

The Advocate of Truth

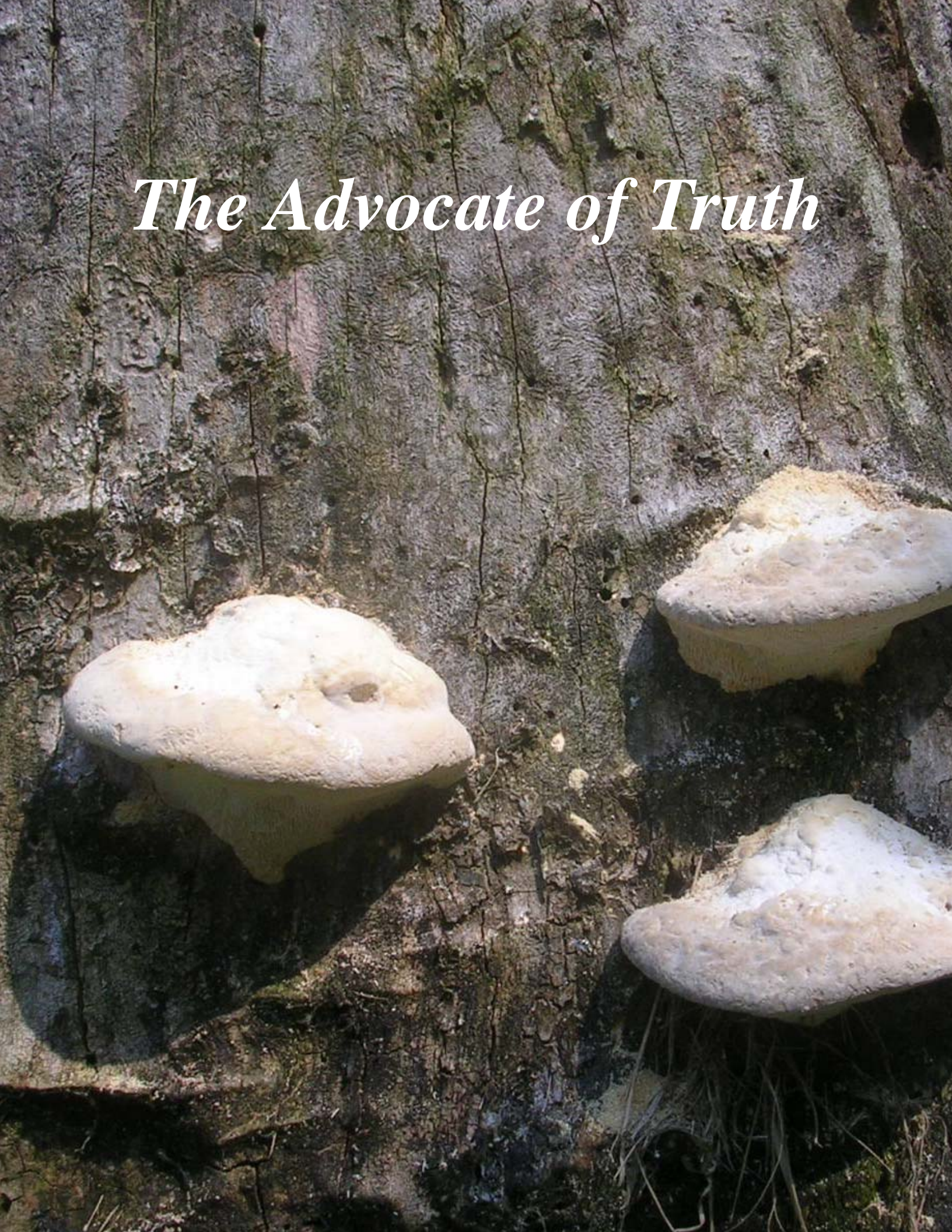




TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

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

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

E-Mail: cogsevday@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

David DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

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

Volume LXVI

Number 4

September 26, 2016

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940

Principles And Reasons: Baptism 3-5

Read what the Bible says about baptism.

Religion? 5-6

Why religion by itself cannot satisfy.

God's Presence In Suffering 6-7

If we are God's child, He will never forsake us.

His Prosperity Plan 8-10

God challenges His people with tithing.

An "Iffy" Situation 11-13

Many of the Bible's promises to us are conditional.

The Signs Of The Times 14-15

Threats to world economy and other issues.

Questions And Answers 16-17

If offended, what am I supposed to do to reconcile?

The Church Around The World 18-19

This month we look at Myanmar.

The Children's Pages 20-23

Sabbath School Lessons

A Story - "Be Kind to Animals"

Games and Puzzles

PRINCIPLES AND REASONS BAPTISM

By Moises Torres M.

1. Why a Baptism?

TO PRODUCE SOMETHING NEW. We need certainly to be baptized, to be born again.

Baptism, from the Greek, *Baptizo*, means to immerse or be immersed. Baptize, from Greek *baptizein*, means immerse, to baptize. To baptize believers by immersion in water is an act of initiation into the Christian faith.

Baptism, or immersion in water is the “beginning” of a process that must be completed to bring “a new life” in Christ. This is a mystery locked in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is “the beginning and ending of God’s creation.” Every finished product has a beginning and an end to be completed. And so it is with the believer. He must first be baptized (immersed) in the nature of God, as a beginning of faith, and then continue immersed in a process of renewal and transformation until he is completed, as a new creature in Christ.

“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:4-5).

2. How is it that a seed becomes a new fruit?

IT NEEDS TO BE PLANTED, or “being baptized” in the earth.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit” (John 12:24).

The seed has to be immersed in the belly of the earth and remain immersed there, so that a process of transformation takes place until it became a new fruit.

NOTE: It takes the same for a student to get his degree on a certain specialty. He “first” needs to be enrolled (baptized) in a college or university, and remain immersed there until he gets his license or right to exercise as a new professional in that matter. But just as the wheat seed which is not removed from the ground up until it yields its fruit, so also a student cannot quit studying his career till he achieves his purpose. Otherwise it will only be an abortion of something which never would come to existence.

3. What is the process for a human being to be born?

HE IS FIRST BEGOTTEN IN THE WOMB OF HIS MOTHER, AND THEN HE IS BORN AT HIS DUE TIME.

He is first begotten (baptized) of flesh and blood in the womb of the mother and remains in growing up until he reaches his fullness to be born at a proper time. He is not born immediately after he is begotten; He would have to pass through a process of time to reach his fullness to be born. There will always be a “beginning and an ending” in this process to produce or create something. “Begotten” is the beginning, and “born” is the end or fullness of a new being. In this case, the word “end” does not mean ceasing to be; but reaching a climax of growth. Naturally, the baby should not leave the womb of the mother ahead of time, or he may die.

