

A low-angle photograph of a palm tree against a bright sky. The sun is visible through the fronds, creating a lens flare effect. The fronds are green and yellow, and the sky is a pale, bright blue.

*The Advocate of  
Truth*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

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<i>The Syrian Exodus Towards The European Continent</i> .....	<b>3-4</b>
Could this situation be shaping up the 10-toed prophecy of Daniel 2?	
<i>Saul's Visit To The Witch</i> .....	<b>4-5</b>
When people fall from grace, they become desperate.	
<i>Sabbath! Our Fine Day Of Rest</i> .....	<b>6-9</b>
Christians follow Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath.	
<i>Why The Ungodly Cannot Walk Straight</i> .....	<b>9-10</b>
Burdened with sin and care, the ungodly can only stumble along.	
<i>Read And Obey</i> .....	<b>10</b>
See what is the simplest, but best, religion on the planet.	
<i>Sexual Perversions</i> .....	<b>11-13</b>
Abominable practices, condemned by the Bible!	
<i>The Signs Of The Times</i> .....	<b>14-15</b>
The Zika virus; and is Ebola returning?	
<i>Questions And Answers</i> .....	<b>16-17</b>
Please discuss 3 types of backsliders.	
<i>The Church Around The World</i> .....	<b>18-19</b>
This month we look at the Philippines.	
<i>The Children's Pages</i> .....	<b>20-23</b>
<i>Sabbath School Lessons</i>	
<i>A Story - "Aunt Molly's Joke"</i>	
<i>Games and Puzzles</i>	

## THE BIBLE and GEOPOLITICS

# The Syrian Exodus towards the European Continent

By Moises Torres M.

Everything, or almost everything, that is happening in the world today, the concerns being experienced by countries in all aspects, political, financial, and social systems, are just a prelude to the climax that must come to all nations which was prophesied in the Bible.

The destruction that was started by a civil war in Syria, one of the largest nations in the Middle East, has caused the great exodus of its people fleeing to Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan, using these countries to jump from there to European nations seeking refuge, political asylum, and support for their basic living needs. This has caused great concern in the governments of the different countries where hundreds of thousands of migrants are coming searching for a better life expectancy. More than 4.5 million Syrians have left their country since this civil war started in 2011, and more than 300 thousand people have died in this slaughter brought about by internal and external forces in order to overthrow the Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad. The main contenders in this scene are integrated by the rebels to the government of Assad, by loyal supporters of the government, and by the extremist group self-styled Islamic State (IS) that has come up with a brutal presence, and threatens not only the security of the Syrian people, but the peace of many nations that have opposed their criminal attitudes.

About 600 thousand Syrians have reached entry into different European countries; the first, most affected were Greece and Italy as ports of entry into the European Continent. This migratory situation of this magnitude was not premeditated at the beginning of the “Arab Spring” which in reality was the so-called Arab revolution towards democracy, which promoted the overthrow of dictatorial governments in different

Arab and African countries near to the end of 2010. Not only the Syrians have suffered this experience, thousands of citizens of Eritrea, Libya, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Chad have also fled from war in their countries, and have sought refuge mainly in European countries. This situation poses a major challenge for the major economic powers of Europe. This challenge is not only to provide shelter to these crowds, or allocate amounts of money for immediate support, or find jobs for them. This challenge goes beyond what we can imagine at the moment. European countries that once belonged to the former Eastern bloc (communist countries unaccustomed to democracy) are showing more reserve in accepting migrants. Others, such as Germany, Sweden, England and France are pushing for policies of economic aid to countries like Turkey and Lebanon to stop migrants there, so they do not go farther into Europe.

However, the problem does not end here, because Europe will have to face a social phenomenon called “integration”, which not only involves the problem of dealing with different languages, but also with different customs and religions, dating back from centuries. On the other hand, national security that has to be protected from terrorism, mainly caused by different extremist groups like Al-Qaeda and IS, most recently emerged from Nigeria and Boko Haran. Can you imagine how many infiltrated extremists can be hidden in this mass migration of people from Africa and the Middle East, who honestly seek a new life in Europe? Here it can happen what the saying says, “Just people paying for sinners,” especially now, when we see the recent terrorist acts in Paris, France and Mali (West Africa). This modern exodus to Europe also challenges the

sustainability of the policies of free passage between the countries of the union, and the use of a single currency, as some countries like Hungary have started to put up fences to stop the passage of migrants to their country.

In another point of view, this type of migration has its positive side and could benefit some European nations where population is mostly composed of adults and elderly, and the birth rate has dropped considerably. This migratory flow would alleviate this problem of population that will eventually represent a very serious problem for some European countries in the near future like Spain where this kind of situation is more evident. Looking at this situation (exodus) from the point of biblical prophecy, we have to bring to the scene the statement of the Prophet Daniel to King

Nebuchadnezzar about the end times and kingdoms of the world. He uttered something very significant in its interpretation for the last part of the image - the ten toes of the feet: "THEY SHALL MINGLE THEMSELVES WITH THE SEED OF MEN: BUT THEY SHALL NOT CLEAVE ONE TO ANOTHER". This exodus of people from different nations to Europe, forced integration, will only be one part, since they would mix or interact with the seed of men, but they will always be different in thoughts, ideologies, and religions. We still do not have a clear picture on how these "ten toes" of the image will be shaped. What we do see clearly is an increasingly frequent migratory movement of poor nations to economically powerful nations. What do you think?

