



The Advocate of Truth

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Why read the Bible?

By David Royer

I searched the internet for the best reason to read our Bible. I found the “Top Four”, “Top Five”, “Top Six”, “Top Seven”, “Top Ten”, and the “Top Twenty” reasons; all written and expounded upon by ministers, priests, scholars, and biblical authors. Then I remembered what my local pastor said: "Let the Bible be its own commentary." So, here are a few verses of what the Bible has to say about itself:

* II Timothy 3:16: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

* Isaiah 40:8: "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

* Psalm 119:89: "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

* John 20:30-31: "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

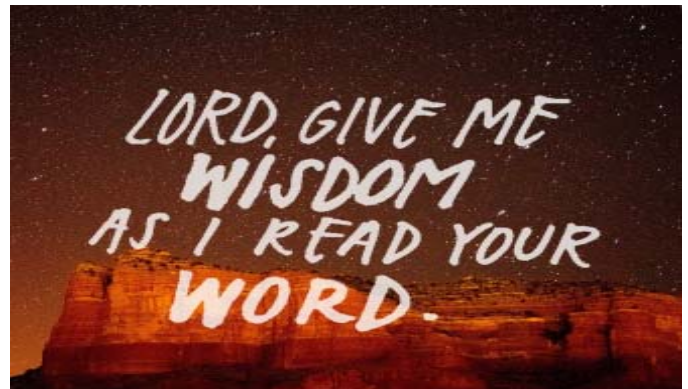
* Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

* Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

* II Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

* John 17:8,14,17: (Jesus's prayer for his followers) "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

* James 1: 21-22: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."



In summary, the Bible is an enduring work of literature over many centuries and today, relevant to our spiritual needs. It provides an enlightened pathway and direction for Christian life and our daily living. Reading through the Bible from the beginning in Genesis to the prophetic future in Revelation provides a better understanding of Scripture's "big picture". This includes:

- God's way of telling us about Himself: His divine nature, His attributes, His love, His promises, His rules, His will, His demands, and His plans and purposes.
- A history of our civilization, the patriarchs, ancient Jews – the roots of Christianity.
- To know Jesus, The Christ: His life, His sacrifice, His compassion, His teachings, and examples.
- To know the original Disciples: their personalities, their narratives, letters and accomplishments.
- To know how to pray, approach various situations, overcome temptations; obtain comfort, hope, reassurance, strength, courage, and peace.
- Character studies of individuals: positive and negative examples of the human condition.
- To know how our world will end, what will happen to the people, know the plan of salvation based on the belief and faith in Jesus.

Studying the Bible requires careful and prayerful attention to the text and the correct application of biblical principles of interpretation. By studying God's Word, you can not only more fully enjoy the wisdom God gives, but also bless your family and friends by sharing the fruit of your labor. SOURCE: <https://answersingenesis.org/bible-questions/why-is-reading-bible-important/>

The reality is that people read the Bible for different reasons, depending on their current situation and interest. When starting, it's best to pick one primary reason or a Bible study topic. Selecting a purpose will help you focus your reading.

Most Scriptures deal with our relationship to God, His Son Jesus, and our fellow man. The Bible will answer many of your questions dealing with life and the universe, but searching for answers will also generate more questions. With prayer, research, consultation with others, and continued reading of Scriptures will, in time, open your heart to hear more from God. God bless you as you read your Bible.



*"Is Your Hut Burning?"
Author Unknown*

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

But then one day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God, how could you do this to me!" he cried.

Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

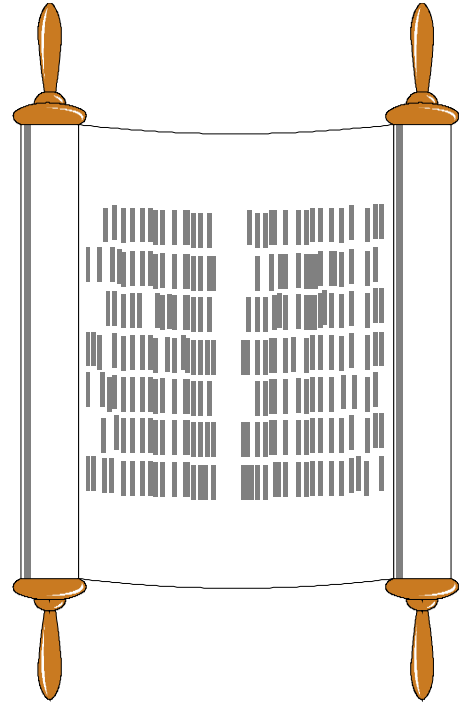
It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad. But we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering.

