

# *The Advocate of Truth*

*God or Mammon*

*Space*

*Things We Must Do*

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# God or Mammon

By Bibi S. Allicock

Brethren and friends, most of the world's population thinks that gain is godliness, but the words of Almighty God tell us, "But godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Timothy 6:6). "Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them" (Psalm 62:10). "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:7-8). "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself" (I Timothy 6:3-5).

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (verse 17). "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (verses 9-10).

In Ecclesiastes, the wise man quoted: "A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things" (Ecclesiastes 10:19). We know that money is essential, but if we trust God where we cannot

see Him, He can do wonders in our lives as He did for the prophet Elijah. "So he (Elijah) went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal

wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah” (I Kings 17:5-16).

We saw that the prophet Elijah, along with the woman, did according to the word of Almighty God. Thus, she and her son were sustained MANY DAYS without money.

We must be thankful and obedient unto Almighty God for all that He is doing for us, and do not worship Him as we feel but according to His words we must worship Him. This is because, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). Our Lord admonished us that, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

Although money is essential in our lives, God is able and capable to sustain us despite our situations. Personally I have experienced the great power of Almighty God. Thus, anyone who is willing to put his trust in Him can do so, and experience His tender love, care, and compassion. “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him” (Proverbs 30:5). Almighty God was really a shield unto the prophet Elisha. “And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither” (II Kings 4:8-10).

After the woman showed kindness unto the prophet of God, God in return blessed her with a son although her husband was very old. “And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life” (II Kings 4:17).

Nevertheless, the child died, but the woman did not give up, but she put her trust in Almighty God. “So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite” (II Kings 4:25). “And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet” (verse 27, first part). “Then she said, Did I desire a son

of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?” (verse 28) “And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And he arose, and followed her” (verse 30). “And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child...opened his eyes. And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son” (verses 32-36).

God continued to be a shelter in the time of storm unto the woman. “Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years. And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. And it came to pass at the seven years’ end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land. And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done. And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life. And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now” (II Kings 8:1-6).

This woman was focused and trusted in the Lord and she was being shielded carefully by Him. At times we waiver from our faith, and our Pastor will admonish us that we cannot hold onto two bull tails at the same time. If they went in the opposite directions, we would be in deep trouble. “No man can serve two masters: for either

he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24).

Our Pastor will always encourage us that we must be hot for the Lord and not be as the church of the Laodiceans when the Lord upbraided them saying, “I know thy works, and thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:15-17).

“They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him” (Psalm 49:6-7). “For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their

houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names” (verses 10-11). “Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him” (verses 16-17). “Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish” (verse 20).

Our Lord admonished, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Revelation 3:19-22). Amen.



## Let Us Examine Ourselves

(A Thought)  
Bond Tennant

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup” (I Corinthians 11:28).

We know that the above verse pertains to examining one’s self to be sure that he does not eat of that bread and drink of that cup unworthily at the time of the Lord’s Supper.

The thought came to me that we should often examine ourselves in certain areas of our lives to be sure that we are pleasing God. The following are a few verses that pertain to five of these areas:

**1.** Let us examine ourselves in regard to our companions.

“Be not deceived: evil communications (persons) corrupt good manners” (I Corinthians 15:33).

“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” (Psalm 1:1).

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a

companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20).

There is an old saying which goes, “Birds of a feather, flock together.”

**2.** Let us examine our habits.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:15).

James said, “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and

mammon” (Matthew 6:24).

After reading the gospels, a young man said, “I wonder when Christians began to be so different from Jesus?”

3. Let us examine our thoughts.

“The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts” (Psalm 10:4).

“...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself” (Luke 10:27).

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34).

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

4. Let us examine our affections.

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia” (II Timothy 4:10).

“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:37).

Chesterton said, “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried.”

5. Let us examine our motives.

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10:31).

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17).

We will be rewarded for the work that we do for Jesus’ sake. The works that we do for show, for self-aggrandizement, to build a name, for promotions, etc., will be burned up.

No matter how small, the works that we do in the name of Jesus will be recognized and rewarded.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work

and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Hebrews 6:10).



You, no doubt, have heard that an unmanned Dragon capsule by Space X, a private commercial company, was launched with its designation being the International Space Station. This was the first private venture into space since NASA’S space shuttle was retired. Of course, NASA worked closely with Space X.

Should we not wonder what is the purpose for space flights to the International Space Station or anywhere else? What are they trying to accomplish? Is it not the ability for the common man to travel in space?

Some believe that not in the too distant future space companies, such as Space X, will be operating which will feature planned trips to the planets in space vehicles which will be something on the order of the common airplane yet more advanced and powerful.

The possibility of people living on other planets besides earth intrigues many, and they wish to find out for themselves. Why would anyone wish to establish a colony of earthlings on another planet when people cannot get along among themselves on the earth?

Would the child of God have any desire for traveling to another planet or any other location in outer space? The child of God is quite content to dwell upon the earth which God created to be inhabited.



# Things We Must Do

Since God has spoken, it is for us to hear and heed, and this will mean a proper use of the glorious Scriptures.

