

The Advocate of Truth

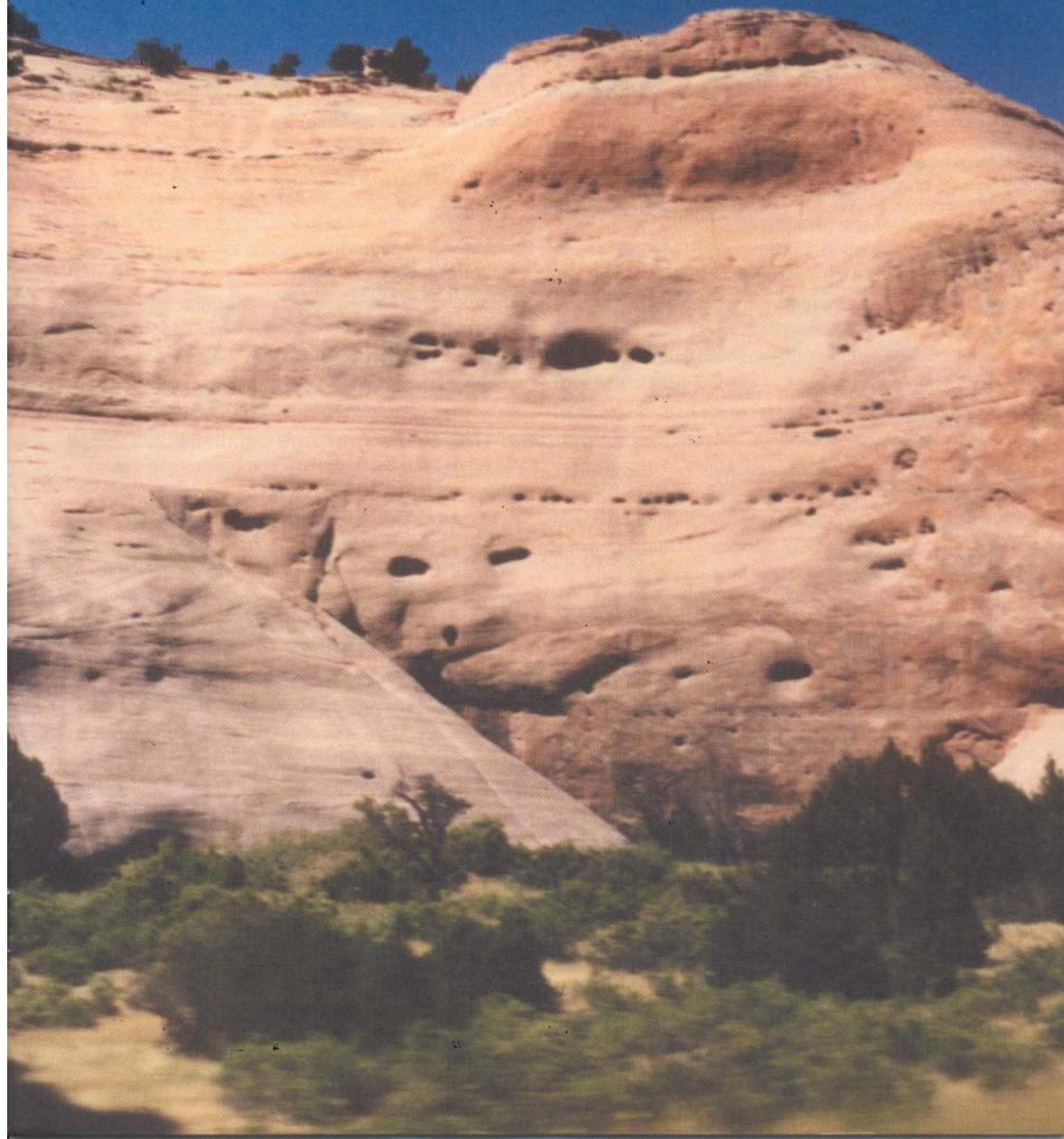




TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Word Keys That Unlock Truth 3
Our word this month is "hypocrite".

Jesus Was Not A Magician 4
He performed miracles by the power of God.

A Place For The Word Of God 5
People make a place for almost everything else.

What Accompanies Salvation? 6-7
Here we look at four things.

Our Deep Relationship With God 7-8
We must have the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

Enoch's Walk With God 9
He was one of two men that were given this distinction.

The Conditional Gift Of Eternal Life 10
Eternal life has some strings attached.

A Backward Age 11-12
Is society moving backward when it comes training our children?

Revelation: Is This A Book Of Mysteries 12-13
Part Three: The Seven Sealed Book (continued)

The Signs Of The Times 14-15
Tatoos make statements.

Questions And Answers 16-17
Why does God call himself the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

The Church Around The World 18
This month we see a grandfather baptizing his grandson in India.

The Children's Pages 19-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "The Box With The Golden Key"
Games and Puzzles

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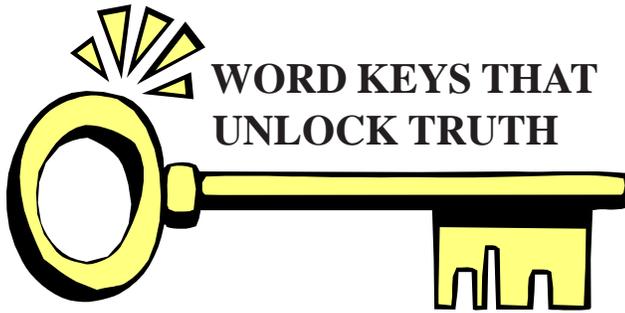
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HYPOCRITE

A hypocrite is one who seems or professes to be what he or she is not, especially in the matter of religion. Hypocrisy is the act or practice of being a hypocrite. It is a deadly sin since it is a profession of religion where none is felt or where none exists. It has been used since the beginning of time by men and women for the lowest kinds of purposes. The hypocrite almost always has some personal and selfish aim. Dishonesty and deception are the major tools used by the hypocrite. Yes, the hypocrite engages in intentional deception! He claims to be more religious than he really is. The hypocrite actually lives a lie.

On many occasions when Jesus rebuked hypocrisy in the New Testament, His words were directed against the religious leaders: "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves" (Matthew 23:13-15). "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (verse 23). Three more times in chapter 23 He calls the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites!

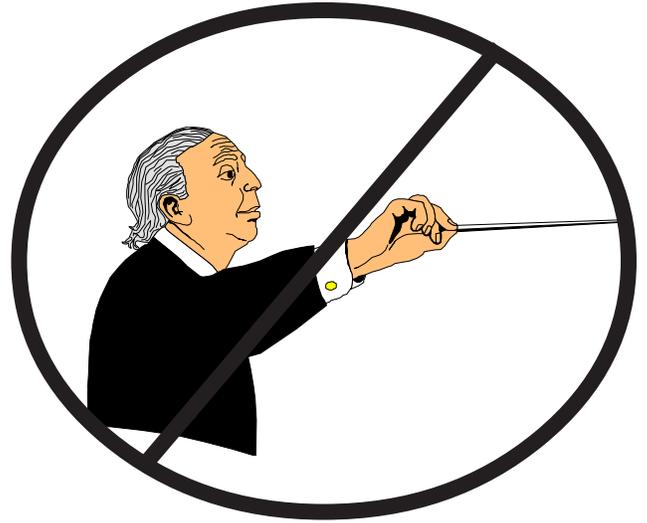
Our Lord spoke very sternly with respect to hypoc-

risy. To the sinner, He seemed to speak with a gentle voice. Perhaps He spoke very sternly to the hypocrites because of the damage that hypocrisy can do. When the actions of the hypocrite are exposed, many people may be hurt, disappointed or disillusioned. The hypocrite can cause not only the loss of his own credibility but the credibility of his comrades and all that they stand for. For instance, one hypocrite who is exposed and is a member of the church can cause a prospective convert to lose interest in becoming a child of God.

