

The Advocate of Truth





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Satan in Perspective

By David Royer

When something negatively occurs in every-day life or at work, we say the devil (A.K.A. Satan) did it or made it happen. When we sin, we blame Satan. When a glitch occurs in the publishing of our Advocate, we blame it on Satan. When we do something inappropriate, we blame it on the devil. A comedian from the 1970s, Flip Wilson would say: “The devil made me do it”.

Ever since Adam and Eve first sinned, we have been pointing our finger at someone else and not taking responsibility for our own actions or accepting consequences = (The effect, result, or outcome of something occurring earlier; Dictionary.com). Blaming our actions on someone else does not dissolve us of the responsibility. No one can make me sin. Not even Satan. You see, we choose our actions based on free-will decisions. Decisions are based on natural restrictions and the nature of man. Without God, we are lost because the nature of man is sin. “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). To put it another way, man will automatically gravitate to sin without divine intervention.

It is only through the grace and power of God that true free-will becomes “free” in the sense of man being able to choose salvation vs. final death. It is the Holy Spirit who works in and through a person’s will to regenerate that person and give him/her a new nature. “*And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (Ephesians 4:24). Salvation is God’s work via Jesus Christ: “*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might*

destroy the works of the devil” (Hebrews 2:14).

“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:” (II Thessalonians 2:13).

SATAN OUR ADVERSARY

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Don’t misunderstand. Despite God’s saving grace and protection, Satan is our adversary and deadly enemy. “*...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*” (Eph. 6:12). We must overcome him in our personal life. Never minimize Satan’s power or deny the reality of his kingdom of evil.

Revelation 12:12 tells of our peril: “*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*”

Here are a few verses that will give us comfort against our adversary, Satan: Philippians 2:12-13, “*Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Colossians 1:13, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:” Roman 10:9-11,13, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

SATAN THE DESTROYER

Peter said: *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”* (1 Peter 5:8).

Notice in this verse that Satan is not only our adversary, but a destroyer/devourer of people who are not diligent in keeping their defenses up against the devil. As a baptized child of God, the Holy Spirit dwells in you. As long as you retain this Holy Spirit, you will never be empty of the presence of God. Satan and his fallen angels can offer you suggestions from the outside, and they can lead you into deep sin, but they cannot enter and possess your soul. God’s Holy Spirit will not leave you according to the promise of Jesus, and God will not give you up. Even though he fully intends to destroy us, Satan must have permission from us or God before we lose our soul to the devil and his evil minions. Satan wins your soul only when you deny the Holy Spirit.

SATAN THE HINDERER

There are many examples in the Bible that describe how Satan puts up roadblocks in our lives. It is the way we handle these obstacles that determines how well we are prepared to fight back, as told us in Ephesians 6:11. *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* Remember: “Hinder” is not defeat. It is only a temporary roadblock or set-back. Also, some Christians are taught to rebuke or command Satan’s “hindrances” out of their paths, with

little understanding that most of the hindrances have been self-created.

Salvation is God’s work via Jesus Christ: *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil”* (Hebrews 2:14). Satan’s work is to hinder us. Here are a few ways:

Hinder Thru: Temptations

Satan always wants you to turn to sin, never to righteousness. The temptation is not sin, but can lead to sin. The Bible identifies several temptations and sins:

Galatians 5:19-21, *“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations (jealous rivalry), wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”* Other temptations, leading to sin, include boasting, pride, a lying tongue, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness [that] speaketh lies, sowing discord among brethren, a proud look, greed, lust, anger and gluttony, envy and sloth (laziness) also fall into this group. Some of these sins are foundational because they are sins that people are especially prone to commit, and because they lead to most other sins.

As daunting as this hindrance is to us, we have comfort from God that puts a restraint on temptation. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. *“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).

Hinder Thru: Restricting the Word of God

Truth allows God and His plan of salvation to be known. Since Satan hates the truth, he will hinder this good news from spreading. God’s Word gives the

believer assurance that we can live a victorious life. It doesn't come automatically. We must be aware of the commands and the promises of God's Word. It is not sheer will power, or human ability, it takes trust in Jesus Christ to fulfill what He has promised to accomplish. However, it does take co-operation, and obedience to God's Word on the part of the believer. Satan hinders us by seeking to take away the Word of God. *"And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts"* (Mark 4:15).

Satan has three strategies to take away the Word of God. First, he often acts immediately as soon as the Word is heard to make people inattentive, or cause them to feel ill-will, or to simply be so ignorant of spiritual reality they can't grasp what's being said. Second, he comes in after the Word has been received with joy and attacks it with hard times. He convinces some that holding fast to the Word is not worth the trouble. Third, he comes in where the Word has begun to take root and strangles it with the lie that too many good things are being sacrificed.

(Source: desiringGod.org By John Piper. © Desiring God Foundation)

Hinder Thru: Obstructing our Efforts

Satan has tried to hinder the work of God throughout history. Look at various Bible accounts of what Satan did to hinder Moses, Job, Joshua and Paul. Today, our efforts are still being hindered, but on a larger scale. Sin in our society is so prevalent that many people, both Christians and non-Christians, no longer look at evil as they should. Sin is glorified as we listen to Satan's lies rather than Jesus' truth. Many people today feel nothing is sinful as long as it feels good and seems right in their own eyes. They now accept immoral lifestyles as legitimate.

