

The Advocate of Truth

Teaching Duties of a Mother

Conduct and Conversion

Well-known Twins

The Rapture

Disobedience

Carnal Warfare



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Teaching Duties Of A Mother

Bond Tennant

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The family structure, as we know it, was ordained by God. One of the main responsibilities of a God fearing mother is to teach her children. The mother cannot leave the job to the school, the church, or the babysitter. Because she is a mother, it is her responsibility along with the father. Let us now focus on some of the areas in which the mother must train her children.

THE MOTHER MUST TEACH HER CHILDREN TO BE DILIGENT

The mother must teach her children diligence both by precept and example. She must teach them diligence in their responsibilities in the home, in the neighborhood, and at school. They must be taught diligence in prayer and diligence in studying God's Word. The God fearing mother will teach her children diligence in all things. Mothers, failing to teach your children diligence in all things must be considered a sin against God as well as against your children.

THE MOTHER MUST TEACH HER CHILDREN TO BE OBEDIENT

In our society of today with its focus on children's rights, it is forgotten that the child's direct command from God is to honor and obey his parents. Obedience does

not come naturally. Rebellion does, but obedience must be taught to a child from the earliest age. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:20). God is pleased with obedience because the Bible teaches that it is well pleasing unto the Lord. Obedience will be necessary all through the children's lives!

THE MOTHER MUST TEACH HER CHILDREN TO BE REVERENT

The mother must teach her children to honor the Lord, His Word, and His ways. Diligence is the child's responsibility to himself, and obedience is his responsibility to others. Moreover, reverence is his responsibility to the Lord. That is the greatest responsibility of all! Reverence is more than just praying before meals, nor is it just attending church regularly. It is not just reading the Bible or talking about spiritual things. It is more! Genuine reverence grows out of a heart devoted to the Lord. Reverence begins when the mother teaches her children to have personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The teaching responsibility of a God fearing mother is great, and she has a sacred responsibility. She must be an example of diligence, obedience, and reverence!



CONVERSATION (CONDUCT) AND CONVERSION

By Sister Maryane Charles

True conversion proceeds from God. Our conversion will be reflected in our manner of life. Some of us go through life preaching a sermon of which we are not aware. When one is truly converted, everyone around him will be able to see the fruits of his conversion and give testimony to that effect. “And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren” (Acts 15:3).

The Scriptures also tell us that conversion should bring about a child-like humility and forgiving spirit. Children will have a disagreement now, and in no time, they will be playing as if nothing ever happened. In seeking to know who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, the disciples came to Jesus. “And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:2-3).

God in His wisdom has given us His holy words of truth to strengthen us and to feed us on the well spring of life, that we may be able to grow into the children of God that He would have us become. He has told us in these words that they (the words of God) are spirit, and they are life. Psalm 19:7 tells us, “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

In order to be truly converted, we have to be truly

repented. Until true repentance meets us, conversion will be a farce. We cannot be truly repented and still be clinging on to the old man revealing in the old habits. “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19). As brethren, we can assist in prayer and fasting for the conviction and conversion of a brother or sister who may have lost the way. “But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:32).

If we see a brother or sister who’s behavior or lifestyle perhaps is not in harmony with what is expected, initially prayer should be offered on his or her behalf so that God can help them to see the error of their ways. If you are in a position whereby you are able to speak to that person regarding what the situation may be, please speak to that person and that person only. If that brother or sister may have strayed so far that God is able to use you to bring them back to the fold, remember, “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20).

If we have been conscientious, in that we have repented, and true conversion has taken place, then it is only natural that our conversation (conduct or manner of

life) will reflect the same. Psalm 50:23 tells us, “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.” Ordering our conversation aright could be seeking God’s guidance in everything we do, praying and asking God to take charge and lead the way. Whatever we are working towards, the Word of God tells us that in all things we should give thanks, and we should pray without ceasing. The here and now is temporal, and sometimes we lose sight of that fact. “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness” (II Peter 3:11). The youth are also admonished to be an example in word, in

conversation (manner of life), in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity (see I Timothy 4:12).

Brethren, if we truly believe in the promise of a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, let us be diligent in our manner of life, reflecting that Christ-like life, that we should be found in peace, without spot, and blameless when Christ returns.

“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27).



History’s Most Well-known Twins

The life of Isaac was not unlike that of his father in many respects. Isaac and Rebekah’s trial of faith concerning offspring is certainly reminiscent of Sarah’s long childless ordeal. While the other sons of Abraham sired many children, Isaac and Rebekah had none. Rebekah entered her twentieth year of marriage barren.

After much prayer and patient waiting, Isaac and Rebekah’s hopes were soon to be fulfilled. Life suddenly stirred in Rebekah’s womb. And yet for her joy, she was still uneasy, her mind filled with dark foreboding thoughts. Worried over her continual state of melancholy, she turned to the Lord in prayer. She was told that she would become

the mother of not one son but two –twins!

Through revelation it also became known to Rebekah that two very great nations should originate from these twin boys. One nation would be the stronger and, remarkably, the younger son would rule over the elder. Like all expectant mothers, Rebekah was more concerned that her children should be born normal and without deformities more than she worried about their future prominence.

When the first son appeared, his mother was immediately filled with dismay. He was not deformed, but he was extremely red and hairy. The second twin

was more “normal”. The first son was called Esau, which means “hairy” or “rough,” while the younger was called Jacob or “supplanter.”

As the boys grew, the character traits which were to divide them and their descendants became very clear. From Rebekah, Esau inherited a bold, active disposition, but he lacked her noble spirit. From his father, the young man gained a liking for open spaces and a fondness for good living.

