



The Advocate of Truth



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OLIVE OIL

By David Royer



We probably know that olives are green (unripe) turning darker until, dark purple or black (ripe), and eaten in a salad or specific recipes. The fruit and the one seed inside the pulp, is “pressed” (squeezed) to obtain oil from the fruit. Multiple processing techniques and various grades of olive oil are used for human consumption. But the oil from this (Mediterranean origin) fruit has many other uses. In addition to a food source, the Bible mentions these uses of olive oil:

- As a fuel for light. (Exodus 27:20, NASB), “You shall charge the sons of Israel, that they bring you clear oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually.”
- Used in anointing oil. **Priests:** (Exodus 40:15), “And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest’s office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.” **Kings:** (1 Samuel 10:1), “Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured *it* upon his [Saul’s] head, and kissed him, and said, *Is it* not because the LORD hath anointed thee *to be* captain over his inheritance?” **Prophets:** (Leviticus 4:5), “And the priest that is anointed shall take of the bullock’s blood, and bring it to the tabernacle of the congregation:” **The Tabernacle:** (Exodus 40:9), “And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that *is* therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.”
- Healing. (Mark 6:13), “And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.”
- As an offering. (Genesis 35:14), “And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, *even* a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.”
- Medicinal purposes. (Luke 10:34), “He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine...”. See also James 5:14.
- Burial. (Luke 23:56), “And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.” (Mark 14:8), “She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.”
- Cosmetic. (II Samuel 12:20), “Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed *himself*, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped...” (olive oil was applied to the hair and face, to condition both for the harsh arid climate.)
- Offering/sacrificial rituals. (Leviticus 2:1), “And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon:”
- To show honor to a guest. (Luke 7:46), Jesus speaking: “My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with

ointment”.

¹ "Figurative uses. Abundant oil was a figure of general prosperity (Deuteronomy 32:13; Deuteronomy 33:24; II Kings 18:32; Job 29:6; Joel 2:19, 24). Languishing of the oil indicated general famine (Joel 1:10; Haggai 1:11). Joy is described as the oil of joy (Isaiah 61:3), or the oil of gladness (Psalm 45:7; Hebrews 1:9). Ezekiel prophesies that the rivers shall run like oil, i.e. become viscous (Ezekiel 32:14). Words of deceit are softer than oil (Psalm 55:21; Proverbs 5:3). Cursing becomes a habit with the wicked as readily as oil soaks into bones (Psalm 109:18). Excessive use of oil indicates wastefulness (Proverbs 21:17), while the saving of it is a characteristic of the wise (Proverbs 21:20)." The lack of oil as a token of sorrow (II Samuel 14:2 ; Matthew 6:17).

As you review these uses of olive oil, notice that most references are found in the Old Testament. This oil was an integral part of people’s life in Bible-time history. The examples that impress me the most, are those that refer to healing and spiritual uses of olive oil in the act of ANOINTING. This anointing oil can be a representation of the Holy Spirit and a powerful tool of faith.

James (the brother and a disciple of Jesus) said: “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord shall raise him up” (James 5:14,15).

The same instruction works for us today. When in need, we ask for the “laying on of hands” by Elders and prayers to God (in Jesus’s name), anointing us with olive oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit for peace, healing and an increase of our faith. For remote believers, a handkerchief is prayed over and anointed with this oil. It is then sent by mail to those requesting prayer.

Dedication of infants and Church officers, selected for work in an organizational position, are anointed to consecrate (make holy) their life and work. The Bible says “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and

healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).

After Jesus was crucified and returned to His Father in Heaven, He sent us the gift of the Holy Spirit. “But ye have an unction [the action of anointing someone with oil] from the Holy One, and ye know all things” (1 John 2:20). “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, *is* God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts” (II Corinthians 1:21-22).

What a comfort for us in the Church! When our beliefs are ridiculed and scoffed at, by the world, friends and even family, we are thankful for being anointed to receive the Spirit of Truth.

(Endnotes)

¹
M.G Easton M.A., D.D., Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Third Edition, published by Thomas Nelson, 1897.



ABOUT THE TONGUE

Bond Tennant

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Proverbs 18:21).

The tongue is a servant. But whom is it serving? If we do not keep our hearts with all diligence, it may serve the world and the flesh, or even Satan himself! The tongue can also serve those who are in Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” (II Corinthians 5:17, first part). The New Creature desires to please God, and he wants to know God’s will so that he can properly serve Him. This is very important! Psalm 141:3 admonishes us, “Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” The psalmist here suggests a watchfulness before one speaks. Let us all set a watch before the words reach our lips.

The tongue may often demonstrate that we are imperfect. The mind, which in many ways influences our words, is a continual battleground. Because we are less than perfect, we will lose battles in the mind from time to time. Such losses will manifest themselves in less than wholesome words and actions. Let us give one example from the Scriptures. We recall the instance when the devil ... put into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus. Judas’ mind and heart failed to fight against it, and as a result, he suffered a great loss. We must keep in mind that if Satan could put it into the heart of Judas to commit such an act, he could also put evil thoughts into our hearts! We must fight using the entire armor of God which is found in Ephesians 6:11-18.