## ***SAUL'S VISIT TO THE WITCH***

(Reprinted)

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee" (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).

### **PITY OF PITIES**

This is one of the most classic tragedies, in the fullest sense of the word, found anywhere in the Scriptures. It is the story of disaster – the story of a great and final fall.

It is tragic because herein is not found the usual eleventh hour rescue. Saul had set out on an unrepentant mission and had accomplished his chief end. And here he is near the end of his day, trying to find God, and God's face will not show itself. Was it impossible for Saul to see favor with the Lord? Perhaps a casual reading of the Scriptures might give this picture. But yet, knowing the justness and mercifulness of God, this is not all absolute.

### **SAUL'S DESPERATION – I SAMUEL 28:3-6**

For some time Saul had been drifting along like a crippled vessel at sea. But as the time came closer when he must confront the Philistines, he was more than ever

aware of his state of helplessness. He was yet wise enough to know that the Philistines were now leading a formidable army. But Saul was not able to achieve the divine intervention which he so desperately needed in these outnumbered circumstances. And so the Scriptures say that Saul tried to find God, but seemingly God was nowhere to be found. Was this a hard face of God? It seems not. It seems as if the difficulty lay within Saul himself. For he did not especially humble himself before God and confess his sin and ask God to show mercy. Rather, he tried to find God through the more mechanical means of dreams, Urim, or by the prophets.

And so in the absence of legitimate guidance, Saul thought of the pagan and superstitious use of divination. Here again, Saul was at a loss because earlier in his reign he had attempted to rid the land of Israel of all these mediums. And so Saul, like an island surrounded by turbulent and swirling waters, was cut off from any outside help. But as previously mentioned, Saul's inability to hear from God lay in his own spiritual condition because he had been unrepentant in the course of degradation which he had outlined for himself earlier.

#### **SAUL'S DELINQUENCY – I SAMUEL 28:7-14**

But Saul's day of grace was over, and accordingly we find him driven to the most humbling expedient to which man can stoop. He was seeking counsel from a quarter which, in his more prosperous days, he had directed special energies. He had directed his agents to drive all of these sorcerers out of the land. And so we see Saul breaking his own rules. His action points up the lesson that there are times of wretchedness and despair when the soul, that knows not God, will seek counsel even of men with a familiar spirit.

But it was to this state that Saul had come. With dreadful sacrifices of self-respect, he had asked his advisors to seek out for him a woman of this description. They told him that there was a woman who lived in Endor, which was about ten miles from where they were. And so with his attendants, they set out after nightfall, disguised, and found her. She was afraid to practice her own business, because the king had been very stern and stiff with those who did so. But finally, after the assurance that no harm would come, she answered Saul's request and called up Samuel.

To her great amazement, she saw Samuel coming up. She shrieked in an astonished manner and was frightened. Evidently she did not expect to see such an apparition; therefore this was too much. She instinctively felt the only man important enough to receive such a supernatural visit must be the head or the king of the nation.

But what really happened here? Was the woman able, even with the aid of the spirits, to bring Samuel into Saul's presence? She was very much afraid of Saul. Had not Saul put "away those that had familiar spirits (demons), and the wizards, out of the land"? (I Samuel 28:3). The dead know not anything of what takes place after death (see Job 14:14, 20, 21; 7:8-10). Then in Psalm 146:4, we read: "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day HIS THOUGHTS PERISH." Their power to think comes to an end. In Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, we read: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun." The dead will not have any portion of what goes on in the earth.

Now if the dead "know not any thing," hence a spirit purporting to be the spirit of the dead prophet Samuel must be an evil spirit or a demon trying to deceive Saul. The devil can work all kinds of miracles. The devil can appear in any form he wishes to. He can appear as an angel of light, hence he can easily impersonate any minister.

And so, far from having his fears allayed and his burdens removed, Saul was made to see from Samuel's communication that nothing but ruin and devastation was before him. So, rather than obtaining a lighter load, Saul's burden had become more heavy.

#### **SAUL'S DESOLATION – I SAMUEL 28:15-25**

The words to Saul sounded like the clap of doom. The demon told Saul that the reason for his failure was that he had not completely exterminated the Amalekites, when earlier in his career he had beaten them in battle (see chapter 15). Saul's behavior was self-condemning. He had separated himself from communion with God. Even Saul's resort to witchcraft was offensive because of the sinfulness of witchcraft and because of his stubborn refusal to listen to the silence of God.

Saul was under divine judgment. First, he had been cut off from divine guidance. Second, God was directing that the Philistine army should come in and crush the disobedient king. Both of these judgments were the outcome of sins that had been committed years earlier.

Like sin usually does, it had perpetuated an unrepentant life; and by his continued sinfulness, Saul had become more obstinate than ever. The end result was that of personal destruction.



In the dictionary, the word “Sabbath” means a weekly day of rest and prayer. The writer also states that it is Saturday for the Jews and Sunday for Christians. But this is not entirely true.

Let us deal with the word “Christian” and where it originated. In the Book of Acts, we see that the Gentiles were added to the church. It was the church of the living God, and the same church in which the Apostle Paul was not ashamed to preach the words of the Almighty. It was the same church which our Lord Jesus Christ, when He died, purchased with His own blood. Our Brother Paul declared, “For I have not shunned to declare unto you **ALL THE COUNSEL OF GOD**. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the **CHURCH OF God**, which **HE HATH PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD**. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock” (Acts 20: 27-29).

