

The Advocate of Truth

Temptation

Christ's Looks

In Jesus

God in Prayer

Our Salvation

What God Loves



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

The cover photo is by Brooke DeLong

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Temptation

By Bibi S. Allicock

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:12-15).

Do not err, my beloved brethren, as the children of Israel erred when there was no water for them to drink in Rephidim. “Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah,

because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?” (Exodus 17:2-7). This is but one of many times that the children of Israel tested the Lord and doubted Him.

“But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath. For he remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy. How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan: And had turned their rivers into blood; and their floods, that they could not drink. He sent divers sorts of flies among them, which devoured them; and frogs, which destroyed them. He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust. He destroyed their vines with hail, and their sycamore trees with frost. He gave up their cattle also to the hail, and their flocks to hot thunderbolts. He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them. He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence; And smote all the firstborn in Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of

Ham: But made his own people to go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. And he brought them to the border of his sanctuary, even to this mountain, which his right hand had purchased. He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents. Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images” (Psalm 78:38-58). “He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance. The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage. Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation. Then the LORD awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine. And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach” (verses 62-66).

The Lord continues to warn His people not to sin. “For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest” (Psalm 95:7-11).

We see here that because of the murmurings of the children of Israel, who left Egypt to go to the promised land, they were not able to enter in save Joshua and Caleb. “And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me. Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the

son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun” (Numbers 14:26-30).

Since we have all these examples of temptation, should we still fall into temptation? Our brother Paul admonished us that, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Corinthians 10:13). Jesus, our perfect example, defeated the tempter (Satan) when he tempted Him after He had fasted forty days in the wilderness. Jesus just quoted Scripture. Jesus told the tempter, “...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Jesus also told him, “...It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (verse 7). At the end of the temptation, our Lord told the tempter, “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (verse 10).

James tells us, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2-4). “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” (I Peter 1:6-9). Amen.

Thoughts About Integrity

Bond Tennant

Jesus placed much value on integrity. He mentioned the various types of soil (human hearts) and their reaction to how the preaching of the Kingdom would make them react. Jesus considered that those with an honest and good heart would react in a very pleasing way.

Today, society has largely abandoned moral standards and God pleasing principles. We see unkept campaign

promises, false advertising, unearned tax exemptions, employee theft, mistrust and unfaithfulness among man, and many more things. It seems as though dishonesty has become a way of life! Even in many churches, ethical teaching from the Word of God no longer exists. A modern cliché expresses the all too popular belief: “It ain’t cheating unless you get caught.”

God demands His people to be people with integrity. His true children must maintain a commitment to His standards! You may ask if consistent integrity to God’s standards is possible in this world of sin today. The answer is yes!

The Scriptures are filled with examples of godly men who displayed integrity during times of severe testing. We can learn from them today. We can have integrity just as they did.

The word “integrity” comes from the Latin *integer*

which means “untouched, unbroken, undefiled, uncontaminated.” Webster gives three definitions to integrity: 1. An unimpaired condition; 2. Firm adherence to a code of moral or artistic values; 3. The quality or state of being complete or undivided.

The word “integrity” has many impressive synonyms. They include honor, honesty, genuineness, loyalty, righteousness, candor, trustworthiness, principle, veracity, purity and perfection. It is odd that so many of the words describing the opposite of integrity begin with the letter “d”: devious, deceitful, dissembling, double-talk, double-minded, duplicity and dishonesty.

Christian integrity is a commitment ultimately to live by the standard of the God of heaven. The benefit is not merely the approval of family and friends, or society, but the blessings of the Eternal One, “...even life for evermore” (Psalm 133:3).

Christ’s Looks Average or Handsome? (Thoughts to Consider)

By Michael George



A friend asked me a question about Christ and His looks. “What do you think,” he said? I paused and thought for a while, but he went on to say that Christ was not a handsome man. I did not reply, but I smiled as he continued to insist.

The Scriptures tell us in Psalm 50:2, “Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.”

Let us hear what God says of His Son in Isaiah 52:13-14, “Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”

The last part of Isaiah 53:2 reads, “he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”

We are told in II Timothy 2:15 that we should rightly divide the word of truth.

The “we” mentioned in verse 2 of Isaiah 53 are those unbelieving Jews. The Jews were divided into two groups, those that believed and those who believed not. The latter could not see the splendor in God’s Son as the Scriptures record. “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Matthew 13:15).

The former, God’s elect, were blessed to behold Christ’s splendor. “But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear” (verse 16). They

worshipped Him, and they followed Him three days and nights without food. They loved to hear His words, while the latter despised Him and said that He deceived the people. “And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; he deceiveth the people” (John 7:12). Would God’s elect hide their faces from their Lord? The elect wanted to crown Him their king. “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone” (John 6:15).

The contrast was so great between that of the believing and unbelieving Jews that the latter wished to kill Him,

while the former wished to made Him their king! “And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen: Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them. I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out” (Luke 19:37-40)

In conclusion, our Lord Jesus was very handsome as His Father said. “Let God be true, but every man a liar” (Romans 3:4, first part).



What We Are And Have In Jesus Christ Found In I Peter

1. We have in reserve an incorruptible inheritance. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (I Peter 1:3-5).

2. We are being purified so that we may stand with Christ. “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” (verse 7).

