

A photograph of trees with autumn foliage in shades of green and red against a cloudy sky. The text "The Advocate of Truth" is overlaid in a red, italicized font.

The Advocate of Truth



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A Thought For 2015

Bond Tennant

The secular year of 2015 is here! The secular year of 2014 was a very sorrowful year for those who are not children of God and do not understand His workings. We have witnessed several events which one did not believe could ever happen. But these events did happen!

During the secular year 2014, I was reminded of Jesus' words pertaining to the signs that would occur before His second coming found in Matthew 24:5-8. Read these words for yourself! Notice that verse eight says, "All these are the beginning of sorrows." Therefore, more sorrows will take place in 2015 and beyond.

Let me now focus on the thought I have for 2015. II Timothy 3:1-5 gives us an overview on the behavior of men in the last days. Let us quote it: "This know also, that in the last days perilous (dangerous) times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of

godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

In Philippians 4:8, the Apostle Paul admonishes the Philippian Brethren on the subject of their thinking. He wrote, "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."

Let us consider these two Scriptural citations. II Timothy 3:5 ends with the words "from such turn away." Philippians 4:8 ends with the words "think on these things."

We cannot avoid everyone who displays the evil characteristics of mind and actions found in II Timothy 3:1-5. If we tried to do so, we could have no business communication at all. However, we can turn away from them in thought and action by only thinking on those things mentioned in Philippians 4:8.

Let us all have only good thoughts in 2015 and not be deceived by the thoughts of the wicked!

Thoughts About Contending For The Faith

Bond Tennant

One of the Lord's requirements for His children is found in Jude 3. Here they are told to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints has a direct bearing upon the success of God's children in doing justly and walking humbly with their God. If we appreciate the light of the truth, which we should, we will gladly and earnestly contend for it. We will gladly treasure it in our hearts. We will do all in our power to help others do the same. If we take the view that it does not really matter what we believe, then such an attitude must be regarded as a danger signal.

Failure to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints can be caused by only putting emphasis on

certain lines of what the Lord requires, to the neglect of other important elements. For example, suppose we conclude that prayer and brotherly kindness are the only essentials of Christian development – that it does not really matter what we or others believe. Human reasoning might conclude that such an attitude is an accepted exercise of tolerance. This idea may arise because faith has been lost in one or more doctrines of truth which we come to regard as no longer important or applicable. God's Word clearly teaches that we are sanctified by the truth. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Therefore, we should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Let us keep it clean, pure, and bright!



Encounters With God

By Carlo Rasmussen, Deceased

The Scriptures reveal to us many encounters between God and His people. We are reminded in the Holy Writings that these encounters are examples for us today to learn from. Thereby, we should not make the same mistakes through our unbelief. “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted” (I Corinthians 10:6). Many of the recorded incidents took place with the children of Israel during the time of their traveling and wandering in the wilderness. Through these trying years, there are some profound events which occurred between the Lord and an unbelieving people. One of these incidents took place just after the children of Israel were turned back from entering the promised land of Canaan.

Previous to this, the record shows how the Lord, through many miracles, brought Israel out of Egyptian slavery. The Lord provided for their every need while in the wilderness, even when Israel became gainsaying and disobedient. Through the Red Sea, they came and were provided with necessary food and drink. The shoes of their feet did not wear. The many accounts outside of the Scriptures reveal how hard it was for Israel during their wanderings in the wilderness. The main reason for their many problems was due to their own unbelief. Had they maintained a proper attitude and believed completely that the Lord could do exactly as He had promised them, their journey would certainly have been a much easier one to the promised land. At Sinai, they were given the Ten Commandments along with God’s ceremonial laws and ordinances. At that very mountain, Israel provoked the

Lord through idolatry. From Sinai, they were led by the cloud at day and the pillar of fire at night onward to the border of the promised land. Because of their display of unbelief through the ten false reports of the spies, Israel was turned back again into the wilderness to wander for forty years. God said that the complete adult generation, except Joshua and Caleb, would not enter the promised land (Numbers 14:30-32). Now Israel was faced with something they did not expect, which only came about through their unbelief.

In the 16th chapter of Numbers, we read of a particular incident wherein the Lord again was provoked through dissention among the ranks of Israel. We learn of Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On, who rose up before Moses with “two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly . . . men of renown:”. These men and their congregation challenged Moses and Aaron by saying, “Ye take too much upon you . . . wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?”

Upon hearing these words, Moses fell on his face, then spoke to Korah and his men saying that “to morrow the LORD will shew who are his . . .” Moses went on to instruct these men to take censers and put fire and incense therein on the following day. Moses further stated to Korah how the Lord had separated the sons of Levi to do service of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to minister (serve) unto them. Besides all this, Korah and his men now sought the priesthood also. Therefore Moses explained to them that

they were really against the Lord Himself. Two of the company, Dathan and Abiram, would not meet with Moses and Aaron. These two further complained that Moses failed to bring them all into “a land that floweth with milk and honey...” To these words, Moses became very wroth. Once again Korah and his company were given the same instructions for the next day.

When the next day arrived, Korah gathered all the congregation against Moses and Aaron at the door of the tabernacle. At that time, the glory of the Lord appeared, and the Lord waxed hot and told Moses and Aaron to “Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.” After Moses and Aaron pleaded for the lives of the company, the Lord commanded the congregation to remove themselves from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, which they did. Moses then made this statement to prove that he was sent from God to do all these works for Israel. Moses commanded that if these men lived a normal life and die the common death of all men, the Lord did not send him. However, if the earth should open up and “swallow” up these men, then let all Israel know and understand that these men “provoked the Lord.” Upon ending his words, the earth opened up and “swallowed them up, and their houses...” They perished from among the congregation. The other 250 men that offered incense were consumed by a fire which came out “from the Lord.” It may seem strange to the reader, nevertheless, the very next day the children of Israel were already murmuring again against Moses and Aaron because of the incident with Korah and his company. Due to this continued complaining 14,700 more Israelites died the following day after Korah and his men were destroyed.

As was stated earlier, these examples have been recorded for our learning and admonition. It is for us to examine ourselves to determine if we are found murmuring against the Lord. Through a sincere and contrite heart, the Lord will surely reveal it to us if we are in error and want to know the truth.

