beliefs, a new study shows.

Asked about their supernatural experiences, significant minorities of American Christian respondents said they believe in astrology (23 percent), reincarnation (22 percent), spiritual energy in physical things like trees or crystals (23 percent) and yoga as a spiritual practice (21 percent).

The survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found that Christians are about as likely as Americans overall to say they've been in touch with the dead (29 percent), had an experience with a ghost (17 percent) or consulted a psychic (14 percent).

"With the exception of white evangelicals, majorities of all major religious traditions report holding at least one of these beliefs or having experienced one of these phenomena," the survey concluded.

The Bulletin

Comment

God is a jealous God, and He does not want anyone to practice anything which is condemned in His Word and originates from the worship of other gods. To do so is blasphemy. Dabbling in Eastern, New Age beliefs is akin to observing Christmas and Easter.

Sunday Sanctity Law

From an email sent by one of our brethren, we learn that Europe has attempted to adopt a law on the sanctity of Sunday. By God's providence, this law was only signed by 261 members of parliament. A signing from 394 members in favor of the law was required.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: I Corinthians 15:44, when speaking of the body, reads: "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." Just what is a "spiritual body"?

ANSWER: The term "spiritual" as the Apostle Paul used it cannot mean "Made of Spirit." This would be a contradiction with the text beginning with verse 42: "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (I Corinthians 15:42-44). The contrast, as the authorized version seems to imply, is not between matter and spirit, but what is material and immaterial. The contrast is between what is animal and what is spiritual, or to use the apostle's own words, it is a contrast between what is "Psychical" and what is "Pneumatic" (like the wind).

The statement which the apostle makes is this: There is a psychical body, a body suited to the earth and flesh, and there is a pneumatic body or body suited to the heavenly things of our nature. And the apostle's argument is this: As sure as we have a body suited to our lower psychical nature, just so certain shall we receive a body suited to our higher pneumatic nature. It is sown a psychical body--it is raised a pneumatic body. As there is a psychical

body so is there a pneumatic body. How true this statement is! However though unsuited to the higher spiritual body, for we are not yet like the wind, the present body is definitely suited to the animal psychical nature. Notice how readily your body obeys the natural instincts of animal nature. Notice how reluctant we are to the spiritual things above. There is no man that finds the body such a fit instrument of his wants and instincts and tendencies to destroy and be as a savage.

Glance now at the other statement that the coming body is going to be a pneumatic body. The man will become energy and will be like Jesus when He was resurrected from the tomb even though the stone had not yet been rolled away. The pneuma, or power of God, is the highest part of man's nature--that part which is made after the likeness of God and His Son Jesus.

When man becomes baptized and is a new creature in Christ, he is begotten by the pneuma and will at some later time be born of the pneuma. This is a mystery, this is Christ in you the hope of glory. Man can then become a partaker of the Divine Nature. It needs little argument to show that in what respects this present body is most suited to psychical, animal nature. In those respects, it is most unsuited to our pneumatic spiritual nature. While the body is an unobstructed inlet and outlet for the psyche, it is a blockaded port to the pneuma. It is easy to walk by sight,

which is psychical life, for here we have the help of the body. It is here we have the embargo of the body. It is a daily task for the child of God to keep his body under subjection and to bring it into subjection. By doing this, it clarifies and sharpens the spiritual sense and girds up the pneumatic powers.

What a glorious body that redeemed body will be! What will be its figure or precise nature we know not, for the Bible has not revealed it. But we do know, because the Bible has revealed it, that it will be a body as perfectly suited to the pneuma, or our higher nature, as the present body is suited to the psyche. The pneuma is incomparably nobler than the psychical with the power of God behind it.

QUESTION: Can you please explain Proverbs 29:18 where it says: "Where there is no vision, the people perish..."? What is the meaning of the word "Vision"?

ANSWER: When one hears about visions, it is mostly imagination, emotional dreams, and very often of demonic origin.