Satan has various methods. The Bible says “...we are not ignorant of his devices” (II Corinthians 2:11). Sometimes the Devil can put it into the hearts of the brethren to judge one another. The brethren have been called out of darkness into the light (I Peter 2:9), and they have the same desire to serve the Lord as we do. They may not serve in all the same way nor have the same temperament, but they all desire to serve the Lord. The most blessed hours we have ever spent have been in fellowship with those who enjoy “...like precious faith...” (II Peter 1:1).

Satan tried to win the battle with our Lord Jesus when he tempted Him in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Our Lord’s victory was gained by simply saying, “It is written.” When evil thoughts come into our minds, let us reject them as Jesus did with “It is written.”

WISDOM

By: Pat Evans

*What do we count as critically important
And effectual from the thoughts of man?
Where does all our knowledge come from,
And does it help us to fulfill God's holy plan?*

*Scriptures say the foundation of wisdom
All begins with the fear of the Lord;
An understanding of all of His commandments,
And the covenant that's contained in His Word.*

*Yet man's idea of worldly wisdom
Doesn't leave us much room for God;
Great achievements in the arts and business,
And "Beautiful People" are all given the nod.*

*How well you have done on Wall Street
Is the true measure for some today;
And they say you are destined for failure
If you don't get "on-line" right away.*

*There's always more and bigger and better,
So we continually live beyond our means;
To have the latest in gadgets and fashion,
And always be where we can see and be seen.*

*Yet, the world will eventually pass by you,
No matter how hard you try to stay ahead;
And then one day you'll ask God to help you,
To forgive the sinful life that you've led.*

*So if you want to start climbing the ladder
To success, and having a piece of it all;
Just make sure before you take that first step,
That the ladder is leaned up against the right
wall.*

*Look real hard at what the world has to offer,
And resist being taken in by it all;
And remember, you can't take anything with you
When Christ returns and the trump sounds the
call.*



RADICAL PREACHERS

Reprinted

When we hear ministers going forth and telling the people things about other preachers such as: “He is too strict,” “He is too outspoken,” “He is old-fashioned,” or “He is radical,” that person is on dangerous ground. It also shows to the hearer how highly the critic thinks of himself while denouncing his fellow servants.

Ministers who practice this fault-finding seem to us to be short-sighted (nearsighted) not able to see “Afar off.” They cannot believe that the Lord can use the same man in doing His will in another style or in another approach to the Gospel Message.

Then we must remember that the Master Teacher Jesus never told His disciples to go forth to win friends and influence people. They were to go forth and preach the Gospel, no more and no less. They were to use words and means to let others know the truth. People that love the Lord want God’s Word. He will send them the earnest of the Spirit for they will hear and love the truth. The natural listeners cannot and will not receive the truth. We praise the Lord for those He seeks to save and when they hear the truth, they are not offended at it. The truth cannot be destroyed no matter how hard it is attacked. The humble servant of the Lord need not to fear as long as his words are truth and righteousness. They may be harsh, they may be simple, but they are remembered and cannot be forgotten.

Just think of the Deacon Stephen: Was not his sermon most radical? It was so radical that the hearers put him to death. You can kill Stephen, but the truth he preached will stand, and you cannot kill that. Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” when he had told the truth standing before his own eyes. When men in Paul’s time tried to spy out

his liberty, he warned his disciples not to be brought into bondage to such, with their pet ideas and notions (Galatians 2:2-5).

A minister called by God is not one to just speak to a congregation that has itching ears. “*For the time will come when they [People] heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables*” (II Timothy 4:3-4). A preacher is not one to speak only for a sect or to speak only his own mind and create a cult, but he is a “Messenger from God” and should be filled with the fruit of the Spirit, manifesting love and charity for everyone, and to present the truth of God in a fearless way, leaving all results with Him by whom he is sent forth, and need not criticize and condemn others who may not be just like himself, but he even hates himself – and endeavors to lift up Jesus only and to “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*’ (II Timothy 4:2).

In the writer’s estimation, the dangerous minister is the person who has the desire to lord over others, and uplift himself as a standard, and can go about to presiding Elders, and preachers with greater responsibilities of the Church and talk to them about other hard working brethren, while they never will say a word to the brethren themselves.

Radical ministers are men who dare show forth the Master’s love in talking about their brethren in their absence, but who can speak face to face. In the east, we believe in the Apostle Paul’s words relative to a man being called to preach (I Timothy 3:4-5) or rule over a group of God’s people. For preachers who cannot govern their

own children, usually cannot have much influence over their flock, and can hardly have enough principle to meet their members face to face. We have met members who could not control their own children, who were impudent enough and tried to control churches, preachers, laity, etc.

Readers, pray for your ministers and as far as they are humble, and doing the will of the Lord, receive their advice with pleasantness and remember they are ordained of God to help you to understand the will of God. Stand by them when they are pastoring your group. Help them hold up with your prayers and good words. We are reminded of an incident where a layman complained of coldness and deadness existing in the church. Upon being asked what the Pastor was preaching about mostly, he replied, "Oh just now he is preaching mostly about the abominations that God hates." "... For there are seven abominations in his {man's} heart..." "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea SEVEN are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:16-19).