Scripture declares that the hypocrite shall be punished: "So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's hope shall perish: Whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web" (Job 8:13-14). "Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds; Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he? He shall fly away as a dream, and shall not be found: yea, he shall be chased away as a vision of the night. The eye also which saw him shall see him no more; neither shall his place any more behold him. His children shall seek to please the poor, and his hands shall restore their goods. His bones are full of the sin of his youth, which shall lie down with him in the dust" (Job 20:4-11).

Finally, we are told not to judge one another. It is easy to look for flaws in another, but it is hard to see our own. Jesus told us this in the following passage: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:1-5). Let us not fall into the trap of hypocrisy.

JESUS WAS NOT A MAGICIAN



We read in the Bible that Jesus performed many miracles. Was Jesus a master magician, the greatest con artist in history? Did He actually have the power to perform miracles? Let us consider some of these miracles.

In John 2:1-11 we find that Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding feast. At the scene were six waterpots of stone. Jesus commanded the waterpots to be filled with water. He then commanded the water to be drawn out and showed to the governor (master of ceremonies) of the feast. The water had turned to good (new) wine.

A modern-day magician could have faked such a miracle. To produce many gallons of liquid that looked like wine would be difficult yet not impossible. But to replace many gallons of water with good (new) wine would be impossible!

On two different occasions, Jesus fed great crowds on small amounts of food. One time He fed five thousand on five barley loaves and two fishes and ended up with twelve baskets of scraps.

A magician would need a lot of food to feed five thousand people. He would have to make people think he had started with only five loaves and two fishes. Jesus could never have hidden that much food, and the disciples could not have concealed that much bread and fish under their robes. Even if they could have, the question remains as to where all that food came from in the first place. There were just too many witnesses for the event to have been falsified.

In John 9, we read that Jesus healed a man who had been blind from birth. Let us note that Jesus' enemies thoroughly cross-examined the man to ascertain what really happened. They spoke to the man and his parents, but

they were not able to refute the fact that the man could now see.

We may see a magician doing some magical trick on an innocent bystander. We know that the magician has tricked us into believing something untrue is true. Many times the so-called innocent bystander is an accomplice to the illusion. But how many days, weeks, or months would that man have had to sit begging in order to convince the neighbors that he was really blind? Who could find a man so dedicated that he would be willing to go to all that trouble? Also, there are the parents. They would have to be bought off. The logical conclusion is that this was not a magic trick. Jesus really healed that man, or the account doesn't make sense.

These are just some of the miracles that Jesus performed during His short life here on earth. He cursed a fig tree, and it immediately withered. Jesus had power over disease, demons, and death. He even read people's minds and accurately predicted the future.

But with all the miracles which Jesus performed we see a consistent reservation of supernatural power. He never employed this power in order to awe the crowds. Nor did He perform miracles for personal benefit or comfort.

The people of His time were just as skeptical as those living in this day and age. Even after more than two thousand years, there is no new evidence that would lead us to believe that His miracles were anything less than supernatural.

Selected

A PLACE FOR THE WORD OF GOD

It seems as though most people make a place for almost everything except God and His Word.

People should make an inside place for God's Word. The Word of God should have a place in the thoughts, in the memory, in the conscience, and in the affections. "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom" (Psalm 51:6). "Thy word have I hid mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). We are not just to read the Bible, but also to absorb it and to hide it in our hearts. It is important to believe, obey, and honor the Word of God. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts" (Jeremiah 15:16). Sometimes the Word is bitter at first; but when it is eaten and absorbed, it is sweet to the taste. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

People should make an honored place for God's Word. The Word of God should receive attention, reverence, faith, and obedience. Jesus said, "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:47). He also said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). In Matthew 7:24-25, he said, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." The Bible records the words of Jesus.

People should make a trusted place for God's Word. We ought, by all means, to rely on the sure Word of promise. God will not lie, or change. "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent" (I Samuel 15:29). "So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word" (Psalm 119:42). Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Solomon was blessed after arising from prayer.

"Blessed be the Lord, that hath given rest unto his people, Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant" (I Kings 8:56). "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). David said, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalm 19:7).

People should make a beloved place for God's Word in their hearts. "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). "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103) "The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:9-10). "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver" (Psalm 119:72).

It is sad to say that most people make no place for the Word of God. Because the Word of God makes a demand on people, they make no place for it.

Because the Word of God teaches people to forsake things that displease God, they make no place for it. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).

Because the Word of God teaches people to do what God commands, they make no place for it. "But be ye doers for the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22).

"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

Contributed

WHAT ACCOMPANIES SALVATION?

"But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak. 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 6:9-10).

We see that "things that accompany salvation" are mentioned in Hebrews 6:9. There is a foot note in some Bibles which tells us that "belong to" can be substituted for the word "accompany."

What is it that accompanies or belongs to salvation? In this brief article, let us consider four things.

A joyful noise accompanies salvation.

Noise itself is not salvation! However, as a rule when a man is saved from his sins, he will rejoice, and he will make a joyful noise unto his Savior. When a live baby is born into the world, it usually makes a noise. Those who are spiritually alive praise the Lord. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise" (Psalm 98:4).

It is true that Paul exhorted certain ones to study to be quiet, but he was not talking about worship in the house of God. He was talking about leading a quiet and peaceful life in this world. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Timothy 2:1-2).

David was a man after God's own heart. One reason God loved him was his willingness to praise the Lord. David not only praised the Lord himself, but the encouraged others to do the same. "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. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:1-3). "Both

young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven" (Psalm 148:12-13).

A yoke accompanies salvation.

A Sabbath School teacher asked her class of little children the question, "What is the yoke of salvation?" With a smile, a little girl answered, "Why that's when Jesus puts His arms around you." "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)

The best time to put on His yoke is when one is a young man, the morning time of life; when habits are flexible and being fixed. "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth" (Lamentations 3:27). "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment" (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10).

We must choose one of two yokes. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

We must do something with Christ. We must serve Him or Satan. We cannot be neutral! If we are not with the Lord, we are against Him. If we are not gathering with Him, we are scattering abroad. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).

A fruitful life accompanies salvation.

The fruit of the Spirit called love goes with salvation. It is tantamount unto salvation. Without it, we do not have salvation. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love), I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity (love), I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity (love), it profiteth me nothing" (I Corinthians 13:1-3).

We may have zeal for the Lord, and we should have zeal for Him. He had zeal Himself for the house of God when He drove the money changers out of the temple. "And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise" (John 2:13-16).

God does not pat fruitless Christians on the back. He does not say, "that's all right." Jesus said, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:2).

John the Baptist preached, "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire" (Matthew 3:10).

What is the fruit of the Spirit? "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

A clean life accompanies salvation.