When doing the work of God, you can be assured Satan is right there building roadblocks to hinder your work. We have an enemy that is real and working to stop you from being encouraged and effective in your work and Christian life. Spend extra time in prayer asking the Lord: *"...Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us*

from evil (the evil one)..." (Matthew 6:13). Satan's meddling is proof that you are on the Lord's side and doing His work. Be comforted that, with the Lord's strength, you will triumph over the devil.

Instead of praying, "God, please show me what you want me to do next," some Church workers say, "Lord, this is what I am going to do for you. Please bless it." It is good to do the Lord's work, and even better to do His will. There are many great Church projects in which we could become involved. It is important, however, to be sure that we are doing God's will, not just His work.

We must strive to be as effective and productive as possible. We should not do just enough to get by, but rather we should work to the best of our ability. This means sacrifice, commitment and preparation. Keep your focus on the final goal, use the power in the name of Jesus, keep the faith, be vigilant, continue in prayer and keep Satan in perspective.



Finding God in a Leaf

Daniel Cruz



I want to disclaim any notion that I'm giving reverence to nature. I was in the midst of doing some yard work and I noticed that a leaf had fallen into the grass that I was mowing. It caught my eye in a peculiar way. The leaf looked healthy and strong, yet it found its way to the ground. It was shaken from the branch and had fallen. The colors on the leaf were green with hints of red and orange. I found myself intrigued with this sighting and picked it up to admire its look. The detail of this leaf was present and I begin to understand Luke 12:27, "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

God made all things present and for His honor. Solomon, a man of great reputation for the Wisdom that God had given him was not given such reverence by God. Let us realize that in all things God is present. I'd like to consider this to be my topic of choice.

How can the evidence of God be so unnoticed today? The distractions that take us from seeing God is a tool that Satan uses. I'd like to refer to Solomon again and the blessings that God placed upon him. II Chronicles 1:11 reads: "And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king." God acknowledged Solomon for the request to understand all things godly. He was to be king and yet, he desired understanding from God. Keep in mind that Solomon was heir of David and was privy to all

riches of men. The distractions were plenty for him yet, he sought a different way. Proverbs 17:27: "He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit." We must seek out this spirit that helps us decipher the intent of God in our lives and to show to others. The leaf that I mentioned in the beginning, stuck out with its colors and newness. It did not falter though it fell from the branch. We must sustain ourselves through all of life's distractions and remain a bright light with the help from God.

Finally, I'd like us to gather some perspective regarding the fulness of God's love towards us and that He has set us for His Purpose. Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Our state of being is mentioned in this verse. While we were yet sinners, God acknowledged His creation, being us. When do we acknowledge the Son and His sacrifice? After we've been run through the ringer. The world will promise us so much wealth and fame if we just put the work in and stay focused. This focus becomes blinders for us. "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not" (Lamentations 3:22). We forget about what has been done for us and how the Lord has commissioned us to follow Him in spirit and truth. We must represent the Lord to all who are in our surroundings. Showing the goodness of God allows others to see the Spirit of the Lord and our light becomes a beacon for all to see. I thank God for dropping a leaf before me that I might see His handiwork and that He has created man in the image of Himself.

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

Everything about Jesus was extraordinary, from His virgin birth to His miraculous resurrection. Because He was the Son of God with power to perform miracles, the wisdom to understand all things, and the promise of glory and authority in the future, we tend to overlook the fact that He was also human.

He grew up like every other boy of His time. He faced problems and temptations like the rest of us. He had to choose between a life of ease and glory or one of privation and persecution. If we think that this was easy for Him, then we haven't fully comprehended the scene in the garden of Gethsemane. There He spent time on His knees in agony, pleading with His Father to find another way that He would not have to die on the cross.

We often think our problems are great, and nobody has ever experienced the mental distress and agony that we have to endure. I have faced some difficult situations but never to the extent that I sweat "as it were great drops of blood." Why then should I feel that my problems are more difficult to face than the ones that Jesus faced?

Jesus could have accepted Satan's offer of the kingdoms of the world. He could have been an important man of authority and power. Yet, because of His love for us He was willing to sacrifice this and to die an agonizing death that we might have eternal life.

Yes, Jesus was, and is, the Son of God. He is worthy of our praise, and we can never glorify Him too much. Yes, I fear that we often forget His humanity. It is because He was human that we can relate to His perfect example and reach out in faith, knowing that, as a man, He too, was tempted. If He could overcome temptations, with His help, we can as well. It is His humanity that proves His love for us. It might be easy for God to die for others, but we know how difficult it would be for us to die for those who are unlovely and who dislike us.

Thus, Jesus is a very unique person. He is both, the "Son of God" and the "Son of man." He can do all things, yet He understands how we feel as weak humanity. It is great to be a part of His family and fellow-heirs of the kingdom of God. It is a privilege to acknowledge Him as our Lord and Master.