The cry among God's ministers need not be "Radical," but mostly it should be common sense. Our preaching should be the Word of God without interpretation. "Peace, peace, when there is no peace on earth," is very timely. May the Holy Spirit give unto every minister the love for souls, enabling us thereby to gladly die if need be, and be killed or slaughtered (by Pharisees or professors) all the day long, and just continuing to show forth our Lamb-like Spirit. May God's ministry be kept awake, and if need be, continue to sound an alarm amongst the Churches of God. True love will not permit the occupants of the burning house to perish. They will try to save them. So every minister must have the saving of people uppermost in his heart. Think on these things.



LIFE AND TIMES OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

By Tim Buechner

In order to gain better insight into the teachings of the Scriptures and a greater appreciation for the development of the Church with the early disciples, we are undertaking a series of studies on the Life and Times of the Apostle Paul. In the last edition of the Sabbath Christian Light, we learned about how God put different people in Paul's life for different purposes and reasons. In Acts 19:21-22, Paul deploys Timotheus and Erastus on a mission to Macedonia while he remained in Asia. In Acts 20:1-6 we see Paul travelling with a contingency of seven brothers of whom he said, "These going before tarried for us at Troas" (verse 5). It appears to me that as Paul's ministry matures and he begins to think about the future of the Church after his death, that he begins to engage others more and more with the work of spreading the Gospel in his place. While he is still healthy enough to travel, teach and preach, he begins to train others, some very young, to begin to take on the duties and responsibilities he has had since his conversion.

While in Miletus, he sends for the elders of Ephesus to meet with him and as he tells them he will never see them again, he charges them in the 28th verse of chapter 20 with taking care of the Church of God. As evidenced by Paul's letters to Timothy and others, he was very much involved in coaching and developing them to lead the Church. Let us follow Paul's example to provide opportunities, support and challenges to the youth and others who will become the future leaders of the Church of God. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" Acts 20:28.

One Can Make a Difference

By David DeLong

Sometimes we look at the world around us and think, "What can I do to make a difference?" But remember, God working with just one person is a majority, and He can make our feeble efforts turn to His honor and glory. Let us look at examples from the Scriptures where one person, or maybe just a few people, along with the Lord, made great differences in the world around them.

The first person to whom we will consider is Abel. He had, it appears, a proper relationship with the Lord. He offered to the Lord of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. The Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering. Even after Cain killed his brother, Abel still had a big impact in his death. Jesus, when scolding the scribes and Pharisees, said this of Abel in Matthew 23:34-35: "Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar." So, the righteous blood of Abel was, and still is, a testimony to the Lord.

The second person we shall look at is Seth, and his son, Enos. Not a lot of information is given us about Seth or Enos. However, in Genesis 4:26 we learn: "And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD." This text of Scripture seems to infer that men began to call upon the name of the Lord as a result of Seth and his son Enos. If that is the case, then it appears that these two men were used mightily of the Lord to attempt to cause a great revival to take place in the land. This was before the great Flood of Noah's time. Possibly the Lord was trying to prepare the world for this judgment. However, only eight people were saved from the Flood.

Then there is the case with Enoch. We probably know

more about him from the Bible. Genesis 5:21-24 informs us: "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

Enoch was not taken to God's third heaven, however. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:13: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." Enoch was taken up to the atmospheric heaven and transported to a different location. But, before this event, he was so close to the Lord that God removed him.

Noah, we are told from Genesis 6:8, "...found grace in the eyes of the LORD." We are also told this about Noah: "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). The rest of the world and its inhabitants were destroyed in the great Flood. Speaking of the Lord we learn: "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly" (II Peter 2:5).

Because of Noah's faithfulness we all exist today. Talk about one person making a difference!

Abraham and Sarah made a big difference in the world when they left their home in Ur/Haran and came to a land that God provided for them. "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of

Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south" (Genesis 12:1-9).

Later, when Abraham obeyed the voice of the Lord in offering up his son, God blessed the world through him. Genesis 22:15-18 informs us: "And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

Joseph is a wonderful example of someone making a difference. Though he was in prison for a time; though he was lied against; the Lord used him in a mighty way to preserve many lives. "And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine. And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth. And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail. And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their

cattle for that year. When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands: Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate. And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's. And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof. Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands. Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land. And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones. And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants. And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's" (Genesis 47:13-26).

Esther also made a great difference for the salvation of her people. She became queen in the place of Vashti, and was used mightily by the Lord so that the Jewish people were spared at that time. At one point, Esther courageously told Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16).

Because of Esther's courageous actions the enemies of the Jews were destroyed instead of the Jews. Esther 9:1-6 tells us: "Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in ex-

ecution, in the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to have power over them, (though it was turned to the contrary, that the Jews had rule over them that hated them;) The Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people. And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater. Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them. And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men."

The Patriarch Job proved that the Lord is righteous in all of His doings, and that man, through the Lord, is capable of suffering any afflictions that Satan puts upon the children of God. In Job 1:22, where we learn of some of the persecutions that Satan put Job through we find: "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Sometimes, in suffering for the Lord where we can't know the outcome, the Lord may be using us as a testimony to others, and even to angels for His honor. In the end Job said about the Lord: "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).

Daniel and his three companions were tremendous witnesses for the Lord. Concerning Daniel we learn in Daniel 6:1-7: "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Then these presidents

and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions."

When Daniel learned of the signing of this decree we are told in verse 10: "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." For these actions he was thrown into a den of lions, but God's angel saved him from the lions' destruction (see Daniel 6:16-24).

