



The Advocate of Truth

TABLE OF CONTENTS



PAGE

The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

THE CHURCH OF GOD
PUBLISHING HOUSE
P.O. Box 328
Salem, WV 26426-0328

Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

David DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Volume LX VII

Number 6

November 26, 2018

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940

<i>Thanksgiving, 2018</i>	3
Do we follow Jesus' instructions for making a feast?	
<i>Create In Me</i>	4
David, in the Bible, wanted to be clean before God.	
<i>Thankful In Difficult Times</i>	5
We should be thankful to God in every circumstance.	
<i>The Prophecy Of Caiaphas</i>	5-6
Though Caiaphas prophesied of Christ with evil intent, God turned it around for His glory.	
<i>Saul And David</i>	7
Saul became jealous over David because his heart was not right.	
<i>New Cloth On An Old Garment</i>	8-9
What did Jesus mean by this parable?	
<i>After Death - What Then?</i>	10-11
What does the Bible reveal that happens after death?	
<i>Be Perfect, As Your Father In Heaven Is Perfect</i>	12
Can a child of God be as perfect as God is?	
<i>Miracles And Mind Of Christ</i>	13
Some of the miracles of Jesus and His workings.	
<i>The Signs Of The Times</i>	14-15
What Gen-Z'ers think about love, and other topics.	
<i>Questions And Answers</i>	16-17
What is working faith?	
<i>The Church Around The World</i>	18-19
This month we look at Goma.	
<i>The Children's Pages</i>	20-23
<i>Sabbath School Lessons</i>	
<i>A Story - "The First Thanksgiving Day"</i>	
<i>Games and Puzzles</i>	

Thanksgiving, 2018

By David DeLong

We've heard the story of the Pilgrims coming to America and celebrating the first Thanksgiving, many times. We've even been told that Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday. But what does this day really mean to us, personally? It has become tradition to eat a big meal, including turkey, and then afterward to watch football games all afternoon. If some are fortunate, they may even have the next day, Friday, off from work. This is sometimes referred to as Black Friday, and is a day that many rush to the stores to buy countless items at reduced prices.

Before eating the Thanksgiving meal, someone may have everyone say, or pray, for what they're thankful. Some may even pray for the starving children in Africa, or for the homeless people in their city. But these prayers are soon forgotten as everyone partakes of the sumptuous feast spread out before them. I, myself, have been guilty of such actions.

We tend to forget the instructions of our Lord Jesus, who said in Luke 14:12-14: "Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

Sometimes, we don't know where the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind live and so we don't call on them to come to our feasts. However, such people are often found in nursing homes and other assisted living places. There are a few people who will visit such folks, and even volunteer their services to them, on days such as Thanksgiving.

However, even with such good intentions as these,

most folks forget about these needy people until the next Thanksgiving or other holiday. Jesus had compassion on hungry people, and He even fed multitudes on occasion. For instance, in Matthew 14:15-21 we find: "And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full."

As noble as it is to meet the physical needs of people, Jesus emphasized the spiritual needs of people even more. He said in Matthew 4:4: "...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Thanksgiving Day is a good time to share the Word of God, along with the food that we may bring to the people, in these nursing homes and other places.

Let us look for ways that we can minister to others as the Lord directs us. Many of us are so blessed by what the Lord has bestowed upon us, and we forget to share these blessings with others. May we always remember the words of the Apostle Paul that he wrote in Acts 20:35: "I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Create In Me

Daniel Cruz

David made continual request to God for a renewing. He asked God to blot out the things that would take him from God. His petition was for God to take away the sin and restore the relationship between them. Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Though this is a very simple request, however, it has profound meaning for David as it should for the reader of this article. David goes on to say "Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me" (vs. 11). This would be the consequence should he remain in sin. Critical to the relationship of God and man is this. What takes us away from the presence of God? Do we believe that the words of David were strictly for the things that he did? I believe that the experiences of David should be a pattern in our lives. We are susceptible to it and we can justify it while committing sin. However, do we really seek out God and cry to him to create something new?

Many times we find ourselves comfortable in our patterns. We may have work, children, school, deadlines to meet. This can be consuming, and if we dedicate a majority of our time to these things we find that it leaves very little room for God. Then God becomes the minority in our lives and we tend to lose hearing His commandments for us. We draw closer to other things that take us away from God. Eventually, we become lost. David realized that in Psalm 51. His cry became something of great importance for him. He was lost and confused and needed direction. Do we need direction? Have we been carried away too far that God cannot find us? Of course not! God is steadily waiting to hear from us and wants us to come to a true repentance from our lives. We cannot misplace ourselves and say that we are children of

God and that should be sufficient. David was anointed and yet he still found the need to call upon the Lord.

Brethren, our lives, as God's Elect, are to always seek out what God wants to do through us. We must be willing to change and allow the Lord to give us knowledge and wisdom. Allowing God to create a clean heart means we become whole. Our faults, mistakes and sins are taken away. This does not mean we revert back and start new. It means that we must truly seek God and the ways that He has for us. Obedience, faithfulness, and servitude towards His Church is the place where this can be practiced. We cannot falter and give in to the things that take us away from God. It is in this present life that we must be the examples for the world that lacks Truth. Truth cannot be spoken and not practiced. David goes on to request that the Lord not cast him away in verse 11. The significance of having the Lord stay with him was not for a reminder, however, it was for David to not lose the Spirit of the Lord and grieve the Holy Spirit that had corrected him and upheld him that was pleasing unto the Lord. He needed God to acknowledge him and restore to him God's goodness.

Although, it is evident to read the verses in Psalm 51, David cried out and did not continue in the ways of a sinner. He built upon his mistakes and sustained the relationship with God, willing to do what was necessary and follow the instructions of God. How difficult it must be for those who know the Truth and cannot rely upon God's instructions in their lives for guidance. Children will obey and accept instruction from a parent. We have a heavenly Father who is willing to mold us in His image if we but ask him to "Create in Me a Clean Heart."

THANKFUL IN DIFFICULT TIMES

A short Thanksgiving Day message

Bond Tennant

In spite of the many difficulties many face, this month millions of people in the United States will at least, for a few hours, turn away from the experiences and struggles of daily life and give thanks for their blessings. For many, perhaps, Thanksgiving Day will be only a day of feasting and family gatherings. Happy will be those who also remember that every blessing of life which they enjoy comes to them from God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and the giver of "every good gift and every perfect gift..." (James 1:17). Among these will be many sincere children of God, those who are doing God's will in all that they think, say and do.

God's Word tells us that it is appropriate at all times to give thanks to the Lord. The followers of Jesus are not to wait for special occasions to express their appreciation to their heavenly Father for the spiritual and material blessings they receive daily. The Apostle Paul wrote that we should be "Giving thanks always for all things unto God..." He also exhorted us, saying, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (Ephesians 5:20; I Thessalonians 5:18). If we follow these admonitions, every day will be one of thanksgiving.

