

The Advocate of Truth





TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

The Good Father 3
A good father will imitate our Father in heaven.

Self Examination 3-5
Examining ourselves will keep us from the Lord's judgment.

Abraham 6
Abraham's influence extended to others after he was gone.

Imperatives For Salvation 7-8
These are good instructions for us to follow if we would be right with the Lord.

A Challenge For Youth 9
Young people today still want to be challenged.

Living By Faith 10-12
What is the faith that one must live by?

Trust And Obey 13
Two things that every child of God must do.

The Signs Of The Times 14-15
Terrorists are a concern to the world today.

Questions And Answers 16-17
What does the word "Koinonia" mean?

The Church Around The World 18-19
This month we look at India.

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "Our God-given Freedom"
Games and Puzzles

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THE GOOD FATHER

This article is for God-fearing families.

Bond Tennant

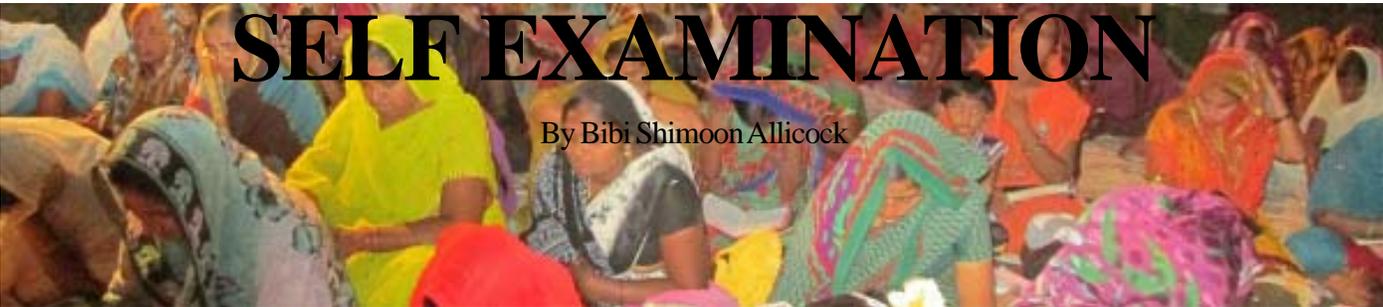
Father's Day this year is June 21. It is said that one reason for the demise of the God-ordained family in America is the absence of a good father. In this very short article, we want to think about the leadership that a good father gives to his God-fearing family. In a God-fearing family, it is the father who looks after the spiritual as well as the physical welfare of the family. Sad to say, these days there are not many fathers who play that role.

It is a blessing when the entire family worships together in both the church and the home. A good father of a God-fearing family will not let down his responsibility in either area. When fathers allow Christ to be the Head of their homes, they will find their problems of guiding their homes less stressing.

Without saying, a good father of a God-fearing family will love his children. Love often times is the difference between a child's normal physical progress and poor physical progress. They say that this has been proven in hospitals where children have been treated for several ailments. I read that it was said that the progress of children reared with the love of both mother and father was much better than the progress made by slum children who had poor care and only mother love.

Children and parents both learn valuable lessons. They learn lessons in getting along together through experience. The good father of a God-fearing family is a learner also, but he must be a teacher by example and precept.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



SELF EXAMINATION

By Bibi Shimon Allicock

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (II Corinthians 13:5).

Examine yourselves or ourselves because the Good Book encourages us that we have to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. It does not say that we should work out John's or Mary's salvation. “Judge not,

that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt

thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:1-5).

"Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: FOR GOD HATH RECEIVED HIM. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: FOR GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE HIM STAND. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. FOR NONE OF US LIVETH TO HIMSELF, AND NO MAN DIETH TO HIMSELF. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? FOR WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that NO MAN PUT A STUMBLINGBLOCK OR AN OCCASION TO FALL IN HIS BROTHER'S WAY" (Romans 14:1-13).

Referring to verse six, we all must have an idea of what we should eat and what we should not eat. Nevertheless, if we saw a brother or sister at an unbeliever's home and partaking of some dainties, all we have to do as believers is just pray that the individual isn't partaking of something unclean, rather than judging the individual. In the Holy Book, even our Lord partook of meat with publicans and sinners. "And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before,

and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:1-10).

We saw that, although he was a publican and very rich, Zacchaeus examined and humbled himself as told us in verse eight. He did what was required of him. Thus, our Lord granted salvation unto him and his household.

In the Book of Matthew as our Lord sat down to meat, there were many publicans and sinners with Him. "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eatest your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND NOT SACRIFICE: for I am not come to call the righteous, BUT SINNERS TO REPENTANCE" (Matthew 9:10-13).

As believers of Almighty God, when examining ourselves, we need to know to whom we belong and recognize our Lord Jesus Christ. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8). Let us not be as the Israelites who were looking for the Messiah and could not recognize Him. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11).

