

# *The Advocate of Truth*





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The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

## POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

**THE CHURCH OF GOD  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
P.O. Box 328  
Salem, WV 26426-0328**

**Telephone: 304-782-1411  
Fax: 304-782-2248**

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**Volume LX V**

**Number 1**

**July 27, 2015**

**The Advocate of Truth**

**USPS 542-940**

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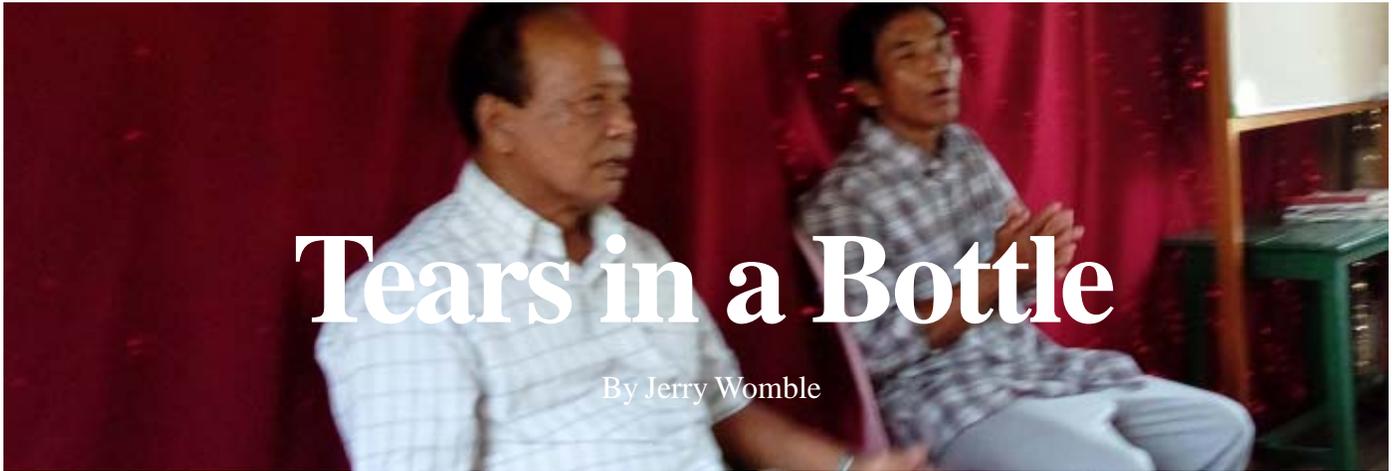
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# Tears in a Bottle

By Jerry Womble

This phrase comes from a statement made by David to God in Ps.56:8. David is thinking of the oppression of his enemies and says that God has the record of all that has happened to him and states, “put thou my tears into thy bottle”. This was a custom that was done in ancient times by those in mourning. The priest would take cotton and wipe the tears from those who were grieving and squeeze them into a bottle. This bottle was called a lachrymatory. This process was used as a way to show extra concern and compassion for someone and the bottle would be placed in a tomb with the person who had died or kept by a loved one for a remembrance of that person.

If people on this earth can have this much compassion, how much more will God have on His children?

David says these are the tears which I have cried during the oppression of my enemies and says to God that he does not want them to be forgotten but for God to remember them and have compassion on him when his enemies come against him.

Just because we are humans on this earth we suffer through many trials for ourselves and our loved ones. Remember God is catching all of our tears and will remember us with his blessings.

## ABOUT TOLERANCE

Bond Tennant

Tolerance is a quality that first started out as an acknowledgment of another person’s right to his view. But this quality has evolved into an attitude of mind that implies non-judgmental acceptance of different lifestyles or beliefs. You are bigoted if you think your idea or belief or viewpoint is better than others.

This applies to religion! In the view of many people, religion should be global, a one-size fits all. Don’t let religious differences divide us. Don’t discuss your differences. Don’t offend, and don’t condemn. They say not to be bigoted. It is almost as if bigotry and conviction are one and the same.

It is said that prior to World War II that British papers held back reporting some Nazi atrocities in Europe because “Hitler might be offended.” Trying to be neutral, they thought they were being tolerant. However, by their very decision on what not to report, they were taking sides.

God’s thoughts are not man’s. We do not have a “religious preference” but a conviction. The Apostle Paul said, “.... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (II Timothy 1:12).

When one religion teaches what another denies, both cannot be true. The issue is not tolerance, but truth; not preference, but reality.

Scripture is absolute in its demands, and has no tolerance for contrary ideas. Did the Apostle Paul say, *“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,”* go along with *“anyone,”* agree with *“anyone”* because we are all God’s children, and the same God loves all of us?” The answer is No, he did not say that. For the answer read I Timothy 6:3-6.

As children of God, we are committed to the absolute teaching of Scripture. Only Scripture can teach and guide us in the right way. Read I Timothy 3:15-17. Our views of right and wrong must be defined by the Bible, not by opinion polls. The perfect pattern left by our Lord, *“the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”*



“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell all that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning, And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the

(Ephesians 4:13), is the standard for all who God accepts. Some will call this narrow minded, but didn’t Jesus Himself say the way would be straight and narrow? (See Matthew 7:13-14). The destination of the way is the important point. It is the only way that leads to eternal life.

If we want what God is offering us, we must take Him at His Word, and do what He commands. What we approve must be only what He approves. *“Happy is he that condemneth not himself in the thing which he alloweth”* (Romans 14:22).

To tolerate anything God forbids is self-defeating. The Apostle Paul said it clearly. In Colossians 3:8-10 he said, *“But now ye also put off all these, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, see that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”*

## FEAR NOT LITTLE FLOCK

Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not” (Luke 12:32-40).

Sometimes people ask if only those believers who attend the Church of God will be saved. Well, brethren and friends, not even all who attend the Church of God will be saved, but those who doeth the will of the Father. *“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 to them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descened, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock”* (Matthew 7:21-25). Our Lord admonished,

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne. Even as I also overcame, and am sit down with my Father in his throne” (Revelation 3:20-21). “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent” (verse 19). “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (Revelation 1:3). “Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep” (John 10:1-2). “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture” (verse 9). “I am the good shepherd: the GOOD SHEPHERD giveth his life for the sheep” (verse 11). “My sheep heareth my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my Father’s hand” (verses 27-28). “My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:29) “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (verse 10). “I am the GOOD SHEPHERD, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. AND OTHER SHEEP I HAVE, WHICH ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD: THEM ALSO I MUST BRING, AND THEY SHALL HEAR MY VOICE; AND THERE SHALL BE ONE FOLD, AND ONE SHEPHERD” (verses 14-16).

