A scenic view of a mountain range with green vegetation and reddish-brown soil. The mountains are layered, with some peaks covered in dense green forest and others showing exposed reddish-brown earth. The foreground shows a dirt path or road winding through the landscape.

# *The Advocate of Truth*



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**Web site: [www.churchofgod-7thday.org](http://www.churchofgod-7thday.org)**

**Del DeLong  
David DeLong  
Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff  
Gary Mills ..... Managing Editor  
Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor**

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# LOVE THE LORD THY GOD

By Bibi Shimoon Allicock

Deuteronomy 6:5 reads, “And thou shalt LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THINE HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIGHT”. In Matthew 22:37-40, we read: “Jesus said unto him, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND. This is the first and GREAT COMMANDMENT. And the second is like unto it, THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

In the Old Testament, the prophet Moses instructed the Israelites to LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THINE HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIGHT. In the New Testament, our Lord instructed these same words unto the Pharisees who desired to test Him. In Luke, a certain lawyer wanted to test our Lord. “And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, 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. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live” (Luke 10:25-28). After he had received his answer from the Lord we read, “But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead” (verses 29-30).

“And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other

side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, GO, AND DO THOU LIKEWISE” (verses 31-37).

We see that Jesus said the first and great commandment is “THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND.” Our Lord was before the beginning of Creation, and He knows the heart of man. He knew that there would come an evil time, which is mentioned in II Timothy 3:1-5. “This know also, that in the last days perilous (dangerous) times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Let us look at verse 2, the first part, “For men shall be lovers of their own selves.” This is that time. “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being

abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16). In the book of Mark, we can clearly see men being lovers of their own selves in that they held the traditions of the elders in washing of cups and utensils. They also placed great emphasis on the washing of hands before eating. Washing of utensils and hands are important, but the emphasis they placed upon them was like worshipping another god. “Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own TRADITION” (Mark 7:1-9).

“For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; MAKING THE WORD OF GOD OF NONE EFFECT THROUGH YOUR TRADITION, WHICH YE HAVE DELIVERED: AND MANY SUCH LIKE THINGS DO YE” (verses 10-13).

“And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Harken unto me every one of you, and understand: There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man” (verses 14-15) Later, Jesus said: “Because it entereth not into his

heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (verses 19-23).

We can see clearly that Jesus spoke concerning unwashed hands and not the cleansing of unclean meats, as some people would understand, claiming, “...every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer” (I Timothy 4:4-5). Yes! Every creature of God is good. Nevertheless, all are not good for food. “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31, first part).

But in Leviticus, chapter eleven, Almighty God gave us the specific dietary chart concerning consuming of meats. We must understand if we love the Lord thy God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength and all our mind, we must adhere to what He is telling us in the Holy Scriptures, and we must understand what His will is. Therefore, we must be wise and know which creatures are good for food.

Since we are to love the Lord thy God with all our heart, all our soul, all our strength and all our mind, let us do all that is required of us to please Him so that He will not have to ask us: “A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour?” (Malachi 1:6, first part)

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the WRATH OF GOD upon the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:6). “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST; Submitting yourselves one to another IN THE FEAR OF GOD” (verses 15-21). Amen.



# Singing A Song

By Daniel Cruz

It's early Sabbath morning, and the clouds have filled the sky to almost darkness. I am sitting on my front porch. The local weather stations have reported that we've had 16.07 inches of rain, and there is still more to come. There has been very little sun to shine on the well saturated ground. Roads are being flooded in various parts of the city, as rivers and creeks are swollen over their banks. And yet, it is beginning to storm again with great excess. How can one find a silver lining? I am reminded of God when many songs from the birds of various breeds are singing in two Oak trees. Why do they sing before a storm, and how do they find joy with the impending high winds, heavy rain, lightning and thunder that will soon be upon them? Yet, I am protected from all of this in the comfort of my home, and find myself concerned with the potential threat of weather. And I hear it again.

The birds begin to sing, and I begin to find comfort as I listen, and they sound playful and happy to see the rains coming in. I am reminded of Luke 12:24, "Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?" God attends to the birds in a specific and loving way. Jesus reminds us of this and stirs up the trust that we should have in God. Various things in our lives can be considered bleak and could have us wondering if God will attend to us. He will if we believe it to be so. When we want to let go and let the rushing waters of life take us, it's in that moment that we must grasp our Lord's merciful hand stronger. Jesus knew that His Father would not forsake Him, and He could speak confidently. Even when He was tempted by Satan, He endured (see Matthew 4:1-11). We must stand

fast in days of peril and find comfort in the Lord.

Paul was a man that applied the words of Jesus to his life after his conversion. "I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews" (Acts 26:2). Paul was stirred up and shining with pride of all that he was to testify to King Agrippa. "And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds" (verse 29). After explaining his life in Christ, he implored them to follow a life in Christ and become captive to godly works. He continued to remain a prisoner after all of this, and he was transported to various countries as others in authority wished to find a reason to imprison or kill him. He was able to continue to preach the Gospel while captive. Paul shows us that whatever we are going through is an opportunity to sing a song of praise unto the Father. We must understand that God is willing in all things.

Brethren, my prayer is that we may sing as the birds do, and that we find comfort in knowing that we serve the one true God who will not forsake us or deny us His blessings. We have trials and tribulations that will come to us and take our joy from us. Let us not become subject to the troubles that befall us. We must sing a song that expresses the love of God and the trust that we have in Him, and that God has been with us and will continue to hold our hand and sometimes carry us through troubles. Put your trust in God, and He will not forsake you. Praise Him in all things that our hearts may be comforted and our souls renewed today and in the days to come.



# The Armour Of God

Bond Tennant

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11).

Every child of God, who devotes himself to righteousness, soon learns that the Christian life is a warfare. The more determined a child of God is in living a Christian life, the greater will be Satan’s efforts to destroy him. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (I Peter 5:8-9).

Therefore, the Apostle Paul admonishes us to use the resources provided by the Lord to overcome Satan. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might” (Ephesians 6:10).

Ephesians 6:11 indicates the necessity of putting on God’s divine armor in order to withstand the wiles of Satan, the wicked one. Only by utilizing each element of the protection that is supplied for us can we be fully protected (see verses 11-13).

