A large, leafy tree with a yellow rectangular box overlaid in the center containing the text "The Advocate of Truth". The tree's branches are filled with vibrant green leaves, and the background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text is written in a bold, italicized, magenta font.

The Advocate of Truth



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The Lord's Supper this year is Monday, April 10, 2017 after sundown (Roman time), which is the beginning of April 11, (Bible time).



PRINCIPLES AND REASONS

By: Moises Torres M.

FAITH

1. What is faith?

The most effective answer is found in Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (KJV).

The English Standard Version renders this verse as, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.”

NOTE: This verse contains hidden clues that expose the true dimension of faith. Obviously, there must be a knowledge and a goal involved in a way to have “assurance and conviction” or FAITH in something, so that we should not profess a “blind faith” but a faith based on things that we know and hope for; so that every individual demonstrates “security and conviction” on the knowledge of the Word of God. Definitely we cannot believe or show faith in something that we do not know. It would be a fallacy to profess a blind faith.

2. Were Adam and Eve prevented from not eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:16-17).

NOTE: They did not see God in the garden but they did

hear his voice in the middle of it; so they had the knowledge of this situation, but they did not mix faith.

3. What happened to the people of Israel for a lacking of faith?

“And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief” (Hebrews 3:18-19).

“For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.” (Hebrews 4:2). The people of Israel had the knowledge, and even lived the experience of many miracles and signs of God when they were brought out of slavery in Egypt; and still, they were spiritually blind because THEY DID NOT MIX FAITH.

4. Did Noah believe the Lord’s command?

“Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch... Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (Genesis 6:14, 22; 7:5).

Noah was not blind about the ark project since he received the plans and design from God. He had the substance (knowledge) of things hoped for, and he also had the assurance or faith that the Word of God would be fulfilled;

so he showed his conviction with his works. He mixed faith with knowledge, and emerged triumphant.

5. Abraham also added faith to the words of God.

“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 shew 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... 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” (Genesis 12:1-2, 4).

NOTE: Did Abram get out of his land and leave his kindred, just because a voice commanded him to do so? No, of course not! Abram did not walk blindly, he already knew about the Most High God through his generations. Let us remember that Abram already knew the most High Priest of God “Melchisedec”, and Melchisedec knew Abram as well. "...Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3). Abraham mixed confidence and conviction in God’s command. He added faith to the knowledge.

6. We need to add faith to grace, in a way, to be saved.

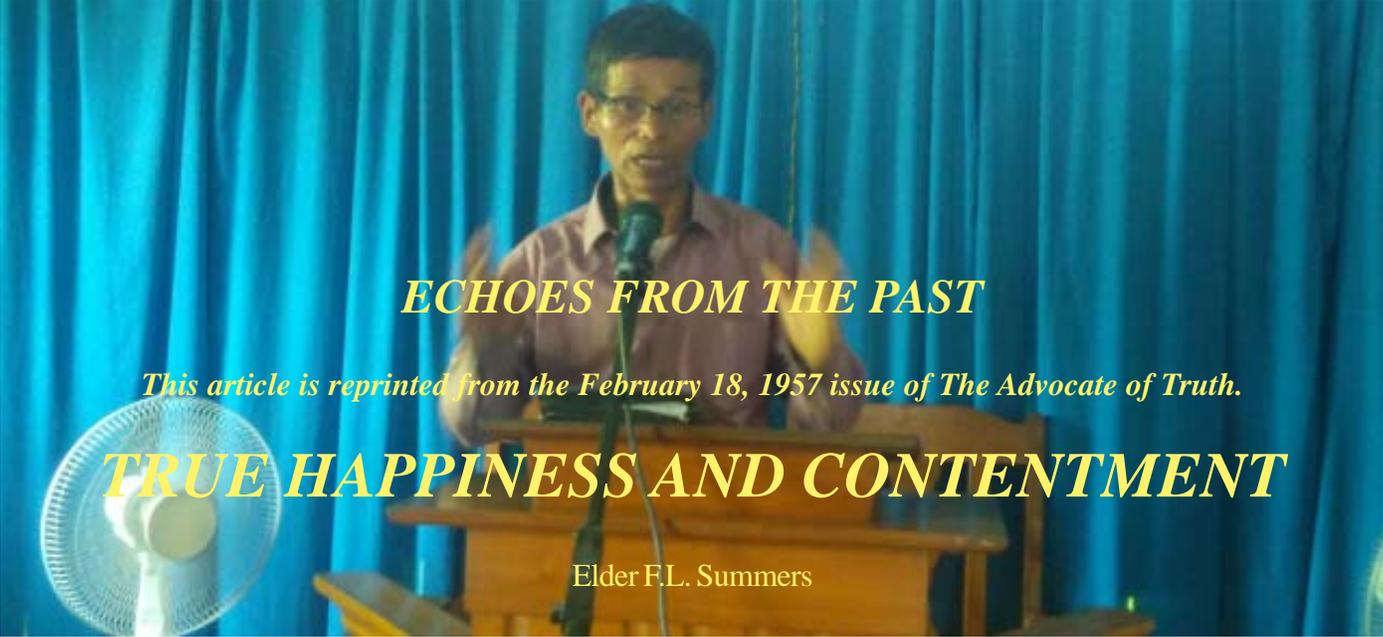
“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8).