4. Is this the same process applied to be born of the Spirit?

YES, THE BELIEVER MUST FIRST BE BEGOTTEN OF THE SPIRIT, SO HE MAY BE BORN OF THE SPIRIT AT THE RETURN OF THE LORD.

The Lord Jesus Christ told Nicodemus: "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:3-8).

5. When is the Believer begotten of the Spirit?

WHEN HE IS BAPTIZED in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then HE receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are begotten of the Spirit when we accept the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and we accept him as our personal Saviour.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38).

The Holy Spirit is the power of God, His mind, His intention. It is His divine essence. When we received this gift from God then we are "baptized or immersed" in GOD'S SYSTEM, in "God's internet" (His Word), just as a child is immersed in the womb of the mother when he

is begotten of human nature.

6. When and how is someone born of the Spirit?

AT THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND TRANSFORMATION OF THE LIVING AT THE RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The Lord Jesus told Nicodemus: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8).

NOTE: Those who are born of the Spirit are like the wind, (Pneuma, in Hebrew), something that cannot be seen but it is there. It is as the air in the wheels of the cars. It cannot be seen but it is in there with all its power. That is why wheels are also called "pneumatic".

As has been stated, the believer is **first begotten of the Spirit in baptism**, and after a process of transformation and growth through the Holy Spirit, he will be born as a spiritual being, and will be "like the wind." This will be verified in God's children at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, when the saints will be raised up in a spiritual body in the same mode or fashion the Lord Jesus was manifested after His resurrection.

NOTE: After His resurrection, Jesus Christ said: "...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:18).

This meant He had gotten full control over matter. There were no more barriers of time, space, or matter to stop Him. HE HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A SPIRITUAL BEING! He could now go through walls, He could become invisible or materialize Himself and take shape whenever He wanted; He could also elevate Himself and move by the speed of light. (Luke 24:31; Luke 24:36; Acts 1:9).

NOTE: Man has managed to split the atom as one of the greatest advances in human science but has failed to integrate it back again. This science is only in the knowledge of God. The Lord Jesus demonstrated the great science of His Father with His resurrection and even

before in some of His great miracles: The Lord Jesus got the entire domain on matter at His resurrection.

Apostle Paul, speaking about the resurrection declares:

“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.” (I Corinthians 15:44-45). When man is transformed into a quickening spirit, then he will be born of the Spirit at the return of the Lord.

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming” (I Corinthians 15:20-23).

NOTE: Therefore, baptism is the beginning of our confirmation of faith and hope. And it has to be performed under our profession of faith, and from our desire to be begotten of the Spirit. Then we need to start living according to the Spirit of Christ so that we are resurrected in His same manner or fashion. Baptism is the “beginning” of that “end” we hope for, because in the Lord Jesus Christ nothing is made halfway, EVERYTHING IS FULL OR COMPLETE IN HIM. Only living according to His Spirit (mind, intent) we will reach completeness, maturity, and we will be worthy to step to a higher state.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9).

NOTE: Everyone begotten of the Spirit must act and live according to the Spirit of Christ, because we were baptized or immersed in His name or teachings, and we must let this Spirit dwelling in us take control of our lives until we reach our spiritual fullness and are born as spiritual beings.

RELIGION?

What it cannot do for us

Bond Tennant

After studying World Religions in college many years ago, I wonder why anyone, who has been introduced to Christianity and the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, would wish to follow and observe the things of another religion that denies Christ.

Webster’s New World Dictionary defines religion as “belief in a divine or superhuman power or powers to be obeyed and worshiped as the creator (s) and ruler (s) of the universe.”

Men have tried to satisfy their religious longings and feelings in many ways. Some have worshipped the sun, moon, and stars. Some have worshipped earth, fire, water, fish, birds and animals. They have made idols of stone, wood and metal. They have worshipped countless gods and spirits that have been products of their own imagination! Others have attempted, and still are attempting, to worship the true God through a vast variety of ceremonies, sacraments and services. However religion without Jesus Christ in no way can solve man’s sin problem and give him the assurance of eternal life.

In plain words, religion is man’s attempt to make himself right with God. However, all such attempts are futile. This is because man’s best efforts are flawed and unacceptable to God. Isaiah 64:6 tells us, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags....”

Religion free from Christ cannot remove sin. Our virtues in no way can cancel out our vices. No religious observances can cancel out a single sin. They may make us feel good, but they cannot make us good. The cause of man’s problem is man’s heart problem! By nature, man’s heart is corrupt and depraved. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us, “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.”

Do you see the point which I wish to convey? Being

just religious cannot give to us salvation and eternal life! Only a firm belief in and commitment in following our Lord Jesus Christ can bring about salvation from sin and eternal life! Just claiming to be religious and following the custom of religion will not do it.

Jesus is the answer! “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).

With Christ, we have an endless hope! Without Christ, we have a hopeless end!

God's Presence In Suffering

(“...My Presence Shall Go With Thee...”--Exodus 33:14)

Reprinted

The Christian is never alone. The presence of the Lord is always with him. The Lord is closer to His children than they are to themselves. God’s presence with His people will solve every problem and give victory in every test of life.

God is always present with His people: “...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...” (Matthew 28:20). God is with us through good and evil; when the crowd is with us and when the crowd is against us. God is with us when we are sick as well as when we are in health. He is with us in song and in sorrow. He is with us in pleasure and in pain. He is with us now and will be with us even unto the end: “...be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

Not all Christians have the same temptations, afflictions and trials in an evil day. There are greater and lesser troubles and burdens. All God’s children have not identical things to suffer in an evil day. There are ordinary troubles and distresses, and there are extraordinary troubles and distresses. When the troubles and distresses are ordinary, there the ordinary presence of God will suffice, but when the troubles and distresses are extraordinary, there an extraordinary presence of God is required and given.

Some afflictions and sufferings are but for a short time, while others are for a longer time and, accordingly, God manifests His presence.

In one affliction, a Christian may need more of the enlightening presence of God than in another; and in another affliction a Christian may need more of the

comforting presence than in another.

God’s presence is with us when evil forces are against us. “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31). Let the devil and demon powers be against us with all the wicked men of the world, yet we need not fear them. We have many enemies; powerful enemies, daring enemies, enraged enemies. Our enemies may plot and devise mischief, but they shall not be victorious. “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn...” (Isaiah 54:17).