We read that Almighty God instructed Noah to build an ark to serve as a place of refuge for him and his family and all who would believe and the various animals that God told him to put in. Only Noah and his family were saved because Noah believed in the Lord, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Hebrews 11:7). Can you imagine only a righteous man and his family were saved from a world of people? Well! Almighty God is able and

capable to do the impossible. We could have either our sins washed away or burned away.

Also in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah only Lot and his two daughters were saved because his wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt. We can clearly see that Almighty God does not deal with quantity but QUALITY. You have to be eligible and meet the criteria TO BE SAVED. An instruction was given unto Lot not to look behind. “And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; LOOK NOT BEHIND THEE” (Genesis 19:17, first part). “But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt” (verse 26).

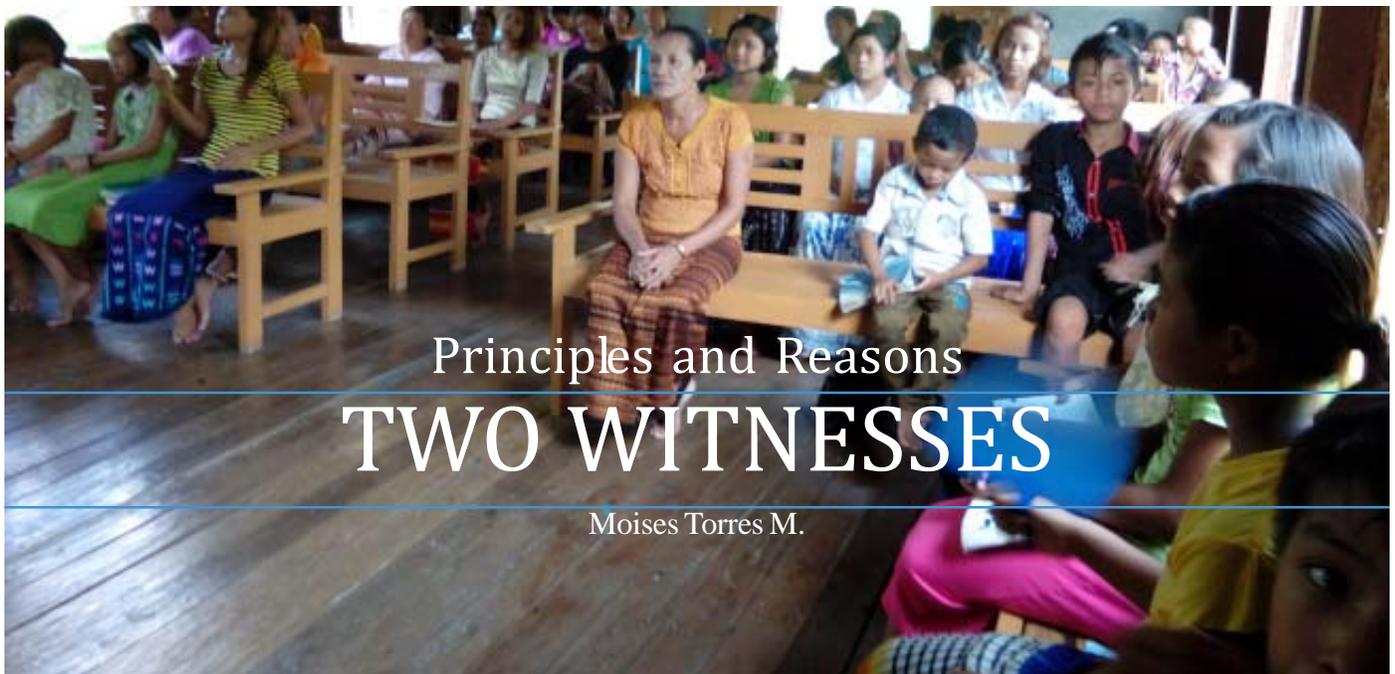
Our Lord admonished that, “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). This means that we either FOLLOW THE STEPS OF THE LORD THAT HE LEFT FOR US TO FOLLOW or we follow the steps of the devil which is worldly lusts and pleasures.

Little Flock, let us look to the hill from whence cometh our help and press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling which is everlasting life. We must also remember our Lord instructed, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8). This clearly brings us back to Lot when he asked to go into a city called Zoar. Thus, it was granted unto him. “And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken” (Genesis 19:18-21). “Haste thee, escape thither, for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar” (verse 22).

Fear not little flock for “God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect” (Hebrews 11:40). “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so

easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof

all are partakers, then ye are bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they, verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Hebrews 12:1-11). Amen



Principles and Reasons  
**TWO WITNESSES**

Moises Torres M.

**NOTE:** As soon as we speak about two witnesses our minds immediately take us to the two witnesses described in Revelation chapter 11. However, the Lord has always used two witnesses to carry out important missions and works in different ages. According to the Webster’s New Encyclopedia Dictionary, **Witness** is: “one that gives evidence; one who testifies in a cause or before a court; one who has personal knowledge or experience of something; to act as legal witness of (*witness the making of a will*), etc.

Let us read of some witnesses of God:

1. How many witnesses did the Lord recommend so that

something is established? (Matthew 18:16) This is a principle that came from the Lord.

2. Who were two witnesses sent by God to Pharaoh to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt? (Exodus 4:1-14; Exodus 5:1) Moses representing the royal or legal power, and Aaron, the priesthood authority.

**NOTE:** In most civilizations there have always existed two types of governments, the civil and the ecclesiastical. These two were represented by Moses and Aaron in this time.