As concerning Daniel's three companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, they would not worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up (see Daniel 3:1-7). "Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Then they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (verses 8-18).

These three young men were then cast into a furnace of fire, but the Lord delivered them from being burned. Not even the smell of smoke was upon them (see verses 19-28). This is a wonderful example of how the Lord used three faithful, young men to show to an entire empire His honor and glory. Are we willing to do the same?

The best example in the entire Bible of an individual being faithful to God, and thus making a great difference

in the world, is that of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that because of His influence in teaching and sacrificing His life for us that we can have eternal life. In Philippians 2:5-8 we read: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Yes, one person can make a great difference in the world just by being faithful to the Lord on a daily basis. Many are watching us, even if we are not aware of it. God uses our feeble attempts in serving Him for His honor and glory. May we always be faithful!



Discouragement

By David DeLong

Discouragement is one of the tools of the devil to try to get one's eyes off from serving the Lord. Many believers, including some from the pages of Scripture, have become discouraged. Perhaps you are now going through a period of discouragement. But, remember, the battle is not ours to lead. That is the job that only the Lord can do. If you need a temporary time of rest from the ravages of the battle, then take it. Let the Lord strengthen you, comfort you, even give you the direction to go. Just don't give up! Let us look at some characters from the pages of holy Writ who felt the depression of discouragement.

The first example we will look at is David. The story is found in I Samuel 30:1-6, where we find David being in disfavor with the people who followed him. "And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them

away, and went on their way. So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God." Thus, we see David being criticized.

"...David encouraged himself in the LORD his God." He had to do this because there was none else to encourage him. The people talked about stoning their leader. He felt "greatly distressed" and the "people was grieved". But to be able to encourage oneself in the Lord when one is "greatly distressed" takes practice. It takes being close to the Lord on a regular basis. It takes thinking about, and

praying to, the Lord often during the day. When one feels very close to the Lord, even feeling greatly distressed will not break that bond of closeness to Him. This is actually the best way to become encouraged again. One in this condition does not have to wait for another person to encourage him or her.

The next person we will examine from the Bible is Elijah. This prophet of God had just defeated the hundreds of false prophets of Baal. The people of Israel had just been turned back to the Lord by the demonstration of His igniting Elijah's sacrifice by fire from heaven. It seems that Elijah should have been on top of the world. But, when Queen Jezebel threatened him, he became quite fearful and discouraged.

I Kings 19:1-10 tells us: "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away."

Elijah had the feeling that he was all alone, humanly speaking. But the Lord told him that there were others

who served Him, also. We find this in I Kings 19:15-18: "And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him."

Weariness is another condition which can help bring on discouragement. The Lord addresses the subject of weariness in Isaiah 40:28-31. "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Sometimes, people wonder if the work that they are doing for the Lord is making much of a difference. We can be assured that it is. So don't feel discouraged if you don't see the results of that labor. Isaiah 55:8-11 reads: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

The Lord Jesus made a point to encourage people with whom He came in contact. For instance in Matthew 9:1-2 we find: "And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of

good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." He often, it seems, said something like "be of good cheer" to a sick or faltering person.

On another occasion, Jesus encouraged His disciples who were in a boat. "And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid" (Matthew 14:22-27).

Perhaps the greatest source of encouragement comes from the fact that Jesus has overcome the world. In John 16:32-33 we learn of Jesus' teaching on this subject: "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

The Apostle Paul, in going through the trials and tribulations of his life, needed encouraging words from the Lord. When we find the apostle in the midst of a group of his adversaries the Scriptures inform us: "And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle. And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome" (Acts 23:10-11).

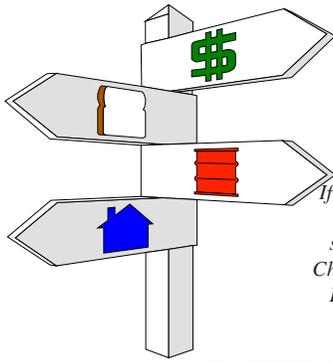
As therefore Paul was encouraged of the Lord, he also encouraged others in their trials. On his way to Rome, on board a ship, we find concerning Paul's voyage: "But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for

there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island. But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country" (Acts 27:21-27).

Paul encouraged those aboard the ship to eat something. In verses 34-36 we find: "Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat."

Discouragement can come from many situations in life, but remember that it is the devil's tool to try to make someone fall from the Lord. As we are encouraged in the Lord, may it be our goal to encourage others with their walk with Him also.





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.

HAPPENING NOW

At the time of this writing, the world continues its downward course! Political confusion continues in the United States of America. There seems to be no consensus in the House and the Senate. The first try to appeal and replace Obama care failed. It was announced yesterday that they are trying to devise another plan with more of a possibility of passing. President Trump wants to see a bill passed within his first one-hundred days in office. A group known as the Freedom Caucus was largely responsible for the failure of the first bill to repeal and replace Obama care. There are other items to be taken up by the House and the Senate such as income tax overhaul and immigration just to name two of them. President Trump has accomplished several items by executive action, but he will have to work with the House and Senate on others.

The world is in a dangerous shape now as prophecy foretold us it would be in during these last days. North Korea is testing many missile weapons that are capable of striking South Korea and even the United States. The leader of North Korea has threatened military action. American warships have been deployed to the Korean Peninsula to combat this threat. The United States has asked China for help in dealing with North Korea. North Korea is just one example of the problems among nations in the world. Relations between Russia and the United States are at a low-time low.