Remember, next time your little hut is burning to the ground---it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God.



Does the Bible Contradict Itself?

The Two Laws Contrasted



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OR THE LAW OF GOD

THE CEREMONIAL LAWS OR THE LAW OF MOSES

1. Was spoken by God. -Deut. 4:12-13.
2. Was written by God on tables of stone. -Exodus 24:12.
3. Was placed inside the Ark. -Deut. 10:5.
4. Was right, true and good. -Neh. 9:13.
5. Was a law by which a man could live. -Ezek. 20:11, 13, 21; Matthew 19:17.
6. Is a perfect law. -Psalm 19:7.
7. Christ did not come to destroy it. -Matthew 5:17.
8. Jesus came to magnify the law and make it honorable. -Isa. 42:21; Psalm 138:2.
9. Not one jot or tittle shall pass away from the law till all be fulfilled. -Matthew 5:18.
10. We must not break even the least of the law. -Matthew 5:19.
11. Is the perfect law of liberty. -James 2:12.
12. Is established through faith in Christ Jesus. -Romans 3:31.
13. Is a spiritual law. -Romans 7:14.
14. Is a law that is holy, and good. -Romans 7:12.
15. Is called the royal law of the Scriptures. -James 2:8.
16. Was proclaimed by God Himself, and God added no more. -Deut. 5:22.

***THIS LAW REMAINS
FOREVER***

1. Was spoken by Moses. -Deut. 1:1 to 6.
2. Was written by Moses in a book. -Deut. 31:24.
3. Was placed in the side of the Ark. -Deut. 31:26.
4. Was not a good law. -Ezek. 20:25; Hebrews 9:9, 10.
5. Was a law that caused death. -Ezek. 20:25.
6. This law made nothing perfect. -Hebrews 7:19.
7. Christ abolished this law. -Eph. 2:15.
8. Christ took this law out of the way by His death on the cross. -Col. 2:14.
9. Christ was the end of this law. -Eph. 2:15.
10. This law was a yoke of bondage. -Gal. 5:1.
11. Is the law of a carnal commandment -Hebrews 7:16 (read for clarification vv. 17 to 20).
12. Is contrary to us and is our enemy. -Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:20.
13. Was the handwriting of ordinances. -Col. 2:14; Hebrews 9:10.
14. Was a law of shadows for good things to come. -Hebrews 10:1; 8:5.
15. Was a law of death and persecution. -Hebrews 10:28, (see opposite in verse 29).
16. Leaders in Israel had to add more and more rules and regulations to this law because it was so imperfect. -Matthew 19:7, 8; 23:1 to 5; John 7:22, 23; Acts 13:39.

THE TWO LAWS CONTRASTED

The problems of man are still as they have always been. Satan is still using the same arguments to distract man from the truth. Not only was this a problem in the Province of Galatia but throughout all of Christendom down to this very day - the problem of KEEPING THE LAW OF MOSES.

As the Church of God grew, Satan began his method of counterfeiting the truth. As the number of Gentile converts increased and the work among them became better known to "certain of the sect of the Pharisees," (Acts 15:5) the question arose whether a Gentile could become a Christian and be saved without first becoming an Israelite. The more the Gentiles were converted the harder Satan began to stir the pot of dissention. Certain agitators from Jerusalem began to follow the Apostle Paul to the communities where he had organized Churches with pastors, and elders, and teachers. Paul received the disturbing news that "certain lewd fellows," were sent from Jerusalem to "subvert the gospel of Jesus Christ." (Acts 17:5; Acts 15:24; II Timothy 2:14)

Paul writes immediately to the harassed saints and says: "I marvel that ye are SO SOON REMOVED from Him (Jesus) that called you into the grace of Christ unto ANOTHER GOSPEL; which is not another; (for it had been taught by the Jews since Moses) but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ." (Galatian 1:6-7)

The Apostle Paul calls the men that were causing trouble "Spies." Men that "Spy out our liberty." (Galatians 2:4) What liberty was Paul referring to?