Thus, the Lord Himself asked, "But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, AND MORE THAN A PROPHET. For this is he, of

whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee” (Matthew 11:8-10). “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows, And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented” (verses 15-17). The Lord did everything possible so that mankind could repent of their sins and be saved. Nevertheless, most people would rather choose the broad road which leadeth to destruction than the narrow road which leadeth to everlasting life.

“Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee” (Matthew 11:20-24). “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. BUT WISDOM IS JUSTIFIED OF HER CHILDREN” (verses 18-19). “For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world” (I Corinthians 11:31-32). “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOLDS;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled” (II Corinthians 10:3-6). “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing

themselves among themselves, are not wise” (verse 12). “But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, BUT WHOM THE LORD COMMENDETH” (verses 17-18). Amen.

MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW

By Betty Whetstone

*God promises many blessings,
He has laid up for those who obey;
You need only to search the Scriptures,
For the fate that awaits you today.*

*The poor will inherit the Kingdom,
They who mourn no longer will weep;
They who hunger and thirst will be righteous,
The pure can find rest in their sleep.*

*And others speak evil against you,
Rejoice, be exceedingly glad;
For great is the reward that awaits you,
And no longer will you have to feel sad.*

*And those who are now known as peacemakers,
As yet this life they do tread;
A rich reward now awaits them,
They'll be known as children of God.*

*Great is their reward in the Kingdom,
God judges according to worth;
Those who will reap all of these blessings,
Will be known as the salt of this earth.*

--Matthew 5:3, 14



ABRAHAM – THE FINAL YEARS

“The field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife” (Genesis 25:10).

Because of their fabulous accomplishments and great exploits, some prominent men of both past and present have seemed larger than life to the rest of us. Think, for example, of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and George Patton just to name a few past notables. What about modern day industrial giants like Lee Iacocca, or underwater explorers like Jacques Cousteau? We often stand in great awe of such energetic persons, almost believing that their dynamic forcefulness will propel them on to new successes forever. Unfortunately, even the greatest of men must die, no matter how abundantly they have been blessed with longevity and robust health.

Abraham lived for thirty-five more years after the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah. His vitality was preserved to the very end. He remained active in business and the various pursuits of his household throughout the remainder of his life, setting all things completely in order for the benefit of his son, Isaac.

With Isaac now married, Abraham found himself overcome by loneliness once more. He took a second wife, a woman named Keturah, and through her had six male children. Canaan was the promised land for the descendents of Isaac, and Keturah’s sons would be given no part of the inheritance. But they all grew to be strong, wise men in their own right, becoming founders of six Arabian tribes.

Finally Abraham’s time had come, and in a good old age he gave up the ghost. His body was laid to rest in the same parcel of ground that he had purchased from the Hittites for the burial of Sarah. The funeral was one befitting

of such a great man, with many persons in attendance.

Even the great sorrow of a funeral can sometimes exert a positive influence; wounded feelings between family members are often healed at the graveside. All of the rivalry and bad feelings that had formerly existed between Isaac and his half-brother, Ishmael were, for the time being, set aside in their common grief.

But it was still Isaac who assumed his father’s mantle and took Abraham’s place in the Covenant promise concerning the land of Canaan. The patriarch had bequeathed a very large responsibility to his son. Standing alone at his father’s tomb long after the others had gone, Isaac prayed to God for the wisdom and strength needed to fulfill his awesome task.

--From an old Sabbath School Lesson



If we meet and you forget me,
you have lost nothing;
but if you meet
JESUS CHRIST
and forget Him
You have lost everything.
--Revelation 3:20



Principles and Reasons
Imperatives For Salvation

By Moises Torres M.

16/03/2015 21:29

NOTE: The Old Testament introduces the indicative method of God for man. In the new Testament lesson, it is displayed the imperative of the indicative through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The New Testament introduces the imperative as a new commandment in Christ which is the same indicative expressed in the Old Testament.

“Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth” (I John 2:7-8).

Let us look at some of these imperatives for salvation:

LOVE:

In Leviticus 19:18, was written, “...but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.” Then the Lord Jesus makes this a new commandment and an imperative for salvation: “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34-35).

The Son of God taught us what real love is and how to love one another “**as I have loved you,**” so it is imperative for us to love our brothers as He did, otherwise we can not be his disciples. “...He that loveth not his brother abideth in death” (I John 3:14).

PEACE AND HOLINESS:

It is imperative to have peace and holiness in our hearts if we want to see the Lord Jesus at His return for His saints. “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless” (II Peter 3:14).

FORGIVENESS

It is essential for us to forgive in a way that we are forgiven. “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15).

“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:21-22).