Grace is a free gift of God. It is the opportunity God gives us to vindicate ourselves with him through faith in His Son Jesus. So assurance and conviction are important bases to achieve this goal of salvation the Lord is giving us. Faith must walk along with the grace of God.



BIBLICAL HOW TO’S - Bond Tennant

- 1. How to live** - “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (I Peter 2:11). “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).
- 2. How to speak** – “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).
- 3. How to treat one another** – “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).
- 4. How to follow Jesus’ example** – “But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (I John 2:5-6).
- 5. How to be Jesus’ friends** – “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14).
- 6. How to love God** – “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (I John 5:3).
- 7. How to love Jesus** – “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).
- 8. How to think** – “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).
- 9. How to share the hope of eternal life** – “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure” (I John 3:3).
- 10. How to be God’s sons and daughters** – “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (II Corinthians 6:17-18).
- 11. How to claim God’s promises** – “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (II Corinthians 7:1).



ECHOES FROM THE PAST

This article is reprinted from the February 18, 1957 issue of The Advocate of Truth.

TRUE HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT

Elder F.L. Summers

I wonder how many of us have looked up the definition of happiness? The first definition given is the one which we should always use if it can be applied: "The state or quality of being glad or contented; contentment." I wonder how many of us have true happiness or contentment? What do you think, dear reader, brings true happiness?

We are living in a world where if there is such a thing as true happiness, we should have it. We are enjoying the finer things of life, all the modern conveniences and blessings the heart could wish. We have the radio, television, automobile, telephone and all kinds of machinery and electronics that serve to make life more pleasant. There are hundreds more that we could mention that are at our command, even though our position in life is to be a humble one, and we have but little of this world's goods. These things have been brought to us so cheaply that the poor of this age can have even grander things than the rich of other ages.

The inventive genius of man's mind has brought our heart's desires and dreams to our door. If we wish to make a trip, we can step from our door to an automobile and arrive at our destination within a few hours. The airplane can cross the continent in a few hours.

I believe you will agree with me that if it were possible for man to bring happiness that we should, of all people who ever lived upon the earth, be most happy. But, are we? I believe that we are not.

It is impossible for man to bring permanent happiness.

We must have that contentment within which God only can give. We must have that assurance that we are accepted of Him who is able to accomplish all things, and in whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. We should be drawing substance from the true vine which flowing through us will be a blessing, not only to ourselves but all with whom we come in contact.

Christ taught this in His parable to the multitude in Luke 12:15. "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." He then follows with the parable of the man who began to build greater barns and store his wealth, but in verse 20 He tells what will be his end, that this night his soul would be required of him. In verse 21 He includes that to mean all who do this, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

This proves conclusively that the one who trusts in the things of this world to make him happy will never be happy. You may notice one who has much of this world's goods that you think is happy, but you might change your mind if you could look in on his private, family life. This admonition is also given in I John 2:15-17. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof:

but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Let us note the words of a wise man concerning happiness. We are all familiar with the promise to David that his son would build a house to the Lord that His name might be placed there. We are also familiar with the prayer of Solomon, how he asked God for wisdom that he might rule the people justly and that he might make it the greatest kingdom on earth so that all would marvel at it. We know that he was counted the wisest of all rulers and that kings and queens came from all corners of the then known world to see the wonderful works of Solomon. The Lord was so well pleased that Solomon did not ask for riches, but wisdom only, that he told him that all these things would be added unto him.

Solomon was content with wisdom, and God then added all the other things that made Solomon's kingdom the richest and most prized in the world. How many people do you know who are really content and happy? If we could look into the hearts of all we met we would find but few who are truly happy. As soon as the excitement of life wears off we care but little for it, but we are soon craving something else exciting. We create beautiful things and then they soon lose attraction for us. After that we crave something different, and so on until we tire of life. This is the cause of many suicides, especially among the wealthier class. This is also a cause for the unrest which is manifest in the world today. As the nations of the world are made up of individuals, the unrest is just a reflection of the individuals.

Dear reader let us stop and examine ourselves and see if we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. If you are going to movies, dances and road houses for amusement and happiness, won't you please consider where you are going? If we should see Jesus Christ in any of these places, would we have confidence in Him? I think not. If you are a Christian, you will be Christ-like. Let us try to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, who at the age of twelve was found in the temple going about his Father's business.

May God help us all to put our cares on Him who careth for us that we may find TRUE HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT and in the end inherit eternal life.

FLATTERING RELIGIOUS TITLES

So often clergy in the non-Catholic ranks criticize the Catholic Priest for being addressed as "Father" when they themselves are being addressed as "Reverend". That's hypocritical! Being called Reverend insinuates a lofty and pious estimation of one's self.

Consider what Jesus said when speaking of the Pharisees and scribes in Matthew 23:6-11, "And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." It's clear these Pharisees and scribes loved the esteem their positions brought them, as well as the exalting titles. Jesus was clearly teaching that flattering religious titles were not to be a part of the Christian life.

God calls preachers to be apostles, or prophets, or evangelists, or pastors or teachers (Ephesians 4:11). These are titles of the positions of service they occupy in the body. Elder or bishop or deacon (Titus 1:5-7; I Timothy 3:1-8) are also titles of positions of service in the body. But these men are all brethren and servants of the church. When addressed with a title, that title should recognize their position of service or simply their relationship. Religious titles that elevate one member of the church, by their very nature, abase others.