Continuing on, Paul then enumerates the necessary pieces of the child of God’s armor. He begins with the girdle of truth. “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...” (verse 14). Through the power of the Holy Spirit and being loyal to the principles of consecrated living, we will be strengthened against the wiles of the devil. Next, we are told to put on the “breastplate of righteousness.” This has to do with our justification that results from faith in Christ’s shed blood.

We then are told to be shod with the sandals of peace (verse 15). Through the Holy Spirit, we can have this sense of inner tranquility despite the opposition we will receive from the world, the flesh, and Satan. Our natural disposition is to retaliate against those who oppose us. We can overcome this by focusing upon our understanding that it is through much tribulation that we may enter the kingdom.

Another needed component of the armor of God is the “shield of faith.” “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (verse 16). All children of God, who have received blessings from God, have demonstrated faith that He will reward them for their loyalty even though they lack complete knowledge as to how He will accomplish this.

The “helmet of salvation” relates to the understanding of God’s plan for man. We strengthen our knowledge by studying God’s Word. Therefore, we appreciate the wisdom, justice, love and power of God to accomplish what will be “the desire of all nations.” (See Haggai 2:7).

Finally, the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” is the only offensive part of our armament in that it may be used to counteract errors. It must be employed in a loving manner. We must not be harsh in criticizing others who may not have been enlightened by God’s Word (Ephesians 6:17).

# The American Boy

By Theodore Roosevelt

That we have a right to expect of the American boy is that he shall turnout to be a good American man. The boy can best become a good man by being a good boy--not a goody-goody boy, but just a plain good boy. I do not mean that he must love only the negative virtues; I mean that he must love the positive virtues also. "Goody," in the largest sense, should include whatever is fine, straight forward, clean, brave, and manly. The best boys I know--the best men I know--are good at their studies or their business, fearless and stalwart, hated and feared by all that is wicked and depraved, incapable of submitting to wrongdoing, and equally incapable of being aught but tender to the weak and helpless. Of course, the effect that a thoroughly manly, thoroughly straight and upright boy can have upon the companions of his own age, and upon those who are younger, is incalculable. If he is not thoroughly manly, then they will not respect him, and his good qualities will count for but little; while of course, if he is mean, cruel or wicked, then his physical strength and force of mind merely make his so much the more objectionable a member of society. He cannot do good work if he is not strong and does not try with his whole heart and soul to count in any contest; and his strength will be a curse to himself and to every one else if he does not have a thorough command over himself and over his own passions, and if he does not use his strength on the side of decency, justice and fair dealing. In short, in life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is: Hit the line hard; don't foul and don't shirk, but hit the line hard.

--From Elbert Hubbard's Scrap Book

# THE HILL WHERE CHRIST DIED

*Reprinted*

**"...When they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left."**

**(Luke 23:33)**

Behold a hill with three crosses! Usually we fix our attention on only one, but we ought to remember that there were three crosses. In our own recollection, as in the history of the world, the central cross stands out alone. But a passerby would have carried away a different picture of the crucifixion scene. And standing and listening to those who were nailed to the crosses, at the "Place of the Skull" you would understand a lot more of what took place there.

To the four soldiers were given each a quarter part of Jesus' garments. Then they drew lots for His coat for it was without seam and too precious to be parted like the other clothes (see John 19:23-24). Then Pilate had a sign put over Jesus which said in three languages, Latin, Greek, and Aramaic, "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS" (John 19:19). The Jewish leaders were angered because of the sign. They said, "...Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews" (verse 21). But Pilate would not change the sign. He said, "...What I have written I have written" (verse 22).

The two thieves that were crucified with Christ both were making fun of Jesus. They repeated what the leaders of Israel were saying to Jesus: **"...If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him"** (Matthew 27:42). One of the two thieves said to Jesus: **"...If thou be Christ, save thyself and us."** (Luke 23:39). By now, one of the two thieves had come to his senses as he heard Jesus talking to His mother. He noticed that after all the deriding that was cast at Jesus He did not say anything, but heard Jesus

say: **“...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...”** (Luke 23:34). He took the other thief to task saying: **“...Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom”** (verses 40-42).

In the presence of the dying Redeemer, this penitent thief admitted the justice of his sufferings and eventual death. The thief had looked at Jesus and realized that He was dying for sin. He looked at the central cross, on which the Saviour was dying, and he realized that Christ's cross was for redemption. He looked at his partner's cross and saw the difference, he was there because of his impenitence and rebellion. Jesus now looked at the repentant thief and with loving eyes said: **“...Verily I say unto thee, Today,...”** this memorable day when all the sins were going to be paid for. This day, when a man was changed from sin unto death to life in paradise. Yes, Jesus said this today, **“...shalt thou be with me in paradise”** (Luke 23:43). Jesus knew that “today” could not mean on the day of death. The two thieves did not die that day, and Jesus did not go to paradise that day. Three days and three nights later Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, **“...Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my Father..”** (John 20:15-17).

What happened to the thieves when the day ended? **“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day ... besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs”** (John 19:31-33). Do you see that the men crucified with Jesus did not die that day? They had their legs broken so they could not leave “The Hill.” They died several days later. It is told by some historians that crucified people lingered sometimes three and four days before they died, after their legs had been broken.

So on “The Hill” where Jesus died, we find that the three crosses stood for our example. Christ's cross was the cross of Redemption. The wicked thief's cross was the cross of rebellion, and the penitent thief's cross was

the cross of repentance. Which of the two thieves' cross are we bearing? No one of us can ever bear the cross of redemption. But we could bear one of the other two. In the presence of the Saviour, the penitent thief received eternal life. In response to his humble cry of faith and humbleness, he received a promise most precious. He found that in Christ there was hope for every man, no matter what he had done, if only he would repent. He discovered that while the temple guards had power, and could do all they could do, crucified Him to a higher by far than that of the High Priest, higher than of Herod, higher by far than that of Pontius Pilate, higher than Rome itself, he would have a place in the Paradise of God, the New Jerusalem.

