

The Advocate of Truth

*The Good
Samaritan*

Thanksgiving

*God,
The Creator*

Love

*God's Throne
Room*

Three Cups

In Six Days



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LESSONS FROM THE GOOD SAMARITAN

BOND TENNANT

"And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee" (Luke 10:30-35).

The parable of the good Samaritan shows both unconcern and compassion. The priest and the Levite who should have helped did not! The Samaritan, the one least expected to help, did! This Samaritan knew that the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans.

What lessons can we learn from this Samaritan?

The Samaritan noticed the need of this half dead man and went to him with compassion. He bound his wounds. He did not hesitate to get his hands dirty. The man needed him, and the Samaritan helped him without hesitation. The Samaritan seized the opportunity to help this half dead

man. The Samaritan saw a helpless man, and helped him. He did not ask who he was or from where he came. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (I John 3:17).

The Samaritan served the helpless man. He poured in oil and wine into the man's wounds and set him on his own beast. He brought him to an inn and took care of him at great expense.

The Samaritan shared his own time and money. "And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee" (Luke 10:35). This was real incomparable compassion!

The Samaritan stayed with the half dead man in his sorrow. Not only did he bind up his wounds and poured in oil and wine, but he also set him upon his own beast and took him to an inn where he paid out his hard-earned money. The Samaritan stuck with the helpless man all the way!

Sincere children of God have concern for those who need their help. They seize the opportunity to help those who need their help. They serve those who need their help. They share their goods with those who need their help, and they stay with those who need their help!

A SHORT THANKSGIVING MESSAGE: LET US RENDER OUR THANKS

Bond Tennant

It is good that the government of the United States has set aside a special day each year to render thanks to God. We thank and praise God as we consider the many



wonderful things that He has created in the universe for our benefit that sustains our lives.

Most of all, we thank God for delivering us out of

darkness, ignorance and superstition. We praise Him for making it possible to be joint-heirs with His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

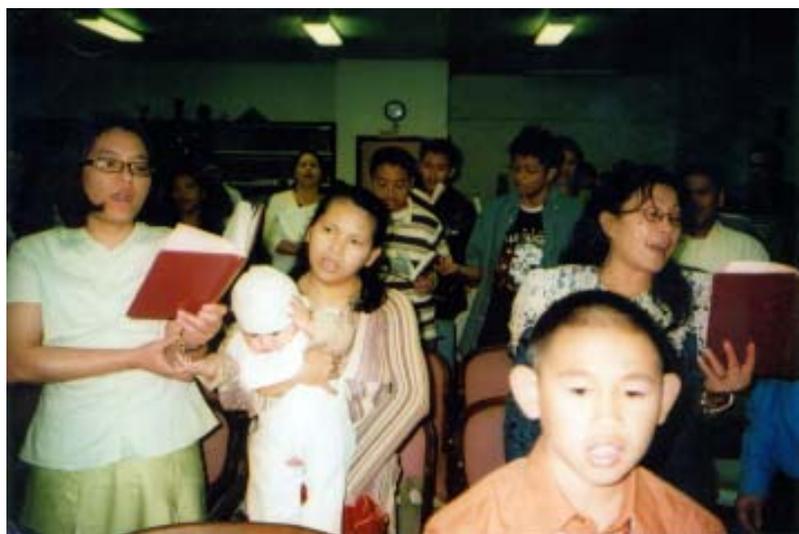
We also read of God's care for His people. "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:5). "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness" (Psalm 107:9). "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (Isaiah 58:11).

We must always give thanks to God for providing us with Jesus' sacrifice as a ransom price for our sins. "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only,

but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2).

We should be thankful that, when it is necessary, our Heavenly Father will discipline our misbehavior. He will send chastening experiences for our correction in righteousness. Hebrews 12:5-7 explains it thus, "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"

Our lives should be full of heartfelt thanksgiving to God every day of the year.



TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE..... GOD THE CREATOR

The study of the creation of all things is of special importance to young people of high school and college age because of the pseudo-scientific teachings of our modern schools and colleges. If Christian young people are to retain their faith in Almighty God, they must be well grounded in Bible truths and know the answers for all the falsehoods with which the Adversary will try to shake their confidence. To doubt that God was the Creator of all things, and that He did His work as set forth in the Bible is to begin to lose faith in Him. The teachings of the evolutionists have had a devastating effect on the faith of thousands of young people.

It is not the purpose here to go into a deep study of the theory of evolution. Yet, a basic knowledge of the Scriptures will help to strengthen ourselves against such teachings. Suffice it now to be said that the evidence in

favor of evolution is not in any way proof, for those who present it have no way of knowing that it is not being distorted or misapplied in support of their theory. Since evolution has to be tangible proof, it must remain a theory only. The fact that it is being taught as though it had been conclusively proved is a reproach to the intelligence of the scholars of the world. Indeed, many prominent scholars consider it in just this light, as an insult to their intelligence.

"In the beginning, God..." places Him above all and before all things. The many complexities of God's creation, from the mighty atom to the universe as a whole, all point to a Supreme Intelligence in their formulation and control. These things could not possibly have happened in such profusion as a result of mere coincidence.

Understanding that God created all things for His Own

good pleasure and enjoyment, we can see the purpose behind things being fashioned as they are. The fact that an opposing power has wrought havoc with the human race has in no way altered God's creation, save where the influence of man has been felt in civilization, and of course the curse of civilization--war. This earth as a whole remains unchanged despite the influence of man. Let man step aside a short while, the laws of nature, which God gave in all things, will soon return the earth to its natural status, and in time erase the scars of man's influence. Ancient ruins of civilizations that existed hundreds and thousands of years ago are being, and have been, discovered in places that have been ridden by the natural processes in God's plan.

