

# *The Advocate of Truth*

*The Winning  
Candidate*

*Immanuel*

*Jesus and Stress*

*Thanksgiving*

*Abraham's  
Bosom*





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## *George T. Stackpole* *1940-2010*

George was born in West Haven, Connecticut February, 1940. He was 1 of 10 children having 4 brothers and 5 sisters. After graduating from high school he followed his brothers into the Marine Corps where he served honorably.

After moving his family to Florida in the late 70's, he started his search for the truth in God's Word, the Bible. He came in contact with the Florida church and was baptized in 1986. He was selected for the Financial Board of Seven in 1996 and became a minister a few years later. He served faithfully in those offices

until he moved to North Carolina at the end of 2009. He is survived in death by his wife of 44 years, Barbara, 3 children, George, Barbara, Kevin, and 4 grandchildren, Christopher, Alex, Mia, and A.J.

A Memorial service was held September 5th in Westfield, Massachusetts where his 'Celebration of Life' was attended by 80 friends and relatives.

Our Brother awaits the Trumpet call to receive his "crown of righteousness" (II Timothy 4:7-8). George died on July 2nd after his long illness with cancer.



## Our Lord Jesus Christ Is The Winning Candidate This Is Guaranteed By His Father-The Creator

Bond Tennant

Let us think of our Lord Jesus Christ as the winning candidate to establish a kingdom on the earth for a thousand years in which He will rule the people with justice and equality. We know that He will do this because His election is guaranteed by God, His Father, Who has the power to make things come to pass. The Apostle Peter said, “And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:20-21). The times of restitution is the time of the kingdom. As the winning candidate, Jesus will have those who will be associated with Him. “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:6). What are the qualifications of God’s Son, the winning candidate?

He knows what is good government! He knows what is best for mankind. In II Samuel 23:3 it is recorded: “... He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.” Jesus Christ will rule the world justly and in the fear of His Father. No other candidate can meet this qualification.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has a good background. He went through a period of training when He walked on the earth. “And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers” (Luke 2:46-47). “And Jesus increased in

wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (verse 52). There is nothing in the record to indicate that Jesus ever took part in political activism. He was born to be a King, but first He had to be trained and qualified for that task. Please read John 18:37 and Isaiah 11:1-4.

Jesus, the winning candidate, is the choice of His Father. He is not the choice of worldly men. When Jesus came the first time to earth, He was extremely unpopular. “He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:10-11). His enemies even crucified Him, but His Father (God) raised Him from the dead. “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it” (Acts 2:23-24). “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses” (verse 32). God (His Father) took Him to His own right hand. “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear” (verse 33). “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus is always truthful. He speaks only the truth, no matter what the result. “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful”

(Revelation 21:5). He is not afraid of what people will think. Their opinions do not influence Him. "I receive not honour from men" (John 5:41). His assignment was to please His Father!

Jesus speaks with authority. When people heard Him, when He walked the earth, they were amazed. "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matthew 7:28-29). When they tried to challenge Him, He was always one step ahead of them. "And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?" (Luke 20:2). "And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things" (verse 8). When they wanted to throw lies and falsehoods at Him, He would not even answer back. "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (I Peter 2:23).

Jesus' character is spotless. "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" (Hebrews 7:26). We may bring in all the investigators we

wish. We may scrutinize His records from any angle. We will discover no deceit, guile, or cover-up. The character of Jesus stands every test. "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29).

Jesus is absolutely impartial. "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons" (Colossians 3:25). He will not stoop or bend to racism or any other "ism". He will not favor anyone because of his color or nationality. He does not regard good outward appearances. He is not influenced by the standards of this world. And, like His Father, He sees one's moral character. "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed" (I Samuel 2:3).

We have given you a few reasons why our Lord Jesus Christ is God's guaranteed candidate to establish a kingdom on this earth for a thousand years. Let us have His mind in us so that we may reign with Him. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ" (I Corinthians 2:16).



# JESUS AND IMMANUEL

By Moises Torres M.

JESUS and IMMANUEL, just like MESSIAH or the CHRIST, were names given to the Son of God. All of them contain a message and a different facet of His work, but over all they show the hope that God holds out for humanity.

Considering first of all the name Jesus, we read in Matthew 1:18-21: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on

this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David,

fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, **and thou shalt call his name JESUS:** for he shall save his people from their sins.”

This narrative tells us clearly that the angel of the Lord told Joseph in a dream that the Son, whom Mary would have, was to be called Jesus. The narrative in Luke 1:26-32 tells us that it was the angel Gabriel who appeared to Mary and said, “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David” (verses 31-32). The name of Jesus, from the Hebrew *Yehoshua*, means SAVED or GOD SAVES. This indicates God’s plan of salvation for mankind through His Son, Jesus.

That name, JESUS, was declared or revealed by the angels immediately at the beginning of the New Testament to declare the plan of salvation which started with the birth of this child whose name means SAVIOR or SALVATION ON GOD’S BEHALF. Jesus, or Yehoshua, is the common name by which His family and the people of Israel knew Him until He was recognized as the Messiah. From then on, He was known with other names--the ones that we will be considering in this study. The same story in Matthew 1:22-23, tells us that this child’s name shall be called EMMANUEL as well, “...which being interpreted is, God with us.” This is the prophetic name as found in Isaiah 7:14 which says, “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and **shall call his name Immanuel.**”

Let us remember that during His life and His ministry, the Lord was never named or called Immanuel but Jesus. This is because Immanuel is His name that showed that the divine nature had come to dwell with men through the Son of God. Therefore, its meaning is “God with us.” Later on when the Lord was around thirty years of age, He was called THE LAMB OF GOD by John the Baptist. After His baptism, He appeared as the MESSIAH, which means THE ANOINTED BY GOD. The word Messiah means the same as Christ. The word Messiah comes from the Hebrew, and the word Christ comes from the Greek. However, the two words, names or titles, mean ANOINTED because Christ was anointed.

Only **the prophets, priests and kings** could be

anointed to receive the blessing and consent from God to get started in their labors. Just like Moses, the Lord Jesus Christ was a prophet. Deuteronomy 18:15 says: “The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.” The Scripture says that the Lord Jesus Christ will be a priest and king according to the order of Melchizedek. Therefore, He had to be anointed as the Messiah or the Christ.