## THE USE OF A TALENT

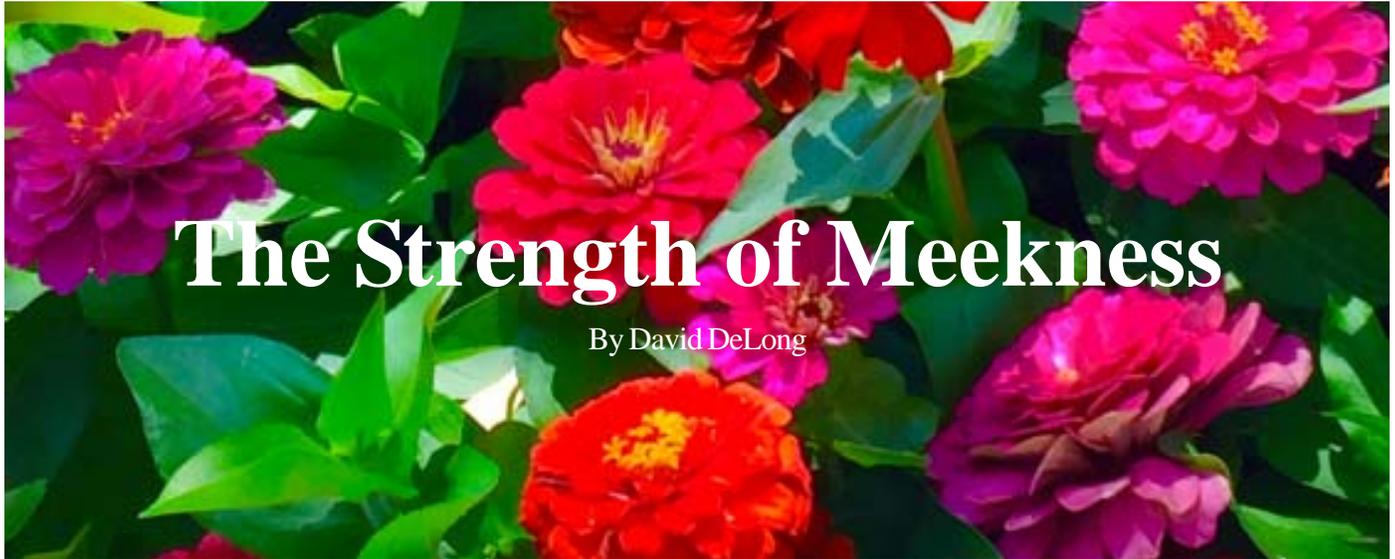
**To each of us is given a talent  
That becomes part of us at our birth;  
And God commands us to use it,  
To scatter its blessings on earth.**

**Some to build highways and bridges,  
Or skyscrapers, lofty and tall;  
And all of our talents are different,  
Their size doesn't matter at all.**

**To some He gives beautiful music,  
The notes soaring high, wild, and free;  
To listen provides a rich blessing,  
Or just words to a poet, like me.**

**When we use these words to praise Him  
By arranging each one, short and neat;  
And humbly offering them all back to Him  
By laying them down at His feet.**

Betty Whetstone



# The Strength of Meekness

By David DeLong

One of the great characteristics of our Lord Jesus was His meekness of spirit. When He spoke about Himself this is what we learn: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). In Zechariah 9:9 we find in prophecy the meekness of Christ. "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." This, of course, was referring to the time when Jesus would ride into Jerusalem upon a donkey just before His crucifixion (see Matthew 21:1-11).

Many people, even some who call themselves Christians, believe that to be meek is also to be weak. There is a saying with much truth to it that if you think meekness is weakness, then try being meek for a week. It takes an incredible amount of strength and will power to consistently be meek, especially in today's world. In fact, it takes the strength of the Lord's Spirit to help one to be truly meek. Meekness is a part of the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:23).

Two other words are closely associated with meekness: humbleness and lowliness. In the Greek, the word meek is *praus*, and it means mild or humble. The word humble is either *tapeinos* or *tapeinoo*, and basically means depressed, humiliated, base, cast down, of low degree, lowly. Finally, the word lowly is also *tapeinos*, and lowli-

ness is *tapeinophrosune* and it means humiliation of mind, i.e. modesty, humbleness of mind, humility of mind, loneliness of mind. This last phrase, loneliness of mind, is very interesting. It seems to suggest that one needs to be absolutely dependent upon the Lord in all things before that person is complete and whole. Thus, to be lowly, one has to let God be supreme.

In the Old Testament, before the Lord Jesus came upon the scene, we are told that Moses was the most meek of persons. Numbers 12:3 reads: "(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)" Yes, at times, Moses had a temper problem even to the point of disobeying the Lord because of being provoked by the children of Israel. For instance, when the children of Israel and their beasts needed water, the Lord told Moses to speak to the rock and it would produce water. We pick up the story in Numbers 20:10-12. "And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them."

However, when the children of Israel had sinned a great sin in making the golden calf and worshipping it, Moses became their intercessor. Exodus 32:30-33 gives

us a part of the account. "And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." When Moses was willing to have his name blotted from the Lord's book he, in essence it seems, was willing to give up his eternal life for the sake of the Israelites. Do you know of anyone, besides the Lord Jesus, who was more meek than Moses?

Let us now look to the greatest example of meekness ever expressed. It was the example of the Son of God Himself. Paul wrote: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:3-8).

Christ's meekness must be a central part of every true follower of the Lord. Isaiah 57:15 instructs us: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones." Furthermore, Micah 6:8 informs us: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

A story showing God's great desire for meekness and humility is found in second Chronicles chapter 33. This is the story of King Manasseh, a very evil king. "Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out be-

fore the children of Israel. For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken" (verses 1-10).

These verses emphasize the tremendous wickedness that King Manasseh did in Judah. However, this next passage of Scripture emphasizes the tremendous love, mercy, and patience that the Lord has. "Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, And prayed unto him: and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God" (verses 11-13).

How wonderful, that no matter what we have been and done in the past, God only requires that we humble ourselves in His sight by repentance and begin this very day to live humbly for Him. We may not think that our sins are as bad as those of Manasseh. But, we must remember that whenever any of God's Commandments are

broken, it is sin, and, "...the wages of sin is death" (see Romans 6:23).

The story of Manasseh's son, Amon, had a different ending altogether. "Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem. But he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them; And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more. And his servants conspired against him, and slew him in his own house" (verses 21-23).