**We must search.** “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). God’s thoughts are never revealed to listless readers, only to eager searchers. The glories of the Bible are not discovered without diligent search. This Book affords opportunity for thought, and requires its exercise. Its words, phrases and sentences are full of meaning and power.

**We must meditate.** “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” (Joshua 1:8). “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2). The word “Meditation” comes from a Greek word meaning “to Attend.” This is essentially the idea of the Bible. We must read it with attention. It is concerned at each point with personal application. And it must be our own thought, our own musing, our own application. We must leave all others’ interpretation alone. Tradition must not influence us. The Great, Primary, and Essential Point is **FIRST HAND** meditation of God’s Word as the secret of the Life of a Child of God.

When we have had our own meditation of the Holy Word, we are the better able to enjoy what God has told His people and what God has taught. Meditation must be real. It must be “...The meditation of my heart...” (Psalm 49:3). The heart in the Bible means the center of moral being, which includes the intellect, emotions and

the will.

Meditation is also practical. What are its stages? First, we must carefully read the particular Scripture, and realize that the Word of God has spoken to us. By doing this, we find what God is saying to us. Next, we must make proper application of it to our own life’s need, conscience, heart, imagination, and will.

**We must compare.** “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (I Corinthians 2:13). God’s Word comes to us in many different combinations. When studying on a subject, we must add comparing to our searching and meditating. We must compare the passages together in order to arrive at the full meaning of the subject which we are studying. The various aspects of truth are then seen in their entirety and proportions, and our spiritual life becomes fully informed and completely equipped. There are so many topics or subjects scattered throughout God’s Word that only as we collect and compare them can we appreciate the fullness and glory of God’s will to us. The Bible must be our daily food if we are to be strong and vigorous. Not quantity, but quality determines the nutritive value of food

Job said, “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12).

The Psalmist wrote, “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103).

**NOTE:** The above article was adapted from the **FORWARD** of *The Instructor of Truth, volume II*.



# The Sacrifice

"And Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together." (Genesis 22:6).

After Hagar and Ishmael had been cast out, Abraham hid his grief and took consolation in Isaac. He found in this exuberant, laughing child new inner contentment, a realized dream, a purpose for living. In time, the old man's heart was set on Isaac to the exclusion of all things. They were constant companions. One would not be seen without the other. Unlike many young men, Isaac delighted in the stories the elders of the camp would often relate about the past.

Abraham's joy was indeed full, but God was not finished with him yet. One afternoon the voice of the Lord came to him as he walked along a grassy knoll, "Abraham," the voice said, "take your son to a mountain which I shall show you in the land of Moriah. Offer him there for a burnt offering."

Abraham must have been stunned. He had always trusted in the Lord, but this time was a severe test of the patriarch's faith. God had pledged to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, yet now he would see Isaac sacrificed before he could father any children of his own.

The man who had, purely by faith, left his prosperous city of Ur to follow blindly after the Lord, the man who had been put to just about every test imaginable was now faced with a terrible wrenching question: "Do I truly love God more than anything else in the world, or do I now love my son more?" During the rest of the day we can almost see Abraham brooding in seclusion amid the groves of stunted trees along the shallow streams of the plains. We can imagine he returned to his tent at nightfall, but he could not partake of the evening meal. Faith had won out. In spite of his personal feelings, Abraham knew that he must obey God.

At dawn, Abraham, Isaac and two man servants took a bundle of wood for use in the preparation of a burnt offering. They traveled for three days, arriving finally at the site God had already chosen. Telling the men to tend the ass which had borne the bundle up this mountainous trail, Abraham took his knife, the wood and the "sacrifice" God had ordered.

As they heaped stones for an altar, Isaac was puzzled. Where was the sheep customarily used for an offering? "My son," Abraham said hoarsely, "God will provide the lamb."

When his father bound him and placed him on the woodpile, Isaac said nothing. He probably was terrified, but he had never had reason to mistrust his father before.

Just as the fatal knife stroke was about to be delivered, the angel of the Lord appeared supernaturally to stay the patriarch's hand. "And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me" (Genesis 22:11-12).

Another miracle occurred when a ram suddenly appeared in the thicket, his horns hopelessly entangled in the undergrowth. This animal was allowed to take Isaac's place on the altar. "And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt-offering in the stead of his son" (verse 13).

As Abraham was willing to give even his beloved son to the Lord for a sacrifice, so would God also offer His own Son up as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. No matter how much we show our love for God, we can never hope to outdo Him in the love He shows toward us.

--Adapted from an old Sabbath School Lesson





# Covering Sin

Bond Tennant

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered” (Psalm 32:1).

Let us meditate on the covering of sin. There is man’s way, and there is God’s way. However, before considering the covering of sin, we must first be sure that we know what sin is.

The biblical definition of sin is found in I John 3:4 which reads, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” Let us consider a few other verses which speak about sin. “All unrighteousness is sin . . .” (I John 5:17). “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). Sin is deceitful and destructive. Therefore, Romans 6:23 tells us, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Let us first consider man’s way of covering sin. Next, we will consider God’s way of covering sin.