Jacob acquired a thoughtful and reserved nature from Isaac and, from his mother, a talent for sly, sharp dealing. Timidity and gentleness would disguise a great cunning, and at various times in his life Jacob would often find that he had been almost too crafty for his own good.

Isaac’s pride in Esau was scarcely concealed. How often he beamed over this vigorous, athletic young hunter

who was so perfectly suited to the rough-and-tumble age in which he lived. Esau took it for granted that he was his father’s favorite, and he acted as though he already had inherited the prosperous holdings of Isaac.

Jacob spent his time in the gentler occupation of sheep herding, and he was also on hand to help his mother around the home. He was Rebekah’s favorite, and during the formative years of his youth, he was under her guiding influence.

In spite of Esau’s being held in a position of high esteem by his father, Rebekah knew that it was to be Jacob who fell heir to the birthright promise. Quietly the woman began formulating some plans of her own. Jacob would indeed receive his father’s blessing, even if it required some manipulation on her part.

--From An Old Sabbath School Lesson



The Rapture

What is it?
Is it secret?
When does it occur?

Many people today, as soon as you speak of a rapture of the church, brand you as one speaking of a secret rapture. Yet this is far from the truth. Why? It is because everyone that teaches the second coming of Christ teaches a rapture.

Winston’s Dictionary states for Rapture: “The condition or state of being mentally exalted; transport of mind, ecstasy; enthusiasm; An expression of intense joy or pleasure. Poetic., to enrapture ; overjoy.”

These all will be experienced by the saints, on that glad day, when the Lord returns, and we shall be caught up, or raptured, transported into the air to meet Him.

The word rapture itself does not mean secret. In fact,

it means expressed joy. Again quoting from Winston’s Dictionary, “Ecstasy is joy so profound, and often so sudden, that it paralyses with sheer delight; One experiencing ecstasy is as one entranced. Rapture is as profound a joy as ecstasy, but it is less transient; it has its roots in quieter causes, is exultant while it is serene, is impassioned, even though lasting.”

How anyone can preach the second coming of Christ and not preach a rapture with it is beyond my comprehension.

The joy of the Bride and the Bridegroom on their wedding day cannot begin to express the joy of the Church when called to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

In Matthew 25:1-13, is given to us the parable of the ten virgins. The five wise who have oil in their lamps (the Holy Spirit or knowledge of the Word) go into the marriage. The five foolish (those without the Spirit or the Word of God, who are not expecting their Lord) will remain on the outside of the marriage chambers.

I make this appeal right in the beginning, urging you to read the Word of God, so that when Christ appears you may be raptured to His side, in the air, to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb. What a terrible pity if you are one of the foolish virgins in that great day. Instead of receiving of the marriage supper, something dreadful will happen to you.

Turn to Amos 8:11-12, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it."

This then will be the condition of those not transported or raptured to meet the Lord in the air. The saints are partaking of the marriage supper of the Lamb. No one is left to give the Word of the Lord. Beloved friends, will this be your fate, or are you watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord that you may be among the wise virgins?

In Acts 1:9-11, we are told how our blessed Lord went away from this earth and the manner of His return. "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Here, we are told it is the same Jesus, and He will return the very same way He went away.

Let us read Revelation 1:7, "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

How did He go away? In clouds. How will He return? With clouds. He went away visible. He will return visible. Every one shall see Him. This means those who are righteous and those who are not righteous. Every eye

means every eye. No secret rapture this.

Let us consider Isaiah 25:8-9. Here, we are informed what the Lord does for the saints and what they say at His appearing. Let us begin with the 7th verse, "And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory (by the resurrection of the saints); and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces (of the saints); and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

While the saints are in this glorious rapturous condition, what will the wicked do and say? "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Revelation 6:15-17)

Friend, in which group do you want to be in that great day? In the group of rapture and great joy, or in the group which must partake of the wrath of the Lamb? You alone can answer that question by the life you live for Him today.

Let your mind turn to I Thessalonians 4:13-17. What are we told here? We are told that the Lord does not want us to be ignorant concerning the sleeping, or dead saints. We are told that when the Lord returns, the sleeping or dead saints will be caught up to meet Him in the air. Now we do not believe that when the saints die they go to heaven, and neither did Paul. Why then did he say the saints would be with Jesus when He comes? The answer is forthcoming in the 15-17 verses. They shall be resurrected, and then the dead and living saints shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and be with Him from that time on. The saints therefore will be with Christ when His feet touch the Mt. of Olives, when He fights against the nations and takes over to reign. In order to be with Him when His feet touch the Mt. of Olives, you must be raptured, transported to Him in the air at His appearing.

Now turn to Revelation 15:2-8. What do we find?

We find that the saints who have gotten the victory are standing on the Sea of Glass. In other words, they have been caught up into the air to the Sea of Glass. Beginning with verse five, we find that after John (not before) saw the saints on the Sea of Glass, he beheld the seven angels with the seven last plagues come out of the temple of God. Then one of the four beasts gives unto the angels

seven golden vials full of the wrath of God. Then we behold the temple in heaven closed as God shuts Himself away from men and their anger and pours upon the world below the seven last plagues. Probation is closed. Thank God that in His mercy Christ comes and delivers the saints before, not after the plagues are poured out.