As we mentioned before, the Lord appeared as the Messiah or the Christ after His baptism when John presented Him as the Lamb of God, NOT BEFORE. The prophecy of the 70 weeks in Daniel 9:25 places the appearance of the Messiah Prince in the 69<sup>th</sup> week. Let us focus our attention on this verse. “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

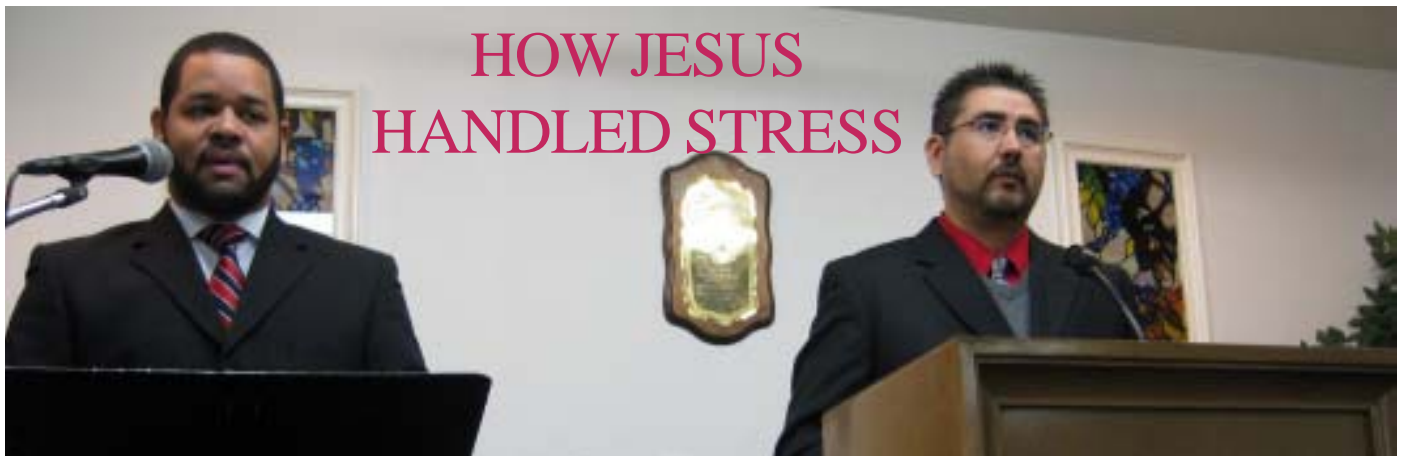
This verse says that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince were to pass seven weeks and sixty-two weeks, that makes a total of 69 weeks. These prophetic weeks are of 7 years each. If we multiply 7 times 69, it gives us a total of 483 years that would have to pass from the order that was given to restore and build Jerusalem, until the appearance of Messiah Prince. When these 483 years were fulfilled, the Lord appeared as the Messiah Prince or the ANOINTED one. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove when He was baptized, being around 30 years old. The dove was a symbol of His being ANOINTED! If we subtract 30 years, the age of our Lord when he was anointed by the Holy Spirit, from the 483 years that had to pass, it takes us to the year 453 B.C., the date that was the edict probably given for the people of Israel so they could come back to build Jerusalem and the wall. Let us remember that the word Messiah means ANOINTED.

The book of Ezra contains the record of the years of various edicts of the people of Jerusalem from Babylon and Persia. First, they were allowed to go back to build the temple in Jerusalem. Years later, another edict was given by King Artaxerxes to restore and build Jerusalem.

This is the edict that is our concern in this study. The point here is to confirm by means of this prophecy that the Lord came to be known by the name or the title of Messiah, Christ or the Anointed, in due time, not before. Also we confirm by this prophecy that this is another name that has a meaning which is a blessing for humanity. The Lord Jesus Christ became our PROPHET, PRIEST and KING!

Lastly, let us mention that after His resurrection the Lord Jesus was named LORD AND GOD by Thomas Didymus. In reality, the Son of God is the only manifestation of His Father God that we know. He lived among men, and He came to show us His will and the

love and power of His Father. No one has ever seen His Father. The Apostle John tells us the following in I John 5:20: “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.” The name of Jesus Christ is the name composed of Jesus and Christ. It means JESUS THE MESSIAH OR JESUS THE CHRIST, OR JESUS THE ANOINTED ONE BY GOD. He is the true Prophet that we must hear. He is the Priest of God, the One to Whom we should bring our sacrifice, and He is the King, the only One Whom we should serve--NO ONE ELSE!



The Gospels tell us that Jesus was “Pressed” with everyday concerns.

“I will have two orders of chicken, a hamburger, and french fries,” I said to the voice on the phone.

“All right,” the voice responded, “But it will take about half an hour, we are kinda busy now.”

Deciding it was worth the wait, I tried to make good use of the half hour. When I drove up to the drive-in window, I immediately understood why they were so busy. Three large busses were parked in the back. Young men in uniforms were everywhere. It was an invasion of service men moving from one place to another and, they were having a stop-over for a meal. Still the most vivid scene came when I got out of the car. The people working inside were moving at an unbelievable pace. They seemed to be frantic. Suffering was on the face of some of the help.

Is this not an analogy of modern living? Pressure seems to be a principal characteristic of our time. Our jobs, our families, outside activities, and a thousand other responsibilities stand in line, impatiently waiting for us.

Apparently we do not dare slow down for a minute. Yet, do we dare keep going as we are?

According to doctors and researchers, stress can produce some very harmful effects, both physical and emotional. The heart and nervous system are particularly vulnerable. There are people occupying hospital beds with all sorts of maladies that stem from their difficulty in handling pressure.

Anxiety-filled people can easily pass on their stress to those around them, says Dr. Robert Amstadter, medical director of the Center for Psychological Growth and Development in Tustin, California.

Stress can have equally devastating effects on young and old alike. Often it brings out the worst in young and older people. One of two things usually happens. They may panic, the youngsters may have irrational fears, which makes matters worse, or they may become depressed. Many turn to escape mechanisms that can do more harm than good. Many parents give their children mild forms of tranquilizers and give themselves more powerful ones. All this is dangerous, when youth and adults depend on

pills.

The most effective way of handling stress is Jesus' way. Superficially, Jesus' life may seem irrelevant to our modern-day pressures. After all, is not this a radically different world than what it was two thousand years ago? True, but it would be hard to conceive of anyone facing more pressure than Jesus did.

**JESUS POSSESSED AN INNER CALMNESS IN EVERY SITUATION. EVEN WHEN HE WAS CAPTURED BY HIS ENEMIES IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE, HE WAS THE CALMEST PERSON THERE.**

The Bible describes how the crowds continually "pressed" around Jesus and His disciples (see Luke 8:42). Many of these people had needs. They were desperately wanting Jesus to take care of them. Some had severe physical problems. Others cried out for spiritual help. The enemies of Jesus were continually causing stress in Jesus' life. They tried to trick Him with loaded questions, false accusations and other devices they could to discredit Him. Ultimately they sought ways to kill Him.