There is a snare in the use of flattering religious titles. Jesus said, "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:11-12).

--From The KJIC Newsletter

THE CREATOR

By Bibi Shimoon Allicock

As we look in the dictionary to find the word CREATION, we see that it means the time when God is said to have created the world. Then, when we look at the word CREATOR, it means a person who created something.

The Creator: A name for God. How then does one worship the creature more than the CREATOR? How can one just set an image of something and bow down and worship it instead of bowing down and worshipping Almighty God, the CREATOR? “For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth (as there be gods many, and lords many)” (I Corinthians 8:5). “And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know” (verse 2). “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him” (verse 6). “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD and FATHER of all, WHO is ABOVE All, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ” (Ephesians 4:4-7). “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the BODY OF CHRIST” (verses 11-12). “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking THE TRUTH in LOVE, may grow up into him in all things, which is the HEAD,

even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (verses 14-16). “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (verse 13). “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of PEACE” (verse 3). “Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge” (I Corinthians 8:7, first part). The Almighty declared that, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6, first part). That is the knowledge of what Almighty God declared in His Word: “...because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings. For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shalt commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD. Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart. My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God. They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall

commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery. I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall” (verses 6-14). “Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven: yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away. Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest. Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother” (verses 1-5). “The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices” (verse 19).

Since we are studying the Creator, we must know that “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep... And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day” (Genesis 1:1-5). Yet mankind changed the time so that a day begins in the middle of the night. Satan just wanted to be the ruler of the world, so he used mankind to do all manner of things. In the Book of Daniel, we see that Daniel prophesied, “...The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces” (Daniel 7:23). “And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, AND THINK TO CHANGE TIMES AND LAWS: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. But the judgment shall sit, AND THEY SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS DOMINION, TO

CONSUME AND TO DESTROY IT UNTO THE END. AND THE KINGDOM AND DOMINION, AND THE GREATNESS OF THE KINGDOM UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN, SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH, WHOSE KINGDOM IS AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM, AND ALL DOMINIONS SHALL SERVE AND OBEY HIM” (verses 24-27). We see here that Satan, his ministers and his followers will be consumed, and Almighty God is going to bring back peace and harmony in His coming Kingdom.

Let us continue with Day and Night in Creation. We saw that they both were written beginning with capital letters. The capitals were there showing forth some form of significance. Yet mankind does not want to acknowledge those things, because they don't want to be like the Bereans and search the Scriptures to gain knowledge for themselves. They depend on their pastors and whatsoever they tell them. In the Book of Acts, we read that Paul went to Thessalonica where there was a synagogue of the Jews. “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also: Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus” (Acts 17:2-7).

We see here that the Grecians believed in the TRUE teachings of Christ, but the Jews, who were supposed to accept Him in all readiness, were giving trouble. Therefore, he moved into Berea where “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, AND SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, WHETHER THOSE THINGS WERE SO. Therefore many of them believed; also of

honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, NOT A FEW” (verses 11-12).

In the Book of Isaiah, Isaiah the Prophet declared unto the Israelites, “The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider” (Isaiah 1:3). “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me” (verse 2). “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the HOLY ONE of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment” (verses 4-6).

This declaration is not for the Israelites only, but for us who are called. If we sojourn here in the fear of the Lord and have a sincere heart, God is able and capable of keeping His promises which He has promised to us. In the Book of Exodus, we learn that, “...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: FOR I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE” (Exodus 15:26).

We see that when Almighty God created mankind everything was very good. “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31, first part). Thus, He wanted it to remain that way, but because of disobedience man sinned. Man did not ever have to plant and water the plants but to dress them and keep them accordingly. “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so” (verses 29-30). “And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden” (Genesis 2:8, first part). “And

every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (verses 5-7). “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (verses 15-17).

We see that everything God created was perfect until Satan tampered with Almighty God’s business. Thus he beguiled Eve, causing man to fall from grace and to sin. Sin fell upon ALL MANKIND. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Nevertheless, since Almighty God knows the heart of man, He knew that would take place. Hence, He provided salvation’s plan. Isn’t that wonderful! “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (I Peter 1:18-25).

“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. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17). Amen.

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE

By Pat Evans

**It may seem to be a cursing,
No, at first, you don't realize
That what God allows to happen
Could be a blessing in disguise.**

**It's always at the wrong time,
When things just aren't going right,
That another bad thing happens,
And there seems no end in sight.**

**Then it's hard to keep your focus,
You think: what is God up to?
When your world seems to be crashing,
And it's falling down on you.**

**Well then, should you keep on praying?
He's not doing what He could;
If God's really out there listening,
He's not doing you much good.**

**When you start that kind of thinking,
You just open up the door
For the Devil to start poisoning
Your own faith right to the core.**

**Just remember all things happen,
For a reason, Scriptures say;
God provides what's necessary,
To survive each waking day.**

**It's not about our own desires,
God knows what we really need;
So Lord, let us not be selfish,
Full of worldly lust and greed.**

**And think not about tomorrow,
But how to live your life today;
Remember everything that happens
Is for good - that is God's way.**

Valentine's Day

The Romans of ancient times held a festival on February 15 called Lupercalia. This supposedly was to protect them from wolves. Some people struck others with strips from the hides of animals during the festival. Women thought that this made them more fertile.