Recognizing God as the creator of all things is the

beginning of our faith. Unless we understand His part in the things all about us, and that through Him we have our existence, we cannot recognize Him as our Father. If we are to believe in Him to the salvation of our souls, the result of our faith must bring us into a relationship of a Father and His children.

How great is God? Never, by all the means at our disposal, could we begin to describe the greatness of God. If He is great enough to control His universe as a whole, by application of various laws of general nature, He is wonderfully great. But He is even greater than that. He is so great that while controlling His universe, He still has regard for each of His children as an individual, hearing and answering prayers. Indeed, His eye is on the sparrow that falls to the ground. God the Creator is very great and wonderful indeed.

From an old Sabbath School Lesson

NATURAL HUMAN LOVE VERSUS LOVE IN THE SPIRIT

Bond Tennant

"As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow-servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit" (Colossians 1:7-8).

Epaphras, a minister, reported to Paul the condition at Colossae, declaring unto him the believers' "love in the Spirit." The saints at Colossae, we may conclude, had perfect fellowship, unbroken union, no gossiping tongues, no misunderstandings, no quarrels, no criticisms, no murmuring, and no bad feelings. Theirs was a Christlike love. Verse four calls it "the love which ye have to all the saints." There is a natural human love that all possess for some things. Love of country, love of mother, wife, husband,



and children are examples of natural human love.

Jesus summed up love in the Spirit when He said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).

Let us consider some of the differences between natural human love and love in the Spirit.

Natural human love is an instinct and a passion. Love in the Spirit is the fruit of the life that is imparted by the Holy Spirit. Natural human love does go a little farther than animal love. But it is carnal, and it shall pass away. Love in the Spirit descends from above, and is part of the nature of God. The Spirit takes this love and puts it into

our hearts.

Natural human love is sometimes selfish and terminates upon its gratification. Love in the Spirit is unselfish and reaches out to the good of its object. Natural human love may turn into bitter hate if it is crossed or disappointed. It can deal vengeance to the very one for whom it would have given its very life for a few days before. The Apostle Paul told the Galatians, "And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:14-16). Love in the Spirit forgets itself and seeks to bless others, even its enemies. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:43-44). Love in the Spirit shrinks from no sacrifice to make others happy. It is impossible to love those who hate you without love in the Spirit. Jesus said, "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34). Stephen said, "...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60).

Natural human love is attracted to the qualities of its object. Love in the Spirit blesses all, even the unlovely. Natural human love is attracted to the lovely, the good, and the beautiful. Love in the Spirit can take the unlovely and love them because God does. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (I John 4:8). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

We can see a faint resemblance between motherly and divine love. Most mothers believe that they have a beautiful baby. It is easy for a mother to see beauty in her baby. Should a baby become fretful, sick, or become a constant trial, the mother still loves the child night and day and sacrifices for the baby's good. Love in the Spirit goes far beyond all other love. Love is listed first among "...the fruit of the Spirit..." (Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus said, "By

this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

Natural human love is sensitive and fitful. It lives in the sunshine. Love in the Spirit is longsuffering, kind and true, even in the darkest hour of suffering and wrong. Natural human love depends on moods or feelings. It can love today and hate tomorrow. The attributes of real love in the Spirit are given in I Corinthians 13:4-7: "Charity (love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity (love) envieth not; charity (love) vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Love in the Spirit reaches out to those who cannot or will not return it. It prays for those who would despitefully use it and persecute it. The Holy Spirit alone can produce this in our hearts.

Natural human love is exclusive, partial and partisan. Love in the Spirit is comprehensive like the love of God. Natural human love has favorites. Love in the Spirit loves everyone. Natural human love many times does not like those who are not in the inner circle. Love in the Spirit is just and fair taking in the rich and poor; the high and the low; people of any color and race. It treats everyone right, and it is not selective. It does as much for one as the other.

Natural human love is intemperate. Love in the Spirit is moderate and self-restrained. In one moment a mother can hug her child with affection. In the next moment, she may bawl him out and give him a good whipping. A father can love his son, but allow him to satisfy his own wishes to his own hurt.

Love in the Spirit sometimes restrains and even dares to displease. Joseph is a good example. He loved his brothers, but he restrained his affection for them and held them as guilty men until they repented after which he forgave them. Please read Genesis 42.

These are just some of the differences between natural human love and love in the Spirit. To love God and love others in the Spirit is to love everyone regardless of the consequences.



The Revelation of GOD's Throne Room

By Ken Houseley

Jesus, the last Prophet of the Bible, revealed many visions to the Apostle John when he was imprisoned on the isle of Patmos.

Revelation 1:1: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."

Two visions of GOD's throne room were most remarkable and revealing. Why? They give us insight into the supreme authority of our FATHER on HIS throne. We learn more about the nature of HIS Son Jesus. We come to understand the power of HIS Holy Spirit.

The first throne room vision is found in **Revelation chapter 4**. The scene is set. A door is opened in heaven (**verse 1**). John is invited to come up hither. There he stands in the Spirit looking on the most awesome place in existence.

John sees a throne, and ONE sitting on the throne that is bright as precious jewels shining beyond comprehension. This indescribable Being is none other than our FATHER in heaven. Around HIM is a rainbow showing HIS covenant to never flood the earth again (**Genesis 9:11-13**).

Revelation 4:4: "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

The twenty-four elders are men who had been given new clean garments of white. Their golden crowns indicate rulership and authority.

Revelation 4:5: "And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven

Spirits of God."

Before GOD are seven lamps which are the seven Spirits of GOD. We do not see a throne beside HIM with a spirit being seated. No, the Spirit of GOD is not a person, but is before the throne of the FATHER burning as seven lamps.

Revelation 4:8-9 "And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever..."

Now we know for a certainty the identity of the One who sits on the throne, the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY.

We read on about this vision into Revelation chapter 5.

Revelation 5:2-4: "And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon."

No person was found worthy to open the book because "...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**). Only Jesus lived a life without sin. He is able to open the book from the right hand of the FATHER.