This Church of God was a church for both the Jews and Gentiles, but the Jews began to be stiffnecked in that unbelief crept in among them because some of them did not accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour, whereby it was written, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:11). But we must remember that “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other **NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN AMONG MEN**, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). **THAT NAME IS JESUS CHRIST!** “Men and brethren, children of the

stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. **BUT GOD RAISED HIM** from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: **But HE, WHOM GOD RAISED AGAIN, SAW NO CORRUPTION**. Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you. And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next SABBATH. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming” (Acts 13:26-45).

As it is in the world today, preaching the thing concerning the Sabbath day of rest is as contradicting and blaspheming as it was in Paul’s day. But as we continue in the Scriptures and see the boldness of Paul and Barnabas, we also should be bold enough to preach in the church on the Sabbath day. “Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost” (verses 46-52).

As we continued with the word “Christian” and its origin and saw that the same God which was worshipped both by the Jews and the Gentiles, which is Christian in totality, is of the same Lord which was of yesterday, and is today, and forevermore. Thus, the Apostle Paul continued to show us that not only the Jews were God’s chosen people but ALL that called upon the Lord Jesus Christ. “And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea

heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me: Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat. But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven. And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me. And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man’s house: And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life. Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should

go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called CHRISTIANS FIRST IN ANTIOCH" (Acts 11:1-26).

In Acts 11:19, we saw that the preachers in those days preached the whole words only unto the Jews, but we must remember that our Lord admonished, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world..." (Matthew 28:19-20).

ALL THINGS include keeping of the TEN COMMANDMENTS which includes, "REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY. SIX DAYS SHALT THOU LABOUR, AND DO ALL THY WORK: BUT THE SEVENTH DAY IS THE SABBATH OF THE LORD THY GOD: IN IT THOU SHALT NOT DO ANY WORK, THOU, NOR THY SON, NOR THY DAUGHTER, THY MANSERVANT, NOR THY MAIDSERVANT, NOR THY CATTLE, NOR THY STRANGER THAT IS WITHIN THY GATES: FOR IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE THE LORD BLESSED THE SABBATH Day, AND HALLOWED IT" (Exodus 20:8-11).

In the TEN COMMANDMENTS, we saw that almost all the commandments begin with THOU SHALT. But the fourth begins with the word REMEMBER because Almighty God knows that the heart of man is very wicked. Thus, they would try to do everything to please themselves and not Him! They would tend to forget. Thus, God used the word REMEMBER.

As we saw in Acts 11:26, the disciples were first called Christians in a city called Antioch because they followed closely the teaching or doctrine of Christ. Thus, the Lord Himself declared that "...The SABBATH was made for man, and not man for the SABBATH" (Mark 2:27). This means that the SABBATH, our fine day of rest, was made

for man to rest from all his labours and keep that day HOLY unto the Lord. Therefore, man must not choose another day in which to rest and worship and call it the Lord's day because it is NOT. Almighty God made the days and the things therein which was very good. He knew what He said and what He meant. Thus, God's ways are not our ways!

Let us heed Hebrews 4:1-9: "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. THERE REMAINETH THEREFORE A REST TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD."

Since Jesus is the Lord of the SABBATH, it is our duty to keep the SABBATH holy unto Him. When Almighty God wrote the TEN COMMANDMENTS, He made sure that there would be a record of them on the earth after which man must live. When Moses broke the first set, He commanded Moses to bring again unto Him two tables of stone on which He, Himself, would write the commandments with His own finger. Therefore, man could not claim that it was Moses' writing. Mankind tried to keep some of the commandments, BUT NOT ALL!

Let us see what the Scriptures have to say. "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a TRANSGRESSOR OF THE LAW. So speak

ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment” (James 2:8-13).

Mankind can be so hardhearted and stiffnecked at times that they will come to a conclusion that, after the Bible was written, they could declare that Sunday could possibly be the Sabbath day of rest. But let us get real! Since man named the days, can't we possibly see that the seventh day is Saturday and not Sunday? The week starts on Sunday, which is the first day, and ends on Saturday, which is the seventh day!

People and the world at large, “LET US HEAR THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER: FEAR GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN. FOR GOD SHALL BRING EVERY WORK INTO JUDGMENT, WITH EVERY SECRET THING, WHETHER IT BE GOOD, OR WHETHER IT BE EVIL” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

## ***GOD'S EYES***

*God's eyes are the color of sunshine,  
Looking down through a sparkling Spring day;  
They grow soft as He's watching His creations,  
And little children busy at play.*

*God's eyes grow darker with sorrow  
As they travel the length of the land;  
And behold those created in His image,  
And man's inhumanity towards man.*

*Then His eyes once again grow lighter  
As His Spirit lights up His throne;  
And His voice booming like thunder says,  
"Come, My children, it's time you come home."*

*Betty Whetstone*

## **WHY THE UNGODLY CANNOT WALK STRAIGHT**

(Reprinted and edited)

How is it possible for one staggering under a heavy load to walk straight?

This is an age which thinks little of doctrine. Every belief should be tolerated. Can two walk together, except they agree? Yes, people do not need to agree with each other because they are not going to walk straight anyway.

Men can learn most things by practice and experience. Practice makes perfect. But this is not so in the matter of religion. Think of the futile thoughts, desperate attempts, made by multitudes from time to time to live the proper way. Why do they fail?