It is also appropriate that we observe special occasions of thanksgiving. At those times, we can recall the many ways in which God has blessed us throughout the year. As we recall these, we can renew our determination to show our appreciation to Him. We are glad for a special occasion to "...give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever" (Psalm 106:1).

"God's Word tells us that it is appropriate at all times to give thanks to the Lord."

The Prophecy of Caiaphas, The High Priest

By Moises Torres M.

The miracle accomplished on Lazarus only accelerated the events against the Lord Jesus. Because of this, many of the Jews who witnessed this event believed in Him, but some others were afraid and went to the Pharisees, saying: "this man doeth many miracles", and all men will believe in him and the Romans shall come and take away both our place (temple), and nation. They feared the people would put aside the rulers imposed by Rome, to follow Jesus, which would only cause the empire to destroy the Jews and their temple. So, they began to malign against Jesus and looked for an excuse to kill Him.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before Caiaphas, he asked Him a question of a great dimension, full of intention and malice:

"And they that had laid hold on Jesus led *him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. . . And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what *is it which* these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, **that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.** Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote *him* with the palms of their hands, Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?" (Matthew 26:57-68).

Caiaphas' intentional question, and his malicious act of "rending his clothes" saying that Jesus had blasphemed, caused the expected effect, causing all those gathered there to respond to a one voice, "**He is guilty of death**", and they began to hurt Jesus, and "then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote *him* with the palms of their hands". (That night Peter witnessed everything while sitting outside in the courtyard, until a maid rebuked him saying: "...Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee" (verse 69).

Returning to our story about Caiaphas' prophecy, whose real name was Joseph Caiaphas, the Gospel of John recounts as follows:

"Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, *named* Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, **he prophesied** that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death." (Read John 11:45-57).

Yes, Caiaphas prophesied, but with a spirit of evilness in his heart to kill Jesus. When the verse reads, "And this spake he not of himself," it is in no way that John, the evangelist, is excusing him, or had tried to make him appear as an innocent. It is that many times, the malice that is inside the heart of man clings in such a way to a perverse purpose, that at the end it takes him to achieve his goal. It is then that **God allows** it to be so, in a way that this kind of person goes to perdition after committing their infamy. This is what happened to Pharaoh in Egypt when it says that God "hardened" Pharaoh's heart so as not to let his people leave his land (Exodus 14:8); and with "...Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel..." (Revelation 2:14); and with the people of Israel, as a matter of fact, when God allowed them to

continue in their spiritual blindness in which they persist to this day.

Caiaphas even offended the elders and Pharisees, and all the council, saying to them: "Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people..." in that same moment he exalted himself saying that he knew that killing the Son of God would end such a problem. Of course he knew it was better for one to die for a whole nation, than all the people to be destroyed by the Romans. At last, his prophecy was fulfilled and the Lord Jesus died for his nation.

Sometime later, Peter filled with the Holy Spirit reminds this to Caiaphas, the high priest, and to Annas, prince of priests, and made them guilty of the Lord's death. Let us read on this account that happened after Peter and John healed a lame man:

"And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole" (Acts 4:6-10).

These words "Whom ye crucified" was the sentence pronounced by Peter to these men. What a strong and terrible declaration from Peter to these men.

Let us consider from this lesson about Caiaphas, Annas, and all of those whose hearts were hardened to crucify the Son of God, that all of those whose malice in their hearts make them to come up with plans against God and his servants should tremble at the terrible sentence made by Peter. They will only face a terrible judgment and destruction.

SAUL AND DAVID: A LESSON ON ENVY AND JEALOUSY

by **Bond Tennant**

We have an example, in King Saul of Israel, of the cruelty wrought by envy and jealousy when one permits them to take root in the heart. Saul was a man who, in physical stature, stood head and shoulders above his fellow Israelites (I Samuel 9:2). However, he had never been impressed with the idea that this made him any more important than others. When Saul was chosen to be Israel's first king he said, "...Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin...?" (verse 21).

However, Saul did not maintain his humble estimate of himself. In his own eyes, he became so important that he presumptuously disobeyed the instructions of the Lord. Samuel reminded Saul that it was when he was "little" in his own sight that he had been made king over Israel. Once Saul sensed that he had power in his hands, he forgot that he was "little." He did not hesitate to go contrary to the Lord's instructions. Accused of this, he blamed the sin on the people, but God held Saul responsible, and rejected him. See I Samuel 13:8-14; 15:17-23.

As always happens when self-interest takes over in the life of one of God's servants, Saul sought to conduct his rulership upon the basis of what would be best for him. Yes, God had rejected him but allowed his reign to continue for a period of time. Saul did not make any attempt to change his heart attitude. Saul began to rule Israel as though God had nothing to say in the affairs of the nation. This brought on his undoing. In his retreat from God, the ugly spirit of envy and jealousy took hold upon him.

Saul was known among the Israelites as a brave and efficient warrior. However, beginning with the slaying of the giant, Goliath, David's reputation as a warrior increased and eclipsed Saul's. In I Samuel 18:6-9 we read, "And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick. And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but

thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward."

In his jealousy, Saul sought to kill David. David was forced to flee from Saul's wrath. Saul hunted David as he would an animal. In stark contrast, David was not inclined to seek revenge against his persecutor. On one occasion when hunting David, Saul inadvertently exposed himself to capture and death at the hands of David. One of David's friends said to him, "...God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day: now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once..." (I Samuel 26:8).

This was a persuasive argument. God had delivered David's enemy into his hand. If David had any trace of hatred toward Saul, this line of reasoning would have been convincing, and he would have permitted him to be slain. David answered, "...Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless? David said furthermore, As the LORD liveth, the LORD shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish. The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go" (verses 9-11).

David displayed his faith in the providences of God. While Samuel had anointed him as God's choice to be the eventual new king of Israel, David was willing to await the LORD'S own due time to take over the reins of government. He apparently held no resentment against Saul, even though he had been treated so unjustly by him.

In this experience of Saul and David, there is a valuable lesson for us. Many of God's people no doubt feel quite "little" at the time of their consecration. It is important that this attitude of meekness and humility be maintained. The Lord may bless us in His service. He may even permit some of His people to attain a certain degree of prominence among the brethren. This is a real test. It could be that those who, to begin with, are "little" in their own eyes, may become proud, and in their pride become envious of others whom the Lord may likewise richly bless in His service. In a heart that is thus filled with the Spirit of the Lord, there is no room for envy and jealousy.

