

The Advocate of Truth



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

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Benefits Of Giving Thanks 3
There are many benefits related to giving thanks.

Daily Thanksgiving 4
There is so much for which we should be thankful.

Girdle 4-5
Wearing a girdle can be a symbol of authority.

At The City Gate 5-6
A gate, in the Scriptures, was a place of public assemblies.

Avenues To God 7
Finding God is always through His Word and will.

Our Church And The Bible 8
The Church of God is the keeper of God's Word.

Trouble In The Early Churches 9-11
If we study the early church's problems, we can avoid them.

Excellent Speech 11-13
As representatives of the Lord, we must watch our speech.

The Signs Of The Times 14-15
Many problems are facing America and the world.

Questions And Answers 16-17
Are the speeches of Job's friends to be regarded as inspired?

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

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "Both Wishes Came True"
Games and Puzzles



BENEFITS OF GIVING THANKS

By David Royer

While searching for a Thanksgiving topic, I found an interesting research paper in *PSYCHOLOGY TODAY* that puts a different perspective on saying “Thanks”. The “spin” is the title of this article: Benefits of Giving Thanks.

I received the Editor’s permission to share with you, this secular, scientific review of several beneficial effects (on mind and body) we receive from internalizing Thanksgiving. Rather than reprint all the studies, I provide the introduction from just two.

©*The Grateful Brain (The neuroscience of giving thanks.)*

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The first study shows how gratitude can, among other things, help you exercise more, sleep better and be happier. Another study looked at the correlation between the effects of gratitude and sleep quality on

symptoms of anxiety and depression.

The analysis continues for several pages of multiple findings, but allow me to summarize:

Benefits:

- Makes us less self-centered
- More self esteem
- Less physical pain
- More optimistic
- Lower blood pressure
- More and better sleep
- Lower depression
- More energy, determination, attention and enthusiasm
- Induced relaxation
- Contentment.

These benefits of giving thanks, are proven to help us feel good. Thanksgiving is the outward display of gratitude, while gratitude is an inward feeling of joy, which leads to a healthier mind and body. It is an attitude of the heart and a state of mind.

Our first president, George Washington, proclaimed the national Thanksgiving holiday in 1789. This year, the day of Thanksgiving is November 23rd, but Scripture says to always be giving thanks.... even in tough times. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

Always be thankful for what you have: Friends, Family and Material goods. Say “Thanks” to those who help and support you. When praying, say thanks to God for grace, blessings and His plan of salvation. Take a moment and think how you can show appreciation for God’s help and blessings. Paul said in II Corinthians 9:11-12 (NIV): “You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

Without any expectations, giving thanks will result in many good things. Be humble and enjoy the benefits!

DAILY THANKSGIVING

A SHORT THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Bond Tennant

Thanksgiving Day this year is November 23.

We can experience thanksgiving every day providing that we have the attitude set forth in the first part of Proverbs 10:22, “The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich.” Our thanksgiving should include the material things that we enjoy such as food, clothing, shelter, family and friends. There are many people in the world who do give thanks for their temporal blessings which they are able to enjoy at least in some measure.

If we have consecrated our lives in service to the Lord, a much deeper thanksgiving is in our hearts. We can say, “...As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15). Joshua entreated the people who had slipped away from serving the true and living God and their covenant with Him. Joshua laid a choice before them, “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY WHOM YE WILL SERVE” (verse 15, first part). Due to our fallen flesh, we are likewise prone to slip in our relationship with God. We must daily make the same choice that Joshua gave to the Israelites. Psalm 2:11 tells us to “Serve the LORD with fear (reverence), and rejoice with trembling.” As we view our lives with such seriousness, we are brought to mind the words of the Apostle Paul, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (I Thessalonians 5:18).

In Ephesians 5:20, Paul says, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Thanksgiving goes far beyond the daily necessities of this life. Two of the “all things” for which we thank God include our knowledge of the truth and the providences of God in all our undertakings. We need to be thankful for our trials as well as our blessings. Such an attitude of mind proves that we have committed our will to the doing of our Father’s will. We can say, “as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

GIRDLE

What does it really mean?

By Moises Torres

According to Webster’s Dictionary, “girdle” means: A band or belt: something drawn around the waist of a person: To be invested with power or authority: To be ready for battle.

Let us see some examples in the Bible about these definitions:

The verses in John 13:1-5 say that the Lord Jesus laid aside His garments, and took a towel and girded Himself. He was getting ready to do a servant’s job of washing the feet of His disciples. This is proven in verse 5 where it says, “and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith HE WAS GIRDED”. This confirms that He had the towel tied around His waist like an apron. If He had it tied up in His waist like a belt, He wouldn’t be able to use it as a towel.

By doing this, He girded Himself of authority to do the work that He was about to do. Many workers and employees wear their appropriate work shoes before starting their daily work. And if they need them, they also wear helmets, gloves and the necessary tools for their work. This gives them the authority and the confidence to do their respective work.

In like manner, the Lord Jesus wore His appropriate uniform to wash the disciples’ feet. He girded Himself with authority to do this service, and we should follow His example. We shouldn’t wait for someone to bring us water and a basin, or until someone lets us borrow a towel. We should be ready to gird ourselves of authority (of love, decision, respect and discretion) to wash the Lord’s disciples’ feet. If we don’t do this, we will not be able to participate of the bread and wine at the Lord’s return.