## **Man’s way of covering sin**

Adam and Eve hid themselves. “And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden” (Genesis 3:8). They sewed fig leaves together and made aprons, but this didn’t hide their sin and nakedness from God. Proverbs 15:3 tells us, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

In Genesis 4:8-10, we find that Cain killed Abel. He tried to evade God’s question about Abel, by asking, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” But God knew his sin. He said to Cain, “the voice of thy brother’s blood crieth unto me from the ground.”

In II Samuel 11:1-26, we find that David tried to hide his sins. He stayed behind and didn’t go to battle. He saw the woman bathing. He coveted her. He committed adultery and commanded a murder.

In I Samuel 15:1-14, we find that Saul tried to hide his sin. He was told to kill all the Amalekites and all the cattle. But he spared Agag and the best of the cattle. He played the hypocrite and tried to cover up his sin by saying to Samuel, “Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.” But he could not fool Samuel. Samuel replied, “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”

In Matthew 10:26, we read that Jesus said, “Fear them not therefore; for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.”

## **God’s way of covering sin**

In order to have God cover our sins, we must confess them. We must not hide them! “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

God uses the precious blood of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, as the active ingredient in cleansing us from our sins. “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1:7).

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (I Peter 1:18-19). The last part of Revelation 1:5 reads, “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”

The blood of Jesus only can cover and remove our sins!



# The Powers of Heaven

By David DeLong

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:25-28).

A number of places in both the Old and New Testaments tell us of signs in the heavens before the return of Jesus. For the vast majority of the world's inhabitants these signs will be full of terror. For God's people, however, these signs will not take them by surprise. As Jesus instructed His disciples, they are to "look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." After Jesus comes for His saints, the Scriptures seem to indicate that there will also be signs in the heavens that will take place when the Lord punishes the world for its wickedness. Let us now study some of the passages of Scripture which address these issues.

In the above text in Luke chapter 21 Jesus said that along with the signs in the heavens there will also be distress upon the earth including "the sea and the waves roaring". This could be in reference to an effect of the moon's increased gravitational pull upon the oceans at that time. If that is the case, then the ocean tides could be much

higher causing the waves to roar. In any event, men will be terrified at what is taking place in the heavens and on the earth.

In Isaiah chapter 13 we see where the Lord prophesied against Babylon to overthrow it. Within that prophecy we learn of events which appear to have a wider scope than just for Babylon. Let us read verses 9-14. "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land."

In verse 11 of the above text we see that the Lord will "punish the world for their evil". There will also be signs in the heavens when this takes place. Even the earth will be removed out of its place "in the wrath of the LORD of hosts". Revelation chapter 16 informs us that the Lord's

wrath is fulfilled in the seven last plagues.

In fact, Isaiah 24 seems to indicate that heavenly signs and earth-shaking events will be present at the time of God's great wrath. Verses 1-6 and 19-23 sets the stage for us. "Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left."

"The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously."

We see that God is no respecter of persons. His wrath will be poured out upon the wicked whether they are regular people or priests, masters or servants, buyers or sellers, etc. This wrath seems to be during the time of the seven last plagues. There will be a great burning of the people with only a few men left in it. We are informed that the earth will be shaken and that "it shall fall, and not rise again." Revelation 8:7 tells us of a great burning during the plagues. "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." Also, Revelation 16:8-9 reads:

"And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory." These punishments will be put upon the people "...because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant" (Isaiah 24:5).

The laws mentioned above are God's laws which have been transgressed. These laws include the Ten Commandments. Not only will idolatry, stealing, lying, murder, and adultery bring about God's wrath, but Sabbath breaking will do the same. The ordinance which has been changed most likely includes the Lord's Supper and baptism. Instead of keeping the Lord's Supper the way Jesus instituted it, many observe it whenever and however they want to. Instead of being baptized by immersion in Jesus' name and accompanied by the laying on of hands (see Acts 8:14-17), multitudes have their own methods for being baptized. Most of the world, including many professing Christians, have "broken the everlasting covenant." This is serious because it will bring about the curse mentioned in Isaiah 24:6.

Furthermore, we have evidence from the book of Joel which seems to inform us of various celestial events to take place before and after the Lord returns. We read in Joel 2:1-3;10: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them...The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining". Again, this appears to be during the plagues.

In Joel chapter 3:9-16 we get a vivid description of the battle of Armageddon which takes place during the seventh plague. "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war

draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel." (See Revelation 16:12-16).

Now, in Joel chapter 2 we read of heavenly signs which precede the coming of the Lord. "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call" (Joel 2:28-32).

Notice how this passage is interpreted by the Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given to the early disciples. "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and no-

table day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:16-21).

Jesus spoke of signs in the heavens before His return in Matthew 24:27-31. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 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. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Revelation chapter 6, verses 12-17 adds more details to the description which Jesus gave us in Matthew 24. "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

This event appears to be written about by the Prophet Isaiah in chapter 2:10-21. "Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that

are lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the

moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."

We should not wait for heavenly signs to take place before getting right with the Lord. However, for those who are living for the Lord these signs, when they come, will be an incentive to lift up their heads for their redemption is soon to come with the appearance of Jesus. For those not living for the Lord, these signs, before or after the coming of the Lord, will be a terrifying portent of doom.