There are four reasons why the people cannot walk straight. By walking straight we mean, “...keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

**FIRST** – Man bears a load of guilt. All are thus burdened, though all are not conscious of that fact. It is a load which daily is increasing, and is constantly being added to by crooked ways. How are we to rid of this burden? We cannot do it by trying to walk straight, yet that lies behind many attempts to be good and to do good. That is impossible as Proverbs 21:8 shows. Only at the cross can we be released from it.

**SECOND** – The unsaved man has a crooked nature. In the game of bowls, the “woods” have a bias. Each is weighed at only one end, therefore will not run straight. By nature, there is a bias in us toward evil. This makes “Going straight” impossible apart from grace. How could the way of the poor woman in Luke 13:11 but be exceedingly crooked? How can we with the twist in our nature walk straight? But He can make the crooked straight, and then the way of such will be right. I am delivered from the twist in my nature by obedience and then my nature is changed. Christ imparts His life, and strength and His grace.

**THIRD** - The unsaved person has crooked ideals. Man takes his pattern from the valley instead of from the mount. Mans' ideals are like himself, crooked and bent

all out of shape. How different it is with those people that have given their burdens over to Jesus. They have exchanged their encumbrances with the Lord, "I have set the Lord always before me." This is the testimony of every believer.

**FOURTH** – Then lastly, the unsaved man is weary as well as heavy laden. What awful weariness of soul comes through the burden of guilt!

Thus, to walk straight I need to know the Lord Jesus as my sin bearer, as my healer, as my rest giver, and my model. May He become all this to you!

## Read and Obey

By David DeLong

The Church of God has the simplest, and best, form of religion that exists in the world. We have no writings to follow except the holy Bible. We do not follow the traditions of man, but only the Word of God. We have no human authority as the head of the church. Christ Jesus is the only Head of the Church of God. What our religion consists of is this: to read (or hear) the Bible and obey its words. To say that the religion of the Church of God is the simplest, is not to imply that it is the easiest. Reading the Word of God and doing what it says is sometimes difficult, but at least we don't have the traditions of man, too.

We are admonished in Isaiah 34:16: "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read..." Though this text is referring to various birds and what the Lord will do for them, the principle is still the same. He wants us to seek out of the book of the Lord (and only His book) in every situation, for He will care for us as well as the birds (see Matthew 6:26).

In John 5:39 the Lord Jesus gives us the example of searching the Scriptures (the book of the Lord). He said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." It is only

the Scriptures (book of the Lord) that gives us the testimony of Jesus.

The Apostle John wrote in Revelation 1:3: "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." Furthermore, he wrote in Revelation 22:7,14: "Behold, I (Jesus) come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book...Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

So it takes both reading (or hearing) the Bible and doing it to be accepted by the Lord. The Apostle James warns us: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:22-25).

Indeed, obedience to the Word of the Lord is the first duty of everyone. When King Saul disobeyed the Lord by not destroying certain sheep and oxen, we learn: "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (I Samuel 15:22).

James even goes to the heart of true religion in James 1:26-27: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Of course, one must read and understand these precepts and then follow through in obedience to them.

How thorough does the Lord expect His followers to read and obey His Word? Jesus gives us the answer to that question in Matthew 4:4: "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Let this be our only religion: to learn God's Word and to obey it. Period!



This is a topic that many, understandably, either try to ignore or else shy away from. However, this is not the case with the holy Scriptures. The Bible confronts the topic of sexual perversions with fearlessness, like a hammer pounding an anvil, and, therefore, the topic must be addressed to the Church of God and others.

God created sex to be a wonderful blessing between a husband and his wife (one man married to one woman, see Genesis 2:21-24). In this context, sex is a good thing. Hebrews 13:4 informs us: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." It is the perversion of God's good gift of sex that we are addressing in this article. Sexual perversions are actually the same thing as sexual sins, or the breaking of the seventh Commandment of the Ten Commandments which states: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). This seventh Commandment covers all the various sorts of sexual perversions, and not just being unfaithful to your spouse.

The Bible makes it extremely plain that homosexuality is a sexual perversion/sin, and that the committing of this sin will be punished severely by the Lord, upon individuals as well as nations. This subject has been upon my mind lately because the American government has now, wickedly, endorsed homosexual marriage. This is one of the steps to America being punished by the Lord. Perhaps His hand of judgment will be stayed until the Seven Last Plagues are poured out upon the whole world, but God's judgment upon America will surely come.

To show us exactly how the Lord feels about homosexuality, we turn to the Book of Genesis. Chapter 13, verse 13 tells us: "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly." What were

their sins that caused the Lord to call them "wicked and sinners"? At least a great part of their sins are recorded in Genesis 19:1-8: "And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof." The phrase, "know them" means that they wanted to have sexual relations with the two men (angels).

Some may object and say that the men of Sodom wanted to abuse the two men who came into Lot's dwelling, and that consensual homosexual relations are all right. But notice what the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:24-28: "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their

own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. 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". These verses speak for themselves.

Furthermore, Paul wrote in I Timothy 1:9-10: "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine". The first part of verse 10 in the NASB version reads: "...and immoral men and homosexuals..." It is absolutely true that God is against homosexuality and will judge it as a sin.