The Old Testament describes how the people of Israel had to be well prepared or girdled to celebrate their first PASSOVER. “And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD’S passover” (Exodus 12:11).

In a spiritual sense, King David was “girded” with power from God to go to battle. In one of his Psalms, he says, “For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me” (Psalm 18:39).

Jeremiah had also to be girded in order to go and talk to the nations. “Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them” (Jeremiah 1:17).

John the Baptist was girded with a leather belt, by which it showed his authority of a man sent by God. “And the same John had his raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey” (Matthew 3:4).

The seven angels were also girded with a golden girdle which showed authority to pour out the seven last plagues.

“And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles” (Revelation 15:6). The Lord Jesus is presented girded of authority: “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle” (Revelation 1:13). The golden girdle is the logo that identifies the priests of God. It is a sign of authority given by God.

One of the most great warnings and teachings from the Lord Jesus is: “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning... Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them...” (Luke 12:35-40).

To be girded is a synonym of authority to execute a specific task. If at this time we have the character to gird ourselves of humbleness and truth, with a towel to wash the feet of our brethren, the Lord will gird Himself and will serve us a new wine in His kingdom.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

AT THE CITY GATE

Reprinted

“Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down” (Ruth 4:1-2).

Boaz was not letting a moment slip by. After Ruth left him and went home, he went to the gate of the city and sat down there. He went to the gate as one having authority. He possibly was an elder of the city, since he seemed to have been one of great prestige and one of great wealth. Although he could have taken the matter in his own hands and privately purchased Naomi’s land and taken Ruth to be his wife, he was a man of honesty and good principle and would not settle the matter in an underhanded manner. Instead, he made the matter

public and thus showed that he was not ashamed to make the thing known.

There is too much underhanded dealings today. Many things are done to undermine others, and the ugly work of such a one is like a smoldering fire working underground. When it has done its damaging work, suddenly the ground collapses and the true condition is exposed, but too late. Children of God should beware of this form of the wriggling serpent. A work can be done through one to harm character and purposes of another, but may not be discovered until too late to restore the injured.

Boaz went “up to the gate.” Gate in Scripture often denotes the place of public assemblies. When Sarah died, Abraham stood up before his dad and spoke to the sons of Heth. He wanted to buy a possession of a burying place in which to bury Sarah. The conversation between Abraham and the sons of Heth was before all that went in

at **the gate of the city** of Ephron the Hittite. Abraham presented his desire to buy a burying ground before the public. Boaz went up to the gate in the same manner. He wanted to present his matter before a public assembly.

However, there are some other uses of the word “gate” in Scripture. In some passages, it signifies power or dominion. In Genesis 22:17 we read that the angel of the Lord spoke these words to Abraham: **“That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies”**.

In other words, Abraham’s seed would possess the dominion and power of his enemies. The Psalmist said, **“For [God] hath strengthened the bars of thy gates...”** (Psalm 147:13). Also, **“For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder”** (Psalm 107:16).

“Gates of death” are mentioned in Psalm 9:13: **“Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death”**. Hezekiah makes mention of the gates of the grave: **“I said in the cutting off of my days, I shall go to the gates of the grave...”** (Isaiah 38:10). The Psalmist refers to gates as everlasting doors in Psalm 24:7-9: **“Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in ... Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors...”**

The gate of the city was also the spot where punishment of offenders and death of law breakers took place. A stubborn, rebellious son was taken to the elders of a city and to the gate of the place and stoned to death by the men of the city. Also those guilty of gross, immoral crimes were brought to the gate of the city and stoned to death. What a difference there would be in life today if such measures were taken! How glad we can be that grace and truth came by Christ Jesus, and that we are no longer under Moses’ Law. Were the same measures taken today, many of us long ago might have been stoned to death at the gate of the city. We can be thankful that our sins today are washed away in the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ when we confess them to God.

After Elijah’s experience by the brook of Cherith, where the ravens brought food and the word of the Lord,

he arose and went into a city by the name of Zarephath. It was at the gate of the city that he found God’s provision: **“...When he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering sticks: and he called to her...”**

Mordecai spent much time at the gate of the king’s palace. **“And when the virgins were gathered together the second time, then Mordecai sat in the king’s gate... When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai ... cried with a loud and bitter cry; And came even before the king’s gate: for none might enter into the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth;”** **“Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai”** (Esther 2:19; 4:1-2; 5:9).

There are many more references to “gate” in Scripture, and in most cases we find that the gate represented the place of prominence and authority. It was there Boaz was going to settle his problem.

Our hearts are thrilled when we think of the gates to the New Jerusalem. Those gates will never be shut. As we ponder the glorious prospect of someday entering the gates, we wonder how many of our readers have that same glorious hope. Will you pass through those gates with the Lover of your soul? You will if you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s Son, as your Saviour and Lord. Only sinners saved by God’s grace will spend eternity with Him. The unsaved will pass through the “gates” of the Furnace of Fire.