By that statement, every reader should immediately know that we do not speak about modern emotional tendencies of visions which is being promoted extensively by emotional groups.

The Random House dictionary explains vision (1) act of seeing with the eye, (2) perceiving what is not actually present, (3) something seen or presented to the mind, (4) mental view or image, (5) vivid imagination, (6) a sight seen in a dream, trance, etc. We are not speaking about that, but the biblical vision, such as for instance Moses had, as we read in Hebrews 11:27: "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, AS SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE." The Apostle Paul also had this vision, and he writes in II Corinthians 4:18: "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." This verse uncovers exactly the great need in the Church of God today. The church looks too much upon the visible, on the temporal, and that is nothing other than stubborn disbelief. That was also Lot's tragedy. He

saw with his eyes the beautiful surroundings of Jordan and made his decision on the basis of the visible. Lacking in his life was the spiritual vision, that is the vision of faith, the great and wide fields of harvest, but the laborers are few! In contrast to that, those who have no visions remain centered in their small circle, in the church, and do not see the need of the great harvest field and laborers, they have no vision. When you read Hebrews 12:2, "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", then you tend to move to see that which the natural eye does not see. That is a vision in a biblical sense! All work done for the Body of Christ without such a vision of faith, degenerates ultimately in self-satisfaction and self-purpose.

Let us illustrate it. If we look at our limited strength and gifts, then we must cease to work. If we should concentrate on the stumbling blocks, the vicious words we hear, then we would have to stop working. If we should analyze the means we have at our disposal to continue our work, then we have more than sufficient reason to cease the work the Lord has entrusted to us.

But thank the Lord that He shows us, in His grace, the many unlimited, wonderful possibilities in which He takes care of His work. He gives overwhelming strength, and only He is able to hinder and block off all the powers of Satan because He is and remains the victor for all eternity. That is a biblical vision. If there is no such vision present, then the people (we) will indeed perish!

QUESTION: Where was the "upper room" located when the first gathering of the disciples and converts took place?

ANSWER: The "upper room," mentioned in Acts 1, where the first gathering of disciples and converts was held after the ascension, may have been in the house of one of the apostles. However, the general view is that it was probably the upper chamber in a house, the owners of which made it a custom to hire out such rooms for meeting purposes. It is claimed that this custom was known in Jerusalem long before Christ.

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

BY DEL DELONG

Myanmar Conference, April 2010



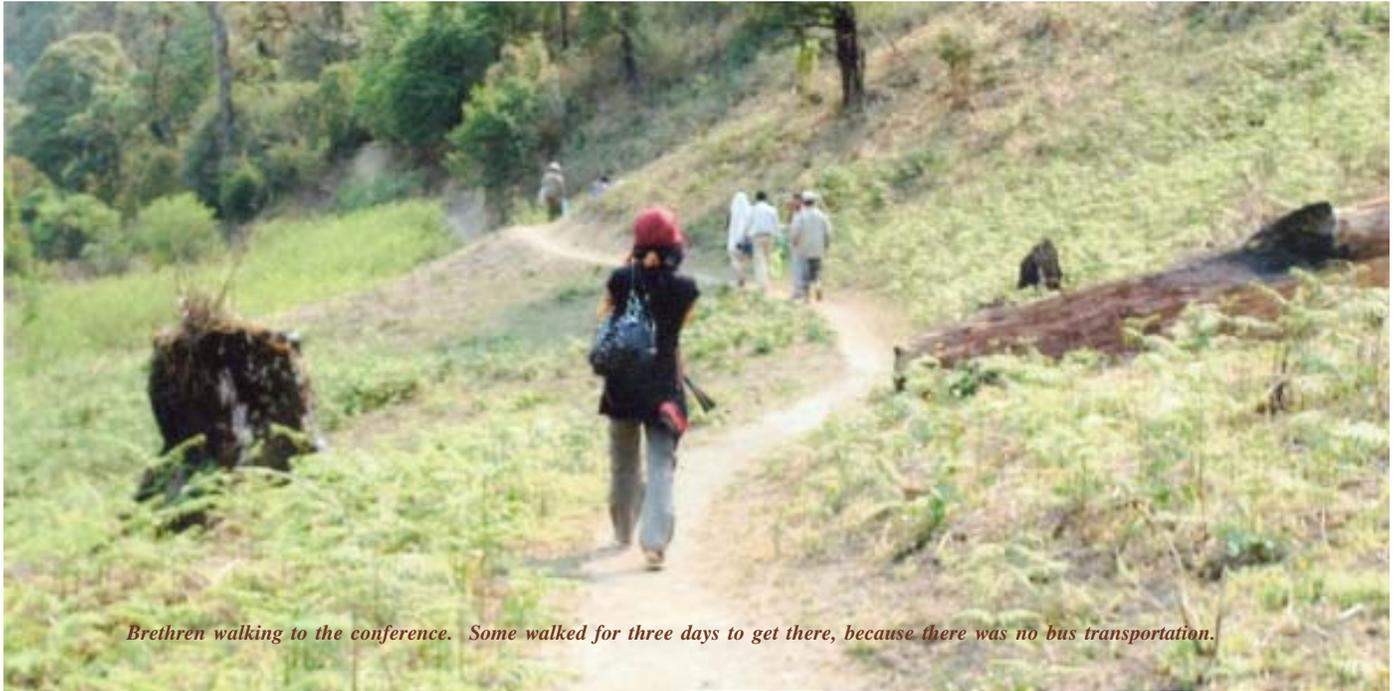
Hakha youth are singing at the conference.