Only God knows how many have been lost and are being lost because of professing religionists who have not and who do not live clean lives. "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" (Ephesians 5:5).

"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks" (Ephesians 5:3-4). When we have clean hearts, we will have clean lips.

"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (I Thessalonians 4:7).

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Corinthians 7:1).

A joyful noise, the yoke of Christ, a fruitful life, and a clean life are all necessary ingredients of salvation!

Contributed

OUR DEEP RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A LESSON STUDY

Memory verse: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

I John 4:13-18

"Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in

God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

The child of God's relationship with God can be deepened through prayer, through Bible study, and through faithfulness in His service. The Holy Spirit, which is the holy Power of God, is available to us as a guide and helper in every time of need. We rejoice in the hope of a new life in the kingdom with Christ through the help of the Holy Spirit opening the eyes of our understanding to discern the meaning of the many promises which are given to us, whereby we are made partakers of the divine nature. (See II Peter 1:4.)

If the Heavenly Father has taken us into this confidence and revealed His plan of salvation to us, we are able to appreciate the fact that He sent His Son into the world to be the Redeemer and Savior. There is little in the Bible in the way of "confessions of faith," but we have such a "confession": "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."

This great truth of the Bible is simply stated, but many have failed to grasp its meaning. Even while confessing that Jesus is the Son of God, they are confused with the error that the Father and the Son are one and the same person, that Jesus was His own Father, and the Father His own Son. How thankful we should be that the Holy Spirit has revealed to us the truth on this subject, so that we can testify with Paul that "...to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things,...and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things..." (I Cor.8:6.)

Those who dwell in love, the apostle explains, dwell in God: "In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love" (verses 17-18 RSV).

The religion that is presented in the Bible does not use fear of punishment as a means of making or keeping converts. God does not want anyone to serve Him because they are afraid of Him, and afraid of the punishment He may inflict upon them if they are not wholly pleasing to Him. A hell of torture does not have any rightful place in the heart and mind of a true follower of Jesus.

Ephesians 3:14-21

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 14). Here again the Scriptures stress the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of the Heavenly Father, not the Father Himself. "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (verses 15-16).

Verses 17-19 emphasize the importance of Christ dwelling in us by faith. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God."

Our memory verse, Galatians 2:20, presents an interesting truth concerning the life of the child of God. We know that children of God, although justified to life through faith in the shed blood of Christ, will die apparently the same as other people. But actually children of God die, not because of condemnation, but because by yielding themselves in sacrifice they are planted together in the likeness of Christ's death. The lives children of God now live are upon the basis of their faith in the blood of Christ, so when they give up their lives in sacrifice, they have the assurance that they will be acceptable to the Lord.



ENOCH'S WALK WITH GOD

Enoch is one of the most striking personalities of the Old Testament. He is one of but two men of whom it is said "he walked with God" (Genesis 5:24). He is the only one, except our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom it is written that "he pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5). Walking with God is the reason for the remarkable qualities and success of this man. Our walk with God is not an ordinary walk, and we do not keep company with the ordinary. We are walking with God! However strange it may seem to our finite minds, it is possible, according to the Word of God, to live in the realm of the Spirit and walk in fellowship with the Heavenly Father. Enoch's walk emphasizes an important relationship between humanity and divinity, between God and man, between that which is weak and limited, and that which is powerful and unlimited. Think of the high and holy privilege of walking with God. What an exciting thought that we can walk with God!

God-Who clothes Himself with honor and majesty.

God-Who covers Himself with light as with a garment.

God-Who stretched out the heavens like a curtain.

God-Who laid the beams of His chambers in the waters.

God-Who makes the clouds His chariot.

God-Who walks upon the wings of the wind.

God-Who makes His ministers a flaming fire.

God-Who laid the foundation for the earth that it should not be moved forever.

God-Who sent the springs into the valleys.

God-Who gives the fowls of the heaven their habitation and causes them to sing among the branches.

God-Who waters the hills from His chambers.

God-Who causes the grass to grow for the cattle and herb for the service of man that He may bring forth food out of the earth.

God-Who planted the cedars of Lebanon and provided the high hills as a refuge for the wild goats and the rocks for conies.

God-Who appointed the moon its seasons and the sun its appointed time to go down.

You mean we can walk with God Who is like that? The answer is, Yes, we can! How can we, as mere human beings, walk with God? We read in I John 1:7, "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." True fellowship with God and true fellowship with one another are made possible through and by Jesus Christ, God's Son.

The walk of which the Bible speaks means that we have discovered the road of truth. The quest for truth is as old as the human race. Pilate was not the first man to ask, "What is truth?" Men of every generation have asked that question. The followers of Buddha have answered it by saying truth is following the teachings of Buddha. The disciples of Confucius have answered it by saying truth is observing the philosophies of Confucius. The devotees for the Prophet Mohammed have answered by saying Allah is God and Mohammed is his prophet. However, the voice of Jesus Christ speaks loud and clear above all others as he declares, "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Some people say, "Let's be broad-minded. All roads lead to the same place. You go your way, and I'll go mine. We'll arrive at the same destination." But the truth reveals there is only one way to receive eternal life. It is a narrow way. It has a strait gate, and only a few will find it.

Others have said it doesn't really matter what we believe so long as we are sincere in believing it. The true child of God differs with such an opinion! There is no doubt that Adolph Hitler was a sincere man. He believed in what he was doing and sold a nation on it. Jim Jones with his cult in South America was sincere, but his sincerity could not be commended when he coaxed or forced nearly 1000 people to commit suicide in the name of religion.

It does matter what we believe! Our faith must be based upon truth. "Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name" (Psalm 86:11).

Contributed

THE CONDITIONAL GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Yes, eternal life is a gift. However, as we reason on the subject of eternal life, we will find that it is a conditional gift. Eternal life will only be given to those who comply with the conditions. Phillips' translation of Romans 6:23 captures Paul's thoughts: "Sin pays its servants: the wage is death. But God gives to those who serve him: His free gift is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." We see that the gift is only to those who serve him. What must we do to serve Jesus? Jesus said, "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus also said, "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour" (John 12:26).

We were all "children of wrath" by nature. "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephesians 2:3). In times past, we were unqualified for this gift. We were servants of sin rather than servants of God. But we changed and made ourselves eligible to receive eternal life. Jesus said to the church in Sardis, "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy" (Revelation 3:4).

In the second and third chapters of Revelation are the messages to the seven Churches of Asia. These letters contain many commendations, warnings, reproofs, exhortations, and promises. These promises fully embody a "reward motive" or incentive principle without which the necessary work could never be accomplished. Let us note that in nearly every instance the reward is referred to as a gift or a grant, not a payment: "...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life....To him

that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written....And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations....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" (Revelation 2:7,17, 26: 3:21). Eternal life is a gift too magnificent to be earned, but it shall not be given to everyone. The recipient must be qualified and meet the conditions. He must stand among the "overcomers."

Jesus emphasized this same point in the parable of the Unprofitable Servant. The servant prepared the meal and did all that was asked of him, and still he deserved no special commendation. He had done only his duty. "And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded of you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17: 8-10).

All that we can do in obeying God's law and surrendering to Him is only our duty to Him. We cannot earn or in any way equal the reward which He has offered to His faithful servants. Yes, eternal life is the gift of God, but we shall not receive it unless we have done our duty.