AVENUES TO GOD

Daniel Cruz

If you commute daily to work you may have a routine that is very well versed and know what time you should leave home to avoid being late. As you've discovered the different ways to get to work in a timely matter you also, know what to do if your regular route becomes congested. You may take different roads and still arrive at your destination on time. Sounds pretty stressful and yet painstakingly frustrating. You like your routine and when it becomes convoluted or overwhelmed you tend to find yourself lost. How can this be, if you take the same way everyday? I apologize, however; I'd like to make it known that in this, a mere illustration of how we become comfortable and accepting of our lives. We find ourselves being distracted by all the traffic and signs in life that we lose our focus of our first love, God!!

So, if we are so lost how can we continue our journey? Our faith can sometimes deter us or plant seeds of doubt that can create confusion. We are not a creation of God that should walk this way. It was never God's intent for man to be lost. He placed man, in the beginning, in a garden that was filled with wonderment and life. Adam and Eve were privileged to experience such a wonderful place. Genesis 24:25 tells us: "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind...and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Nothing was tainted or made for a distraction but, for the pleasing of God. Verse 26 expresses this and in the beginning was given unto man to have dominion over it. The intent was for man to see God's beauty and for Him to receive the reverence from all His creation. So, when Satan in his subtle ways begin to convince man

otherwise, sin became the separation point and man lost his way.

So, how do we become so lost in this world? Psalm 14:1 says: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." We find that our hearts turn from God and we lose guidance. Our thoughts become worldly and we conform to the majority that seeks ungodly pleasures. This must be avoided at all cost. We cannot become impatient to the promises of God and divert from our path. God consistently shows us through His Words that we should seek Him daily.

Directions are important and God tells us in His Word that we should rely upon Him in all decisions. We have a tendency to make our way the righteous way and forget to hear God's instructions or just ignore them. We need to return to Him for clarity in all things. Isaiah 55:6 reads: "Seek ye that LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near".

Simple directions are yet sometimes difficult to follow. God cries to man in Jeremiah 29:12-13: "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." God shows His care for us by finding us in this dark world and saying, "I can bring you out of all that trouble that the world has imputed upon you." Just ask wholeheartedly and He will grant it. Let us not stray from the directions of God. Let us continue to explore the goodness of God and experience the manifestations of His Love in all things. We can share this with the Family and dispel the notions that God forsakes His children.



OUR CHURCH AND THE BIBLE

*Reprinted from the Advocate of Truth
by Chris W. Royer, deceased*

By common consent, the Bible is the authoritative record of Christianity. Our Church of God 7th Day Doctrines are completely based on the Holy writings of God. The tract on the doctrinal points of our church begins: "Doctrine shall in all cases be according to the Holy Bible and inasmuch as the Scriptures clearly teach the following points of doctrine, the same are listed as essentials of our faith. Doctrine no 1, that the Bible, the Old and New Testament is inspired as no other writing is, and is complete, infallible, and expresses God's complete will to man. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20, 21; Revelation 22:18-19; Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32).

We often speak of the Bible as the Book of Peace and goodwill among men. As a matter of fact it has, in these latter days, become a Book of war and controversy and division. We behold at the present time, the so-called Christian World cut up with ism and schism. There are thousands of opposing doctrines in the different churches. These churches differ vastly on even the fundamental principles laid down by our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Nothing can be more evident than that they are not all in harmony with the Holy Spirit and purpose of God's revelation. It is also clearly manifest that these varied churches number among their ranks many earnest and sincere, conscientious, intelligent, and godly people. The most significant and saddest feature of the situation is that every sect in the World quotes from the Bible as the source of their justified worship and belief.

There never was a time when an interpreter of the Book of books itself was more needed as in the days of the Ethiopian Eunuch. "How readest thou?" is a question second only in importance, if indeed it is second to what is written. Upon "How" we read the same book and the

same words will very largely depend the value of what we read.

The relationship of the Bible and the Church of God, 7th Day is very closely knit together. The Church of God is the divine witness and keeper and interpreter of the Word of God. Most people think of the Church of God as founded on the Bible. As a matter of historical fact, the Church of God, 7th Day, which our Lord established was here long before the Bible. It is the only church that exists in our present time that can claim this. First came the Church, and then came the Sacred Writings written by the members of the church during the different ages. First there came into being a Divine society, then an account of the progress of the society and of its accomplishments. First the witness then the writing. First the messenger, then the message. First the agent then the agencies and helpers. The Church of God was actively engaged at work for more than twenty years before the New Testament was written by the Apostolic Fathers as they were inspired by the Holy Ghost. The Old Testament gives the history and the acts of the Hebrew People who were at one time the chosen and the very elect of God. Due to so much disobedience and headstrong behaviour the Lord sought out another people to carry the message of Salvation. The people of the Gentiles were chosen to carry His name into all the world. The New Testament gives in part a history of what Christ said and did, and it imparts religious teachings and exhortations based on His life and word. The Bible is a book written by the Church of God, 7th Day, and for the Church of God. In many places we can read, in the New Testament, this blessed name Church of God. No other name is given in the Book of books. (Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 15:9; Galatians 1:13).

Trouble In The Early Churches

By David DeLong



In the early days of the Church of God, there were a number of problems that confronted it. By studying these various problems we can get a clearer understanding of what was happening to those individual churches, and thus, hopefully, ensure that such problems do not exist today.