NOTE: “Seventy times seven” is an infinite multiple which means that there is not limitation for forgiveness. It is as the famous Albert Einstein formula, $E=mc^2$, which expounds an infinite multiple on energy which is equal to mass multiplied by the speed of Light Squared. The speed of light is 300,000 kilometers per second, and the speed of light Squared would be $300,000 \times 300,000$. Can you imagine the effectiveness of this formula? So it is the Lord’s formula about forgiveness, 70 times 7.

ENDURANCE AND FAITHFULNESS

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Matthew 24:13). “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10).

It is imperative to finish our course as Paul did to receive the crown of righteousness and not give up for any reason. “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62).

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (II Timothy 4:7-8).

FAITH

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). It is imperative to be completely convinced in the existence of a God who created everything that exists including ourselves. “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring” (Acts 17:28).

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). In searching the Scriptures--the Bible--we get knowledge from God and from His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and we get also words of eternal life. “Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

BELIEVE AND BE BAPTIZED

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Baptism **in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ** is an imperative for salvation.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

“And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do

to be saved? And they said, **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:30-31).

KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS

NOTE: It is imperative to Keep the commandments of God to enter into life. All those who break the Eternal Law of God (Ten Commandments) will not inherit life, but death.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

“And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, **what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?** And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother” (Mark 10:17-19).

“And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, **keep the commandments**” (Matthew 19:17).

“If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

RIGHTEOUSNESS

“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20). The scribes and Pharisees' righteousness was based on the law, the Levitical law, and the Lord called them hypocrites! Ours must be based on the Spirit of Christ our Lord and Saviour.



A CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH

YOUNG PEOPLE
WILL YOU TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

Reprinted

It has been said that one of the problems that young people face today is their lack of security. You look to the future and see war and the rumors of war. You see industry mechanized and computers taking the place of real life people. You see the instability of government and the impending threat of communism. You see homes broken down and morality and faithfulness being laughed at. You see two vile persons committing a crime, one gets caught and the other goes “scott free.” You notice that there is no equity and proper law enforcement. And you hear some say, “What is there to trust in and to look forward to?”

But young people down through the ages have faced what, to them, are the same insecurities. Invention and change have always brought insecurities. The pilgrims lacked the promise of living through each winter; the explorers lacked the equipment to assure safe arrival; the wagon trains moving west lacked the communication ability to make contacts en route. There has never been security for the young apart from God. It is not just THIS time and age; but ALL times and ALL ages.

The rich young ruler had everything one could desire in security, if THINGS made security. Yet, he faced life’s meaning and saw a great emptiness in things. He saw Jesus and a hope for eternal life and asked, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

With all that he had, he did not have enough to satisfy the longing. He experienced a void, a futility inside himself, because God made us all with a mechanism inside that calls out for fellowship with Him. We are so made that there can never be security, peace or real achievement apart from becoming His children and finding the place He intended for our life’s work and service.

One reason you feel so much insecurity is that you place too much emphasis on this world and the things that happen to you here and now. The crowd, power, things, status and sex can become gods to you. But when you go the route that each one of these requires for success, you find that you are left with nothing – nothing but bad memories.

It is time to ask this question:

“What is life all about, and what am I going to do with it?” Then remember – this is the only life allowed me; am I going to mess it up and end up with only regrets?

Your life is in your hands today. You can go the way of selfishness, greed, lust and financial accomplishments or you can go God’s way.

You are important to God. He created you in His image and gave you certain talents and abilities for His Divine Purpose. He gave you the power of choice, though. You can choose His way or your own way, but peace is only along the route He has marked out for you.

Jesus said, “Ye must be born again.” In becoming His child, your whole world can look different. You can know who you are and where you are going. Jesus said to the young ruler after the ruler asked Him, “what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said, “Thou knowest the commandments.” To remind him what commandments He was referring to, Jesus continued, “...Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother” (see Luke 18:18-24). This is the road mapped out by the Lord Jesus. He still wants each one to be obedient. By being obedient to God’s Holy and perfect Law, you will receive a definite and new meaning for living. You can feel secure in knowing you are living your best for Jesus Christ and His glory.

I believe young people like to respond to a hard tough challenge. You do not really want things easy. You just want to know you are right.

Well, your greatest challenge today is to follow Jesus Christ. You want to do something that will outlive you, something worthwhile and accountable – follow Him! Your challenge today is to live up to the best that is in you. Do not accept the way of the crowd, the way of least resistance and group thinking. This is your life! Give it for the very best, and that is God. Then your life will be secure and full of meaning.



Living By Faith

By David DeLong

We read in the book of Hebrews, chapter 10 verse 38: "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." There is a difference between having faith and living by faith. It is really a measure of degree. We learn in Romans 12:3: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Believers differ in the amount of faith that they have in the Lord.

Some, who are immature spiritually, have little faith. This was the situation with a father who had a demon-possessed son. "And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried

out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" (Mark 9:17-24).