"...Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21.) Every individual who would receive the "gift of eternal life" must do something. Every good and faithful servant will receive eternal life!

Contributed

A BACKWARD AGE

BY BIBI SHIMON ALLICOCK



Instead of moving forward, we seem to be moving backward. The Bible tells us to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). In our modern society, we say that children have rights. If their parents give them a few lashes for bad behavior, they end up in jail or prison.

Take a good look at our society today. Children are beating and shooting parents. We have children who are rearing children. Children are stealing, and many involve themselves in lawless activities. Many times the same police that harass the parents for administering corporal punishment will themselves beat the children more cruelly when they catch those same children in lawless activities. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15). "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24). "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15). "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (verse 17). Some people are ignorant, and they beat their children cruelly. Of course, they need to be punished. Also, some parents do some ridiculous things to their children such as burning them, chopping them, etc.

Readers, why can't we get hold of a Bible. It teaches us everything we need to know. Let us begin with parent and child interaction. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). This is a commandment with a promise. If we adhere to our parents, there won't be any reason for punishment. We as parents have to make certain that we are training our children up in the fear of the Lord. Also, fathers are warned not to provoke their children to wrath, but they are to bring them up in the

nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die" (Proverbs 23:13). "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18). "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell. My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things. Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long. For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off. Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. Buy the truth, and sell it not, also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice. My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" (Proverbs 23:14-26).

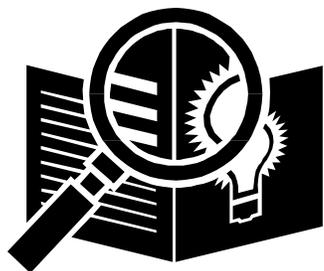
We fight crime and immorality, but in many cases we instigate them. For example, many governmental bodies and authorities have legalized and are still legalizing abortion, prostitution, same sex marriages, etc. Abortion is murder in disguise where we take the life of an unborn child. God said, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13).

Prostitution is committing a form of fornication. Due to committing these gross practices, we open ourselves to all the sexually transmitted diseases. We are admonished to flee fornication: "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (I Corinthians

6:18). "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

How about same sex marriages? Let us be real! God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve or Eve and Evette. Let us search the Scriptures carefully to see how homosexuals and lesbians originated. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness

through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness; covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:18-32). "For there is no respect of persons with God" (Romans 2:11).



Revelation:

Is This a Book of Mysteries?

Part Three -- The Seven-Sealed Book (continued)

By Del DeLong

In the last episode, we saw the devastating shaking of the earth when the sun became black and the moon became as blood. Stars fell from heaven, and the heavens departed as a scroll. Every mountain and island were moved. Men were so afraid that they called upon the rocks of the mountains to fall upon them, as they hid in mountains and in caves. These are the events of the Sixth Seal. Those who have not been caught up and resurrected will have to endure these horrible events. God's saints will stand on the "Sea of Glass" and will only ob-

serve what is going on below. We read of this in Revelation 4:6. "*And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.*" "*And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God*" (Revelation 15:2).

In I Thessalonians 4:15-18 we read, *"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

We are told in Psalms that only with our eyes will we see the reward of the wicked and no plague will come near us. *"Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Psalms 91:8-10).*

The events of the Sixth Seal are devastating, but the Wrath of God has not yet come upon the earth and mankind. These Seven Last Plagues will begin after the Seventh Seal is removed. Before that event takes place, a special honor guard must be recognized. These individuals are the first group of people to have accepted Jesus as their personal saviour. As you know, the message of salvation was delivered first to the Children of Israel. A large group of them accepted Jesus. This group is known as the 144,000. They have now been resurrected along with the rest of God's saints and a special seal is placed in their foreheads to honor this unique group of Jewish people. After they accepted Christ, the rest of the Jews were blinded to Jesus, and they remain in that state even now. The blindness will be removed when Jesus sets up His Kingdom on this earth after the Seven Last Plagues are finished. *"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded" (Romans 11:7).* The election spoken of is the 144,000.

Let us read about the sealing process of the honor guard known as the 144,000. *"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and*

he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel" (Revelation 7:1-4).

If we continue to read the next few verses, we will see that there were 12,000 sealed from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. These individuals were the first to accept Jesus as their saviour, and they waited in their graves until the time when Jesus returned to resurrect His saints.

At the same time these followers of Christ are resurrected, the rest of the saints are resurrected too. All of these individuals stand on the Sea of Glass safe from the events of the Sixth Seal. Those resurrected saints who are not part of the 144,000 are referred to as "the great multitude" which no man could number from all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues (languages). *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9-14).*

The events of the Sixth Seal are very powerful indeed, but the Wrath of God is coming next. This is also known as the Seven Last Plagues. We read this in Revelation 15:1. *"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God."* In our next episode, we will discuss the Seven Last Plagues.



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.

BRANDING THEMSELVES AS BELIEVERS

Tattoos can make statements about both spirituality and individuality

By Joe Rodriguez

WICHITA, KAN.- Martha Arana wears her faith on her skin- in permanent black, red, and green ink. Arana, a 24- year old Wichita State University social-work student, recently had a cross wrapped with a vine and two roses tattooed on her right ankle. It was her first tattoo.

Her 21- year old sister, Maria Arana, got to the same tattoo at the Elektrik Chair, a tattoo parlor in Wichita, Kan.

"Whenever we've gone through stuff, the only thing that gets us through is our faith," said Martha Arana, a Catholic. "So we both decided to get something that symbolizes our faith."

The two are among countless people of faith nationwide who have tattoos that reflect their spirituality and religious beliefs.

But is a tattoo an appropriate way to display faith? Some religious leaders say tattoos-- faith-based or not-- are sinful because they deface a person's body. But people who get them and give them say the artwork is a way to

show and even share their faith with others.

"I don't see pigment being stabbed into your skin changing who you are on the inside," said Matt Headley, a tattoo artist and owner of Red Sea Tattoo in Wichita, Kan.

Raul Tanguma, an artist at the Elektrik Chair, figures about one-third of the tattoos he does are spiritual symbols and art, including crosses and detailed images of Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

"A lot of first-time tattoos are religious ones," he said.

Rodger Kistler, 24, who serves as a Christian missionary, said tattoos have become another way for him to connect with people he serves. His tattoos, which cover his right arm, include Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and the words "The Way, the Truth, the Life."

"I've always wanted tattoos, even before I was a faith-believing Christian," said Kistler, who is with Youth With a Mission, in Tyler, Texas, a nondenominational mission organization.

"And I love the fact that anyone who walks up to me and asks about them, I get to share with them, and it just opens doors with people who maybe don't feel accepted in the churches."

For Melanie Townsend, a high-school teacher, her tattoos symbolize her spiritual journey to Buddhism.

"Once I really started getting into my (spiritual) practice more, I wanted to be able to visually represent that," said Townsend, who converted to Buddhism 15 years

ago.

Despite their popularity, religious tattoos have their detractors.

Some Buddhists, Townsend said, consider tattoos such as hers- of Zen Buddhism's founder Bodhidharma- disrespectful. Images of holy people are not to be reproduced on the body, she said.

"To me, it's more how I choose to live my life," she said, "and how I respect the teachings of that person."