## A Merry Heart

By David DeLong

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). The Bible has a lot to say on the subject of happiness and joy. Having a merry heart, as the above text reads, does good like a medicine. It is known that being happy can even boost a person's immune system. Children of God should be the most joyful of people.

First, let us recognize that joy is a part of the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22). Therefore, every true believer already possesses a degree of joy within them. This doesn't mean that the believer does not have to cultivate that joy. As a matter of fact, the Lord commands His people to be joyful. Philippians 4:4 informs us: "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." I Thessalonians 5:16 reminds us: "Rejoice evermore."

The book of Psalms has much to say on being joyful. This is because of what the Lord has done for us. For instance, "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee" (Psalm 5:11). Also, we read in Psalm 16:11, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

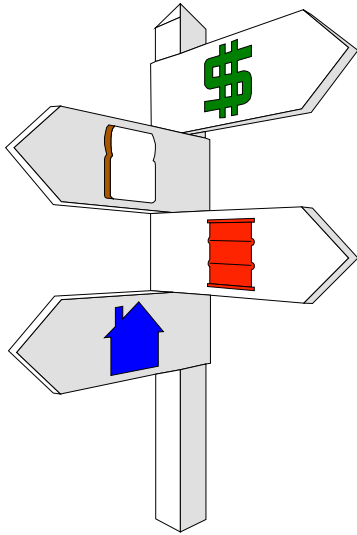
Jesus taught that His disciples should even be joyful in adversities. "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company,

and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets" (Luke 6:22-23).

The way that one cultivates joy in his or her life is through obeying the Lord's commandments. Jesus said: "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:10-11).

One way that we are to express our joy in the Lord is found in Ephesians 5:19: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord". Another way is found in Nehemiah 8:10: "Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Finally, we read the words of Jesus in Luke 10:20: "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."



# 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.*

## Two Other Gospels

The Apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:6-9). “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, ....” (I Timothy 4:1).

We are told that the mainstream Catholic and traditional Protestant denominations have declined rapidly in recent years. Evangelical Protestantism and especially Televangelism have partially filled the vacuum.

There are two false gospels that many of these groups preach during these latter times. Let us consider both of them.

### The Prosperity Gospel

Many call this gospel “a gospel of prosperity.” One well known televangelist and author has been quoted as saying, “God wants to increase you financially, by giving you promotions, fresh ideas, creativity. Think big. Think increase. Think abundance. Think more than enough.” Many other evangelists preach much the same thing.

The desire for God’s blessings is well and proper. But we wonder at the fact that such a “prosperity gospel” was never preached by Jesus and the apostles. Neither was it the way they lived.

Let us consider some of the many statements from our Lord concerning earthly treasure and riches. He said, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). Jesus told a young man, “...If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me” (Matthew 19:21). Then Jesus told His disciples, “...And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God” (verse 24). “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). When speaking of Himself, Jesus said, “...The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20).

The Apostle Paul warned Timothy and us about the deceitfulness of riches and the evil of coveting such things. The apostle wrote, “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (I Timothy 6:6-10).

After reading the above words of Jesus and the Apostle

Paul, it is clear that God is not the author of the “prosperity gospel.” However, it is very popular among many professing Christians. This is because it is what they want to hear. They want to hear their ministers counsel them to seek wealth. Man does not want to hear about sacrifice, to deny themselves, or to know the dangers of seeking earthly riches.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (II Timothy 4:3-4).

### **The Social Gospel**

Another gospel is quite popular during these days. Let us call it the “social gospel.” A mega-church (a church with many members) can be used as a fitting example. Mega-churches are located mostly in large cities. The mega-church goes far beyond the simple church organization and operation which was taught by Jesus and His apostles. The mega-church may boast of its size, both in attendance and measurement. A mega-church located in Houston has a large audience each week with thousands of members and visitors, and it employs many people including policemen and plumbers.

The mega-church may have many activities beside their “normal” church services. The mega-church may even boast that they have camps, classes on parenting, community service events. They may even have a motivational speaker give a presentation from time to time. A restaurant may also be in the church facility.

Now we may wonder about the size, numbers, costs, and the many activities which are outside the pattern given to us by the early church members. The activities which we have listed that a mega-church may have are not in themselves wrong. In fact they are in many ways admirable. However, the environment created by these things has resulted many times in going to church becoming more of a social event than in true spiritual development.

Our Lord Jesus Christ told the woman at the well how God must be worshiped. He told her, “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24).

When witnessing before the high priest, Stephen testified that big buildings made with human hands did not

constitute the dwelling place of God. “Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?” (Acts 7:48-49)

There is nothing wrong in possessing a building in which to worship. However, we must remember that it is dedicated to the glory of God, not some social activities which can corrupt our minds and make us forget the simplicity that is in Christ (II Corinthians 11:3). Satan loves it when social activities, or any other activity, makes one forget about the spiritual things and the gospel which Jesus and His apostles taught!

Granted, there are many other gospels in the world beside the “prosperity gospel” and “social gospel.” There is the “Catholic gospel”, the “Mormon gospel”, the “humanistic gospel”, the “Scientology gospel” and many more. In order to overcome these other gospels, let us practice II Timothy 2:15: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Only in the Word of God (the Bible) is found the gospel which was preached by our Lord Jesus and His apostles. It is not found anywhere else!