3. How many witnesses were sent to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem after the captivity in Babylon? (Zachariah

4:1-14)

**NOTE:** These two olive trees or sons of oil were Joshua and Zerubbabel in those days. The oil poured out as gold represents the Holy Spirit, energy or power laid upon these two men to carry out this great task. Joshua was the priesthood representative, and Zerubbabel was a descendant of King David (see Haggai 1:14). Zerubbabel would lay the foundation of the temple and he himself would see the work finished. In Zacariah 3, Joshua is seen clothed with filthy garments standing before the angel, and a fair mitre upon his head, meaning this the restitution of the priesthood after the punishment of the people in Babylon (Zachariah 3:1-7).

Sheshbazzar was probably the name given to Zerubbabel while in Persia. In Ezra 1:8, he is mentioned as the prince of the Jews. Ezra 5:13-16, also describes that Shehbazzar was made governor by king Cyrus. Zerubbabel, as well as Joshua, returned to Jerusalem in the first exiled group from Babylon, and they were the leaders on the rebuilding of the temple (538-515 BC). Prophet Isaiah wrote about this 140 years before it was accomplished. He had already prophesied that a man named Cyrus would decree such an edict to let the Jews return to their own land to rebuild the temple (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1). This is amazing!

4. What other two witnesses were sent by God a hundred years later to restore worshipping and to rebuilt the city and its wall?

History tells it was Ezra the scribe, and Nehemiah the priest, who returned to Jerusalem 100 years later after Zerubbabel and Joshua, to restore the worshipping to God and get in charge of the rebuilding of the city and its wall from 458-420 B.C.

5. Who were the first witnesses sent to give testimony of the kingdom of heaven? (Matthew 3:1-2; Matthew 4:17).

**NOTE:** In all cases and instances the witnesses sent by God were sons of oil (full of the Holy Spirit). In this case, John the Baptist as well as the Lord Jesus were sent to preach and give witness of the kingdom of God.

6. Who were the ones named and sent to preach? (Matthew 10:1-4). “And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits” (Mark 6:7).

7. How were the seventy sent to preach? Luke 10:1.

**NOTE:** As John the Baptist was a precursor of the Lord Jesus, so the seventy were also precursors of the Lord Jesus in those days during the time of his ministry. They went two by two by the cities where the Lord had to announce His message. They prepared the way or scene where the Lord had to come. Today, the seventy as precursors also announce the return of the Lord Jesus to the world. They must walk two by two according to the order established in the beginning.

8. Why was it necessary in Old Testament times that a representative of the priesthood and a representative from the royal lineage were sent together to cover some of Israel's matters?

**NOTE:** They typified the character of kings and priests which signified the personality or nature of the Son of God: He is King and Priest (Hebrews 7:1-2; 7:17). The Lord Jesus is introduced as King and Priest in many prophecies and parables. He comes from the lineage of David, He is he King of Salem, and He is a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec. He takes the two titles in Himself.

9. Should believers possess or have this same nature or character? Revelation 1:6, reads: “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” Also read (Revelation 5:10).

10. What is the Lord's intention to make us kings and priests? I Corinthians 6:2-3. So that we are able to serve God and to serve the people. Every child of God must develop these two personalities in oneself to be a part of the government of the Lord Jesus in the millennial kingdom.

11. Does the Bible says something about two witnesses involved in Israel's affairs in the near future? Revelation 11:1-12.

Revelation 11 does not openly mention who these two witnesses are; it only refers to them as two prophets or witnesses sent by God who will prophesy for 1260 days clothed in sackcloth. They are also mentioned as two olive trees and candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. (Please compare this with Zachariah 4:14. These two might be representatives of the priesthood and of the civil power of Israel.



# SAVED BY BLOOD

An editorial by O. D. Grimm who was a former editor of *The Advocate of Truth*

The whole human race is sick with the malady of sin, and there is no recovery unless someone gives his blood to wash away the stains of sin and give new life to the stricken race.

Multitudes of people throughout the world would willingly donate of their blood to this cause, but it is not the right type. All the blood of all the people in the world would not do. Search the world, and you will find that there was only ONE whoever lived whose blood is sufficient to heal the sinful race of men. The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, poured out on Calvary, is the one means by which we may be saved from eternal death. His blood is available for everyone in the world.

Have you come to Him to have your sins washed away and to receive eternal life? If you are saved from your sin, you must be saved by Jesus' blood.

"Without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:14).

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood... be glory and dominion for ever and ever" (Revelation 1:5-6).

"... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7).

"... ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, ... But with the precious blood of Christ" (I Peter 1:18-19).

The blood of Jesus Christ was pure from the stains of sin because it was from God His Father, and not from man (Adam) or any race of men. The blood of man is

corruptible and impure, therefore man cannot by any means save himself. To be saved, he needs the Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. We are not saved by the sacrifice of the flesh of the Son of God, for His flesh was sinful flesh.

"... God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3).

"For he (God) hath made him (Christ) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Corinthians 5:21).

"If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (I John 1:8-10).

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

# THREE LITTLE WORDS

There are three small words that we  
often write,  
Many times on the pages of life;  
But they fill every need by noting  
each deed,  
To lighten our burden and strife.

The deed may be small and not  
noted by all,  
By others as they go on their way;  
But your "thank you, dear friend"  
Will endure to the end,  
And its goodness will not fade  
away.

These three words that we give  
In this life we live, day by day;  
Echoes right back to us as we kneel  
to pray,  
To the Father of all, that we trust.

--Betty Whetstone

# THANK GOD FOR FREEDOM

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the thirteen colonies that had been formed in the eastern part of the continent. This momentous writing heralded the creation of a new nation built on freedom and liberty to all. The framers of the Declaration concluded it by appealing to "The Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions...with a firm reliance on the protection of Diving Providence..." Our country will decline if we do not look to God in heaven, Who said: "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you" (Jeremiah 7:23).

America is another year older. That's cause for celebration. Since her founding in the 18th century, she had drawn strength from the blend of hard-working, independent-thinking peoples who have reached her shores. They have come from all over the world and labored against formidable obstacles in search of an ideal – equality among men, freedom to act according to their beliefs and a better way of life. All Americans have not reached that goal, but we are getting closer. Happy Birthday America!

--Reprinted



# Unity Of The Spirit

By David DeLong

We are admonished from Ephesians 4:3: "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." True unity of the Spirit among brethren brings peace. However, trying to have unity among people of differing beliefs brings about many problems. Some people will say, "Forget about doctrine. Let's just have unity in Jesus." But this can never be. Having unity in Jesus means that we must receive His teaching as well as His person. John 12:48 reads: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." So, to have true unity in Jesus people must receive His words--His doctrine or teaching--as well.