We can appreciate the prophecy spoken by Jesus when He said, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

ABOUT THE HONEYBEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

In a previous column an article pertaining to the disappearance of the honeybee in what is called honeybee colony collapse disorder was featured. It seems as though the honeybee is not the only pollinator that is in danger. The following is an article entitled *U.N. warns of fewer bees, other pollinators* which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**:

WASHINGTON – Many species of wild bees, butterflies and other critters that pollinate plants are shrinking toward extinction, and the world needs to do something about it before our food supply suffers, a new United Nations scientific report warns.

The 20,000 or so species of pollinators are key to hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of crops each year – from fruits and vegetables to coffee and chocolate. Yet two out of the five species of invertebrate pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, are on the path toward extinction, said the first-of-its-kind report. Pollinators with backbones, such as hummingbirds and bats, are only slightly better off, with only one in six species facing extinction.

"We are in a period of decline and there are going to be increasing consequences," said the report's lead author Simon Potts, director of the Centre for Agri-Environmental Research at the University of Reading in England.

'Relatively simple'

And it's not just honeybees. In some aspects, they're doing better than many of their wild counterparts, like the bumblebee, despite dramatic long-term declines in the United States and a mysterious disorder that has waned.

The trouble is that the report can't point to a single villain. Among the culprits; the way farming has changed so there's not enough diversity and wild flowers for pollinators to use as food; pesticide use, including a controversial one, neonicotinoid, that attacks the nervous system; habitat loss to cities; disease, parasites and pathogens; and global warming. The report is the result of more than two years of work by scientists across the globe who got together under several different U.N. agencies to come up with an assessment of Earth's biodiversity, starting with the pollinators. It's an effort similar to what the United Nations has done with global warming, putting together an encyclopedic report to tell world leaders what's happening and give them options.

"The variety and multiplicity of threats to pollinators and pollination generate risks to people and livelihoods,"

the report stated. “These risks are driven by changes in land cover and agricultural management systems, including pesticide use.”

But these are problems that can be fixed, and unlike global warming, the solutions don’t require countries to agree on global action – they can act locally, said Robert Wilson, a top British ecological scientist and vice chairman of the scientific panel. The solutions offered mostly involve changing the way land and farming is managed. “There are relatively simple, relatively inexpensive mechanisms for turning the trend around for native pollinators,” said co-author David Inouye of the University of Maryland.

One of the biggest problems, especially in the United States, is that giant swaths of farmland are devoted to just one crop, and wildflowers are disappearing, Potts and others said. Wild pollinators especially do well on grasslands, which are usually more than just grass, and 97 percent of Europe’s grasslands have disappeared since World War II, Potts said.

‘Scientific opinion’

England now pays farmers to plant wildflowers for bees in hedge rows, Watson said. There are both general and specific problems with some pesticide use, according to the report. “Pesticides, particularly insecticides, have been demonstrated to have a broad range of lethal and sub-lethal effects on pollinators in controlled experimental conditions,” the report said. But it noted more study is needed on the effects on pollinators in the wild. Herbicides kill off weeds, which are useful for wild pollinators, the report added.

The report highlighted research that said the insecticide neonicotinoid reduces wild bees’ chances for survival and reproduction, but the evidence of effects on honeybees is conflicting.

In a statement, Christian Maus, global pollinator safety manager for Bayer, which makes neonicotinoids, said: “The report confirms the overwhelming majority of the scientific opinion regarding pollinator health – that this is a complex issue affected by many factors. Protecting pollinators and providing a growing population with safe, abundant food will require collaboration.”

THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

I read that the commander of the U.S. led international military force in Afghanistan told congress that he needed a few thousand additional troops to more effectively train and advise Afghan soldiers. When asked by a United

States senator if he was winning or losing, the commander said that he believed that we are in a stalemate. I also read that a U.S. war plane dropped the most powerful non-nuclear bomb on a Taliban stronghold in Afghanistan.

Comment

When will the world realize that there is no profit in war? The answer is that the world will never realize such in this age. When speaking of the original condition of unconverted man, both Jews and Gentiles, Romans 3:17 tells us, “And the way of peace have they not known”.

POLITICS AND THE ECONOMY

There was an article in a newspaper entitled *Political discord invades once-immune economy*. It stated that since Donald Trump’s victory in November, consumer sentiment has diverged in an unprecedented way with Republicans convinced that a boom is at hand, and Democrats foreseeing an imminent recession.

Comment

It is best for the politicians of both parties and the president to give up their hard lines and sit down to determine what is best for the American people.

COOKING ROBOTS?

I read that Silicon Valley’s Zume Pizza has employed robots to help make their pizza. They say these robots will eliminate boring, repetitive and dangerous jobs and free up people to do things that are higher value. They believe the robots will prep the dough, add cheese and toppings, take pizzas out of the oven, cut them into slices and box them for delivery.