The British adopted many festivals from the Romans after being conquered by them in A.D. 43. There are those who link Valentine's Day with the Lupercalia because the dates are similar and because of a fertility connection.

There were at least two Saint Valentines in early church history. Both were supposedly executed February 14, possibly about the year A.D. 269. Pope Gelasius I made February 14, A.D. 496, Saint Valentine's Day.

English custom had it that birds found their mates on Valentine's Day. Two famous English writers, Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare, both mentioned Valentine's Day in their writings. It is believed that as early as the 1400's the English were celebrating this festival.

Some Valentine's Day customs were based upon occultic practices. Single women would sometimes use these practices as a way of trying to determine who their future husbands were to be.

One of the people who made Valentine's Day a commercial enterprise in the U.S. was Esther A. Howland of Massachusetts. She used an assembly line production to produce Valentine's Day cards.

--From the World Book Encyclopedia, U-V, pages 276,277,280.

Once again we see a holiday, that is celebrated by multitudes of people, that probably had its origin in antiquity by the pagan Romans. It was adopted by the Catholic Church in A.D. 496 by the endorsement of Pope Gelasius I. It spread to the English and other peoples of the world. Today it is a huge commercial enterprise bringing in a vast amount of money from the sale of cards and other items.

Should a child of God celebrate this holiday which honors Cupid (Eros) a pagan god of the Romans and Greeks? I think the answer is obvious.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

By David DeLong



"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

A time to be born--All of us have a birthday. We were born to parents that, hopefully, loved us, cared for us, supported us, and taught us the ways of the Lord. But there is also a spiritual aspect to being born. Jesus told Nicodemus: "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (John 3:5-7).

And a time to die--Hebrews 9:27-28 tells us: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 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." Man is appointed a time to physically die. But we must spiritually die to self. We must say to God, as Jesus did, "...not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).

A time to plant--Spring is a wonderful time of year,

when gardens are planted. Another wonderful time is when we plant the seed of the Word of God in a person's heart. When we share the gospel story with a receptive person, then God is honored and we are blessed.

And a time to pluck up that which is planted--We don't know when that time is, spiritually. We are to plant the Word of God, and leave it to the Lord to pluck up that which is planted. Jesus said: "...Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). This is His business, not ours. However, in our own lives, there may be much for us to pluck up. Old habits that don't honor God may have become rooted in our lives. These must be plucked up with God's help.

A time to kill--The Apostle Paul wrote: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." To crucify is to put to death. Just as Christ was crucified on the tree, our old nature is crucified with Him. We have become a new creature in Christ. Paul also wrote: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:" (Colossians 3:5). Mortify also means to put to death. Since we have been crucified with Christ, we also need to mortify our members which are upon the earth.

And a time to heal--This was one of the works of Christ when He was on the earth: He went about healing. He has also instructed His followers to pray for healing. James 5:14-15 teaches us: "Is any sick among you? 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 the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." Perhaps relationships need to be healed. Maybe that relationship is with the Lord Himself.

A time to break down--Over time, we sometimes build up walls that separate us from others. These may be walls of bitterness, envy, unforgiveness, hatred, etc. Or, we may have walls of fear that keep us from bringing the message of Christ to others. It is time that such walls be broken down. Any barrier that keeps us from doing God's will is included in this.

And a time to build up--To edify means to build up. We have been given gifts and talents to help edify the body of Christ, the Church. Let us use our gifts faithfully for the Lord. I Corinthians 12:4-7 reads: "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

A time to weep--Romans 12:15 tells us to: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." We are informed in Psalm 126:6: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." We know that even Jesus wept (see John 11:35).

And a time to laugh--Sarah, the wife of Abraham, waited for some time for Isaac to be born. Isaac means "he laughs". Sarah, and Abraham, well could laugh in joy for the birth of their son. God has given us the gift of mirth to enjoy.

A time to mourn--Jesus said: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4). The writer of Ecclesiastes made this observation: "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart" (Ecclesiastes 7:2).

And a time to dance--The Scriptures are not talking about worldly dancing in this passage. But there is a godly demonstration of joy that is expressed by the body in dancing. In Psalm 149:3 we are instructed: "Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp."

A time to cast away stones--The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery to Jesus. They were ready to stone her to death. But Jesus said unto them: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). These men then left her and Jesus without casting a stone at her. Jesus then forgave the woman.

And a time to gather stones together--When a person is about to build a house, stones are sometimes needed for the foundation or for other building material. Concerning the Church of God Peter wrote: "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 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" (I Peter 2:4-5).

A time to embrace--We must embrace, wholeheartedly, the teachings of Christ which is the Word of God. This teaching can only be found in the Scriptures, Old and New Testaments of the Bible. We should embrace all members of the Church of God, especially those who are seeking our forgiveness.

And a time to refrain from embracing--We must not embrace those who do not bring the teachings of Jesus. II John 1:9-11 reveals to us: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

A time to get--To the person who has, Christ promised that more shall be given. "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath" (Matthew 13:12).

And a time to lose--Jesus taught: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it" (Mark 8:35).

A time to keep--We must prove everything by the Word of God. Whatever is true, we must hold onto. I Thessalonians 5:21 informs us to: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

And a time to cast away--We find this advice in Ecclesiastes 11:1-2: "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth." And Proverbs 11:25 reads: "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself." Sometimes a person holds on to material possessions to his or her own hurt. But, by sharing, we will be blessed by the Lord.