Liberty from the law of Moses!

This shows to us one of the great contrasts between the two laws. The Ten Commandment Law is "THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY!" (Jas. 1:25) The Law of Moses "GENDERETH TO BONDAGE." (Galatians 4:24)

"Stand fast therefore in the LIBERTY wherewith Christ hath made us FREE, and be NOT ENTANGLED again with the yoke of BONDAGE."
-Galatians 5:1.

Paul knew the trickery of Satan. By keeping the law of Moses you lose sight of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Law of Moses in all its ramifications pointed to Jesus Christ. The Apostle fully realized that the work of these Judaizers spelled out ruin for the Church of God. It meant that men would be taught that something else was necessary for their salvation besides the Lord Jesus Christ.

The gospel of Jesus was being shorn of its strength and purpose and was being robbed of its vitality. Just as today, men are losing the intention of the Heavenly Father and His Son by telling people they must become Israelites and must obey certain parts of the Law of Moses (keeping the feast days especially) in order to be saved. Jesus was (and is) put into the shadows again. The laws of Moses pointed to Jesus. They were shadows of things to come. (Colossians 2:17)

"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can NEVER with those sacrifices which they offered (Every feast had its own sacrifices) year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect...Above when he said, sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings (feast day offerings, Exodus 23:14-18)...thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered BY THE LAW; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. HE TAKETH AWAY the first, that he may ESTABLISH THE SECOND. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ONCE FOR ALL." -Hebrews 10:1-10.

The Lord Jesus was - In Paul's time (in ours also) - dethroned as Saviour and Head of the Church of God. The life of the Spirit, (Christ in you) which made men new and transformed them into Sons of God, was to be taken away and in its place the keeping of the Mosaic laws substituted. These deceivers, (wolves in sheep clothing) were again exhorting God's Children to go back to the "weak and beggarly elements" of the law. "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." (Galatians 4:9; 5:1-4)

There are no "weak and beggarly elements in God's Ten Commandments. They are perfect.

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:

the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."
-Psalm 19:7.

"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." - Romans 7:12.

Notice what Jesus said concerning the Ten Commandments of His Father. Jesus never said much about the law of Moses except in a disparaging manner. (John 7:19,21-23; Matthew 19:1-8; 23:1-5)

"And behold, one came and said unto him, (Jesus) Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him,...if thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." Matthew 19:16-17.

Then Jesus went on to name some of the Ten Commandments to make sure that He would not come to believe to mean any other laws.

In comparison, notice how Paul praises the Ten Commandment Law, which also is being discredited by Satan. Man has always tampered with God's just and holy law and they tell the public that the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross and done away. Is it any wonder then that there is so much lawlessness in the world today?

"Now the end of the commandment is charity (love to God and to your fellow man - Matthew 22:36-40) out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned; From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be TEACHERS OF THE LAW; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. But we know THAT THE LAW IS GOOD, if a man use it lawfully;" - I Timothy 1:5-8.

The following verses 9 to 11 prove that Paul is speaking of the Law of God and not the law of Moses.

Notice again how Paul pleads with his friends further by saying: "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?..." (Galatians 3:1) Saints and brethren are also being bewitched today with this same evil teaching that we must keep portions of Moses' law in order to receive eternal life. They profess that we

accept the gospel of Jesus Christ but still want to hold fast to the Old Testament shadows which Christ dispelled on Calvary. They are contending that salvation is dependent on keeping of the feasts of Israel and not solely on Jesus and His righteousness.

We read in Acts 4:12 that there is no salvation in any other, save the Lord Jesus and Paul says if salvation came through the law then there was another way and "CHRIST IS DEAD IN VAIN." (Galatians 2:21)

The Apostle Paul, seeing that his work was seriously in jeopardy, as well as the fellowship of believers, and the unity of the Church being impaired, determines to go up to Jerusalem for the Church to settle this matter. The Church convened in Council as we are told in Acts 15:5-11:

"But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the LAW OF MOSES. And the Apostles and elders came together for to CONSIDER of THIS MATTER."