God’s presence is with us in sickness. “The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness” (Psalm 41:3). It is good to be a Christian in the time of sickness and suffering. God will strengthen His children upon the bed of languishing, and make their bed in sickness. It is unpleasant for a Christian to be sick, but God will make his bed soft, and freshen it with His presence and tender care. He will make his bed comfortable, wipe away his tears, and minister to him at such times and reveal His love for him.

God is with us in trouble. “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee” (Isaiah 43:2). God is with us in the waters of sorrow and trouble. Many are the storms that come into our lives, storms that seem to bring us to our end and defeat us, but God is always there to deliver. A Christian never needs the presence of God so much as

in the time of great trouble. If God does not stand by a Christian in times of trouble, who then will? What could we do, how could we bear up, and how could we stand, if it were not for God's presence and faithfulness? "The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles"(Psalm 34:17).

It is to the honor of God that He is with His people in times of trouble. God never gets more honor than by helping His people. Our God is like a great commander. It is the honor of a commander to be with his soldiers in the thick of the battle. God stands upon His honor, and therefore He will stand by us in the greatest dangers, afflictions and troubles. The Psalmist said, "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust..." (Psalm 18:2).

There are many reasons why God is with us. He is with us to bear us up in the great afflictions. When we are too weak to carry the load, then He will bear us up and carry us. Our load may be heavy and our burden great, but our God will slip His strong arms beneath us and bear us up. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..." (Deuteronomy 33:27).

God is with us to comfort: "...the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted" (Isaiah 49:13). When we are under many griefs, cares, fears, and perplexities of spirit, God comes in with those comforts that delight our soul and cheer our spirits.

God is with us to give counsel. "Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God" (Exodus 18:19). It is wise to ask God for counsel in time of sorrow, suffering

and affliction. God is ready to give counsel to all who ask Him. Many Christians go to each other for counsel in times of trouble instead of going to the Lord. God always has the right solution to all our problems. "I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night season" (Psalm 16:7).

God is with us to encourage. "...Be strong and of a good courage ... for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9). God is ever at our side to encourage us, to cheer us up, and to lead us on to victory. Why then are we ever discouraged?

God is with us to remove all fear. "Fear thou not, for I am with thee..." (Isaiah 41:10). It is the business of Satan to make us fearful and afraid. But God is ever at our side saying, "Fear not, my child: be not afraid." Many Christians are fearful in times of affliction, and flee from it as one would flee from a serpent. What evil can be in affliction, when the presence of God is there to make the bitter sweet; and every burden light? We should never be afraid. God is able to deliver us from all fears. "I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4).

God is with us to give us peace: "...and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts" (Haggai 2:9). God can give us peace in every place we find ourselves. A Christian may have much trouble in this world, and yet have rest and quietness in his soul. No man, nor demon, nor affliction can take away the peace that God gives. The world cannot understand how we can have peace in the times of trouble, sorrow, suffering and sickness. Only a Christian can know this. Peace is a gift of God. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

The Empty Chair

Betty Whetstone

*The wayfaring traveler was weary,
He had journeyed a very long way;
Now night was coming on swiftly,
And he had yet to find where to stay.*

*He paused to consider the question:
What would be best for his plight?
Should He try to rest by the roadside,
Or continue on into the night?*

*Then his eyes saw a light in a window,
And an open door came into view;
And he marveled at the sight before him,
For it seemed too good to be true.*

*A family stood 'round a table,
Their heads bowed in reverence there;
The traveler paused at the doorway,
As the father began saying a prayer.*

(Continued on page 10)



HIS PROSPERITY PLAN

Reprinted

What does a person mean when he refers to “paying his tithes”? Well, the truth of the matter is, that “a tithe” means a tenth, and usually of his income to his church. Actually, some people pay very regularly a faithful tithe and offerings. Because of this, the Internal Revenue Service will allow individuals to file their tithe and offerings on their tax forms that refers to contribution. Naturally they thereby reduce substantially their tax liability by their tithes and offerings.

Anciently the tithe was a kind of religious income tax, and it was used to support the Levitical tribe which constituted the priests, the teachers of the law, and those who ministered in different ways about the Temple, including the singers and musicians. But there were actually many other offerings also which helped to support the priests. There were sin offerings, trespass offerings, peace offerings, drink, meal and wave offerings. Most of these were made up of different kinds of animals, and after a portion had been ceremonially burned, the rest could be eaten by the priest and his family.

There were also “heave” offerings, which seemed to refer at times to that portion of the original offering which the priest might give to the High Priest. The Hebrew word in this case is one which means, “to be high,” and instead of referring to something which might have been hurled, seems to refer to a portion removed from a larger quantity. There were also “first-fruit” offerings. See Exodus 13:11-13 and Proverbs 3:9-10.

TESTIMONIES FOR TITHING

Before we continue, I would like to share with you several testimonies for God’s prosperity plan, “tithing.” Mr. Harvey Fruehauf, manufacturer of truck trailers, which

have contributed so much to the great trucking industry in these United States, has this to say as a faithful steward of God. “All my life I have found that the more I have given – of myself, my time, my money – the more I have been rewarded. Truly, what a person gives to others comes back to him several fold. Nothing bears so great a harvest as a kind deed or generous act.” From “God is My Landlord.”

James L. Kraft, former chairman of Kraft Cheese Co., had this to say about tithing. “Tithing should be planned at the beginning of our lives or business. Take it from me, I know that it pays to tithe.” David Petty, president of the Charles D. Roberts Company in Greensboro, North Carolina, declares, “Tithing is a regular practice with me, and I attribute much of the success of our company to my sharing our profits with the Lord.”

Men from every walk of life have practiced tithing, and have found that it is a rewarding experience involving partnership with God. Actually, have you ever met a man who was unfaithful in his Christian giving who was faithful in other areas of his service to Christ? Kenneth S. Keyes, a realtor in Florida, has this to say for the practice of tithing, “I am most thankful to the Lord for helping me to see my responsibilities as one of his stewards. I have tithed my private income for many years. We tithe our corporation income too, and God has honored that. I can say from practical experience that it has worked. I commend it to you.”