Another group was interested in using Jesus politically. After all, a man who could perform miracles could very easily destroy the yoke of Romanism that held down the children of Israel. Jesus keenly felt the pressure from them to further their aims.

Jesus faced great pressure from spiritual sources. Satan's temptations were as real to Him as they are to us. Jesus knew that His Father expected Him to be the Lamb of God. He knew that His work here on earth was not an entirely enviable task. It meant sacrifices to give His body as the true sacrifice. His life shows us today how we should act under stress. It helps to know how Jesus handled pressure, just as it helps us to know what He said and how He loved.

One day, in the life of Jesus, He asked the disciples to take Him across the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had been speaking to the people from the ship and now He went in to the hinder part of the ship and relaxed and fell asleep. And there arose a "great storm and the waves beat into the ship so that the ship was being filled with water." Jesus was in the hinder part of the ship "asleep on a pillow." The disciples had to wake up Jesus. They were in stress and believed they would drown. "Master, carest thou not

that we perish?" Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and the waves. There was a great calm. And Jesus said to His disciples, "Why are ye so fearful?" Why are the disciples so full of stress? "They feared exceedingly." In other words they all were full of pressure. They thought they had reached the end of their lives. And Jesus was so calm. He asked the disciples, "how is it that ye have no faith?" (See Mark 4:35-41). "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). It is faith that will remove pressure and stress.

One thing that should be learned from the life of Jesus is that He never panicked. In spite of the great demands placed upon Him, He refused to do so. Jesus possessed an inner calmness in every situation. Even when He was captured by His enemies in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was the calmest person there. His disciples were panicky. His captors were unsure of themselves. Even Judas hesitated to kiss Jesus. Think about it. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus was never in a hurry. There were so many things Jesus knew that needed to be done, yet he had to accept the limitations of one living in the flesh. He did one thing at a time. There are often several different directions that one should be going. But getting in a hurry can be self defeating, as well. The person who tries to run faster than his legs can carry him will end up falling all over himself.

Just as Jesus refused to panic, He refused the route of escape as a response to His pressure. At the very outset of His ministry, He entered into a head on confrontation with Satan, the tempter. From there, a needy and sinful world was awaiting Him. When He knew He must journey to Jerusalem, which meant almost certain death, He turned toward that city and strode ahead of the disciples (Mark 10:32). Even as He considered the prospect of death, He prayed, "Not my will, but thy will be done."

Escape is no solution to stress. Inevitably, it causes pressure to increase. This is not to say that a rest cannot be helpful. Jesus took time to rest. There is a certain point, however, when resting turns into escaping. Once our need for rest has been satisfied, responsibilities must be faced once again. Jesus' practice of getting away to pray was vastly different from an escape. Some common escapes are drugs, alcohol, or just ignoring matters. The trouble with this is that they do not do anything about solving their problems. They are only temporary in their effects. Moreover, if one depends too heavily on them, he becomes



helpless in the face of reality.

Prayer on the other hand, leads to renewal. When Jesus prayed, He returned to His responsibilities with new strength and vitality. He prayed and it made Him better prepared to face the pressure or stress. Jesus gave prayer a high priority. Even when He was being pressed upon by the many demands of the people, He took time to pray. His example shows us that the benefits to be gained through prayer adequately compensate for the time spent. There are at least three positive results from prayer that helped Jesus handle stress.

First, prayer gave Jesus confidence. There were times when He had every reason to feel discouraged. Few people really understood Him. Even His own disciples had difficulty in comprehending Jesus' purpose. How could His mission be fulfilled when so much was working against Him? Prayer renewed His confidence. In His moments alone with His Father, Jesus obtained a surer grasp of who He was. He was the Son of God. We should receive the same assurance. We are children of God also. God was using His Son, Jesus, and He wants to use you, His son and daughter, too. This is His plan and His purpose on earth until His Son returns again.

Second, prayer also furnished Jesus with perspective.



## A SHORT THANKSGIVING THOUGHT

By Bond Tennant

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).

This year, 2010, the United States observes a day set aside for thanksgiving on November 25. Abraham Lincoln worried that many people in this country vainly imagined in the deceitfulness of their hearts that all of their blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of their own. We are not only thankful for something, but we are also thankful to Someone. And that Someone is God!

Our thanksgivings are raised to God. All praise and gratitude directs us to thank God whatever the circumstances might be because, being a kind and loving Father, He has arranged them for His children.

It helped Him to "see it as it is." Trivial things can sometimes appear more important than they really are. Inconsequential matters posed no threat to Jesus' vision--what really mattered. Communion with God helped Him keep things in proper form.

The third benefit Jesus gained from prayer was healing. Doctors claim the mental strain is harder on us than physical strain. Furthermore, mental strain affects the body. For Jesus, prayer must have been a time of letting go before His Father. The strains and stresses could ease. In God's healing presence, He found rest and satisfaction.

Jesus' prayer life was an integral part to His relationship with His Father. Everyone's prayer life must also be centered on God our heavenly Father. That relationship between you and the Father in Heaven is the key to your ability to handle stress. Because of Christ's absolute trust in His Father, He was able to live a pressure-filled life without panicking or giving in to depression. This is a must for all of us. Trust in God. We all must have an affirmative response to the will of God. It is thus compounded of belief and trust, with an attitude that we completely rely upon our Father. Jesus could have been overcome--but He overcame. Jesus said that what He did we should do also. "...and this is the victory that overcometh the world..." (I John 5:4).

It seems as though every year God is less and less the center of thanksgiving. We may use the word THANKSGIVING and list the many things for which we are thankful. But to whom are we thankful? If we acknowledge no God and no source of blessing, how deep can our thanksgiving be? It is like a tree without roots. Genuine thanksgiving is focused on the Provider.

Thanksgiving may be the season to think of our blessings. There is nothing wrong in doing that. But beyond the day or season, let there be thanksgiving every day. Then our Provider will be pleased.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

## Tradition Versus The Bible

One of the strongest rebukes Christ brought against the Jews was because of the many traditions they had adopted in connection with their religion, and which many times were held more dogmatically than some of the essential points of the religion Moses had given them. He said that it was in vain to worship, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. In reference to some of the less important matters which their traditions had emphasized to the neglect of more important things, He said, "...these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matthew 23:23).