Revelation 5:5: "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

Jesus, the very Word of GOD, is the fulfillment of all Messianic prophecy. He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David. (**Genesis 49:9-12; Matthew 22:41-45; Psalm 110:1**). He became the unblemished Passover Lamb by fulfilling the feast. He was without sin (unblemished), was killed on the 14th of the month of Abib (**Exodus 12:6**), and had no broken bones (**Exodus 12:46**). Jesus fulfilled the only sign of the Messiah given to the mocking scribes and Pharisees by spending three literal days and nights in the tomb (**Matthew 12:40**), from Thursday evening until Sabbath evening as it dawned towards the first day of the week (**Matthew 28:1**). When John the Baptist saw Jesus he said, "...Behold the Lamb of GOD, which taketh away the sin of the world" (**John 1:29**). John was thinking of Jesus our Passover (**I Corinthians 5:7**).

Revelation 5:6: "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."

Now John sees Jesus before the FATHER as a slaughtered Lamb, but made alive and caught up to the throne. The seven Spirits of GOD (**Revelation 4:5**) are now given to the LAMB and are seen as seven horns and seven eyes. Why are the seven Spirits depicted as horns and eyes? We'll have to go to Scripture for our answers.

There were horns fashioned on each corner of the altar (**Exodus 27:2**). And the blood of the bullock was put upon the horns of the altar. (**Exodus 29:12**). Here we see the horns represent sacrifice and atonement for the sins of the people, that mercy would be substituted for judgment.

The horn was filled with oil for the prophet and priest of GOD to anoint kings (**I Samuel 16:1,13 and I Kings 1:39**). The oil in the horn represented the Holy Spirit of GOD. As soon as David was anointed with the horn of oil, he was filled with GOD's Spirit. Now David had the power and authority to reign as king. Again in **Psalm 18:2** the power of the horn is represented in GOD's salvation.

In summary, the horns represent power, authority, salvation, mercy and sacrificial atonement. Jesus is given this authority by the FATHER to rule in righteousness, to save HIS people.

First, as our High Priest.

Hebrews 4:14-16: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Then, as King of Saints.

Revelation 15:3: "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

Then, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 19:16: "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

We see the authority given to Jesus by the ONE on the throne.

Revelation 5:7: "And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne."

The FATHER gives the book to Jesus from HIS right hand of power. Jesus is the firstborn of the dead to receive the kingdom blessing of GOD's right hand. (**Matthew 25:33-34**). Now with this power and authority, Jesus can open the seals of the book. He is the only one found worthy (**Revelation 5:9**).

Returning to Revelation 5:6, we find, ".....having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." The seven horns deal with power and authority. The seven eyes are the seven Spirits sent as all-seeing throughout the earth (**Hebrews 4:12-13; Deuteronomy 11:12**).

We come to understand the completeness of GOD's Spirit working through HIS Son Jesus. The seven attributes of the seven Spirits are revealed....

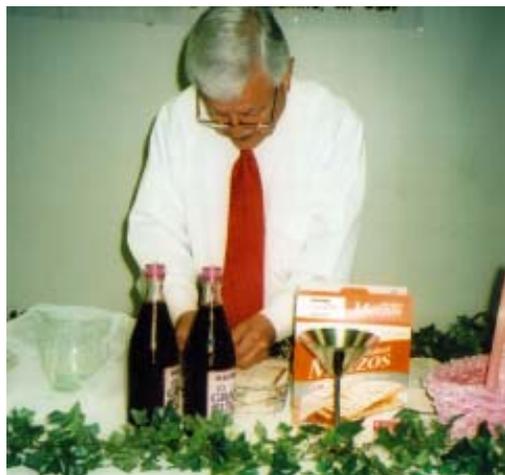
Revelation 5:12: "Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

So the seven horns represent power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Jesus receives His awesome royal and regal anointing.

In conclusion, the vision of GOD's throne room, revealed to John and written through inspiration of GOD's Holy Spirit, was set down through time that we may understand the salvation and mercy of GOD giving us HIS only Son (**John 3:16**). Also, that we may understand the victory Jesus had over death and sin (**I Corinthians 15:57**). Further, that we understand the true nature of the godhead. The mystery of iniquity teaches that God is triune, but we clearly see from this testimony that the FATHER is

supreme and gives HIS power, authority, and Spirit to Jesus for His inheritance and obedience unto death. There is no 3-part god. GOD the FATHER reigns over all, and Jesus, HIS Son, is made our Lord and Saviour.

Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD." **Exodus 20:3:** "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."



THE THREE CUPS

BY RUTH NOEL

The Bible speaks of many cups; there is Joseph's cup, and Pharaoh's cup, among others. But there are three cups mentioned which are very significant, especially in these closing days. If we earnestly drink from the first cup, there will be no need to drink from the other two. While, if we refuse to drink from the first, we are drinking from the second and will also drink the third.

The content of the first cup is very sweet; the second is very strong; and the third is very bitter. Let us now take a look at these cups.

In Matthew 26:27-29 we read "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When one accepts the gospel of Jesus Christ and becomes obedient, walking in the way of the Lord, he will partake of the Lord's Supper, which consists of unleavened bread and the pure fruit of the vine (the cup) representing the body and blood of our Lord.

The Apostle Paul made mention of this in I Corinthians 11:23-28, "For I have received of the Lord that which

also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup."

The second cup is found in the book of Revelation. "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication" (Chapter 17:4). When one rejects the true teaching of Jesus Christ, he is drinking from this cup, accepting all the false teaching (doctrine) as presented by the god of this world. The Apostle Paul made mention of this in I Timothy 4:1-2, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall de-

part from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." Also in II Timothy 4:3-4, we read, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." And again in II Thessalonians 2:11-12, we find, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

We will now look at cup number three. Psalm 75:8 reads, "For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them." The Lord will be giving out rewards to all who have refused to obey Him, and have chosen to drink of cup number two. In this case, no one has a choice but every one has to drink from the cup of the Lord. We read in Jeremiah 25:15, "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it." At this time the Lord will

not have pity, and His eyes will not spare. "Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations. And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee, and ye shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 7:3-4).