--From an old Sabbath School lesson

THOUGHTS ABOUT FOLLOWING

Bond Tennant

We are all followers! When we follow a person, we must make the choice as to whom to follow. Do we want to go to the place where that person will take us? When we travel, the first decision we must make is that of our destination. Life is much the same. Consciously or unconsciously, we make choices as to whom to follow. We watch others to see what they do. Choosing a guide or route in this life is haphazard. Very few people give serious thought to their destination! Most are content to follow their peers and enjoy the scenery. If the scenery is pleasant and satisfies their desires, if it increases the happiness for themselves, they are content.

Occasionally there comes one whose greatest concern is the destination. This one is very careful whom he follows because he knows that every route cannot take him to his desired destination. Jesus Christ was such a man! He was the greatest man to ever live on earth. Consider what made Him great. He was great because of His willingness to follow, obey, and submit to the will of His Father.

During His life, He was in every sense a follower. He was not on His own. He had a mission and a duty to perform. Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (John 5:30). Let us consider four facts about following.

1. Following means that we must make some fundamental changes. We must acknowledge that another knows more about the route than we do. Therefore, we must let go of our own opinions. Now we are not free to follow and explore any other road. Where our leader goes, we must

follow!

2. We must keep our eye on the One we are following. We cannot fasten our eyes on this present evil world and follow Christ at the same time. Proverbs 4:25 says, "Let thine (your) eyes look right on, and let thine (your) eyelids look straight before thee."

3. When we follow another, we give up our right and freedom to explore any road that might appeal to us. We must not even follow the course of our own mind! "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

4. When we follow, we must match the stride of the One who goes before us. A small child cannot follow the footsteps of a giant. To truly follow Christ, one must grow up in Christ to match His pace.

Magnify The Lord

By David DeLong

Sing to the Lord a new song,
And praise Him with your might--
A joyful noise, loud and strong,
And make Him your delight.

Praise Him with an instrument,
Or using just your voice;
Exalt Him to your heart's content,
Your heart will then rejoice.

Sing praise before the heathen,
Sing praise before the saints;
Sing praise for any reason,
And give up your complaints.

Magnify God's awesome name,
And witness of His love;
Make this to be your holy aim:
To praise the One above.

God is great, and He is just,
And we should make this known;
Let's place in Him our utmost trust,
And praise Him on His throne.

PRAYER

By Chris W. Royer, deceased

Today we find the world at large is passing through one of the most turbulent times in all the history of man, and we, as a people, are thrown into a chaos of uncertainty--ready to jump at conclusions, ridicule our neighbors, attempt to accuse anybody or anything that does not agree with our self-made code of right or wrong.

A great many of us in these trying times are turning more and more to the spiritual side of life as an answer to our problems. We are more prone at a time like this to listen to the quiet whisperings of that inner self, to give our Creator more consideration, and ourselves that blessed opportunity of becoming acquainted with the teachings of Christ and his followers.

For this reason, because of our present mood toward all things in general, it might be well for us to check on ourselves and the past history of man in his feeble attempt to adjust worldly things to his liking and satisfaction. At various times in the past we have heard, and probably will hear again, the call for nation-wide prayer for worldly peace, which should be a worthy thought, providing we pray for peace unconditionally with our hearts and minds free from the loathsome desire for material gain on our part--the thought that only if our side wins could there be a justified peace, or the thought that we as an individual or as a nation are on the right side with God and are in keeping with his universal laws.

How prone we mortals be in usually thinking we are right and the other fellow wrong. How often in this life we build around ourselves a halo of righteousness and then ask God to join us in our versions and protect us in our folly. In the mad rush of things we are prone to forget that in the beginning God created and gave to man that he

might have dominion over all that he surveyed, that from the beginning this, the earth, and the fruits thereof was man's vineyard to nourish or to destroy at his pleasure as he may see fit to do, although mortal man in himself is but very small on the measuring stick of things present and things to come. In his short sojourn here on this earth he is merely acting as a tiny unit in the evolution of the build up and tearing down in the preparation for the Lord's future kingdom here on earth.

For mere man to blame his Creator for His disregard in the shaping of man's worldly affairs is indeed the height of folly and dissolution on his part and a false conception of the spiritual made materials side of life. Naturally man is ever looking out for his own welfare and self preservation. This is the first law of life, and in so doing he fixes within himself at an early age the desire of worldly gain that he may enjoy a few of the pleasures of this world as he goes along. Then, as the years slip by he unconsciously or otherwise gives more and more of his time to the accumulation of material wealth, in the meantime forgetting God and His great universal work in the mad rush of preparing

for something that a great many of us never like to see--old age.