To further emphasize that unity in the Lord includes accepting God's truth, we quote from Psalm 86:11. "Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name." Unity, therefore, first begins with uniting ourselves with the Lord and His truth. Furthermore, the Lord has given the church various ministers to help in building unity. Ephesians 4:11-14 informs us: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive". Unity of the Spirit involves

having correct doctrinal beliefs. Not having correct doctrinal beliefs brings about confusion as we can see from the text above.

Being "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men" brings to mind a person in a boat on the ocean who is at the mercy of the storm blowing the craft about in every direction. This can actually lead to the person's death if he or she is blown out to sea and never makes land. Some people become so confused by trying to have unity when allowing different, wind-blown, doctrines that they leave the Lord.

True unity of the Spirit is described in Psalm 133:1-3. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." It was upon the mountains of Zion (Mount Calvary to be exact) where our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. Thus, the Father could command the blessing of "life for evermore" to each one who receives Jesus as Lord and Savior. This, of course, involves receiving His words of teaching as well. And that brings true unity to the people of God.

We know this concept in the natural world. In an army, for instance, the person of the commanding officer brings inspiration and hope to the troops which are following him. However, this is not enough to hold the troops together as a unified body in the heat of battle. Those troops

need the orders of their commanding officer so that they will know what to do as a unit. Otherwise the soldiers, not knowing what to do or how to perform their duty, will likely scatter. This almost always brings about their defeat. God's people are in the heat of spiritual warfare (see Ephesians 6:10-18). Verse 14 reads: "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth..." Of all the protective gear or armor that is listed in Ephesians 6:14-18, "loins girt about with truth" is given first. This truth, of course, is the Word of God, the Bible. The Lord gives us His orders through this Word. For God's troops to fight effectively and victoriously, therefore, they must know these instructions and orders and follow them exactly.

Ecumenism is the opposite of unity. Though many teach that ecumenism will unify the many different denominations in spite of their differing doctrines, it actually causes more confusion. So, what is ecumenism? According to Webster's dictionary it refers to "promoting or tending toward worldwide Christian unity or cooperation ". This is an attempt to unify the various different churches for unity's sake. But, God's method for unity, as we have already seen, is unity based upon the truth of His Word. There can be no other basis for real unity. So adamant was the Apostle Paul about having correct beliefs and teaching that he wrote: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you" (I

Corinthians 1:10-11). Differing beliefs and doctrines can only bring about contentions.

God's people need to be in the same type of unity that Jesus and the Father are in. Hebrews 13:8 records: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Furthermore, Jesus said in John 10:30: "I and my Father are one." This means that they are one in purpose, one in thought, one in words spoken, and one in doctrine. John 12:49 tells us concerning Jesus: "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." This is perfect unity between the Father and the Son.

This type of unity is also for God's people through the Father and the Son. In His intercessory prayer Jesus said: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me" (John 17:20-23). True unity is not, and never can be, man made. That is why ecumenism cannot work. It is based upon man's efforts for unity. God's type of unity is based upon the unity He has with His Son, and that unity is then transferred to God's people. It is always based upon the truth of the Bible. Jesus prayed: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (verse 17).

## Not Under Law, But Under Grace

"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). The Lord declares, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). The one who attempts to receive salvation through

works is deceived, coming short of the calling through Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Not of works, lest any man should boast" (verse 9). Salvation being of so great consequence, it is impossible to earn it; but God declares it to be a free gift, only to

those who are worthy. The great need today is for men and women everywhere to serve their God in a way well pleasing to Him, that they may merit the wonderful gift of eternal life. Jesus says, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). It necessitates earnest and fervent prayer to God. Unless people pray for divine help, they cannot stand aloof from the world of pleasure and sin, and live that life pleasing to the Father in heaven. We must remain connected by heaven's radio to that power system on high, through which divine virtue can flow, giving us heavenly strength to overcome, power to resist evil, and love in our hearts to find real joy of service, and obedience to divine precept.

Instead of seeking an easy way and finding excuses for walking with the world, let us seek earnestly for God's holy presence, giving us power for service, and joy to live an overcoming life.

Peter says of Paul's writings, "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (II Peter 3:16).

Dear one, will you not take warning, and examine yourself, to see if you may not be "wresting" the writings of our beloved Paul in the text of this sermonette to your own destruction? Paul says, "Ye are not under the law but under grace." Are you wresting this to mean that you do not need to keep the commandments of God in this age because you are under the dispensation of grace? If so, may God have mercy, and give you spiritual discernment from this time forward, seeing that He has granted you favor by putting this message into your hands.

### **An Illustration**

When a man violates the civil law of our state by committing first degree murder, and is convicted of the crime, he is sentenced to either life imprisonment or death. His liberty is taken away and at once he becomes under the power of the law that forbids the taking of human life. He is bound over to the executioner or prison authorities to pay the penalty for his crime. There is now but one recourse: there is but one way of escape. He may be given a degree of pardon by the Governor of the state, and if so, his liberty is granted. This man is set free, and no longer

remains under the condemnation of the law that forbade murder, but he is under the grace or favor of the Governor. The Governor has issued him a pardon for his sin (crime) and he is free. He has his liberty but he is not free to break again the civil law without fear of its consequence and the penalty being again enforced. He now stands "not under the law but under grace." Grace means favor, and the Governor has granted him the great favor of life, releasing him from the condemnation of paying the penalty for law violation, which is death.

### **Application**

The Lord says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Also, He says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Therefore, everyone stands in the position before God, corresponding to the foregoing figure, for all have sinned. Then the penalty of death hangs upon every soul. We are all bound over to the executioner to pay the penalty of death. There is but one recourse; there is but one hope of release, and that is to have issued to us a decree of pardon from the Lord Jesus Christ. He stands in the position toward us as did the Governor toward the criminal, and He is the One who has the power to set free, and release us from the penalty of death. Those who believe in the power of the blood of Jesus to forgive and grant pardon to them for their sins, come humbly beseeching that mercy may be extended and pardon granted. It is done, it is freely forgiven, to the truly repentant sinners, and while this sets us free from the condemnation of death, it does not give us liberty to break the law of God, and again sin, any more than a pardon from the Governor of the state gives the holder the right to commit murder again.