3. We have salvation for our souls. “Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” (verse

9).

4. We have a great hope. “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” (verse 13).

5. We have redemption through His blood. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (verses 18-19).

6. We are born again by His Word. “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (verse 23).

7. We are not confounded (ashamed). “Wherefore

also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded” (chapter 2, verse six).

8. We are built up a spiritual house. “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (verse 5).

9. We are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a

holy nation, and a peculiar people. “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (verse 9).

10. We shall receive a crown of glory. “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (chapter 5, verse 4).

--Compiled by Bond Tennant

Echoes From The Past

The following article, which appeared in the June 23, 1986 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*, has been condensed.

Everything To God In Prayer

The heading of this writing comes to us from the beloved hymn “What a Friend we have in Jesus.” We sing this hymn quite frequently in the local congregation on Sabbath, and as we sing our thoughts are on Jesus who is such a wonderful friend. We tend to keep this thought every time we sing this hymn. But today let us look at it from another view. It is a guide to prayer.

We do not know what we should pray for, but still we are to pray without ceasing (see I Thessalonians 5:17).

We should pray for wisdom. There is a definite command to do this also. James, the brother of Jesus, who prayed much, exhorts us: “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him*” (James 1:5).

The “wisdom” to be prayed for here is a wisdom of conduct when undergoing trials and testings and

temptations. We should not pray so much for the removal of an affliction as for wisdom to cope with it and to make a right use of it. And who is there that does not want wisdom under any great trials or experiences? We all need guidance to make the proper judgment of things in the government of his own spirit and temperament, and in the management of his affairs. To be wise in trying times is a special gift of God, and to Him we must seek for it. What a great blunder Joshua made when the Jebusites came to him disguised as travelers from very far off, “from a very far country.” Joshua, who usually had prayed for everything that he needed to do and prayed in every situation, was taken in by his enemies. He had failed to pray. He failed in that trial and temptation because he “...asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD” (Joshua 9:9, 14).

When the wisdom of God is needed, remember the

counsel of the wise man Solomon: *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths”* (Proverbs 3:5-6).

We should pray about everything. Everything is all inclusive. Nothing is to be left out. The Lord wants to hear everything from us. *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”* (Philippians 4:6). Again and again, the refrain of our beloved hymn tells us to *“Take it to the Lord in prayer.”* It will help us in practice to meditate upon prayer. To be in an attitude of prayer helps us to pray without ceasing for everything. Why not loosen up your vocal chords right now and sing or say to yourself:

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear;
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in Prayer.

Then the hymn writer mentions things to pray about:

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

And then, with Philippians 4:6 in mind, the writer

continues:

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

My father, Dr. Charles L. Royer, practiced Philippians 4:6. He also practiced I Timothy 5:22: *“Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”* Once I remember a farmer brother coming to our house and asking my Dad to pray for his horse which had run a branch sticking from a tree trunk into his eye. Losing the sight of one eye caused the horse to lose the sight of the good eye. (The vet called it sympathetic eye). After prayer, the horse could see not only out of the uninjured eye but out of the one that had been injured. The Lord is wonderful when we *“Take it to the Lord in prayer”*. Take everything to the Lord in prayer. Dad would even pray for inanimate objects such as a lost key. And why not? He lost a favorite fountain pen. He could not find it anywhere. He prayed about it, and was directed to open a drawer in a desk, where special things were kept, and which was opened only occasionally. There was the lost pen! *“In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

OUR SALVATION

Nearer than when we believed
By: Brother Glenn
And Sister Shellon Williams



How close is our salvation? The Word of God tells us in Romans 13:11, *“...for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”* Everyone can see things are just not

the same as in times past. In fact, one can easily point out how much worse they have become. People are dying younger and more frequently, and there are more diseases

that plague our bodies as well as the vegetation of the planet, and there are even more diseases than ever as a result of the deterioration of the elements in this world.

But what, one might ask, is being done to impact or combat these situations? Well, if you consider the fact that mankind is growing more concerned about the pleasures of this world than God, thus loving ourselves (the creation) more than the Creator (see Romans 1:25-26), you will see not much, or anything, being done to combat the situation. Neighborly love, respect and common courtesies are fading away rapidly, and even when love for others is shown, it's sometimes not real at all, while others are just unthankful, unholy, disobedient to parents, covetous. See II Timothy 3:2-5.

With all the churches out there, surely things will get better, right? Not really, because they are wrapped up in confusion and sometimes lust for power. Many religious organizations are being formed by people proclaiming to be better than the churches they left. They profess to love God, and they say that they were sent by Christ and that they have His Spirit. The new organizations, as well as many old ones, continue to deceive many. But, can we stop or even prevent these things from continuing in this direction? The answer is simple, although tough to believe or sometimes even hard to accept, that these events are inevitable for they were prophesied in holy writ, the Bible.

Consider also what our Lord said in Matthew 24:5-8, "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." (See also Mark 13:6-8).

Isn't there a solution? How then will people be saved? Can we find help anywhere? Yes, we can. You see, God, knowing all these events would come to pass, sent His only begotten Son to make a way so that mankind, though unworthy, might be saved (see John 3:16-17). Jesus Christ in Matthew 16:18 said to Peter, who was one of His disciples, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." That same church, the

Church of God, is still in existence today, surviving the times and keeping the commandments of God.