HEADING NORTHWARD

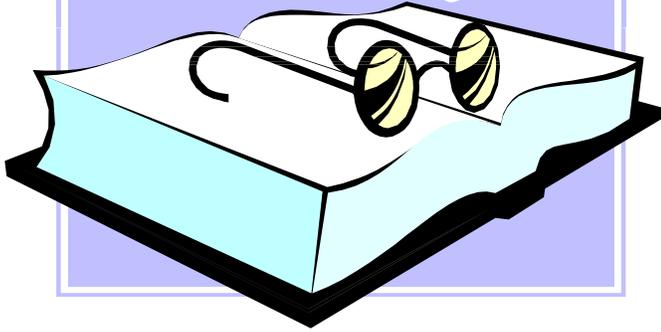
According to a news report, Gangs have forced Central Americans to flee in droves in search of Safety. The report said that gang violence in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala has conspired with economic desperation to drive an unrelenting exodus of migrants, including entire families, seeking safety in other countries, mainly the United States.

SLOW ECONOMIC GROWTH

An article from the Associated Press stated that Americans should get used to a “new normal” of slow economic growth. It stated that the median estimate from economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics calls for the American economy to grow 2.2 percent in 2017 up from a forecast 1.6 percent this year (2016) and unchanged from the previous survey in September.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Will you please comment about the little maid mentioned in II Kings 5:2-3 who was the servant of Naaman's wife? How is she an example for today?

Answer: This little maid is an example of unnamed people in the Bible. This little maid was captured as a child when the Syrians raided Israel. As a young girl she waited on the wife of Naaman who was an important Syrian military officer. Naaman had leprosy. One day the little maid remarked to her mistress, "...Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy" (verse 3). Naaman's wife told Naaman what the little maid had said, and Naaman set out for Israel.

Later we read that Naaman's miraculous healing led to his becoming a worshiper of the Lord. It all began with the testimony of a little maid who had faith in God and confidence in God's prophet.

Often adults fail to pay attention to children. We must remember an admonition which Christ gave, "...Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

In Scripture, often the lowly are exalted above the high and mighty. Let us not think of ourselves better than others. Jesus tells us that the first shall be last and the last first. If we do not humble ourselves in this life, we will be humbled in the next.

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

Question: Colossians 3:2 states, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Will you please comment on why it is important to set our affections on things above?

Answer: The verse preceding Colossians 3:2 states, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (verse 1). The words of Jesus are also clear. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). "Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

Many people have set their affections and built their hopes on earthly things. These things have become but mocking delusions. Many of these things have left the heart broken, crushed, and barren. Subject to change are the treasures of wealth, fame, and social distinction. These possessions may vanish in a night. Friends that you have long trusted may suddenly grow cold and even become enemies. Many affections and high hopes of youth and early life turn to ashes in a few years or months.

The Word of our Lord should appeal with special force

when it calls us to come to Him with our burdens and broken hearts. “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit” (Psalm 34:18). The love and special promises of God are very sweet to those who are sad and disappointed in their earthly struggles. In our Lord Jesus Christ alone can be found true blessing and safety. Jesus said, “...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

“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” (Matthew 6:19-21). The personal love and relationship God and His dear Son show to us is one of the chief treasures. They are to us an unfailing refuge in every time of need. They are the source of our daily joy, solace, and comfort. They give us love from which nothing, apart from our own unfaithfulness, can separate us.

Jesus has promised, “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” (Revelation 3:21). Treasures of mind and character are also laid up in heaven. Nothing that is good and true and worthy of preservation shall be lost to those who have committed their investments to the Lord.

There are many blessed and inspiring promises with which the Father and the Son cheer each of the truly consecrated. “Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off” (Isaiah 33:17). “And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him” (Malachi 3:17). “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (John 15:16). “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6). These treasures call for special

zeal and faithfulness.

As we near our place in the Kingdom of God, we are to press along, keeping our affections set upon the spiritual and eternal things. The disappointments and afflictions cannot overwhelm us if our hearts are upon heavenly treasures. We understand that the things of this earth are only of trifling worth. We faint not by the way but press along the narrow way until we reach the goal of our hopes.

Question: Who was Bildad?

Answer: Bildad was one of the friends who came to comfort Job in his anguish, identified as a Shuhite (Job 2:11). The term suggests that he was a descendant of Shuah, son of Abraham and his second wife Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2). Bildad spoke to Job on three occasions. First, he asserted that God upholds the just and punishes the wicked (Job 8). Job must therefore be a hypocrite to say that he is right with God. Next, Bildad emphasized the immediate punishment of the wicked in this life (chapter 18). Job must therefore be wicked because of his intense suffering. Then, Bildad proclaimed the majesty of God and called man a worm by comparison (chapter 25). Bildad implied that Job was foolish to claim to be righteous before such a holy God.

Question: Will you please name some of the young boys mentioned in the Bible?

Answer: The following are six references of young boys mentioned in the Bible.

1. In I Kings 17:17-24, we read of the young boy who was raised by Elijah. This was perhaps history’s first resurrection.
2. In II Kings 4:17-37, we read of the young boy raised by Elisha. This was perhaps history’s second resurrection.
3. In II Samuel 17:18, we read of the young boy who betrayed David by helping Absalom.
4. In II Samuel 9:12, we read of Micha who was the son of Mephibosheth and grandson of Jonathan.
5. In John 6:9, we read of the lad who had five barley loaves and two small fishes which were used by Jesus to feed 5,000 people.
6. In Matthew 17:14-18, we read of the demonic lad whose father asked Jesus to heal him after the disciples were unable to heal him.



India

A Church of God, 7th Day service being conducted in India.