FROM EZEKIEL

You declare only one day to be thankful
That is empty of what you offer today;
For how can you thank your Creator
By ignoring the things He does say?
You say you can't read His Bible,
It is just too hard to understand;
So, you put your Redeemer behind you
And follow the empty traditions of man.
When you should, from the time you awakened
Until the time you are ready to sleep
Be searching for His laws in the Scriptures,
For you would find they are easy to keep.
You will find that they will tell you
How to insure your excellent health;
And the right way to manage your money
To prosper, and increase your wealth.
There are things you should not be eating,
And He makes sure you can understand;
But you insist it's your right to ignore Him,
And you proceed to prove that you can.
You say you are free to eat anything,
Sealing your fate with knife and fork;
But it matters not what you call it,
If it was part of a hog, then it's pork!
You are willingly led by the Pagans
To honor their special days;
You embrace and worship their customs,
And offer their idols your praise.
It's true that I'm only a woman,
Limited by what God says I may do;
But I can say, "Read the Book of Ezekiel and
You will find every word of it true".
Speaking into the limits God gave me,
I will tell you, you can understand;
And if you won't read this simple warning,
Then your blood won't be on my hands.
For to deliberately disobey Him
Is a serious matter, indeed;
So, before you continue in the ways of the world
Just get out your Bible...and READ!!!!
(From the Book of Ezekiel)
--Betty Whetstone



New Cloth on an Old Garment

By: David Royer

Your sewing tip of the month. Brought to you by <https://www.wikihow.com/Fix-Clothes> 1.5

Patching a hole. If a garment has a large hole, you may have to apply a patch.

- A great patch is decorative, so it becomes a feature rather than a flaw! Generally, any place that has craft or sewing supplies will offer a selection of decorative patches.
- You can use patches made of similar or the same material. (Such as using denim fabric to replace worn-out knees on a pair of jeans.)
- Iron-on patches exist but tend to come off. Sew-on patches (or iron-on patches that are sewn down) tend to last longer.

Now to the title of this article: **New Cloth on an Old Garment.** This refers to answers given by Jesus in the form of three parables, or metaphors, when asked a question: **Why His followers did not fast, as was the custom?** We will examine just this one parable.

THE PARABLE

Luke 5:36: "And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was *taken* out of the new agreeth not with the old." Matthew and Mark retell this parable in their respective gospels: Matthew 9:16 and Mark 2:21.

Jesus used an image familiar to his audience of an old

garment being patched or repaired by new cloth.it just does not work. My “non-Home Economics” interpretation: Do not sew a piece of new, unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if you do, and when the patch becomes wet, the patch shrinks and tears away from it, (the new from the old), and worse damage will be made.

Now that we have identified the response spoken by Jesus, let’s see WHY He made this statement and the unspoken meaning.

BACKGROUND

Years after the Promised Land of Canaan was settled by the children of Israel, the southern region (now known as Judea) was developed with the predominant tribes of Juda, Benjamin, and Levi. At Christ’s time in history, Judea had been overtaken and ruled by the Roman empire.

*The religious leaders at this time included chief priests, elders, and Pharisees, Sadducees, etc. Chief priests were Levites and part of the Aaronic priesthood. Pharisees were very strictly religious people and not necessarily of the Levitical tribe (e.g., Paul was a Benjamite) who were attempting to follow the Scriptures literally. Pharisees were typically self-righteous and legalistic, flaunting their own “good works” before others to make themselves appear superior. Jesus referred to (some) of them as hypocrites.

* http://www.jesuscentral.com/ji/questions/is/what_is_a_pharisee_820.php

Influenced by these Pharisees, the Jewish religion (Judaism) became legalistic and superficial; showing love and devotion to God via laws, statutes, and traditions. Of the many “traditions”, fasting became a routine physical sign of piety (routinely twice a week.). Fasting literally means to abstain from food.

THE MEANING

Jesus gave simple explanations dealing with fasting, but this specific “patching” parable allowed Him the opportunity to contrast the old performance-based, Mosaic covenant with a new covenant. The Mosaic says that one is saved if they live up to a certain level of

performance and sins are forgiven through multiple group sacrifices offered by Priests. This new covenant offers salvation through the forgiveness of sins, which requires faith in Jesus and acceptance of His personal sacrifice on Calvary to atone for our individual sins. This faith in Jesus is expressed by love, not ceremonial observances.

The author of Hebrews spoke of Jesus and this new covenant: “But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises... In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away” (Hebrews 8:6,13).

Another way to understand this parable is to look at the two pieces of cloth: new and old, as two incompatible doctrines. The teachings of Jesus Christ are inconsistent with the teachings of scribes and Pharisees who wanted to show outwardly how holy they were and they did not care about the salvation of others. Just as the piece of new cloth is not compatible to patch or repair an old garment.

Summary: 1. You cannot mix old religious rituals and ceremony with the new covenant of grace and faith in Jesus. 2. Christianity is not a sect of Judaism. Although its roots are Jewish, Jesus has brought us “new doctrine”. If His new doctrines were attached to their old ones, it would distort the truth. During his ministry, Christ was representing and preaching a whole new approach to life (the Christian life).

In closing, this parable as spoken by Jesus over 1,980 years ago, still has meaning for us today. We must put off or stop the things that hold us back from renewing our relationship with God and our Savior Jesus, the Christ. The Good News brought by Jesus is something radically new. Our older, worldly concepts, ways of thinking or unstudied/unquestioned religious practices need to be examined. It is hard to let go of the old and familiar, but that may be what is required.

When you invite Jesus into your life, He does not do a partial job of patching up your life. He turns you into an entirely new creation.

AFTER DEATH – *WHAT THEN?*

Reprinted

The Bible repeatedly points out the certainty of death and the brevity of life. LIFE, "...It is even a vapour,...and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14).

How quickly we come to the end of our life. It is first the babe, next youth, middle age, then old age, and then the grave. Within these four realms of life, man has shown tremendous interest in retaining life. His desire is reflected by the many hospitals, convalescent homes, and the billions of dollars spent to retain life. All these bespeak of man's interest in life.

Man was elated by the thought of a "Fountain of Youth." But there never was a fountain that could preserve life. Man has been forced to come face to face with these grim realities of his own fleeting life. Your life, my life, which is sometimes considered so durable, is but a vapour. And what is a vapour? It is all vanity.

Let us go to the Book of Ecclesiastes for a few thoughts about death and "What Then." The author of Ecclesiastes is called "The Preacher." So when we are referring to this book, we will just put down "The Preacher," for a quicker way of writing it. In chapter 11:7-8 gives us the motto of the preacher: "All...is vanity." The beginning of the preacher's writings show that "All is vanity." He has detailed to a considerable extent everything that he includes under this "ALL:" wisdom, power, folly, work, social injustice, property, righteousness, youth and age, then death. All are vain from man's point of view because they do not show him a way in which he can solve the problem of dying. Indeed, the preacher has concluded that, humanly speaking, there is no solution. He does not doubt that the Father in heaven has one. God knows the time for everything, also for man. But what God has for man, is death and then the resurrection.