A time to rend--In Old Testament times, a person who was fasting often rent, or tore, his clothing to show humbleness. There should be times of repentance in our lives when we rend our heart before the Lord. In Joel 2:12-13 we learn: "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."

And a time to sew--Tabitha, or Dorcas, was a woman who was full of good works, making coats and garments for widows. When she died, Peter was told. "Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive. And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord" (Acts 9:39-42).

A time to keep silence--When Jesus stood before Herod, he kept silent. Luke 23:9 tells us: "Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing." Jesus knew when to be silent.

And a time to speak--Jesus also knew when to speak. When He stood before the Sanhedrin, this is what we find: "And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying, Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe: And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor

let me go. Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God" (Luke 22:66-69). We must speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Proverbs 31:8 warns us to "Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction." This reminds me of speaking up for all the unborn children who will be aborted. They need us to speak up for them through our legislatures and government officials. But, most important, they need us to pray for them.

A time to love--We are commanded in I John 4:7-8: "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Keeping the Lord's commandments is how we show our love to Him (see John 15:10).

And a time to hate--We should hate the things of the world. I John 2: 15-17 exhorts us to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

A time of war--Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The doctrine of the Church of God, 7th Day is against carnal warfare. But we must recognize that we fight in a spiritual warfare.

And a time of peace--It is Jesus who gives us peace, through the Holy Spirit, in this present age. In John 16:33 Jesus said: "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." May the peace, from the Prince of Peace, be ours every day.





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.

COUNTRY WENT REALLY WRONG

While looking through some material that I can use for this column, I came across an old email that was sent to me in 2002 by a friend. The following are the words of that email:

Billy Graham's daughter was being interviewed on the Early Show, and Jane Glayson asked her "How could God let something like this happen?" regarding 9-11-01...

And Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, for years we've been telling God to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman that He is, I believe that He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand that He leave us alone in the light of recent events...terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc.?

Let's see, I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body was found recently) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said, OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school...The Bible says that thou shall not kill, thou shall not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself, and we said, OK.

Then, Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped, and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide), and we said an expert should know what he's talking about, and we said, OK.

Then someone said teachers and principals better not

discipline our children when they misbehave. And the school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don't want any bad publicity, and we surely don't want to be sued (There's a big difference between disciplining and touching, beating, humiliating, kicking, etc.), and we said OK.

Then some wise school board member said, since boys will be boys and they're going to do it anyway, let's give our sons all the condoms they want, so they can have all the fun they desire, and we won't have to tell their parents they got them at school, and we said OK.

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs. And agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to me what anyone, including the President, does in private as long as I have a job and the economy is good. And then someone said let's print magazines with pictures of nude women and call it wholesome, down-to-earth appreciation for the beauty of the female body, and we said OK.

FLYING TAXIS?

The following is an article by Chris Barrouquere which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. It is entitled *Droning on: Self-driving flying taxis are the future*.

If you're still trying to accept the idea of electric self-driving taxis, how about an electric self-driving taxi?

Nevada has agreed to help Chinese drone manufacturer Ehang test a single-passenger self-flying drone and is working toward obtaining FAA approval to begin

flying. The company already has a flying prototype of the Ehang 184 that was tested in China.

While the concept may seem like science fiction, a self-flying vehicle is really just a scaled up electric drone, the kind children fly every day. Add in self-driving car technology with existing aeronautical safety systems, and the concept of hopping on a drone and tapping a flight plan onto a tablet computer doesn't seem like a big deal.

Software that can fly a plane is actually easier to program than developing self-driving cars because our roads are much, much more dangerous. Connect the drone to a ride-hailing app, and the possibility of a self-flying taxi landing in front of your house to fly you over traffic jams simply becomes a matter of price.

In 30 years, we have gone from digital watches to most of the world having internet access. There is something dramatic happening right now with transportation, and the future could be even wilder than we currently imagine.

Comment

Do you think you would be really safe riding an electric self-driven taxi that is a drone? Amazing machines have been invented in just the past decade. In this column, self-driving cars have been mentioned more than one time. I saw an article in a newspaper that featured the coming of self-driving pick-up trucks and even self-driving eighteen-wheeler tractor-trailer trucks that haul merchandise and food to a final destination.

We firmly believe what is written in Daniel 12:4 which reads, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Increase in knowledge has made all these inventions possible, but this knowledge is only worldly knowledge. A constant increase in the knowledge of the Lord is required for every child of God in these last days. In Christ's reign, there will be much knowledge of the Lord. Isaiah 11:9 tells us, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain (kingdom): for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14 tells us, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

A PREDICTION

I saw on the internet that a man, Stephen Hawking,

who is said to be an expert on certain matters has predicted that man will be wiped out in one thousand years.

Stephen Hawking has no knowledge of what God says in the Bible. God's plan is for man to continue to inhabit the earth. Man will not, at any time, be totally wiped off the earth!

The Last Trump

By David DeLong

Purge out, therefore, old leaven
That ye be a new lump;
Then, meet the Lord of heaven
When blows the Lord's last trump.

You must repent of your past sins,
Wrong habits, you must dump;
And when the new man fully wins--
It wins at the last trump.