But, He is also absolutely against all sexual perversions and will judge them as sins. Leviticus 18 gives a list of taboos against a number of sexual perversions. Though this list is long (verses 6-23), I will print it out in its entirety. "None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD. The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness. The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover. The nakedness of thy son's daughter, or of thy daughter's daughter, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover: for theirs is thine own nakedness. The nakedness of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten of thy father, she is thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's sister: she is thy father's near kinswoman. Thou shalt not

uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister; for she is thy mother's near kinswoman. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's brother, thou shalt not approach to his wife: she is thine aunt. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy daughter in law: she is thy son's wife; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy brother's wife: it is thy brother's nakedness. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; for they are her near kinswomen: it is wickedness. Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time. Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness. Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her. And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with woman-kind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion."

The above list contains some situations which might make many of us blush. However, that was what conditions were like with the heathen people of Canaan, and, unfortunately, conditions are similar in today's world as well. Church of God, the conditions of today are appalling, and we need to take every effort to get God's truth out to a confused and sick world! Once again, we see that the Bible is straight forward in its denunciation of sexual sins.

Adultery is rampant, not only in America, but throughout the world. Let us see what Jesus taught on the subject of adultery as concerning marriage. "The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorce-

ment, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:3-9).

Jesus even taught that adultery is committed when a man lusts in his heart after a woman. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already" (Matthew 5:27-28).

While we are on the subject of lusting in one's heart, now would be an appropriate time to address this issue. Looking at, or reading, pornographic films and literature is a way for lust and adultery to be formed in a person's heart. Doing this is still a sin. There is an overwhelming abundance of pornography that can be seen/read on T.V., the Internet, movie films, magazines, books and novels, etc. We know that we are to live pure lives. However, Satan will use every means he can to distract and disrail God's people. He tries to work against you and me every chance he can. Therefore, we must not give him any opportunity to let lust develop in our hearts.

The Lord Jesus taught that we should use every means at our disposal to fight against sins such as lust. We need much prayer in our lives to stay diligent against the devil. James 4:7 advises us to: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Jesus Himself quoted Scripture and the devil left Him (see Matthew 4:1-11). In extreme cases, if we don't overcome sin by other means, Jesus taught us to take extreme mea-

**"The world will become more and more evil in its ways, but the Church of God must not get used to these ways, but rather fight against them with all means possible."**

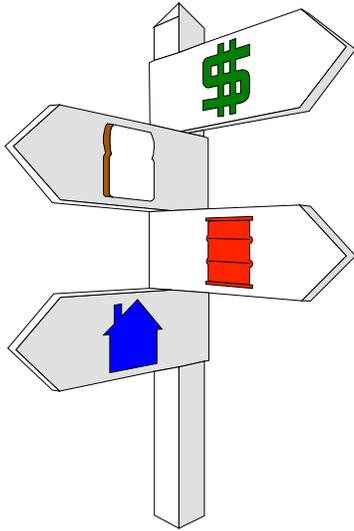
asures (see Matthew 5:29-30; 19:12, last part).

The Apostle Paul also taught us to be pure in our lives. We read in Philippians 4:8-9: "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. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

There are a number of sexual perversions not listed in this article. My purpose, though, is not to give an exhaustive report on such, but rather, to warn us and remind us, to keep from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. God has warned us, over and over in the Scriptures, that the immoral person shall not enter into the Kingdom of God. For instance, the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 5:19-21: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

This has not been an easy article for me to write. I will not apologize, however, for presenting the Word of God upon this subject, for I would be negligent in my duty as a servant of the Lord to back away from it. Paul had the unpleasant task of addressing these issues to the churches of his day, and we must do the same today. Eternal life or eternal death, like any obedience or disobedience of God's Word, is actually what here is at stake.

The world will become more and more evil in its ways, but the Church of God must not get used to these ways, but rather fight against them with all means possible. There is the story of a living frog which was put into a pot of cold water. The pot was placed on a lighted stove. As the pot's water began to get heated up, the frog felt no harm. This situation went on for some time, with the frog being used to the water at each stage of its increased heating. When the water began to boil, it was too late for the frog and it was boiled to death. This could happen to us if we become used to the ways of the world, little by little, until it becomes too late. God grant us the discernment to never let that happen to us, is my prayer for all.



# 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 ZIKA VIRUS

Health risks continue to trouble medical experts and people. You no doubt know of the Zika virus which appeared earlier this year. They say it is carried some way by mosquitos. I read, on the internet, that the World Health Organization will convene an emergency meeting about the “explosively spreading” of this virus.

Concern about the virus grew after its arrival in Brazil and other countries in the Americas. It was associated with an increase in babies born with abnormally small heads. However, read the internet report, while the relationship between Zika and birth defects has not been fully established but is “strongly suspected.” The report said the possible links, only recently suspected, have rapidly changed the risk profile of Zika, from a mild threat to one of alarming proportions.

Twenty four countries have reported cases of the virus, and the WHO has predicted it will eventually end up in virtually every Western Hemisphere country. The internet report also said that experts on health matters have accused the World Health Organization of acting far too slowly in raising the alarm about Zika.

## EBOLA RETURNING?

I read that a Liberian boy died just recently of Ebola. It was the first death from the disease since the country was declared Ebola-free.

The boy died in a hospital near the capitol of Liberia after testing positive for the disease.

## BABYLON AT WORK

The following is an article by Sharon Otterman of the

**New York Times.** It appeared in the **HOUSTON CHRONICLE** and was entitled *Tug of war over archbishop's body delays elevation to sainthood.*

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Peoria, Ill., has already built a museum in honor of Archbishop **Fulton J. Sheen**, a native son whose Emmy-winning television show during the 1950's brought Catholicism to the American living room. It has documented several potential miracles by him and compiled a dossier on his good works for the Vatican.