### **Crisis In Christianity**

An article in the April 9, 2012 issue of *Newsweek* magazine was titled “The Forgotten Jesus.” The author addresses the fact that organized Christianity has left the simple teachings of Jesus. He wrote that “Christianity has been destroyed by politics, priests, and get-rich evangelists.” He then gives us some sound advice. He boldly states, “Ignore them, and embrace Him.” The author says that the simple teachings of Jesus include such things as: love one another, even your enemies; forgive those who sin against you; do not pursue, but sacrifice material wealth; do not seek power over others; avoid violence with your fellowman; love the true God who created us in His image.

In the end of the article, the writer states: “I have no concrete idea of how Christianity will wrestle free of its current crisis, of its distractions and temptations, and above all its enmeshment with the things of the world. . . . Living each day and doing what we can to fulfill God’s will is more vital than ever. . . . We need radical spiritual change.”



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** Do unconverted men have the right to call God their Father?

**ANSWER:** Your answer is no! Let us quote John 8:42-44. "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

**QUESTION:** Can a person who commits murder be saved?

**ANSWER:** Salvation is freely offered to sinners who come to God through Jesus Christ His Son. David was a murderer, but God forgave him and received him. Whosoever will may come.

**QUESTION:** Will sincere people who held erroneous views of the Bible and salvation be lost just because they hold such teachings?

**ANSWER:** Saul of Tarsus was sincere when he held the

erroneous belief in persecuting the Church of God, but he was lost until he received the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Sincerity is a good thing if it is directed in the right way, but sincerity in error is dangerous.

**QUESTION:** How could Lazarus have walked out of his tomb in Bethany as he was bound in his grave clothes?

**ANSWER:** There is no record that he "walked out," and he was not told to walk out. The Lord cried saying, "...Lazarus, come forth," and the Word says that "...he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes..." (John 11:43-44).

**QUESTION:** I have some friends who say that they will not become a member of the church because there are too many members that are hypocrites in it. Will you please comment about their reasoning?

**ANSWER:** It is sad but true. There are hypocrites in the church! We can expect this fact. Our Lord Jesus chose a Judas Iscariot. Since hypocrites pretend to be children of God, and no one can be absolutely sure about their identity, some are sure to get into the church. Jesus, who is the head of the church, told us ahead of time that hypocrites would enter into it. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matthew 7:15). Jesus does not make hypocrites, but He knew that tares would be found among the wheat. It is the evil one who sows the tares. Consider Judas who was a good disciple and apostle until iniquity was sown in him, and he became a devil.



Why not concentrate on the good and loyal members? As long as the Devil is free to roam the earth, there will be hypocrites. There will be hypocrites in the church until the rapture of the church takes place. We admit that they do the church no good, but why should they hinder you from becoming a better Christian and a better worker in the body of Christ? If the hypocrites keep you away from the church and keep you from supporting the body of Christ, then Satan has done his job. Therefore his strategy has been successful. If hypocrites keep you from getting closer to the Lord, then why do not saints attract you closer to the Lord? There are many more saints of God than hypocrites. Fairness demands that if you condemn the church for its hypocrites, you ought to praise it for its saints.

It is inconsistent to shun the Church of God because of the hypocrites that are in it. You cannot escape them anywhere else in this world. They are in business, but you do not shun that. Society is full of them, but you do not avoid it on their account. Marriage is cursed by them, but still you join the ranks of the married. Government has its share, too, but you would not dispense with it. School is loaded with them, but are you doing anything to avoid going to school? Of course not!

You cannot get away from hypocrites. Why, even the animal world, we are told, has something akin to human hypocrisy. It shows up in some dogs. The best of dogs will sometimes be taken with a fever of sheep killing. The killing is always done at night. The guilty dog will always endeavor to tempt the other dogs to go with him, and if possible will lay the blame at their door. When this madness of sheep-killing is on him, that dog will assume, during the day, at the house and around the barn, an usually genial and friendly air. Again, you cannot get away from hypocrites!

Why not think of yourself? Why so much ado about the conduct of others who may be hypocrites? God will take care of them. What about yourself? Are you at peace with God? Have you found pardon through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ? Do you have the hope of eternal life within you? Are you on the road of love and obedience to God?

Truth is intensely personal. You must settle the matter of your personal relationship to God. Let the hypocrites settle theirs. The Bible states, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Yes, you can escape the hypocrites. Support the

church, and work for it! Hear and accept the Gospel of salvation which it preaches at the command of Christ. That is the way, the only way to obtain eternal life and inherit your place in the kingdom where no hypocrite will ever be. You may sit next to one in church, but when you have entered into the kingdom, you will not meet him again. All hypocrites will be left outside of the city walls. "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).

The church has its hypocrites, but it is not up to you or me to point them out. Their actions speak louder than your or my judgments. Judging is left up to God the Father. Let us keep ourselves from hypocrisy!