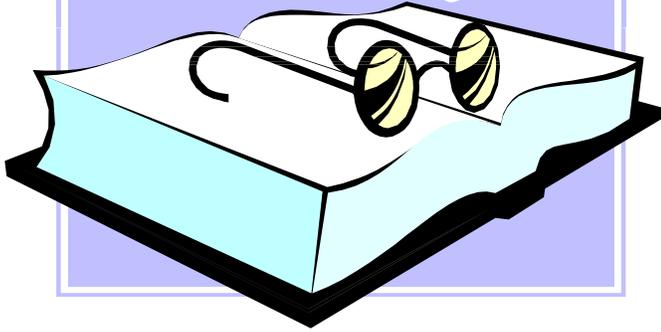
We, now, must live God's holy law,
This will, the wicked, stump;
It helps us be without a flaw
Unto the Lord's last trump.

When persecuted for the Lord,
With joy, we all should jump;
For, then, He'll come with great reward
At the Lord's last trump.



BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: II Timothy 1:10 reads as follows: “But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”. What is the difference between life and immortality?

ANSWER: Adam had life while in Eden, but not immortality. Immortality is the highest order of life, and is indestructible. It is not possessed by all as some mistakenly believe, but is given as a reward to the Christian church. “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life” (Romans 2:7).

QUESTION: Who is Belial?

ANSWER: Belial is a name applied to Satan in II Corinthians 6:15. The word signifies “worthlessness” or “baseness.” It occurs sixteen times in the King James Version of the Old Testament. However, the revisers have changed it every time to read, “wicked,” “base,” etc.

QUESTION: Do you believe Satan has foreknowledge? If not, how did he know Jesus was the Son of God when it had been revealed to no one at the time?

ANSWER: When Jesus was born, His divine Sonship

was proclaimed by angels and shepherds. It could have been no secret, and Satan needed no foreknowledge to know that Jesus was the Son of God. We can surmise that Satan was really concerned about the events around Bethlehem at the time.

QUESTION: Can a murderer who repents be forgiven?

ANSWER: Salvation is freely offered to sinners who come to God through Jesus Christ. David was a murderer, but God forgave him.

QUESTION: Does baptism take the place of circumcision in this dispensation? If this is so, why is there no mention of a child being baptized in the New Testament?

ANSWER: There is no relation between circumcision and baptism. However, both are a symbol of death to the flesh. Baptism has the added significance of resurrection out of death. As for infant baptism, it is utterly unscriptural.

QUESTION: What was the name of Jonah’s father? What does his name mean?

ANSWER: Jonah was the son of Amittai according to II Kings 14:25 and Jonah 1:1. Amittai is Hebrew for

“truth” or “truth-telling.”

QUESTION: Do you believe that Judas, who was one of the twelve, was ever converted at any time?

ANSWER: It is safe to say that Judas was never converted. Judas was always “the son of perdition.” The Lord Jesus Himself called Judas a devil in John 6:70. The word is not “demon” but “devil” (diabolos). Apart from Satan, Judas was the only one to have this term applied to him in Scripture.

QUESTION: Was Job sinless? In Job 1:8 the Lord says of Job: “...there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man.” Does the Lord mean that Job had no sin at all? Also in Job 27:6, Job says: “My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go...” Was Job self-righteous? If he was, did he have a right to be self-righteous?

ANSWER: Job was an upright man, but he was not sinless: “...for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:22-23). However, in defending himself from the insinuations of his three friends, Job went pretty far into what we would call self-righteousness. But when God appeared to him, Job confessed, saying, “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).

QUESTION: Before he sent for Peter, was Cornelius a saved man?

ANSWER: Acts 11:14 seems to indicate that he was not saved at that time. However, Cornelius sought after God. His salvation came through hearing and believing the Gospel from Peter’s mouth.

QUESTION: How many books and chapters does the New Testament have?

ANSWER: The New Testament has 27 books and 260 chapters.

QUESTION: What are four creatures, mentioned in the Bible, that are exceedingly wise?

ANSWER: Ants prepare their food in the summer (Proverbs 30:24-25).

Conies make their houses in the rocks (Proverbs 30:24, 26).

Locusts go forth in bands although they have no leader (Proverbs 30:24, 27).

Spiders work with their hands and live in kings’ palaces (Proverbs 30:24, 28).

QUESTION: Were the wise men in the same scene as the shepherds at the time of our Lord’s birth in Bethlehem?

ANSWER: No, the wise men were not in the same scene as the shepherds at the time of our Lord’s birth in Bethlehem! Please read the account of Luke 2:1-40 and compare it with Leviticus 12: 1-8. You will see that at the time of our Lord’s birth and the visit of the shepherds the holy family remained in or near Jerusalem for nearly six weeks, and then returned to Nazareth. Now read the account of Matthew 1:18 to 2:23. You will find that the visit of the wise men was not to the stable where the babe lay in a manger, but rather to a house where the young Child was. Then you will see that directly after the visit of the wise men, Joseph, being warned of God in a dream, was sent with Mary and her Child into Egypt where they remained until the death of Herod, following which they returned to Nazareth in Galilee. This must have been at least a year subsequent to the birth and the visit of the shepherds, and it might have been as much as two years, as may be suggested by the fact that Herod “...sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men” (Matthew 2:16).

I will praise the Lord today
In my work, and in my play;
With my lips I'll praise Him, too--
That's the least that I can do.