--Adapted from An Old Tract

Echoes From The Past

The Disease Of Disobedience

Reprinted from the August 10, 1959 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*

A very great deal of attention is directed to physical disease, and very properly, in order that prevention and cure may be made possible. Physicians, the very best of them, are agreed that prevention of disease is of the very highest importance; that cures are secondary in the sense that they must be resorted to when prevention fails and disease breaks through the barriers that medical science and individual efforts have erected. To the work of prevention and cure of physical diseases, some of the noblest and most worthy of men and women are devoting their lives in order that human suffering, through sickness and disease, may be reduced to the lowest possible minimum.

While so much of practical and highly commendable work is being done in the matter of what are classed as physical diseases, there is one particular disease that prevails generally, now and then alarmingly, in degree and extent, that is not receiving the attention that it demands. It is the disease of disobedience.

One may assert that fire does not burn. Put your hand into the flame, and in a moment all theory and assertion

vanishes. It is discovered that it is a fact that fire does burn what it touches. A missile may be projected into the air, as from its launching pad assuming that it will do certain things. But will it? There are still many natural laws that are unalterable, and going contrary to them will result in harm or wastefulness, and shows human inability to cope with space either through or by disobedience.

Everywhere in the created world there is evidence of law as that which governs the movement of the stars, the coming and going of the seasons, the germination of seed and the bearing of fruit in appointed time. There are influences that are the outcome of divine law in conformity to which must be human law, man-made law that is effective, that calls for obedience, just as does that Law of God, designated as, the Law of Liberty, the royal Law, the perfect Law, by which chaos, in the beginning was avoided, and whereby harmony and beauty were established and ever since have been maintained. Just read Psalm 19 and 119 and see what a wonderful LAW we have given from God.

As obedience to established law is the necessary order

of the universe, so is it in the regulation of human affairs. Without law, there is no possibility of the enjoyment of life. But law presupposes obedience. Where there is disobedience, there is conflict, turmoil, unhappiness, disintegration of the social structure and final decay.

The disease of disobedience has its beginning most frequently in the home. From there it spreads to the community, the state, the nation, and throughout the world. Parents, who fail to observe the law, set examples for their children, and the latter never are slow in showing disobedience to family law and, later, to the law of the land. Thus the disease of disobedience spreads far and wide, working ruin that is appalling in extent and in

character.

It is this disease of disobedience that is making of this country a seething caldron of crime and iniquity – disobedience of social laws of states and of the nation. The places for correction are at its sources, in the home, in the school-room, in society, in business, and also in the church. Obedience established there will make for less of disobedience everywhere; with the result that there will be fewer wrongdoers, less of crime everywhere, even in high places.

Have you contracted this disease? Christ can heal this disease and make you whole. Look to Him for your salvation and Christian health and prosperity.



GOOD – NIGHT KISS

O mothers so weary, discouraged,
Worn out with the cares of the day,
You often grow cross and impatient,
Complain of the noise and the play;
For the day brings so many vexations,
So many things go amiss.

Mothers, whatever may vex you,
Send the children to bed with a kiss.

The dear little feet wander often,
Perhaps, from the pathway of right;
The dear little hands find mischief
To try you from morn until night,
But think of the desolate mothers

Who'd give all the world for your bliss.
As thanks for your infinite blessings,
Send the children to bed with a kiss.

For someday their noise will not vex you;
The silence will hurt you far more.
You will long for the sweet children's voices,
For a sweet childish face at the door;
And to press a child's face at your bosom –
You'd give all the world for just this.
For the comfort it will give you in sorrow,
Send the children to bed with a kiss.

Nellie L. Harvey

Carnal Warfare

By David DeLong

"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). This passage of Scripture informs us that the believer's warfare is a spiritual one, not a fleshly or carnal one. Jesus came the first time to save lives not to destroy them. Therefore, as followers of Christ, we must be trying to save lives as well.

The question might be raised, "Is there ever such a thing as a physical, righteous war?" I'm not talking here about a spiritual war in which one fights against the devil. Every believer, as I indicated above, is engaged in a spiritual war. By a physical, righteous war, I am referring to the slaughter of human beings for a godly purpose. Surprisingly, however, the answer is yes. But only the Lord can declare such a war to be righteous. Regarding Jesus, we read in Revelation 19:11: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." The slaughter in this war (Battle of Armageddon) is apparently done only by the Lord Jesus, and not by "the armies" which followed Him (see verse 14).

We learn from the Old Testament that the Lord commanded the Israelites, at times, to engage in warfare against their enemies. Joshua 6:2-4,20-21 reads: "And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets...So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword." I emphasize that *only* the Word of the Lord to the Israelites (or anyone else) could make a war righteous.

Multitudes of "religious" wars, crusades, and such like have been fought in the name of Jesus. This fact does not make these wars righteous, though. It was man who commanded these wars, not the Lord. Many other wars were fought for a seemingly good cause. However, they were not sanctioned by the Lord and, therefore, they were of

the carnal variety. The Church of God (7th Day) doctrinal point, number 19, states simply: "We stand opposed to carnal warfare." Let's examine this biblical doctrine.

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot unto the multitude that came for Him, we find Peter trying to defend the Lord. "And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matthew 26:51-52; see also John 18:10). Did Jesus mean to say that a sword (or other possible killing device) should never be used against another human being? Let's investigate further.

After Noah came out of the ark, the Lord instructed him in various matters. One such instruction is found in Genesis 9:5-6: "And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Here, under the Melchizedek Priesthood, the Lord made allowance for the death penalty to be meted out against murderers. Today this is done through various governments, but it was not always so.