The book of Revelation tells us more about this cup; "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:9-10). See also chapter 16:19, last part.

Today we are fortunate that we still have a choice. The Lord is still calling and pleading with us to make the right choice. Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation. Tomorrow may be too late.

He that hath an ear let him hear.

“In Six Days”

By David DeLong



“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt

not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD

made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11).

This passage of Scripture not only shows that the seventh day of the week (Saturday) is the Sabbath, but it also proves that the physical universe was created in exactly six literal days. There is no allowance here for the universe being billions of years old; no allowance for evolution, theistic or otherwise; and no allowance for a "gap theory" between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.

The theory of evolution is taught in virtually every public (and many private) schools and universities in the world. This demonic doctrine is being taught under the guise of scientific fact, and it makes a mockery of the Word of God, and accuses God of being a liar. Many people's faith in the Bible has been shaken because of the teaching of evolution, and thus, many will lose out on eternal life because of it.

Some claim that belief in evolution and belief in the Bible account of Creation can be reconciled in one series of events. This is called "theistic evolution" and its main teaching is that God began the evolutionary process some billions of years ago, and then let mankind (and other life forms) develop through various stages from primitive organisms. This belief, however, instead of reconciling science with the Bible, further complicates the matter.

The "gap theory" is the belief that between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 a long period of time elapsed in which a cataclysmic destruction made the earth "without form, and void". According to at least one account of this theory, God's judgment was upon the fallen angels, causing this catastrophic destruction of a previously created earth. Scriptural passages such as Jeremiah 4:23-26 and Isaiah 24:1 are used as "proof" for such a judgment. However, when the context of these verses is read, it is apparent that these passages refer to a *future* judgment upon the earth.

Exodus 20:11 plainly informs us, "For in six days the LORD made heaven ('the heavens' --NASB) and earth, the sea, and all that in them is..." This simple, but all-inclusive, statement is God's Own testimony concerning the amount of time He chose to create the *entire* physical universe. This includes not only the earth and all it contains, but the multitudes of galaxies and everything in them as well.

The question might be raised at this point: *How does one know if the six days of Creation are literal days rather than symbolic days?* A partial answer to this would involve an examination of the context of the Scriptures of the Creation story given in Genesis chapters one and two. These two chapters of the Bible actually give an *historic* account of the creation of the physical universe by God, rather than a symbolic account. For instance, Genesis 2:4 records, "These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created..." The margin reads, "*This is the history*" (italics mine) for the phrase, "These are the generations". God is giving here the historical record of His creative work.

One very large problem of accepting the days of Creation as being symbolic is that if one part of Creation is symbolic then all of it may be. Indeed, this is what many liberal Bible "scholars" claim. They teach that much of the Genesis account of Creation is symbolic and is therefore not to be taken literally. They look at the days of Creation as a long period, or periods (epochs), of time in which evolution had a chance to come about. They refuse to accept the Sabbath as a literal day of rest for similar reasons. Some even mock at the account of Eve being created from a rib taken out of Adam's side.

Genesis 1:5, in referring to the first day of Creation, reads, "And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day." The Hebrew word for *day* used in this verse and in the rest of chapter one, is "yowm". Its usual meaning is a literal day of twenty-four hours. Now, when we add to this fact that God divided the "Day" from the "Night", and that the day consisted of "the evening and the morning", we have proof that the days of Creation were literal ones. We have already seen that the seventh day mentioned in Exodus 20:8-11 is a literal Sabbath day on which God's people are to rest. This is based on the fact that God, Himself, rested on the seventh day after His Creation was complete. Genesis 2:2,3 informs us: "And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

Jesus explained one of the purposes for which the seventh-day Sabbath was made. In Mark 2:27,28 He pro-

claimed, "...The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Since "the sabbath was made for man" ("man" being translated from the Greek word "anthropos" which means "mankind"), we know, therefore, that it was also made for Adam and Eve. This pair was created on the sixth day of Creation. Their keeping of the Sabbath, on the seventh day, is further proof that the Creation days were literal.

Let us now examine the fourth day of Creation from Genesis 1:14-19. "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day."

Now we see that the sun, moon, and stars were created for the purpose of dividing the day from the night, and "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years", and "to give light upon the earth". It has been suggested that these celestial bodies were not actually created on the fourth day, but rather were created aeons of time before, and then were only made to *appear* as lights that were hitherto shrouded in darkness. Notice, however, that it was on the fourth day that "God set them in the firmament of the heaven". This was not an act of *revealing* these luminaries, but rather it was an act of *placing* them "in the firmament of the heaven". The Lord is so awesome that He chose not only to create the earth, but also the rest of the physical universe within the six days of Creation!

The Lord Jesus Christ gave testimony to when the beginning of the Creation took place. He knew this from the witness of the Scriptures, and also because He was there at the creation of the universe (see Colossians 1:12-16). In Mark chapter 10 we read an account of certain Pharisees who came to the Master asking Him about the issue of divorce (see vs. 2-5). They cited Moses for giving a "bill of divorcement", at which Jesus said it was

because of the hardness of their heart. He continued His answer to them in verse 6 by saying, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female." He then went on to infer that marriage was meant to be lifelong. Our Lord answered their question about divorce, but at the same time He answered all of mankind's question about "the beginning of the creation": it was at the time when Adam and Eve were created.