Pat Bullock, director of the Wichita, Kan.-area association of Southern Baptists, said he believes that tattoos fall under the heading of "displeasing the Lord. Scripture teaches us that your body is the temple of God, and you are not to desecrate the temple," he said. A tattoo "is a desecration."

Kistler, the missionary, said the Scripture referring to tattoos is "old law" that addressed people who would scar their bodies as a sacrifice for dead family members. He sees no harm in getting tattooed.

"We decorate our churches. Why can't we decorate our temple?" he said, referring to the human body.

And what's more, he said, his tattoos have helped him grow in his faith. "How can you ever turn against Christ if you have him there on your arm?"

COMMENT

Wearing a tattoo is not necessary. It is true that our bodies are the temples of God. The ink injected into the body surely cannot be good. Therefore the temple is desecrated.

PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

We human beings are so prone to put smaller, insignificant, unimportant things of life in the wrong perspective. Sometimes we get our eyes focused away from the important things and on the smaller ones, disastrously defeating the ultimate purpose of life.

As the old saying goes, we "get the cart before the horse". In so doing, we bring upon ourselves countless untold fiery trials, grueling hardships, tears and incredible headaches, simply because we do not put first things first. This condition is the result of not following what Jesus

said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...."

The true need today is to get along with God, permit Him to lay out before us His divine plan for our individual lives, and carefully map our earthly journey down the highway of life. If we don't, our lives will prove to be disappointingly fruitless, and in some lamentable cases, shattered, tragic wrecks will mark our pathway along the avenue of life.

Back in the days of Abraham, who was known as "The friend of God," we find God's divine blessing upon the aged patriarch because he chose to put first things first. When Abraham was one hundred years old and his wife, Sarah, was ninety, God gave them a son. God promised that in this son, Isaac, Abraham's seed would be in number as the sands upon the seashore.

Sure, Abraham sinned at various intervals, but he always triumphantly returned to God, and he consistently endeavored to put first things first!

Five hundred years after Abraham we find the same Hebrew nation in virtual slavery down in Egypt. God is in immediate need of an incomparable leader to bring them out of slavery and lead them on their journey into the Promised Land. He called Moses who was possessed of great natural ability, a man who had already received valuable training from God.

Did Moses put first things first? Yes he did ! When the momentous departure of the Israelites from Egyptian soil took place, it was Moses who, under the divine guidance of God, led them out. Moses possessed the royal commission of leadership from heaven. He was committed to put first things first!

About fifteen hundred years later, a mild- mannered man, whose father was a priest in the Holy Temple at Jerusalem, appeared. This bold and fearless preacher, John the Baptist, was given the unparalleled opportunity of announcing to the world, "Behold, the Lamb of God." Even in the face of death, John the Baptist put first things first, and God honored his submissive devotion and willing service.

Are you putting first things first in your life? Is God wanting to use you for a particular work, but can't because the job requires someone who is willing to put first things first? By not putting first things first, you are missing a wonderful blessing!

Selected

BIBLE

Study



Question: Why does God in the Bible call Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

Answer: After the flood, Satan, the prince of this world, deceived the people and nations to believe in many gods. Therefore, the people were plunged into darkness, confusion and idolatry. It is written that Terah, the father of Abraham, and his family worshipped and served other gods (Joshua 24:2). These gods were abominations and idols, and they were great deceptions of Satan (Psalm 96:5). At such a time, the Almighty God appeared unto Abraham, then to his son, Isaac, and then to Jacob, and revealed His plan and made covenants and promises regarding His plan to bless all the families of the earth (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:16-18; Acts 7:2-4). Therefore, the only true Almighty God is called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:6; 6:3). The apostles clearly taught the people, saying the God of our forefathers the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob raised Jesus, His Son, from death and also glorified Him (Acts 3:13). This great God of the Israelites is called "God the Father" in the New Testament (John 6:27; I Corinthians 8:6).

Question: I have heard ministers refer to The Mystery of Godliness and The Mystery of Iniquity. Will you please comment on them?

Answer: From the day Satan entered the Garden of Eden, the mystery of iniquity has been working in the human family. The mystery of godliness has also been working. Space does not permit us to dwell on these two mys-

Questions and Answers

teries from a prophetic viewpoint, but let us notice their working. It is in this respect that the saints have failed to give their attention. As a consequence, they have been led astray and deceived in so many ways.

When the serpent beguiled Eve, the mystery of iniquity began to work. It became energized and very active. The word also means "lawlessness," rebellion against rule and authority. When the serpent said to Eve, "Yes, God has said," the insinuate was the working of iniquity. The working was hidden, subtle, deceitful, and therefore mysterious. We can trace the same subtle working of iniquity through history to the present day. It appears in diverse ways and in all classes of society, government, and religions.

When Abel offered his lamb by faith, it was the mystery of godliness working. When Cain brought his own works without faith, this was the mystery of iniquity. When Cain hated his brother, iniquity was working in its very beginning as a hidden principle. When this mysterious principle went into action, it caused Cain to murder his brother. This was iniquity and lawlessness in its final stage. Abel meekly bowed, and he did not resist. This was the mystery of godliness. These two mysteries will work in the world until the mystery of God is finished. "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (I John 3:12). "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now" (Galatians 4:29). These two opposing principles are foremost, but there are many others manifest daily before our eyes - in this working of godliness and iniquity.

The Apostle Paul says, "I shew you a mystery." If a

mystery is revealed or understood, it is no longer a mystery. Here we are only "shown" a mystery. There are hidden principles and forces "working." You cannot at the present see and comprehend "how" and "why" all these principles and forces are working, but you can observe their working in some of their outward activities.

There is "truth" and the "lie." These are continually working in every human being and in every segment of human society. The newly born baby manifests both truth and deception. The judge who watches humanity pass before him each day sees it working. There is the lie which is the untruth. There is only one truth, and "no lie is of the truth." One works on the side of the mystery of iniquity, and the other works on the side of the mystery of godliness. In the subtleness of the mystery of iniquity, sometimes the lie is made to appear as truth. This is iniquity. Satan made his lie to appear as truth. When Jacob presented himself as Esau, that was deception, the lie, iniquity. When the Jews made false accusations against Jesus (Who is the truth), and when Peter swore that he did not know the Man, -this was the lying mystery working against the mystery of truth.

Whenever we hear or see a man or woman, a preacher or politician, a child of God or a reprobate, use deception in any degree, who denies the truth, or who remains silent when he ought to speak, this is the working of the mystery of iniquity. There can be no middle ground between the two systems. In divine and moral principles, there cannot be any so-called shades of relevancy. In God's account, it is either truth or the lie! It is either right or wrong! Yet we mortals persist, knowingly or unknowingly, in our effort to confuse the two principles. All of us have "our own way" and our own ideas. We say, "This is the way I see it." It is the working of the spirit of iniquity when we change God's truth into a lie.