The book of Numbers refers to a time, under the Levitical Priesthood (of which we now are not under), in which a "revenger of blood" was to slay a murderer. This even involved the slaying of a person not guilty of murder, but who had accidentally killed one of the avenger's kin, if he did not reside in one of the cities of refuge. "And among the cities which ye shall give unto the Levites there shall be six cities for refuge, which ye shall appoint for the manslayer, that he may flee thither: and to them ye shall add forty and two cities...And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares. And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment. And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge. Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which

shall be cities of refuge. These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither. And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. And if he smite him with throwing a stone, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. Or if he smite him with an hand weapon of wood, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him, he shall slay him. But if he thrust him of hatred, or hurl at him by laying of wait, that he die; Or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: he that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: the revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him. But if he thrust him suddenly without enmity, or have cast upon him any thing without laying of wait, Or with any stone, wherewith a man may die, seeing him not, and cast it upon him, that he die, and was not his enemy, neither sought his harm: Then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the revenger of blood according to these judgments: And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: and he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil. But if the slayer shall at any time come without the border of the city of his refuge, whither he was fled; And the revenger of blood find him without the borders of the city of his refuge, and the revenger of blood kill the slayer; he shall not be guilty of blood: Because he should have remained in the city of his refuge until the death of the high priest: but after the death of the high priest the slayer shall return into the land of his possession" (Numbers 35:6,9-28).

Now, this was not referring to acts of war but rather to the taking of human life under various directions from the Lord regarding murder or manslaughter. The sixth commandment of the Decalogue, "Thou shalt not kill", does not refer to all killing, but rather to murder (see Matthew 19:17-18). Under certain circumstances, the taking of human life is not only permissible, but it is commanded of the Lord (again, refer to Genesis 9:5-6). We will get back

to the issue of carnal warfare, but first let us see what the Bible says about protection for law-abiding citizens.

In Romans 13:1-7 we read what is the Lord's will regarding governmental authority. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."

This passage of Scripture makes it very plain that people who are under the godly authority of a government must be in submission to that government. Anyone who resists the authority of that government, not only is resisting God, but falls under the classification of an evil doer and is to be punished both by God and the government. The phrase, "beareth not the sword in vain" apparently refers to the government's use of weapons to stop criminals and to protect innocent, law-abiding citizens. We thank the Lord for our police forces which do help to protect us from crime. Sometimes evil doers are killed by the use of such weapons in order for this protection to occur.

We have been studying about situations in which the Lord has allowed the taking of human life. Let us return to the topic of this article, "Carnal Warfare". Does the passage in Romans 13, which addresses governmental use of weapons for the protection of innocent people, also refer to the Armed Forces' use of weapons to protect its own country from a war-time invasion by an enemy? In other words, is the protection of a country by its Armed Forces the same as a local police force protecting its citizens from criminals, or even a man protecting his family from a forced entry by burglars? Maybe.

Here, though, is where the situation may become a bit clouded. The Bible speaks about the use of the death penalty to certain evil doers such as murderers. In a war-time situation, even when an enemy is invading a home country, there are many types of soldiers involved. Some may be murderers in their thoughts and actions, but others may be scared participants hoping to defend themselves from those who are shooting at them. The motives of murder or self-defense, of soldiers in both armies, may be unknowable. Only the Lord can judge heart motives. One might object that, innocent or guilty in their motives, the soldiers in the invading army are still able to conquer the innocent families of the home country. Shouldn't they, including the women and children, be protected? Perhaps we need to consider this question from another view point.

Let us study a situation from the Bible which addresses this issue in a marvelous way. In II Chronicles chapter 20 we find where Judah was invaded by an enemy. "It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD" (verses 1-4).

Here we see Jehoshaphat and the children of Judah seeking the Lord for help against this multitude which is about to invade them. "And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation; And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's" (verses 13-15).

"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed;

to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD. And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high" (verses 17-19). The Lord is still the same God today and will still fight for His people if they trust Him.

"And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped" (verses 20-24). Again, it is worth mentioning that only the Lord can make a war or battle to be righteous. Otherwise, many innocent people may be killed.

We find another situation in which the Lord spared His people under King Hezekiah. Here the Assyrians had invaded Judah. In II Kings 19 we learn that Hezekiah prayed to the Lord and Judah was delivered from the hand of the enemy. "And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses" (verse 35). Are these isolated incidents in the Bible, or is the Lord telling us something precious?

Again, in the book of II Kings we see a glimpse into the spiritual realm, this time with Elisha. The King of Syria

had sent his troops against the city of Dothan where Elisha was. "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (II Kings 6:15-17).

A time is coming when the Lord will fight against the nations which will come against Jerusalem. Zechariah 14:1-3 reads: "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle."

Since the Lord still fights for His people, and since only He can make warfare righteous, we need never be involved with carnal warfare. I wish to encourage our young people, that if you are called for military service, to become CO's (conscientious objectors) or to serve as medics who will help to save lives. Revelation 13:10 warns us: "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Let us also remember that carnal warfare does not just involve armies fighting armies. James admonishes us in his epistle, chapter 4:1-3: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." This warring may take place among individuals, families, or even in churches. May we heed the words written by John: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:15).

The words of Jesus and His apostles, written down in the holy Scriptures, are the basis for the church's doctrine: "We stand opposed to carnal warfare."



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.

Liberated Muslims?

Many strange ideas evidently pass for truth in the Arab world!