And now, when he is suddenly awakened to the horrible chaos that his thoughtless folly has brought to the world in general, man is ever ready to accuse or excuse, as the case may be, fitting the shoe to his liking, often forgetting that as a unit in this avalanche of destruction, he, himself is probably just as guilty as the one he is accusing. At a crisis or time like this we turn more readily to our Creator for assistance and spiritual guidance. And in so doing, let us pray for righteous guidance and be willing to accept God and his version of right and wrong, rather than to tell God how to adjust the universe to our peculiar code of thinking and acting that we may wear a feather in our hat through the vain selfishness of a foolish mind. For in so doing we are only fooling ourselves, for God is not mocked, nor is he ready to step down from the throne and hand the reins over to a vain people who are desirous of the annihilation of any particular race or creed to satisfy the lust of their own selfish needs.

"For all souls are mine," saith the Lord.

The Candle of the Lord

By Moises Torres M.

"The spirit of man *is* the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly" (Proverbs 20:27).

The spirit that God breathed into man and made him a "living soul" was not only a kind of an engine to make him breathe. This breath included understanding, reasoning, and intelligence that God breathed into man. This is the candle or spirit the LORD breathed into man. Therefore, Adam was able to name all the animals of the earth (Genesis 2:19), and understood all other directions given by God. Man also understood God's warning not to eat of the tree of knowledge (Genesis 2:15-17), because it would take him to death. God warned Adam and Eve because they had this "candle" or understanding which

makes a difference in man and animals. So, the prevention was there and the responsibility fell upon man. This spirit or "candle" spoken of in Proverbs 20:27, illuminates man's heart so that he is not in darkness.

Genesis 1:26-28, reads: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So **God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over

the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

These words relate that man was created according to the image and likeness of God, hence man’s intelligence and understanding to take over and subdue the earth, and have dominion over all the fish of the sea, and over all the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

The word “belly” in Proverbs 20:27 refers to our heart. So, there is not a pretext for man to use such an expression as “I did not know what I did or what I was doing.” No, the Lord did not create us as children of darkness but as children of light. Let us use this light or candle so our light shines before men, "...that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).



DAVID'S VICTORY

*Young David was just a country boy
Who put God at the head of all things;
Working hard to protect his family's flock,
And practiced each day with his sling.*

*Then one day two thieves came about,
Their eyes set on stealing a lamb;
They really were hungry to get to the sheep,
But that was the end of their plan.*

*David drew his knife and proceeded to slay
Both the lion and the bear on that day;
The lambs were all safe, and David was glad
He had done well his job on that day.*

*Then young David decided to go
To the valley, to witness the fight;
The Philistine army was mocking the Lord,
Not fearing His power and might.*

*David's anger was kindled as he picked up five
Smooth stones right from the brook;
And with God's help, and a shepherd's sling,
Just one stone was all that it took.*

*Their giant was dead and the army did run,
David shouted as they started to flee:
"Remember this well, you Philistine dogs,
Mock God and you'll answer to me!"*

*Then the head of Goliath he took in his hand,
And the victory to King Saul did bring;
Israel all cheered right then and there,
And later they crowned him as king!
(I Samuel 17)*

--Betty Whetstone



God Is Great

By David DeLong

"Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods" (Psalm 96:2-4). We can only begin to imagine how great the Lord is. "...The heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain..." Him (I Kings 8:27). He spoke everything into existence by the word of His mouth (Psalm 33:6-9). Nothing is too hard for Him to accomplish (Genesis 18:14). He has infinite understanding (Psalm 147:5). His power is omnipotent and He owns everything in the universe. And He loves us (see John 3:16; I John 4:9-10). This is what makes Him the greatest to me. With all the sin I have committed against Him, He still loves me and has forgiven me through the precious blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

God sees potential worth in every individual, no matter what they have done in sin against Him. That worth is valuable to the Lord. He is willing to do anything, within His character, to restore that worth in the individual so that He can have fellowship with him or her. This, God proved when He allowed His only begotten Son to suffer greatly and die on a cross for you and me. Romans 5:6-8 reads: "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

God's mercy is also great. We are told in Psalm 108:4, "For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds." All of us deserve the death penalty for our sins. And it is true that we must some day

die a physical death. But, God in His great mercy has made it possible so that we need never die the second death in the Lake of Fire.

God's thoughts toward us are tremendous, even before we were born. Please take a few moments to savour the tender thoughts that the Lord has for us as expressed in Psalm 139:1-18: "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts

unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee."

His provision for us is unsearchable. Jesus taught us in Matthew 6:25-34 the great care that the Father in heaven has for His children. Jesus said: "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Not only does the Lord give much attention to His servants' provision, but also to their protection. To the descendants of Abraham He even reproveth kings in protecting them. Psalm 105:6-15 relates this story: "O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen. He is the LORD our God: his judgments are in all

the earth. He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant: Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance: When they were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it. When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people; He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." He will do the same for us.

The Father has great plans for our future if we trust in Him to fulfill such for us. To the children of Israel in captivity He said: "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive" (Jeremiah 29:11-14).

God is so great that we only have an inkling of Him. But the greatest attribute that He possesses is His love for us. May we respond to His great love by doing the two greatest of His 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).