The Lord says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:14-16). So, dear reader, let us no longer wrest Paul's writings to our own destruction. Let us no longer yield ourselves to law violation, but to obedience through faith. "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness...But now being made free from sin, and

become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (verses 18, 22-23).

The first verse of the next chapter of Romans, viz. 7:1, shows conclusively that the law of God was not abolished, but at that time, 66 A.D., was binding. It says, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law (not did have, but) hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?" Verse 7 mentions one commandment of the ten, showing it is the Ten Commandments to which God here refers. Then the conclusion of the first part of this chapter, whatever some may wrongly wrest it to mean, is summed up in verse 12, as follows: "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." In verse 22 Paul says, "For I delight in the law of God."

Again the Lord defines sin by saying, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

In the old dispensation people were justified by the works of the sacrificial law. They brought an offering for their sin, and had a blood atonement made, but now in the gospel dispensation, we are not justified by the works of any law, but by faith in the blood that was shed on Calvary. There can be no justification (pardon) granted in this age by the works of any law, a diligent observance of every one of the Ten Commandments will not give us a decree of pardon for the condemnation already resting on every head. It takes something outside and separate from this. It requires an acceptance of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and by faith in this great transaction we ask for, and receive our pardon or justification. Not by works, but by grace are ye saved through faith. But this does not grant us a privilege of law violation, which is sin.

Neither can we today be justified or pardoned as in the old dispensation by offering up animal sacrifices. The work of this ordinance law will no longer grant pardon or justification, but we must come boldly to the throne of grace through faith in the blood shed on Calvary. We are all accounted under sin, and a careful observance of the commandments of God henceforth will not give pardon or justification, any more than the murderer bound over to pay the penalty for law violation, can get pardon by law observance. It takes something separate and apart

from that. It requires a pardon from the Governor to obtain freedom, so with us, we must come to God through Jesus Christ, and through faith receive forgiveness, pardon, and justification, but not for the purpose of law violation, but obedience unto righteousness (see Romans 6:6-18). As we have seen, sin is the transgression of the law. See also James, first chapter, and especially chapter 2:8-11; also I John 5:3-4; Revelation 14:12; 22:14.

The Ten Commandments are also spoken of in James, second chapter, and elsewhere in the Scriptures, as the law of liberty, because the keeping of them guarantees liberty, while their violation forfeits liberty. Every criminal confined in the penitentiaries of our land has lost his liberty because of having violated one of the Ten Commandments. Jesus declares, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32)--not free to become violent and do as you please, but free from sin and death, with full guarantee of liberty forever.

The great cause for wrongly wresting Paul's writings and claiming the Ten Commandments to be abolished is that the fourth one declares the seventh day to be the Sabbath of the Lord, while the world keeps the first day.

We praise the Lord, however, that thousands of honest souls all over the world are walking out in the light, being forgiven of all sin through Christ, and observing all of God's commandments, to be worthy of eternal life. Revelation 14:12 reads: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." And 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."





# 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.

## THINK ABOUT IT

The last part of Isaiah 33:7 mentions that “the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.” Let us consider the ambassadors of peace in our day. There are several leaders and others in different countries who try hard to bring about peace. However, they are unable to do this because all human efforts for peace are failing and will continue to fail just as Bible prophecy foretold.

Many in the Christian world believe that the peace and goodwill foretold in the Bible must be and can be brought about by human effort. Many years ago, President Eisenhower referred to the angelic message of “peace on earth” and “goodwill toward men” and said that these will continue to be but empty words unless “we” get busy and do something about it. Those who have confidence in the inspired prophecies of the Bible cannot share this viewpoint for the pattern of world events foretold in the Word of God is seen to become more and more chaotic which it surely has.

The thought for sincere children of God is that they are ambassadors of peace and goodwill in a wicked and sinful world. The difference is that they have the assurance that the “peace on earth” and “goodwill toward men” which they proclaim will come to pass in the Kingdom of God.

## LESS FORMAL CHURCHES

The following article, *Churches becoming less formal*, study says, by Allen Turner appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. It has been condensed:

“American churches increasingly are giving up the trappings of “old time religion” as they move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a little more than half featuring choir performances and just more than two-thirds following a written program, a Duke University Changing American Congregations survey reveals.

In a steady move toward Sunday morning informality, almost half of 1,331 churches polled in the 2012 study use drums in their music worship, and in more than a fifth, members occasionally jump, shout or dance. One quarter of churches, the report said, feature members who speak in “other tongues.”

The study also found that churches have grown in ethnic diversity. Spawned increasing numbers of nondenominational congregations and enthusiastically embraced electronic media. The use of visual projection equipment has tripled since 1988, the study reported.

The biggest surprise, said Duke sociologist Mark Chaves, the study’s lead author, is growing tolerance of homosexuals. Researchers found 48 percent reporting gays and lesbians are permitted to become “full-fledged members” – up 11 points from the 2006-7 survey – and more than a fourth allow them to lead volunteer groups.

“I expected some change given the rapid change in public opinion,” Chaves said. “But we’re seeing an 11 point increase in just six years. I was a little surprised, too, by the trends in formality of worship. We had noticed the growth from the 1998 to the 2006 survey, but we thought that might plateau. It kind of kicked up more.”

The congregations survey, the third in the North Carolina university’s project began in 1988, was released in mid-October.

## Not a surprise

Its findings resonated with Houston ministers, who

noted their congregations increasingly are diverse and – in some cases – desirous of a less - structured style of worship.

“The point of congregations becoming more ethnically diverse really isn’t a surprise, but then we live in Houston,” said Catholic Cardinal Daniel Nardo, who noted services in the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese are conducted in more than a dozen languages, notably Spanish and Vietnamese.

Houston’s First Baptist Church’s senior pastor, Gregg Matte, said his church is about 80 percent Anglo, with the remaining made up of a mix of racial and ethnic groups. Next spring, he said, the church will launch a new Spanish-language congregation.

“As our city has grown more diverse, our churches have grown more diverse,” Matte said. “I think that’s wonderful. It makes a stronger church. Throughout the New Testament, there was a challenge as people tried to recognize that God could take Jews and Gentiles and call them into the Christian church. It is an amazing thought that they could be one. As our society becomes more diverse, we’re embracing this 2,000 year old tradition that Jesus was speaking about. We just have a different context.”