Baptism



Baptism



Brethren walking to the conference. Some walked for three days to get there, because there was no bus transportation.



Opening prayer is given before the baptism service.



Here, some elders and their wives give a presentation at the conference.



Baptism



Baptism



Baptism



Baptism

LESSON I

REBEKAH SEES ISAAC

Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:60-67.

Golden Text: Genesis 24:64.

“And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.”

1. What did Rebekah’s family say to her just before she left? Genesis 24:60.
2. How did she travel? Genesis 24:61.
3. Where did Isaac live at this time? Genesis 24:62.
4. What was he doing, and what did he see? Genesis 24:63.
5. What did Rebekah do when she saw Isaac? Genesis 24:64.
6. When she found out that it was Isaac, what did she do? Genesis 24:65.
7. Where did Isaac take her, and what did he think of her? Genesis 24:67.

LESSON II

JACOB AND ESAU

Scripture Reading: Genesis 25:11, 20-34.

Golden Text: Genesis 25:27.

“And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.”

1. After Abraham’s death, what did God do to Isaac? Genesis 25:11.
2. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah?

Genesis 25:20.

3. What prophecy did God tell Rebekah concerning her twin sons that were to be born? Genesis 25:23-24.
4. What was the name of the first one born, and who was born second? Genesis 25:25-26.
5. What type of men were the two brothers, and who loved each one the most? Genesis 25:27-28.
6. Why did Esau want some of Jacob’s pottage? Genesis 25:30.
7. Why did Esau agree to sell his birthright? Genesis 25:31-33.
8. What did Esau do after he had received the pottage of lentils? Genesis 25:34.

LESSON III

JACOB RECEIVES ISAAC’S BLESSING

Scripture Reading: Genesis 27:1-29.

Golden Text: Genesis 27:22.

“And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.”

1. When Isaac was old and his eyes dim, what did he say to his son Esau? Genesis 27:1-4.
2. Rebekah hears what Isaac tells Esau. What did she then tell Jacob to do? Genesis 27:8-10.
3. What concern did Jacob have in doing this? Genesis 27:11-12.
4. What did Rebekah say would happen if he got caught, and did Jacob obey his mother? Genesis 27:13-14.
5. What did Jacob’s mother give to him to put on? Genesis

27:15-17.