### **Benefits of Living the Humble Life**

Only to the truly humble or meek person will the Lord give the following benefits: guidance in God's judgment and the teaching of His way (Psalm 25:9); salvation (Job 22:29, Psalm 149:4); grace (Proverbs 3:34); inheritance of the earth (Psalm 37:11, Matthew 5:5); joy in the Lord (Isaiah 29:19); God's respect (Psalm 138:6); wisdom (Proverbs 11:2); being hidden in the day of God's anger (Zephaniah 2:3); God's hearing their desire (Psalm 10:17, 9:12); honour (Proverbs 29:23).

Being meek, humble, or lowly is not just for the benefits that one receives from the Lord. But, those benefits which He freely bestows are so awesome that one cannot help but praise Him. Psalm 22:26 says: "The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever." If a person has anything to boast of, it must be in the Lord. "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad" (Psalm 34:1-2).

Meekness and humbleness has at least a two-fold advantage: it prepares ourselves to serve the Lord properly, and it helps to prepare the hearts of others to serve Him. Humbleness of heart is mutually encouraging. Proverbs 16:19 reads: "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Jesus gave the most profound example of humbleness by His life and by His teaching. In Matthew 18:1-4 He instructs us: "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

First, we need to be sure that there is true repentance in our own lives for sins committed. James preaches: "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up" (chapter 4:8-10). And Peter agrees with James: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:6). Notice to what extent David humbled himself, even for the benefit of his enemies: "They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother" (Psalm 35:12-14). Christ did the same.

When we are empowered with this attitude, we are ready to minister to others. We must be full of meekness to point out the faults of others. For instance, Galatians 6:1-2 advises us with this: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Paul advised Timothy: "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (II Timothy 2:24-26).

Paul even instructed Titus to: "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men" (Titus 3:1-2). Sometimes showing all meekness unto all men involves solving quarrels with the brethren.

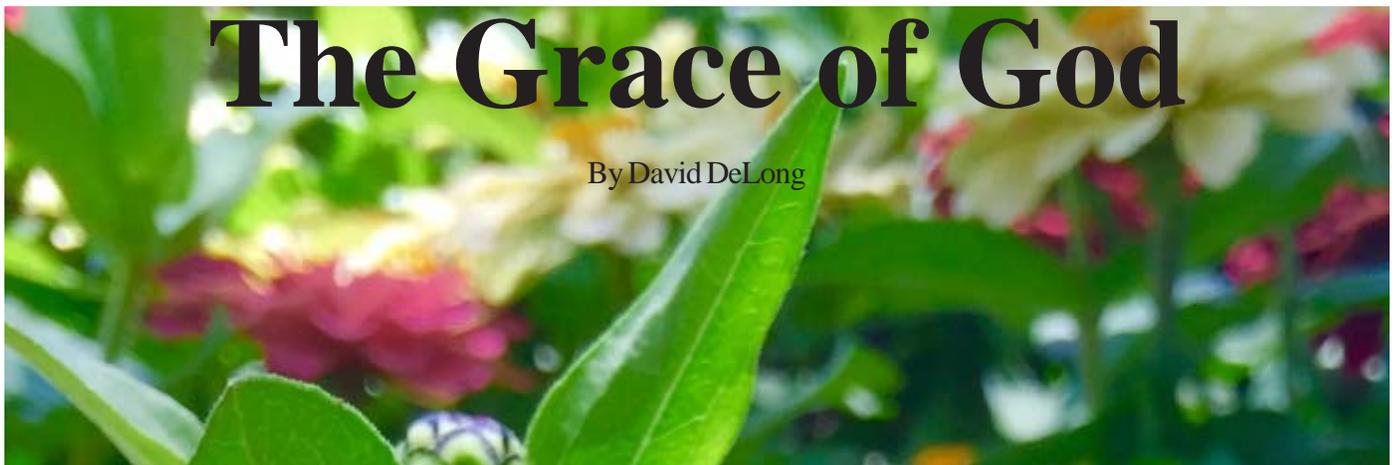
ren. Paul wrote in Colossians 3:12-13: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Furthermore, he wrote in Ephesians 4:1-2: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love".

Warning Timothy of the dangers of loving money, Paul counseled him: "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. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" (I Timothy 6:10-11). James expressed his sentiment concerning meekness when he wrote: "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 20-21). James was also concerned about a person being a good

example in his lifestyle. He said: "Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom" (3:13).

So precious is a meek spirit to the Lord, that Peter wrote to the women: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:3-4). That same meekness applies to all of us as Peter teaches in 3:14-15: "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear".

In today's world, a meek, humble, and lowly person stands out of the crowd with a shining witness. It is like a spark of light in a completely darkened society. Such an attitude of meekness, as was displayed by our Lord Jesus, cannot help but be seen by those around us. It is an example which will not be easily forgotten.



In the Book of James, chapter 4, we read about a number of grievous problems that were afflicting the brethren to whom James was writing. Verses 1-4 addresses problems of conflicts that they were experiencing. Notice the seriousness of these conflicts: They were coveting things, even to the point of committing murder. Most of the time they were apparently too proud to ask God for the things they desired, but even when they did ask they were asking selfishly, to satisfy their lusts. Some were

committing adultery and were being friends of the world instead of being friends of the Lord.

In verses 11-12 the brethren were speaking evil of one another and judging others. Verses 13-16 shows them to be boasting about the things that they were planning to do instead of trusting the Lord's will for their lives and activities. Do these problems sound more serious than the problems confronting our churches today? Only as we look into our own hearts can we answer that ques-

tion. Let us remember that Jesus taught if we have an improper anger with our brothers it is similar to murder (see Matthew 5:21-22; also I John 3:15). If one lusts in his heart it is the same as committing adultery (see Matthew 5:27-28).

The answer to these problems (sins), James explains, is to accept the grace of God. He wrote: "Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (James 4:5-8). It has been said that grace is God's Riches At Christ's Expense. In other words, God showers us with His grace when we accept what Christ has done for us through His shed blood.

Nowhere in the Scriptures is God's grace meant as a means to sin. Romans 6:1-7 makes this abundantly clear. Paul wrote: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."