I read that a Muslim scholar wrote a book in which he states that at the time of the Muslim conquest of Egypt in 640 AD the vast majority of Christians in Egypt were not, as history records, Christians because they held to a different interpretation of the Trinity. Therefore they were practicing Islam hundreds of years before it was founded in the 7th century. He called these Christians in Egypt “prototypical Muslims.” This is a wild stretch of the imagination.

It seems that the Christians in Egypt held the Arian view of the Trinity as the Church of God does today. Such a view that the early Christians in Egypt were Muslim just because they held an Arian view of the Trinity would make many people today Muslims. It seems that the Muslim historians who wrote the primary sources on Islam present the conquests as they were conquests for the glory of Islam and its followers and the defeat of unbelieving infidels. One book author wrote that the conquests were not desired by the non-Muslim peoples, but they were endured and finally accepted.

Witchcraft

It seems as though witchcraft is primarily a belief system. We know that Satan has powers, as we see in the book

of Job, that he can exert as God allows. However, his more common approach is to get people into bondage by believing fear-promoting false teachings that his ministers spread. Let us take a look at some of these fear-promoting false teachings in Mozambique:

If a woman cannot have children, she was probably cursed by family members. However, there is a solution for her. She can go to a traditional healer. For a price, she can be helped to have children, but this “cure” is not a one-time fix. Each time she wants to have a child she must go back to the traditional healer.

When you go out, you always have to come back by a different route than the one you took leaving your house. If you do not, someone may have put a curse in the path in order to bring you harm.

If you buy a quantity of food such as spaghetti, dried manioc, rice, etc, you should be sure to bring it home after darkness falls. If you do not do so, every time you take out the food to cook it, any witchdoctor who may have happened to see you bring it home will magically take some out at the same time. In this way, your food will run out in no time at all. Even if the witchdoctor doesn't see you bring food home, he may still turn himself into a rat at night and sneak into your house to steal it.

If someone manages to get ahead in life, it is because he is harming someone else. That may be the reason you are sick or that your garden just does not seem to do well. A father may even kill his children through witchcraft in order for his business to do better.

If one's grandmothers (on both sides) are witchdoctors, that person is really bad off. Why? Because

the grandmothers will probably get together and decide to kill their grandchildren, in order to not go hungry or in order to do better in life.

Many widowed ladies are considered witchdoctors because the logical explanation of why they are still alive is that they are keeping themselves alive by hurting or killing other people in their family.

We anxiously await for the Kingdom of God to be established on earth when all forms of witchcraft, false belief, and rebellion will be put down.

Changes in the Arctic may cause more severe weather around the world, scientists warn in report

By **Renee Schoof**

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

WASHINGTON – New observations this year about snow, ice and temperatures support the conclusion that the Arctic is unlikely to return to the conditions known in the 20th century – and that’s likely to affect the weather in the lower 48 United States. That was this year’s key message in the annual update of the National Oceanic and Administration’s Arctic report card. The key points, a video and links to scientific reports by 69 scientists from eight countries, are available from NOAA online. Higher temperatures melt snow and ice, leaving the ocean and land darker, and they then absorb more solar energy, causing more heating and melting.

In the past year:

There was a link between changes in the Arctic and the severe cold weather last winter in eastern North America, northern Europe and eastern Asia.

Usually, cold air is bottled up in the Arctic, but this year the cold was blown south.

“As we lose more sea ice, we’ll probably see more of that,” said Jim Overland, an oceanographer with NOAA in Seattle. “Many scientists are studying the link, but they don’t fully understand it yet,” he said.

The unusual shift in weather patterns that brought cold air down from the Arctic has happened only twice before in the last 160 years.

Overland said it was “a major surprise. I’d put it right up there with the (record) ice loss in 2007.”

From: The Bulletin

NOTE: The above article was excerpted.

Comment

The weather patterns can vary year from year. God controls their movements. The fact that man is unable to predict a permanent weather pattern is proof of man’s failing wisdom.

Personal

May I ask you a question? Why do more people feel that their fates are out of their hands and controlled by circumstance and others? Many lower and middle class people around the world feel that their future is out of their grasp, and they are expressing their frustrations to their leaders. Let us examine just a few reasons why this is true. It is mainly because of technology and globalization.

Information technology has gone to a new level. We now see Facebook, Google, Twitter, and I Pad, and inexpensive smartphones which are Internet connected. The world is now hyper-connected.

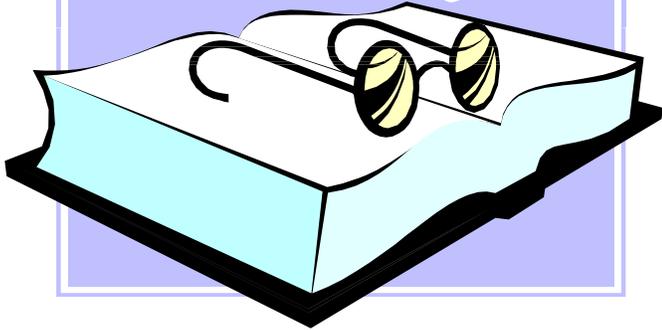
It seems that to get into the middle class these days one must study harder, work harder and adapt faster than ever before. Technology and globalization have done away with work that sustained the lower and middle class in the past. Now more can be produced with less workers. The really good jobs that exist today require more education and technical skills.

Children of God are not concerned about their fate in this world because they know that in the end they shall come forth victors. During their journey in this worldly wilderness, they are happy just to have godliness and contentment (see I Timothy 6:6).

--Bond Tennant

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: I feel that I need to become more spiritual. Will you suggest ways in which I can improve my spiritual life?