If we have been baptized and have made a religious profession, we are prone to esteem ourselves to be free from this working of the spirit of iniquity. We are also prone to think of other religious people as incapable of working on the side of iniquity. Whereas past events and the present activities of men and women prove it otherwise. When our Lord told His disciples it was necessary that He should suffer and be put to death, Peter said, "Be it far from thee, Lord." Jesus did not say "Peter," but "Get thee behind Me 'Satan:' thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." The real spirit motivating Peter to ask such a statement was the same that

actuated Judas to betray the Lord of glory and truth. It behooves every child of God to recognize this fearful, yes, this frightening possibility that he or she can be the mouthpiece of unrighteousness, and the factor for the enemy of our Lord. This is also part of the mystery. The Lord did not pray for Satan, but for Peter. Yet Satan "desired Peter" and used him as his own mouthpiece. Whether or not we can change such events, we must RECOGNIZE them, and we should recognize our own evil tendencies to drift over to the side of iniquity. Some acts we can recognize as diabolical, but others are so subtle in their working we fail to recognize them for what they really are. We ignore them or excuse them, especially in ourselves, or if we are members of the party that "work" them. God is not the author of confusion! Yet there is confusion, schism, every wind of doctrine, hatreds, malice, evil surmisings, etc. This is the working of the mystery of iniquity. Are we in any way party to it? We must recognize that guilt, whether it be little or great.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16). These three things are working today on every hand. It is most abominable and iniquitous when found working in the child of God, the false or the true professor in the church and in the pulpit. Professing Christians today instead of "mortifying the flesh" and seeking the things of the Spirit of godliness, are seeking to please their fleshly desires, comforts, and pride. This is the working of the mystery of iniquity.

God has rightly, sovereignly, and mercifully made an absolute SEPARATION between godliness and iniquity, between righteousness and unrighteousness, between truth and the lie. To whatever degree we are found confusing the two, to that degree we are become partakers with Mystery Babylon, the mother of Harlots and the hold of every unclean and hateful bird. You cannot be a partaker of the Lord's table and the table of devils. There is not and cannot be any concord, any mixture, any fellowship between Christ (the truth) and Belial (the Liar), between the temple or worship of God and the temple or worship of idols.

May God open our eyes to see ourselves and to discern in our words and daily living -whether it be God or Satan, and that we may have our "senses" quickened to discern the difference between the two workings.



India

Overseer, M. Kanakarathnam, is shown baptizing his grandson, Dr. Clement Marroher, before the Lord's Supper service this year.



LESSON I

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17.

Golden Text: Matthew 3:13.

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him."

Note: We continue the study of John The Baptist and of Jesus being baptized.

1. Where did Jesus go to be baptized, and who was to baptize Him? Matthew 3:13.
2. Why didn't John want to baptize Jesus? Matthew 3:14.
3. What answer did Jesus give him? Matthew 3:15.
4. Was Jesus baptized by being put under the water? Matthew 3:16 (first part).
5. What happened when he came out of the water? Matthew 3:16 (last part).
6. What did the voice from heaven say? Matthew 3:17.

LESSON II

**THE VICTORY OF JESUS
OVER TEMPTATION**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11.

Golden Text: Matthew 4:7.

"Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

1. Why did Jesus go into the wilderness? Matthew 4:1.
2. How long had Jesus been fasting? Matthew 4:2.
3. Who came to Him, and what did he ask Jesus to do? Matthew 4:3.
4. How did Jesus answer Satan? Matthew 4:4.

5. Where did the Devil take Jesus, and what did he ask Him to do now? Did Satan also know the Scriptures? Matthew 4:5-6.

6. How did Jesus answer Satan this time? Matthew 4:7.

7. Where did the Devil take Jesus after this? What did He offer Jesus? Matthew 4:8-9.

8. Read Matthew 4:10, and then give Jesus' answer to Satan.

9. Did Satan leave Jesus alone after Jesus refused to give in to him? Matthew 4:11.

LESSON III

CHRIST'S SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-20.

Golden Text: Matthew 5:14.

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

1. Jesus went up into a mountain to teach His disciples. Verses 3-11 of Matthew 5 contain what we call the Beatitudes. Read these verses and see if each one in the class can name at least one. Try to memorize these within the next few weeks.

2. What did Jesus say His disciples were in Matthew 5:13?

3. Were they to be the light of the world? Matthew 5:14. Should we be the same today? Name some ways we can let our light shine in the world.

4. What will happen if we hide our Light? What will happen if we put it on a candlestick? Matthew 5:15.

5. What did Jesus tell His disciples, as well as us today, to do in Matthew 5:16?

6. What did Jesus say about the law (Ten Commandments) in Matthew 5:17?

7. Should anyone take any words away from the commandments? Matthew 5:18.

NOTE: Jot and tittle means smallest possible amount.

8. What will happen to those who break the commandments? What will happen to those who keep the commandments? Matthew 5:19-20.

LESSON IV

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:5-15.

Golden Text: Matthew 6:14.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

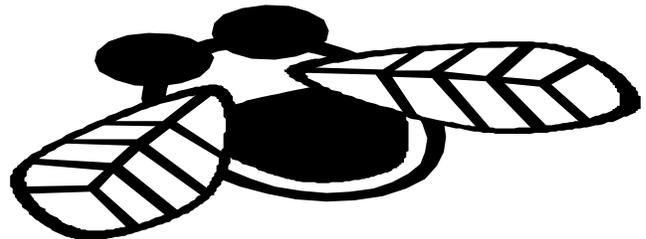
1. What should we not do when we pray? Matthew 6:5.
2. How should we pray and where? Matthew 6:6.
3. What does Matthew 6:7 tell us not to do?
4. Does our Heavenly Father know what things we need before we ask? Matthew 6:8.
5. After what manner should we pray? Matthew 6:9-13. How many can say the Lord's prayer from memory?

NOTE: This prayer is a model and a good one for little children to learn. We also need to remember that God wants us to ask Him for the things we want and need, and to depend on Him.

6. If we forgive men their trespasses, what will our Heavenly Father do for us? Matthew 6:14.
7. What will happen if we do not forgive men their trespasses? Matthew 6:15.

NOTE: The Lord's Prayer was part of Jesus' Sermon on

the Mount. This sermon is continued through the rest of Matthew, chapters 6 and 7. Read these chapters to enjoy Jesus' words that He spoke to many that day.



LITTLE, BUT WISE

Who showed the little ant the way
 Her narrow hole to bore;
 And spend the pleasant summer day
 In laying up her store?

The sparrow builds her clever nest
 Of wool and hay and moss:
 Who told her how to weave it best
 And lay the twigs across?

Who taught the busy bee to fly
 Among the sweetest flowers;
 And lay his store of honey by
 To eat in winter hours?

'Twas God who showed them all their way,
 He gave them wondrous skill;
 And teaches children, if they pray
 To do His holy will.

ANSWERS TO THE BIBLE QUIZ

1. Thirty 2. Judas 3. Bought a potter's field to bury strangers in. 4. By hanging himself 5. Pontius Pilate

ANSWERS TO A BIBLE ZOO

1. Badger (Exodus 26:14) 2. Ass 3. Elephant furnished ivory from its tusks (I Kings 10:18). 4. Dog 5. Camel

BIBLE ZOO QUIZ

APPLE - CROSSWORD PUZZLE

See if you can "capture" the following Bible animals for your zoo, by learning their identity. Some you will recognize easily: others you may have to search for. The clues given will aid you.