6. How did Jacob receive the birthright blessing from his father? Genesis 27:21-29.

NOTE: Jacob lied to his father and was deceitful. God tells us not to lie to anyone (see, Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 24:28). Jacob is punished for his sins as you will learn in a future lesson.

7. Was Esau upset that Jacob received his father's blessing? Genesis 27:34,41.

LESSON IV

JACOB'S VISION

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:1-22.

Golden Text: Genesis 28:16.

"And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not."

1. Where did Isaac tell his son, Jacob, to go? Genesis 28:1-3.

2. What did Isaac continue to tell Jacob at this time? Genesis 28:3-5.

3. Where did Esau go to get a wife, and why did he do this? Genesis 28:6-9.

4. When Jacob left home, where did he go, and what did he dream? Genesis 28:10-15.

5. What did Jacob say about the place where he slept? Genesis 28:16-17.

6. What did Jacob do when he arose the next morning? Genesis 28:18-19.

7. What vow did Jacob make? Genesis 28:20-22.

Answers to: A SCRAMBLE TYPE PUZZLE

1. Hummingbird-Helicopter
2. Eye-Camera
3. Mind-Computer
4. Ear-Receiver
5. Shade-House
6. Bird-Airplane
7. Fish-Submarine
8. Ducks-Ships
9. Rain-Sprinkler
10. Scent-Perfume

SORRY BERTHA SUE

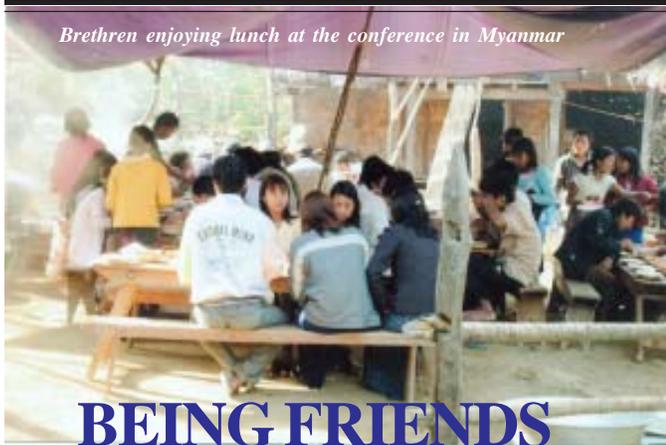
By Fern Row Casebeer

I've been a naughty little girl;
I'm sorry as can be.
I didn't want to disobey,
But Satan tempted me.

Will you forgive me, Mommy dear?
Forgive your Bertha Sue?
And I will do my very best
Always to mind you.

And when I say my little prayer
Before I go to bed
I'll ask dear Jesus to forgive
The naughty things I've said.

I want to be as Jesus was
When He was little, too.
I want to be a helpful child
And do as He would do.



"Oh, Miss Edgerton!" Tommy was in such a hurry to tell the news that he ran half a block to catch up with the teacher as she entered the school yard and then was so out of breath that he could not do anything but sputter for a minute.

"What is the matter?" asked Miss Edgerton, and she waited until Tommy calmed down.

"Denny Collins broke his leg!" cried Tommy. "He got knocked down by a car yesterday, and they put his leg in a cast, and he has to stay on a couch maybe three weeks!"

"Oh, poor Denny!" exclaimed Miss Edgerton, while the other children added what they had heard to Tommy's story.

"He'll have to stay all by himself 'cause his mother's away until five o'clock," put in Annabel.

"He won't have a chance to get the prize, will he, Miss Edgerton?" asked Peter Lowe.

"No, I'm afraid not," Miss Edgerton answered. "It's too bad, for Denny has worked very hard. He and you, Peter, and Lucy have stood the highest so far."