Talebearing

by David DeLong

"A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (Proverbs 11:13). Sometimes we may think that we are doing good by re-

vealing a matter to others. But, most of the time we are probably meddling in another's affairs with which we have no business doing. It is true that there are times when we

must reveal a matter. This situation may involve abuse on a family member or neighbor. Or, if a person has told you that he or she is thinking of committing suicide, this should probably be reported. But, each situation must be evaluated properly before considering revealing the incident to others. A lot of harm can happen to a person if we inconsiderately disclose an issue to others that is best kept to oneself.

Talebearing can be like a raging fire that is started by a spark in dry grass. Someone's reputation can be destroyed, trust can be devastated, and we may be committing an act which can never be taken back. Therefore, the Proverb says, "...but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

There have been times in all of our lives when we have done things for which we are profoundly ashamed. If someone were to broadcast such actions to others we would feel horrified. It is enough that God knows what we did, and if we have repented of those evil deeds then all is well.

In the book of Esther we find two examples of talebearing, one for evil and one for good. The first example of talebearing is found in chapter 3, beginning with verse 1. "After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment? Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew" (verses 1-4).

Furthermore, we find in verses 8-10 where Haman, himself, told the king about the Jews. "And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them. If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that

have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king's treasuries. And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy." The purpose of these talebearings was to destroy the Jews.

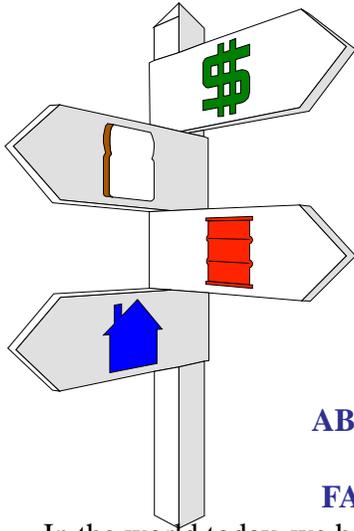
Now we find where Mordecai tells a man named Hatach the things which Haman was about to do. This situation is found in chapter 4, verses 5-9: "Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was. So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate. And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to show it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people. And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai."

We can see the obvious differences in these two examples. The talebearing of Haman was to destroy the Jews, including Mordecai, and the talebearing of Mordecai was to preserve the lives of the Jews, including himself and Esther. Maybe this should be our signal whether to give up a secret to others or not: will it bring life and health to others, restored relationships, and bring glory and honor to the Lord? Or, will it cause hurt, destroyed relationships, and bring shame to everyone involved?

Proverbs 26:20 instructs us: "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." May we never add wood to the fire.



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES



ABOUT LEAKS AND FAKE NEWS

In the world today, we hear much about the terms “leaks” and “fake news.” This is especially true in the political world. *The Oxford Dictionary* defines a “leak” as an intentional disclosure of secret information.” The term “fake news” is not yet found in all dictionaries, but its additional has begun and will surely spread. One dictionary that now includes it defines it as “false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting.”

“Leaks” rarely include information as to how the secret information has been obtained, or its source. This makes it virtually impossible for the general public to know whether such statements are true or false. The publisher of a leak may not know the veracity of what he is disseminating if it has not been disclosed to him in some fashion.

“Fake news” disregards the truth even more. It puts forth as information for public consumption with full knowledge by its source of its falsehood. “Fake news” also may come from leaks. The leaks may be true, or they may be false. However, the fake news into which they often evolve is always untrue.

One may wonder why these terms are so recently rampant in the world today. The primary reason is that the vast majority of mankind, regardless of where they might dwell on the face of the earth, are interconnected by modern forms of communication. Man now has the ability to communicate with each other. Man can both disseminate and receive information rapidly to and from anywhere on earth through many communication networks.

With the explosion of instantaneous communication, it is to be expected that some people freely engage in

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.

propagating leaks and publishing fake news. Their intents may be varied. However, in most cases, they are driven by self-centered desires. They may wish to promote certain political or social agendas while tearing down others. Leaks and fake news come from all corners of the political and social spectrum.

Many have come to question the truthfulness of what they see or hear. With leaks and fake news, there seems to be something for everyone to latch onto and claim as true and real. To many, whether the information is factual or not is of no consideration. One commentator suggested that people only want to hear what they agree with, regardless of truth or falsehood. If such has become man’s way of thinking, it should be no wonder that leaks and fake news abound!

From what source can truth that really is the truth without any leaks and/or fake news be found? The source is the Word of God, and it does not contain any leaks or fake news. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:16-17). Jesus said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17).

IF NORTH KOREA ATTACKS

I read that an expert said that an attack by North Korea could kill 90 percent of those in the United States! Also I read that North Korea has a program stronger than nukes which is designed to spread infectious diseases!

Comment

This brings to mind the words of II Timothy 3:1-3 which reads, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, untruthful, unholy, Without natural affection,

trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good”. Verse 4 gives some more characteristics of men in the last days. These characteristics must not be displayed by the sincere children of God!

We really are living in perilous times. One cannot deny that these are the last days! Perilous means dangerous. The nuclear crisis with North Korea is only one example of the word perilous. The personality of the dictator of North Korea fits many of the characteristics mentioned in II Timothy.