Some evolutionists mock at the idea that the universe is young. They point out the vast distances of space saying that light from stars that are millions of light years away from the earth must have taken millions of years to reach

Some evolutionists mock at the idea that the universe is young.

this planet. That may sound reasonable, but we must realize that the Lord used what is called "apparent age" in His creation process. For instance, if I had seen Adam and Eve on the day after they were created, I would probably have believed that they were 20 or 30 years old. Imagine my surprise upon learning that they were only one day old! The same is true for the entire universe. God created it, including the light from the stars, in only six days, but it appears to be much older.

The teaching of "uniformitarianism" is used by evolutionists to try to prove that the earth is billions of years old. According to Webster's Dictionary, this word refers to, "a geological doctrine that existing processes acting in the same manner as at present are sufficient to account for all geological changes." For instance, these misguided scientists believe that by observing the rate of erosion upon rocks today, they can determine what the rate of erosion was in the past, and thus be able to determine the age of the earth, or parts of the earth.

An example of this is their attempt to give an age to the Grand Canyon in Arizona by trying to estimate how long it took the Colorado River to carve its way through this massive canyon. It is true that scientists can measure the rate of erosion from the Colorado River through various layers of the Grand Canyon today. If the erosion by this

river *had been* constant throughout the past, then the canyon could be millions of years old. What they don't take into account, however, is that the erosion of these rock layers was not begun by the Colorado River at all. The evidence indicates that the river began flowing through this canyon sometime after the canyon was already formed.

The most likely explanation for the forming of the Grand Canyon was the biblical Flood of Noah's day. We know that the Flood was worldwide, covering all of the earth's mountains (see Genesis 7:19,20). This vast amount of water would have had a tremendous eroding effect upon the earth, causing many of the geologic formations that we see today. We can observe the fast-acting force of water locally, as flooding cuts out grooves in the land to form gullies. The Grand Canyon could actually have been carved out in a relatively short period of time.

Evolutionists also try to point out that the earth's vast deposits of coal and oil would have taken millions of years to form. But this would not be the case when seen from the perspective of the worldwide Flood. The huge amounts of organic material needed to produce these coal and oil deposits could easily have been supplied from the remains of the plant, animal, (and yes, human) matter which were buried in the earth during the Flood.

It has been postulated, by some who believe in evolution, that the layers in the upper part of the earth's crust must have taken millions of years to be deposited. Once again, the doctrine of uniformitarianism is given as "proof". However, the Lord's use of "apparent age" in His creation could account for this, or the Flood may be the reason for these layers. The Flood would have carried many tons of soil in a mixture within its waters. This soil would have been deposited in layers around the earth as it dropped out of the mixture of the Flood's waters. Some of the layers would eventually have become rock.

That this actually happened from the Flood is seen by the petrified tree trunks that are suspended vertically through some of these rock layers. Apparently, as some of the trees which were floating in the Flood became "waterlogged" they began to be suspended vertically instead of horizontally. At some point, they sank to the bottom of the waters, still standing upright, and were buried beneath layers of soil. Over time, the trees and the soil turned to rock. Evolutionists have been puzzled by this phenom-

enon. Either they must admit that these trees were buried quickly, most likely by a flood, or else they must believe that the trees grew for millions of years through the layers of rock!

Other methods are used for "dating" the time when once-living organisms were alive. One of these is the radiocarbon method of dating. All living things contain radiocarbon, or carbon-14, and when they die, the carbon-14 begins to leave them. By measuring the amount of carbon-14 that a deceased specimen has is supposed to determine the age of that specimen. However, this is definitely not a fool-proof system. In one experiment where this dating method was used on the remains of a "mammoth", one side of the specimen gave an age of about 5,000 years, but the other side of the specimen gave an age nearer to 50,000 years.

Sometimes evolutionists will engage in what is called "circular reasoning", possibly without even knowing that they are doing it. A geologist, for example, will claim that a particular layer of rock is so many millions of years old because a dinosaur bone, supposedly that old, was found in that rock layer. A paleontologist will then claim that the dinosaur bone is that many years old because it was found in a rock layer that was supposedly of that age. The reasoning goes round and round in a circle, with neither side proving the age of the rock nor the age of the dinosaur bone.

We know that dinosaurs actually lived at the same time in the past with man. Footprints of both of these creatures have been found together on the ground's surface in Texas, embedded in rock. (The ground, at one time, had apparently been mud.) But we should not be surprised at a find such as this. The Bible indicates that Adam named "every living creature" (see Genesis 2:19). That would have included the dinosaurs. So we can see that millions of years are not needed to prove the existence of these beasts. The Lord made them on days five and six of Creation week.

Satan, through the subtil work of the evolutionists, is out to discredit the Bible as God's Word. By trying to do so, he wishes to destroy the faith of as many people as possible. Let us not allow him to do so. Rather, let us faithfully proclaim the Lord's Own testimony of, "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is..."



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.

HOMEOWNERS BATTLING THE REAL-ESTATE SLUMP PUT THEIR FAITH IN AN UNDERGROUND ALLY

BURYING ST. JOSEPH TO SUMMON RELUCTANT BUYERS

**BY P.J. HUFFSTUTTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES**

After three real estate agents, two price reductions, and nearly a year on the market left them with no offers on their Las Vegas town house, George and Katherine Grodin turned to a higher power for help.

They brought a 4-inch plastic figurine of St. Joseph--believed to be the patron saint of home and employment --and placed it upside down in their patio with hopes of breaking their home-selling slump.

"I just felt so helpless," said Katherine Grodin, 47, "I needed to do something."

The trick hasn't worked yet for the Grodins, but as the real estate market has continued to flag, a growing number of the faithful--and the desperate--have embraced the odd ritual of burying St. Joseph to clinch a quick sale.

Amazon sells St. Joseph figurines. So do True Value and Ace hardware stores.

Robert DiCocco, manager of the DiCocco Family St. Jude Shop in Havertown, Pa., said not a day went by

without someone coming into the store for a statue to help speed up a house sale.