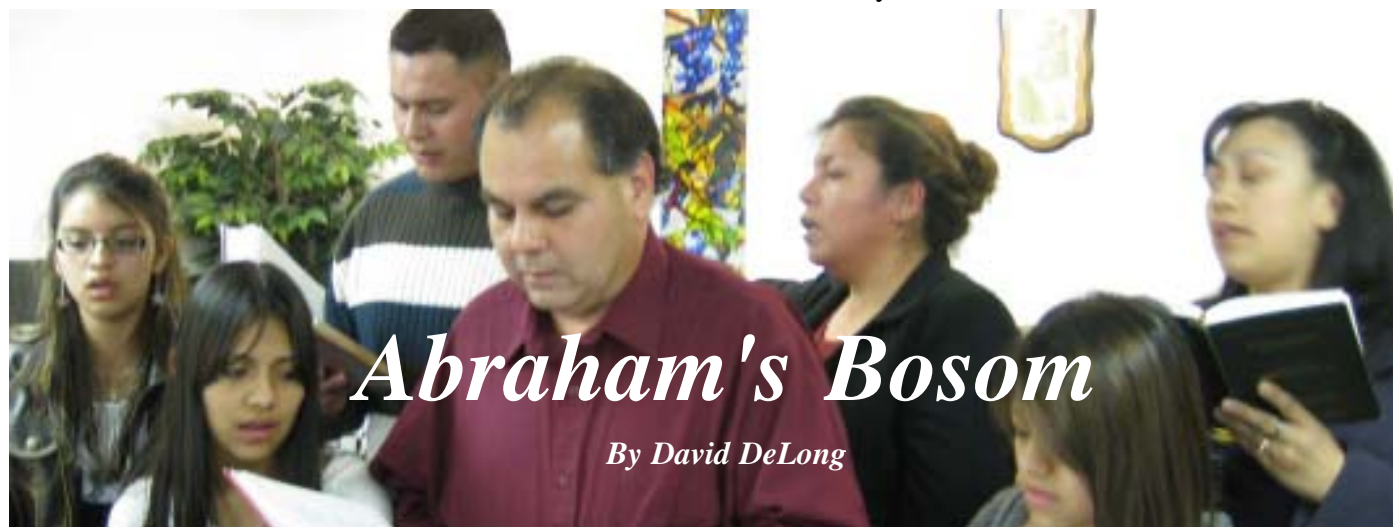
Today, there is an abundance of tradition that is observed by the Christ-professing world. Many of the churches observe traditions that had their origin in heathendom centuries before the Christian religion was introduced. Maurice H. Harris, A.M., Ph.D., in his book, "**A Thousand Years of Jewish History**," discusses the rise of Christianity and its concessions to paganism. He describes the early Christians as being not greatly removed from the Jewish religion. "But in later years when many pagans joined this sect, they introduced into it many idolatrous notions, borrowed from the cults of Greece, Rome, and Egypt."

If we are to worship God in spirit and in truth, we must be mindful of the simple Bible way of worship. Many of the traditions that have been handed down from the early semi-pagan influence are not only unscriptural, they

are opposed to the teachings of the Scriptures. For instance, the doctrine of observance of the first day of the week, which causes the desecration of the Sabbath; and the doctrine of sprinkling or pouring instead of baptism by immersion, which causes many to mistake the importance of this ordinance and to come short in observing it.

Many of the ordinances of the churches in this age are but revamped heathen traditions. Easter, supposedly in honor of the resurrection of Christ, stems from the pagan festival in honor of the goddess of spring. Lent, the pre-Easter season of forty days of fasting, is of uncertain origin. It has been traced to ancient Babylon and to the Egyptians, who celebrated the Lenten season in honor of their pagan gods centuries before Christ. After its adoption by the then degenerate church, the Lenten observance descended further down the scale of degeneracy by being preceded by a season of revelry and excess, which practice is still observed in many places. (New Orleans' Mardi Gras is an example of this.)

The simple doctrines of the apostles of Christ and the early Church are easily discerned by the conscientious seeker. The matter of baptism, the Lord's Supper, Sabbath observance, and order in the Church are not difficult to discover. The doctrines of Christ's second coming, the resurrection of the dead, and the Kingdom of God give hope to the reader of Truth. Pure doctrine is a pleasant thing. Corrupt doctrine is repulsive. Let us seek to know the pure teachings of Christ and the apostles, and to live by them.



## *Abraham's Bosom*

*By David DeLong*

"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed

with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:19-31).

Many people believe this passage of Scripture to be a historical account which Jesus gave, especially since a personal name, Lazarus, is used. However, the Bible assures us that this story, along with all such stories that Jesus related, are parables. In Matthew 13, after Jesus had given several parables, we read in verses 34,35: "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."

So we can see, then, that whenever the Lord taught in story form, He was using parables. Now, parables are types of speech which teach symbolical truth, and not literal, or historical truth. Therefore, we need to look past some of the expressions used in parables, including here in Luke 16, "The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus",

to get to the true message of the parable. For instance, back in Matthew 13, where Jesus gave "The Parable of the Sower", the seed sown represents the Word of God, Satan is represented as a fowl, and the good ground represents a heart condition which receives God's Word and acts upon it. The parable was not intended to be a treatise on good farming methods, but that is what it would be if it is taken literally.

Let us now examine "The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus" to try to get at what Jesus was really teaching. In this parable, we read "...that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom..." The expression, "Abraham's bosom", is only given here, in this parable, and nowhere else in the entire Bible. Was Jesus introducing a new doctrine to the people? What was Abraham's bosom?

We know that a person's bosom is the chest area of that person. For instance, when Jesus was conducting the Last Supper with His disciples, the question was raised about who should betray Him. John 13:23-25 informs us: "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?" This was, of course, John who was leaning on Jesus' bosom, or breast. Now, did Lazarus, in the parable, actually lean on Abraham's bosom as John did on Jesus' bosom?

To understand more about Abraham's bosom, we need to see where the expression came from. Some of the Jews believed that Abraham was the gate keeper to admit them into paradise, a place which was apparently synonymous to them with being in Abraham's bosom. This term, Abraham's bosom, is actually expressed in some of the Jewish literature, including the fourth book of the Maccabees (see "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah", by Alfred Edersheim). Now, why would Jesus use a term that had been invented, apparently, by the Jews which taught a false doctrine about Abraham being the gate keeper to paradise? I'll attempt to answer that question shortly, but let us first examine another term, coming from paganism, used by biblical writers. That term

is “hades”.

Originally, hades was the underworld of the Greeks. To them, when someone died, two coins were sometimes placed over the deceased person’s eyes to pay the boatman, Charon. This “underworld” character was then supposed to row the person’s soul over the River Styx, to take him to the other side of the river where he would live forever. This, as we know, is a thoroughly pagan concept of the state of the dead. However, the biblical writers in the New Testament retained the term hades (but not its pagan concept) when referring to the grave. It is even used in the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus as the Greek equivalent to the term “hell”, which here refers to the grave (see Luke 16:23, margin).