One may ask why the Lord does not display this same wrath today as was done among the Israelites in the

wilderness. The reason is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is our Advocate today like Moses was an advocate for the children of Israel. Jesus will intercede for us if we look to Him with a sincere and humble heart. We could not begin to number the times Jesus has interceded for our shortcomings at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. In the flesh, we are no different than those in Israel. Here is the very reason why we must put on Christ daily in our race that we run. This is Christ in you the hope of glory.

In due time, the wrath of God will fall upon the wicked of the earth. Like as the rest of Israel were removed away from Korah and his men before they were destroyed, so the Saints of God will be removed to the “Sea of Glass” before God’s Wrath, the “Seven Last Plagues,” fall upon this earth.

Today God’s people are in a type of wilderness. The world today is not righteous and therefore it remains only a place of wandering for the children of God. True salvation today is an individual experience. Though we may assemble and worship in a united “Body” each Sabbath Day, each person is a type of tabernacle in himself. The individual is responsible for his own body and how he conducts himself. In this way, we are in a sense isolated and must come and follow the Lord Jesus Christ on our own. As each of us studies the Scriptures in sincerity, we come to realize that God has already proven Himself to us. It is now time for us to prove ourselves unto God.

Today the child of God may partially view the Sea of Glass, which we know to be the New Jerusalem, through the pages of the Bible. However, because we are in this fleshly “tabernacle” we may not enter therein. We are to continue on in faithful living for the Lord through the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ as outlined in the Bible. If we continue in His will – if we strive to think on things good and pleasing, and keep from complaining, we will soon find ourselves among that special congregation in the New Jerusalem when Jesus comes again. What about you? When our Lord “appears” will you be found faithful? May God bless you to understand these thoughts.

Reprinted



Reasons and Principles

The Perfection of Man

By Moises Torres M.

1. Did God create the perfect man?

Yes, of course! God gave man a mind and a capacity of choice. This is the perfection with which God grants man.

2. Did God create man with a memory and programmed as if he were a computer?

No, God did not create man as a programmed computer to run certain information. For example: God does not program man to sin or not; otherwise, God would be responsible for the decisions of man and his fall in Eden. On the contrary, God grants man free will to make his own decisions. Therein lies his perfection. However, man has not considered it so. “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (I Corinthians 1:21).

Many thinkers and modern philosophers say that God did not create the perfect man because man is full of errors and mistakes. They continue, if God had made the perfect man, the man would not have erred in Eden and would not have died.

But these errors and mistakes are the responsibility of man and not of the Creator. God gave man freedom and individuality to make his own decisions.

3. Does man have today this same perfection?

Yes, of course. Man continues to have the same ability to decide for himself, and he continues to keep making wrong decisions as in Eden.

4. Did God create man straight in the moral sense?

Yes, God also raised the perfect man in this regard. God created man with clean feelings, without malice or greed in his heart and mind. It was the devil who pervaded man with his evil and dropped him in his deception.

“Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions” (Ecclesiastes 7:29). They turned to invent around personal thoughts and decisions, putting aside the prevention and reasons of God.

Note: “Do not invent” is an expression very common in our time, used when someone comes out of the reality making and saying things going beyond the established. Man keeps “inventing” today his own will and setting aside the will of God. “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient” (Romans 1:28).

Only the reasons and principles of God place us in reality. The rest are inventions of man and deceits of the devil. David prayed frequently, saying, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

5. Did God provide a way to prevent man from death?

Yes. God said: “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 2:17).

Christ First

WHEEL

Jerry Womble

When Christ is first, everything else seems to fall into its rightful place, but when He is not first, everything is out of place and confusion reigns. There is an established order for all things, ordained by God and utterly inexorable. To neglect it spells frustration and futility; to recognize and embrace it, spells life, freedom, and happiness!

There is a good deal of confusion as to this matter of what comes first. One says, "My health comes first"; another, "My family comes first"; still another, "Education is of primary importance," or marriage, or business. Others make pleasure, or politics, or society, or church, or club, or friends, their chief concern.

But God has spoken, and He told us that to be in proper alignment with Himself, with ourselves, with the world, and with eternity, there is a set and fixed order. God's order is, Christ first, for He gave Him to be the Head over all things to the church. He is Lord of all. That in all things He might have the preeminence! He must be the first in our affections, first in our planning, first in our motives, first in our desires, first in our homes, in our lives, in our pleasures, in our business, our work, our play. When this is in order, all is well, come what may.

It is also in salvation. Ye are admitted through Jesus Christ. In forgiveness, in peace, in power, in holiness, in service, in study, in meditation, in prayer, in testimony--Jesus is the entrance way into the fullness of each of these. Without Him at the entrance, none of these becomes ours. If one knows Christ thus, life comes into correct adjustment--becomes beautiful, purposeful, useful, beneficent, radiant, joyous, rich, sweet, pure. When He is given first place in the heart and life, then God is glorified, and Christ is exalted. Then, also, the church is enriched, the world is blessed, and souls are guided aright.

Putting Christ first will bring eternal blessing to multitudes who should otherwise have perished in misery and obscurity. There have, no doubt, been seemingly fine lives lived without Christ, but watch them through to the end. Some of the most tragic wails of futility and despair have come from the dying lips of many of earth's most brilliant unbelievers. And some of the bitterest expressions of disappointment have come from unbelievers who failed to give the precious Savior the first place.

What is the wheel of Proverbs 20:26? The verse reads "A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them."

This is using the threshing wheel as a symbol of the king's authority to separate the evil doers from his kingdom. In the Bible times, the ox would tread the harvested crop with his hooves and with the wheel that he turned. The crop, then, would be threshed and the grain could be separated from the chaff. A companion word with the threshing wheel is the Hebrew word mzaareh which is the winnowing fork. The farmer would use the wheel to thresh the grain then with the fork, lift the grain and chaff up in the air and as it fell back to the threshing floor, the chaff would be blown away by the wind and the good seed back to the floor to be kept for food. In our verse, the wise king would have righteous judgment on all the people and point out the wicked subjects and their works and give due punishment to them for their crimes, and this could give a good and safe life for the good subjects of his kingdom. If we look back to verse 8, we will find that the righteous king has such authority that with his presence and the look of his eyes the evil doers will scatter and not want to commit any crime in his kingdom.

As children of God, we should see Him in that same light. His judgment will be sure. It will be swift and no one can escape it. Let us live our lives in a manner that shows we are children of God and that there will be no need for the wheel of judgment to roll over us.