CREEPY CLOWNS

There was a student who spread terror by running across the campus of Brunel University in west London dressed as a killer clown. He yielded a chain saw! There was a creepy clown who frightened a resident strolling through a cemetery in the Midlands. That clown was brandishing an ax, according to a Facebook post accompanied by a blurry photograph. There was a pair of male clowns in a black van who approached two girls on their way to school in Essex. He invited them to a birthday party. As a result of that scare, Clacton County High School in Essex forbade students to leave the school premises during their lunch hour. The clown craze is a mix of childish pranks and more serious menacing.

The above incidents all happened in Britain. However, it really began in the United States. Lately, the creepy clown craze seems to have died down, but it is still a menace. Several people in the town in which I live are still concerned about creepy looking clowns.

I wish to quote the words of Chief Superintendent Andy Boyd, the head of neighborhood policing at Thames Valley in England, by way of an article appearing in the **Houston Chronicle**. He said that “while he did not want to ruin anyone’s fun, there was nothing amusing about scaring someone half to death.

While we do not want to be accused of stopping people enjoying themselves, we would also ask those same people to think of the impact of their behavior on others and themselves.

“Their actions can cause fear and anxiety,” he added, noting that intimidation and threats could lead to public order offenses.” True clowns, meanwhile, are outraged at the clown rampage.

DIGITAL BURNOUT

The following are the first three paragraphs of an article

appearing in the **Houston Chronicle** entitled *Typewriters are a cure for ‘digital burnout’*:

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Typewriter enthusiasts gather at an Albuquerque restaurant to experiment with Smith-Coronas. Fans in Boston kneel in a city square and type life stories during a pro-immigration demonstration. A typewriter documentary featuring actor Tom Hanks and musician John Mayer is set for release this summer.

In the age of smart-phones, social media and fears of hacking, vintage typewriters that once gathered dust in attics and basements are attracting a new generation of fans across the United States.

From public “type-ins” at bars to street poets selling personalized, typewritten poems on the spot, typewriters have emerged as popular items with aficionados hunting for them in thrift stores, online auction sites and antique shops.

Comment

Yes, sometimes many people like to take a break from the many smart-phones, social media, and the fear of being hacked. Sometimes it may just feel good to regress and go back to the days when things seemed to be simpler to use.

We have the computer with the internet and the ability to see the face of one to whom we talk. However, just emailing our friends and seeing them on Twitter and Facebook is no substitute for a real actual conversation in person!

WHOM TO BELIEVE

You may have heard last year that two Senators, who are not running again, criticized President Trump and said in effect that he was not fit for the presidency. Afterward President Trump made an announcement that he and congress are getting along really well. Who can we believe?!

NURSES AND VIOLENCE

I read a report that said for far too long nursing advocates say aggression toward hospital workers has been chalked up to just an unfortunate part of the job, and patients are rarely held accountable.

2030 ROBOT FORECAST

An article in the newspaper reported that robots may put 38 percent of American jobs at risk by the 2030’s. It reported that more than a third of U.S. jobs could be at high risk of automation by the early 2030’s, a percentage that’s greater than in Britain, Germany and Japan.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What is immortality?

ANSWER: Those who possess immortality live everlasting, but everlasting life is not necessarily immortality. If Adam and Eve had been obedient to their Creator and had been permitted to continue partaking of the lifegiving trees in Eden, they would have lived forever, but they would not have been immortal.

Immortality is indestructibility. It is a quality of the divine nature which was possessed originally only by God and was conferred upon Jesus at the time of His resurrection.

Man was created mortal. This means that death was a possibility, but not a necessity. Death for humans became a certainty because of sin. The followers of Jesus, being members of the human race, are mortal. By faith, the condemnation of death is lifted from them, and they lay down their justified humanity in sacrifice.

QUESTION: Will you please comment on the incident mentioned in Mark 7:25-26?

ANSWER: In Mark 7:25-26 we read, **“For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet: The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.”** We cannot imagine the heartbreak which that poor woman endured! A devil had taken possession of her daughter. The manifestations of

being possessed by a devil are too horrible to describe.

Using the most foul and profane language, the evil devil expressed himself through the lips of the woman’s innocent daughter! No doubt, he sometimes controlled the daughter’s body to viciously attack anyone who would come near. The woman may have thought that her daughter could eventually be driven to commit suicide.

The woman may have been at her wits’ end. However, when she heard of Jesus, the great healer in Israel, who was doing such wonderful things in Galilee, it must have given her a glimmer of hope. Her daughter, no doubt, was in too bad a state to take the necessary two days’ journey to Galilee. Also she may have heard that Jesus would not have dealings with any but Israelites. Therefore, she may have had only a small hope of reaching Jesus.

Perhaps we can imagine her elation as we picture in our minds a neighbor running to her home and breathlessly saying, “A most wonderful thing has happened! Jesus, the great Prophet and Healer is here in our village! He arrived just a little while ago with His disciples. I know the very house He is in right now!” Hope revived and surged into her heart.