Some say that tithing is for the rich or those well fixed in this world’s goods. Not many rich start paying tithe, but it is reported that many have become rich who did pay tithes. It is said that Mr. Crowell, founder of Quaker

Oats, Mr. Colgate, founder of Colgate Co., Mr. Proctor, of Ivory Soap fame, and Mr. Baldwin, founder of Baldwin Locomotive Industry, all paid tithes. These companies have withstood the test of all competition, and grown to be champions in their respective fields. These men did not pay to become rich, but paid from deep conviction, and were blessed and made rich. God says: "...prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

I am sure that we could quote many, many other examples of the practical merit for observing God's plan for prosperity, "tithing." I would like to add my own testimony to those we have just cited. My wife and I began tithing shortly after we were married, and we saw our income increase some 400 percent. I would be the first to confess however that when it was first suggested to me that we should tithe, I became quite angry, because the idea seemed expensive and ridiculous to me. However, when I was shown the different Bible texts, concerning tithing, I agreed to set aside my ten percent of my income for God and His Church. At that time, my knowledge of God and His windows of heaven were vague. But obedience by us and having faith in what God said we realized how much God blest us.

THE "LAW" OF TITHING

Consider the Scripture which gives the basis under the law for tithing: "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed" (Leviticus 27:30-33).

Of course in an agrarian society, a farmer would tithe of that which constituted his livelihood. But he was to be fair and consistent in his dealings with God. In order to avoid the temptation to offer the poor or inferior, the law said man was to give every tenth as he would number his livestock or whatever it was he was numbering.

"And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have

no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel. And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation"... "But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance. But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance" (Numbers 18:20-21, 23-24).

Verses 25-32 in this same chapter refer to the heave offering which belonged to Moses, and it seems to be referring to the tithe that the Levites paid to Moses from that which was tithed to them. "Heave" offerings, then, would mean, as we said earlier "a portion removed from a larger quantity," and would refer to a tithe from a tithe. One might ask why those who received tithes would be required to tithe? Tithing is an act of faith! And God anciently expected all His people to express positive faith in God's ability to provide adequately enough for their needs that they might share with others, their abundance. "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse" (Proverbs 28:27).

OTHER SCRIPTURES ON TITHING

"Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave-offering of thine hand: But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou putteth thine hands unto. Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth" (Deuteronomy 12:17-19).

"Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD

thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

“Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lustest after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household.”

“And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him, for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee. At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest” (Deuteronomy 14:22-29).

“When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within **thy gates, and be filled; Then thou shalt say** before the LORD thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them: I have not eaten thereof in my mourning, neither have I taken away ought thereof for any unclean use, nor given ought thereof for the dead: but I have hearkened to the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that thou hast commanded me. Look down from thy holy habitation, from heaven, and bless thy people Israel, and the land which thou hast given us, as thou swarest unto our fathers, a land that floweth with milk and honey” (Deuteronomy 26:12-15).

To the best of my knowledge, the above quotations constitute all of the references to tithing in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. One man

that I recently talked to pointed out that there is absolutely no reference in the Bible to tithing from an income which is not strictly money. Of course, I should add that he was an unregenerated man and was obviously just looking for a way, or an excuse, so that he would not have to give anything to God. But of course a person who really wants to be honest with God would recognize that tithing was God’s way of providing for the “ministry.”

NOTE: Let us quote I Corinthians 9: 11, 13-14 which is in the New Testament: “If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?” “Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.”

(Continued from page 7)

*He spoke with a lot of conviction:
"Lord, there's much to thank you for,
Our home, our health, and even
The stranger waiting now at our door."*

*"Come in, come in," said the Father,
"You've found comfort and safety right here;
And we've plenty of food to offer,
For we always have one empty chair."*

*The traveler gratefully accepted,
Silently blessing each one of them there;
And as he turned to hang his coat by the doorway,
The family stared in astonishment there.*

*Their eyes disbelieved what they saw,
Never before had they seen such a thing;
For there, neatly folded on his shoulders,
Was a pair of gossamer Wings!*

*So think when you encounter a stranger,
And then for your blessings you share;
For you never know what might happen,
If you, too, keep an empty chair.*

An "Iffy" Situation

By David DeLong

A number of people, who proclaim to be followers of Christ, believe and teach that once a person has accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior, he or she can never be lost again, no matter what they do or don't do. This belief is known as "radical eternal security". While it is true that a person can never "earn" salvation by doing good works or omitting evil works; and while it is also true that the same person cannot lose salvation as long as Christ's Spirit is indwelling her or him; it is furthermore true that one can forfeit salvation by being disinherited from God's family. This happens when God's Holy Spirit leaves the person because of a continued lifestyle of sin--breaking the Lord's commandments.

I emphasize "continued lifestyle of sin" because: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). By repenting of our sins, we are restored to God's family in good standing. People receive an inheritance into God's Kingdom when they are "...led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:14-17).

Being led by the Spirit of God so that we are children of God, and thus, heirs of God, comes about by repentance from our sins, being baptized in Jesus' name, and receiving the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands after being baptized. Continuing to be led by the Spirit of God so that we are heirs in good standing involves coopera-

tion on our part by having the testimony of Jesus and keeping the commandments of God (see Revelation 12:17). Having the Spirit of God keeps us from becoming disinherited by God.

Many people are lost because they have come to believe that no matter what they do they cannot become disinherited from God's family. The Apostle Paul knew better. In I Corinthians 9:27 he wrote: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (rejected). Did you notice also that Paul wrote in Romans 8:17: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

That verse is telling us that to be an heir of God and a joint heir of Christ is an "iffy" situation. In other words, "if so be that we suffer with him". We suffer with Christ in many ways. Our old man is crucified with Christ. That means that we are to consider our old nature dead and that our new nature, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, controls our thoughts, actions, and attitudes. This then, is being led by the Spirit of God. We suffer with Christ when someone hurts us, persecutes us, or tempts us to do wrong and we respond according to the way Jesus would respond. By doing this we put our own self down and in essence say to the Lord, "not my will, but thine be done." Sometimes, suffering with Christ is giving up a job for the sake of keeping the Sabbath. Ultimately, suffering with Christ is being faithful unto death, sometimes through martyrdom.

So then, our goal is not to produce good works so that we earn our salvation, but to do good works so that we glorify the Lord and keep within God's family as heirs

in good standing. Someone might ask: "How many works does one need to do to remain an heir in good standing?" That, really, is not the question that one should be asking. We should be concentrating on having an honest, sincere, and upright heart attitude rather than on doing a specific amount of good works. If we have a proper heart attitude, the good works will take care of themselves.