Folks, we have an opportunity to be part of the new world which was promised to them that love the Lord and who are not a part of these prophecies of destruction (see Isaiah 65:17; 66:2; II Peter 3:13-14). We can be saved by making the necessary adjustments in our lives today. We can be part of the inheritance that is to come. Romans 13:8-10 states, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

Revelation 22:14 says, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." So let us all hold fast to the things of God and know that the things of this world are only but for a short time. They will fade away. Love your neighbor as yourself. False religions, though ever present, will never destroy truth. So seek it for yourself, and always remember to keep the commandments of God.



What God Loves

By David DeLong



The quickest way to please someone is to give him or her something which they love. It may be a favorite food, an article of clothing, or a beautiful piece of art. So it is with our heavenly Father. There are certain things which the Scriptures tell us that God loves. We can please Him greatly by involving ourselves with these things, or qualities, and being the type of children that He enjoys. Let us now examine some of these.

In Jesus' intercessory prayer of John 17, we read: "And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them" (verse 26). It is obvious from this text, and others, that the Father loves His Son, Jesus. Moreover, the Lord Jesus wants this love to also abide in His disciples. This situation can only come about when Jesus is abiding in them.

John, chapter 15, makes all of this very clear. Verses 4 and 5 inform us: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Bearing "much fruit", through abiding in Jesus, causes the Father to be glorified (see verse 8).

One way that a disciple can bear much fruit is by obeying the Lord's commandments. Verses 9 and 10 read: "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Furthermore, we find in I John 5:2,3: "By this we know that we love the

children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

So then, in summary of this, we conclude that the Father is honored when the love that He has for His Son is shared with Jesus' disciples. This is done by the disciple abiding in Jesus and in His love, by keeping His commandments. When the Lord's commandments are obeyed, this shows love for the Father, for the Son, and for others. Much fruit is then cultivated, and the Father is glorified.

Since God is love (see I John 4:8), it would be beneficial for us now to examine more of this important topic. The keeping of God's commandments (showing love for God) is actually summarized under two great commandments. Jesus said: "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

We have seen, basically, what our love for God consists of. What, however, does it mean to love our neighbor as ourself? This, at first, may seem to be obvious to us. However, I believe that there are some believers who don't love themselves very much and, therefore, they don't know how to love others as themselves. Some haven't had a good example from home when they were growing up, so they may not know how, either. We learn, partly, by example and generational patterns may have to be broken, and replaced, by God's Word (see Exodus 20:5,6).

Let's start then, by having a healthy love for ourselves. I emphasize the term "healthy love", not a selfish, narcissism that puts our needs above those of others. This healthy love, however, sees to it that we are nourished physically, mentally/emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Getting a proper diet, along with proper exercise and sufficient rest, are essential for physical well-being. One also may develop stimulating hobbies and loving relationships for good mental/emotional and social health to develop. Most important, one needs to be studying the Word of God, be continually in prayer, and also sharing the Word with others to be spiritually mature. The Scriptures show us that Jesus developed properly. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

The Lord Jesus gave us the perfect teaching on how our relationship with others should be. He said: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12). All of us want to be loved, respected, treated kindly, etc. How much change would be enacted in our world if everyone would follow this wonderful teaching of our Lord. This is definitely what God loves!

The Apostle Paul likened the proper husband/wife relationship to how a man treats his own body. We read: "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (Ephesians 5:28-30). Not only does the proper husband/wife relationship relate to how a man treats his own flesh, but it also represents how Christ treats His church. Sadly, some husbands do not take Christ's loving and unselfish attitude when it comes to their own wives.

Showing love to our neighbor is basically spelled out in the last six of the Ten Commandments. Paul wrote in Romans 13:8-10: "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love

worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." This type of love can only be gained from God, through His Spirit, working within us (see Galatians 5:22).

I Corinthians 13:1-13, gives us the characteristics of godly love. Though the King James version uses the word "charity" in this chapter, the Greek word is "agape", meaning love. In verses 1-3 Paul shows us that love is the important thing in relationships. Though a person may have many gifts such as tongues, prophecy, knowledge, and faith, without love these gifts are fruitless. Likewise, even though a person does good works such as feeding the poor or being a martyr, without love it has no profit.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up" (verse 4). We see here that charity (love) is very patient. Sometimes we have a tendency to be annoyed with others, especially when they get on our nerves. Being patient or longsuffering, however, is one of the traits of God, Himself (see Exodus 34:6). Love always treats others kindly. It doesn't get envious of others even if they are recognized more than we are. Love doesn't boast about accomplishments, nor does it become arrogant.

"Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil" (verse 5). Love doesn't try to draw attention to one's self, whether through doing good deeds, or by misbehaving. In fact, it isn't selfish at all but, rather, it attempts to help others. Love doesn't seek quarrels with other people. When a wrong is committed against someone, it will readily forgive and not hold grudges.

"Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth" (verse 6). Iniquity is the transgressing, or breaking, of God's law. Love does not rejoice when God's law is trampled on. Strangely, even some who call themselves Christians feel liberated by not obeying such things as the Sabbath. God's people will always rejoice in His truth. They know that true freedom is found only in following the example of Christ, including commandment-keeping.