The Duke study found only 11 percent of churches are 100 percent Anglo – down 9 points since 1998 – and that of churches that are predominately Anglo, almost seven out of ten had African-American members and more than six out of 10 had Hispanic members.

While First Baptist retains a choir, its services increasingly have moved toward popular worship forms.

“People are choosing authenticity over presentation,” Matte said. “The music began to sound like music we listen to the other six days a week; our dress, the way we dress the other six days. Instead of presentation, participation began to happen. Man, that is super. Nothing is better than participation.

### Comment

The above article brings forth some good points and some bad points.

It may be that church members are letting their emotions overpower the true worship of God. The article mentions that in over a fifth of the churches that were surveyed, the members occasionally jump, shout or dance.

It stated that in one-quarter of the churches feature members who speak in “other tongues.” These practices can cause a real Babylon in a worship service. I Corinthians 14:40 tells us, "Let all things be done decently (properly) and in order". The article mentions that the pastor of a Baptist Church said that people are choosing authenticity over presentation. How can anyone know that what he is doing is authentic if God’s Word is not studied first. Without knowing what God requires, emotion takes over the mind.

Caution is needed when dealing with homosexuals in the church. They should be able to attend services and know that they are loved but admonished to forsake the practice.

The Church of God contains saints of many ethnic and racial people.

### ATHEISM

Several months ago an article was featured in this column about the many and new breed of atheists. They still are sounding their horn. I saw a feature on CNN about being an atheist.

There is a big group of atheists even at Harvard University alongside the Harvard Divinity School. They call their meetings a church. They do not know what the word “Church” means. They see nothing wrong in believing there is no God.

They have an advertisement on television. I believe their organization is known as **The Foundation For Freedom From Religion**. The announcer said that their purpose is to keep church and state separate just as our forefathers gave instruction.

One atheist said that the world would be a better place without God. This is a contradiction in that it gives the impression that God does exist.

There is also a support group for clergy who preach from the pulpit but deep down do not believe what they preach from the Word of God and renounce God.

### MORE TO THINK ABOUT

It is true that many in America have rejected the Word of God and His commandments, but God continues to show mercy on our country. Living conditions in America are among the best. Economic conditions in America outstrip those in Europe and elsewhere. Why would one want to live in any other country?

# BIBLE

## Study



**QUESTION:** Will anyone be saved during the time between the reaping and warring phases of the second coming of Christ?

**ANSWER:** There is no need for salvation to go to anyone during this time. The reaping phase is the catching up of the dead and alive saints (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-54) to the Sea of Glass. This is the time of the pouring out of God's wrath instead of God's Spirit. It is continued in seven plagues. All the saints are caught up first to escape the wrath of God (Revelation 20:6). After the plagues will be a time of salvation again for children that grow up in the millennium and those that have not heard the power of God before.

**QUESTION:** Will you please comment on the source of the evolution theory?

**ANSWER:** The real source of the evolution theory is none other than Satan himself. Evolution is an attempt by Satan to discredit the Creator and His beautiful creation. Through the ages of time, the devil, working through the minds of man, has gradually evolved the theory of evolution. Any teaching which will disagree with the Lord God and bring discredit to His name will be promoted by Satan.

The first recorded thought which may be relative to the evolution theory can be traced to ancient Egypt. There was a theory in some circles of ancient Egypt which involved a "cosmic egg." As the account goes, this egg

# Questions

and

# Answers

opened up and out came the god (Phta). The god (Phta) then went on to create the world.

According to historical sources, it was the Greek philosophers who eagerly set themselves to eliminate the idea of Divine order and creation by trying to prove the origin and changes of the world came through a natural process of time.

**QUESTION:** Is it important for the child of God to have common sense?

**ANSWER:** To have common sense is to have sound and practical judgment. A teacher once asked her class what they thought was meant by the words "common sense." One young farm boy stood up and said, "It is just plain old horse sense, teacher!" When it comes to our religious beliefs and actions, good judgment is a necessity. Jesus said, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13). He also said, "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you" (verse 15). The Holy Spirit of God inspires good judgment. It is the absence of the Holy Spirit which results in unsound judgments and unsound doctrine. Here we see why there are so many who claim Jesus Christ with their lips. However, their heart is far from Him. Therefore, we have the many different groups or churches.

Common sense is explained by Jesus when He spoke of the man intending to build a tower. The man will first sit down and count the cost to be certain he can finish the project. Without exercising this sound judgment, the man may fail to accomplish his project and become a mockery

to those around him. Jesus also spoke of the king who consulted with his military leaders to determine whether to fight or send an ambassador of peace to the other side. Read Luke 14:28-32. This is using good judgment, which is necessary in all of our efforts.

**QUESTION:** What is the difference between the words “prophecy” and “Gospel?”

**ANSWER:** There are places in the Scriptures when Gospel and prophecy may mean the same. The Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ continues on to include the events of the Second Coming which is future. The details of this part of the Gospel are mostly found in the Book of Revelation. The Good News (Gospel) will be ended for this dispensation at the seventh and final Plague to be poured out upon the earth. See Revelation 10:7; 16:17. When the plagues are finished, the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth will begin. The word “prophecy” also means the foretelling of the future. We read how the Old Testament prophets foretold of coming plagues and catastrophes upon Israel because of their disobedience to God’s Word. Some of the prophecies were quite detailed to show the completeness of the Lord in the fulfilling of His promises.

In I Corinthians 14, we have the word “prophecy” used. The “s” in this word changes the meaning of the word from the one above with “c”. The Apostle Paul uses the word here to mean people speaking that a person should seek to have the gift, or ability to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ in such a way that the hearers may understand the words and be edified. See I Corinthians 14:19, 26-31.

**QUESTION:** In Matthew 22:13 we read, Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; ...” Who was or is this man?

**ANSWER:** He is the self-righteous man. This man whose pride and presumption has sold himself on the idea of his own importance. He is the man who does not need to prepare for eternity. He does not need to be washed in the atoning blood of Jesus. He is the man who does not need to be born again of the water of baptism. He does not need the garment of righteousness, the righteousness of Christ. He does not need to keep the testimony of Jesus, the true righteousness of God.