1. An animal whose skin was used to cover the tabernacle. Clue-- Look in Exodus 26: 7-14.
2. An animal of great importance in Bible times: on occasion it was given power to speak: one of them carried Jesus while He was in Jerusalem. Clue-- Search in Numbers 22:22-31 and Matthew 21:1-11.
3. This animal furnished material to help build the throne of King Solomon. Clue-- Search in I Kings 10:14-20.
4. This animal laps water when it drinks: ran wild in Jerusalem's streets: was kind to a poor sick beggar, and its name is mentioned somewhere in the first eight verses of Psalm 59. Clues-- Judges 7:3-7: Luke 16:19-21: Psalm 59.
5. This rather large animal furnished clothing for John the Baptist, and carried Isaac's bride: Job owned many of them. Clues-- Search in Genesis 24:61-67: Job 1:1-10.

JUNIOR BIBLE QUIZ

Each correct answer to the questions below counts ten points. Perfect score is fifty points.

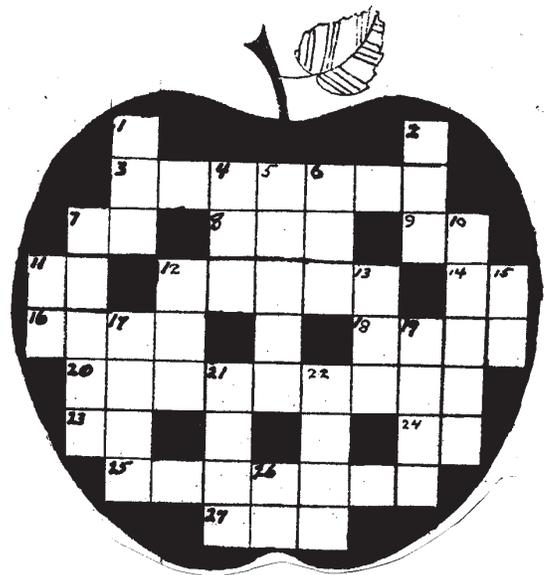
1. How many pieces of silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus?
2. Who said, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood?"
3. What did the chief priests do with these pieces of silver that Judas brought back?
4. How did Judas die?
5. Who was the governor that Jesus was delivered to?
(Bible Puzzle answers on page twenty)

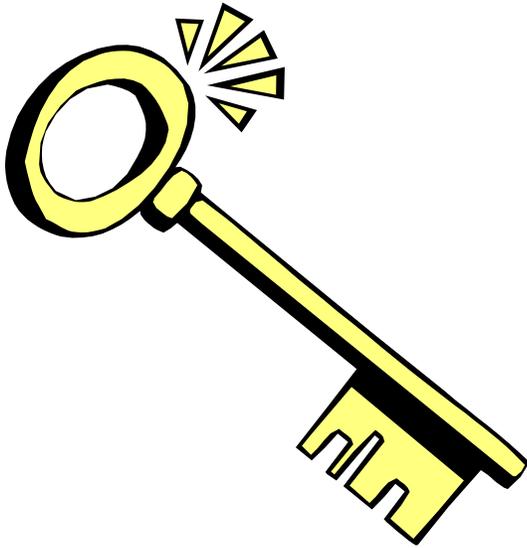
DOWN -

1. A purpose
2. An English measure of 45 inches
4. A garden tool
5. Israel subsisted upon it for 40 years
6. One of Jether's sons, I Chron. 7:38
7. A place on the border of Naphtali, Josh 19:33
10. Coming along behind, Matt. 4:19
11. God is the great I----, Exodus 3:14
12. to sink down
15. An exclamation

ACROSS-

3. Hagar's son, Gen. 16:11
7. The same as No.11 down
8. A paddle for rowing
9. The 6th note of the diatonic scale
11. Abbreviation for "Anno Domini"
12. A town mentioned in Neh. 7:38
14. The subdominant of any major music scale
16. The name which Naomi accepted, Ruth 1:20
18. A Philistine city, I Samuel 17:4
20. An identifying name given Mary, Matt. 28:1
23. A prefix meaning the "before" or "in"
24. The first two letters of present indic. pl. of BE
25. The title for the king of Egypt, Ex.2:5
27. The first three letters of the son of Shema, IChron. 2:44





The Box with the Gold Key

By May Stanley

Joy looked puzzled as she read the familiar handwriting on the white envelope Mother had just handed her. "To Joy On Her 14th Birthday" was written on the envelope. "Mother, where did this come from?" she asked. "Uncle James has been in India for a year now."

"Uncle James gave that envelope to me before he left," Mother said, smiling. "He said that I was to give it to you on this special day."

"I wonder what it could be?" Joy's forehead wrinkled in a frown as she stared at it.

"Open it, silly," her younger brother, Ricky told her. "You will never find out by looking at it."

Joy laughed. "Might be a good idea," she said, ripping open the envelope. As she pulled out the letter something shiny fell into her lap.

"A little gold key!" She gasped, turning it over in her hand. Eagerly, she read the letter out loud.

"Dear Joy,"

"I am sorry that I cannot be with you in person today, but I have a treasure box for you. This little gold key will open it if you follow directions carefully. First, go to my former room next to Ricky's. You will find a small black box in the top bureau drawer. It contains the first clue.

God bless you, and may the treasure bring much happiness to you."

"Uncle James."

Joy jumped up. "Come on, Ricky. What are we waiting for?"

Quickly she ran to Uncle James' room and opened the top bureau drawer. Ricky was close at her heels.

"O look, Ricky!" she said as she pulled a black box from the drawer. "Let us see what is inside."

Eagerly she reached in and pulled out a bit of paper. It read,

"This is the clue to the treasure; May it bring you joy without measure.

Next you will hunt

In a place out in front,

Where in summer you find lots of pleasure."

"Where is that?" Ricky asked. "I do not get it."

Joy thought for a moment. "He could mean outside in front of the house-maybe the porch." She dashed down the stairs. "Come on. Let us get a garden trowel to dig in the stone urn by the steps. That will be our first try."

"It is a good thing it is too early for mother to have anything planted out here yet," Joy said breathlessly as she dug in the hard dirt in the stone urn.

"I-I cannot find anything here."

Ricky had been peering under the porch steps and other places he thought likely. "I have not found anything either," he said.

Joy looked around her. Suddenly her face brightened. "The summer house! Let us inspect the summer house! It follows the clue."

Ricky ran after her as she headed across the front yard for the little summer house where they often played in the summer, shaded from the heat.

Joy began to search everywhere: behind the benches, under the old table, in a hole under the steps. Vines covered the summer house, and she began to explore there. Little by little she worked her way upward. Near the top of the trellis, where the vines grew thickest, her fingers struck something hard and unfamiliar.

"There is a box here," she called to Ricky.

"Push that bench over here, please. I cannot reach it."

She stood on the bench and tugged. The box was overgrown by the vine in such a way that she could not

budge it. She pulled the vines apart one at a time, until finally the box loosened. A thrill tingled through her as she got it down.

She felt disappointed when she looked at it. It was just an ordinary tin box. She began to tug at the lid. Rusted through, it broke off in her hand. There was some colored cellophane inside. She opened it and another note fell into her hand.

"It is another clue," Ricky said, looking over her shoulder.

With fingers that trembled, Joy removed the wrapper, and read,

"Take a little stroll out to the road,
Turn right, half a mile from your abode:
Take with you a shovel,
And dig near the hovel,
By the tumble down porch there is a toad."

"That sounds corny," Ricky said. "What does all that mean?"

"I do not know either," Joy told him. "But let us follow the clues one by one. First we will get a shovel. Then we will go out to the road, turn right, and start walking. That part is clear anyway."