Rather, God's grace is meant to give an individual another chance not to sin. In other words, a chance to be restored to full fellowship with the Lord. But, God's grace doesn't just give pardon to a believer's sins, it covers the person for every situation and circumstance of life. In II Corinthians 12:7-9 we read concerning Paul: "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I

rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

The supreme demonstration of God's grace was shown in the life of Jesus. We can read about this wonderful grace of our Lord in these words of Scripture: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (II Corinthians 8:9). And in Psalm 45:1-2 we learn: "My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever."

Contrary to what many people believe, grace and law are not opposed to one another. Rather, they are like two gloves to fit both hands. In Proverbs 1:8-9 we are told: "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck." God gives us His grace to keep His law. But when that law is broken, He gives us His grace, through our repentance, to be forgiven and to keep His law once again.

When almost the whole world was condemned because of sin, Noah obtained God's grace for his faithfulness. Genesis 6:7-8 informs us: "And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." We are assured in Psalm 84:11: "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."

To the human mind God's grace is utterly unfathomable. It will likely take eternity for this grace to be fully realized by the redeemed. We are given just a glimpse of the riches of His grace in Ephesians 2:4-9: "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."



# 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.*

## TERRORISM

The whole world, both industrial and third-world countries, is suffering from foreign and home-grown terrorism. Not long ago, some school girls were kidnapped by an Islamic terrorist group in Nigeria. They think that the group sold some and made others to be their wives. In Kenya, an Islamic terrorist group took over a shopping mall and killed several. There are brethren in these two countries. Let us pray for them and all the people in these two countries.

## ANTI-SEMITISM IS INCREASING

We read and hear that anti-Semitism is increasing again around the world. Israel has said that it will welcome any of the Jews who wish to migrate there. Many Jews have moved to Israel, not because of persecution, but because Israel has a sacred place in their hearts.

It is amazing how prophecy is being fulfilled in these last days by gathering them from all nations to which they were scattered.

## A FALLACY OF "GAY" MARRIAGE

The following is an article which appeared in the magazine *DOES GOD EXIST?*

"Gay" Marriage – Easy To Do And Hard To Undo

As our culture has embraced same-sex marriage and is now considering polygamy, polyandry, group marriage, and even human/animal marriage, the question remains: how do you break up such marriages? In Missouri, divorce is denied by the state. Several other states have long waiting periods for a divorce to be recognized. The question of common law marriages is also surfacing in several states. The bottom line is that God's plan for

marriage works. When man tries to change what God has instituted, the result is always destructive and painful.

## THE TRANS SEXUAL SITUATION

The following is an article that appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. It has been condensed:

### Vanity FAIR introduces Caitlyn Jenner

After much-hyped Transformation, the former Bruce is 'free'

By Leanne Italie

Associated Press

New York – Bruce Jenner's transition is complete.

"Call me Caitlyn," declares a headline on the July cover of Vanity Fair, with a photo of a long-haired Jenner in a strapless corset, legs crossed, sitting on a stool.

Caitlyn Jenner also debuted a New Twitter account with: "I'm so happy after such a long struggle to be living my true self. Welcome to the world Caitlyn. Can't wait for you to get to know her/me."

Vanity Fair took to Twitter with the cover Monday and said Jenner spoke emotionally about her gender journey: "If I was lying on my deathbed and I had kept this secret and never did anything about it, I would be lying there saying, "You just blew your entire life."

Prior to the unveiling of Caitlyn, Jenner had said he preferred the pronoun "he," but Vanity Fair contributing editor Buzz Bissinger, who wrote the story, refers to "she."

In addition to the va-va voom corset cover, Vanity Fair released a black-and-white video on the making of the cover.

"Caitlyn doesn't have any secrets," Jenner narrates. "As soon as the Vanity Fair cover comes out, I'm free."

Bissinger, the “Friday Night Lights” Pulitzer Prize winner, said in the lengthy magazine story that he had unfettered access to Jenner, both before her transition and after. His approach to Jenner’s life is exhaustive, based on interviews with several of her biological children, her mother, her former wives and others.

Jenner said she is aware of the appalling conditions in which many of the 700,000 transgender men and women live in the U.S. and plans to shed light in the El show.

### **Comment**

Why would someone want to be of a different sex than which he or she was born? God created a person to be either male or female. To become transsexual is an abomination to the wise choice of God. To be transgender, a person who chooses to live as a woman or man - by dressing and identifying himself as such – without taking hormones or having surgery, is also an abomination. Both are sins against the God created human body.

### **MORE BABIES?**

I heard on CNN news that many industrialized countries are giving incentives to families to have more children because their populations are rapidly aging. The rapidly aging populations of these countries is causing many problems for their economies.

The news report said that there is really no problem in the United States mainly because of immigration.

### **DEER TROUBLE**

I read in the newspaper that deer are causing much trouble on runways at various airports. They leap over tall fences or squeeze under them. When on the runway, they like to warm themselves as the runways hold heat longer than bare ground. When you put a deer and a plane together on a runway, both can have a bad day. The deer can squeeze through a gap as small as eight inches.

### **ADHD PILL**

I read that various versions of the drug Adderall, an amphetamine – based stimulant prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder that many college students have long used illicitly while studying, has now graduated into the workforce in the United States.

### **Comment**

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (I Corinthians 3:16-

17).

### **SUPPORT FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

“A record high 6 in 10 Americans support same-sex marriage and a similar share say individual states should not be allowed to define marriage as only between a man and a woman, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

The Post-ABC poll finds 61 percent of Americans support allowing gays to marry and 35 percent are opposed. Support is up only slightly from last year but is a reversal from public sentiment a decade ago, when opponents outnumbered supporters 58 percent to 39 percent.

Support for same-sex marriage has grown significantly across demographic and political groups. Among those under age 30, support has grown since 2005 from 57 percent to 78 percent. Among those 65 and over, it has increased from 18 percent to 46 percent. Support has also risen by double digits across partisan groups, though Democrats and Independents have shifted the most.”

--*Washington Post*

### **Comment**

It is no surprise that the approval of same-sex marriage is advancing in America. It has also advanced in other countries as the God ordained marriage between a man and a woman is violated by those without natural affection (see II Timothy 3:1-5).