"... it is appointed unto men once to die..." (Hebrews 9:27). Death is universal. The cold unwelcome hand of the grim reaper reaches into every home, wherever men and beasts are found, and claims his victims. Though you would enclose yourself in a house of steel, death would find you there. Though you would feed on the most nutritive food and reside in the greatest health resort this world affords, death cares not for that. The rich, the poor, the beggar man, and the thief all must take time to die. There are those who have no time for God, no time for the Church, no time to think of eternal life, but who will be compelled to take time to die? The engineer will leave his locomotive. The pilot will leave his plane. The businessman will leave his "Big Deal" pending--Why? Because when death knocks, man cannot remain.

I am satisfied it has been as long as twenty five years since some people have gone to Church. Pastors spend sleepless hours meditating and praying for some plan to stimulate more interest among members of the church. One pastor told me he had no idea a certain person was a member of his church until he was called to conduct a funeral for a member of the family. The pastor shook his head and said: "It is too bad it takes a funeral to get some members to attend church." But rest assured of one thing, DEATH is compulsory. The preacher wrote: "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death..." (Ecclesiastes 8:8).

Voltaire, the French agnostic, on his deathbed, said to his physician, "I will give you half of my wealth if you will give me six more months of life." Death cares not for wealth nor popularity. Furthermore, that kindly family doctor will one day lie down and die also. Death is

demanding. No one secures an exception from him. He considers no one indispensable. He places the dew of death on the brow, the death rattles in man's throat, then death claims another victim. Man lies in silent death. It is all over. In view of the facts we have just considered, man should be greatly concerned about AFTER DEATH – WHAT THEN? This will be our thoughts now!

In view of the fact that all must die, we want to look at Job 14:14: "If a man die, shall he live again?..." Job asked for light to be shed on this subject. His children were gone. He did not know what would happen to his wife. He realized that his life was gloomy and apprehensive. When he realized the answer, he said: THANK GOD FOR THE PENETRATION OF IMMORTAL LIGHT ON SO GREAT A QUESTION.

Responding to a knock at the door, a mother was given a telegram from the War Department which said, "We regret to inform you that your son was killed in action." Sobbing and heartbroken, yet she claimed the promises of God. She said, "This is not all. I shall see my son again and hold him in my arms. Though he lies buried yonder on foreign soil, he will be raised, and I shall see him again." Jesus said, "...because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). The soldier was laid to rest in a grave. His mother was sure that at the resurrection her son would be raised, and she would see him again. We read, "...yet in my flesh shall I see God" (Job 19:26). The soldier's eyes shall be opened again. With peace and with immortality, when the trumpet of God shall sound, the mother will have her son by her side. "Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me" (Job 19:27).

AFTER DEATH – WHAT THEN?

For the children of God we will be waiting for the "Coming of Christ For His Saints." "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). No heart-warming days on earth shall excel or even equal that glorious day in the near future for a reunion day. Some scoff at the thought of the return of Jesus. Thank God I have faith in my heart to believe that He shall return. His coming, and the swift departure of the saints, to many will be as a thief in the

night. It will occur with great rapidity and as we read: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall ALL the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30). "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matthew 24:40-41).

Many people who were not Believers but were trying to be good to their neighbors realized what was happening. The Saints were being caught up. They began to look about their salvation, but it was too late. We who love the Lord and Keep His Commandments greatly desire to be with the Lord Jesus and meet the Redeemer of all ages. For them all burdens, hardships, trials and persecutions will forever be in the forgotten part of our life. All of earth's sorrows will be forgotten in the greatness of heavenly joys. There will be no frail bodies or weeping Saints walking in the New Jerusalem. Will we be dreaming? No. But if we should be dreaming, let us dream on.

A False Balance--(Prov. 11:1)

"A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight." In today's world, deceit almost seems to be a way of life with many people. Lying, even under oath, is a way that many try to save face from some wrongdoing that they have committed. We see this even at the top echelons of our governments. And many people will readily cheat someone just to make a fast dollar.

We know that this is not God's way. Revelation 21:8 tells us: "...all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Any person who uses deceit, including those who use false balances in their business deals, will likewise end up in the Lake of Fire.

May we strive to be completely honest--in our business transactions, with the words we speak, and in all our relationships with others. It is easy to go the way of the world, but we have been called to a higher way of life. We learn in Proverbs 6:16-19: "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Be Perfect, as Your Father in Heaven is Perfect

By David DeLong

In Matthew 5:48, Jesus makes this stunning statement: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Can any human being on this earth be as perfect as God is? The answer is a surprising no and yes. As fallen human beings, we have allowed sin to mar the image of God that was to be the identification for all people. In this, then, we cannot be as perfect as God is. But, all is not lost, praise the Lord. Let us explore this "perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" concept.

The Greek word for "perfect" in this verse of Scripture is "teleios" and it means, according to Strong's Concordance: "complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.) Completeness of full age, man, perfect." God is complete, including moral character, and this moral character was also complete in His Son, Jesus. Therefore, through the concept of imputation we can have this moral character completeness through Jesus.

"Impute", according to Webster's Dictionary, means: "to credit to a person or a cause." Thus, the doctrine of imputation means that Jesus' righteousness is credited to us (believers) so that we receive His perfect moral character. We find the doctrine of imputation in Romans, chapter 4. Verses 5-8 reads: "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." And verses 21-25 concludes about Abraham

and us: "And being fully persuaded that, what he (God) had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Having Jesus' righteousness imputed to us, then, makes us perfect like our Father in heaven.

There is also the definition for being perfect, according to Strong's, of completeness in various applications of labor and growth. God, the Father, is also already perfect in these aspects. But, for us to be perfect in labor and growth, we must make this our goal, and it will not be fully attainable in our lifetime. We will, however, be rewarded for our labor and growth for what we have attained in our lifetime.

The proper attitude for one to be striving for perfection is found in Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." David, for the most part, had this attitude in seeking perfection. This attitude is also expressed in Psalm 42:1-3: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?"

Miracles and Mind of Christ

By David DeLong

When Christ came down the mountain
Then, to Him, a leper came;
And Jesus touched him, "be thou clean",
And cleansed the man became.

A soldier came to Jesus:
I'm not worthy You should come;
But speak, my servant shall be healed,
And healed him did God's Son.

When Jesus saw a multitude,
He fed them on the grass;
He blessed five loaves and just two fish,
And so it came to pass.

When Peter saw the Lord
Walking on the sea;
He spoke to come to Jesus,
And thus it came to be.

Two blind men by the wayside
Cried out, when Jesus passed;
He had compassion on the two,
And healed their eyesight, fast.

Jesus cursed a fig tree
When no fruit was found thereon;
The tree then withered right away,
Its fruit forever gone.

When He came unto the Gergesenes,
Two came forth from the graves;
They were possessed with devils,
And they were the devils' slaves.

Jesus cast the devils out,
They went into some swine;
The swine were drowned in water,
But the men were henceforth, fine.