Congregational worship, prayer time, and a baptismal scene.

LESSON I

THE CREATION

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1.

Golden Text: Genesis 1:1.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

- 1. What did God create on the first day and the second day? Genesis 1:3-5, 7-8.
- 2. What was created on the third day and fourth day? Genesis 1:10, 12-14, 16-19.
- 3. What was created on the fifth day and sixth day? Genesis 1:20-23, 25-26, 31.
- 4. What did God do when he finished His creation? Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:11.
- 5. Who was with God when the heaven and the earth were created? John 1:1-3.

NOTE: Another name for Jesus is “The Word.” In Genesis 1:26 God was talking to Jesus when He said, “Let us make man in our image....”.

- 6. Was God happy with what He created? Genesis 1:31; Revelation 4:11.

LESSON II

GOD MADE MAN

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:7-23.

Golden Text: Genesis 2:7 (first part).

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground...”

- 1. Who did God create man to look like, and how did He create him? Genesis 1:27; 2:7.

- 2. After God created man, what did He do with him? Genesis 2:15.

- 3. What orders did God give to the man? Genesis 2:16-17.

- 4. Why did God make a woman for the man? Genesis 2:18.

- 5. How did God make the woman? Genesis 2:21, 23.

- 6. What was the name of the man that God had created? Genesis 2:19.

- 7. For what purpose did God bring the animals to Adam? Genesis 2:19-20.

LESSON III

MAN AND WOMAN’S DISOBEDIENCE

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-12.

Golden Text: Genesis 3:4.

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die”.

- 1. What was the most subtle of all the beasts in the garden? Genesis 3:1.

NOTE: Subtle means sly, clever, and deceiving.

- 2. Why did God tell the woman not to eat of the tree that was in the middle of the garden? Genesis 3:3.

- 3. What did the serpent answer when the woman told him that she should not eat of the tree? Genesis 3:4-5.

- 4. What did the woman do then? Genesis 3:6 (first part).

- 5. To whom did she give some of the fruit to eat? Genesis 3:6 (last part).

- 6. What happened after they had disobeyed God? Genesis 3:7.

7. What did they do when they heard God walking in the garden? Genesis 3:8.

8. When God couldn't find Adam, what did He ask? Genesis 3:9.

9. What was Adam's reason for hiding? Genesis 3:10.

10. What did He ask Adam, and what was Adam's reply? Genesis 3:11-12.

NOTE: We will continue this lesson next week.

LESSON IV

MAN AND WOMAN'S DISOBEDIENCE (CONTINUED)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:13-24.

Golden Text: Genesis 3:20.

"And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

1. What did God ask of the woman and what was her answer? Genesis 3:13.

2. What did God say, and do, to the serpent? Genesis 3:14.

3. What curse did God put on Adam and his wife? Genesis 3:16-19.

4. What did Adam name his wife and why? Genesis 3:20.

5. What did God make for Adam and Eve? Genesis 3:21.

6. When God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden, what was Adam to do? Genesis 3:23.

7. What did God place at the east of the Garden of Eden? Genesis 3:24.

WHAT IS A CHILD OF GOD?

1. A real child of God is one who knows the teachings of Jesus and obeys them.

A person may be good, sweet and kind by accident, but he cannot be a child of God by accident. He must know what to do and why. He must be sure that he is doing all of the things which Christ did and told him to do.

2. Above all things, a child of God will obey Mark 12:30-31:

Maybe we think it is easy to love God because He did so much for us. Is it? He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." Is it easy to keep them? First, we must know them.

We know it is not easy to love everybody as much as we love ourselves. How may we learn to do this?

(a) By doing little things for them.

(b) By praying for them. We cannot hate those for whom we pray.

(c) By keeping unkind thoughts to ourselves, we will forget them sooner.

(d) By refusing to think unkind things even if they are true.

3. A child of God believes the Bible from cover to cover. He neither adds to it nor takes from it. He says, "Jesus said this, and I will do just as He said. I will obey every word of the Old and New Testament."

Name other traits of a true child of God, and talk about them.

"Yes you did too!"

"I did not!"

Thus the little quarrel started,
Thus by unkind little words,
Two fond friends were parted.

"I am sorry."

"So am I."

Thus the little quarrel ended,
Thus by loving little words
Two fond hearts were mended.

By Benjamin Keech.



A SPINNER OF SILK

By Elizabeth Whitney

If you think that the silkworm is the only little creature that spins silk, you are mistaken. There is another at your very door - the common, ordinary spider. This statement is true, no matter where you happen to live, for spiders are found in every part of the world where there are people. In spite of some unpleasant characteristics, the spider is a very interesting little creature. It is very clean, and spends a good deal of time combing and brushing itself with the combs and brushes on its mandibles. The mother carefully guards her eggs, sometimes carrying them with her in their silk container, and she seems to think a great deal of the small spiders that come from them. Spiders can go a long time without food, being entirely inactive during the winter. They are not, as you undoubtedly know, vegetarians.

The spider secretes a liquid, which hardens into silk on exposure to the air. It has two or three pairs of spinnerets, or spinning organs, according to its kind. It travels by means of silken threads when it wants to go up or down, and some spiders throw out threads in the direction of the wind when they wish to travel across from one tree to another. As soon as the thread reaches the desired landing place, the spider strengthens it, and then crosses. A thread once used for transportation purposes cannot be used again. In going up or down, the head of the spider always goes first, and when the spider ascends, it rolls the thread up in a little bundle.