The Old and New Covenants: (Do We Take Our Liberties For Granted?)

By David DeLong

"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free." (Galatians 4:21-31).

The two wives of Abram, Hagar and Sarai, represent by allegory the two covenants of God. The covenant, represented by Agar (Hagar), is known as the Old Covenant in which people were under the law (containing the

Law of Moses or the Book of the Law). Going back to Galatians 3:10-13 we read: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree".

Furthermore, Galatians 5:1-4 informs us: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

This was the great question brought before the apostles and elders in Jerusalem: does a person have to keep the Law of Moses to be saved? We learn of this situation in Acts 15. Verses 1-2 read: "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot

be saved. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question." Verses 5-6 reinforces the question. "But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."

Peter spoke up at this meeting and declared: "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" (Acts 15:10-11). James then gave his judgment concerning this matter: "Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood" (verses 19-20).

Why did James recommend this list for the newly converted Gentiles to do? (which by the way was also God's decision, see verses 28-29). The Lord wasn't teaching that these Gentile converts only had to do the four things listed. But, the Gentiles would have had a special problem with these four items. Coming out of paganism they would have had their consciences offended by eating meats offered to idols. They would have had a special problem with fornication because much of their former, pagan religions were based upon fertility rites. They, as pagans, had formerly eaten animals which had died by being strangled, and had eaten or drunk animal blood. These, then, were the most "necessary" things for them.

Now, returning to the answer given at this Jerusalem meeting was that believers in Christ do not have to keep the Law of Moses to be saved. In fact, they must not keep it. This law was added under the Old Covenant and was actually done away with when Jesus died on the cross (see Ephesians 2:11-18). This law included circumcision, sacrificial codes, the tabernacle service and other "law of commandments contained in ordinances", and was done under the Levitical priesthood. It was also known as the law of "shadows" (see Colossians 2:14-17; Hebrews 8:3-5; 10:1).

Why, then, was the Levitical priesthood changed along with the law that applied to it? We find this answer in the Book of Hebrews. Chapter 7, verses 11-12, reads: "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." We find, then, that the Levitical priesthood (and the Mosaic Law) placed the people under bondage, was fleshly, and was eventually done away with, under the Old Covenant, as symbolized by the casting out of Hagar with her son, Ishmael.

Now we come to the New Covenant as represented by Abram's wife, Sarai. Let us turn to Deuteronomy 4:12-13 for some very interesting verses. Moses said: "And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." We see here that God's covenant with His people was based upon the Ten Commandments. (It still is today). These Commandments we know as the Law of God as distinguished from the Law of Moses which was added later. After Moses repeated these Commandments in chapter 5:6-21, we read in verse 22: "These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me."

The Lord "added no more." In other words God's Covenant to His people was (and is) based upon these Ten Commandments. Hebrews chapter 8 is most informative. "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after

those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away" (verses 7-13).

Did you notice from the above text that it was the fault of the Israelites for not obeying God's Covenant, and not the Covenant itself? Therefore, He would make His New Covenant with them which would be based upon His Laws being put into their mind and written upon their hearts. The situation is like this: God gave His people the Ten Commandments, adding no more to them. The people did not obey these Commandments and the Lord added more laws (the Law of Moses) because of their transgressions. He promised to later make a New Covenant with them, placing His Laws within their mind and hearts. This New Covenant would be with Israel, as prophesied, but the Lord also writes His Laws within all of His people, Jew or Gentile, in the New Covenant relationship. The added law (Law of Moses) would last only until Jesus came and fulfilled it, as we see from Galatians 3:19. "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

The New Covenant rests upon God's promises, it brings freedom to people, it is associated with the New Jerusalem, and it is based upon the Ten Commandments within the Melchizedek priesthood, with Jesus being the High Priest (see Hebrews 6:20). In fact, one cannot enter the New Jerusalem without keeping God's Commandments. Revelation 22:14 informs us: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." This verse does not suggest that we can "earn" our way into the New Jerusalem by keeping God's Com-

mandments. Rather, keeping the Commandments gives us the "right" to enter the city, which is the right of inheritance. An inheritance cannot be earned, only given to an heir after the death of the Testator (see Hebrews 9:16-17). However, one must be a qualified heir to receive an inheritance, and obedience to God's Word is what qualifies one to inherit (have the "right") to the tree of life and entering the New Jerusalem.

The Lord Jesus Christ made all of this possible for us because He is the only One who kept God's Covenant perfectly. He, to the smallest detail, kept the Ten Commandments and all of God's will in heart, mind, and actions, which we must also strive to do, today. He also kept perfectly the added Law of Moses which He fulfilled and abolished by His death on the cross (again, see Ephesians 2:11-18). Christ's righteousness has been imputed to believers (see Romans 4:1-8,9-10). However, one must personally keep God's Word, including His Commandments, as proof of his or her heirship to God's Kingdom. Anyone living in sin (iniquity) will not be allowed into His Kingdom. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 22:14-15).

So, do we take our liberties for granted? Some try to "earn" their way into God's Kingdom by being under the law, as did the Galatians and some of the believing Pharisees. Others, however, try to "sneak" their way into His Kingdom by disobeying God's Word, including His Commandments. Let Jesus answer for us: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23).



Inheritance

By David DeLong

In the previous article we mentioned about believers receiving an inheritance in the coming Kingdom of God. Actually, believers also receive part of their inheritance now, in this life. The last will and testament (New Covenant) of Jesus provides for the believer's inheritance, and the terms for receiving that inheritance. Concerning Jesus, as found in Hebrews 9:15-17 we read: "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth."

These amazing verses inform us that Jesus set forth the terms of the New Covenant (His last will and testament, if you will) while He was living upon the earth. This, of course, is the way it had to be because He could not set forth those terms after He had died, nor could anything be added to or taken away from the Covenant after the terms had been set. The Apostle Paul explains this situation in man's terms in Galatians 3:15. "Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto." Jesus set forth the terms of the New Covenant, and then confirmed the Covenant with His death upon the cross. Nothing would be added to or taken away from those terms.

Many people believe that Paul and others of the early disciples of Jesus changed some things after Jesus died.