Why would the New Testament writers use the term hades and not some completely different term to refer to the grave? The answer to that, very likely, would be that it was used for the sake of familiarity. We do the same thing when we use the term “Thursday”, which originally meant “Thor’s day” (Thor being the pagan Norse god who wielded a hammer). If we used another term when referring to the fifth day of the week, no one would probably understand what we were talking about. So too, everyone would have understood that the New Testament writers were referring to the place of the dead when using the term hades. The Bible, moreover, gives the *true* doctrine of the state of the dead, that being an unconscious state as the body rests in the grave (hades) awaiting the resurrection.

When the children of Israel were captives in the land of Babylon (see II Chronicles 36), they incorporated some wrong beliefs into their religious thinking. One of these beliefs was very possibly about an everlasting, burning hell that the wicked supposedly encountered upon death. The Sumerians (ancient Babylonians affiliated with Nimrod’s evil religious system) appear, from history, to have been the originators of this doctrine. A number of religious teachers during Jesus’ day had false beliefs concerning the punishment of the wicked. One such teaching, for instance, seems to have been about a sinner being tormented by a river which perpetually rolled its waters back every time that person tried to get a drink.

All of this is highly imaginative, though erroneous, thinking about the fate of the wicked.

Now, at the time of Christ, not everyone in Israel believed these fanciful accounts of an after life. There were a number of orthodox Jews who believed the true scriptural account of the state of the dead. In fact, we know that Jesus was one of them. He based His beliefs, and teachings, solely on the Word of God and not upon man’s traditions. Moreover, the unorthodox Jews of that day would have known exactly what Jesus and the other true children of Israel believed concerning this doctrine (since they knew the Old Testament Scriptures as well.) Therefore, when Jesus used the term “Abraham’s bosom” in His parable, a term not used elsewhere in the Scriptures, one can almost sense the great interest that would have been aroused in the people. One can almost hear them mutter, “I wonder what He’s going to say now?”

There seems to be at least two reasons why Jesus told this parable. One reason may have been to correct the unorthodox belief, that many had, about the Babylonian belief in hell. In fact, correcting wrong doctrine was a normal part of Jesus’ teaching method. In one instance, given in the Bible, Jesus corrected, outright, some religious leaders for erroneous doctrine. When trying to trap Jesus in a question concerning a woman who had had seven husbands, and to whom would she be married in the resurrection, this was His reply: “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitude heard this, they were astonished at his doctrine” (Matthew 22:29-33).

Jesus corrected the erroneous teaching concerning death of the religious leaders of His day, seemingly, in the following manner. He spoke of Lazarus dying, and being carried by angels into Abraham’s bosom. Now, to some of the Jews, Abraham’s bosom, as we have seen, was equivalent to paradise or being saved in God’s kingdom.

According to Jesus' non-parable teaching on the righteous entering God's kingdom, we read such passages as this: "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31). Since the angels reap all of the saved at the *first resurrection* and not at the instant of a person's death, then this part of Jesus' parable must have been referring to the resurrection.

Next, Jesus spoke of the rich man dying, being buried in the grave (hades), and being in torment. Did Jesus get His "hells" mixed up in this parable? Absolutely not! But many of the religion teachers of His time surely had! As we have seen, they believed in a hades of torment after death. Now the Scriptures teach plainly that the dead do not have consciousness in the grave. For instance, we read in Ecclesiastes 9:5,6: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun" (see also Psalm 146:3,4).

When Jesus made a doctrinal statement, per se, He didn't do it through the use of parables. He taught the people straight out. Our Lord knew from the Scriptures that the dead in the grave (hell or hades), were in an unconscious state. Furthermore, His doctrinal statement about the wicked being in a fire refers to the hell of "gehenna" and not to hades. We find this doctrinal statement in Matthew 10:28. "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (gehenna). The fire of gehenna will totally destroy the sinner's "soul and body".

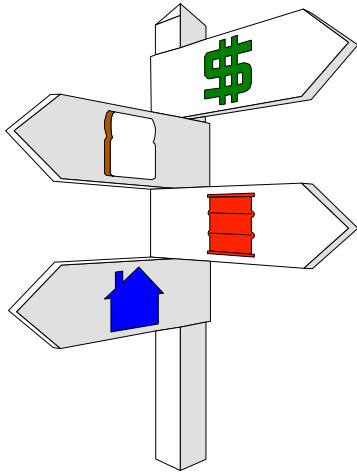
We read in the parable that the rich man wanted Lazarus to "...dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue..." If this desire on the part of the rich man were to be taken literally, then the rich man would not *really* be dead, most likely, since he refers to his tongue—a physical part of his body that could be refreshed by water. But we know that Jesus, in the parable, said that

the rich man died. This part of the parable seems to be a rebuke, in the form of mockery, by Jesus against the religious "authorities" of His day. Remember their traditional belief of the sinner's torment of trying to get a drink from waters which continually rolled back from them? Here, in the parable, Jesus doesn't mention a drink, but just a drop of water for the rich man. This must have infuriated those who taught these traditions.

After giving more of the parable, Jesus then appears to come to the crux of the issue. Notice His emphasis on *scriptural authority* when the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to go and warn the rich man's "five brethren". "Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Jesus is saying here that one needs only to listen to God's Word (in this case Moses and the prophets), not to other sources for belief. If God's Word isn't enough authority, then nothing is.

The second reason that Jesus told this parable was to show God's acceptance of the Gentile people. The rich man refers to the nation of Israel. Lazarus refers to the Gentiles, who, to the Jews of that day were poor, sick, and fit to be only with dogs. When God temporarily rejected the nation of Israel (see Matthew 22:1-10; Acts 28:17-28; Romans 11:7-32), they underwent some terrible times of punishments. Deuteronomy 28:15-68 prophesied great tribulation to come upon them for disobedience. The Gentile believers, however, have obtained the favor of God. The five brothers of the rich man all likely refer to the six Jewish sects of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, Herodians, Zealots, and Nazarites. (For more on the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, you may request a tract from the Church of God Publishing House).

This parable demonstrates the superb wisdom of Jesus. In just one short story He rejected the foolish traditional beliefs of many of His day, including a belief of torment in hades; He advocated the authority of using only Scripture for one's beliefs; and He showed that God accepts all believers who come to Him in truth. What a Savior!



# 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.*

## PERSONAL ABOUT TRUTH AND BELIEVING

I read these words in a column in the Houston Chronicle: “To listen to talk radio, to watch TV pundits, to read a newspaper’s online message board is to realize that increasingly we are a people estranged from critical thinking, divorced from logic, alienated from even objective truth. We admit no ideas that do not confirm us, hear no voices that do not echo us, sift out all information that does not validate what we wish to believe.