Jesus gave His life for all,
And died upon the tree;
It was the greatest miracle--
He died for you and me.

The Lord was placed into a tomb,
And three days later, 'rose;
He went back into heaven
Having overcome all foes.

He's seated on God's right hand,
Interceding for His own;
And now He is set down
With His Father, in His throne.

He has sent the Holy Spirit
To His servants here, below
To overcome all sin
And to help them all to grow.

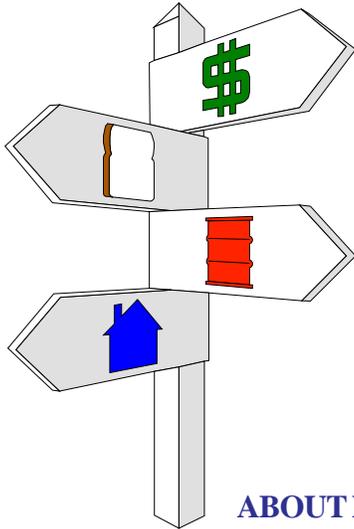
Soon, He's coming back to earth,
To gather up His saints:
Those who truly overcome,
And those who do not faint.

He will take them to His city
Where, forever, they will live;
For eternal life is promised,
And to them the Lord will give.

Seven plagues of fury
He will send upon the earth
Which will fall upon the wicked,
And they will not smile with mirth.

Then, for a thousand wondrous years
He'll rule the world with love;
Then, turn the kingdom back to God
Who'll be the King, thereof.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES



ABOUT LOVE

A very short article appeared in **USA Today** with the title *The Future Of Love*. The following is that article:

Boys kissing boys. Girls saying #MeToo. Political debates over bathrooms.

Imagine being a kid. Decades of slow cultural change in gay and woman's rights, plus a hyperactive internet age, seem to be culminating in front of you – just as you're starting to get your first crush and trying to pass English. The post-millennial Gen Z-ers, people born from 1997 to 2016, are forming their views on love, and we wanted to know what they are thinking. The USA TODAY NETWORK sat down with students across the nation to talk about dating, marriage and family.

Their answers ranged from traditional to unconventional: Guys should ask out girls, but girls can, too. Kids are definitely on the table. So is marriage, as long as it doesn't interrupt school or work.

Comment

Love supercedes dating, marriage and family, but it is to be displayed in these three areas. The examples given at the beginning of the article miss the point of what love is according to the Word of God. As a matter of fact, the three examples given at the beginning of the article are just the opposite of godly love. The article proves that the world does not know the love that God intends for mankind to have. Man's idea of love will come to an end, but love that God defines in His Word will continue onward! Find what love really is by studying His Word!

I would like to quote the first eight verses of I Corinthians 13 from *Phillips, The New Testament In Modern English*. These verses really define godly love. Pay special attention to the last three paragraphs!

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.

“If I speak with the eloquence of men and angels, but have no love, I become no more than blaring brass or crashing cymbal. If I have the gift of foretelling the future and hold in my mind not only human knowledge but the very secrets of God, and if I also have the absolute faith which can move mountains, but have no love, I amount to nothing at all. If I dispose of all that I possess, yes, even if I give my own body to be burned, but have no love, I achieve precisely nothing.

This love of which I speak is slow to lose patience-it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive: it is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance.

Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails.

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen.”

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE

During the time of this writing, there is a raging wildfire in California. At least five are dead. It has especially affected the area of Redding. The dead included two young children and their great-grandmother. At this time, there appears to be no break from the weather.

Let us remember to pray for the many who are fighting this fire and those who have lost those they love, their homes and everything they own.

HEAT OR FLOODS

I read an article which stated that 20 percent of Americans face extreme heat or floods.

WHITE NATIONALISTS

By the time you receive this column, a White Nationalist rally scheduled for last August 12 in Washington may or may not have taken place. It was in August 2017 that the torch-carrying, swastika-bearing protesters demonstrated in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Comment

Allowing White Nationalists to rally in America is very un-American. There is no room for the idea of one race only as citizens. United America stands--Divided America falls.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUICIDES

I read that according to a study published in the Nature Climate Change, which is a peer-reviewed British journal, it is suggested that suicide rates could rise with hot temperatures in the United States and Mexico.

Comment

This is a very interesting study. Why would suicide rates increase only in the United States and Mexico because of human-caused climate change? Why would not it be world over?

Suicide has nothing to do with hot temperatures. It is the problem of one's state of mind. I have heard of those who committed suicide during cool temperatures.

CIVILITY

I would like to share with you the first two paragraphs of an article by Gilbert Garcia which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**:

"I miss political civility. I miss it in the same way I miss flying cars and talking horses. In the same way it's possible to miss a sweet childhood fantasy that never really existed.

Pleas for civility have intensified over the past week in the wake of a Virginia restaurant booting Sara Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, over her affiliation with President Donald Trump, and U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California, recklessly urging supporters to "create a crowd" and "push back" on any Trump cabinet member seen in a restaurant, department store or gas station."

Comment

It seems as though civility is missing in all political and social aspects here in America. **Webster's New World Dictionary** defines civility as "politeness, esp. in a merely formal way." It also says civility is "a civil or polite, act or utterance."

Yes, civility is lacking in politics! The politicians, regardless of party affiliation, do not seem to be able to

reason together for the good of the people they serve. They get angry and begin shouting at each other. They give those who do not agree with them a derogatory name. Of course, there will be many who may not benefit from a certain new rule or adjustment. Their circumstances may remain the same, or they may have to make certain adjustments to their business. No matter what law the Senate and the House passes, and the President signs, the debate about the law, before it passes, should be done with all civility. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Corinthians 14:40).

Civility is also a scarce commodity in the general population of this country.

I remember when I was much younger the mood of many was very upbeat and they practiced the golden rule, doing unto others as they would like others to do unto them. These days we hear much bickering and yelling at each other. A great many suggest that things be done their way or not at all. Therefore, they become angry and begin shouting at each other just as many politicians do.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

I read that students who take college courses in high school do not have much more of an advantage than others who do not take college courses in high school.

Comment

Going to college has its advantage. However, going to a vocational school, such as for plumbers, can advance one in salary. Society needs both collage graduates and vocational school graduates.

OBAMA'S THINKING

The following is the first short paragraph of an article that appeared in **USA TODAY**. It is called *Obama: World mired in 'politics of fear'*:

Former President Barack Obama warned of an increasing "politics of fear and resentment and retrenchment" in what he called strange and uncertain times" during a speech in South Africa on Tuesday.