"They're a little sheepish when they ask, 'What saint do I bury?'" said DiCocco, whose family business is one of the largest religious-goods stores on the East Coast.

The interest in St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, mother of Jesus, has a history in the real estate world.

During the busts of the 1980's and 1990's, agents and homeowners revived the tradition, which might date to medieval Europe. As the story goes, a group of nuns received a needed parcel of land for their convent after burying their St. Joseph medallions and praying to the saint for aid.

These days, most people opt for a kit like the ones sold by Philip Cates, a California mortgage banker and owner of St. Joseph Statue.com. He sells an 8-inch model for \$12.95. Typically, the kits include a figurine, a bag to bury it in, instructions and sample prayers.

Once the property sells, tradition calls for the seller to dig up the statue and keep it in a place of honor.

And if no one makes an offer? "Perhaps it's not time to sell," said Cates.

Debra Schneider was having trouble selling her custom-built home three years ago in Columbia County, New York, when a neighbor's relative suggested she bury a statue.

"I thought she was kidding me. I told her, 'I'm a Jewish yogi. I don't believe in that,'" said Schneider, 55.

The next day, though, she went and brought a statue, figuring she had little to lose. The house sold.

"Of course, I had lowered the price, which might have helped, too," Schneider said.

The Houston Chronicle

Comment

The above article speaks of a tradition of men. We know that St. Joseph is dead, and the dead know nothing. Therefore, he cannot aid anyone in selling a house! God's Word tells us not to follow these traditions of men.

Many traditions first begin as fables. We may think of it in this manner. The fable in the article is the nuns' receiving the parcel of land after burying their St. Joseph medallions and praying to him for aid. When this burying of St. Joseph's statue in hope of selling a house is repeated over again by man, it becomes a tradition.

In I Timothy 1:4, the Apostle Paul told Timothy not to give heed to fables and endless genealogies. In I Timothy 4:7, the apostle wrote to Timothy, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."

Those who do such things as mentioned in the article are very desperate and need to put the selling of their house into God's hands!

SPAIN LINKS VODOO TO PROSTITUTION

23 arrested in ring trafficking in Nigerian women

by Victoria Burnett
New York Times

Madrid, Spain - Police say they have broken up a human-trafficking ring that forced Nigerian women into prostitution by threatening them with voodoo curses.

Authorities said Thursday that they arrested 23 people this week in raids in several Spanish cities after a Nigerian woman in Seville claimed she was a victim of the ring and reported its activities to the police in February.

The traffickers lured their victims with promises of a better life in Europe and took them to a voodoo priest before departure, the police said. The traffickers then smuggled them to Spain, where they told the victims they had to become prostitutes to repay a hefty debt for their journey or face the wrath of voodoo spirits.

Musililu Mojeed, a journalist for the Nigerian online newspaper 234Next.com who has written about voodoo and human trafficking, said voodoo, known as juju, was a fairly common tool of intimidation used by traffickers.

Women were taken to a voodoo shrine and made to swear before a priest that they would never reveal the identities of the traffickers, he said. The priest took pieces of fingernails or hair from the women's part of the ritual.

"People here are very scared of the power of voodoo, so the traffickers tell the victims that if they do anything funny they will invoke voodoo," Mojeed said.

"They fear death, illness, any misfortune the priest tells them," he added. "If the priest tells them they will get smallpox, then they believe they will catch smallpox."

Excerpted from the Houston Chronicle

Comment

The Nigerian women are being deceived into following the seducing spirit of Voodoo which makes them fear. Please read I Timothy 4:1. They need to become acquainted with God and worship Him who does not give His children the spirit of fear! Please read II Timothy 1:7.

BIBLE

Study



Question: What is the meaning of the greeting, "Peace be to this house"?

Answer: This greeting which Jesus told the seventy to use when they entered a house is found in Luke 10:5. It is the ancient form of salutation in the East and prevails unto this day. A commentator said, "But from the lips of Christ and His messengers, it meant something far higher, both in the gift and the giving of it, than the current greeting." It meant the spiritual peace which is the gift of God through Jesus Christ.

Possibly there are many homes in our own land today in which such a salutation from the lips of Christian friends would not be regarded as out of place but would be welcomed.

Question: Did the offerings that were made by the people in the Old Testament take away their sins?

Answer: No, they did not. "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). They only set back the sins of the people until Christ should die for the sins of the world. This included those who lived before the time of Christ as well as those who live afterwards. "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the

Questions and Answers

promise of eternal inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15).

Question: What do you believe are the "idle words" for which men shall give account of that are mentioned in Matthew 12:36?

Answer: Let us quote the verse, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

These "idle words" may mean unseemly or improper conversation, levity, slander, scoffing, boasting, swearing, mocking at sacred things. Jesus had been speaking of blasphemy and of the scoffing attitude of the Pharisees, who imputed His miracles to Beelzebub. The "idle words" presumably referred more particularly to their sceptical way of accounting for the miracles of which they had spoken slightly.

Question: Why must one study in order to be able to grow in grace?

Answer: We need to study in order to gain knowledge and to apply our minds unto prayerful thought to understand that which we have studied. We can only grow in grace through the knowledge of God. That is the way grace and peace may be multiplied unto those who believe. "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord" (II Peter 1:2).

We can only obtain this knowledge by searching. This is what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ said with His very own lips while here on the earth. "Search the scrip-

tures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

The Apostle Paul also commends the Bereans because they "were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). Notice the word DAILY used here.

God is only willing to give more grace to the humble (James 4:6). If we say that we love Him, we will seek to know more about Him.

The Apostle Peter tells us, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:5-8). Verse 9 tells us that "...he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

The apostle exhorts us in the 10th verse to "...give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." We know that the "divine power" of our Lord and Saviour "...hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue" (vs. 3).

The apostle ends his second epistle with an exhortation which is very fitting for his time and also for our time. "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" (II Peter 3:17-18).