It has drawn up blueprints for an elaborate shrine in the main cathedral to house his tomb and sketched out an entire devotional campus it hopes to complete when its campaign declared the first U.S.-born male saint succeeds.

There has been just one snag in the diocese's carefully laid veneration plans: the matter of Sheen's body.

Since his death in 1979, his remains have been sealed in a white marble crypt at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, the city where he spent much of his life. And though the Peoria diocese says it was promised the remains, Cardinal **Timothy M. Dolan**, who considers Sheen something of a personal hero, has refused to part with them, citing the wishes of the archbishop's family.

Now the dispute over Sheen's corpse has brought a halt to his rise to sainthood, just as he appeared close to beatification, the final stage before canonization. Bishop **Daniel R. Jenky**, Peoria's leader, made the announcement this month.

The very tug-of-war over the body of Sheen, has shocked many Catholics, in part because it seems like something that belongs in another era.

“We should have moved out of the 14<sup>th</sup> century by now,” said **Joan Sheen Cunningham** of Yonkers, a niece of the archbishop and, at 87, his oldest living relative. “To keep someone from coming beatified over this, I think

is wrong.”

### **Comment**

The above article presents several deceptions. There really were no potential miracles by him. It is God who does the miracles! He may have done many good works for the Vatican, therefore he was a proponent of Babylon.

The beatification process is vain in that a person cannot be declared a saint when he is dead. If one does not become a saint when he is living, he cannot be declared a saint when he is dead. The only way to become a saint is to do it when one is living. After the living saint is dead, he is a dead saint who waits for the first resurrection when Christ appears in the air to catch away His saints, both dead and living, to take them to the city which is the mother of us all – the New Jerusalem.

Another question to ask is what does the location of Archbishop Sheen’s body have to do with his beatification? His remains (bones) can be beatified at St. Patrick’s Cathedral as well as an elaborate shrine which is designed to house his tomb.

The whole beatification article is shocking in that people, not only Catholics, believe in such a practice. The Catholics should move out of the century in which they sanctioned beatification. But we know they never will as they disregard God’s Word on the subject of sainthood.

Beatification is just one doctrine of men!

### **THE 2016 PRIMARY PRESIDENTIAL RACE**

I was watching CNN news recently. Franklin Graham, Billy Graham’s son, was a guest. He was asked what he thought about the loud and crude debates the candidates who were vying for the presidential nomination were having. He challenged the language and content of the candidate’s remarks.

He was also asked if he would endorse anyone. He said that, in all good conscience, he could not endorse anyone. He said that the only hope for the country is to return to obeying God and having reverence for Him. Therefore, he backs no person or political party. He did say that he will vote.

Yes, America is doomed unless it returns to its fundamental God fearing roots! Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 tells us, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into

judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

### **TAKE YOUR PICK**

I saw in a news article that a certain automotive concern is all excited about the manufacturing of both self driving cars and those driven manually as most are driven today. Why would one company manufacture both types of cars?

### **TAKING ADVANTAGE**

I understand that at the time of this writing that the oil slump has brought many bankruptcy lawyers out of the woodwork. An article said that “an expected landslide of energy-company bankruptcies will spread to other local industries starting with commercial real estate because of the large number of vulnerable companies with down town office space, say Texas lawyers who are preparing for a growing workload.”

### **GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

According to the news, scientists say that global warming is causing the seas to rise faster than in the past 2,800 years. There are many who believe that global warming is not real. However, as we look around us, we see the globe warming. By what other name may we call it? To be honest, we can only speculate as to the real cause. Most, including the president of the U.S., believe that the main cause is man polluting the air. However, there could be more causes of global warming or no cause at all.

Many are also concerned about climate change. Some climates that were once cold are now hot, and some climates that were once hot are now cold.

Many are troubled by the fact that they believe that man cannot continue to exist on earth because of the effects of global warming and climate change.

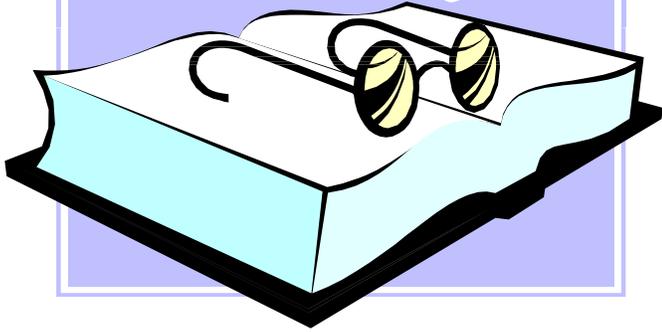
Let us take note that God is in control, and He will not let man be destroyed from off the face of the earth (globe)!

### **SPLIT ON THE MEND?**

I read that the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, shared a warm greeting with Pope Francis at the airport in Havana, Cuba. I understand that it was the first-ever meeting with the head of the Russian church. It was a historic development in the 1,000 year schism within (so called) Christianity.

# BIBLE

## Study



**QUESTION:** There are many kinds of backsliders. Will you please discuss three kinds of backsliders?

**ANSWER:** There are those who backslide in heart! These people may still be regular in their church but they have become unhappy in their hearts. They may not even recognize they have backslidden. For some reason, their peace is gone. The community may not know that they have backslidden in heart. These people are leading double lives because they continue in their church work even though their hearts are not right!