### **DIVORCE**

The following is an excerpt from the *AARP BULLETIN*, November 2014:

### **Divorces For Elderly Surge**

The divorce rate for people over 50 has doubled in the past 20 years. In 2010, 25% of all divorces were for people over 50. God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16), and anyone who has been divorced can tell you why. Not only is there emotional and psychological pain involved in divorce, but the ripple effect on families is huge. In addition, the average loss of income for a man is 23% and for a woman it is 41%. The divorce industry in America in 2010 earned \$50 billion. More of an issue for the church is why this is happening. The ease of getting divorces is one factor, but it also has to do with the weakening of faith, commitment, and involvement of seniors in spiritual activities and work. The world’s values and the pressure to look after number 1 have rubbed off on us. The weakness of faith in what the church teaches is a major contributor.

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** What is the benefit of a God fearing home?

**ANSWER:** The child of God's home and its teachings in regard to conduct were the foundations on which it was built. Daily private devotions were never omitted, nor grace at the table, nor Sabbath services at home and in the Church. Cultural pursuits were encouraged, but no work was done on the Seventh Day Sabbath.

When the children were small, mother and father would take turns reading from the family Bible. The pictures in the Bible would be explained, and soon the children would ask to have certain portions re-read.

As the children would get older, father or mother, would have quiet conversations with the youngsters. As they kept getting older, private talks were given them to help them to meet the problems in mature life. All was done with the foundation of the Scriptures.

Old fashioned virtues of obedience, honesty and respect for property and authority were emphasized. Consideration and courtesy were accentuated.

The influence of the Church in America and the influence of America in the world are directly traceable to such homes. On the other hand, the gradual decline of this type of homes is one of the most disturbing facts in modern society. An FBI report on the state of our country, issued sometime ago, stated, "Any discussion of the defense of the nation must eventually come down to the fundamental and basic unity of our civilization – the American home. I

am frank to say that I fear the future more because our internal defense has been weakened than because of any external threat or force."

We have no greater responsibility in all the world than that of establishing "God Fearing Homes" and rearing our children in the fear and nurture of the Lord. The "God Fearing Home" is the basic unit. It antecedes all civilizations. It began with the creation of Adam and Eve and their bringing children into the world. The Church in the wilderness became a pattern of the family. When Jesus spoke of God, He called Him "His Father." When Paul wrote of the Church, he referred to it as the household of God or the household of faith. As believers, we are called "Brothers or Sisters". All these terms are used in speaking of the home.

The Church of God depends upon the home. Local and individual churches are made up of families. When this is not the case, they are drying up on the vine.

Treacherous assaults are being made on the home today. Political theories have attempted to shift the center to communal life. The industrial development has increased the focus of interests outside of the home. Modern social doctrines have often made marriage a temporary convenience. The result is the breakdown of the home to an appalling degree. There are at least three "MUST'S" in the program to save the home.

1. It is the joint responsibility of the church and the home to form a religious attitude toward marriage. "This is a holy institution. Its obligations and objectives are likewise holy." There are many to whom the privilege of parenthood is denied and who suffer greatly because of

their misfortune, but this does not alter the fact that the primary object of marriage is the establishment of a home in which children are reared in the fear of God.

2. It is essential that the children of God everywhere join hands in rebuking the divorce evil. God fearing people are often in remiss and hesitant to speak out against this cancer.

3. Children of God must concern themselves to make the God fearing home a spiritual place as well as a place of labor. The Church of God has its place to fill in the administration of God's will and the sacraments to be ordered, but the responsibility for the children belongs in the first place to the parents.

In these last days, Satan is mounting a determined effort to overthrow the faith of children of God. We are now witnessing the carnage of his determined attack. The predictions of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning the events leading up to His second coming are quite ominous, and Satan is trying his best to overthrow the faith of the very elect.

**QUESTION:** What does the Bible teach about God's character?

**ANSWER:** We will give you nine aspects of God's character:

1. **God is eternal.** He exists from eternity to eternity without a beginning. God is, so to speak, in the present, who was in the past, and who shall be throughout all ages. See Revelation 1:8; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:1, 2.
2. **God is immortal and therefore cannot die.** He has life within Himself and therefore cannot die. See I Timothy 6:15-16; John 5:26; Deuteronomy 32:40; Psalm 36:9; Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13.
3. **God is changeless.** He says, "I am that I am." He does not change nor take incarnations. See Exodus 3:14.
4. **God dwells in the heavens.** Jesus Christ taught us to pray, "...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." See Matthew 6:9.
5. **God is almighty and all-powerful.** His almighty power is seen throughout the universe and in our world; all is upheld by God's immense power. See Genesis 17:1; Exodus 6:3; Revelation 1:8. "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). "...with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite" (Psalm 147:5).

6. **God is all-wise.** His great wisdom is revealed in the order and beauty in all His creative work. God manifests His wisdom in telling us about the future. Because of His wisdom, He knows all things even before the foundation of the world. See Job 36:5; Psalm 104:24; 135:5; Jeremiah 10:12; I Timothy 1:17.

7. **God is righteous.** "Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments" (Psalm 119:137). See Ezra 9:15; Psalm 11:7; 116:5; 145:17.

8. **God is love.** He is as a kind father would be toward His children. The greatest manifestation of His supreme love is that He gave His beloved Son to redeem the world from sin and death. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). See I John 4:8, 16; Psalm 89:14.

9. **God is holy.** "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15-16). See Leviticus 11:44; 20:7.

**QUESTION:** I have a friend who always monopolizes any conversation by talking about all of her problems. It gets depressing listening to her complain all the time. What can I do? I wish to remain friends with her.

**ANSWER:** We all know people like this. You are correct! Someone who constantly complains or talks about his problems all the time soon wears out his welcome. Jesus said, "...Murmur not among yourselves" (John 6:43). Have you ever asked yourself why your friend is like this? I don't know the answer, but sometimes a person who constantly talks about his problems is actually just lonely and looking for attention.

Do you ever talk over the phone with your friend, or spend much time with her? Ask God to help you continue to be friends and show concern for her, even if it may not be easy at first. The first part of Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loveth at all times." Help your friend realize that her constant complaining is actually hurting her by alienating her from others.

She may not even realize how negative she sounds, and how others react to her complaining or grumbling. Don't rebuke her harshly. Let her know you care about her, and you want to help her.