The first problem that we will examine is that of domineering leadership in the church. The Apostle John wrote in his third epistle, verses 9-11: "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

Though this aspect of church leadership appears to be not such a problem in today's Church of God churches, we are informed that leaders in the church should lead by example. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Furthermore, in II Corinthians 1:24 Paul wrote: "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand." So, we see that leadership in the churches needs to be by example and genuine helpfulness.

Another trouble that the early disciples were having, apparently, was discord at the Lord's Supper table. Paul seems to address this issue in I Corinthians chapter 11. In verses 20-22 Paul wrote: "When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not."

It seems that the early church members were engaging in "love feasts" ("feasts of charity", see Jude chapter 1, verse 12) at the times before the Lord's Supper. But they were apparently becoming involved in cliques. Poorer members were being left out and some didn't even wait for all the members to arrive before partaking of the feasts. Jude informs us that depraved people were feasting with the church members, being "spots in your feasts of charity". The Apostle Paul told the brethren that it would be better for the members to eat their feasts at home and not to shame the church.

Not only were the brethren getting involved in cliques but they were siding with certain leaders in the church, thus causing divisions. I Corinthians chapter 1, verses 10-13 informs us: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"

Paul warned the Corinthian brethren that such divisions were hindering their christian growth. He told them

that they were being carnal believers, mere babes in Christ. He wrote in I Corinthians 3:1-8: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour."

Paul finished his discourse to the Corinthian Church by adding: "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" (verses 21-23).

However, at least some of the poor brethren in the churches were getting assistance from other churches. The brethren in Jerusalem were going through a rough time and Paul headed up an effort to relieve them. In I Corinthians 16:1-3 we learn: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem."

Some of the churches who apparently gave were the churches in Macedonia, though they were rather poor themselves. "Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to

the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (II Corinthians 8:1-5).

We have seen how that apostate people infiltrated the churches during the times of the disciples' feasts of charity (Jude 12). The Apostle Paul warned the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:29-31: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." This is always a possibility that corrupt men or women can infiltrate a church and bring apostate doctrines and teachings with them. We must also watch that this situation does not happen in the Church of God.

Persecution was a problem with the early disciples. We find in Acts 5:16-20: "There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation, And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life."

James was killed with the sword (see Acts 12:1-2). Paul was greatly persecuted. Some of his persecutions are recorded in II Corinthians 11:23-28: "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."

Paul warned that some of the Church of God would fall away from the faith. I Timothy 4:1-2 reads: "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron". One false doctrine that was being taught was the keeping of the law of Moses for salvation. Circumcision was the big thing being taught. Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1-4: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Another false teaching was the committing of fornication for church members. In Revelation chapter 2 we find a woman named Jezebel teaching such a doctrine to the members of the Church of Thyatira. Verses 20-23: "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

The religious group called the Sadducees was teaching against the doctrine of the resurrection. When Paul was before the Sanhedrin, he addressed this group. In

Acts 23:6-8 we find: "But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees: and the multitude was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both."

It is understandable that the Sadducees, who did not receive Christ as their Savior, did not believe in a resurrection. The real tragedy is that some in the Church at Corinth did not apparently believe in the resurrection. When we turn to I Corinthians chapter 15, we find Paul rebuking them for not believing in the resurrection doctrine. Verses 29-34 reads: "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die. Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame."

In the Church of the Colossians some were apparently believing in man's philosophy instead of the simplicity which is in Christ. Colossians 2:8-23 brings at least three of man's philosophies that Paul warned them against: legalism, mysticism, and asceticism. We need to be absolutely sure that the things we believe in today have a solid basis in the holy Scriptures, and are not based upon our own, or someone else's, beliefs or opinions.

Excellent Speech

By David DeLong

Proverbs 17:7 informs us: "Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince." According to this verse there are two classes of people: fools and princes. Either class can be determined by the speech that they produce. Other ways of determining these two classes of

people is to say unbeliever and believer, non-Christian and Christian. Those who live by the world's standard are fools; those who belong to the Lord are members of His family, and thus are considered royalty. As members of the Lord's family may we ever use excellent speech

in our daily lives.

Proverbs 18:21 teaches us: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." This death and life that is spoken is not only for others to hear, but is also for the one speaking the words. Jesus said in Matthew 12:36-37: "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Speaking death to another person involves judgmental, condemning speech, harsh words, angry words, discouraging words. The speech may not end up in physically killing the other person, but it may kill his or her spirit. However, there have been a number of times when discouraging words have helped to end an immature person's life, for instance, by bullying.

Just the opposite is true with speaking words of life to another person. These words involve encouraging speech, helpful words of instruction, loving admonition, and genuine words of respect for him or her. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Proverbs 15:1-2 reads: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness."

Think of the times when you could have used some encouraging words to accomplish a task or to overcome some problem in your life. People from the pages of Scripture also needed encouraging words to help them in times of distress. There was Job when he made this accusation against his three friends who came to visit him: "Then Job answered and said, I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all. Shall vain words have an end? or what emboldeneth thee that thou answerest? (Job 16:1-3).

The children of Israel murmured against Moses when they were thirsty. "And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?" (Exodus 15:23-24). In chapter 16:2-3 they murmured against Moses again. "And the whole congrega-

tion of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Once again the children of Israel murmured against Moses for something to drink. "And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me" (Exodus 17:1-4).