Answer: Thank you for asking this question. It is necessary that we know how to become more spiritual because this very day the world needs more spiritual men and women. God's children must be drawn closer to Him. The world has nothing to offer to make them spiritual. Therefore, they must look to the Bible and God and those things that pertain to His Kingdom.

We are exhorted in Ephesians 5:19 to sing spiritual songs and hymns. Many have found that to be true. Many times you have been made to worship the Lord from a greater depth through the singing of a devotional song. It is good to find good spiritual songs and sing them while you are at work. Your work may seem lighter, and your spiritual life will be increasing.

Reading the Bible is also a good means of increasing in spirituality. One can hardly read the 23rd Psalm without loving the Lord more and without desiring to worship Him more. There are many passages equally as devotional as this one. Read the Gospel of John, and you will feel the love of God increasing in your heart. Reading the lives of Jesus, Paul, and the disciples can stir our hearts with a desire to be more like our examples (to live a life of deeper consecration and service). Reading the lives of the old patriarchs also reminds us of the mighty keeping power of God. The Bible is full of inspiration, devotion, joy, and

peace.

Another way of becoming spiritual is by attending prayer meetings. Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Here, more than likely, you may meet the most spiritual members of the congregation. Here you are given a chance to do something for the Lord. As you join with one another in prayer, you can feel His presence in your midst. The prayer meeting can prove to be a rich blessing to your soul.

God is always present with His people. "..., lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world..." (Matthew 28:20). God is with us through good and evil; when the crowd is with us and when the crowd is against us. God is with us when we are sick as well as when we are in health. He is with us in song and sorrow. He is with us in pleasure and in pain. He is with us now and will be with us even unto the end. "...; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

Not all children of God have the same temptations, afflictions and trials in an evil day. There are greater and lesser troubles and burdens. All of God's children have not identical troubles and distresses, and there are extraordinary troubles and distresses. When the troubles and distresses are ordinary, there the ordinary presence of God will suffice, but when the troubles and distresses

are extraordinary, there an extraordinary presence of God is required and given. Some afflictions and sufferings are but for a short time, while others are for a longer time, and accordingly God manifests His presence. In one affliction, one may need more of the enlightening presence of God than in another. In another affliction, one may need more of the comforting presence than in another.

God's presence is with us when evil forces are against us. "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) Let the devil and demon powers be against us with all the wicked men of the world, yet we need not fear them. We have many enemies; powerful enemies, daring enemies, enraged enemies. Our enemies may plot and devise mischief, but they shall not be victorious. "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. . . ." (Isaiah 54:17).

God's presence is with us in sickness. "The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness" (Psalm 41:3). It is good to be a child of God in the time of sickness and suffering. God will strengthen His children upon the bed of languishing, and make their bed in sickness. It is unpleasant for a child of God to be sick, but God will make his bed soft, and freshen it with His presence and tender care. He will make his bed comfortable, wipe away his tears, and minister to him at such times and reveal His love for him.

God is with us in trouble. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; . . ." (Isaiah 43:2). God is with us in the waters of sorrow and trouble. Many are the storms that come into our lives, storms that seem to bring us to our end and defeat us, but God is always there to deliver. A child of God never needs the presence of God so much as in the time of great trouble. If God does not stand by His children in times of trouble, who then will? What could they do, how could they bear up, and how could they stand fast, if it were not for God's presence and faithfulness? "The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

It is to the honor of God that He is with His children in times of trouble. God never gets more honor than by helping His people. Our God is like a great commander. It is the honor of a commander to be with his soldiers in

the thick of the battle. God stands upon His honor, and therefore He will stand by us in the greatest dangers, afflictions and troubles. The Psalmist said, "I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust" (Psalm 91:2).

There are many reasons why God is with us. He is with us to bear us up in the great afflictions. When we are too weak to carry the load, then He will bear us up and carry us. Our load may be heavy and our burden great, but our God will slip His strong arms beneath us and bear us up. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: . . ." (Deuteronomy 33:27).

God is with us to comfort. "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted" (Isaiah 49:13). When we are under many cares, fears and perplexities of spirit, God comes in with those comforts that delight our souls and cheer our spirits.

God is with us to give counsel. "Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God" (Exodus 18:19). It is wise to ask God for counsel in time of sorrow, suffering and affliction. God is ready to give counsel to all who ask Him. Many children of God go to each other for counsel in times of trouble instead of going to the Lord. God always has the right solution to all our problems. "I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons" (Psalm 16:7).

Perhaps the greatest means by which one may become more spiritual is through secret prayer. Jesus is our example for prayer. He went often to pray alone. Jesus kept in constant contact with His Father. We should do the same. Many children of God have been blessed more times through prayer than from any other source. In the prayer closet, they are drawn closer to God, and made to feel His presence. There they receive grace and strength to fight the powers of the enemy. They receive courage to speak for Jesus, and sometimes they receive the answer that His grace is sufficient for them.

If you wish to become more spiritual, do not neglect prayer.

NOTE: Although most of the verses cited in this answer were given to Israel, the lessons they contain are for all today.



The Church in Panama.





Some new ministers in Panama.



LESSON I

GIDEON CHOSEN BY GOD

Scripture Reading: Judges 6:1-24.

Golden Text: Judges 6:16.

“And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.”

NOTE: In Judges 5:31 we learn that Israel had peace for 40 years under Deborah’s rule. We shall study now how the Lord again gave them victory over their enemies when they cried to HIM.