I submit that any people thus handicapped sow the seeds of their own decline; they respond to the world as they wish it were rather than to the world as it is. That’s the story of the Iraq War. But objective reality does not change because you refuse to accept it. The fact that you refuse to acknowledge a wall does not change the fact that it’s a wall.”

The words in this column are very true. There is an old saying which says, “seeing is believing.” That saying is not always true. There are many who see the Word of God, but they do not believe it. Many know from where the many so-called Christian traditions (such as Sunday, Christmas and Easter) come. They can read about these Babylonian traditions on the internet or by reading any well informed newspaper or Encyclopedia. After reading the truth about these traditions, they refuse to believe the biblical record relating to the observance of these traditions such as the seventh day is the Sabbath, Christ was not born on December 25, because there were no shepherds in the fields during that time, and our Lord Jesus rose late Sabbath just before the beginning of the first day of the week (Sunday).

Sometimes when we speak the truth, it makes us

enemies from those who once were our friends. The Apostle Paul had this happen to him after he presented the truth to some brethren in Galatia. Please read Galatians 4. Especially note verse 16.

Jesus said that there is only one way to be sanctified (set apart for God’s service). When praying to His Father, He said “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth” (John 17:17). In no way, can a person who does not believe God’s Word claim to be saved and sanctified.

A long time ago someone said, “My mind is made up. Don’t confuse me with facts.” The truth found in God’s Word are the facts, and they will surely confuse the mind of a worldly man.

By Bond Tennant

## Hawking warns Of alien danger

British astrophysicist **Stephen Hawking** says aliens are out there, but it could be too dangerous for humans to interact with extraterrestrial life. Hawking claims in a new documentary that intelligent alien life-forms almost certainly exist, but warns that communicating with them could be “too risky.” He speculates most extraterrestrial life will be similar to microbes, or small animals – but adds advanced life-forms may be “nomads, looking to conquer and colonize.”

FromWireServices

### Comment

This article shows the vain imagination of man. God’s Word says nothing about extraterrestrial life and aliens. As an astrophysicist, Stephen Hawking studies the physical properties of the heavenly bodies. Aliens have not been included in the study of the physical properties

of heavenly bodies simply because they have not been found or seen.

Notice the uncertainty of Stephen Hawking when he claims that alien life-forms certainly exist. He is not sure! He speculates about the appearance of what most extraterrestrial life will look like. If most advanced life-forms are “nomads” looking to conquer and colonize, they surely would have contacted us by this time.

God is concerned about the salvation of men and women on this earth. He says nothing about alien life-forms being either friend or foe.

### **New study probes whether FREE WILL exists**

**By AMY GREEN**

**RELIGION NEWS SERVICE**

**ORLANDO, Fla.** – Are people really responsible for all the things they do? Do they have what theologians call God-given “free will” to choose between right and wrong?

Those questions are at the heart of a four-year research project under way at Florida State University that aims to determine whether, and how, free will exists.

Funded by a 4.4 million dollar grant from the John Templeton Foundation, the project will gather together scientists, philosophers and theologians around the question of what factors—free will, genetics, environment, God or something else—lead us to do all the things we do.

“Gathering evidence for it one way or another, it’s quite possible,” said Alfred Mele, a professor of philosophy at Florida State who will lead the project.

“Scientists have been looking for evidence for and against free will since the early 80s.”

The debate however, is much older. For instance: Do humans, through their own freely chosen actions and decisions, determine whether they will go to heaven or hell? Does an omniscient God already know how things will turn out in the end? Does God give humans the free choice to turn away?

In the early 1980s, neuroscientist Benjamin Libet conducted an experiment that found subjects’ brains registered the decision to flex their wrists roughly 300 milliseconds before the subjects themselves became aware of their decision to do it. Libet concluded “conscious free will never is involved in producing a decision, and you can see how there’s a quick road from there to ‘there

actually is no free will,” Mele said.

The research led some to believe that brain processes traceable to genetic and environmental factors, and not free will, determine our decisions. Others think that while people might not be immediately aware of the decisions our brains make, they still possess the free will to veto these decisions.

The “Big Questions in Free Will” research project will devote 3.4 million for projects around the world to explore the concept of free will from scientific, philosophical and theological perspectives.

Scientists will look for evidence proving or disproving whether free will exists. Philosophers and theologians, meanwhile, will seek a better definition of the concept, helping scientists to know precisely what evidence they are looking for, Mele said.

**Belief**

Houston, Texas

### **Comment**

This is more foolishness of man. It is money wasted. Of course there is such a thing as “free will!” Because man is born in a sinful condition, his salvation depends upon his free will to become converted by repenting and being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit.

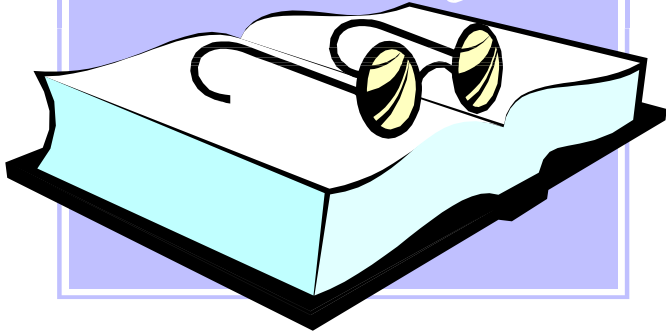
Let us consider Joshua 24:14-15: “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will 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.” In order to choose, a person must have free will!

The Apostle Paul told Timothy to “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned (footnote: ignorant) questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes” (II Timothy 2:22-23). Whether Free Will exists is one of those unlearned (ignorant) questions!

The question of whether Free Will exists has nothing to do with the Law, but it is unprofitable and vain. Please read Titus 3:9.

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** Is it customary to have a special Thanksgiving Offering?

**ANSWER:** To be totally thankful, we wish to reciprocate by bringing a gift from our heart. We are to “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4). Our hands are not to be empty when we come before the Lord. “And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field...and...when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field...” (Exodus 23:16). Deuteronomy 14:23-25 tells us, “And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose.”

We are grateful that we can do this for the Lord. “Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless

his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations” (Psalm 100:3-5).

**QUESTION:** Why did God not reveal the exact date of the second advent of Jesus?

**ANSWER:** God wants His people to maintain an attitude of constant expectation and to feel the need of being ready now. For example, if people do not expect Him to come until April 1, 2012, they won't be too concerned about how they are living today--there is still plenty of time! This is not the attitude that Jesus wants men, women, and children to have!

**QUESTION:** We are studying the crucifixion of Jesus when we read Mark 15:34 which says: “And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Why did God forsake His own Son?