GEMS OF TRUTH



Myanmar

Brethren leading a service in the Church of God, 7th Day in Myanmar.





Various activities in the church, with the congregation and the youth groups.

LESSON I

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Scripture Reading: James 3.

Golden Text: Proverbs 18:21.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

1. What is said of a person who bridles his tongue? James 3:2.

NOTE: Bridle means anything that restrains, limits or guides movement.

2. Does the tongue (our speech) require close watching? James 3:8-10.

3. If we do not bridle our tongues, does our religion amount to anything in the sight of God? James 1:26.

4. From what are we to keep our tongues and lips? I Peter 3:10; Psalm 34:13.

5. What is said to be in the power of the tongue? Proverbs 18:21.

6. Tell what a good tongue is referred to in the following verses? Proverbs 10:20; 12:18; 15:4.

7. What blessing is promised for a right conversation? Psalm 50:23.

LESSON II

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT OF A CHILD OF GOD?

Scripture Reading: I Peter 2:1-25.

Golden Text: Romans 12:1.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

1. Does God ask something unreasonable of us when He calls us to His service? Romans 12:1.

2. When we become children of God, do we have room for growth? I Peter 2:2.

3. How can we grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord? II Timothy 2:15.

4. In what order will the fruit of the Spirit be added to us if we are sincere and study and pray in His name? II Peter 1:5-8.

5. Are we to know whom we serve? Are we suppose to know our doctrine? I Peter 3:15.

LESSON III

WHAT DOES THE WORLD EXPECT OF A CHILD OF GOD?

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 4:9-13; John 14:18-25.

Golden Text: John 14:27.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

1. Does the world of sin think very highly of one striving to do God's will? I Corinthians 4:10-13.

2. Does this affect you as a child of God to know that the world cares little for Christ? Matthew 5:44-45.

NOTE: The world does not expect much of a child of God. It thinks of him only as one who is a pretty good fellow but just "a little bit off" on some things. But you just let a child of God fall down on his principles and see who notices it first.

3. Did Jesus advise us to disregard the civil laws of the nation? Matthew 22:21.

4. Why does the world not understand why the child of

God cannot do everything which they do? James 4:4.

5. Should a child of God go looking at everyone as if they were against him? Study well the attributes of a child of God. Galatians 5:22-26.

6. Is it better to suffer for our good deeds or evil doings? I Peter 3:16-17.

LESSON IV

REJOICING

Scripture Reading: Psalm 97.

Golden Text: Philippians 4:4.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

NOTE: In the Word of God, we are told to be joyful and to express our joy. To rejoice means to feel joy or great delight.

1. What does the Psalmist tell the righteous? Psalm 5:11; 32:11; 68:3.

2. Why should the child of God rejoice even when persecuted? Luke 6:22-23; Acts 5:41; I Peter 1:5-9.

NOTE: It was from a prison cell, when his future was uncertain, that the Apostle Paul said "Rejoice in the Lord always."

3. What shall be the reward of those who sow in tears? Psalm 126:5-6.

4. What does Solomon say is "the gift of God?" Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, 22; 5:19.

5. Does the Lord require a joyful people, ever rejoicing? Joel 2:23; Deuteronomy 12:10-12; 16:11; II Chronicles 6:41.

NOTE: God wants us to be happy and triumphant. Satan wants us to be ashamed of our calling and without joy.

By rejoicing in the Lord, we can show others that being a child of God is what we should strive for. Enjoy being God's children, He wants you to.

Answers to "Change A Letter"

1. Milcah
2. ark
3. Horeb
4. Janna
5. Nob
6. Japhia
7. Neri
8. Hara
9. Hero

Answers to "Know Your Cities"

1. Cain
2. Ur
3. Sodom and Gomorrah
4. Bethsaida
5. Cana
6. Jerusalem
7. Damascus
8. Caesarea
9. Jericho
10. Pithom and Raamses

Answers to "Love" verses

1. herbs, Proverbs 15:17
2. waters, Song of Solomon 8:7
3. Knowledge, Ephesians 3:19
4. truth, Ephesians 4:15
5. fear, II timohty 1:7
6. conquerors, Romans 8:37
7. owe, Romans 13:8
8. Breastplate, I Thessalonians 5:8
9. rebuke, Revleation 3:19
10. sins, Proverbs 10:12

THE WIND
By Aldea Johnson

Mother was getting supper ready in the cozy, warm kitchen. Susie sat in her little chair by the window, watching her and thinking how nice everything was. The lamplight glowed softly through the room. In the stove, the fire snapped cheerfully, and Mother hummed a little tune as she moved about. The table, which Susie herself had set, was gleaming with its pretty cloth, its dishes, and its sparkling silver.

Susie did not care how the cold, November wind howled outside when it was so warm and cheerful in here. She loved to hear the tea kettle singing on the stove. Tonight it sang to her. "We'll stay inside where it's warm and bright, and it's dark and cold outside, tonight."

Just then Mother called, "Oh, Susie, Daddy wants you to bring another lantern out to the barn. The milking will soon be finished, so you can come back to the house with him."

Susie hesitated. It was so dark outdoors. Then the old wind shrieked as it tore past the house, calling to Susie. "It's dark out here --- whooo-oo, whoo-oo! We'll trip you up and we'll chase you, too, whoo-oo, whoo-oo, whoo-oo!"

"Mommy, do I have to go?" asked Susie, with a little shiver, "Im afraid."