The silk of the spider is not satisfactory for making cloth or sewing thread, but is used for the decisions of the micrometer, a measuring instrument used in astronomy. It is very, very fine, each thread in a web being made up of many smaller ones. The spider has enough silk for only six or seven webs in one season.

JUST A SMILE

How often have you felt discouraged and downhearted and then you met someone who gave you a friendly smile? That little smile seemed to do away with all your troubles. You went on your way light hearted and happy. In the same manner, you can spread a smile around. We as Christians, have something special to be happy about. Our precious Saviour died on the cross that through Him we might have life eternal. This is truly something to rejoice about. We have many trials in this life, but we also have someone who is willing to carry out burdens for us if we will only let Him. In John 16:33 Christ said, "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Cheerfulness is like the sun, it dispels mental fogs, warms the chilled heart, makes a dull way bright; and as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

The next time you see someone who does not have a smile, give him one of yours. It will warm your heart as well as his.



Answers: The Long and Short Of It

1. Maher-shalal-hash-baz
2. Methuselah. His father Enoch was 365 years old, and he was 969 years old.
3. Obadiah, Philemon, II John, III John, Jude
4. Psalm 117
5. Psalm 119
6. John 11:35
7. Esther 8:9

Answer: "What Am I?"

Rainbow

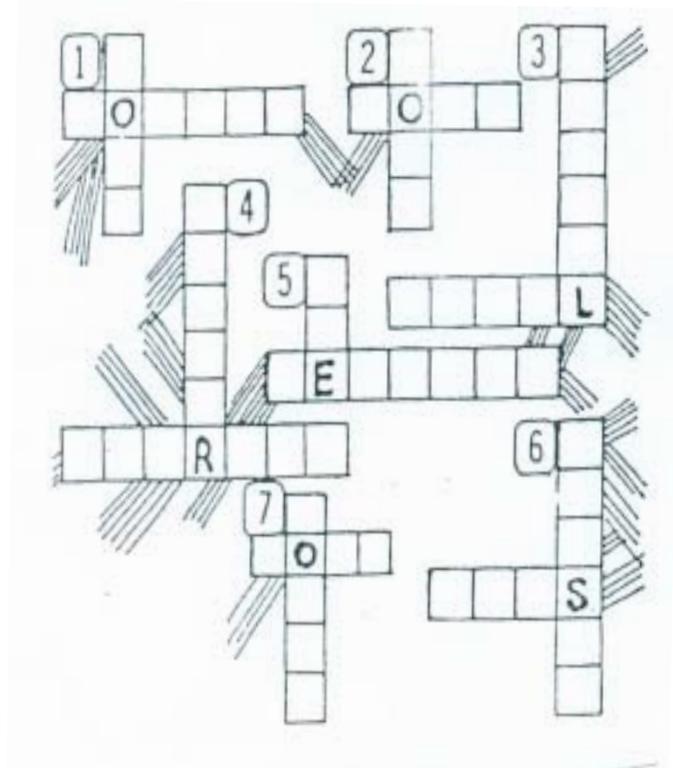
WHO AM I?

God often uses his smallest creatures to help or in some way influence His people.

In the puzzle below, the vertical squares are to be filled with the name of someone mentioned in the Bible and represented by the blank in the clues.

The horizontal squares are to be filled with the name of the little creature that influenced that person. The clues are spoken by these creatures.

1. ...the Baptist used me for food. (Mark 1:6).
2. I brought...a welcome sign of land. (Genesis 8:11).
3. God fed the children of ... with me. (Numbers 11:30, 32).
4. I may be small, but our heavenly...knows when I fall. (Matthew 10:29).
5. I tempted...in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:1).
6. The strong man,...ate our sweet food. (Judges 14:7-9).
7. I ate the plant that gaveshade. (Jonah 4:6-7).



THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

1. Who had the longest name in the Bible? (Isaiah 8:1,3).
2. Who was nearly three times older than his father, and lived longer than anyone in the world? (Genesis 5:21-27).
3. What are the five shortest books in the Bible?
4. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
5. What is the longest chapter in the Bible?
6. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
7. What is the longest verse in the Bible?



“WHAT AM I?”

My first is in rabbit and also in squirrel,
 My second is in wave but not in curl,
 My third is in winter and also in spring,
 My fourth is in queen and also in king,
 My fifth is in brave but not in afraid,
 My sixth is in woman but not in maid,
 My seventh is in below but not in above,
 My whole is a token of God’s gracious love.

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GIFTS

By Betty Whetstone

*"Nobody gives me Nothin',
I often hear someone complain;
And yet in the midst of a long summer drought
They will cry for the Blessing of rain.*

*The rain coming down from the heavens
Brings nourishing crops to the land;
Should not we stop and consider
It's a gift from the Father's good hand?*

*He provides the sunshine to warm us,
The leaves on the trees for a shade;
The song of the birds to cheer us,
And numbers each step we have made.*

*Everything good comes from the Father,
And it all works together, you see
For Blessing for those who obey Him,
Blessing so full and so free.*

*Let us thank our wonderful Father
For all of the good gifts He gives;
For every good thing comes from Heaven,
And this is the life that we live.*