For instance, many believe that the worship day was changed from Sabbath to Sunday in the Book of Acts. This wasn't possible, because the terms of the New Covenant could not be changed after Jesus' death, and Jesus only worshipped on the Sabbath. This condition applies to all of the doctrines that we must have and believe concerning salvation and holy living. If Jesus did something Himself and taught it to others (see Acts 1:1), it is a condition of the New Covenant. The entire Bible--Old and New Testament Scriptures--explains the will of Jesus and His Father.

We will now list some of the terms that Jesus set up for the New Covenant. In Matthew 19:16-21 we find a situation in which a rich man came to Jesus asking about receiving eternal life. We read: "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."

We see, then, that keeping the Ten Commandments

of God is a condition for receiving eternal life. One cannot "earn" eternal life by keeping God's Commandments, but rather one may "enter into life" ("inherit eternal life", see Mark 10:17) by keeping them. Also, in regards to inheriting eternal life, a lawyer asked Jesus a question. "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live" (Luke 10:25-28).

Another condition of the New Covenant, and thus for one being allowed to inherit eternal life, is doing good unto others. Jesus said: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:31-40).

Baptism in Jesus name is a condition of the New Covenant. Mark 16:16 informs us: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." See also Acts 2:38. Keeping the Lord's Supper on the proper evening is another condition. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is

my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives" (Matthew 26:26-30). Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote about the revelation that he was given from the Lord concerning the proper time for the Lord's Supper. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (I Corinthians 11:23-25).

Going along with the Lord's Supper, the Footwashing service is a condition of the New Covenant. Before giving the emblems of the bread and the cup in the Lord's Supper service, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Notice carefully His instructions to the disciples. "So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:12-17).

These are only a few of the conditions of the New Covenant. Jesus set all the terms of this Covenant before He died on the cross. His death (the shedding of His blood) confirmed the Covenant, and nothing was added to or taken away from this Covenant. The epistles of Paul, James, Peter, John, and Jude only provide insight into the New Covenant, but do not add or disannul anything from it. When a child of God keeps the terms of the New Covenant, the Lord is pleased to allow him or her to inherit eternal life, as well as inherit blessings now.

What, then, are some of the blessings that children of God receive now from their inheritance given through Christ? Part of that inheritance is recorded in Ephesians

1:13-14: the Holy Spirit. Referring to Jesus we read: "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." The Holy Spirit is the "earnest" or down payment of the complete inheritance of the saints.

With the Spirit one receives, among other things, comfort, the fruit of the Spirit and, later, resurrection from the dead (see John 14:15-26; Galatians 5:22-23; and Romans 8:11). The Lord also gives us now a spiritual understanding of our inheritance. Ephesians 1:18-19 reads: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power". This is a wonderful part of the inheritance: just knowing how fabulously rich it is. We don't know everything concerning this inheritance, but the Lord has revealed enough of it to us to make us long for it. We read in I Corinthians 2:9-10: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

In Hebrews 6:12 we find: "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Second Peter 1:4 tells us: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." In I Peter 3:9-11 we learn of blessings that are inherited now. "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."

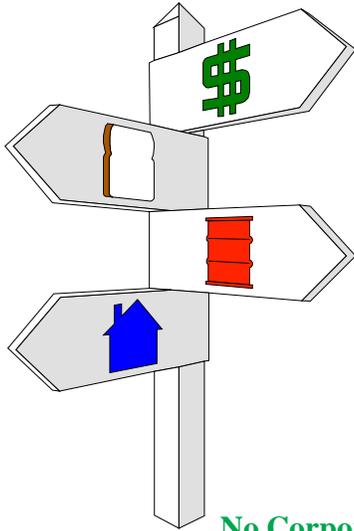
Finally, Revelation 21:7 assures us: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Peter also writes: "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:4).

A DAY OF SMALL THINGS

**God is a Creator of Miracles,
Proven by things you can see;
Just consider the world you live in
That was created for you and for me.
By His great power the mountains
Gave hope to another new day;
Our existence depends on this mercy,
And for this we should remember to pray.
With a thought He can move a mountain,
And curse mighty rivers to run dry;
There is no other who can do this,
And none even needs to try.
And yet in the midst of His labors,
He has time for a million small things;
A shower of rain in a farmer's dry land,
Or an answer a small prayer brings.
There is so much goodness we fail to see
Taking place in a day of small things;
The moon rising over the mountain,
The sound of a lark when it sings.
An ant is so small it is hardly seen,
It exists by God's loving care;
A great Sequoia, the largest of trees
Only proves again God is there.
The tiniest plant on a mountain
Was formed by His loving hand;
Each blade of grass that we walk on,
In the desert, each grain of sand.
God looks down on the Creation,
A universe filled with good things;
And He smiles at the wonders He beholds,
A day of very small things.**

By Betty Whetstone

**Zechariah 4:10
Despise not the day of small things**



No Corporal Punishment?

You possibly have heard about the arrest of Adrian Peterson, an NFL football player with the Vikings, being arrested a few months ago for punishing his son causing visible physical harm. His arrest caused a big debate on whether corporal punishment should be used on children when they are naughty or disobey. Use of the switch is one of the means of corporal punishment. Granted, a child should not be punished causing physical harm. However, is it not right in God's sight to switch a child or give him or her a spanking?

There appeared an article in the **Houston Chronicle** with the subheading *Corporal punishment losing favor* in U.S. The following are some excerpts of that article:

"In his own statement, Peterson acknowledged he is consulting a psychologist about other forms of discipline 'that may be more appropriate ... but deep in my heart I have always believed I could have been one of those kids that was lost in the streets without the discipline instilled in me by my parents and other relatives. I have always believed that the way my parents disciplined me has a great deal to do with the success I have enjoyed as a man. I love my son, and I will continue to become a better parent and learn from any mistakes I ever make.'"

"That our parents whipped us and loved us, that we should therefore strike our own children, is a common refrain across all ethnic, religious, educational and economic backgrounds in the United States," said Murray Straus, among the nation's foremost experts in the sociology of corporal punishment. To reject spanking is on some subconscious level a rejection of our parents, a forsaking of a frontier tradition in which use of force was

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.

the cultural heritage, a turnabout from the puritanical fervor to literally beat the devil out of the child.

A 2012 survey conducted by Gershoff and other researchers found 80 percent of Americans with kindergartners had spanked their children, with 27 percent spanking within the past week.