"But there's nothing to be afraid of, Honey," smiled Mother. "You love to play outdoors all day."

"It isn't dark then!" wailed Susie. "The wind will get me now, and maybe there'll be a--a bear, or something. I don't like the wind."

"Didn't I see you playing with someone this morning?" Mother laughed. "You chased him all the way up the lane, and then you turned with your arms out stretched, and he chased you all the way back again. Your cheeks were like poppies, your eyes like stars, and you laughed and shouted for joy."

"That was the wind, Mommy, that was the wind!" Susie laughed, too, just remembering what fun it was. "But it wasn't this wind, Mommy, " she added soberly.

"The same wind, Susie," Mother said softly. "God sends His wind to help Mother Nature do her fall house cleaning, and to put all the little growing things safely to sleep

under a thick blanket of leaves. The wind loves to run and shout, just as you did today, but he is really kind and good. You run out now, Susie, and call to the wind. Say, 'Come on, wind! I'll race you to the barn!' Then see what fun you will have."

So Susie took the lantern which Mother had lighted, and away she went. The wind puffed at her and blew her about, and the friendly dark wrapped her in a lovely soft cloak. As she reached the barn door, she was laughing and breathless.

"Thank you, God," she whispered, looking up at the tossing apple-tree boughs. "Thank you for letting the wind blow me about and for your watchful care in the friendly darkness."



THAT'S WHY I LOVE HIM SO

Let's thank God for the little hills,
For creeks and rivers, too;

For trees to give us pleasant shade,
For skies of brightest blue.

Let's thank Him for the pretty flowers,
For animals and bees;

For fishes in the sparkling brook,
And birds up in the trees.

God loves the pretty things He's made,
He loves me, too, I know;

He gives me everything I need --
That's why I love Him so.

"CHANGE A LETTER" BIBLE PUZZLES

1. Find the prophet who wrote the book after Jonah.
Add one letter, and you have Lot's sister (Genesis 22:23).
2. Find the second book of the New Testament.
Cut off one letter, and you have a sacred box carried into battle (I Samuel 4:3).
3. Find the mountain where Aaron died (Numbers 20:25).
Add two letters, and you have the place where Moses saw the burning bush (Exodus 3:1).
4. Find a good woman who blessed baby Jesus (Luke 2:36).
Add one letter, and you have the son of Joseph (Luke 3:24).
5. Find a city of Egypt mentioned in Nahum 3:8.
Add one letter, and you get a town where the priests lived (I Samuel 22:19).
6. Find a blue stone in Exodus 24:10.
Change the first letter, drop 3 letters, add an "a" to the end, and you have another Bible king (Joshua 10:3).
7. Find King Saul's grandfather in I Chronicles 8:33.
Add a letter, and you have an ancestor of Jesus (Luke 3:27).
8. Find the city where Abraham lived (Genesis 11:31).
Cut off one letter, and you have the name of a city in Assyria (I Chronicles 5:26).
9. Find the king who killed John the Baptist (Mark 6:18).
Cut off one letter, and find what David became when he slew the giant Goliath.

KNOW YOUR CITIES

1. Who built the first city? (Genesis 4:17).
2. From what city did Abraham come? (Genesis 11:31).
3. What wicked cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone? (Genesis 19:24).
4. From what city did Andrew and Peter come? (John 1:44).
5. In what city did Jesus perform his first miracle? (John 2:1-11).
6. The Lord Jesus mourned over what great city? (Matthew 23:37).
7. Saul became a Christian on the way to what city? (Acts 9:1-3).
8. In what city did Cornelius live? (Acts 10:1).

9. The walls of what city were destroyed without being attacked? (Joshua 6:1, 20).
10. What Egyptian treasure cities were built by Israelite slaves? (Exodus 1:11).

"LOVE" VERSES

Here are some familiar verses that speak of love. Can you supply the missing word?

1. "Better is a dinner of _____ where love is..."
2. "Many _____ cannot quench love..."
3. "And to know the love of Christ which passeth _____"
4. "But speaking the _____ in love..."
5. "For God hath not given us the spirit of _____; but of power and of love..."
6. "...we are more than _____ through him that loved us."
7. "_____ no man any thing, but to love one another..."
8. "Putting on the _____ of faith and love..."
9. "As many as I love, I _____ and chasten..."
10. "...Love covereth all _____."

How God can stretch a loving hand
I do not know how it is so,
That streams of living water flow
From me.

I do not know how it could be
That Christ the Lord is seen
In me.

I do not fully understand
How the love of God can be seen
Through me.

But I don't have to see or know,
Enough that He has said it's so
For me.

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I'M THANKFUL

When my eyes behold a beautiful sunset,
Or a million stars on a clear, summer night,
My mind turns to God in His heaven,
To His love, mercy and might.
"Thank You, God".

When I'm watching two tiny sparrows
Working hard to feed their young in their nest,
I think of how God always feeds us,
His children, His chosen, His blest.
"Thank You, Father".

When I think of the many miracles
He performed to save Israel, long ago,
It's so plain how He has loved His people,
And it will always be so.
"Thank You, Lord."

And when my mind dwells on His kingdom
That He's been preparing for all these long years,
My soul is longing to be there
Where I'll be free from all sorrows and tears.
"Thank You, my mighty King!"

--Betty Whetstone