"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" (verse 7). Love endures to the very end. It will come through trials and tribulations. It will believe God even when there seems to be no way out of a situation. It is optimistic that the right path is always the best path.

"Charity never faileth..." (verse 8). Since God is love, and God can never fail, therefore God's main characteristic, love, can never fail either. God's love is what makes life worth living. Without it, everything else, as the Apostle Paul indicated, is fruitless. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity" (verse 13).

The Bible teaches us that we are not only to love our families and friends, but also our enemies as well. Jesus taught: "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you...For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same...But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil" (Luke 6:27-28,32-33,35; see also Romans 12:20).

God's love, given to Christ and His followers, shared not only with the brethren but even their enemies, is very pleasing to God. This is the basis for everything else that God loves. The Father also desires that His Son be honored as He is honored. John 5:22-23 informs us: "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."

The way that we honor the Son, and thus the Father, is by serving Jesus. Continuing in the book of John, we find in chapter 12, verse 26: "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." We serve the Lord by following in the footsteps of Jesus and by using our gifts and talents in His service. A question we must ask ourselves is this: "Am I using all of my talents in the Lord's service?" If not, then I am not honoring Jesus in the way I should be. I encourage everyone to find out what talents you have for the service of the Lord. These talents (and gifts), are not for our honor and glory, but for the Lord's honor and glory and for the edifying of the body of Christ (see Ephesians 4:7-16; Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11).

The reason, sometimes, that we do not use all of our gifts and talents for the Lord is because of fear. Many have the gift of teaching, for example, but they may be too afraid to stand before their peers and teach the Word of God. There are other ways of teaching, though, besides giving a sermon or a Sabbath School lesson. Teaching may be done through singing a gospel song or reading a godly poem that one has written or selected. In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), the servant who received the one talent did nothing useful with it. His excuse was: "And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine" (verse 25). Fear can never be a valid excuse for not doing the Lord's work. Notice how the lord answered this servant: "...Thou wicked and slothful servant..." (verse 26).

The Father in heaven has made sure that His Son is, and will be forever, honored greatly. Revelation 5:11-13 shows a future event to that effect. "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Let us do what we can now to honor God and His Son.

Second Corinthians 9:6,7 teaches us: "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." We know that these verses include financial matters. But God loves a cheerful giver in matters other than financial as well. The Lord is well pleased when we give of our time and, as has been stated, our talents, too. Perhaps it is easier, in some respects, to give of our finances. We may tend to guard our time as something that belongs more to us. Yes, we go to church meetings and that is good. However, let me encourage us all to use some of our time in reaching out to the lost, the shut-ins, and those who are sick and in prison (see Matthew 25:31-

40).

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 58, we find out exactly what the Lord loves when it comes to helping the less fortunate. In verses 6-9 we read: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am..."

There are many people in the world who believe that they are self-made in the realm of success in life. Their focus is not in line with the Word of God. Jeremiah 9:23-24 sets such thinking straight. "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

The Lord further instructs His people in the ways that He loves in Micah 6:8: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" God's people are to love mercy because He does (see 7:18). He also loves judgment and hates robbery (see Isaiah 61:8). He loves righteousness and the upright (see Psalm 11:7).

One of the things God delights in, and which shows judgment, is our dealing truly with others. He is not honored or pleased when we get "one up" on someone, whether it be an individual, or the government, by cheating them. "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight" (Proverbs 11:1). "Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight" (Proverbs 12:22).

The Lord loves the sacrifices that His children offer to Him. In I Peter 2:5 we learn that offering up sacrifices to God is one of the believer's duties. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer

up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." What do these spiritual sacrifices include? Hebrews 13:15-16 lists a few of these: "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." (See also Jeremiah 17:26; Psalm 27:6).

Other sacrifices include righteousness and trust. "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD" (Psalm 4:5). Before we offer up the sacrifices of righteousness, however, we must come to the Lord in repentance. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise... Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness..." (Psalm 51:17,19). Let us always remember to be thankful. "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing" (Psalm 107:21-22). Prayer, itself, may be considered as a sacrifice as we might infer from Proverbs 15:8: "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight."

Many are willing to give "things" to the Lord as a sacrifice rather than themselves. This was the case with King Saul when he did not completely obey the Lord. When Samuel came to Saul after the latter's failure to perform the Lord's commandments, we find: "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (I Samuel 15:22; see also II Corinthians 8:5).

A thing that we must never forget is that the Lord still loves Israel, and the city of Jerusalem. We read in Psalm 87:2, "The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob." It was outside of these gate(s) that the Lord Jesus shed His precious blood for us (see Hebrews 13:12). Therefore, not only does the Lord love Israel, but He loves us as well. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). And because He loves us, He is preparing a wonderful reward for us (see I Corinthians 2:9). Now, do we love what God loves?



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.

NOTE: This month I thought it a good idea to reprint an article that appeared in the June 28, 1993 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*. It is very relevant for the days in which we live.

Important Things to Think About.

As It Was In The Days Of Noah

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:36-39).

“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).