There are those who backslide from duty! These people turn aside from their obligation to the church, to themselves and to their families. They give up active service for Christ! They abandon their Christian work and frequently cease to attend the services of God's house. They still are honorable men and women. They are truthful and virtuous, but they no longer engage in Christian activities.

There are those who backslide into wickedness! Those who backslide in their hearts may soon lose interest in the activities of the church. Later they often descend further and become wicked in conduct. Some backsliders lose their honor and become wicked in their lives. They may become a stumblingblock to others and stand in the way of sinners who might, but for them, be saved.

**QUESTION:** What are the results of backsliding?

# Questions and Answers

**ANSWER:** Backsliding will ruin the child of God's joy! Every time one does wrong or fails to do his duty, he loses his peace and contentment. The conscience of a child of God will warn him that such a course will end in sadness and ruin.

Backsliding exposes a child of God to the chastening of God! The Scriptures tell us that God will chasten those He loves. We also read that "...no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness..." and also "...worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Backsliding harms the church! If all the members should become cold and indifferent in heart, even though they do no wickedness, the strength and power of the church would be no more. It would not be a faithful witness and God would have to withdraw His presence in it.

**QUESTION:** Where in the Bible can I find the name of Jesus' disciple who was a physician?

**ANSWER:** The answer to your question is found in Colossians 4:14 which reads, "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."

**QUESTION:** Why not believe in the doctrine of transubstantiation in regard to the Lord's Supper? Did not Jesus say, "Take, eat; this is my body"? and concerning the juice, "Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament..."?

**ANSWER:** When Jesus said, "this is my body," He could

not have meant it literally because at that moment His body was seated at the table, and the fruit of the vine in the cup could not have been really His blood because His blood was still in His veins. We must come to the conclusion that the bread and fruit of the vine represented His body and blood!

**QUESTION:** I have heard it said that the expression, “all things to all men” has its origin in the Bible. If this is true, to whom did it apply, and what does it mean?

**ANSWER:** The Apostle Paul said he was “made all things to all men”, that is he adapted himself to the circumstances of those to whom he witnessed in order that his ministry might be more effective. He did this “for the gospel’s sake”. To do this required great humility. Read I Corinthians 9:22-23.

**QUESTION:** Do we find prophecies in the Old Testament that tell us of the second advent of Christ and the work which He will perform?

**ANSWER:** Yes we do! The following are a few of them:

In Isaiah 40:10 we read, “Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.” “For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire” (Isaiah 66:15).

In Jeremiah 23:5 we read, “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”

In Ezekiel 21:27 we read, “I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.”

In Daniel 7:27 we read, “And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Daniel 2:44).

In Obadiah 21 we read, “And saviours (judges) shall

come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD’S.”

In Micah 4:1-4 we read, “But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.”

In Zephaniah 1:14 we read, “The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.”

In Malachi 3:2-3 we read, “But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.”

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall” (Malachi 4:2).

**QUESTION:** I see that the Bible speaks of three different ways: (1) The narrow way (Matthew 7:14); (2) The broad way (Matthew 7:13); (3) The highway (Isaiah 35:8-9). Can you please distinguish between these three ways? Where does each one lead?

**ANSWER:** The narrow way is the way of sacrifice which the saints take during this age. It leads to immortality with Christ. The broad way is the easy, worldly way that Adam took in disobeying God’s command. It leads to death. The highway is the way the people will take all through the thousand-year reign of Christ. It is the way of holiness when the nations will return to God’s favor.



## Philippines, Part I

A gathering of some of our brothers and sisters in the Lord.





**Precious souls being placed into the watery grave of Baptism.**



LESSON I

PAUL AT ATHENS

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:15-34.

Golden Text: Acts 17:30.

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”

1. Who did Paul ask to join him at Athens? Acts 17:15.
2. While Paul waited at Athens, what did he see that bothered him? Acts 17:18-21.
3. With what did Paul charge the men of Athens? Acts 17:22.
4. What did Paul find on Mars' hill? Acts 17:23.
5. Name seven ways Paul described God or our relationship to Him. Acts 17:24-31.
6. When the people heard of the resurrection, what did some do, and what did others say? Acts 17:32.
7. Who were the two mentioned that believed the words of Paul? Acts 17:34.

LESSON II

PAUL AT CORINTH

Scripture Reading: Acts 18:1-11.

Golden Text: Acts 18:10 (first part).

“For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee.”

1. Paul leaves Athens and goes to Corinth where he meets Aquila. Tell three things about the man Aquila. Acts 18:1-2.
2. What was the occupation of Paul and Aquila? Acts 18:3.

3. On what day did Paul go to the synagogue? Acts 18:4.
4. Of what did Paul testify? Acts 18:5.
5. What did Paul say to the Jews when they blasphemed his words? Acts 18:6.
6. Whose house did Paul enter, and was he a believer? Acts 18:7.
7. Who was Crispus, and what happened to many of the Corinthians? Acts 18:8; I Corinthians 1:4.
8. What did the Lord say to Paul? Acts 18:9.
9. How long did Paul stay in Corinth? Acts 18:11.

LESSON III

PAUL'S JOURNEY CONTINUES

Scripture Reading: Acts 18:12-28.

Golden Text: Acts 18:23.