Notice what the Apostle Paul wrote about this very situation in I Corinthians 3:11-15. Please be sure that he is not writing about doing good works for earning one's salvation. Paul is assuming that the person is already in Christ who is the foundation of His building (the Church). A person who is a part of that building (see verse 9) must then build upon the foundation of Christ. Paul wrote: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

Paul declared that there are two types of works that are built upon the foundation of Christ: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble. The gold, silver, and precious stones represent the unselfish works that one does for the glory of God. The wood, hay, and stubble may represent the selfish works that one does to glorify self. An example of the unselfish works would be using your gifts and talents for the honor and glory of God. An example of the selfish works could be using your gifts and talents for your own recognition, or you were asked to perform without wanting to. Another example of wood, hay, and stubble works could be writing a letter of encouragement to someone, and then never sending the letter. The intention was good, a work for God was started, but it didn't end up doing any one any good. Some may not even realize that they are not glorifying God.

In both cases above, gifts and talents are being used (works are being done or attempted). In the first category (gold, silver, and precious stones), the Lord is glorified, and the works are accepted and a reward is given. In the second category (wood, hay, and stubble), the Lord

is not glorified, and the works are not accepted and no reward is given. Notice carefully that the person in the second category is still saved--is still an heir in God's family--but has suffered loss as to his or her rewards.

Now, let us look at a situation that Jesus Himself taught to His disciples. He declared a parable in Luke 19:12-26 about the Ten Pounds. Ten servants were given 10 pounds to make gain for their master. When the time of reckoning came, one servant had gained 10 pounds and was rewarded. A second servant had gained 5 pounds and was rewarded. A third servant had gained nothing at all with his pound and was punished. Not only was his pound taken from him and given to the servant who had 10 pounds, but he was apparently removed from being a servant as well. A similar parable was given by Jesus in Matthew 25:14-30, about the Talents. Again, two of the servants produced good works and were rewarded. A third servant did nothing with his talent and was punished. Notice what is recorded of him in verse 30: "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

In both parables the men were called servants of the lord. This implies that they all had a favorable relationship with their master. Good works on the two servants' part brought favor and rewards to them. No works brought disfavor and a discharge from servanthood to the "unprofitable servant". It is easy to see that the parables represent our relationship to Christ. If we are His servants (having a salvational experience with Him) then doing works keeps us as heirs of the Lord. Remember that even wood, hay, and stubble, though not accepted as good works, didn't prevent a person from being an heir of Christ (he is still saved). The parables show that not doing any works, though, is enough to disinherit a person from being a member of His family. Let us strive to have a proper heart attitude, and to always maintain good works for the Lord.

Let us look at some verses that show that our inheritance is an iffy situation, and what could cause one to become disinherited. Notice how many verses use the word "if", showing that having heirship to God's Kingdom is very much conditional. Being led of the Spirit, as we have seen, keeps a person an heir of God. Contrarily, not being led by the Spirit will cause a person to lose inheritance. "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the

flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live" (Romans 8:12-13).

Acceptance by the Lord is conditional upon receiving the Gospel of Christ. I Corinthians 15:1-4 informs us: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures".

However, one must continue in the truth of the Gospel and not give up, as we learn in Colossians 1:21-23: "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister".

Everything that a person does needs to be with faith, including our eating. Paul wrote: "Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (Romans 14:22-23).

We find in I Timothy 2:14-15 that women will be protected in childbirth, partly through faith: "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in child-bearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

There are also several conditional promises given to us in II Timothy 2:11-12: "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us".

The Book of Hebrews also holds some dire warnings for us. Hebrews 6:4-6 reads: "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heav-

enly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

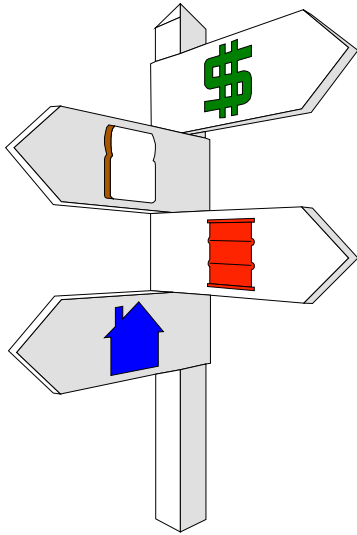
Furthermore, we find in Hebrews 10:26-29,30: "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?...Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

Finally, we learn in Hebrews 12:25-27: "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

On the other hand we are assured in James 5:19-20: "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

The Lord also assures us: "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" (I Peter 3:13).

The Scriptures contain numerous conditional promises, including our salvation. Many passages tell us that we are saved, if... Just these few texts, that we have considered in this article, show us that there is no such thing as radical eternal security. However, as long as we are serving the Lord, He will never disinherit us, nor will He ever leave us or forsake us. Rejoice in His goodness!



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.

THREATS TO WORLD ECONOMY

The following is an article from the Associated Press entitled Threats still seen to world economy:

WASHINGTON – The global recovery has regained most of the ground lost from the market turbulence at the beginning of the year, finance officials of the world’s largest economies said Friday. But they worry that growth remains uneven in the face of a variety of threats ranging from terrorist bombings to Britain’s upcoming vote on whether to leave the European Union.

The finance ministers from the group of 20 major economies pledged to pursue policies that will bolster growth and further stabilize financial markets, but they offered no new measures to accomplish these goals.

Lou Jiwei, China’s finance minister, defended his country’s handling of its economy against criticism that has seen two major credit rating agencies recently downgrade the outlook for Chinese bonds.

The joint statement from the G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors repeated many of the promises the group had made at their last meeting in Shanghai in late February. However, at that time global financial markets had just gone through significant turbulence over concerns about a worse-than-expected slowdown in China, falling oil prices and the threat they posed to the global economy.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said the resolve demonstrated by the finance officials to bolster global growth represented a strong statement rebutting the voices of anti-globalization. He said cooperation was needed because the U.S. “cannot and must not be the only engine

of growth... All major economies need to deploy a full tool kit of economic policy measures.”

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said the world’s financial markets are starting to regain “composure,” although he said “downturn risk” persists. Aso voiced particular concern about risk from volatility in capital flows and foreign exchange rates.

Comment

It seems like the future health of every component of the world economy is in question today. We have heard the old saying, “His heart is in the right place.” We can be sure that the financial officers’ hearts are in the right place! They wish for a strong, world economy. But the article states that they offered no new measures to accomplish their goals. It also stated that the U.S. cannot and must not be the only engine of growth and that all major economies need to deploy a full tool kit of economic policy measures.

In order to create a good world economy, all major economies must cooperate with one another. The problem is that each major economy has its own interest at heart. The interest of one major economy might have a negative effect on another major economy. This is one drawback of globalization.