## Myanmar

*A testimony being given during a church service in Myanmar.*





*A testimony being given, and a church service being conducted.*



LESSON I

CHRIST TRANSFIGURED

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:1-10.

Golden Text: Mark 9:7.

“And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.”

1. Whom did Jesus take with Him up into a high mountain? Mark 9:2 (first part).
2. What happened to Jesus at this time? Mark 9:2-3.
3. Who appeared talking with Jesus? Mark 9:4.
4. What suggestion did Peter make? Mark 9:5.
5. Why did Peter make this suggestion? Mark 9:6.
6. What did a voice from heaven say? Mark 9:7.
7. When the disciples looked around, Whom did they see? Mark 9:8.
8. With what did Jesus charge them? Mark 9:9.

LESSON II

THE DEAF AND THE DUMB SPIRIT

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:14-29.

Golden Text: Mark 9:29.

“And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.”

1. Whom did Jesus see around about the disciples at this time? Mark 9:14.
2. How did the multitude receive Jesus? Mark 9:15.
3. What did He ask the scribes? Mark 9:16.

4. How did one of the multitude answer? Mark 9:17-18.
5. What did Jesus say, and what happened? Mark 9:19-20.
6. What question did Jesus ask the boy’s father, and what was his answer? Mark 9:21-22.
7. How did the father show his belief in Jesus? Mark 9:24.
8. Describe the casting out of the spirit. Mark 9:25-27.
9. What question did the disciples ask Jesus, and what was His answer? Mark 9:28-29.

LESSON III

JESUS RIDES INTO JERUSALEM

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-19.

Golden Text: Mark 11:9 (last part).

“...Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”

1. When Jesus came close to Jerusalem, why did He send two of His disciples into the village? Mark 11:1-3.
2. Did the two disciples do as Jesus told them? Mark 11:4-6.
3. How did Jesus enter Jerusalem? Mark 11:7-8.
4. What did the people say? Mark 11:9-10.
5. What did He do in the temple after He entered Jerusalem? Mark 11:15-17.
6. When the scribes and chief priests heard what Jesus said in the temple, what did they plan to do and why? Mark 11:18.
7. What did Jesus do in the evening? Mark 11:19.

NOTE: Please read also Matthew 21:1-16 where you can find this same story.

LESSON IV

THE LESSON OF FORGIVENESS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:23-35.

Golden Text: Matthew 18:27.

“Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.”

1. What is this parable about in Matthew 18:23?
2. What was the amount of the man’s debt? Matthew 18:24.
3. When the man could not pay, what penalty was assigned him? Matthew 18:25.
4. Upon the servant’s promise to pay, what did his lord do? Matthew 18:26-27.
5. How much appreciation did this servant show for the compassion shown him when he had the chance to do good also? Matthew 18:28-30.
6. How did word reach his lord of what he had done? Matthew 18:31.
7. After his lord had called him. What did he ask him? Matthew 18:32-33.
8. Will the heavenly Father also punish those who do not forgive others? Matthew 18:35.

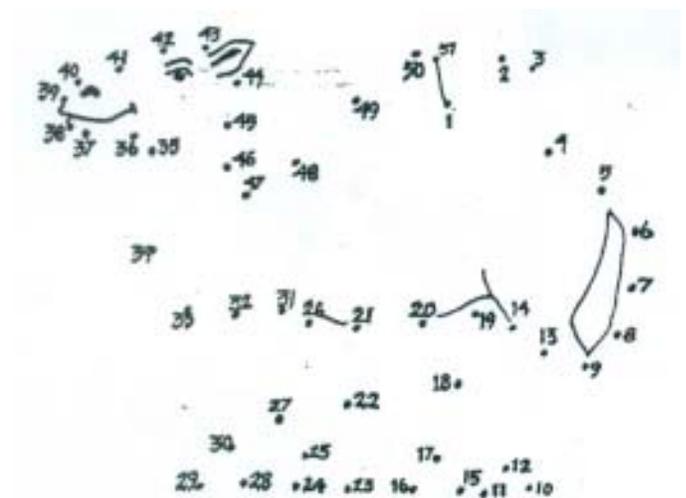
NOTE: Are we sure that we are always as ready to forgive our fellowman as our Lord is to forgive us?

MOUNTAINS

Use the name of the mountain to complete each sentence below. Look up the Bible verses for help.

1. Noah’s ark came to rest on the mountains of \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 8:4).
2. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 31:18).
3. Joshua was buried on Mount \_\_\_\_\_ (Joshua 24:30).
4. God proved that He is the true God on Mount \_\_\_\_\_ (I Kings 18:20, 39).
5. God spoke with Elijah on Mount \_\_\_\_\_ (I Kings 19:8-9).
6. Jesus taught His disciples on the Mount of \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 24:3).

Follow the dots beginning with number 1. Draw a line from number 1 to number 2, and so on. The animal which you will draw is mentioned in the Bible many times. Would you like to look up a few of the verses? Genesis 24:10-20; Job 1:3; Matthew 3:4; Matthew 19:24.



## RUTH'S CHOICE

Many, many years ago, a man named Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, lived in the land of Bethlehem - Judah. They had two sons named Chilion and Mahlon. There was no way for the father to make a good living for his family in this land for there was a great famine. He decided to take his family to a new place, and so he chose the land of Moab. Moab was the land of the Gentiles, but he thought that it would be better than the place they were now living. It was in this land that he died and left his two sons and his wife Naomi alone.

While the two sons were young men, they met two young women in this Gentile land and fell in love with them. Their names were Ruth and Orpah. They married them, and they lived together for about ten years and were very happy, but one day a very bad thing happened for both of the brothers died and left Naomi alone with Ruth and Orpah. Even though she had learned to love the two girls, she was not happy and longed to be back with her own family and friends. Ruth and Orpah loved Naomi too.

One day Naomi heard that there was prosperity again in her home land, and so she came to Ruth and Orpah and told them that she had decided to go back home again. They both walked part of the way home with her so that she would not have to go all the way by herself. They both cried as she kissed them good-bye. She told them to go back home and find them a husband and have a happy life. Neither one of them wanted to leave Naomi, but Orpah kissed her and turned and went on her way home. Ruth just could not leave her side but that she wanted to go home with her to her country and stay with her the rest of her life. "I want to learn of your God and serve Him. I want to be a friend of your people and live in your land. Please say that I can go with you and dwell in your house with you the rest of your days." When Naomi saw that she was sincere and really wanted to serve God, she granted her wish and took her with her to the land of her people in Bethlehem - Judah.