“And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

1. What did the Jews do to Paul in Acts 18:12-13?
2. What was the reply of Gallio? Acts 18:14-15.
3. Who was punished by the Greeks? Acts 18:16-17.
4. Where did Paul then journey to, and who did he take with him? Acts 18:18-19.
5. Did the people at Ephesus want Paul to leave? Acts 18:20.
6. What did Paul do in Galatia and Phrygia? Acts 18:23.
7. Describe Apollos. Acts 18:24-25; Titus 3:13.

8. When Apollos spoke in the synagogue, what did Aquila and Priscilla do? Acts 18:26.

9. By what means were the people shown that Jesus was Christ? Acts 18:28.

**LESSON IV**

**PAUL AT EPHESUS (Part I)**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 19:1-12.**

**Golden Text: Acts 19:11.**

**“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul.”**

1. What did Paul ask the disciples at Ephesus, and what was their reply? Acts 19:1-2.

2. The disciples had been baptized unto John’s baptism. What did it mean to be baptized unto John’s baptism? Acts 19:3-4.

3. What did the disciples find it necessary to do in Acts 19:5?

4. What happened when Paul laid his hands upon them? Acts 19:6.

NOTE: Tongues means languages. When it says they spoke in tongues, it means that they could speak in different languages. They would be able to minister and speak to many people in Asia.

5. What did Paul speak about in the synagogue, and for how long? Acts 19:8.

6. When the people did not believe and spoke evil of Paul, what did he do? Acts 19:9.

7. How long did Paul work with these disciples throughout Asia? Acts 19:10.

8. What did God do through the hands of Paul? Acts 19:11-12.



**BIBLE ANIMALS**

Unscramble these Bible names

1. Lume
2. Padrole
3. Xeno
4. Umose
5. Laege
6. Sinev
7. Gordan
8. Melca
9. Tan
10. Evirp



**A BIRD WALK**

*Perhaps you have taken a stroll through the woods with Mother or Dad and tried to name the birds you saw. You could spot some by their feathers and others by their song. Let's take a bird walk through the pages of the Bible. How many birds can you find? The references will tell you where to look for them.*

1. *I Kings 17:6*
2. *Isaiah 40:31*
3. *Genesis 8:7-8*
4. *Matthew 10:29*
5. *Luke 13:34*
6. *Matthew 3:16*
7. *Psalm 84:3*
8. *II Chronicles 9:21*
9. *Isaiah 34:14*
10. *Isaiah 34:15*
11. *Luke 2:24*
12. *I Samuel 26:20*
13. *Job 39:13*
14. *Psalm 102:6*
15. *Psalm 104:17*





## AUNT MOLLY'S JOKE

Betty, Edith, Bobby, and Jerry were four little cousins who all lived on the same street. Aunt Molly lived on the same street, too, all alone in a little house that was full of all kinds of strange and curious things, that her father who had been a sea captain had brought from the countries across the sea.

Best of anything in the house the children thought was Aunt Molly's cookie jar. Somehow, no matter how many cookies they ate - and our little children can eat a great many - it was always full. There were the big, round sugar cookies, the little dark spicy ginger ones, and the thick molasses squares. The children could never tell which they liked the best.

One morning when the children came running over to Aunt Molly's and asked for some cookies her eyes twinkled as she said, "I am not going to give you children any more cookies after today unless-" (here she paused and looked at them) - "unless you keep all the weeds out of my garden."

Then she laughed, for she never dreamed for a moment that Betty, Edith, Bobby, and Jerry would think of trying to weed her garden because they were so small.

But Aunt Molly was mistaken. When she had gone back into the house, the children, who were sitting on the steps eating cookies, looked at each other, then they themselves laughed.

"She is fooling us, she thinks we are too small," said Jerry; "Let's show her we know how to weed flower beds."

"Of course we can," said Betty eagerly. "Don't we all help in our own gardens?"

"Let's", cried the other two children.

Then they fell to work with a will. It was hard to tell which one worked the hardest.

"I have two - I have four!" sang Betty as she pulled the weeds out by two, one with each hand. Betty was left-handed, but had to learn to use both hands equally well.

"I will take the biggest ones because I am the biggest boy," said Jerry.

Little Bobby did not say anything. He was busy tugging away at a great big weed. He pulled and pulled and pulled. Then he gave a big tug. Up it came and over backward Bobby went, still holding onto the big weed. How they laughed, for he was not hurt a bit because he fell over on the soft green grass.

"I am glad it came up," he said. "I thought it was growing down to China."

Just then Aunt Molly came out on the porch and saw them.

"See," cried the children, "we have pulled up every weed in the garden. We are going to do it all summer to earn our cookies."

How pleased Aunt Molly was. "That's a joke on me," she said. "I said that to you as a joke, but now the joke is on me. But it's such a nice joke I wish I could have many more like it."





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## ***We're Called Of God***

By David DeLong

We're called of God to hold the truth,  
And lift His banner high;  
And even if we're called "uncouth",  
To do our best, and try.

We're called of God to preach and teach,  
To witness and to show  
The Word of God, and try to reach  
The people--friend or foe.

We're called of God to live a life  
Beyond reproach and sin;  
To never, ever, act with strife,  
Nor let the "old man" win.

We're called of God to live with Him,  
And rise by resurrection;  
But first, our light must never dim  
To follow God's direction.

We're called of God to be His Church,  
A people who will read  
The Word of God, as truth we search,  
And to the truth give heed.