"When you're American, you believe that spanking is necessary," said Straus of the University of New Hampshire. "It's as much an article of faith as the Pledge of Allegiance."

It is codified in our laws – all 50 states allow some form of corporal punishment in the home, and 19 states, almost all in the South, allow it in schools.

But research also shows it falling slowly out of favor with Americans, who increasingly stop spanking when kids are younger and spank half as often as they did 40 years ago, Straus said. Corporate sponsors reflected these changing attitudes when they severed partnerships with the Vikings and Peterson, choosing not to wait for his case to be resolved.

The superintendents of the two school districts that split the city of Palestine said their schools give paddlings far less often than even 10 years ago. Texas law lets school boards set their own spanking policy and gives parents the chance to opt out of corporal punishment – but they don't need to opt in before their children can legally receive paddling.

Ed Lyman, superintendent of the Westwood school district, where Peterson went before transferring to the neighboring Palestine district, comes from Utah, which banned corporal punishment in school in 1992. He had a culture shock when he moved to the Sulphur Springs district in Northeast Texas in 1986.

"Every time I turned around they were whacking kids," he said. "I thought it was barbaric. Now that's just me,

coming from the north.”

But he has his own narrative about spanking in the home, passed down from his parents, to him, to his children. He remembers in one instance grabbing the closest thing at hand, the plastic rod used to turn a set of mini-blinds.

“It left some pretty nice welts,” he said. “I thought, ‘Man, I’ll never use one of those again’”

It’s part of the reason he advises his faculty not to administer corporal punishment in anger.

Neither he nor Palestine school Superintendent Jason Marshall said they knew enough about Peterson’s case to render an opinion. But no one is rushing to take down the Peterson memorabilia greeting visitors inside the spotless entryway of the two-year old Palestine High School building.

Comment

Parents who love their children will punish them in a loving way when they are naughty or disobey, but the punishment will not cause physical harm to the child. And as the article said, punishment must never be done in anger. Corporal punishment not only includes whipping and spanking, but also hitting the child in any way.

It also must be recognized that there other ways to punish children, such as denying them something which they desire badly. However, whipping and spanking are civil punishments when done without physical harm to the child. Yes, Peterson went too far.

God’s Word has much to say about punishment. Proverbs 13:24 reads, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (early).” Webster’s New World Dictionary gives the definition of chasten as, “to punish in order to correct or make better.” I suppose that many or all of us were punished by our parents when we were very young. We can see their love that they had for us. God also corrects those He loves. Proverbs 3:12 reads, “For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.” “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” (Hebrews 12:6). The definition of scourge is “a whip or other instrument for flogging.” The definition of flog is, “to beat, or punish by beating, with a strap, stick, whip, etc.” Of course, our Lord does not personally chastise His children by whipping or spanking them, but using the hand, switch or paddle on children to correct them is not displeasing to God if proper control is used.

One Viewpoint On Spanking

Let me share with you the viewpoint on spanking of Leonard Pitts Jr. who writes a column which is published in several newspapers. The following is a portion of his column:

“I don’t believe in spanking reflexively. Not every offense merits it, most don’t.

I don’t believe in spanking in anger. Anger leads to loss of control.

And no, I don’t believe all spanking is abuse. A 2001 study by Dr. Diana Baumrind – a psychologist who opposes spanking – found that mild, moderate corporal punishment causes no lasting harm.

Here’s what I do believe. A parent must be loving, accessible, involved, but also an authority figure, the one who sets limits and imposes real and painful consequences for kids who flout them.

Otherwise, you risk sending into the world something we already have in excess – children poisoned by “self-esteem,” walking in serene self-entitlement, convinced the sun shines for them alone. Such children are invariably brought up short. The universe is a rough teacher, and its lessons sting worse than any spanking. The worst thing you can do is send your offspring into that classroom unprepared.”

Comment

This is a very reasonable opinion!

American Wealth Gap

A report from the Census Bureau is the latest evidence that the rich are getting richer while the poor get poorer.

The study released Thursday divided the U.S. into five groups from wealthiest to poorest. The median net worth of the richest households rose 11 percent between 2000 and 2011, to \$630,754. The next wealthiest group’s net worth also rose.

But because wealth dropped for the majority of Americans, the median household net worth for the country overall declined about 7 percent to \$68,828.

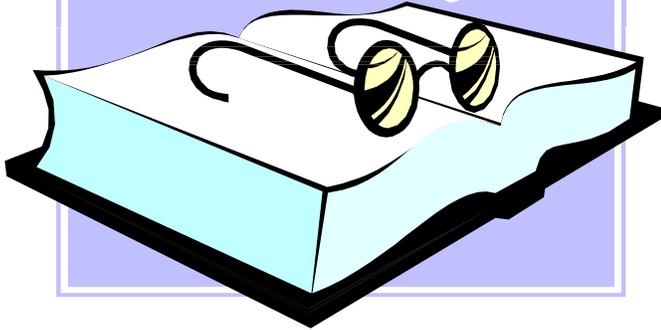
A stock market rebound and rising home values after the housing bust helped richer Americans regain wealth since the recession, which began in late 2007 and officially ended in June 2009. But the bottom 20 percent were worse off in 2011 than they were in 2000. In 2011, the median net worth of the poorest Americans was negative \$6,029, compared with negative \$905 a decade before.

The median net worth for whites, overall, rose.

The Houston Chronicle

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: What really was the corn mentioned in Genesis 42:3?

ANSWER: Genesis 42:3 records, “And Joseph’s ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.” This cereal is mentioned one hundred additional times in Scripture. However, there was no corn in Egypt. There was not at any time a single grain of it anywhere in the ancient Near East.

From the Teutonic term for “a worn down particle,” the word “corn” became the general label for such grains as sand, salt, and gunpowder. Then it was attached to tiny grains of wild cereals, and from this usage became a standard label for cultivated grain of all kinds. At the time the King James Version was translated, Englishmen customarily used corn as their name for wheat, while Scots applied it to oats. In the New World, it quickly supplanted maize as the standard name for a grain native to the western hemisphere and everywhere cultivated by American Indians.

The global importance of Indian corn--now the world’s largest single source of calories for human consumption--gradually separated the ancient name from smaller grains. Today it is universally understood that corn grows on cobs arranged above the middle of tall, heavy stalks, but in 1611, the name had not yet attached to the New World grain. Biblical incidents that mention corn actually refer to millet, wheat, barley, or spelt--the only cultivated cereals known to the Hebrews either in Egyptian exile or in the Promised Land.