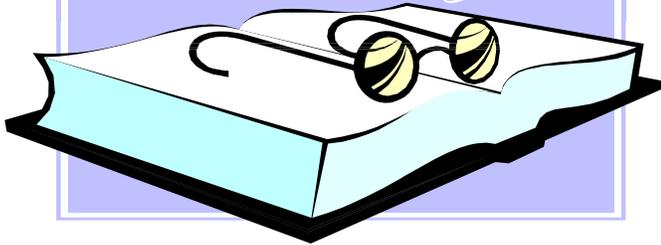
Comment

Even those who are politicians and those who have been in government know that these are strange and uncertain times. They do not realize that these are the last days, and God has a plan that will do away with all fear, resentment and retrenchment.

NOTE: At the beginning of this column you see an invitation to send any news items which relate to The Signs Of The Times in to the Publishing House. Please do that. This column needs your items!

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: What is working faith?

ANSWER: How great it is to wake up in the mornings with a feeling of peace and security. When one can look out the window and see the beautiful works of God's handiwork and the little creatures busy moving about in order, neither anxious or doubting the feeling of serenity that sweeps through the inner soul giving the assurance that God is still in control and that every one of His promises are true and all is just as He designed it to be. That is working faith!

In Luke 18:8, Jesus asks shall He find faith when He returns to earth. So many today are becoming conformed to the world. It is so easy to follow the crowd and take the way of least resistance. Faith of conformers begins to waver and communion with God becomes less frequent, and God's commandments seem less binding.

Even in the present day when pressures are many and great, God can be proven true. He never fails to do just what He said He will do. Experiencing God's power in the life of an individual is conditional. One must be obedient and keep His commandments if he is to receive untold blessings from God.

In times of discouragement and deep disappointments, can you think in your heart, "This too will pass." Are you willing to accept all hinderances as a part of God's plan and know, "He doeth all things well?" Can you believe the words of Romans 8:28 and know, "...that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." That is working faith!

Hebrews 11:1 states, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." A dear,

Questions and Answers

kind lady who lived to be 91 years of age made the statement when in her late eighties, "I love the struggles of life. God is always there to see me through." That is working faith!

QUESTION: What about prayerlessness? Why are we not to practice it?

ANSWER: Any relationship that suffers an extended lack of communication eventually becomes damaged or severed. Surely no child of God wants a damaged or severed relationship with God. Yet that is the course we are pursuing if we fail day after day and week upon week to communicate with God in a vital, personal way, sharing our thoughts with Him and listening as He imparts His wisdom and guidance to us. We may pause for a quick, "It's great to know You're up there somewhere, God. Get me through today, and I'll try for a longer talk tomorrow." But this is not real communication. Far too many of us, even among the clergy, tend to ignore the Holy Spirit's prompting – His reminding – that we need to take time to pray!

Prayerlessness is one of the greatest sins among God's people today. Not many of us are guilty of great willful transgressions against God, but many of us are guilty of the sin of prayerlessness.

Prayerlessness ties God's hands as well as our own. Electricity and water flow toward my home; but not a watt will brighten a lamp, not a drop will spill into my basin, until I turn on a switch or open a faucet. A law governs the distribution of these things into my home. Prayer is like that! No prayer, no power! I must ask in order to receive. James, the commonsense writer in the New Testament, said under inspiration, "...ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2).

The Bible calls prayerlessness sin. See I Samuel 12:23. We usually call it neglect or apathy. Certainly it is one of those seldom-mentioned sins which many

Christians have little sense of conviction.

Perhaps we lack conviction regarding this sin because it is an omission rather than a commission, and we consider it less offensive to God than actual transgression. The Bible says, “Thou shalt not steal,” but it also says, “Pray without ceasing.” Both are direct commands of God. Are we faithful in considering the violation of one less critical than the other?

Prayerlessness, or a careless attitude toward prayer, is an invitation to spiritual disaster. When the Bible tells us to “Pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17), it underscores the absolute necessity of prayer – not as a mere form or activity, but as a relationship. This is important, for it shapes our attitudes and responses in the matter of prayer.

Prayer is universal in some form to all religions. However, as a relationship, prayer finds its fulfillment only in the experience of one who has met Christ as Saviour and Lord. Christian prayer is more than petition. It is the force that maintains and nourishes spiritual life.

Prayerlessness is a symptom of deeper spiritual maladies. It indicates a preoccupation with lesser things and a cooling of devotion. It is a display of self-sufficiency that says, in effect, “I do not need divine aid and fellowship.”

Prayerlessness causes spiritual deficiency. We are told to ask, seek, and knock in order that we may have, but James tells us, “ye have not, because ye ask not.” How often we lack the spiritual benefits God longs to give us because we fail to pray!

Prayerlessness underlies our spiritual defeats. Had Peter obeyed the Lord to “watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation,” surely his course (and the course of the church) would have been different.

Prayerlessness also brings untold loss to the work of God. It languishes and suffers. Yet He had plainly promised to bless and receive His people if they come to Him in humble repentance and prayer. See II Chronicles 7:14.

Resolving to be more faithful in prayer is not enough. We cannot get over prayerlessness simply by struggling against it. It is a sin and must be dealt with as such. We must confess it to God, and seek His forgiveness and cleansing, and appropriate His provision for victory. Often when we come to pray, we feel the coldness of our hearts. We must confess this to Him and ask that His Spirit will

lead in our praying. Then God will work in using a life of prayer that is pleasing to Him. But only by maintaining a close daily fellowship with Him can we have a continued victory over the sin of prayerlessness.

QUESTION: What does the Bible tell us about work?

ANSWER: Whether our work is mostly physical, mostly mental, or somewhere in between, “In all labour there is profit...” (Proverbs 14:23). What sort of profit is there in work? For one thing, work helps us to care for our material needs. True, God promises to provide for the needs of those who sincerely worship Him (Matthew 6:31-32). However, He also expects us to do our part by diligently trying to earn an honest living (II Thessalonians 3:10).

We can view our work as a means to an end. Work is one way to care for our responsibilities. If we are able to pay for what we need, then our work is doing what it is supposed to do.

Also work contributes to our self-respect. When we discipline ourselves to stick with our work, we can have the satisfaction of knowing that we held ourselves to a high standard.

In reality, a person can learn to enjoy almost any kind of work if he approaches it with the right mind set--that is, if he focuses on learning how to do the job well. It is very satisfying when you put your best into a task and see the results. One cannot get that feeling by cutting corners or doing only the minimum.

We must avoid the trap of thinking only about how much money we are earning. Let us ask ourselves such questions as these: “Why is this job necessary? What would happen if it was not done--or if it was not done right? How does my work benefit others?”

Let us especially think about the last question! Work is most satisfying when we see how it benefits other people. Jesus said, “...It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). In addition to those who benefit directly from our services--such as customers and employers, there are others who benefit from our work. These include members of our household and those in need.

Work is admirable, but we do well to remember that there is more to life than work. The Bible teaches diligence. See Proverbs 13:4. However, it does not encourage becoming a work-aholic.