Peter looked at Lucy and Lucy looked at Peter. They said nothing to each other. Both wanted that prize as much as Denny did. It was a magazine for boys and girls to be given to the one who should make the highest grade for the term in arithmetic. Peter and Lucy were about even then, and Denny just a bit ahead of them. But if Denny had to miss three weeks--"I know I could get it!" said Peter to himself; and, "I knew that I could get it!" said Lucy to herself. But

neither of them said anything to the other. Peter couldn't keep from thinking, however, about how dreadful it would be to have to stay on a couch or a chair for three weeks, mostly by yourself and the prize, too. And Lucy remembered how her arm had hurt the time she fell out of the hammock and broke it. "And I'd just hate not to have a chance to win."

"Peter," said Miss Edgerton in the afternoon, "will you gather up all Denny's books and things? I'm going to ask you to take them to him. Maybe he can study at home."

"Yes, ma'am," said Peter, "I'll be glad to."

When he had strapped them all together neatly, he went up to Miss Edgerton's desk. "May I speak to Lucy a minute?" he asked. Miss Edgerton said, "Yes." Peter went back to his seat after whispering with Lucy, looking as though something very important indeed had been decided.

After school, Miss Edgerton found Peter and Lucy waiting to speak to her, plainly eager and excited about something.

"Miss Edgerton," began Peter, "we are going to take Denny's books to him every day and help him, you know, so maybe--we thought."

"If he can explain everything, Miss Edgerton, just like you do, and he works all the problems himself and sends them in to you, we thought maybe he'd have a chance for the prize, anyway," said Lucy.

Miss Edgerton looked amazed. "Of course, he would," she said, "but you two--it would lessen your chance, you know. No one else is near you."

"That's all right," Peter declared hastily, "we want him to have a fair chance, and if he wins it, why."

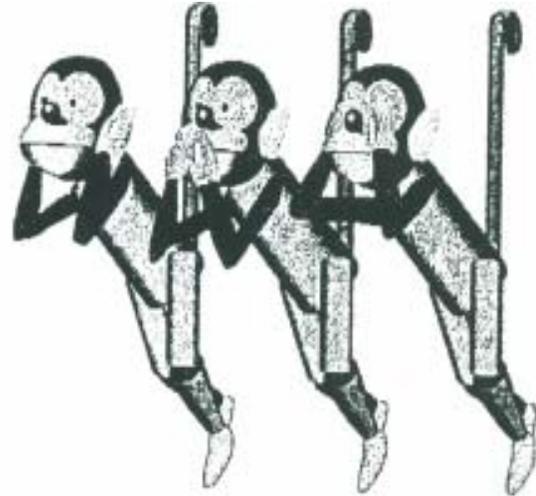
"We'll be glad," said Lucy. "We haven't any broken legs, you see, and Denny's worked so hard he deserves the prize."

"Then that's fine," said Miss Edgerton. "That is really a kind thing to do."

How did it turn out? Well, Denny, Peter, and Lucy all worked as hard as they could, fair and square, and Denny won the prize. They had become such good friends over the lessons that the magazine was passed from one to the other each month, and Miss Edgerton said: "It seems to me that you all won the prize."

A SCRABBLE TYPE PUZZLE

Many things that people have made are just imitations of God's creation. In the double puzzles below, the horizontal lines are things God has created. The vertical lines are man's imitation of it.



1. It flies straight up, down and sideways.
2. It sees.
3. It thinks.
4. It hears.
5. It protects its occupant.
6. It flies.
7. It swims under water.
8. They swim on top of the water.
9. It waters the lawn.
10. It gives a particular fragrance.

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Charity, Joy, and Peace

By Adam Rodriguez

There are three things that every man should seek: Charity, Joy,
and Peace.

Charity has many names, but the most important and direct name is
Love.

God's love for us is undying; the prime example for that being that
He sent His only Son to save us.

Our love for God, and one another, should be undying as well.

With Love, you must have Joy.

We cannot love God if we don't have joy in the things we do for
Him.

That means we should always have joy when we sing, pray, and
praise Him.

And if you have Love and Joy in your heart, you should always
have Peace in your heart.

If you do not have peace, you will not be able to see the Lord in all
His glory.

These are the reasons why a man should seek Charity, Joy, and
Peace.