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What are the characteristics of a destructive cult?

ANSWER: Let us give you thirteen possible characteristics of a destructive cult.

1. Uses deceit in proselytizing and/or fund raising.
2. Uses coercive persuasion (mind control).
3. Has a totalitarian world view: us against them.
4. Exploits members by collecting their property and inheritances, by excessive tithing and/or confiscation of income.
5. Exploits members by requiring them to devote unusual amounts of time to cult activities.
6. Physically and psychologically separates members from families and former friends.
7. Fails to provide adequately for mental and physical health of the members.
8. Uses economic or person power for extreme political ends (right or left).
9. Tolerates no dissent from cult beliefs among its members.
10. Generates excessive income, runs businesses, solicits donations, sells goods, books, or lessons.
11. Leaders live in luxury.
12. Members regress to childlike dependency becoming slaves to the cult.
13. Approves of violence against enemies of the cult.

QUESTION: Will you please define and comment on the word “reconciliation”?

ANSWER: Reconciliation is being restored to favor, being reunited, becoming again loving friends instead of alienated enemies. II Corinthians 5:20 tells us to be

reconciled to God.

To be reconciled one often needs a mediator, if it be an estranged couple, for instance. A good Christian can be of help in a case where husband and wife have parted. A mediator plays the role of a go-between and friendly adviser.

In the case of reconciliation with God, our Lord Jesus is the Mediator. He is the go-between. He is the one who makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God.

A mediator makes intercession for the offender. How often a mother or sister will make intercession in a family quarrel, or a minister! But Jesus makes the intercession to God for each and every one. It is our Saviour who makes it easy for us to come to the Father and be forgiven. Our Lord also pays the price for our sins. He died for us. He gave His blood and became the propitiation for every soul seeking redemption, through the cross.

Our mediator, Jesus Christ, also makes it possible for us to offend no more. We walk in His way, transformed, new creatures. In reconciliation, we find comfort and new strength, and we walk in love.

God is love, but to love God we need to be reconciled. Our own way must be changed, our own plans thrown out the window. We do God's will and do it His way. Otherwise, there is no reconciliation.

Does a Christian need to be reconciled to God? Yes, because even after salvation we find certain desires and aims or ambitions running contrary to God's plan for our lives. There is where many fail to fully surrender. No man liveth to himself alone, and no man can be happy in trying to live a narrow, isolationist life once he is a child of God. It means that nothing must come between or hinder perfect harmony in the daily relations of you and your God. If we are reconciled to God, we trust and obey. We love Him because He first loved us. We love Him so much we never want to go our own way any more.

QUESTION: What is involved in becoming a minister of God?

ANSWER: A minister, the same as a missionary, or an evangelist, needs a call from God. He must have the urge in his heart to save people from the judgment to come and must be not afraid to speak out what is the "Will of God." A man must be dedicated for this particular work. Many enter the ministry believing it to be a soft profession and a good pay job. Many ministers are not even born again children of God and still enter the pulpits week after

week.

The Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to preach the Word. It takes courage to do this. Many people do not care to hear "The Word of Truth." They do not want the minister to tell them of their sins and misdemeanors. They feel crowded upon when the minister is telling them the truth like it is. Most people do not want to hear the truth. It is a painful thing for them to sit through a sermon that says that they should be stronger for the Lord and change their slowness of heart. In some cases, they dismiss a true servant of God saying that he is too radical and too self righteous.

Timothy was also exhorted to watch in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, and make full proof of his ministry. Even though men would turn their ears from the truth and accept teachers having itching ears, Timothy was to remain faithful in the work to which God called him. God's approval is far more necessary than man's approval. Man's approval is often God's disapproval. Too many fail because they want to please man rather than God. A minister of truth needs to be born again. This means that he needs to be born of water and become a new creature in Christ. Then when he is cleansed by the water, he becomes the habitation of the Holy Spirit. This is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." This Holy Spirit in him begins to give him the completed training in the Word of God. He needs to know the Word and how to apply it to his flock, as a congregation and to each one individually. He is to feed the flock of God. Read Acts 20:28 and the tenth chapter of John, and note the difference between a Good Shepherd and the hireling.

Young people can inquire from their minister the preparation he had before being ordained into the ministry. After being ordained into the ministry, a minister should not neglect to grow in grace and knowledge and progress in his spiritual life. Daily study of the Bible is necessary even for ministers of the Gospel. One does not reach the top when he is ordained. There is always room for growth in the spiritual life. A minister's life should be in accordance with the truth he preaches. Read I Peter 4:10-19; II Corinthians 6:3-10. A true minister speaks the things which become sound doctrine. He can put to shame his enemies because they will have no evil thing to say of him.

A minister of the flock needs to be patient with those whom he seeks to help. A tender, Christlike spirit is a great aid in helping to lift the needy.



Myanmar

A meeting of some of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.





Prayer and testimony time.



LESSON I

OUR CONDUCT IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 95:1-11.

Golden Text: Psalm 122:1.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.”

NOTE: The more we worship the Lord God, the less attraction the world will have for us and the less opportunity the devil has to deceive us. Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

- 1. How are we to come to church? Ecclesiastes 5:1; Psalm 100:4.
- 2. How must we worship God? John 4:23-24.
- 3. Is it possible that some types of worship may be in vain? Matthew 15:7-9.
- 4. Can we worship God fully and not be holy? I Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 29:2.
- 5. How should we serve God? Hebrews 12:28.
- 6. What should prompt worship to God within us? Romans 5:6-11; John 3:16.

LESSON II

OBEDIENCE

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:1-11.

Golden Text: Ephesians 6:1.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”

NOTE: We should begin to serve the Lord while we are young. We must be obedient to our heavenly Father as well as to our parents here on earth.

- 1. What is promised to all who honor their father and mother? Exodus 20:12.
- 2. Should parents teach their children the Word of God? Deuteronomy 6:7.
- 3. How are children to be brought up? Ephesians 6:4.
- 4. Sometimes we think our parents do not love us because they chasten us or correct us for things which we do that are not right. Is this true? Proverbs 13:24.
- 5. When we do wrong in the sight of God, we will be chastened by Him also. Hebrews 12:9.
- 6. When should we begin to serve the Lord? Ecclesiastes 12:1.