The Council was to decide once and for all that the saints were not to keep the law of Moses and that they were not to tempt God, "...to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples..." (verse 10) by making Moses' law mandatory. It was an unbearable law. It was an "added law." It was added to Israel's way of life when they either refused or could not keep God's Ten Laws. "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the SEED should come to whom (Jesus) the promise was made..." (Galatians 3:17-21). Notice again that the added law (Moses') was to remain till Jesus should come. There is no salvation in Moses' law but in the righteousness of Jesus. The theme of the first Jerusalem Council was: "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ WE SHALL BE SAVED..." (Acts 15:11)

WHAT LAW WAS ABOLISHED?

The law of commandments contained in ordinances was abolished. They were all "taken out of the way." (II Corinthians 3:14-17) "For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to DO the whole

law." Circumcision was part of the law of Moses. If ye be circumcised, Christ profited you NOTHING. If you do just one part of Moses' law you are required to keep all of it. If you keep the feast days of Moses' law you must do everything required by Moses' law. (Galatians 5:1-3) But we thank God that his added law ended at the Cross of Calvary. Just think, according to Moses' law you could get a divorce for any reason, (Matthew 19:7-9) and yet people will tell you that certain parts of Moses' law are still applicable.

When Jesus cried from the Cross with a loud voice: "It is finished!" the veil in the temple tore from top to bottom. The law of sacrifices and ordinances, with all the rules and regulations came to an end. The Bible says:

"For he (Jesus) is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us (meaning the veil in the temple); Having ABOLISHED in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments CONTAINED in ORDINANCES; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body BY the cross, having slain the enmity thereby." -Ephesians 2:14-16.

So Jesus ended "the commandments contained in ordinances," at Calvary. The word "ordinances" means "ceremonies." There is not a single ceremony in the Ten Commandments. There were ceremonies added to the keeping of the Sabbath Day later by Moses and other leaders of Israel but originally God had no ceremony connected to His Laws. Deuteronomy 5:22 says: "These words (vv. 6-21 the Ten Commandments) the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice; AND HE ADDED NO MORE..." Each of these laws are definite statements of what the Lord requires of His people. "And now, Israel, (today, Children of God) what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, TO KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?" (Deuteronomy 10:12,13).

The ordinances were handwritten, and were told to Moses by angels (Galatians 3:19) while the Ten Commandments were written with the finger of God the Father on two tables of stone. "And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." (Exodus 31:18)

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that WAS AGAINST US, which was contrary to us, AND TOOK IT OUT of the way, NAILING it to his cross;" -Colossians 2:14.

Here again we read that it was the ordinances which Moses wrote with his own hand that was nailed to the cross. Note that this law of ordinances was contrary to and against mankind. In the following verses (20-23) we are told that we are not to "(touch, taste, or handle" these ordinances. In other words we are to stay entirely away from them. Still there are some who want to take some of these ordinances of the cross and command people to keep them. Let us leave them alone and let them continue to hang on the cross.

The Two Baptisms

Another great contrast between the two laws is the lesson of two baptisms. We first read of baptism as it was done by John the Baptist. Have you ever thought it strange that no one questioned John's actions? There was no question concerning baptism because baptism was a recognized procedure of the law of Moses. The word "baptize" is a Greek word. The Aramaic word is "immerse" and it appears a few times in the law of Moses. let us read a few verses of Hebrews 9:8-14:

"The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a FIGURE for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings (different immersions), and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation (until Jesus came). But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with

hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the Holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us...How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge (immerse) your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

These verses show to us again that the "carnal ordinances" came to an end with the Lord Jesus' sacrifice. We are washed by His blood. That is why we are "baptized into Jesus Christ." (Romans 6:3-5) The Apostle Paul rebaptized the disciples in the name of Jesus for they had only experienced the "Baptism of Repentance" by John the Baptist. (Acts 19:1-6).