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

GOMA





LESSON I
THE FIRSTBORN THREATENED

Scripture Reading: Exodus 11:1-10.

Golden Text: Exodus 11:1 (first part).

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt;"

1. The Lord told Moses that there will be one more plague upon Egypt. What will Pharaoh do after this final plague? Exodus 11:1.
2. What are the children of Israel to do, and what did the Egyptians think of them and of Moses? Exodus 11:2-3.
3. What was God going to do to the Egyptians? Exodus 11:4-6.
4. Would any of the children of Israel be harmed, and why did God do this? Exodus 11:7.

NOTE: God wanted everyone to know that the children of Israel were special to Him.

5. What did the Lord tell Moses about Pharaoh? Exodus 11:9.
6. Did Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh of what would happen? Exodus 11:10 (first part).
7. Did Pharaoh let the children of Israel go? Exodus 11:10 (last part).

LESSON II
THE PASSOVER INSTITUTED

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-10.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:2.

"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."

1. The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron. What did He tell them? Exodus 12:1-2.
2. In the tenth day of this month, what were the people of

Israel to do? Exodus 12:3.

3. If the household was too little for the lamb, what were they to do? Exodus 12:4.
4. What kind of lamb were they to choose? Exodus 12:5.
5. How long were they to keep the lamb up, and when were they to kill it? Exodus 12:6.
6. What were they to do with the blood? Exodus 12:7.
7. How were they instructed to roast the lamb, and what were they to eat with the flesh? Exodus 12:8-9.
8. Were they to eat it all? What were they to do with that which remained? Exodus 12:10.

LESSON III
THE PASSOVER

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:11-20.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:13 (last part).

"...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

1. How were the children of Israel instructed to dress when they ate the Passover? Exodus 12:11.
2. When the Lord would pass over the land of Egypt that night, what would happen to the firstborn of the land? Exodus 12:12.
3. What would happen in the houses where the blood had been applied to the door posts? Exodus 12:13.
4. This day was to be a day of memorial to the children of Israel. How long were they told to keep it? Exodus 12:14.
5. For how many days were they to eat unleavened bread? Exodus 12:15.
6. What two days of the week were to be an holy con-

vocation? Exodus 12:16.

7. In what month and on what day of the month were they to eat unleavened bread? Exodus 12:18.

8. Was there to be any leaven found in their houses? Exodus 12:19-20.

LESSON IV
THE FIRSTBORN OF EGYPT SLAIN

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:21-36.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:29 (first part).

"And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt..."

1. What did Moses instruct the elders of Israel to do? Exodus 12:21.

2. What did he tell them to do with the blood? Why was it so important they do this? Exodus 12:22-23.

3. How long were they to keep or observe this ordinance? What were they to tell their children when they asked why they should keep this service? Exodus 12:24-27.

4. Did the children of Israel obey Moses and Aaron? Exodus 12:28.

5. What terrible thing happened at midnight? Exodus 12:29-30.

6. Was Pharaoh willing to let the children of Israel go this time? Were the Egyptians also anxious to see them leave? Exodus 12:31-33.

7. What did the Israelites take with them? What had they taken from the Egyptians? Exodus 12:34-36.

NOTE: The meaning of Exodus is "departure". The children of Israel departed or left Egypt.

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
The Holy Gospels wrote,
Describing how the Saviour died--
His life and all He taught.
Acts shows the Holy Spirits's work,
With signs in every place,
And Paul in Romans teaches us
How man was saved by grace.*

*The Apostle in Corinthians
Instructs, exhorts, reproves;
Galatians shows that faith in Christ
Is what the Father loves,
Ephesians and Philippians tell
What Christians ought to be,
Colossians bids us live for God,
And for eternity.*

*In Thessalonians we are taught
The Lord will come from heaven;
In Timothy, and Titus
A pastor's rule is given.
Philemon shows a Christian love,
Which only Christians know;
Hebrews reveals the Gospel
Prefigured by the Law.*

*James teaches, "without holiness
Faith is but vain and dead";
And Peter points the narrow way
In which, the saints are led.
John, in his three Epistles,
On love delights to dwell;
And Jude gives awful warning
Of judgment, and wrath, to tell.*

*The Revelation prophesies
Of that tremendous day
When Christ returns for his saints
And how the wicked pay.*

**THE FIRST
THANKSGIVING DAY**

Mrs. Porter had been looking out from her window for several minutes, watching the beautiful country scenery and busy with her own thoughts. When they passed a field where a farmer was loading his wagon with golden grain, she said to Lois, sitting beside her, "Look dear. There is a farmer harvesting."

Mary Jane heard her mother's remark. "What does harvesting mean?" she asked of her Dad, who was driving the family car to grandmother's, where they planned to spend Thanksgiving Day.

"A farmer harvests when he cuts his grains and when he gathers any of his crops, Mary Jane," answered Mr. Porter.

"I have heard of harvest," said Herbert. "At school our teacher told us a story of the First Thanksgiving day. The Pilgrims were thankful because God had given them a good harvest."

"Oh, do you know that story, Daddy? Will you tell it to us please?" asked Mary Jane.

"Yes, I believe, I remember it. When the first summer was over and fall came around again, Governor Bradford called the people together. When they were seated around his fireplace, he said, "Friends, God has blessed our work, and we have gathered in a bountiful harvest. We have plenty of food and our houses are well built and ready for winter. Let us rest from our work for a few days and spend the time in giving thanks to God for His goodness."

"Let us ask Massasoit and some of his Indian men to join in our celebration," suggested one of the men. All were in favor of this plan, and an Indian at the settlement, Squanto by name, was sent to invite them.

"There was great excitement everywhere. The men went into the woods and hunted wild turkeys. The woman baked pies and puddings, cookies and tarts. The children cracked nuts and picked out the nut meats for the cakes and cookies.

"It was a beautiful morning and every one was up bright and early. They all met in the log building that was both their church and the fort, to offer prayers of thanks

to God for the blessings He had so graciously showered upon them.

"Massasoit and his men came and brought corn, deer, and more wild turkeys. When the church service was over, they began their feast. The Indians sang songs and taught the white men some of their games.

"This first Thanksgiving Day was a very happy one, and down to our day we follow the example of the Pilgrims."



Answers to Thanksgiving

1. *the Pharisee, Luke 18:11*
2. *Jesus, Luke 22:17*
3. *a Samaritan leper, Luke 17:12-16*
4. *Daniel, 6:10*
5. *Paul, II Corinthians 9:15*
6. *David, I Chronicles 29:9-13*
7. *Jesus, Matthew 11:25*
8. *Anna, Luke 2:36, 38*
9. *Priests and Levites, Ezra 3:10-11*
10. *Jonah, 2:1, 9*

Answers to Bible Jumbles

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
6. 7. 8. 9. 10.
11. 12. 13. 14.

Answers to Brothers and Sisters

1. 2. 3.
4. 5. 6.