The economy is very important to one’s standard of living. It is good if one does not crave the things in the world. Unhappy people who do not know God want and acquire many things they do not need in order to be happy.

Yes, we live in a world where the economy is uncertain. But through a bad economy or good economy every child

of God must be content and put his trust in God. This reminds me of the following three verses:

“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:2).

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5).

“And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (I Timothy 6:8).

MOVING AMERICANS

I read that Americans are heading South and West again in search of jobs and more affordable housing, as the nation’s economic health continues to grow.

The previous item focused on the threats to the world economy. Although both the world economy and the American economy continue to gain strength from the financial crisis of a few years ago, the recovery is uneven and not as strong and going fast enough as in previous recessions.

There are two experts in this country who have warned America of a coming national financial crisis, caused by poor decisions of government, that will affect the everyday living of Americans.

Although our Lord admonished us not to worry about the necessities needed for tomorrow, He does not wish for us to be prodigals like the younger son, who wasted all of his goods, in the parable of the prodigal son found in Luke 15:11-32. The general meaning of the word “prodigal” is “spendthrift”.

The point is that God wants us to use our necessities and money wisely and not be careless in how they are used so that when the economy is poor they can be used.

MORE TROOPS

The U.S. agreed to deploy more than 200 additional troops to Iraq and to send eight Apache helicopters for the first time into the fight against the Islamic State group. It was the first major increase in U.S. forces in nearly a year. This was designed to help Iraq forces as they move to retake the key northern city of Mosul.

Comment

The war in Iraq has been going on for more than twelve years. It started when the U. S. President and congress voted to overthrow the dictator in Iraq because they believed that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. But no weapons of mass destruction were found.

After the U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq, chaos reigned in Iraq which gave fertile ground for the rise of the Islamic State and other terrorist groups. Iraq asked for help from the United States in order to defeat the Islamic State and other terrorist groups. The war, which involves American troops and help, continues to this day.

The war in Iraq against the Islamic State and other terrorist groups will never end during this age. This makes us to put our faith and trust in the prophecy found in Isaiah 2:4 which tells of the role of Christ and conditions that will exist when the kingdom of God is established. “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

MILITARY SUICIDES

I heard on the news that military suicides have surpassed the number of troops killed in Iraq. These military suicides have increased despite all research efforts to help them.

MORE ABOUT SELF-DRIVING CARS

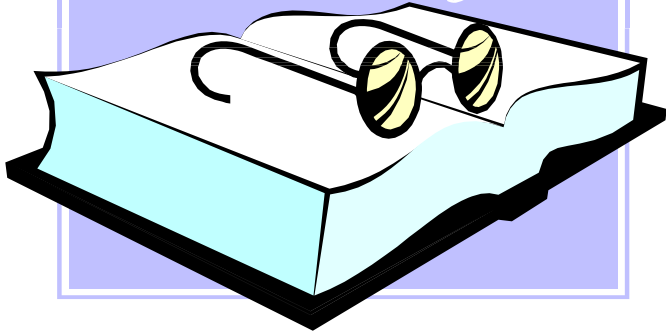
In an earlier Signs Of The Times, self-driving cars which need no driver or pedals were mentioned. However, experts now urge caution on these self-driving cars. They caution that these cars are more likely to hurt than help public safety because of unsolved technical issues. A newspaper article states that even a trade association cautioned the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that a slower, more deliberative approach may be needed than the agency’s aggressive plan to provide its guidance for deploying the vehicles in just six months.

ABOUT AFGHANISTAN

The war continues in Afghanistan long after the U.S. invaded the country after 9/11 to defeat the terrorist groups who were involved in the destruction of the American Trade Center towers. It was estimated that the war would be won, Afghanistan would be peaceful, and most of the American troops would be withdrawn by this time.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: I feel that a sister in my church has offended me. What am I supposed to do to make reconciliation?

ANSWER: According to Jesus' words in Matthew 18:15-20, you are to seek out the sister who has offended you and attempt reconciliation. If that personal effort fails, you must make the visit again, this time taking along several others. If the sister still refuses to listen, then you are to refer the situation to the whole congregation. If she still refuses to hear, then let her be excommunicated.

QUESTION: Who were the father and mother of Moses?

ANSWER: The answer to your question is found in Exodus 6:20. "And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bare him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years."

QUESTION: Why do you think that God called David "a man after mine own heart" in Acts 13:22?

ANSWER: It is because David believed what God told him, and stood for him when he had to stand alone among men. We know that David was a great sinner, and God's heart was grieved by that. However, when David's sin was called to his attention, he did not seek to justify himself. He confessed his sin, and God freely forgave him.

However, God brought severe suffering upon him in order to discipline him. "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth."

QUESTION: Romans 8:28 tells us that all things work together for good to them who are called according to His purpose. What does it mean, "called according to His purpose"?

ANSWER: The twenty-ninth verse explains His purpose: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

QUESTION: Was the death of Christ on Calvary retroactive?

ANSWER: Yes it was. In God's plan of redemption, His Son, Jesus, was reckoned as "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). It was by His blood, already in God's reckoning shed on Calvary, that Old Testament believers were saved. Their sins were imputed to Christ beforehand. This is the meaning of Romans 3:25 where we read that God set forth His Son as "...a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Hebrews 9:15 shows that on the cross the Son of God died "...for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament..."

QUESTION: When I try to show my friend the true doctrines of God's Word, she says that she thinks that it does not make any difference what she believes or to what church she goes. Please explain why she is wrong!

ANSWER: One statement that you can hear quite frequently is: "You know, I do not think it makes so much difference what you believe or what church you belong to, for they are all striving for the same place."

One can hear this statement, or others very similar, from young people, from parents, teachers, businessmen, doctors, lawyers, and even from some preachers. On the surface, it may sound like good logic, and a safe rule to live by. But see what would happen if you began to use this logic in other phases of life.

By this kind of logic about beliefs, you would also

conclude that it makes no difference what government you live under for they all are striving for the same thing, to rule the people. You might then find yourself under a dictatorship with practically no liberties left. Life for you would hold nothing of value, for all your pride would be taken from you. That would most likely make a big difference too, at least.

Then you would be willing to eat in just any place. Each restaurant strives to feed you. You would then find yourself in a filthy dark place, where food is ill cooked and partly spoiled, but you know it does not make any difference what eating place you are in for they all are working for the same thing. You would likely console yourself with the fact that there is a difference, and you would act upon that fact.