The Lord will work with a person who has little faith, but He won't do anything for an unbelieving person (see Hebrews 11:6). However, the Lord is pleased with a person who has much faith and who lives by faith. The Lord will honor such a person and will work through him or her. One way that the Lord will do this is through the working of miracles. I Corinthians 12:7-11 informs us: "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." We must remember that the Lord is sovereign and that we must allow Him to work through us as He wills. We are to live by faith. He will choose to work through us according to His will, giving out the gifts that He sees fit.

Let us now observe how the Lord chose to work through some Bible characters who were living by faith. In I Samuel chapter 14 we find where Jonathan and his armour-bearer were considering fighting against some of the Philistines who outnumbered them significantly. We pick up the story in verse 6. "And Jonathan said to the

young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few. And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart. Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them. If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us. And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves. And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will show you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel. And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him. And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow. And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling" (verses 6-15).

As some of the Israelites were apparently hiding in caves and holes in the ground, Jonathan and his armourbearer were living by faith and trusting the Lord to deliver them out of the hand of the Philistines. When we pause and consider this situation we can see that this was an extraordinary faith by these two men. God honored them with a great victory over the enemy and with an earthquake to further scare the Philistines and probably to show that He was working on Israel's behalf.

In II Kings chapter 4 we have several examples of people who were living by faith. Verses 1-7 tell us of a woman of great faith who was obedient to a man of God of great faith. "Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy

servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest." Extraordinary faith!

Later on in chapter 4 we again see the great faith of Elisha. "And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets. And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not. So they poured out for the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof. But he said, Then bring meal. And he cast it into the pot; and he said, Pour out for the people, that they may eat. And there was no harm in the pot" (verses 38-41).

Just a couple of chapters over, in chapter 6, we find another situation which required a miracle. "And the sons of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye. And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants. And he answered, I will go. So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood. But as one was felling a beam, the ax head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of

God said, Where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it" (verses 1-7).

We can see a number of situations where men and women of God lived by faith, at times it seems relying upon the Lord for miracles in their everyday lives. Not only is this so in the Old Testament, but also in the New Testament. Our Lord Jesus Christ was the perfect example of a man living by faith. Everything that He did, thought, and taught others He did by relying upon His Father in heaven. We need to do that today. In Matthew 8:14-17 we read concerning Jesus: "And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

We see a situation where Jesus healed two blind men because of their faith in Him. "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country" (Matthew 9:27-31). Two aspects were at work in this healing by Jesus. First, it was His will that these two blind men be healed. Second, it was "according to your faith" that they were healed. Both of these aspects need to work together for a healing by the Lord to occur.

Living by faith involves a proper attitude on the part of the disciple. We see this attitude of compassion towards others by the Lord Jesus. "And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away,

that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children" (Matthew 14:14-21).

We also see the Lord Jesus living by faith in the every day areas of life. Take, for instance, His paying of taxes when there likely wasn't money available to pay them. No problem! "And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee" (Matthew 17:24-27).

Many of the early disciples had learned to live by faith. After Peter and John, through the Lord's power, had healed the impotent man they went back to their own company and reported what things had taken place. Below is a partial prayer that the disciples then made: "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:29-31).

The Scriptures are filled with examples of men and women, boys and girls, who lived by faith, in the big situations of life and in the every day situations as well. May these examples inspire us to do the same.



Trust and Obey

By David DeLong

In the previous article, "Living By Faith", we implied that the Lord wants more for His people than to just have faith, now and then, as one's circumstances or feelings dictate. He wants followers of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to live by faith, on a daily basis, whether they are in desperate need of help or are in the simple matters of life. More than that, He wants His children to back up their faith with actions which prove the faith. Two examples of having such faith are given in the book of James.

In the first example, Abraham, we read: "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:21-24).

In the second example, Rahab the harlot, We learn: "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (verses 25-26).

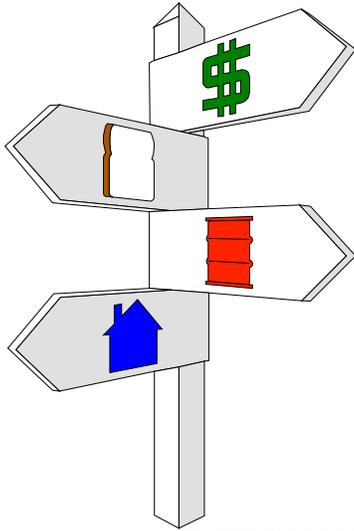
James further expresses what faith is all about in chapter 2:14-20: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

The definition of a saint (holy one, Christian, believer, follower of Jesus, disciple, etc.) is found in the book of Revelation. Chapter 14, verse 12, reads: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." See also Revelation 12:17. These two things, and these two things alone, constitute a child of God. Keeping God's Commandments (including the Ten Commandments) and having the faith or testimony of Jesus is another way of saying trust and obey, having faith and works, etc. Ecclesiastes 12:13 is yet another way of expressing this concept. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Trusting Christ for salvation comes first. But even this trust must be accompanied by repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for receiving the Holy Spirit. Then, we live a life of obedience to the Lord according to the Commandments of the Bible. This is how we show our love for God and others. I John 3:18 declares: "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

As our hymn says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."