Without studying the Scriptures, we will not be able to grow in grace and KNOWLEDGE. Neither can we expect to receive that divine power of God if we do not study to show ourselves approved.

If the desire for the sincere milk of the Word is not in us, then something must be seriously wrong. We are admonished by Peter to "...take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate

of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:13-15).

Putting on the whole armour of God is not like dressing in the morning by which within a few minutes you are fully clothed. It is a gradual process, a daily growth. Just as a parent would take his or her child each day to school to gain the vital knowledge which will prepare and serve him or her well in adult life, so in like manner, God wants us to learn of Him, that we may be prepared for any questions concerning the hope of our calling, or any trials which will arise during our spiritual growth. The Word of God tells us that if we are "...without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons" (Hebrews 12:8).

The Word of God teaches us, as children of God, that "...denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

Having the sword of the Spirit is vital for every child of God to enable him to withstand against the wiles of the devil. We are told in Psalm 1:2 to delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were told, "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes" (Deuteronomy 11:18). "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:14-15).

We must search, compare, and meditate on God's Word. "My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding" (Psalm 49:3). "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Corinthians 2:13).

All can be fitly summarized in the words of Job, "...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). Just as with our daily meals, it is the quality of what we take in daily that will determine our growth.

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

BY DEL DELONG

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA





of the things around us than in thinking of God.

LESSON I

IDOLS

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 8:1-7.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:3.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

NOTE: What is an idol? It is an image or symbol consecrated as an object of worship; anything we give excessive affection to.

1. Should we make images or bow down to anything other than God? Exodus 20:3-6; Leviticus 26:1.
2. What are we told to flee from so that we will not be tempted? I Corinthians 10:13-14.
3. If we sacrifice to an idol, to whom are we sacrificing? I Corinthians 10:19-21.
4. What idol did the Children of Israel have Aaron build after they were delivered out of Egypt? Exodus 32:7-8.
5. What King of Israel worshipped Baal, and how did God feel towards him? I Kings 16:30, 32-33.
6. What event did Elijah participate in to show that God was the true God and not Baal? I Kings 18:36-38.
7. What three men were saved by God for not bowing down to golden idols? Daniel 3:14,16,18. How did God save them?
8. What other things does the Bible tell us to avoid worshipping? Deuteronomy 17:3.

NOTE: We all need to watch that we do not put anything before God. God gave us all our treasures, and we want to be careful that we do not think more

LESSON II

THE 7TH DAY SABBATH

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 56:1-7.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:10.

"But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates."

1. What did God do when He finished creating the heavens and the earth? Genesis 2:1-3.
2. On which day should we worship the Lord? Exodus 20:8-11.
3. What happened to the Children of Israel when they worked on the Sabbath? Exodus 31:14-17.
4. When the Children of Israel polluted the Sabbath, what did God say He would do? Ezekiel 20:21.
5. How will you delight yourself in the Lord? Isaiah 58:12-14.
6. What will the Lord give to the people who keep His Sabbath and do the things that please Him? Isaiah 56:4-6.
7. What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? Luke 4:16.
8. Did Jesus change the day that the Sabbath was to be kept? Hebrews 4:4-11.

LESSON III

STEALING

Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:7-15.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:15.

"Thou shalt not steal."

1. Who will not inherit the Kingdom of God? I Corinthians 6:9-10.
2. What are we told not to do in Leviticus 19:13?
3. Who did Jesus say was a thief and a robber? John 10:1, 8-11.
4. Usually stealing is accompanied by other sins. Name one in Luke 10:30.
5. What happened because one man had stolen money that was not his? John 12:3-6; 18:2-5.
6. What treasures can thieves not steal? Matthew 6:19-20.
7. What was called a den of thieves? Mark 11:17.
8. Who was crucified with Jesus? Matthew 27:38.
9. What was told to those who have once stolen? Ephesians 4:28.

LESSON IV

LYING

Scripture Reading: II Kings 5:20-27.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:16.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

1. Who is the father of all lies? John 8:44.
2. What was Cain's answer to the Lord in Genesis 4:9-10? Could his lie hide his evil deed?

3. Who is a liar? I John 2:22.
4. What will happen to all liars? Revelation 21:8.
5. What was Peter's lie? Matthew 26:71-75.
6. Who is better than a liar? Proverbs 19:22.
7. What does I John 2:4 state?
8. What was the result of Gehazi's greed and lies? II Kings 5:27.
9. What are lying lips? Proverbs 12:22.

MIRACLES

What miracles do you associate with the following expressions?

1. "But he was asleep."
2. "Give them to eat."
3. "Fill the waterpots with water."
4. "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam."
5. "L - - - - -, come forth!"
6. "Lord, save me."
7. "Stretch forth thine hand."
8. "Cast the net on the right side of the ship."
9. "Where are the nine?"
10. "Yea, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the master's crumbs."

**JEANNIE LEARNS ABOUT
THANKSGIVING**

by Dorothy Walter

It was Thanksgiving morning. Jeannie was helping Grandma in the kitchen. Or at least she was supposed to be helping. Right now she was standing still, holding the cup she was supposed to be wiping.

She looked out of the window at the gray day outside. Heavy clouds hung low, and the sky looked as if snow would start to fall any minute. A dry leaf went scooting across the yard ahead of the cold, damp wind.

As Jeannie watched, a big wet tear landed on the cup which she was holding. In a moment another fell, and another. Jeannie wiped the back of her hand across her eyes.

Grandma looked up. She saw a tear splash on the cup. "Here, now," she said smilingly. "You're supposed to be getting the cup dry, but you're making it wetter."

Jeannie tried to giggle, as she knew Grandma was trying to cheer her up. But the giggle only turned into a sob.

Grandma patted Jeannie on the back. "Try not to think about it, honey. Thinking about our troubles never helps. And sometimes it makes them look bigger than they really are."