The Apostle Paul could have used some encouraging words in his times of hardship. In II Corinthians 6:3-5 we are told: "Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings".

Even our Lord Jesus Christ endured great affliction, desiring some of His apostles to help encourage Him by their watchfulness. In Matthew 26:39-40 we learn: "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?"

One who felt the encouragement of the Lord was Joshua who received strengthening words from Him. In Joshua 1:5-9 we read: "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which

I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

The Apostle Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 5:4 by writing: "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." Finally, in Titus 2:7-8 the apostle warns us: "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."



PSALMS REVISITED

By Pat Evans

When I consider thy universe, the moon and the stars
Are the work of just Your fingers;
I'm amazed at the things I see around me today,
The evidence of Your glory always lingers.

My Lord, Your laws have converted my soul,
You are perfect, the Creator of all things;
Please keep me as the apple of Thine eye,
And hide me under the shadow of Thy wings.

Enlightening the eyes, making wise the simple,
The testimony of the Lord is sure;
The statutes of the Lord rejoice the heart,
The commandments of the Lord are pure.

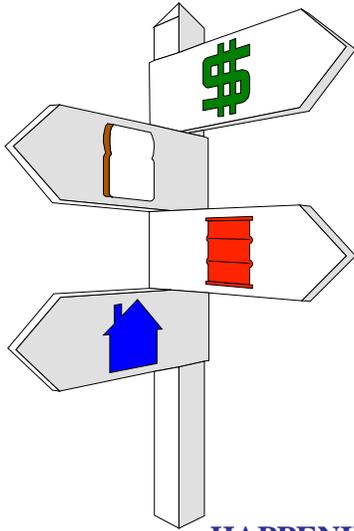
More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, sweeter also than honey;
Moreover by them is Thy servant warned
About the evils of the love of money.

The words of the Lord are pure words,
As silver that's tried in a furnace;
Keep and preserve them O Lord, my God,
All generations should heed them in earnest.

The enemy will persecute my soul for Your sake,
Let him tread down my life upon the earth;
For we no longer fear the sting of death,
We just look forward to our rebirth.

Please hear my prayers my King and my God,
Give ear to my meditations;
Remember not the sins of my youth,
And forgive me my daily transgressions.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and more,
My redeemer, I will trust in Him;
Look upon my afflictions and my pain,
And forgive me all of my sin.



HAPPENING NOW

I do not really know how to explain the things that are making political headlines in our country at the time of the writing of this column. The effort to repeal and replace Obama Care (the Affordable Care Act) is still very much in contention. There have been attempts to pass a bill, but they have failed because of lack of support from the required number of senators and congressmen. Some wish to repeal all of Obama Care (The Affordable Care Act), but others believe it is alright to tweet certain parts of it. A great problem is that there is a conflict between the conservative and moderate senators.

There is a Senate bill up for vote now, but the vote has been delayed because Senator John McCain had eye surgery and needs time to recover. It may pass this time. However, there are two senators who will vote against it, and several have not made up their minds. The vote will need to include all of those who are making up their minds because no more than two “nay” votes can be lost in order for the bill to pass. President Trump is working hard on the telephone trying to convince the senators to vote for the bill. It is announced that the latest bill has been withdrawn because a few more senators have come out against it, and there is no way it can pass if a vote is taken.

There are many investigations going on right now in Washington. I will site just two of them. The investigation into the matter of Russia hacking into our election in 2016 is still being debated. President Trump is not so sure that it was Russia, he also said that it could have been Russia and others.

The investigation into a meeting of President Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., with a Russian lawyer 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.

making news. It is reported that there were also six others at that meeting including President Trump’s son-in-law.

It seems as though Donald Trump Jr. was told that the Russians would reveal some naughty things about Hillary Clinton. Donald Jr. was happy about that. The White House says that the meeting was very short, and no information was revealed about Hillary Clinton.

Officials are trying to ascertain the names of all who attended the meeting and what the conversation was about. There is also the question if this meeting was really legal as it proves that a foreign power, especially one that is in opposition to our values, meddled into our affairs.

FACEBOOK VERSUS CHURCH

The following are the first seven paragraphs of an article that was published in the Houston Chronicle:

Will Facebook replace your church?

Christian ‘dones’
are seeking place
where people truly
know who they are

By Andrea Syverson

RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

During a rally for Facebook users last month, Mark Zuckerberg laid out his dreams for the future of his social media behemoth.

As the website reaches a billion users, Zuckerberg is turning his attention to the next frontier – building online communities.

In Zuckerberg’s mind, the days of institutions like “churches and Little Leagues” are over. Using Facebook’s new artificial intelligence software, the social media giant can organize its users into groups that will serve the same purpose.

While Zuckerberg misses some important purposes a church community serves, he was right about one thing:

Christians are leaving their traditional, brick-and-mortar churches – in droves.

Studies have shown there are 30 million “dones” in America today. They read their Bibles, listen to Elevation Church’s Steven Furtick podcasts and know every word to every Jesus culture song. They talk about Jesus – a lot, in coffeehouses or at happy hours. But you rarely find them in church.

As someone who has made the agonizing decision to leave a church I loved before, I understand how these people feel overlooked or ignored by Christian leaders. Instead of learning why members are leaving their churches, most congregational leaders continue with business as usual, hoping the missing members eventually come to their senses and return.