No one can account for the love of a mother for her child. There seems to be nothing logical about mother love. This love is a blind and driving force of pure, unselfish devotion. Casting aside every logical objection, this mother lost no time in going to Jesus. We are told that she came and fell at His feet. In Matthew 15:22 she said, **“...Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my**

daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.”

Jesus did something which seems unlike him. Matthew 15:23 reads, **“But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.”** We can be sure this was not because of a lack of compassion! Never was Jesus insensitive to grief and pain. The world has never known a more compassionate man! Matthew 9:36 tells us, **“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”**

We can be sure that He knew the situation of this unfortunate woman even before she told Him. Why did He turn away in silence? Could it be because He saw in this woman a faith of unusual magnitude? This would be a faith worth testing! Seeing the indifference on Jesus’ part did not deter the woman in the least! She cried, “Have mercy on me, O Lord!” over and over again.

Not able to stand it any longer, the disciples went to Jesus about it. **“His disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us”** (Matthew 15:23, last part). Her cause struck a note of sympathy from the disciples. Their words, **“Send her away”** did not necessarily mean for Jesus to send her away empty. Perhaps they meant, to grant her request, and let her go. It would be a simple thing for you to do. In Israel, you have healed thousands. Legions of demons have been cast out of others by you. Cast out this demon also from this poor woman’s daughter and send her away in peace.

“But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 15:24). Jesus was saying in other words, “My ministry is confined exclusively to the nation of Israel. This is a Gentile woman which makes her an outsider. Remember when I sent you forth to preach and heal that I told you, **“...Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.”** This woman has no claim upon us. (See Matthew 10:5-6).

It seems that the woman herself came into the presence of Jesus at this point, having come closely upon the heels of the disciples. Perhaps she heard what Jesus just said. In an attitude of worship, she said, Lord, help me! **“But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the**

children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs” (Matthew 15:26). This really was not a very harsh thing for Jesus to have said. His answer to her was not one of disdain or contempt. It really did not indicate indifference to her great misfortune. Jesus had no such feelings toward anyone. He was really moved by her predicament. However, it was necessary for Him to give her a reason for His position in this matter. He was testing the great faith He saw in her!

We must remember that in the time of Jesus ‘dogs’ were commonly applied to all Gentiles by the Jews as signifying their inferiority in the sight of God. God’s dealings were exclusively with the house of Israel, and dogs were generally kept outside the house. It was a symbolic term, common in His day. The Gentile woman understood this perfectly!

Jesus gave the woman still another ray of hope in Mark’s account. **“But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it unto the dogs”** (Mark 7:27). Once the children had enough, then the remaining bread might be spared for the dogs. Now we see how merciful and loving Jesus really was. He was not discouraging the poor woman. He was leading her on to the strong declaration of faith that He saw in her!

She then grasped eagerly at the opportunity which she saw then. She said, **“...Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table”** (Matthew 15:27). Mark 7:28 records, **“...Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children’s crumbs.”** Her response greatly touched Jesus. Jesus saw in this Gentile woman many excellent traits of character which the most devout Jew might desire. We can believe that He saw a great love, a humble spirit, a persistence in seeking after blessing. Above all, He saw a magnificent faith!

“And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.” At that same time, the demon was expelled from the girl. Without a doubt in her mind that her request had been granted, the woman hurried home. **“...When she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.”** (See Mark 7:29-30). For the first time in many years, her daughter was peaceful.



The Philippines

A Church of God, 7th Day Church building in the Philippines.





Meeting with ministers (above); congregational meeting (below).



LESSON I

REBEKAH SEES ISAAC

Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:60-67.

Golden Text: Genesis 24:64.

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

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

LESSON II

JACOB AND ESAU

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

Golden Text: Genesis 25:27.

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

1. After Abraham's death, what did God do to Isaac? Genesis 25:11.
2. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah? Genesis 25:20.

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

LESSON III

JACOB RECEIVES ISAAC'S BLESSING

Scripture Reading: Genesis 27:1-29.

Golden Text: Genesis 27:22.

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

1. When Isaac was old and his eyes dim, what did he say to his son Esau? Genesis 27:1-4.
2. Rebekah hears what Isaac tells Esau. What did she then tell Jacob to do? Genesis 27:8-10.
3. What concern did Jacob have in doing this? Genesis 27:11-12.
4. What did Rebekah say would happen if he got caught, and did Jacob obey his mother? Genesis 27:13-14.
5. What did Jacob's mother give to him to put on? Genesis 27:15-17.

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

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

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

LESSON IV

JACOB'S VISION

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:1-22.

Golden Text: Genesis 28:16.

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

1. Where did Isaac tell his son, Jacob, to go? Genesis 28:1-3.
2. What did Isaac continue to tell Jacob at this time? Genesis 28:3-5.
3. Where did Esau go to get a wife, and why did he do this? Genesis 28:6-9.
4. When Jacob left home, where did he go, and what did he dream? Genesis 28:10-15.
5. What did Jacob say about the place where he slept? Genesis 28:16-17.
6. What did Jacob do when he arose the next morning? Genesis 28:18-19.
7. What vow did Jacob make? Genesis 28:20-22.