AMERICAN SECURITY CONTINUED FROM MAY ISSUE

Terrorists a concern

Thirteen years after the Sept. 11 attacks, and as the Obama administration conducts airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, only 1 in 5 in the poll say they are extremely or very confident the government can keep them safe from another terrorist attack. Four in 10 express moderate confidence.

While there has not been a large-scale terrorist attack on U.S. soil since 9/11, roughly one-third of Americans say they are not too confident or not confident at all in the government's ability to prevent another.

Bill Denison, 85, who lives in Bradenton, Fla., is among the minority who thinks the government is doing a good job keeping citizens safe, at least when it comes to preventing domestic attacks.

"Overall, I think that the best job that we've done in this country is with anti-terrorism," he said. "We're doing a magnificent job, and so far it's been pretty successful."

Still, he expressed disbelief at the recent security breaches involving Secret Service agents, including an incident in which a man scaled the White House fence and made his way deep into the executive mansion.

"The fact that a guy can run into the White House is pretty disturbing," he said. "But we're only human. And humans are going to make mistakes."

Comment

It would be much better if all Americans could feel safe. We can be sure that many of those of other countries do not feel safe. The fact is that no one can be sure that he is safe. Nothing is assured in the world in which we

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.

live because Satan is on the move and has influence on the nations.

There will be safety for all the nations (peoples) who will be in the Kingdom of God.

THE GOOGLE DRIVERLESS CAR

I saw a news feature on CNN which showed a driverless car which Google plans to have in production in the next two years. It was an odd looking vehicle.

It is most amazing that technology has made it possible to produce cars than can actually see, like a human, the car in the front and rear in order to avoid an accident.

ANOTHER DECEPTION

Consider the following article:

Nun credited with curing eye disease to be beatified

NEWARK, N.J. – A half-century ago, a young boy's eye disease mysteriously vanished, and on Saturday, the New Jersey nun credited with curing the boy will be beatified.

Sister **Miriam Teresa Demjanovich**, who died in 1927 at age 26, is scheduled to be beatified in a ceremony led by Cardinal **Angelo Amato** at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. The ceremony is the third in the four-step process to sainthood.

Sister Miriam Teresa is credited with curing a boy's macular degeneration in the 1960's, according to the Archdiocese of Newark. **Michael Mencer** was given a lock of the sister's hair and prayed to her. The effects of the eye disease soon began to fade, church officials say.

Mencer told NBC News that his teacher gave him the lock of hair in a plastic container along with a prayer card.

On a walk home later that day, he recalled noticing changes in his sight.

"I was about two blocks from the house when I think it happened," Mencer said. "I looked up at what I thought

was the sun, and it didn't hurt my eyes, but I could see an orb, a bright light. And when I looked down, I could see the hair in the memento." --The Houston Chronicle

Comment

There is a great deception in the above article. This column has published several such articles. First, we know that Miriam Teresa Demjanovich is not conscious. She is in the grave! Second, even if she were conscious and, after she was prayed to, given credit for curing Michael Mencer's eye disease, it would be a lie. In truth, it is only God who cures sickness and disease. He can do this either directly or indirectly. He can cure or heal without the help of a physician or with the aid of a physician.

IN THE PROPER TIME

Something to think about

I have a book entitled **Armageddon Soon**. The real thought is that no one knows when either the rapture (catching away) of the saints or the battle of Armageddon, the time when Christ returns with the raptured saints to fight against the nations that come against Israel, will occur. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36). This book appeared in the nineties. God's soon is not measured by man's soon, but His promises are sure! "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry" (Hebrews 10:35-37).

MARIJUANA USE

More workers test positive for marijuana use

A new study on drug use among U.S. workers has uncovered a broad increase in positive marijuana tests in employee screenings.

Researchers wonder whether it is a sign of what is to come as Americans become more accepting of marijuana and more states legalize recreational use of the drug.

--From Wire Reports

Positive tests for marijuana in employment drug screenings jumped 6.2 percent nationally from 2012 to 2013, according to recent figures from Quest Diagnostics.

A Quest official said it will likely take years to determine whether new laws in some states that permit the recreational use of marijuana have distorted the national data.

Comment

No doubt, the acceptance of marijuana in America is a great cause of the increase in positive tests for it among employees, especially in those states which have legalized recreational use of it.