The problem is the “dones” aren’t coming back, and their numbers are only increasing. (There are about 7 million “almost dones” right behind them.)

And, if the church doesn’t figure out how to create community they are seeking, someone or something else, like Facebook, will do it for them.

Comment

Just what type of a community are these “dones” seeking? The “dones” really do not know who they are themselves! I do not know what is in their minds. The “dones” may be searching for a community, but they are trying to find that community in the wrong places. The right community for them is not found in coffeehouses or the time of happy hour. Just because the “dones” go around talking about Jesus and reading their Bibles does not mean they are converted Christians. They have simply let their emotions run away with them.

The church is a community in itself whose members are of the family of God. Yes, the church community serves some important purposes. By leaving the church, the “dones” are missing these important purposes. They may have never been bonified Christians.

AMERICA-WORLD LEADER?

I heard on the news that America is no long considered the world leader in many countries. The two countries with a most favorable rating of the U.S. at this time are Russia and Israel.

SPEAKING OF ROBOTS

I read a newspaper article that told that a robot named Tracy greeted passengers at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. It provided tips to get the passengers

smoothly through security checkpoints. The red and white human-sized robot carried a large electronic sign, and it can speak to passengers in six different languages. Airport officials said that the robot wasn’t designed to replace human workers but to allow them to spend more time on critical security work.

OIL IN THE FUTURE

An article was published in the Houston Chronicle entitled There’s a world of worry for future of oil companies. The following are some highlights of that article:

1. India hopes to sell only electric vehicles by 2030. China is offering incentives to buy electric cars and investing heavily in renewable technologies. Volvo will scrap the pure internal combustion engine in favor of hybrids and electric cars.

NOTE: I have just been informed that all new models by Volvo with electric motors will be on the market in 2019.

2. France announced it plans to ban the sale of diesel and gasoline fueled cars by 2040.
3. Nations, states and private companies are demanding cleaner energy, leaving the world’s oil producers to face a reckoning that many haven’t yet accepted. European companies, analysis says, are at the forefront of recognizing this new reality.
4. China, already offering incentives for electric vehicles, said it will spend \$360 billion on renewable energy. That news was followed by India setting an ambitious goal of electric-only car sales in a little more than a decade.
5. Some oil companies have made moves to brace for a future in which oil plays a diminishing role.

Many are increasing investments in the production of natural gas, the fuel of choice for generating electricity, and some are investing in renewables. BP, for example, operates a wind farm in West Texas.

BAD BREATHING AIR

I read a newspaper article which informs us that the National Resources Defense Council said that about 40 percent of Americans live in counties

--Continued on page 21



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Are the speeches of Job’s friends to be regarded as inspired?

ANSWER: This question is answered authoritatively in the book itself (see Job 42:7), where God is represented as saying “...My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right...” One gets a clearer idea of the book by regarding it as a symposium on the problem of suffering, each speaker being a representative of a school of thought. Each speaker keeps to the same aspect of the subject, but all agree in regarding unusual suffering as an evidence of unusual sin. They imply that in Job’s case, he being outwardly so good a man, his sin was aggravated by hypocrisy. This was unjust, because as we learn by the first chapter, it was precisely because he was so good a man that his affliction came upon him. The author of the book evidently wished to administer a warning to the people of his time against being uncharitable in their inferences.

QUESTION: What is the meaning of the term “ancient of days?”

ANSWER: The term “ancient of days” occurs three times in the Book of Daniel, where the prophet of God describes his vision of God as a stately judge with white hair and white robes (7:9-22). This term has been taken

by some readers as a special title for God, a reference to His eternal existence “from everlasting to everlasting.”

Let it be noted, however, that “ancient of days” is an idiom found in ancient languages including Aramaic, the language of the section of Daniel in which this phrase occurs. The general sense of the term is simply “very old.” This may mean a wise and venerable age. However, it does not suggest super-human longevity.

QUESTION: What is blasphemy? Will you please give some verses in which it is used?

ANSWER: Blasphemy is the act of speaking evil of someone. It is generally used as a defamatory speech directed against God. Sometimes it is translated “railing.” Here are three examples of Scriptures:

1. Jesus said, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:19).
2. Jesus said, “Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme” (Mark 3:28).
3. “For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written” (Romans 2:24).

QUESTION: What is righteous judgment?

ANSWER: Righteous means “approval of or acceptable to God” (*Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon*). It is judgment by God’s standard of right. As children of God, we cannot set our own standard. That is God’s prerogative, and it is spelled out in the Bible. We are responsible to God and must be honest before God. Therefore, the issue becomes: How does my standard compare with God’s Word?

We must make every effort to be one hundred percent fair and square in our judgments. When there is a question, do we give the other person the benefit of the doubt? Is our viewpoint affected by prejudice--or sympathy? Are we careful not to accuse or condemn until we have solid evidence?

Are we just as diligent to report something that condemns us as something that makes us look good? Are we honest to the point that when we must tell something about ourselves our first thought is to be totally truthful, without considering how it will affect others’ opinion of us? Righteous judgment includes all of this!

Jesus said, “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24).

QUESTION: Will you please give a brief summary of the Book of Exodus?