Answer to FIND THE NAME --
MELCHISEDEC



SORRY BERTHA SUE

By Fern Row Casebeer

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

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

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

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

THE LITTLE BIRD SONG



Just outside of Enna's bedroom windows was a lovely big tree, and in that tree was a nest of birds. Sometimes those birds would warble and chirrup happily, and Enna liked to waken in the morning and listen to them.

It made her very happy to lie in her cozy, white bed and listen to the little creatures singing as if they wanted to tell the whole world what a wonderful place they had found to live in, and how warm the sunshine was, and how many crumbs a little girl friend of theirs scattered out for them when she thought they might be hungry.



Enna and her daddy sometimes called them "God's choir," and Enna would say, "Just think, Daddy, no one else even asks them to sing. They just do it because they want to. And no one pays them except by loving and feeding them."

"That's true," Enna's father would say. "The birds are our friends, and we must do nice things for our friends. Just as the birds do for us."

Enna herself could sing very sweetly, and her mother had taught her some very cheerful songs which the little girl loved to sing.

One day Mrs. Best, who lived across the street from Enna, was having some of her friends come to visit her,

and she came over to talk with Enna's mother about it. The little girl was playing with her new doll and having a nice time.

"Oh, Enna, dear," said Mrs. Best. "I wonder if you would help to make my friends happy! I'd like to have you sing for the ladies. You could sing that little song about 'The Butterflies,' and the one about 'The Apple Blossoms,' and the one about 'The Little Girl Who Never Kept Still.' If you'll do it, I'll buy you a little bed for that new doll of yours."



Enna looked a moment at the shoe box which she had been using for a bed for Flossie, and the thought flashed through her mind how fine it would be to have a real little bed. Then she heard a chirrup outside the window and she thought for a moment.

"Of course, I'll sing for you, Mrs. Best," Enna exclaimed, "but I don't want you to buy Flossie a bed or give me anything. I want to do it just because I love you like the birds love us - and not for pay."

"Why, bless the child, just hear her!" said Mrs. Best as she put her arm around Enna and praised her and gave her a big hug!



WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

Everyone has some place they call home. Can you name the cities that these biblical characters called home? Fill in the blank by each person's name with the city he came from. Use the Bible text if you need help.

1. Timothy (Acts 16:1) _____
2. Amos (Amos 1:1) _____
3. Dorcas (Acts 9:36) _____
4. Nebuchadnezzar (II Kings 24:11) _____
5. Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10:1) _____
6. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1) _____
7. Abraham (Genesis 11:31) _____
8. Elijah (I Kings 17:1) _____
9. Lydia, seller of purple (Acts 16:14) _____
10. King David (I Samuel 17:12) _____
11. Philip the disciple (John 1:44) _____
12. Simon the Tanner (Acts 10:5-6) _____

FIND THE NAME

To discover this Bible name, find the eleven mystery letters in the puzzle below. Do this by comparing the two words on each line. The mystery letter is the letter that appears in the first word, but not in the second word.

1. THE LETTER IS IN MARCH
BUT NOT IN CHART

2. THE LETTER IS IN FOREST
BUT NOT IN FROST
3. THE LETTER IS IN MILE
BUT NOT IN TIME
4. THE LETTER IS IN CAR
BUT NOT IN ARK
5. THE LETTER IS IN HOUR
BUT NOT IN FLOUR
6. THE LETTER IS IN CHIN
BUT NOT IN NOTCH
7. THE LETTER IS IN MAZE
BUT NOT IN CAME
8. THE LETTER IS IN SEA
BUT NOT IN CAME
9. THE LETTER IS IN DREAM
BUT NOT IN CREAM
10. THE LETTER IS IN EAR
BUT NOT IN RAN
11. THE LETTER IS IN MARCH
BUT NOT IN HARM



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REMEMBER ME LORD

By Pat Evans

*Please examine me Lord and prove me,
Please test my mind and test my heart;
Gather not my soul with other sinners,
If You are my Shepherd, I shall not want.*

*You lead me down the path of righteousness,
You restore my soul for goodness' sake;
I fear no evil when You are with me,
For my salvation is no longer at stake.*

*Lord, remember Thy tender mercies,
Thy loving kindness has been ever of old;
O keep my soul and please deliver me,
For I trust in You, Jesus Christ, my Lord.*

*Reward the wicked according to their deeds, Lord,
They speak Your word but sin is in their hearts;
Render to them their just deserts, Lord,
In the first resurrection they will have no part.*

*The Lord is my shield and my buckler,
My strength to keep me back from sin;
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
And with my words will I always praise Him.*

*How excellent is Thy name in all of the earth,
And Your glory has been set above all things;
What is man Lord, that Thou art mindful of him,
Lift me up Lord, and carry me on Your wings.*

*Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,
Blessed by the Lord who has covered all his sin;
Blessed is he who has no guile in his spirit,
Blessed is he who has the Comforter within.*

*Leave me not, Lord, neither forsake me,
Teach me Lord, Thy straight and true way;
I am waiting and will be of good courage,
Remember me Lord, on resurrection day.*