The increased use of marijuana among workers and also others in America is just a sign of the times. Marijuana, unless it is used as directed for medical purposes in the states which have legalized it as such, is contrary to the nature of man and its use displeases God.

"SUGAR DADDY"

I saw on the news that there is an increase in this country among girls, who attend college, that desire "sugar daddies" to aid them in their high cost of tuition. Sugar Daddies are older men who seek out girls, married or not, for pleasure. The Sugar Daddies pay the girls much money and give them many so-called gifts.

This is just one example of how immorality is spreading in these last days.

WEALTH GAP

I saw an article in the newspaper which read that the wealth gap can complicate sibling ties. It gave the example of a brother who makes much more than his sister. It gave the impression that the sister was jealous of her brother because he was making so much more from his work than she was.

The inequality in wages among family members is no reason for jealousy. Let us heed the following verses:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:6-8).

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

ECONOMY

The following short article is from *The Dominion Post* published in Morgantown, West Virginia:

Leaders pledge 'bold' action on recovery

WASHINGTON – World financial leaders are pledging "bold and ambitious" action to boost a global recovery that's shown recent disturbing signs of weakness.

The pledge from the International Monetary Fund's policy-setting committee comes after a week of stomach-churning swings in financial markets.

The committee calls increasing economic growth an "utmost priority."



Questions and Answers

is the fundamental principle of an inseparable three-fold relationship between God, His Son, and His people.

Question: What does the Greek word, Koinonia, mean? Please comment on its meaning.

Answer: The dictionary says it means: “to have in common, to share, to be associated with and be a part of.” In the Bible, it is most often translated as “Fellowship.”

On the day of Pentecost, “...they that gladly received his (Peter’s) word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship (koinonia)...” (Acts 2:41-42). The Apostle Paul says that Peter, James and John gave him “...the right hands of fellowship (koinonia)...” (Galatians 2:9). Paul said to the Philippians, “I thank my God ... For your fellowship (koinonia) in the gospel from the first day until now” (Philippians 1:3-5).

However, it is more than human fellowship. Paul declares, “...ye were called unto the fellowship (koinonia) of ... Jesus Christ our Lord” (I Corinthians 1:9). He also speaks about the “fellowship (koinonia) of the Spirit” (Philippians 2:1). Koinonia is then a living bond between children of God and the whole family in heaven and upon earth.

As in a secular sense, koinonia was used in the marriage contract where husband and wife agreed to participate jointly in all aspects of their lives. In I John, koinonia seems to be the apostle’s favorite term. Here the word implies fellowship with the heavenly Father and His Son and other children of God. Accordingly, koinonia

Question: What is true worship?

Answer: When our Lord was talking to the woman of Samaria, He said unto her, “Ye worship ye know not what...” (John 4:22).

It is true that thousands of people have a form of worship. Even the heathen in dark Africa and the red Indians have a form of worship, but as Paul said to the Athenians, the inscription of their worship was “...TO THE UNKNOWN GOD...” (Acts 17:23). Paul preached unto them the true God who made the world and all things therein. His Son gave His life for the salvation of lost souls and is now risen from the dead and exalted to God’s right hand, a prince and a Saviour who will also be the judge of all men in God’s appointed day.

Worship is mentioned sixty times in the New Testament, and fifteen of these ascribe to Christ directly some of God’s manifestations of love and grace. This is the means of drawing out intelligent adoration and worship.

Our Lord said to the woman, “...they that worship him [the Father] must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). To worship in “spirit and in truth” means that the Spirit of God reveals Christ through the Word, and the soul responds in joyful gratitude, crying out, “...to whom be glory...” (Hebrews 13:21). This is clearly seen in the life and the writings of the Apostle Paul, from his conversion right up into heaven’s glory.

He “...gave himself for our sins...” (Galatians 1:4). What did Paul see? He saw the great sacrifice on Calvary’s

cross. The fire of our grateful praise is kindled from the altar of God's sacrificing love and grace. This is given in type in Leviticus 16:12-14. As the believer looks at the cross with its suffering Saviour, he cries out the words of the Apostle Paul, "...to whom be glory for ever and ever..." (Hebrews 13:21).

THE SAVIOUR

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." (I Timothy 1:15).

When we realize what we were, and how we rebelled against Him, and what His grace has done for us in sending His own Son to suffer, bleed and die, we "fall at His feet and the story repeat, and the Lover of sinners adore."

Paul once held the clothes of those who stoned Stephen and persecuted God's dear people, but when he saw that Christ Jesus came to save even a sinner like him, we could expect nothing else but that he would cry out, "...to whom be glory for ever and ever" (Hebrews 13:21). This is worship of humble gratitude.

What did Paul see this time? Oh, he saw the exhaustless riches of God's grace when he wrote to the saints at Philippi, "...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

How little of the ocean can a child carry in his hand. Even so does the ocean of God's love and grace meet our every need when we come to Him in humble prayer. It is inexhaustible.