ANSWER: The Book of Exodus, as its name implies, tells the thrilling story of the deliverance of the children of Israel from their Egyptian taskmasters and their exodus from Egypt. This involved many miraculous manifestations of God’s loving care. One of those was the saving of their firstborn from death on the night before they left Egypt, the night when all the unrepentant firstborn of Egypt died. The deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage was an illustration of the future deliverance of all mankind from sin and death.

The Book of Exodus also tells of the miraculous manner in which, through Moses, Gave His law to the Israelites. This Law is epitomized in the well-known Ten Commandments. The moral code represented in these Commandments forms the basis of civilized laws in all the enlightened countries of the earth today. Certainly, this attests to their intrinsic worth, and is a recognition by modern man that these laws given many years ago cannot be improved upon. This fact alone gives us profound

respect for the Book in which these laws were recorded!

The Ten Commandments were written on tables of stone. When Moses brought these tables down from the mountain, where he received them, he found the Israelites practicing idolatry. To him this was a serious breach in their fidelity to God, and he threw the tables of the Law to the ground and broke them as a symbol of the people’s infidelity. Later, the Lord said to Moses, “...Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou breakest” (Exodus 34:1).

Moses followed the instructions, taking the tables of stone into the mountain. Then, “...the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, THE LORD GOD, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:5-7). Here we have in a few words a summary of the glorious characteristics of God which are found in the Bible.

QUESTION: Did Paul actually see Christ, or was he hallucinating?

ANSWER: It is very doubtful that a man of Paul’s intellect and emotional stability could experience such a vivid hallucination and allowed it to change his life. The Book of Acts presents an account of Saul’s conversion. The event was accompanied by visible phenomena which were a supernatural light at midday brighter than the sun (Acts 9:3; 26:13), and a voice from heaven which those accompanying Paul also heard (Acts 9:7).

QUESTION: What is Christian integrity?

ANSWER: Christian integrity is much more than a commitment to live by one’s conscience. It is a commitment ultimately to live by the standard of the God of the Bible. The benefit is not merely the approval of family, or friends, or society but the highest blessings of the heavenly Father.



Nigeria

Apostle Henry Miroro preaching to a congregation in Nigeria.





Members of the congregation during the church service.



Choir members involved in praising the Lord.



Brother Henry performing baptisms.



Brother Joseph Rono and Elder Oreke washing feet at the Lord's Supper.

LESSON I

THE CALL OF ABRAM

Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:31-32; 12:1-9.

Golden Text: Genesis 12:2.

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing".

1. Who was the father of Abram? What were Abram's brother's names? Genesis 11:27.

2. Where did Terah move with his family? Genesis 11:31.

NOTE: These men will be talked about and named in future lessons as we study about Abram.

3. What did the Lord tell Abram to do? Genesis 12:1.

4. What reward would he have if he obeyed? Genesis 12:2.

5. What was to happen to those that were against him? Genesis 12:3.

6. Who did Abram take with him? Genesis 12:5.

7. Where was the place that Abram went? Genesis 12:6.

8. What did the Lord say to Abram, and what did Abram do while he was there? Genesis 12:7.

LESSON II

ABRAM IN EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:10-20.

Golden Text: Genesis 12:17.

"And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife."

1. Where did Abram go because of the famine? Genesis

12:10.

2. Who did he tell Sarai to say she was when they got to Egypt? Genesis 12:13.

3. Why did he want her to say that she was his sister? Genesis 12:11-12.

4. What did they do with Sarai when she got to Egypt? Genesis 12:14-15.

5. What did God do to Pharaoh and his house? Genesis 12:17.

6. When Pharaoh found out that Sarai was Abram's wife, what did he say? Genesis 12:18-19.

7. What did Pharaoh do to them? Genesis 12:20.

LESSON III

ABRAM AND LOT DEPART

Scripture Reading: Genesis 13:1-12.

Golden Text: Genesis 13:2.

"And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

1. When Abram left Egypt, where did he go? Genesis 13:1-2.

2. Who went with Abram, and what did he have? Genesis 13:5.

NOTE: We had learned from lesson I that Lot was Abram's nephew.

3. Why did Abram know that they could not live together any longer? Genesis 13:6-7.

4. What plan did Abram tell Lot would help them? Genesis 13:8-9.

5. What part did Lot choose and why? Genesis 13:10-11.
6. Where did Abram dwell? Genesis 13:12.
7. After Lot had gone, what did God tell Abram? Genesis 13:14-16.
8. What was wrong with the city of Sodom where Lot would dwell? Genesis 13:13.

LESSON IV

ABRAM AND MELCHIZEDEK

Scripture Reading: Genesis 14:13-24.

Golden Text: Hebrews 7:17.

"For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

1. Some heathen kings went against the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. What happened to Lot who was living near Sodom? Genesis 14:11-12.
2. What did Abram do when he heard that Lot had been captured? Genesis 14:14-16.
3. After Abram won the battle and came back with Lot, to whom did he give credit for winning the battle? Genesis 14:21-23.
4. Who is Melchizedek? Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1.
5. What did Melchizedek do to Abram? Genesis 14:19.
6. What did Abram give to king Melchizedek, the high priest? Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:2.