But when King Jesus came in and looked over the

wedding party, the Master says: “Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?” The very talkative man was speechless. This man was ordered then, by the King, to be cast “into outer darkness.”

**QUESTION:** What is the true meaning of the word REPENT?

**ANSWER:** I believe an article written by Elder Jerry Womble a few years ago answers your question very well.

Repent is used in the Scriptures to express ideas ranging from a change of mind or a feeling of regret to turning away from sin and back to God.

In the Old Testament, those repenting felt a deep sorrow and did all in their power to make restitution for it, and then they made every effort not to fall to that sin again. In the New Testament, we come boldly to the throne of grace seeking God in prayer and asking forgiveness with the same attitude of sorrow and a renewed determination not to commit that sin again.

We can have confidence that our repentance is sure when we are tempted of that particular sin again and resist. When asking God for forgiveness, it is best that we call that sin by name. In this way, we can face it ourselves and admit to God what our failure was.

We know that sin is the breaking of God’s law. Think of this law as a chain with ten links. If one link in the chain is broken, the whole chain is broken. If one of the Ten Commandments is broken by us, the whole law is broken, and we are subject to the penalty of it. We escape that penalty by repentance and the sincere asking for forgiveness.

I think that these Ten Commandments were what Jesus wrote in the dirt when the woman caught in adultery was brought to Him. By writing them, all of her accusers could see that in some point they had sinned and that true repentance was lacking in their own lives.

The Apostle Paul was in deep need of repentance after spending his time and strength persecuting the Church of God. Peter needed to weep and feel sorry for denying the Lord three times on the night of His betrayal. David sat in sackcloth and ashes because he felt so bad for his mistakes. The question is not – can we sin as those men did; but, can we repent as sincerely as they did?

Remember all is not the negative side of having to turn from sin and disobedience. There is a positive side also, the turning back to God.



## Myanmar

**Brother Kawl Lian Thanga preaching.**





**Services being conducted by our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.**



LESSON I

JESUS - THE SAVIOUR

Scripture Reading: John 8:12-23.

Golden Text: John 8:12 (first part).

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world...”

1. On whom did Paul say we are to believe? Acts 16:31.
2. What did Peter confess concerning Christ? Matthew 16:16.
3. How was God’s love proclaimed by sending Jesus into the world? John 3:16.
4. Was Jesus accused before the people? John 8:37-40.
5. Did Jesus tell the people of their sins? John 8:43-45.
6. Did Jesus come into this world to save sinners? I Timothy 1:15-16; John 10:11.
7. Because we are all sinners, what must we do to be saved? Acts 2:38-39; John 14:15.

LESSON II

JESUS - THE FORETELLER

Scripture Reading: John 8:24-32.

Golden Text: John 8:32.

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

1. Did the evil spirits know who Jesus was? Luke 4:33-34.
2. Did Jesus know why He came into the world? Matthew 18:11.
3. Did He know what was going to happen to Him?

Matthew 20:17-19.

4. Did He possess the power to escape from His enemies? Matthew 26:53.

5. If He had power to escape, why did He not escape? Matthew 26:54.

6. Was Jesus the victim of sinners or did He lay down His life for them willingly? John 10:17-18.

LESSON III

A BLIND MAN HEALED

Scripture Reading: John 9:1-14.

Golden Text: John 9:5.

“As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

1. As Jesus passed by, what did He see? John 9:1.
2. What did His disciples ask Him? John 9:2.
3. What answer did Jesus give them? John 9:3-5.
4. What did Jesus put on the eyes of the blind man? John 9:6.
5. What did he tell the blind man to do, and what happened when he obeyed? John 9:7.
6. What did the people say to the healed man, and what was his answer? John 9:8-9.
7. What else did they ask, and what was his reply? John 9:10-12.
8. On what day was the blind man restored to his sight? John 9:14.

LESSON IV

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

Scripture Reading: John 11:21-44.

Golden Text: John 11:25.

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

NOTE: Jesus had some very dear friends when He was here on the earth. Their names were Mary, Martha and their brother, Lazarus. One day Lazarus became ill and died. The sisters sent for Jesus, and He could not come immediately. Let us study the story to see how Jesus helps His friends.

1. Did Martha have faith to believe that Jesus could heal? John 11:21-22.
2. What did Jesus say to Martha, and what did she think Jesus meant? John 11:23-24.
3. What wonderful words did Jesus say to Martha in John 11:25-26?
4. Martha called her sister Mary, and Mary immediately went out where Jesus was. What did Mary say and do when she saw Jesus? John 11:32.
5. Did it trouble Jesus to see His friends weeping? Did Jesus also weep for His friends? John 11:33-35.
6. When Jesus came to Lazarus’ grave, what did He ask them to do? How long had Lazarus been dead? John 11:38-39.
7. When the stone was taken away, what did Jesus do and say? John 11:41-42.

NOTE: Jesus did not have to say this prayer out loud because His Father in heaven knew what He was going to request and would grant it. He did it for those that they might believe.

8. He then cried with a loud voice. What was this cry? John 11:43.

9. Did Lazarus come forth? Describe Lazarus as he came forth from the grave. John 11:44.

**ANSWERS FOR CHARACTER BUILDERS**

1. Gratitude
2. Temperance
3. Compassion
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Ambition
7. Unselfishness
8. Friendly
9. Charity
10. Faith
11. Loyalty
12. Joy
13. Honesty
14. Modest
15. Purity
16. Content

**ANSWERS TO SCRAMBLED PROFESSIONS:**

1. Gardener (Genesis 2:8, 15)
2. Shepherd (Genesis 4:2)
3. Farmer-tiller of the ground (Genesis 4:2)
4. Husband man (Genesis 9:20)
5. Fisherman (Matthew 4:18)
6. Scribe (Nehemiah 12:36)
7. Publican (Matthew 10:3)
8. Teacher (Acts 5:34)
9. Doctor or physician (Colossians 4:14)
10. Orator (Acts 24:1)





### WHEN THE GATE WAS OPEN

By Iris Dahlberg

Ming is a little blond dog with long, curly hair. When Wilene first saw him, she thought he was the prettiest and cutest little puppy she had ever seen. As she grew bigger, he liked to run and play in the yard with Wilene and her little sister, Darla. Mother and Daddy like him, too.