Thanksgiving

You have probably heard the prayer, "Lord, you have given so much to us, give us one thing more -- a grateful heart." And surely thanksgiving is inherent to the Christian life. Can you identify who is giving thanks?

1. He gave thanks; he was not like other men.
2. He took a cup and gave thanks.
3. He was healed and returned to Jesus to give thanks.
4. He knelt and gave thanks three times a day.
5. He gave thanks to God for his "inexpressible gift."
6. He thanked God for gifts to build the temple.
7. He thanked God that God's truth was revealed to babes.
8. She gave thanks when she saw the infant Jesus.
9. They sang thanks to God when the temple foundation was laid.
10. He thanked God from the strangest of all places.

BIBLE JUMBLES

Old Testament Books

Can you untangle these twisters?

Each answer is one word

VEIL IS CUT
SEE SING
MAPSLS
SOB REVRP
AND LIE
TON MEAT NAILS
SOX DUE
MINAHEHE
RUBS MEN
RICH CONELS
O NERO MY DUET
CIC SEES SLATE
OUJASH
JUG SED

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Here are the names of some brothers and sisters,
Can you match them?

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. Moses | A. Rebekah |
| 2. Reuben | B. Martha |
| 3. Absalom | C. Miriam |
| 4. Lazarus | D. Michal |
| 5. Laban | E. Tamar |
| 6. Jonathan | F. Dinah |

PLAYING A BIBLE STORY

A chair may be your boat. Or you may have a large box in which to sit. If you make a picture of some fish and lay it on the floor, you may pick up the picture at the end of the play to show the fish caught in the net.

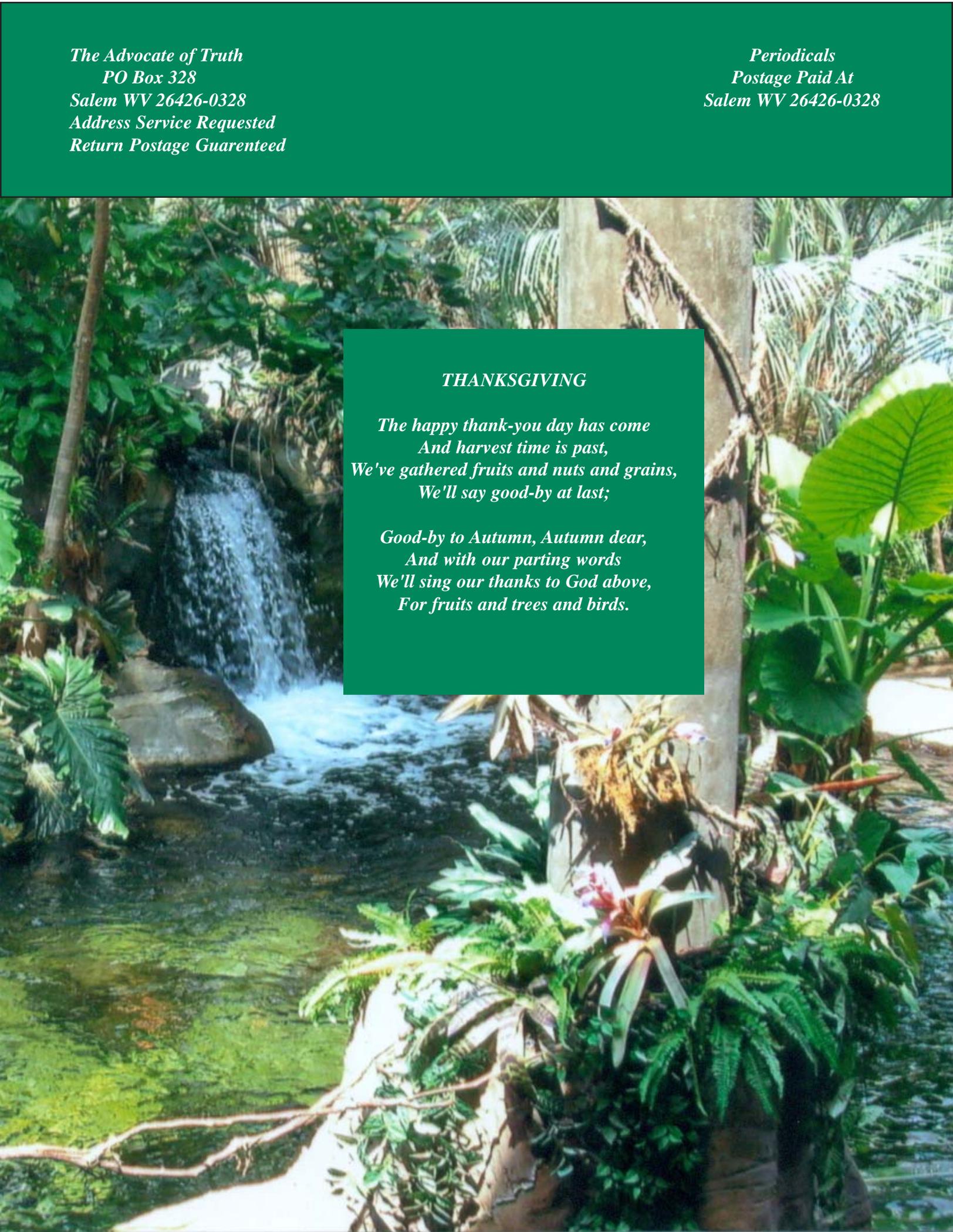
Fishermen four went fishing one night;
Rowed (1) in their boats with all their might;
Threw (2) out their nets in the water -swish!
And drew (3) them up, but found not a fish.
They threw (2) and pulled, (3) threw (2) and pulled
93) some more.
Till their shoulders (4) and backs and arms were
sore.
When Jesus said, "Throw," they let down (2) the
net hoping at least a few fish to get.
This time the net took four men to pull!
Shining fish piled up till both boats were full! (6)

MOTIONS:

- (1) Row with large sideward strokes.
- (2) Throw out the nets.
- (3) Draw up the nets and look carefully for fish.
- (4) Rub sore shoulders and arms and back.
- (5) Pull the net in with great effort.
- (6) Indicate the full boat with your hands.

*The Advocate of Truth
PO Box 328
Salem WV 26426-0328
Address Service Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed*

*Periodicals
Postage Paid At
Salem WV 26426-0328*

A lush tropical waterfall scene with a green text box overlay. The waterfall flows over rocks into a pool of water, surrounded by dense green foliage and trees. The text box is centered over the waterfall and contains the title and two stanzas of a poem.

THANKSGIVING

*The happy thank-you day has come
And harvest time is past,
We've gathered fruits and nuts and grains,
We'll say good-by at last;*

*Good-by to Autumn, Autumn dear,
And with our parting words
We'll sing our thanks to God above,
For fruits and trees and birds.*