"But I can't help thinking about it, Grandma. After all, today is Thanksgiving. And nothing is the way it ought to be." "I know," Grandma sympathized. "I wish the family could be together the way they usually are, but it couldn't be this year."

"I wish it weren't Thanksgiving," said Jeannie. "That makes it worse. I wish today were just an ordinary day. Having Thanksgiving when you don't have anything to be thankful for is no fun at all."

Grandma looked surprised. "Nothing to be thankful for!" She exclaimed. "Why, Jeannie. You don't mean that."

"I do, too," Jeannie declared. She blinked hard to hold back the tears that were about to fall. "There won't be any company or anything. Only us."

"Is that what you think Thanksgiving is?" Grandma questioned. "Just a day for company and a big dinner?"

"We-e-e-ll" said Jeannie. "Isn't that mostly what it is? Of course we're supposed to be thankful on that day. But then you've got to have something to be thankful for."

"And you don't?" asked Grandma.

Jeannie shook her head. "Not much, anyway."

Grandma didn't say anymore about that then, but Jeannie could see that she was still thinking about it.

When the dishes were done Grandma said, "Let's run over to the Monson's house for a minute. I want to take them something."

Jeannie ran to get her coat. When she was ready she

found Grandma in the pantry packing a basket. She watched as Grandma put into the basket most of the things they had baked for their own Thanksgiving dinner.

"Grandma!" she exclaimed. "You're giving our dinner away. We won't have anything for dinner."

"We have plenty left," Grandma assured her. "See, there's another pie."

Jeannie had never been to the Monson home before. She had never seen such a poor home. There were no rugs on the floor. There was no nice furniture like Grandma's. The children were ragged and dirty. There were no good smells of cooking in the house.

When Grandma had given them the basket, the family thanked her again and again. They would have had no Thanksgiving dinner if Grandma had not brought the basket.

Jeannie thought about the Monsons all the way home. She wondered what it would be like to live in a home like that instead of her own pleasant one. She was glad for her home, even if she did have to be away from it this Thanksgiving because Daddy and Mother were on a business trip.

When they reached home Grandma hurried around getting dinner. She went to the cellar and brought up some home-canned string beans. She fixed some mashed potatoes and gravy. Homemade cottage cheese, fresh whole-wheat bread and butter, milk, and pumpkin pie made the rest of the Thanksgiving dinner. But as she thought of the Monsons, Jeannie was sure she had never eaten such a delicious dinner. She tried to count how much she had and how little some others had. She knew that she had much to be thankful for.

When she finished the last of the pumpkin pie, she said shyly, "I think I've learned about Thanksgiving Grandma. Thanksgiving is more than just a day. It's a feeling inside you isn't it?" She looked around the pleasant room. She thought about her home and the loving Father and Mother who would soon come for her. "It's a nice day after all," she said happily.

Answers to Miracles:

1. The stilling of the tempest (Matthew 8:24).
2. Feeding of the five thousand (Luke 9:13).
3. The water made into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11).

- 4. The man born blind receives his sight (John 9:7).
- 5. The raising of Lazarus (John 11:43).
- 6. Walking on the water (Matthew 14:30).
- 7. Healing of the man with the withered hand (Mark 3:5).
- 8. The miraculous draught of fishes (John 21:6).
- 9. The cleansing of the ten lepers (Luke 17:17).
- 10. The Syrophenician's daughter cured (Mark 7:28).

- 18 - How many husbands had the sinful woman had?

- 20 - Where had the Samaritans been worshipping?

- 20 - Where did the Jews worship God? _____

SOMETHING TO DO

VERSES FROM JOHN 4

***TAKE YOUR BIBLE
AND FILL IN THE ANSWERS***

- 22 - Did the woman really know why she worshipped?

- 23 - How do true worshippers worship God? In _____ and in _____
- 25 - Who did the woman know was coming? _____

- 4 - Through what country did Jesus feel He must go?

- 5 - To what city did He come? _____
- 6 - On whose well did He rest? _____
- 7 - Whom did He ask for a drink? _____
- 8 - Where did Jesus's disciples go? _____
- 8 - What were they going to buy? _____
- 9 - With whom did the Jews ususally have no dealings?

- 10 - What kind of water did Jesus offer the woman?

- 11 - Did the woman understand Jesus's offer at first?

- 14 - What kind of life does Jesus's living water give?

- 16 - Whom did Jesus tell the woman to call? _____

- 26 - Who said He was that person? _____
- 27 - Who were surprised to find Jesus talking to the woman? _____
- 28 - What did the woman leave as she went to the city?

- 29 - Who said, "Come, see a man who told me all I ever did"? _____
- 39 - Did many or few Samaritans believe in Christ because of the woman's testimony? _____
- 40 - How many days did Jesus stay there to teach?

- 41 - Were any more souls saved during that time?

Now complete the testimony of the Samaritans in Sychar (verse 42).

"Now we _____, for we have _____ him ourselves and know that he is indeed _____.

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THE RHYME OF THE WAYFARING PILGRIM

by Jack Benson

*Water, water everywhere,
but scarce a drop to drink.
'tis now the age of spiritual dearth
(no matter what men think).*

*"Crusades" for Christ (?), so-called
esteemed so high by all,
Do beckon every pilgrim
to take his ease....and fall.*

*But let us not succumb
to this easier "gospel" way;
For to cast our lot with them
would cause remorse for aye*

*"Just take Him at His word,"
(that's all they say to do)
"Accept Him as your Saviour...
He'll make your dreams come true."*

*"And when you take this step,
just wear a nice big smile,
So folks will think you're happy
and have a creed worthwhile."*

*But the Bible way is strait
and narrow, as you can see...
God's grace is all-sufficient
for those who'll HOLY be.*

*So let us shun the imposters,
and stand with the faithful few
Who'll serve a Holy Saviour
as He commands to do.*