‘ Why not be sensible when it comes to the matter of spiritual things? Why not take the Holy Bible as it is written? It is just as true that there is a great difference in the way preachers put their own ideas to Scriptures. And there is a great difference in churches, as there is a great difference between eating houses. They all serve the same food, but some of the food has been tainted, some food is prepared under very dirty conditions, some food has been robbed of its nutritional value by letting it set in the sunshine or some other agent that changes the health value, some are fixed tasteless, and some have been mixed with other things that the food is not edible and gives off no nourishment.

By the same logic, you would conclude that it does not make any difference what woman you choose as a wife. Are not these women all trying for the same thing. Are they not striving to make a home? You might find yourself married to a woman that hates house work and is lazy, a woman who has no companionable traits, and is just interested in being fed, clothed and having a roof over her head. You would soon find out that there is a difference in homes and families.

Just so, there is a great difference in what is being taught in churches. They may all be striving to get to the same place, but actually they are all on the same wide road that leads to destruction. "... for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat" (Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus said these words. He knew that this way had to be wide and broad because there are so many that are on it. And all those on this wide road say to each other, "We are all going to the same place where this road leads us."

The narrow way is only for one person at a time. It is as wide as the footsteps of Jesus. His words are eternal life, and this narrow path leads to everlasting life. The many people follow error instead of truth. Some have truth so mixed with error that it cannot be discerned which way they are following.

We read in Ephesians, the fourth chapter, of the walk and service of the believer. We find there also that, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4). Everyone that is on the broad road has a different hope, or spirit, and belong to divaricating and variety of churches. We continue to read: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:5-6). Some on the broad road believe that Jesus was God on earth, some believe in three in one, the trinity. There are four different kinds of baptism: infant baptism, baptism for the dead, among the different ideas of what baptism consists of.

To be fair with facts and with yourself, you cannot again say that it does not make any difference which church you belong to, or say that being immersed for baptism, or sprinkled, or poured, or just have hands laid on for baptism, does not make any difference. Some are baptized into the founder of their church, or baptized into the triune pronouncement, or use the Saviour's name, Lord, Jesus Christ. The Bible says there is only "one baptism". Now, can there be proper differences? Of one thing we are sure, hard striving will NOT bring anyone to the desired destination if they are on the wide highway. All trains are striving to bring passengers to their destination. However, if your train is on the tract leading to the wrong destination, no amount of striving will bring you to the right destination.

Before you enter the proper way, study the guidebook, the Bible, for yourself. See if the road is the way of Jesus. See if what you read and what you hear agrees with the words of Jesus. Find out whether the road is approved by the Father in heaven, the God approved life.

A wise preacher wrote under the inspiration of God: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25). Jesus warned His disciples in these significant words, "...Take heed that no man deceive you"..."And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4,11). Evidently Jesus does mean that it makes a good bit of difference what you believe and which leaders you follow.



Myanmar

Some of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar, worshipping the Lord.





Church services, and a dedication, being conducted.



LESSON I

PAUL JOURNEYS TO JERUSALEM

Scripture Reading: Acts 21:1-17.

Golden Text: Acts 21:13 (last part).

"I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

NOTE: Paul is now traveling to Jerusalem and makes several stops on his way. Let us study about these different places.

1. Name four of the places that Paul stopped at on his journey to Jerusalem. Acts 21:1-2.
2. Paul arrived at Tyre. How long was Paul at Tyre, and did the brethren want Paul to go to Jerusalem? Acts 21:3-4.
3. Who went with Paul to see him depart, and what did they do before he got on his ship? Acts 21:5-6.
4. After stopping at Ptolemais, where did Paul go next, and whose house did he visit? Acts 21:7-8.
5. Who came down from Judea to see Paul? Acts 21:10.
6. What did Agabus say and do? Acts 21:11.
7. Did the brethren try to persuade Paul not to go to Jerusalem, and what was his answer? Acts 21:12-13.
8. What did the brethren say when they could not persuade Paul to stay out of Jerusalem? Acts 21:14.
9. Who went to Jerusalem with Paul, and were the brethren in Jerusalem happy to see them? Acts 21:15-17.

LESSON II

PAUL IN THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

Scripture Reading: Acts 21:26-40.

Golden Text: Acts 21:26 (first part).

"Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple."

1. Where did Paul go while in Jerusalem? Acts 21:26.
2. What did the Jews from Asia do and say when they saw Paul in the temple? Acts 21:27-28.
3. What did the people of the city do in Acts 21:30?
4. The people were ready to kill Paul. What did the chief captain of the city do? Acts 21:31-33.
5. Why did the chief captain want to take Paul into the castle? Acts 21:37.
6. What did Paul say to the chief captain as he was being led into the castle? Acts 21:37.
7. What question did the chief captain ask Paul in Acts 21:38?
8. Paul told the captain who he is. Did the chief captain let Paul speak to the people? Acts 21:39-40.

NOTE: We will learn in our next lesson what Paul said to the people.

LESSON III

PAUL'S DEFENSE

Scripture Reading: Acts 22:1-30.

Golden Text: Acts 22:16.

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

1. In what language did Paul speak to the people, and did they listen to what he said? Acts 22:1-2.
2. Name three things you learned about Paul in Acts

22:3.

3. Of what incident did Paul first tell about? Acts 22:4-5.

4. What was the second incident that Paul talked about? Acts 22:6-16.

5. Did God want Paul to stay in Jerusalem when he was first converted? Acts 22:17-21.

6. What was the reaction of the men toward Paul? Acts 22:22-23.

7. What did Paul say as they bound him? Acts 22:25.

8. What did the centurion and chief captain do when they heard that Paul was a Roman? Acts 22:26-28.

9. What was the reaction after it was known that Paul was a Roman, and what happened to him next? Acts 22:29-30.

NOTE: The Pharisees and the Sadducees were two different Jewish parties that disagreed with each other on Jewish law.

5. What happened between these two groups after Paul had told them he was a Pharisee? Acts 23:9-10.

6. What did the Lord tell Paul that night? Acts 23:11.

7. What was the plan that a group of Jews had for Paul? Acts 23:12-15.

8. Who entered the castle to help Paul, and how did he help? Acts 23:16-21.

9. What did the chief captain tell this young man? Acts 23:22.

LESSON IV

PAUL BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

Scripture Reading: Acts 23:1-22.

Golden Text: Acts 23:1 (last part).