In this new land, Ruth worked hard in the fields where she gleaned barley for a very wealthy man named Boaz. Ruth was very happy working for Boaz for he was very

kind to her. One day Ruth asked Boaz why he was so good to her, and he told her that he had heard the story of how she had come to this new land to serve the God of heaven. He also told her that he liked her because she had been good to Naomi. This made Ruth even more happy for she liked Boaz and liked to work for him. One day she was made even happier than she had ever been, for Boaz asked her to be his wife.

Ruth made a very wise choice when she decided to go with Naomi and serve the God of Israel. God gave her many blessings. We, too, should serve God and do His will. He will never fail to give us many blessings and make us happy, just as he did for Ruth.



Now as always, there is a great need for cheerfulness in the world. As a family, social, and business investment, cheerfulness pays more dividends than any other quality within the privilege of man.

When you feel the corners of your mouth turning down, turn them up again. Dark and gloomy feelings thrive on turned-down lips, and the probability is that the only words that will pass between them are those better left unsaid.

So smile! Let your eyes twinkle with cheerfulness, and see how quickly pessimisms will vanish, how rapidly the cobwebs will clear from your mind, and how much brighter and better a place to live in the old world seems.



I CORINTHIANS 13

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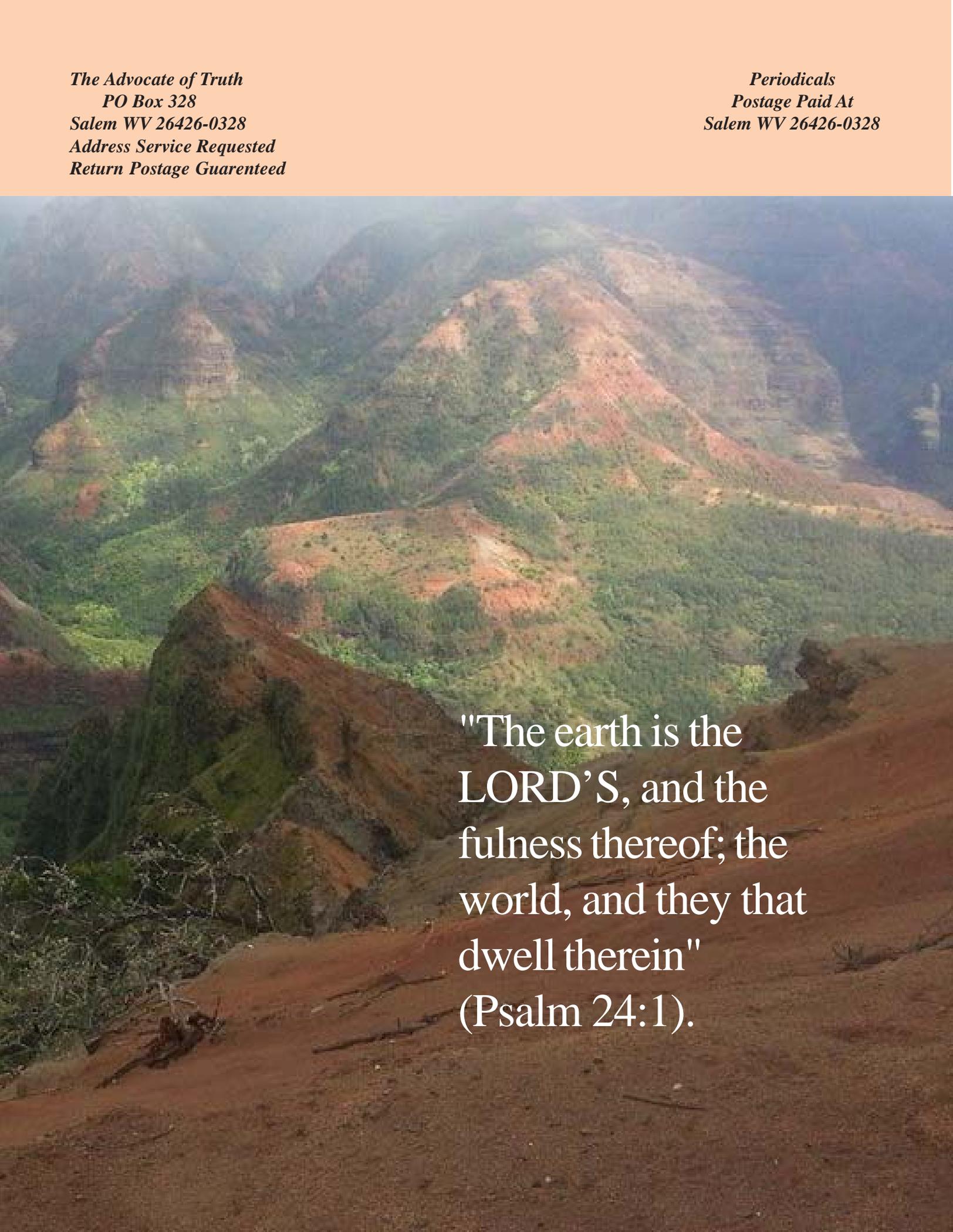
CAN YOU FIND?

Look up the Scriptures below and find the answers.

1. How did we get the Bible? Look up and write out II Timothy 3:15 and II Peter 1:21.
2. How long will the Bible last? Find Psalm 119:89 and Isaiah 40:8.
3. When will the words of Christ pass away? Find Matthew 24:35.
4. Give a reason for studying and memorizing the Bible in Psalm 119:11; in II Timothy 3:15; and in II Timothy 2:15.
5. What was the reason the Bible was written? Look up John 20:31.
6. What is God in Isaiah 5:3; in I John 4:8?
7. Read what God does in Romans 5:8; in Hebrews 13:5 and in Deuteronomy 31:6.

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"The earth is the  
LORD'S, and the  
fulness thereof; the  
world, and they that  
dwell therein"  
(Psalm 24:1).