NOTE: There are two priesthoods mentioned in the Bible. The priesthood of Melchizedek and of Levi. Today we are living in the priesthood of Melchizedek. Jesus is also a priest of this order, and we are part of this priesthood too. The Levitical priesthood began with the children of

Israel coming out of Egypt and lasted until Christ died.

7. Of whom is it testified that He will be a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek? Hebrews 7:17.
8. Where is Jesus performing his duty as a priest today? Hebrews 8:1-2.

--Continued from Signs of the Times on page 15

where double whammy levels of smog and ragweed pollen, which are both tied to climate change, combine to threaten respiratory health.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Some experts have confidently predicted that there will be a big economic bounce later this year. But it may turn out to be only a small bump. The expectations for this economic bounce have eroded amid fears of lackluster consumer spending and orders for durable goods.

POOR HEADLIGHTS

I read an article in the **USA Today** entitled *Vehicle headlights are stuck in tech's dark ages*. The article informs us that about 2,500 pedestrians are killed at night every year crossing the road, in many cases because drivers can't see them because their headlights don't shine brightly enough, according to highlights expert Michel Flanagan at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI).

Comment

With all the advances these days in technology, it would seem that the tech experts would have developed a super-shining headlight by this time.

DISASTERS IN EARLY 2017

There were many disasters in the U.S. in the early part of this year. According to a headline in the **USA Today**, the number of disasters in the early part of this year was tied for the second-most disasters since 2009.



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 from 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 your willing," Dan replied with a happy grin.

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



A WORD PUZZLE

In each of the following sentences, there is a misspelled word. Can you find it? If you do, underline it.

1. The boy's mother gave hymn ten cents to put in the collection.
2. I have bin to Sabbath School every week.
3. Vacation time is here because skule is out.
4. We shud love our enemies.
5. We should keep our minds filled with cleen thoughts.
6. If we smile, we bring sushine to others.
7. The wind blue Jane's hat away, but brother caught it.
8. Mary took flours to her sick friend.
9. Jane will bee ten years old tomorrow.
10. How can you sea out of the window? You are so small.

1. **BIBLE READING TIME** - In Exodus 7:10-25 we read about Moses going before the king to persuade him to let the people go and worship. Answer the questions TRUE or FALSE.

- a. Moses cast down his rod before the king and it became a serpent. _____
- b. The wise men tried the same thing and failed. _____
- c. Aaron's rod swallowed up the magician's rods. _____
- d. When Pharaoh saw this, he allowed the people to go. _____
- e. Moses smote the waters, and they turned to blood. _____
- f. The magicians of Egypt could do the same thing. _____
- g. All the Egyptians had to dig for water for they could not drink the river water. _____
- h. Pharaoh allowed the people to go when he saw this. _____

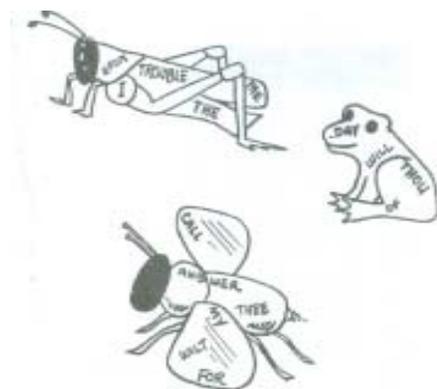
MATCHING BIBLE VERSES

Match the proper Bible verse to the description in the first column. Put the proper letter in the blank in front of each numbered statement.

- ____ 1. A statement of its beginning
- ____ 2. A sign of sanctification
- ____ 3. A Sabbath command
- ____ 4. A Sabbath song
- ____ 5. A Sabbath healing
- ____ 6. A broken Sabbath
- ____ 7. Lord of the Sabbath
- ____ 8. A warning
- ____ 9. A Sabbath reformation
- ____ 10. Sabbath in the new world

- a. Jeremiah 17:27
- b. Genesis 2:2-3
- c. Isaiah 66:23
- d. Exodus 20:8-11
- e. Leviticus 13:40
- f. Ezekiel 20:12
- g. Exodus 16:27
- h. John 9:15-16
- i. Mark 2:28
- j. Nehemiah 13:15-21
- k. Psalm 92

2. **MEMORY TIME** - Instead of turning to the Lord for help, Pharaoh kept on in his own way. He got into more and more trouble. In the picutre below you will see some of the plagues represented which God sent to the disobedient people of Egypt. In them are the words for the review of Psalm 86:7. Write the verse.



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THE HILLS AND HOME

by Betty Whetstone

*My restless soul was seeking fame and fortune
That seemed to lead my restless feet astray;
My restless eyes were grasping at the shadows
For all that would be mine some distant day.*

*My steps led me to gaze at lofty mountains,
Great cities, and a prairie, vast and wide;
Dense forests held my gaze but for a moment,
I found no peace in oceans or in tide.*

*I finally came to realize what's missing,
I had found no peace no matter where I'd roam;
I laid aside my dream of fame and fortune,
And my heart took wing and sought the hills of home.*

*The hills are standing silent as they waited
With all the peace and comfort they can hold;
Their shadows were the very thing I was seeking,
A peace that can't be found in wealth or gold.*

*Those hills are symbols of unchanging love,
They take no heed as seasons come and go;
Unfailing comfort my dear hills do offer
The peace of God, for He has deemed it so.*