**QUESTION:** Is the saying, "Let your conscience be your guide" a safe one on which to rely?

**ANSWER:** When answering your question, let us consider the Apostle Paul. In Acts 23:1, he said: "...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." After Paul met Jesus on the Damascus Road, something changed drastically in him. Before that, he had captured Christians, even committing them to prison and death. After being struck down by the light from heaven, he was ready to suffer for the very cause he had been fighting.

Conscience depends on what one is taught, or the law one accepts. Paul lived "in good conscience" because at all times he was living by his convictions. When those convictions changed, his conduct and manner of life changed also. Before and after the change, he lived "in good conscience" because he was living by the law to which he had pledged obedience.

What is the role of conscience? The authority of law creates a moral "must" or "ought." When the law of God says not to lie, one knows that he must not color, or stretch the truth. If one says that he does not know what happened when he really does, there is an emotional distress. Something in him feels uncomfortable. That something is conscience because he knows better than what he says. His conscience tells him that he is liable.

"Let your conscience be your guide" was not Paul's wisdom. He trained his conscience by his convictions, then lived by them. May we do likewise!



*Brethren in Myanmar*





## LESSON I

## SAUL'S FIRST MISTAKE

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 13:1-23.

Golden Text: I Samuel 13:9.

“And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt-offering to me, and peace-offerings. And he offered the burnt-offering.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Saul was king of Israel, and that the nation seemed to be on its way to greatness. Samuel warns Israel and Saul to not forget God, and they will accomplish great things. Let us see now if Saul obeyed the voice of Samuel.

1. After Saul had reigned two years, what did he do? I Samuel 13:1-2.
2. Where did Jonathan smite the garrison of Philistines? I Samuel 13:3.
3. What then did the Philistines do? I Samuel 13:5.
4. What did the men of Israel do? Were they afraid? I Samuel 13:6-7.
5. How long did Saul tarry in Gilgal, and what did he do there? I Samuel 13:8-9.

NOTE: Saul offered a sacrifice which was what the priests were to do. Saul thought he was great enough to do it.

6. When Samuel heard that Saul had offered a burnt offering, was he pleased? I Samuel 13:12-13.
7. What did Samuel tell Saul would happen to his kingdom? I Samuel 13:14.
8. What happened that the Israelites had neither sword nor spear? I Samuel 13:17-23.

## LESSON II

## JONATHAN'S GREAT VICTORY

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 14:1-24.

Golden Text: I Samuel 14:13.

“And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.”

NOTE: King Saul was quite successful at first, but humility soon gave place to pride in his life. He offered sacrifices, which was the exclusive function of the priests. This was the first sign of Saul's self importance. Now we shall study about Jonathan.

1. Who was Jonathan, and where did he go? I Samuel 14:1.
2. Where was Saul at this time, and how many men were with him? I Samuel 14:2.
3. Describe the passage way by which Jonathan went unto the Philistines' garrison. I Samuel 14:4-5.
4. Jonathan and his armourbearer made themselves known unto the Philistines. What did the Philistines say to them? I Samuel 14:11-12.
5. What did Jonathan do in I Samuel 14:13-14.
6. Did Saul and his people assemble and come to the battle? I Samuel 14:20-22.
7. Did the Lord save Israel that day? I Samuel 14:23.
8. Why had Saul commanded his army to abstain from food? I Samuel 14:24.

LESSON III

SAUL'S SECOND MISTAKE

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 14:25-52.

Golden Text: I Samuel 14:44.

“And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.”

NOTE: Saul's first mistake was made when he offered sacrifice, which was the exclusive function of priests. Now we shall learn what the second great mistake was. Saul commanded all the people of Israel to not eat any food until the evening. Let us see if everyone in Israel obeyed his voice.

1. What did the people find upon the ground as they came to the wood? I Samuel 14:25.
2. Did all obey Saul and not touch the honey which dripped? I Samuel 14:26-27.
3. Was Jonathan afraid of his father and what he might do to him for eating the honey? I Samuel 14:28-30.
4. What did the people of Israel do that day? I Samuel 14:31-32.
5. When Saul heard what the people had done, what was his command, and what did he do? I Samuel 14:33-36.
6. Did Saul seek counsel from God? Did God answer his plea? I Samuel 14:37.
7. Jonathan was taken, and he told Saul that he had eaten the honey. Did Saul still want to impose the death sentence upon him? I Samuel 14:43-44.
8. Were the people in sympathy with Saul or Jonathan? Did they rescue Jonathan? I Samuel 14:49.

9. Was there war against the Philistines as long as Saul was king? I Samuel 14:52.

LESSON IV

SAUL'S COMPLETE DISOBEDIENCE  
(PART 1)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 15:1-11.

Golden Text: I Samuel 15:11 (first part).

“It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.”

NOTE: Saul made two great mistakes while he was king over Israel. We studied about his second mistake in our last lesson which was the death sentence imposed upon his son Jonathan. Now let us study about his third and final mistake.

1. When Samuel anointed Saul king, what did he instruct Saul to do? I Samuel 15:1.
2. What did the Lord say about Amalek? I Samuel 15:2.
3. What was Saul instructed to do? I Samuel 15:3.
4. Did he obey this command? How many men were with him? I Samuel 15:4-5.
5. What did Saul tell the Kenites to do? I Samuel 15:6.
6. Did Saul smite the Amalekites? What did he do with their king? I Samuel 15:7-9.