NOTE: If we are not obedient to our parents, we certainly will not be acceptable to God. Remember that your parents love you and want to see you saved in the Kingdom of God. And that is why they correct you when you do wrong.

LESSON III

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-18.

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.”

NOTE: In considering some of the hindrances to a holy life, there is none so dangerous as an unbridled tongue. Not only have people lost their own spiritual power through wrong use of the tongue, but often poisoned arrows have been sent to many hearts through an untamed tongue. Let us study how we can try to control our words.

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

- 2. What blessing is promised for properly governed conversation? Psalm 50:23.
- 3. Is it possible for man to tame the tongue through his own power? James 3:8.
- 4. If we do not bridle our tongue, does our religion amount to nothing in the sight of God? James 1:26.
- 5. What shall be given to the false tongue? Psalm 120:3-4.
- 6. Can our words be called a true index of our heart? Matthew 12:34-35.

- 4. Would God be pleased with just any kind of conversation that we might use? Philippians 1:27.
- 5. How must our conversations be among other people? I Peter 2:12; 3:16.
- 6. If we use the right conversation, what promise is made to us? Psalm 50:23.
- 7. When the Lord comes, what manner of persons ought we to be? II Peter 3:10-14; James 3:13.

LESSON IV

OUR CONVERSATION

Scripture Reading: I Peter 1:3-16.

Golden Text: Psalm 50:23.

“Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth this conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.”

NOTE: This lesson is a continuation of our last lesson. Just as we are to bridle our tongue, we are to watch all our conversations. There is One who hears all the unkind criticisms and harsh judgments we often whisper behind the backs of those who are attacked. Let us all remember that what we say and even what we think is known by the Father in heaven.

- 1. To become a child of God, what must be done concerning our former conversation? Ephesians 4:22-23, 25.
- 2. What is it that should not proceed out of our mouths? Ephesians 4:29, 31.
- 3. Should not we (the people of God) be examples in our conversation? I Timothy 4:12; I Peter 1:15-16.

WHO ARE THESE MEN?

- 1. He built a boat when the world was new and led in the animals, two by two.
- 2. This one man’s descendants, God promised, should be like the stars in the sky or the sands of the sea.
- 3. He stood alone in the lion’s cave, and promised Jehovah, strong to save.
- 4. Mysterious writing on the wall. And foretold the kingdom’s certain fall.
- 5. He stilled a storm on Galilee, and He said to Matthew, “Follow me.”
- 6. When his mood was black and his voice was sharp, young David could soothe him with his harp.
- 7. He was not a prophet, a king nor a sage -- He simply lived to a very great age.
- 8. He dipped in the river - one -two - three - and found it a cure for his leprosy.

Answers to Who Are These Men?

- 1. Noah 2. Abraham 3. Daniel 4. Belshazzar 5. Jesus 6. Saul 7. Methuselah 8. Naaman

A PRAYER

Dear God, who watches from above,
help us to love all those You love.
Amen.

OUR SABBATH WALK

By Maryan B. Wilkinson
The Dodder and the Lemon Pie

Randy was still thinking about Sabbath dinner as the Perkins family walked down the hill from the park.

"Those flowers are just the color of lemon pie," he said.

Daddy looked at the bright yellow flowers.

"Those are buttercups," said Daddy. "They look like lemon pie but they look like butter, too."

"I like yellow flowers the best of all," Randy said. "They look like sunshine and gold and butter and lemon pie!"

Mother laughed. "You cannot seem to forget that pie," she said. "Would you like it if we had lemon pie every Sabbath?"

"Yes," Randy said. "And I would like to have the big piece that is left all for myself!"

"No!" Nancy objected, glaring at her big brother. "He cannot have it all, can he?"

Mother did not laugh, then. "Would you really like to eat that whole big piece that belongs to all of us?"

"Of course I would," Randy answered. "You could have some applesauce."

Daddy quickly began to tell a story so there would not be cross words to ruin the Sabbath walk. Then, as they walked, Daddy seemed to be watching the side of the road looking for something. He seemed to be thinking hard, but he had a secret sort of smile on his face. Suddenly, he stopped walking.

"Look at this," he said. "Here is something yellow for you to see."

Randy and Nancy looked at the tall weeds beside the road. Daddy was pointing to a piece of ugly yellow thread, tangled in a tall weed.

"Do you mean that string? What is it?" Randy asked.

Daddy leaned over and started to untangle the yellow thing. "It looks like string or thread, but it really is a plant."

"A plant!" said Randy with surprise. "It does not have any leaves!"

Nancy looked close, too. So did Mother. "It does not have any roots, either," Mother noticed.

Daddy broke off the tall weed and held it up so they all could see the yellow, stringly plant.

"This is a dodder" Daddy said. "It never grows any roots to get its food from the ground. It just clings to another plant and takes the food that that plant gets from the ground."

"The lazy thing!" Randy said. "But why does it not have any leaves?"

"Leaves are the plant kitchen, where each plant 'cooks' its food into warm sunshine. The sunshine turns the food from the ground into starch and sugar to make the plant grow. This dodder does not bother to grow leaves and make its own food. It only takes the food that the other plant has made."

"It is a selfish plant," Randy said. "Is that why it is so ugly?"

Daddy smiled a big smile. "I think you have the idea, Randy. That is what I hoped you would say. Jesus did not make very many ugly plants. I think He made this one just to show us that selfishness is ugly."

"That dodder reminds me of a girl I knew a long time ago," Mother said. "Hattie was a pretty girl with brown curly hair and pink cheeks, but she always wanted to get everything without working for it. One day we each took some cloth to school to make aprons. We worked hard to make them neat and nice. But Hattie only walked around and watched us work. She would not work on her apron. She would not help anyone else, either. When all the aprons were finished, she liked mine the best. She thought I should give it to her."

Daddy laughed. "So you gave it to her, didn't you?"

Mother was surprised. "Why, yes, I did. I gave the apron to Hattie. But somehow it never helped her to look nice. Her face was so unhappy-looking that nobody thought she was pretty at all. But how did you know that I gave it to her?"

"Because you always give things away," Daddy said. "Maybe that is why you are so pretty!"

Mother just laughed, but Randy looked at Mother and knew that Daddy was right. The Perkins family walked and walked around the hill until they had made a big circle. There was the car waiting for them where they had left it.