**ANSWER:** All of our sins were placed upon Jesus. Although He was sinless, in God's eyes, He became guilty of every sin the human race committed. The Bible says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus fell under the judgment of God, not because of His



own sins, but because of ours. That is why He cried out as He was dying, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

**QUESTION:** What are some declarations of Scripture and popular misconceptions regarding the same?

**ANSWER:** 1. Scripture declares that the “everlasting punishment” (Matthew 25:46) of the wicked will consist of “everlasting destruction” (II Thessalonians 1:9). The popular theory teaches that it will consist of everlasting pain.

2. Scripture declares that God will “...destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). The popular theory teaches that He will destroy neither one nor the other; but will preserve both of them alive forever in unmitigated agony.

3. Scripture declares that “...our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29). The popular theory teaches that He is only a scorching fire.

4. Scripture declares that the “fiery indignation” will “devour the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:27). The popular theory teaches that it will do no such thing, but only torture them.

5. Scripture declares that the wicked will perish like “natural brute beasts” (II Peter 2:12). The popular theory teaches that there will be no analogy whatever between the two cases.

6. Scripture declares that whosoever “will save his life” by unfaithfulness to Christ, shall ultimately “lose it” (Matthew 16:25) in a far more terrible manner. The popular theory teaches that no man can lose his life, and that the second death is not death at all, but eternal life in sin and misery.

7. Scripture declares that “...he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (I John 2:17). The popular theory teaches that man will abide forever, whether he does the will of God or not.

8. Scripture declares that if we desire “immortality,” we must seek it “by patient continuance in well doing”

(Romans 2:7). The popular theory teaches that every man possesses inherent, indefeasible immortality, and that we have to seek for it, that it may prove a blessing and not a curse to us.

9. Scripture declares that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). The popular theory teaches that it is eternal life in misery; in other words, that God will inflict upon impenitent sinners a punishment infinite greater than what He had pronounced to be their due.

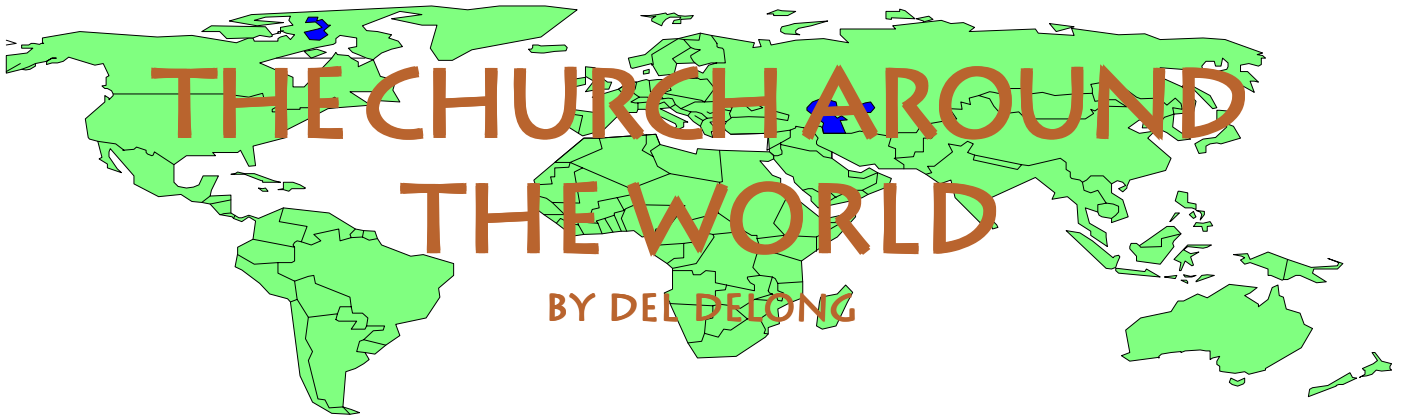
10. Scripture declares that “...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). The popular theory teaches that eternal life is the common possession of all men, and that the gift of God through Jesus Christ is the privilege of spending it in holiness and happiness.

11. Scripture declares that “...the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (I John 3:8). The popular theory teaches that they will never be destroyed at all, but that a portion of the universe will be especially set apart for the eternal exhibition of them in their fullest maturity.

12. Scripture declares that Christ is to “reconcile all things unto himself” (Colossians 1:20). The popular theory teaches that all things will never be reconciled to God; that discord and disorder will never cease, but only be confined to one particular locality.

13. Scripture declares that in Christ “all things consist” (Colossians 1:17). The popular theory teaches that a whole kingdom will “consist” forever, although not “in Him.”

14. Scripture declares “He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (I John 5:12); that “...if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Romans 8:13). The advocates of the popular theory say that the life of believers and unbelievers must be of equal duration.



# THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

BY DEL DELONG

*Texas, U.S.A.*



*Seagoville*



*Houston*



LESSON 1

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS IN EGYPT  
THE FIRST TRIP

Scripture Reading: Genesis 42:1-18.

Golden Text: Genesis 42:8.

“And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.”

1. What did Jacob, Joseph’s father, tell his sons to do about the famine which was causing them to starve? Genesis 42:1-2.
2. Who did Jacob say could not go to Egypt and why? Genesis 42:4.
3. How did Joseph treat his brothers when he first saw them? Genesis 42:6-9.
4. What did Joseph command them to do? Genesis 42:18-20.
5. What did Joseph tell his servants to put in his brothers' corn he had sold them? Genesis 42:25-26.
6. How did the brothers feel when they saw the money in their bags? Genesis 42:27-28, 35.
7. What did Jacob say when his sons returned and told him what happened? Genesis 42:38.

LESSON II

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS IN EGYPT  
THE SECOND TRIP

Scripture Reading: Genesis 43:1-34.

Golden Text: Genesis 43:15.

“And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went

down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.”

1. Why does Jacob want his sons to return to Egypt? Genesis 43:1-2.
2. What does Israel (Jacob) tell his sons to do when they return to Egypt a second time to buy corn? Genesis 43:11-13.
3. When Joseph saw Benjamin with his brothers, what did he order the ruler of his house to do? Genesis 43:16-17.
4. Why were his brothers afraid when they were brought to Joseph’s house? Genesis 43:18-22.
5. What did Joseph tell them after they explained how they found money in their sacks the first time? Genesis 43:23.
6. What question did Joseph ask his brothers, and what answer did they give him? Genesis 43:26-28.
7. When Joseph saw Benjamin, what feeling did he have toward him? Genesis 43:29-31.

LESSON III

JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS  
BRETHREN

Scripture Reading: Genesis 44:1-13; 45:1-15.

Golden Text: Genesis 45:4.

“And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.”