As Paul saw the vision of His love, his heart opened in worship again, "...unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever..." (Philippians 4:20).

THE NEW COVENANT

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever..." (Hebrews 13:20-21).

"...I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts, and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people ... For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 8:10-12). All the riches of God's grace, through the death of the testator (Jesus), are bestowed on us who are the recipients.

This is the new birth, given to us in the form of a will signed to every believer by the God who cannot lie. How could the Apostle Paul help but shout, "To him be glory for ever and ever."

THE SOURCE OF ALL BLESSING

"For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things..." (Romans 11:36). From this source the stream of God's love and grace flows out from God through Christ into the heart of the believer, then flows back in worship to His God. Our Lord said, "...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38). With Paul, we again sing, "To him be glory for ever and ever."

PASSING THROUGH THE VALLEY

The Apostle Paul said, "...I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand ... And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (II Timothy 4:6, 18).

Here the apostle stood as it were on the very portal of glory. His friends had deserted him. He saw the never-failing God who would preserve him unto His heavenly kingdom. The glories of heaven were filling his soul, and he cries out again, "To whom be glory."

DIVINE WISDOM

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" (Ephesians 3:10). "To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen" (Romans 16:27).

The angels in heaven behold the church with the display of God's wisdom in His glorious redemptive purposes of grace, and many redeemed sinners, now washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, will be filled with the expression of worship. They will all join in giving glory to Him that sitteth upon the throne, "Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 7:12).

True worship comes by way of Calvary. Does Calvary and Christ's dying love mean anything to you? If not, no matter what your religion may be, you cannot worship God. The Lord Jesus said, "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Accept Him now as your Saviour!



India, Part 2

Meetings in Rompimalla Village, March 7-9 and Gosaveedu Village, March 15-16.





LESSON I

FIVE THOUSAND FED

Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:14-21.

Golden Text: Matthew 14:21.

“And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.”

1. What did Jesus do when He saw the great multitude? Matthew 14:14.
2. Why did the disciples want to send the people away? Matthew 14:15.
3. What did Jesus say to them? Matthew 14:16.
4. How much did they have to feed the people? Matthew 14:17.
5. What did Jesus do with the loaves and fishes? Matthew 14:18-19.
6. How much was left after they all had what they wanted to eat? Matthew 14:20.
7. How many people did Jesus feed? Matthew 14:21.

NOTE: You can find this story also in Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14.

LESSON II

CHRIST WALKS ON THE SEA

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:45-56.

Golden Text: Mark 6:49.

“But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out.”

1. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do, and where did He go after they went away? Mark 6:45-46.

2. When even was come, where was the ship? Mark 6:47.

3. What did He see the disciples doing in Mark 6:48? How did Jesus come unto them?

4. When they saw Jesus walking upon the sea, what did they suppose He was, and what did He say to them? Mark 6:49-50.

5. Did He go up to them and into the ship? What happened to the wind? Mark 6:51.

6. What was wrong with their hearts? Mark 6:52.

7. When the ship came to shore, did the people know Jesus? Mark 6:53-54.

8. When they heard who Jesus was, what did they bring unto Him? Mark 6:55.

9. Did those who even touched the hem of His garment receive healing? Mark 6:56.

LESSON III

JESUS GOES TO A WEDDING

Scripture Reading: John 2:1-11.

Golden Text: John 2:1 (first part).

“And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee...”

1. Where was the marriage? John 2:1.
2. Who went with Jesus? John 2:2.
3. What was the trouble at the wedding? John 2:3.
4. What did Jesus do while there to help? John 2:7-8.
5. What had Jesus done to the water? John 2:9.

6. What did the governor say to the bridegroom? John 2:10.

7. How many miracles had Jesus done before this? John 2:11.

LESSON IV

HEALING THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

Scripture Reading: John 4:43-54.

Golden Text: John 4:51.

“And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth.”

1. Where was Jesus at this time? John 4:43.
2. Who was the father of the sick boy, and from where was he? John 4:46.
3. What did he ask Jesus to do? John 4:47.
4. How did Jesus answer him? John 4:48.
5. Did Jesus heal his sick son, and did the man believe Jesus? John 4:50.
6. What message did his servants bring him as he neared home? John 4:51.
7. What did he ask his servants, and what did they answer? John 4:52.
8. What did this prove to him? John 4:53.
9. How many miracles did this make for Jesus since He came to Galilee? John 4:54.

NOTE: A miracle is a mighty act by the power of God.



LETTER TO DAD

There are so many things I'd like
 To tell you face to face;
 I either lack the words or fail
 To find the time or place.
 But in this special letter, Dad,
 You'll find, at least in part,
 The feelings that the passing years
 Have left within my heart.