The people were doing all the things of the day in the type of life they were living. They thought then, as now, that it would last forever, but the flood came on them unaware. The flood came on them as Noah preached for a hundred years, warning them to turn to the Lord. So Christ shall come also at a time when He is not expected. People will not know it is the end. This is what Christ

was trying to tell us.

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night” (I Thessalonians 5:1-2).

The sounding of the trumpet at the coming of Christ shall be a surprise to the people of the earth, but to the righteous, they shall not be in the dark, as Paul writes: **“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief”** (verse 4).

What are we doing today, the same as they did in their day, that would cause the Saviour to make this statement? What would be the comparison? Genesis, the sixth chapter, will give us several clues.

Humanism and Materialism

Humanism: Intellectual movement centered around man.

Materialism: The tendency to be more concerned with material than with spiritual goals or values.

The Lord said, in effect, I am preparing for Myself a spiritual people to teach in My Kingdom. They are not to be concerned with the material things of this world, for they who are interested in material things will perish with them. Therefore, those few who are willing to be my servants must make a decision to be of the Spirit and not to be of the world of materialism.

Genesis 6:2: The sons of God. Those who are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. (See Romans

8:14). In the days before the flood, the sons of God forsook the Lord for the flesh.

Genesis 6:3: The Lord said, **“...My Spirit shall not always strive (abide) with man, for that he also is flesh...”** Humanism: so wicked women were born to them. The values once treasured of a virtuous woman has all but passed away, and the woman has become something to be used. We have changed those values, our thoughts of the woman from what God the Father’s purpose was. And the man has commercialized everything imaginable, both women and children.

Virtue of womanhood was forgotten in the days before the flood as it has been today, and there was nothing too disgraceful for the behavior of man then, and there is nothing today.

The flesh and the pleasure of both men and woman has gone insane with the desire of the flesh: food, sex, drink, and all the pleasure of wickedness.

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

So the thoughts of man are self, power and greed. Most people have forgotten, or never knew, true values and the things pertaining to God. This is why the Lord shall come in a time when all are entertaining themselves with the pleasures of the world, and they will be greatly surprised.

“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth” (Genesis 6:11-13).

The news of today is of violence and corruption. We are born to be violent persons, to sin and disobey. We have to be taught to be good and obedient to parents and God. It does not take a child long to learn to have his way, to throw a fit, to yell out, to cry out, curse, and all those things a child will do if he is not taught otherwise. The people want their way. A great number of people crave power and material things, and will go to any length

to get them. They will rob, kill, and destroy to cause violence and corruption in the world.

Politics is rotten from the ground floor up. There are those in government who crave power and the material benefits that go with it. Homes are not safe from the criminal. Businesses are robbed daily by them, and it will not end until the return of the Lord. All one has to do is watch the news (if you can stand it) and you can see what the Lord is referring to.

Why was Noah saved from the flood? One phrase will explain why: Noah was righteous. Peter used the phrase, Noah was "a preacher of righteousness". Only the very righteous will be saved. This is the key, and only they will see and understand the signs of the time. They may not know the day or the hour, but the righteous will know by these signs, of the time of the coming of the Saviour.

To show how callous the people of the world have become, a minister was saying he and his congregation were all sinners. What a horrible statement! He seemed so happy with this condition. Does he not know that **“He that committeth sin is of the devil...”** (I John 3:8). Many churches make the statement that they are all sinners. If this be so, then they are of the devil, and sinners cannot save sinners.

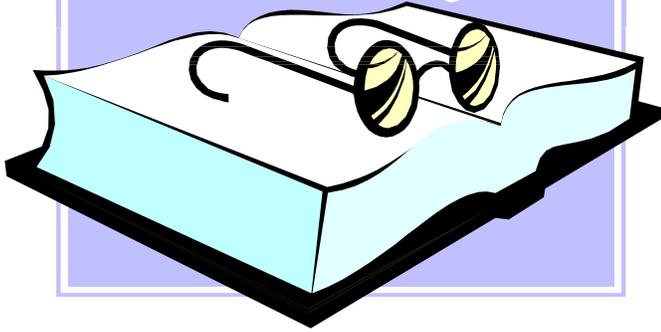
“... whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother” (I John 3:10).

Noah was saved because he was righteous, and those saved today also must be righteous. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Have we forsaken Him? We do not listen to Him. We love sin more than Him. We make our own rules, and we are lovers of self rather than lovers of God, and we are followers of men who preach and teach the doctrines we like to hear. It is evident that people have stopped following the Lord. We can see this in religion. Some follow the devil and not the true teachings of God.

Our downfall is **“Humanism and Materialism.”** All seems to center around these rather than the spiritual goals and true values. Only eight were saved out of millions during the flood. What do you suppose will be the percentage saved in the Day of the Lord? Christ said there would be few saved.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: As we look for the coming of our Lord, what should be our attitude?

Answer: The Church which is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, is now waiting for the fulfillment of His own promise to return to receive His own unto Himself, as well as for the realization of the glorious experience detailed in the divinely revealed secret and the special Word from the Lord through His servant, Paul. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory" (I Corinthians 15:51-55). Please read also I Thessalonians 4:13-17. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). This blessed event is imminent and may occur at any moment. It is the hope of the Church, and for it she is looking and waiting. The attitude of the Church toward the Coming of the Lord to gather her to Himself in the Glory, is clearly and fully revealed in the New Testament Scriptures, and especially

in the Epistles. Now the attitude of the Church is also the attitude of each and every believer who is fully and intelligently instructed in the Word of God. Let us see what the true attitude of the believer is toward the Coming of the Lord.