1. How long were the Israelites in the hands of the Midianites? Judges 6:1.
2. Where did the Israelites seek refuge from the Midianites? Judges 6:2.
3. After the children of Israel had their crops and animals destroyed, did they then turn to the Lord for help? Judges 6:4-6.
4. Did God again answer their plea? Judges 6:8-10.
5. An angel appeared to Gideon while he was threshing wheat. Read Judges 6:11-16, and then tell in your own words what the angel said to Gideon.
6. Gideon doesn’t believe that the angel is sent from God. What does the angel do to persuade Gideon? Judges 6:19-23.
7. Gideon still has doubts about leading Israel. What did God do to show Gideon that He wanted him to continue leading Israel? Judges 6:36-40.

LESSON II

GIDEON PREPARES FOR BATTLE

Scripture Reading: Judges 7:1-25.

Golden Text: Judges 7:6.

“And the number of them that lapped, putting their

hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that God chose Gideon to lead the Israelites against the army of the Midianites. Let us study now how Gideon accomplished his defeat of the enemy.

1. How many men did Gideon have to fight for Israel? Judges 7:3-4.
2. The Lord could not work with so many men. He wanted to show Israel that it was through His help alone that they could defeat the enemy. What method was used to choose those who were to fight with Gideon? Judges 7:5-7.
3. What did God tell Gideon to do that night, and who was to go with him? Judges 7:9-11.
4. How large was the Midianite army? Judges 7:12.
5. What was the dream that Gideon heard being told? Judges 7:13-15.
6. Read Judges 7:16-21, and then tell what method the 300 used to startle the Midianites while they slept.
7. What did the Midianites do? Judges 7:22-23.

LESSON III

THE BIRTH OF SAMSON

Scripture Reading: Judges 13:1-25.

Golden Text: Judges 13:24.

“And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him,.”

NOTE: In Judges 8-11, you may read more about Israel’s disobedience to God. We have studied some of the terrible things which happened to Israel because they didn’t obey God. For the present, we will go to Judges 13 to study the life of Samson who was Israel’s deliverer.

1. Who were the parents of Samson? Judges 13:2.
2. What did the angel of the Lord say to Samson's mother when he appeared to her? Judges 13:3.
3. What instructions did the angel give to her? Judges 13:4-5.
4. Did she tell her husband about the angel's visit, and what was his reaction to her story? Judges 13:6-8.
5. Did God hearken to Manoah's plea? Judges 13:9-10.
6. What was the conversation between the angel and Manoah and his wife? Judges 13:11-16.
7. While Manoah was offering his meat offering unto the Lord, what happened to the angel? Judges 13:19-21.
8. When Samson was born, was he blessed by God? Judges 13:24-25.

LESSON IV

SAMSON'S MARRIAGE TO THE PHILISTINE

Scripture Reading: Judges 14:1-20.

Golden Text: Judges 14:4.

"But his father and his mother knew not that it was of the Lord, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Samson was blessed of God from his birth. We will now begin our study of how God used him to break the Philistine oppression.

1. When Samson went to Timnath, what did he tell his parents when he returned? Judges 14:1-2.
2. Were Samson's parents pleased with his report, and what did they not know? Judges 14:3-4.
3. As Samson and his parents went back to Timnath,

what incident occurred to show the strength of Samson? Judges 14:5-6.

4. When Samson went to take his wife from the Philistines, what riddle did he put forth to the 30 companions? Judges 14:11-14.

5. They could not expound the riddle in 3 days, so what did they ask Samson's wife to do? Judges 14:15.

6. Did the men tell Samson the answer to the riddle before the seven days were up? Judges 14:18.

7. What did Samson do to again show his great strength, and what happened to his wife? Judges 14:19-20.

LITTLE EFFORTS

A little child I am indeed,
 And little do I know;
 Much help and care I yet shall need,
 That I may wiser grow,
 If I would ever hope to do
 Things great and good and useful too.

But even now I ought to try
 To do what good I may;
 God never meant that such as I
 Should only live to play,
 And talk and laugh and eat and drink,
 And sleep and wake - and never think.

One gentle word that I may speak,
 Or one kind, loving deed,
 May, though a trifle, poor and weak,
 Prove like a tiny seed;
 And who can tell what good may spring
 From such a very little thing?

Then let me try each day and hour,
 To act upon this plan;
 What little good is in my power,
 To it while I can.
 If to be useful thus I try,
 I may be little by and by.



YOUR MOTHER - MY MOTHER

By Mrs. E.G. Marsh

The world is full of mothers--all kinds of mothers--but there is only one you can call "my mother." I do not know what you think of your mother, but I love my mother dearly, and I am proud of her. Even from girlhood, Mother has been my best earthly friend, and we have always been comrades. Have you ever seen anyone else's mother and wished that she could be your mother--thought that she was nicer than your mother? Do you really know how beautiful your mother is? I will tell you a story to make plain what I am trying to tell you. Two girls were walking along the street when Mrs. Hunter, a handsome rightly dressed woman, came out of her splendid home to enter a car. "That's Grace Hunter's mother! Isn't she the prettiest woman you ever saw?" said Mamie to her friend, Phoebe. "I guess Grace is awfully proud of her!" Phoebe had always thought of mothers as a little round-shouldered, with tired faces and gray hairs.

After the girls passed on, Mamie made a few more remarks, and ended by saying, "Wouldn't you be proud if you had a mother that looked like that?" The question stayed with Phoebe long after the girls had parted. "How would it seem," she thought, "to have a beautiful mother like that." The mere sight of Grace Hunter's mother had made her heart beat faster. Oh, if she, too, had a mother of whom she could be very proud!