But there was one naughty thing about Ming. He liked to sneak through the gate, if it were open a crack, and run away! It was not that he was unhappy at home. Oh, no! He simply liked to be free to chase pussycats walking by, or cars, or just run and see what was happening down the street.

"You must shut the gate tight," Mother often reminded the girls. And yet Wilene would sometimes forget and leave it open. Usually Ming would be way down the street before anyone could catch him.

One night when Daddy got home late, he noticed that the gate was open. "Ming, here Ming," he called. But Ming didn't come. He got back in the car and drove all around the block, calling. But Ming didn't answer. Daddy looked in the next block, and the next one too. He saw a big black dog and a fuzzy little brown dog with sharp teeth hanging over his chin, and several other dogs. But he didn't see Ming.

"Where is Ming?" Wilene asked the next morning.

"I'm afraid he has gone away," said Mother. "You left the gate open last night, and he is gone." Wilene and Darla were sad. They missed Ming so much they cried.

"I know he misses us, too," said Wilene. "I'm sorry I didn't shut the gate. Couldn't Jesus help us find him? I

will never leave the gate open again if Ming comes home!"

"We can pray," said Mother. "I'm afraid someone else has taken Ming to his house."

Several days went by, and Ming did not come home. Wilene asked many people if they had seen him. One day a little boy who lived down the street said, "A dog like that came to our house. My mother penned him up to keep him from getting run over. We didn't know he was your dog since you are new on our street. Finally Mother gave him away to a lady who lives on the other side of town."

Wilene's Mother got the lady's telephone number and called her. "I'm sorry, but the little dog ran away," said the lady, "and we haven't seen him for two days."

"Ming is up to his old tricks!" Said Mother.

"Maybe he's trying to come home," said Wilene hopefully. "I'm going to keep asking Jesus to send Ming home, and I believe He will."

"Look at this!" exclaimed Daddy as he was reading the newspaper that night. "It says here that a little dog has been found. The description is quite like our Ming. I will call the telephone number given her right away." And so he did.

"Yes, we found a dog like yours," said the man who answered the telephone when Daddy called. "But someone has already come and gotten him. I felt sorry for the little dog when the lady took him away. He barked and barked and didn't want to go with her. I wondered if he was really her dog."

Daddy told the man all the interesting things about Ming that made him different from any other dog. He told how Ming held his head up and licked with his tongue, and how he would lie down and spread out his feet.

"That must be your dog!" said the man. "That is exactly the way he acted!" And so he gave Daddy the telephone number of the lady who had taken Ming.

"But I don't have the dog anymore," the lady explained when Daddy talked to her. "He barked so much that I gave him away to my niece."

Daddy and Mother got into the car and drove to the niece's house. It was late at night now and was all dark. "The man who lives here works at night and doesn't get home until 2:15 in the morning," a neighbor, who was passing by, told them. Daddy and Mother waited and

waited.

Finally the man came home from work. "My wife is in the hospital," he explained. "I thought the dog looked lonesome, so I took him to a friend's house to stay."

Daddy and Mother went to the friend's house with the man. The lights were on, and the television was playing, so they rang the doorbell. A dog came to the door and barked. It sounded like Ming. When a lady opened the door, they saw the dog, and it was Ming! He barked and jumped up and down. He was so happy to see Mother and Daddy.

"He must be your dog," the other people agreed. So Ming went home with Mother and Daddy.

When Wilene and Darla woke up the next morning and saw Ming, they hugged him and hugged him. They were so glad to see him. Ming kissed them with big puppy dog kisses. He was so happy to see them. Then Mother and Daddy and the two girls thanked Jesus for helping them find Ming.

Nowadays, whenever someone walks through the gate to see Wilene and Darla at their house, big sister Wilene always comes running to make sure that the gate is closed. She hasn't forgotten the promise she made the time Ming was lost.

**SCRAMBLED PROFESSIONS**

1. Adam was a RENGWARD.
2. Abel was a PRESEHDH.
3. Cain was a MERRAF.
4. Noah was a MADASNUHNB.
5. Andrew was a HIRMANESF.
6. Ezra was a BECRIS.
7. Matthew was a CILPBUAN.
8. Gamaliel was a HEETARC.
9. Luke was a TROOCD or a CAPYHISNI.
10. Tertullus was an ROTARO.

**CHARACTER BUILDERS**

The scrambled words below are character builders or qualities that we should all try to have. See how many you can solve.

1. Teguairttd
2. Petneeamer
3. Somaspcon
4. Tenapiec
5. Dseiknns
6. Tnoabmii
7. Felhessnassiun
8. Ydnlerif
9. Iayhterc
10. Tahif
11. Ylolyta
12. Oyj
13. Syohetn
14. Smdtoe
15. Ryupti
16. Tnonetc

**CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Many cities and towns have Bible names. Look up the Old Testament verses, and see if your town is mentioned in the Bible. Next month we will look up cities and towns in the New Testament.

1. L \_\_\_\_\_ II Chronicles 2:8.
2. B \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 50:24.
3. S \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 14:18
4. M \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 40:10
5. B \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth 2:4
6. B \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 62:4
7. G \_\_\_\_\_ Hosea 6:8
8. S \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 68:17
9. C \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 106:38
10. H \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 13:22
11. A \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 8:4
12. P \_\_\_\_\_ Deuteronomy 3:27
13. Z \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 126:1
14. T \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua 19:29
15. D \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 37:17
16. B \_\_\_\_\_ I Kings 13:11
17. H \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 133:3
18. C \_\_\_\_\_ I Kings 18:42
19. K \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 31:40

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## **THE SABBATH**

Long shadows steal across the vale,  
The glowing sun sinks in the west.  
A calmness holds wood, field, and dale.  
Thus dawns the Blessed Day of Rest.

All worldly cares we leave behind;  
These oft our anxious hearts annoy.  
Sweet Sabbath Rest with Christ we find.  
A Sacred Eve of hallowed joy.

Glad Day that speaks a Father's care,  
Blest Eve that whispers of His Love.  
A Day of sweet Communion here,  
Fit Emblem of our Rest Above.

*Ahva J. C. Bond*