"Now we are going home," Randy said. "And when we get home there will be a little bit of lemon pie for each

one of us.”

“Did you not want the whole big piece for yourself?” asked Daddy.

Randy was quiet for a moment or two. “Well, it would taste good, but I do not want it all,” he said. “I think I will help with the dishes tonight, too. I do not want to be like that selfish dodder.”

It was a happy family that rode home together after their Sabbath walk.

Using a crayon, color in the squares marked with an X. You will find the path to God. When you are finished, turn the page sideways to see the answer better.

M	M	X	M	X	X	X	M	M
O	O	X	O	X	Y	X	Y	Y
H	H	X	X	X	H	X	Y	Y
Q	Q	Q	R	R	R	P	P	P
C	C	X	X	X	X	X	P	P
K	K	K	N	N	N	X	C	C
Y	Y	X	X	X	X	X	V	V
I	I	I	O	O	O	H	H	H
R	R	X	R	X	X	X	Z	Z
T	T	X	T	X	T	X	T	T
C	B	X	X	X	B	X	B	B
E	E	E	E	Z	Z	Z	A	A
M	M	X	M	X	M	X	M	M
U	U	X	U	X	Y	X	Y	Y
Z	Z	X	X	X	X	X	Z	Z
W	W	W	W	D	D	D	E	E
J	J	X	X	X	X	X	J	J
H	H	K	K	K	K	X	Y	P
V	V	V	W	W	X	X	M	M

A PRAYER

Dear God, who watches from above.
Help us to love all those you love. Amen.

FARM

Let's make a rhyme
And play a game, learning every Baby's name:

Lollypops are good to lick.
A baby he is called a chick.

Bread tastes fine with jelly or jam.
A baby sheep is called a lamb.

A baby pig is called a suckling.
A baby duck is called a duckling.

Fish are caught inside a big net.
A baby swan is called a cygnet.

My cereal is in a bowl.
A baby horse is called a foal.

I hear a story that makes me laugh.
A baby cow is called a calf.

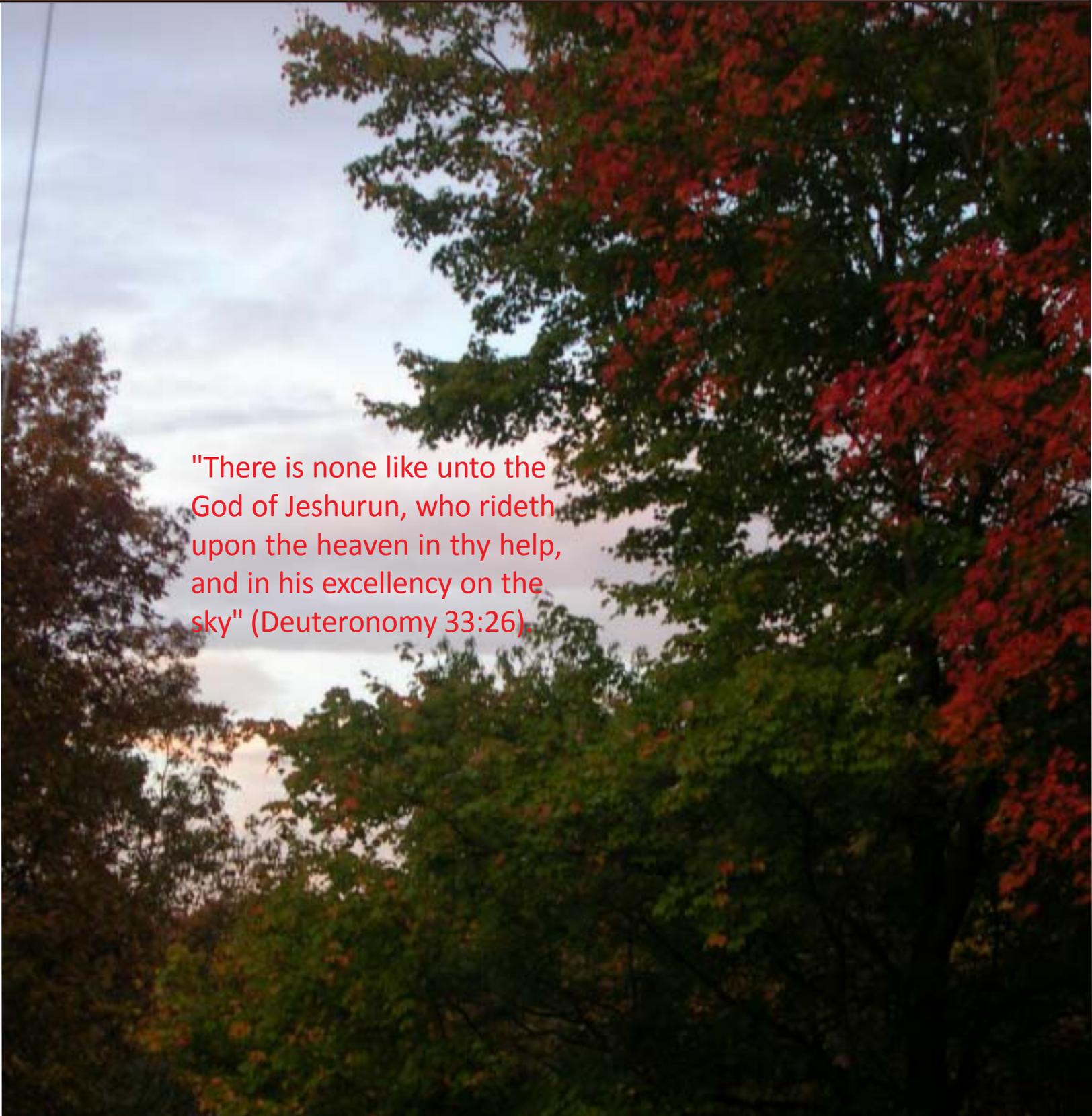
In spring I hear the hurdy-gurdy.
A baby bird is called a birdie.

The barnyard babies play near their mothers-
Baby sisters-baby brothers.
The mothers are pleased;
Content this way
On a happy Mother's Day.



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"There is none like unto the
God of Jeshurun, who rideth
upon the heaven in thy help,
and in his excellency on the
sky" (Deuteronomy 33:26).