“I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”

1. What was Paul able to say before the men? Acts 23:1.

2. Who was the high priest, and what did he command? Acts 23:2.

3. How did Paul respond to the high priest’s order? Acts 23:3-5.

4. What were the two different groups of people present, and what were their differences? Acts 23:6-8.

THAT’S WHY I LOVE HIM SO

Let’s thank God for the little hills,
For creeks and rivers, too;

For trees to give us pleasant shade,
For skies of brightest blue.

Let’s thank Him for the pretty flowers,
For animals and bees;

For fishes in the sparkling brook,
And birds up in the trees.

God loves the pretty things He’s made,
He loves me, too, I know;

He gives me everything I need -
That’s why I love Him so.



BE KIND TO ANIMALS

It was a beautiful day, and George and Jerry were on their way home, just taking their time and watching all the people as they passed by. They had been swimming all afternoon down at their favorite swimming hole, and they were a little tired. "Did you ever see such a funny looking man?" said George, and at this they both laughed.

As they strolled along a little farther, they saw a little, white dog running gaily down the road, and at the same time they noticed two empty tin cans along the side of the road. "Come on George, we're in for a little fun," shouted Jerry as he picked up one of the tin cans and raced out after the little dog. George soon followed close behind with the other in his hand. It was not long before they caught the poor, little dog. Jerry pulled out a piece of string from his pocket and, while George held the poor, shaking, little dog, he securely tied both cans to the little dog's tail. Then they set him free and he darted down the road, terrified by the bumping of the cans on the road behind him. One of the cans was tied too short and the sharp edge bumped against him and cut a large gash in the poor, little dog's leg. George and Jerry just laughed as they watched the little dog as he tried to free himself from the crashing, terrifying things behind him.

Billy Allen heard the frightening yelps and came out to see what the excitement was all about. When he saw what

had happened, he called to the poor, little dog in a kind voice. "Poor little fellow! Come here and I will help you." He picked up the quivering, little dog and gently unfastened the cans. He noticed the gash in his leg, and carried him into the house. He put him down on the rug and ran into the kitchen and got a pan of warm water. He then returned to the little dog and bathed and bound up the cut on its leg. "Now you will be alright," said Billy as the little dog gratefully licked his hand.



The next Sabbath, in Sabbath School, the class had a study on the many wonderful things Jesus did during His life. Billy learned how He healed the sick and comforted and restored the people to good health and spirit again. It made him think of the little, white dog who had refused to leave him, and of the look of trust and love that shown from the little dog's eyes and of the fast, healing cut. It made him feel good, and now he didn't care anymore if George and Jerry did call him a "sissy" for helping a poor, little dog and spoiling their fun. He knew now that Jesus would have done the same thing, and he wanted to be like Jesus. "It is much more fun helping people instead of hurting them," he thought as he left the church.





BIBLE CHILDREN

Who are these Bible children? If you do not know by the clue, please look up the Bible text given.

1. A shepherd boy who slew a giant. (I Samuel 17:49).
2. Joseph's youngest brother. (Genesis 35:18).
3. A beautiful, orphan girl who became a Persian queen. (Esther 2:7-17).
4. His aunt hid him in a bedchamber. (II Kings 11:2-3).
5. The Lord gave him a wise and discerning mind. (I Kings 3:10-13).
6. Jacob's twin brother. (Genesis 25:26).
7. Maid who came to the gate when Peter knocked. (Acts 12:13).
8. In all of Israel there was none so praised for his beauty. (II Samuel 14:25).
9. He refused to eat the king's meat, nor drink of his wine. (Daniel 1:8).
10. Second son of Adam and Eve. (Genesis 4:2).
11. He was sold into slavery by his brothers. (Genesis 37:28).
12. First born of Israel. (I Chronicles 5:1).
13. He became king of the Israelites when he was only eight years old. (II Kings 22:1).
14. Abraham's son. (Genesis 22:2).
15. Sister of Aaron and Moses. (Exodus 15:20).
16. A Hebrew child reared as a son of Pharaoh's daughter. (Exodus 2:10).

FIVE RESOLUTIONS

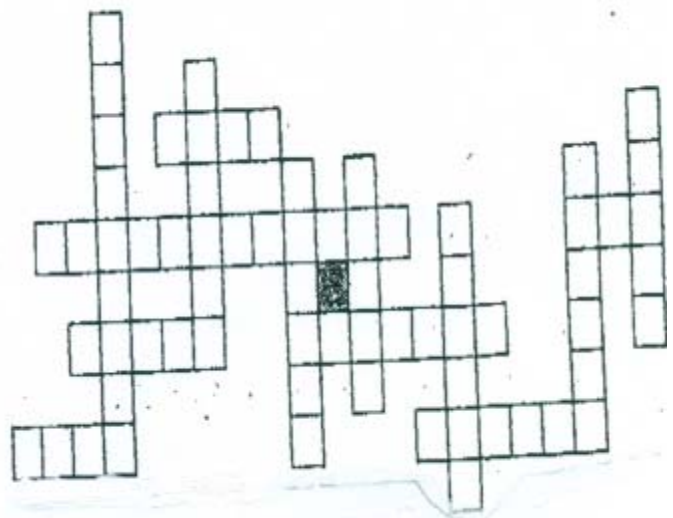
Jonathan Edwards, who was a great, useful man, made five resolutions for himself in his youth and lived by them faithfully. They are worth studying. Anyone who will adopt and follow them will greatly increase his usefulness. The resolutions are as follows.

1. Resolved: to live with all my might while I do live.
2. Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.
3. Resolved: never to do anything which I should despise or think of in another.
4. Resolved: Never to do anything out of revenge.
5. Resolved: Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

These are the resolutions of a young man who saw the possibilities and the dangers of life, and was determined to make the most of his powers and opportunities.

Use these fruits and vegetables found in the Bible for the puzzle below.

- Pomegranates Cucumbers Lentils Barley
 Gourds Grapes Melons Onions Beans
 Herbs Wheat Corn Figs Rye



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

*Periodicals
Postage Paid At
Salem WV 26426-0328*

"JESUS SAVED ME"

By: Gloria Degamo Ygay

*I lived in the world of darkness,
A busy life with a taste of bitterness;
Instead of happiness, I had sadness
For the life I lived, surrounded with loneliness.*

*I had an unexpected call, spiritually,
I was lost, He watched me,
I stumbled, Jesus saved me;
Yes, I was once a sinner, but Jesus saved me.*

*Now the time comes to me,
I've a merry heart for God called me,
Guided by the Holy Spirit always,
In every step He lighted up my way.*

*I don't mind people talking about me
Because I know Jesus washed my sins away;
By God's power with Jesus' arms divine,
Jesus saved me, everything's fine.*