After they had walked a ways, Ricky asked, "Joy, what is a hovel?"

"A hovel is a tumbled down old shack, I think."

Suddenly she stopped. "O Ricky, that is it! I think I know where Uncle James meant. It might be that old shack that sits back off the road. Come on, let us run!"

As they came suddenly upon the place, Joy stopped. She would not admit it to Ricky, but the place did look a little scary with its boarded up windows and weeds all around.

"Do you really think this is the place?" Ricky asked. "M-maybe it is somewhere else."

"Yes, I think this is it." Joy's voice trembled a little. "Come on, Ricky, and be sure not to drop the shovel."

As Joy pushed bravely through the weeds and brambles to the shack, she noticed how dead and brittle they seemed to be.

"Here we are," she said. "I guess nobody has been here for years. I do not even see a porch. The clue said it had a tumbled down porch. Come on, let us look at the back."

"This sure is rough going," Ricky panted. They both

had to stop several times to untangle themselves from the weeds and burrs. Once Joy looked around in the high grass for Ricky but could not find him.

"Ricky!" she screamed frantically.

"Ouch!" Ricky's voice was so near her it made her jump. He pulled himself up. "I stumbled over that rabbit hole. Phew, I hope we soon find that treasure."

Ricky poked among the high grass near the porch. Joy saw some large stones near by.

"O Ricky!" she cried to her startled brother. "Here is a big, cold dead toad!"

"Well, what do you know about that," Ricky said. "I thought something bit you. It is an iron toad."

"I guess you did, the way I screamed!" Joy walked back to where she had found the toad. "See that bare spot? That is where the toad was sitting. Let us start to dig there."

"All right, I got the shovel, and I will start." Ricky pushed it into the soft earth. Joy let him dig until she saw he was getting tired. Then she took her turn.

"Did you hear that, Ricky?" She dropped to her knees and reached into the hole. "It seems to be a metal box. I will have to dig a little more."

Finally, Joy had the metal box on the ground before her. She took her gold key and turned it in the lock.

"It-it is a package-all wrapped in oilskin!" Joy cried. "O Ricky, this must be the treasure at last!"

Impatiently, she tugged at the wrappings. When she finally got the gift unwrapped, she gasped with pleasure.

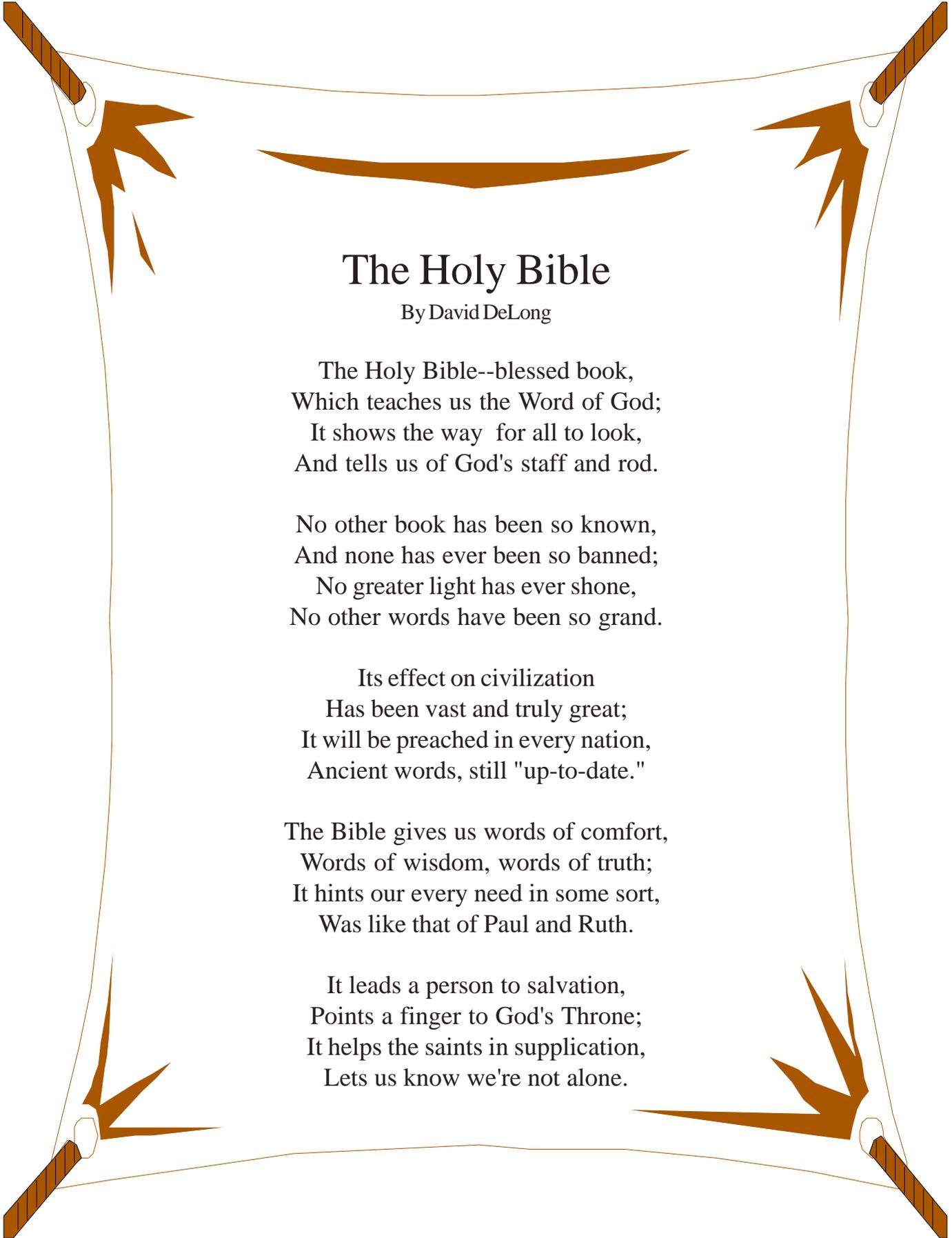
"A Bible! A beautiful Bible in white leather and with gold edges! So this is the treasure!"

"Aw, I thought it would be gold or precious jewels, or something like that." Ricky was clearly disappointed.

"O Ricky, this treasure is better than that kind of one. Listen to what Uncle James has written on the flyleaf: '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'" (Matt 6:20.21).

"Say, that is right," Ricky said. "That is why we love Jesus more than anything in the world. Say Sis, your Bible is a beaut."

Joy hugged it tightly to her as they started back through the underbrush. "I love it more than anything I own. And it was lots of fun to find it on a treasure hunt."



The Holy Bible

By David DeLong

The Holy Bible--blessed book,
Which teaches us the Word of God;
It shows the way for all to look,
And tells us of God's staff and rod.

No other book has been so known,
And none has ever been so banned;
No greater light has ever shone,
No other words have been so grand.

Its effect on civilization
Has been vast and truly great;
It will be preached in every nation,
Ancient words, still "up-to-date."

The Bible gives us words of comfort,
Words of wisdom, words of truth;
It hints our every need in some sort,
Was like that of Paul and Ruth.

It leads a person to salvation,
Points a finger to God's Throne;
It helps the saints in supplication,
Lets us know we're not alone.