The true attitude is that of patient waiting.

To patiently wait for the Coming of the Lord is to expect Him to return, to be ready for it, and to be calm and confident in waiting for it.

"For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come" (I Thessalonians 1:9-10). "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ" (II Thessalonians 3:5). "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain" (James 5:7).

The true attitude is that of looking.

The thought implied in looking for the Lord to come is that of yearning for His Coming. It means that with stretched forth neck and eager gaze we scan the horizon from which we look for help. Those who really look for His Coming are found upon the tiptoe of expectation.

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself"

(Philippians 3:20-21). “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:28). “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:22-23).

The true attitude is that of loving.

To love His appearing is to look for it with intense delight and pleasure. Those who are afraid at the thought of the Lord’s Coming are either misinformed as to its true meaning or else they are out of fellowship with the Lord. The happiest thought that can possibly engage the true Christian’s mind is the thought of the Coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (II Timothy 4:8).

The true attitude is that of occupying or doing business for the Lord.

The instructed believer, who is true to His Lord, is not a star gazer, but a diligent toiler, an earnest and faithful laborer for the Lord. The hope of the premillennial Coming of the Lord quickens and inspires spiritual activity and earnest service for the Lord.

“And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13). “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58).

The true attitude is that of praying.

In Revelation 22:17-20, which is quoted below, we find the last prayer that is recorded in the Bible. It is a great summary prayer. He who sincerely prays for the Lord to return, prays for the fulfillment of every covenant, promise and prophecy still unfilled, and therefore, for the final consummation of the whole scheme of human redemption.

“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these

things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”

Please pay close attention to verse twenty where our Lord says, “Surely I come quickly.” Does your heart respond, saying, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus”?

Question: Will you please explain Matthew 19:28? Does this not prove that men have souls?

Answer: First, let us quote Matthew 10:28, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

Jesus’ meaning here was, Fear not them that can take away your present physical life, but fear Him who can destroy your hope of eternal life. Luke 12:4-5 explains it a little better, “And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.” Jesus was telling us that martyrdom holds no terror, only God’s judgments need to be feared. The stoning of Stephen is a perfect example of this. The wicked people took his life, but that was all they could do. His future life was assured. When Jesus said, “Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell,” He was not supporting the theory of eternal torment in a lake of fire.

The word translated “hell” in these verses is the Greek word “Gehenna,” meaning the “valley of Hinnom.” It was a ravine to the south and west of Jerusalem. In the Old Testament, it is sometimes referred to as the site at which certain Israelites during the monarchy worshiped Molech by making their children “pass through the fire.”

Jeremiah prophesied that one day the valley would be known as the “valley of slaughter.” (See Jeremiah 7:30-32). Gehenna was used as a garbage dump for Jerusalem, and a fire burned there constantly until all was burned.

Because the word translated “hell” in both Matthew 10:28 and Luke 12:5 is a proper name, it should not have been translated at all, any more than Jerusalem, Jericho, or Bethlehem. Some of the newer versions leave it untranslated. The Revised Standard version uses “hell” in Luke 12:5, and in a footnote, Greek, “Gehenna.”



India

The following pictures are from congregations in India, sent to us by Elder Yehoshuva.





LESSON I

THE WALLS OF JERICHO FALL

Scripture Reading: Joshua 6:1-27.

Golden Text: Joshua 6:5 (last part).

“...and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.”

NOTE: Do you remember about the spies going into Jericho and how Rahab hid them from the king? Now, today, we study how Israel went back to that city to take it by the help of the Lord, and what happened to Rahab.

1. Was Jericho afraid of the children of Israel? Joshua 6:1.
2. What did the Lord tell Joshua? Joshua 6:2-3.
3. What instructions did Joshua give his people? Joshua 6:6-7.
4. Were the people to talk or shout as they went around the city? Joshua 6:10.
5. What happened for six days? Joshua 6:14.
6. What did they do differently on the 7th day, and what was to happen after they did this? Joshua 6:15-16.
7. Were they to allow anyone within the city to live? Why? Joshua 6:17.
8. Were the people to keep anything for themselves that was within the city, and what were they to do with the silver and gold? Joshua 6:18-19.
9. Tell what happened after they marched around the city seven times and the priests blew the trumpets, and the people shouted? Joshua 6:20-21.

NOTE: Jericho was taken by the direct help of God to give the Israelites confidence that He would be with them.

LESSON II

THE SIN OF ACHAN

Scripture Reading: Joshua 7:1-26.

Golden Text: Joshua 7:20.

“And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done.”

NOTE: You remember in our last lesson the Lord told the people not to take anything for themselves which was within the city for it had been cursed by the Lord. One man did not obey. Let us see what happened.

1. Joshua sent spies to the city of Ai, and what report did they bring back? Joshua 7:2-3.
2. Joshua did as the spies said, and what happened? Joshua 7:4-5.
3. What did Joshua say to the Lord? Joshua 7:6-9.
4. What did the Lord tell Joshua was wrong? Joshua 7:10-12.