NOTE: The Lord told King Saul to destroy all that the Amalekites had, and we find now that he did not obey God.

7. What did the Lord say to Samuel in I Samuel 15:10-11?

# JOHNNY'S MISTAKE

By Katherine Blake

Johnny's room was having a contest. The teacher wanted to find out who could add the fastest. She sent three boys to the blackboard. Johnny was one of them.

"I will give you a problem," the teacher said. "You will write the answer on the blackboard. The one who puts the answer down last will have to sit down. Then someone else will take his place. The last one at the board will win the contest."

The teacher read the problem. Quick as a wink Johnny put the answer on the board. Jerry was almost as fast. Tom was the slowest. He took his seat. Polly took his place at the board.

Polly could add very fast. Johnny knew he would really have to work fast to win, with Polly at the board. But soon both Jerry and Polly had taken their seats, and two more had come up. Johnny was still up.

The teacher gave them another problem. Johnny worked it quickly. He was still first. And then as the teacher told Billy to take his seat Johnny noticed something. The answer was twenty-three, but he had put twenty-five. His five looked so much like a three that no one had noticed the mistake.

Johnny stopped. He laid down his chalk. He had made a mistake even if no one had seen it. He raised his hand. "I had the wrong answer," he said. "I wrote twenty-five."

"It looked like twenty-three," said the teacher. "But it was not," Johnny said. "I should take my seat instead of Billy."

"You have done well today," the teacher said. "You can add very fast. That is good. But it is better to be honest than to be able to add fast. You could have cheated, but you did not. That is better than winning the contest."

And as Johnny sat down, he felt good because he had done the right thing.

Answers to Puzzle - game on page twenty one



**PUZZLE**

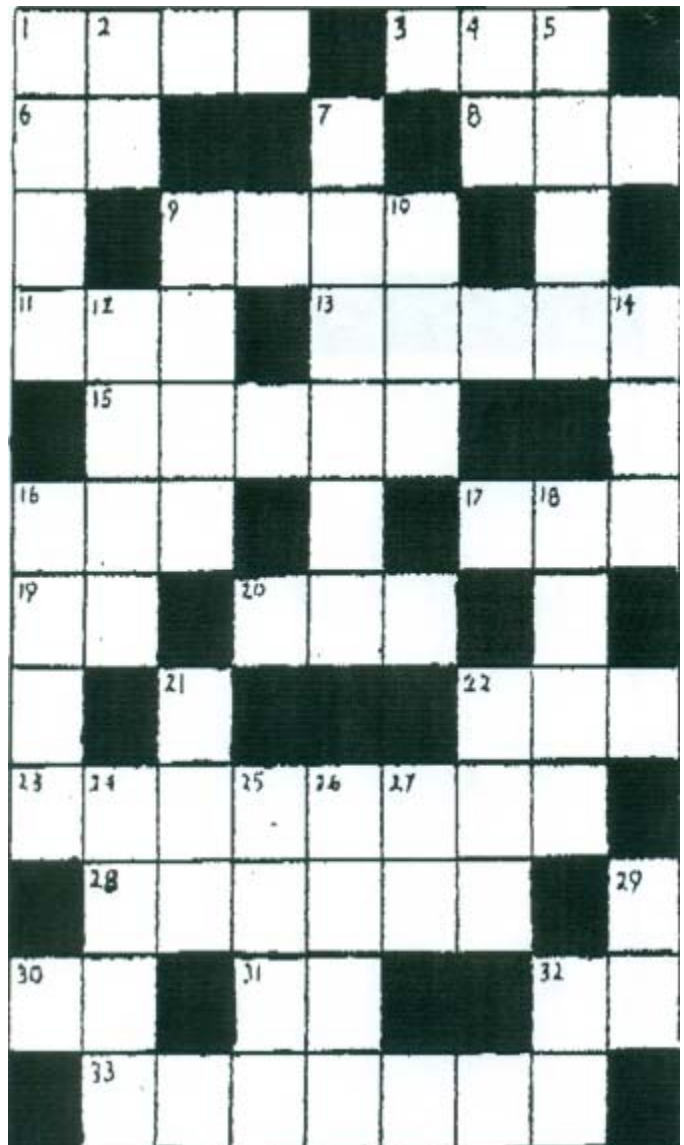
**ACROSS**

- 1. “\_\_\_\_\_ your enemies” (Matthew 5:44).
- 3. “Blessed are \_\_\_ peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9)
- 6. “\_ \_ My Father’s house are many mansions” (John 14:3)
- 8. To take in food
- 9. Another name for Jesus
- 11. A mother sheep
- 13. Leather straps used to guide horses
- 15. Moses’ brother
- 16. “\_ \_ \_ lead us not into temptation” (Luke 11:4)
- 17. A Bible word for “your”
- 19. Mountain (abbreviation)
- 20. To use a question
- 22. A person who lives close to you
- 23. Clothing, "gold or pearls or costly \_\_\_\_\_s)" (I Timothy 2:9)
- 30. “Even \_ \_ Christ forgave you” (Colossians 3:13)
- 32. "The people stood by \_ \_ \_ and heard \_ \_ " (John 12:29)
- 33. You, “Delight \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in the Lord” (Psalm 37:4)