The memories of childhood days,
 And all that you have done
 To make our home a happy place,
 And growing up such fun.
 I still recall the walks we took,
 The games we often played;
 Those confidential chats we had
 While resting in the shade.

This letter comes to thank you, Dad,
 From needed words of praise;
 The counsel and the guidance, too,
 That shaped my grown-up days.
 No words of mine can tell you, Dad,
 The things I really feel;
 But you must know my love for you
 Is lasting, warm and real.

You made my world a better place,
 And through the coming years,
 I'll keep those memories for you
 As cherished souvenirs!

--Author Unknown

OUR GOD-GIVEN FREEDOM

By Hope Caswell

Hi, boys and girls!!!

Here we are enjoying another summer vacation, away from our school books and lessons, and free to play, ride bikes, swim, play ball, and to do the many other activities which are in the happy lives of children during their summer vacation.

As it is near the time for the 4th of July, we begin to think of noisy celebrations and loads of fun as always.

Well, let's think of what the 4th of July really is. It is really "Independence Day". Do you all know what that means? It means that on July 4, 1776, America obtained her full freedom. That is why we are all free to live as we please, as long as we obey the laws of the land.

It is hard for us to realize how thankful we should be to God for this freedom until we think of the many children in foreign countries who cannot even worship God as they please. In some of those countries, you would be punished. Just think how terrible it would be if we could not even read our Bibles, and could not pray to God to thank Him for His kindness and listening to us, and to ask Him to guide, and bless us, and keep us always safe. It seems terrible, doesn't it, but that is the way some children are in those faraway countries. That is why we should think seriously at least for a while on the 4th of July. That is why we should give a small portion of that day to God in prayer, thanking Him for His goodness to us.

Let's all use this freedom God gave us to the best advantage. Let each one of us be a little missionary for God, letting our light shine and telling others of Jesus.

WAITING FOR JESUS

By Rae Cross

Jesus will be coming soon,
I pray He will, each day;
And while I wait I'll do my best
To do what He would do and say.

DAD - IN ANY LANGUAGE

This item translated from a Dutch magazine shows that families are pretty much about the same the world over:

DAD

- 4 Years: My Daddy can do anything.
- 7 Years: My Dad knows a lot, a whole lot.
- 8 Years: My father doesn't know quite everything.
- 12 Years: Oh, well, naturally Father doesn't know that either.
- 14 Years: Father? Hopelessly old-fashioned.
- 21 Years: Oh, that man is out of date; what did you expect?
- 25 Years: he knows a little bit about it, but not much.
- 30 Years: Must find what Dad thinks about it.
- 35 Years: A little patience; let's get Dad's meaning first.
- 50 Years: What would Dad have thought about that?
- 60 Years: My Dad knew literally everything.
- 65 Years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.

A RIDDLE

I was a prisoner indeed,
Yet when they brought to me
Another man to share my lot
I gave him liberty.

WHO AM I?

(The answer is found in II Kings 13:20 and 21.)



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The focus of this quiz is the rich source of illustrations found in Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount," His "manifesto," as one scholar calls it. Can you supply the missing words below? Can you also match the items on the left to those on the right?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ of the world. a. know them by their _____. b. _____ in your brother's eye. c. give him a _____ or a _____. d. foolish man built his house on _____. e. _____ under a bushel. f. _____ of the field. g. _____ of the earth. h. _____ break in and steal. i. throw _____ before swine. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. _____ set on a hill. 3. _____ and rust consume. 4. _____ of the air. 5. _____ in your eye. 6. Give _____ what is holy. 7. Asks for _____ for _____. 8. Beware of false _____. 9. Wise man built his house on _____. |
|--|---|

APPLE-CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN-

1. A purpose
2. An English measure of 45 inches
4. A garden tool
5. Israel subsisted upon it for 40 years
6. One of Jether's sons, I Chronicles 7:38
7. A place on the border of Naphtali, Joshua 19:33
10. Coming along behind, Matthew 4:19
11. God is the great I _____, Exodus 3:14
12. To sink down
15. An exclamation

ACROSS

3. Hagar's son, Genesis 16:11
7. The same as no. 11 down
8. A paddle for rowing
9. The 6th note of the diatonic scale
11. Abbreviation for "Anno Domini"
12. A town mentioned in Nehemiah 7:38
14. The subdominant of any major music scale
16. The name which Naomi accepted, Ruth 1:20
18. A Philistine, I Samuel 17:4
20. An identifying name given Mary, Matthew 28:1
23. A prefix meaning the "before" or "in"
24. The first two letters of present indic. Pl. of BE
25. The title for the king of Egypt, Exodus 2:5
27. The first three letters of the son of Shema, I Chronicles 2:44



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"As the mountains are round about
Jerusalem, so the LORD is round
about his people from henceforth
even for ever" (Psalm 125:2).