NOTE: Joshua started searching through the camp to find who was guilty.

5. Who was found to be the guilty one, and what had he done? Joshua 7:19-21.

NOTE: Achan took something which did not belong to him, and the Lord had told him not to take anything in the city. Do you think people are the same as Achan today?

6. Joshua sent messengers to find the things Achan had taken. Where did they bring them? Joshua 7:22-23.
7. What happened to Achan, his family and all he owned? Joshua 7:24-25.

NOTE: Coming right after the miraculous crossing of the

Jordan and the fall of Jericho, it was a terrible shock to Israel. God was with them, but He wanted them to understand that He wanted absolute obedience. It was a lesson for the people. Does God change, or is He still the same today?

8. What did the people place over the bodies of the ones who were stoned? Joshua 7:26.

LESSON III

THE CAPTURE OF AI

Scripture Reading: Joshua 8:1-28.

Golden Text: Joshua 8:21.

“And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, then they turned again, and slew the men of Ai.”

1. What did the Lord instruct Joshua to do? Joshua 8:1-2.
2. How many men did Joshua choose to go against Ai? Joshua 8:3.
3. Did Joshua obey the Lord? Joshua 8:9-11.
4. What method did Joshua use to capture Ai? Joshua 8:14-17.
5. Did the plan which the Lord had given Joshua prove successful? Joshua 8:18-21.
6. What is the condition of the city of Ai even to this day? Joshua 8:28.

NOTE: If Joshua had not obeyed the instructions which the Lord gave him, he never would have captured Ai in such a wonderful way. We too must obey the Lord in everything He has told us to do.

LESSON IV

THE GIBEONITES

Scripture Reading: Joshua 9.

Golden Text: Joshua 9:15.

“And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them.”

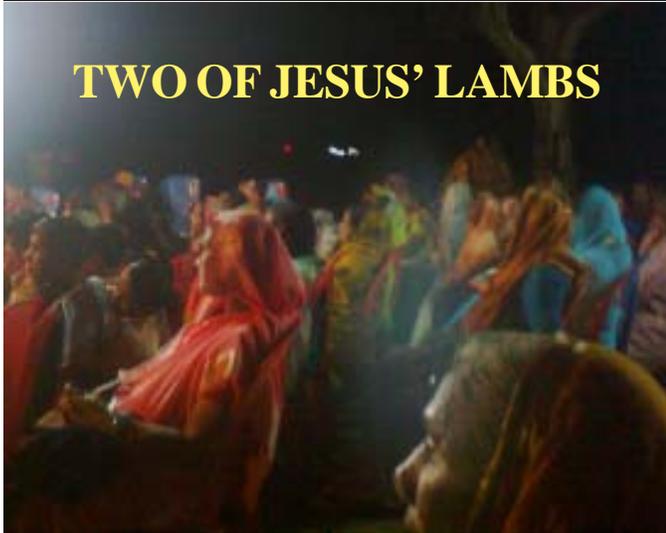
NOTE: In our last lesson we learned how miraculously Joshua captured Ai by following the Lord’s instructions. Let us study now about the land of Gibeon and how they made a league with Joshua.

1. When the Gibeonites heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, what did they do? Joshua 9:3-5.
2. The Gibeonites went to Joshua’s camp at Gilgal. What was the purpose of this meeting? Joshua 9:6.
3. Did Joshua make peace with the Gibeonites? Joshua 9:15-16.
4. What did the Gibeonites become to the children of Israel? Joshua 9:21-23.
5. Why were the people of Gibeon so hasty in making a league with Joshua? Joshua 9:24.
6. What did Joshua do to these people that very day? Joshua 9:27.

WHAT LOVE DOES

Love is loving, love is kind;
 Love makes you your mother mind;
 Love makes you forgive a wrong;
 Love makes people brave and strong.

TWO OF JESUS' LAMBS



Mrs. Brown thought Johnny and Margie were far too young to understand the sermon they heard at church one night. The minister had preached on how two lambs were saved, and how they had helped others to receive the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Of course, the lambs were a little boy and girl, just like Johnny and Margie.

Johnny and Margie were so unusually quiet as they rode home in the back seat of the car that night from church that Mrs. Brown noticed it, and wondered if they were thinking about the message they had heard.

As soon as they reached home, the children went to their rooms and quietly got ready for bed. Later as usual, Mrs. Brown went to their beds to say goodnight but found both children fast asleep. As she bent over Margie to kiss her goodnight, she noticed a note pinned to Margie's pillow. Looking closely, Mrs. Brown read the words, "I wish I was a little lamb too, because I want to be saved," written in Margie's childish handwriting.

"My precious child!" murmured Mrs. Brown, as she stood by Margie's bed, wondering whether to waken her right then or wait until the morning, to show her that the Lord Jesus was her Saviour. Mrs. Brown decided it would be best to wait until the morning for she was sure the Lord knew all about it, and His all-seeing eye had seen the note, even before she had discovered it on Margie's pillow.

In the morning, as soon as Mrs. Brown heard the sound of childish voices, she called Margie to her room.

"Margie, dear, I read the note you had pinned to your

pillow last night, and it made me so happy to know that my little girl wants to be saved and to belong to the Lord Jesus Christ."