1. What happened after Joseph’s brothers left the city the second time? Genesis 44:1-5, 11-13.

NOTE: The event that happens next in Genesis 44:14

was the fulfillment of one of Joseph’s dreams he had as a child. Genesis 37:6-8.

2. What was Joseph’s punishment to them for having been caught with the silver cup? Genesis 44:17.

3. What did Judah beg Joseph to do? Genesis 44:18, 30-34.

4. What did Joseph do after Judah offered to become his slave in place of Benjamin? Genesis 45:1-2.

5. Did Joseph tell them who he was? Genesis 45:3.

6. What did Joseph ask his brothers to do, and did he blame them for selling him into Egypt? Genesis 45:4-8.

7. What message did Joseph tell his brothers to give to his father, Jacob? Genesis 45:9,13.

8. What was Joseph going to do for his family? Genesis 45:10-12.

9. Did they all really rejoice to see each other once more? Genesis 45:14-15.

NOTE: Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him and said that God delivered him into Egypt. We should remember also to try to forgive others who hurt us or do something wrong to us. Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14-15.

**LESSON IV**

**JACOB GOES TO EGYPT**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:16-28; 46:1-7.

Golden Text: Genesis 46:3.

“And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation.”

1. After Joseph meets with his brothers, what does Pharaoh tell him to do? Genesis 45:16-20.

2. What did Joseph give to each of his brothers? Genesis 45:21-22.

3. What was sent to Joseph’s father? Genesis 45:23-24.

4. What did Jacob do when he heard that Joseph was alive? Genesis 45:22-28.

5. Where did Jacob first stop on his journey to Egypt, and what did he do there? Genesis 46:1.

6. While Jacob is at Beersheba, what did God tell him in a dream? Genesis 46:2-4.

7. Who was with Jacob, and what belongings did they carry? Genesis 46:5-7.

**THANK YOU’S**

Thank you, Jesus, for the sunshine  
Flooding all the world with joys,  
Making grassy, flowery meadows  
For us happy girls and boys.

Thank you most of all, dear Jesus,  
For the love you give to me.  
Help a little child to always  
Be just what you’d have him be.

Jean Leathers Phillips



## BOTH WISHES CAME TRUE

By Elizabeth D. Spaulding

Payson picked up the wishbone that lay on the edge of his plate. "Come on, Dan," he said to his cousin who had eaten dinner with him, "Let's go outside and make a wish." Payson's sister Marian followed to join in the fun. The boys grasped the ends of the wishbone, screwed up their faces, and pulled.

Crack! It broke, and Payson held the larger piece. Dan's face fell for a moment. Then he shrugged his shoulders and said: "What's the difference? My wish wouldn't come true anyway."

Payson asked, "Do you mind telling us your wish?"

"Might as well, since I've lost. I wished I would pass in arithmetic."

Payson and Marian knew of Dan's difficulty in

arithmetic and had that very morning wondered what they could do to help him.

"You and I can't be in the same room together if I don't pass to the next grade," said Dan regretfully.

"You mustn't give up," Marian replied. "Anyway, I don't think the wishbone could help. You should take your troubles to God in prayer."

"Don't you believe in wishing?" asked Dan.

"Of course, I do. Wish all you like, but you'll have to help your wish along by doing something about it, and my idea is to ask God's help."

"Yes," Payson said, "Marian has the right idea. Just wishing is a lazy way. If you really want something you have to work for it, too. When the going gets tough," he went on, "take it to Jesus and ask His help."

"That's the way to talk," Marian said with a gentle punch of approval. "Now we've ironed out the wrinkled up problem, and it will be clear sailing for you, Dan."

"Marian always knows the answers, and she's only a year older than we are," Dan said with great admiration for his cousin.

"Only a year," Marian teased. "That is 365 days. What do you suppose I've been doing all that time? Learning things, of course." With thumbs thrust into her jumper, she strutted in front of the boys. They laughed at her funny actions.

Payson pulled out his lower lip as he often did when he figured out a problem. "One thing about just wishing is that it's usually for something for oneself, and I believe that a good wish for somebody else is the most likely to come true."

He didn't want Dan to fall behind in school, so he decided to change his own wish for hockey skates in favor of Dan's wish for a passing grade in arithmetic. He would do as Marian suggested, help the wish along by helping Dan.

"Let's study our arithmetic together, Dan," Payson suggested.

"Swell, if you're willing," Dan replied with a happy grin.

"Maybe you could help me in grammar. And do I need it!" Payson said.

-Children's Friend.

## BIBLE TREES

All of these are common trees, and they all grow somewhere in America. See if you can unscramble the letters without looking up the references.

LAPPE \_\_\_\_\_ Song of Solomon 2:3

NEPI \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 41:19

REDAC \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm 92:12

GIF \_\_\_\_\_ Micah 4:4

COME ROSY \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 19:4

LOW LIW \_\_\_\_\_ Leviticus 23:40

RIF \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 14:8

MELKHOC \_\_\_\_\_ Hosea 10:4

MAPL \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 15:27

HAS \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 44:14

TEN CHUTS \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 31:8

RUBY ELMR \_\_\_\_\_ I Chronicles 14:15

LAD ON M \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 1:11

I LOVE \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 11:4

CRYSEPS \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 44:14

KOA \_\_\_\_\_ Joshua 24:26



### MAKE YOUR OWN SUIT OF ARMOR

In the days of old when knights were bold and went off to try to rescue the Holy Land from the infidels who then held it, they took a coat of armor along to protect them when fighting their battles. You would find one of their suits of armor awkward and rather heavy. However, you can make yourself a most useful and effective suit of armor, exactly your own size and weight to wear as you fight your battles to keep your land a holy land. Paul calls it the "...armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day..." (Ephesians 6:13). Fill the blanks in the following texts, and you will have a suit of armor that will last a lifetime if you keep it bright and shiny by constant use.

1. "An helmet of \_\_\_\_\_ upon his head." Isaiah 59:17.
2. "He put on \_\_\_\_\_ as a breastplate." Isaiah 59:17.
3. "Having your loins girt about with \_\_\_\_\_."  
Ephesians 6:14.
4. "And your feet shod with the preparation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of peace." Ephesians 6:15.
5. Your shield may be either (a) "The shield of \_\_\_\_\_, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:16), or (b) "His \_\_\_\_\_ shall be thy shield and buckler" (Psalm 91:4).
6. "And the sword of the \_\_\_\_\_, which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God." Ephesians 6:17.

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## PEACE

By: Akeeba Andrews

Peace is like an over-flowing river, which one cannot do without.  
One cannot find peace in silver or gold;  
For that is where the world seems to find their peace, though it lasts only for a short time.  
The Bible says that peace cannot be found in this world, but can only be found in Christ Jesus  
our Lord.