The house was very still when Phoebe entered. In

another minute she remembered that her mother was over at a neighbor's taking care of sick Willie. But the house was all in order, just as her mother had left it, although it was a humble home.

Soon there was a knock at the door, and almost immediately in walked Miss Crone, a neighbor. Phoebe loved this little woman, whose sweet smile now greeted her. Then came the question, "Is your mother at home?"

"No, Mother's at Gray's. They're sick over there. Mother stayed with them last night and Sunday night."

Miss Crone drew a long breath. "Phoebe," she said, "You must be very proud of your mother!"

Phoebe did not know how to answer. She stood, looking at Miss Crone blankly.

"I wonder if you realize, Phoebe, what your mother means to her friends and neighbors here! No, you do not. None of us can. If ever I feel discouraged, I think of her beautiful, helpful life, lightening other's burdens. You are a fortunate girl, my dear, to have such a mother. I only hope that you are as proud of her as she deserves. Now I shall go over to Mrs. Gray's and send your mother home for a little rest." And the little woman went out, not knowing what a flood of thoughts she stirred up in Phoebe's mind.

Phoebe stood looking thoughtfully out of the window when the door opened, and her mother came in. She was no longer young and looked years older than she was. Her face was a little weary, but her eyes had a shining brightness like clear sunshine as she said, "Little Willie is better, and we are so thankful to our heavenly Father. I thought last night that we would lose him, but now it looks as if he will get well!" She started toward the stove to start dinner, when Phoebe caught her in her arms saying, "Mother, O Mother! Why didn't I ever know before how beautiful you are?"

And now, children, let this be a lesson to us. Let us look upon Mother as beautiful, not because she can dress prettily as Grace Hunter's mother did, but because of her loving heart and her gentle ways. Let us give her the tokens of love she deserves, but above everything else, give her the true love of our hearts.

"Dear Mother, ne'er shall I forget
Thy brow, thine eyes, thy pleasant smile;
Oh, never shall thy form depart
From the bright picture of my heart."

APOSTLE PUZZLE

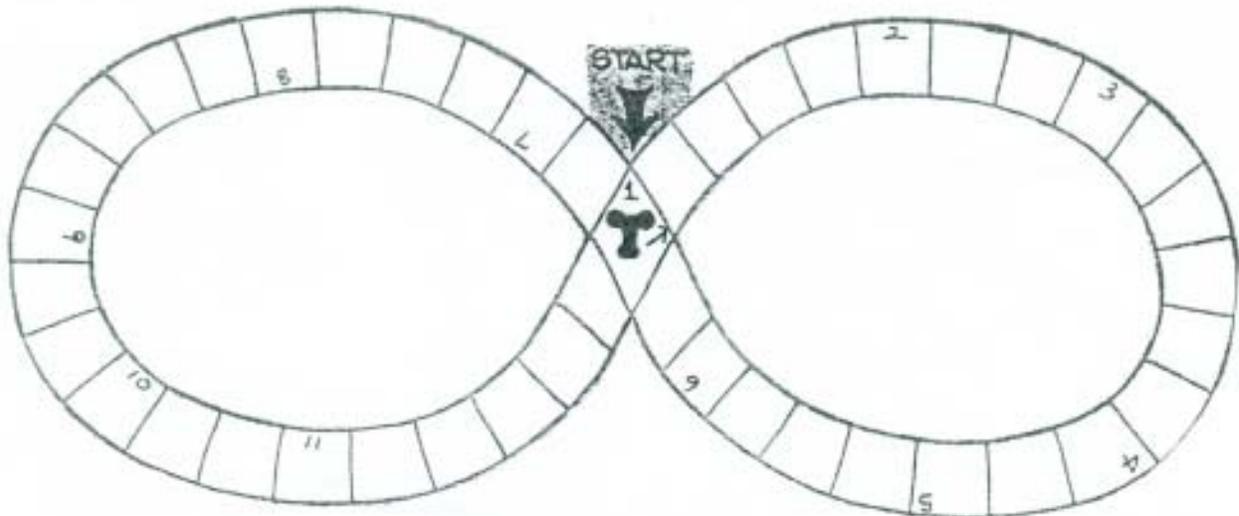
Hidden in each sentence is the name of one of the early apostles. The first one is James. Can you find the others?

1. Pass the jam, Esther.
2. What type terrapin do you want?
3. I will call and reward him.
4. Jud, ask your brother to go.
5. Yes, I monopolized the conversation.
6. Bring the mat, the wash basin, and the soap.
7. Phil, I picked it up.
8. "What oh, master!" called the man.

1. Solomon had this built so that Israel would have a place to worship God.
2. The garden that God created where Adam and Eve lived.
3. Jonah was instructed by God to go to this city to warn the people.
4. The youngest son of Noah.
5. He was hid in the bulrushes as a baby and helped lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.
6. His purpose is to undo God's work and tempt men to sin.
7. These were put through Jesus's hands and feet when he was put on the cross.
8. One of the strongest men in the Bible. His strength was in this long hair, and when Delilah learned his secret, she cut his hair.
9. God instructed him to build an ark to escape the great flood.
10. A musical instrument with strings that David played.
11. One of the twelve apostles that assisted Jesus in feeding the five thousand people.

Use the clues to fill in the spaces.

The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word.



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MOTHER

To one who bears
the sweetest name,
And adds a luster
to the same.
Who shares my joys –
who cheers when sad
The greatest friend
I ever had.
Long life to her –
for there's no other,
Could take the place
of my dear mother.