Mrs. Brown then opened her Bible to a verse that Margie could easily read, John 3:16. Aloud, Margie read: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"Now what is meant by the world?" asked her mother, to which Margie replied, "Everybody."

"And does everybody include you, Margie?" questioned Mrs. Brown.

"Yes, it does," agreed Margie.

"Then just read the verse again, and put your own name in that place," said Mother.

And Margie read, "For God so loved Margie that He gave His only begotten Son."

"Isn't it wonderful, my dear children, that God loved you so much that He sent His only Son into the world to die for you and for your sins?" asked Mrs. Brown. Then she asked Margie the direct question, "Do you believe that Jesus died for you?"

"Yes, I do," answered Margie.

"Then according to God's own Word, you shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

"Well, Mother, is there nothing for me to do then but just believe, and I shall be saved? That seems so very easy," said Margie.

"Yes, Margie, there is something," said Mother. "The Bible says: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is your whole duty. To fear God means to love Him enough that you do not want to disobey Him, or His words."

Johnny was then called to his mother's side, and the precious verses that pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ were then read to him; and like Margie, he too, accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour.

"Let us thank Him for this wonderful gift," said Mother. So, Johnny and Margie prayed; "Father, we thank Thee for the Lord Jesus who loved us and died for us. Please forgive us for our sins."

What a happy day that was in the Brown home!

SCRAMBLED BIBLE CHARACTERS

TRUE OR FALSE

I doubt if you can do these without looking up the references, and some of the answers may surprise you. On the dotted line, write either True or False.

- 1. The city of Philadelphia is mentioned in the Bible. Revelation 1:11
2. This is our modern city in Pennsylvania.
3. In the Jewish church, a lame man could not be a priest. Leviticus 21:18
4. Jesus could not write. John 8:6-8
5. The three men in the fiery furnace wore hats. Daniel 3:21
6. A carbuncle is a red stone. Exodus 28:17
7. St. Paul told women to keep still in church. I Corinthians 14:34-35
8. Jacob had twelve sons and no daughters. Genesis 30:21
9. Noah took only two of each kind of animal into the ark. Genesis 7:2-3
10. Huz and Buz were twin sisters. Genesis 22:21
11. Noah was a woman of the Old Testament. Numbers 26:33
12. The Bible says that money is the root of all evil. I Timothy 6:10
13. The Bible says there were three Wise Men. Read Matthew 2:1-12 carefully
14. Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding. John 2:1-11
15. Moses married an Ethiopian woman. Numbers 12:1

Answers to Scrambled Bible Characters:

Old Testament:

- 1. Ruth 2. Jacob 3. Esau 4. Adam 5. Noah 6. Joel 7. Jonah 8. Aaron 9. Moses 10. Caleb

New Testament:

- 1. John 2. Mark 3. Mary 4. Luke 5. Paul 6. Anna 7. Peter 8. Judas 9. Silas 10. James

Unscramble these names found in the Old Testament.

- 1. HURT 2. JOBCA 3. SEAU 4. AMAD 5. HANO 6. LOJE 7. HANJO 8. ANROA 9. SEMO 10. CABLE

Unscramble these names found in the New Testament.

- 1. HONJ 2. RKAM 3. ARMY 4. KULE 5. LUPA 6. NNAA 7. TREEP 8. SUJAD 9. LASIS 10. SAJEM

CHANNEL 23 PSALM

The TV is my shepherd, my spiritual growth shall want. It makes me sit down and do nothing for the cause of Christ, because it requireth all my spare time. It keepeth me from doing my duty as a Christian, because it presented so many good programs that I must see. It restoreth my knowledge of the things of the world; it keepeth me from studying God's Word. It leadeth me in paths of failure to attend the worship services. Yea, though I live to be a hundred, I shall keep on viewing my TV as long as it will work. For my TV is my close companion; its sound and picture they comfort me. It presented entertainment before me, and keepeth me from doing important things with my family. It filleth my head with ideas which differ from those set forth in the Word of God. Surely no good thing will come of my life because of my TV, which offers me no time to do the will of God. And I will dwell in spiritual poverty forever.

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS

- 1. OLFW 2. ERDE 3. OTAG 4. ATCLET 5. ESPEH 6. HIFS 7. ANEKS 8. OGRF 9. EPTSRNA 10. PINOSOC 11. PGI 12. IOLN

Clean animals - Fowl, cattle, deer, goat, sheep and fish
Unclean animals - Pig, scorpion, frog, snake, serpent, lion

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Come!

By David DeLong

Come to the Father, it isn't too late,
He watches with arms open wide;
Like the prodigal son, go home and don't wait,
You really have no place to hide.

Come to the Savior, with all of your sin,
Counting your life as a loss;
Look unto Jesus for new life to win,
Just like the thief on the cross.

Come to the Lord and forget your old past,
(He'll cast all your sins in the sea);
He'll give you a life that forever will last,
And from your old self you'll be free.

"Come unto me", the Lord Jesus said,
He waits at the door of your heart;
Repenting of sin frees your soul to be fed,
And the Lord will give a new start.

The Spirit and bride, they both say, "Come",
Now is the time to decide;
It doesn't matter where you are from,
And with you He'll ever abide.