**DOWN**

- 1. "I am the way, the truth and the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ " (John 14:6)
- 2. “He that believeth \_ \_ the Son hath everlasting life” (John 3:36)
- 4. “that \_ \_ gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16)
- 5. Be paid, “he that \_ \_ \_ \_ eth wages” (Haggai 1:6)
- 7. Pointed shafts shot from bows.
- 9. To show the way by going along in front
- 10. An animal home
- 12. To wish for
- 14. To speak
- 16. The word at the end of a prayer
- 18. A person who gets some property or money from someone who has died, "this is the \_ \_ \_ \_ " (Matthew 21:38)

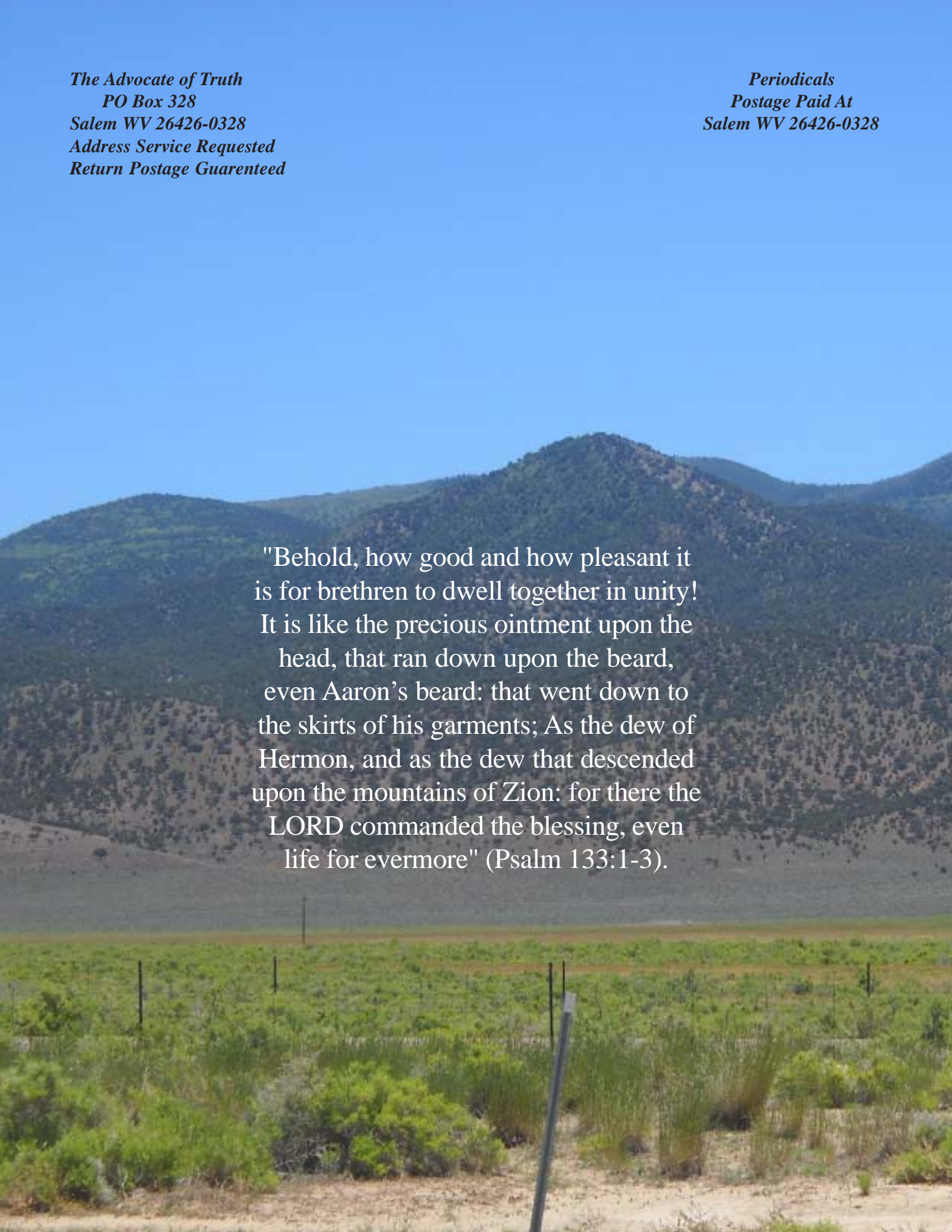
- 21. A kind of tree (Psalm 104:17)
- 22. A signal for help
- 24. Where the wise men saw the star
- 25. A color (Deuteronomy 32:25)
- 26. What we wear on our heads
- 27. "The end is not \_ \_ and \_ \_ " (Luke 21:9)
- 29. “\_ \_ was about he sixth hour” (John 4:6)
- 32. “\_ \_ it were not so, I would have told you” (John 14:3)



*Answers to puzzle on page twenty*

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"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore" (Psalm 133:1-3).