Baptism is immersion as required by the law of Moses, as a rite of purification from ceremonial uncleanness. Immersions or "divers immersions" go back to Leviticus 11:32: "...it must be put into water...so it shall be cleansed." The rule states: "Every thing that may abide the fire, ye shall make it go through the fire, and it shall be clean: nevertheless it shall be purified with the water of separation: and all that abideth not the fire ye shall make go through the water." (Numbers 31:23) See also on the subject of divers immersions: Leviticus 14:6-8; Numbers 19:7-10; Numbers 31:21-23.

This proof is that water baptism was a Mosaic rite. This is why Peter commanded the believers to be baptized for the remission of sins. But the brethren at Pentecost were not baptized as John baptized, or Moses immersed, but they were all baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, the "new and living way." (Acts 2:37, 38; Hebrews 10:20)

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all BAPTIZED unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST." -I Corinthians 10:1-4.

This again shows to us that Israel was familiar with "divers washings." They were baptized into their leader Moses. We are also baptized into our leader, the Lord

Jesus Christ. Israel was brought under the obligations to Moses' law. So also are we brought under the obligations stated by Jesus Christ. We are to follow nothing else save "the doctrine of Christ." "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, HATH NOT GOD. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, HE HATH BOTH the Father and the Son." (II John 9).

Types and Shadows Point to Christ

Many New Testament truths are enlarged and become more meaningful light in a study of the tabernacle and its furnishings. Many precious teachings of Jesus Christ have their foreshadowings in this divinely appointed, moveable structure for the wilderness people of God. "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:" (Hebrews 9:24).

Volumes have been written dealing with the fine details of the Tabernacle. We prefer to not go into too much detail but just to point out that even such things as the furnishings of the tabernacle and the temple of Israel, was a shadow of "the seed" who should come and create a more meaningful form of worship.

The tabernacle is found to be typical in three ways.

(1) It pictures the Church of God as the habitation of God by His Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22).

(2) It pictures the believer, indwelt by the power of God in the "earthly house of this tabernacle..." (II Corinthians 5:1; 6:16).

(3) It gives us the figures of things in the heavens. (Hebrews 9:24).

All the details as given to Moses and recorded in these chapters required a period of forty days of communion with God and with His angels and Moses. It is of little use for one to work for God until he has gotten his orders from God. It pays to take time to get God's blueprint "IN EVERYTHING." The folks that teach the necessity of keeping Moses' law are using Israel's blueprint. (Galatians 4:1-6).

The first thing revealed was the necessity of free will offerings to build the Tabernacle where the divine presence

might be manifested. There would Moses get such rich, rare materials as specified for this structure. The Lord knew they would have need of all these things so he gave His people all that was required before they left Egypt. (Exodus 12:36) When God's people are put in possession of material things, it is always because the Lord has need of them.

The description begins with the ark, because in revelation God begins from Himself working outward toward man. We start with the ark in the Holy of Holies, moving outward to the brazen altar.

However, this does not seem the natural way for us to study. For us it is more appropriate to go in by the door and move toward the divine presence. This we shall do.

The Pillars

The court was surrounded with brazen pillars. They were upright like the mighty truths that stand as the support of God's house - The Church of God. The four great pillars were at the outer entrance, very suggestive of the Four Gospels which set forth Christ to us in His varied character.

The Church of the living God is the pillar and ground of the truth. (I Timothy 3:15) This gives to truth the finest basis and best support, as it stands between a godless world and the Heavenly Father Himself.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God..." - Revelation 3:12.

All believers are "living stones" in the temple of God, but some are to be eternally remembered for upholding the truth of God's Word.

The Curtains

Between the pillars, so that none could see in, were the beautiful curtains. There was one entrance, speaking of Christ, the One Door by which entry must be made. (John 10:9) The curtains were fine, white linen, embroidered in blue, purple and scarlet, with the cherubims worked in threads of gold. (Exodus 26) The fine, white linen represents "Christ's righteousness." The saints of God

are clothed with this righteousness. "...the fine linen is the righteousness of saints." (Revelation 19:8) That same righteousness shuts from the presence of God those who do not receive Jesus Christ.

Blue, the color of sky and sea, speaks of divinity. It was the color of the fringe worn on the skirt of the Israelite to remind one that the commandments were of God. It spoke of His protection and power.

Purple is the color of royalty (Judges 8:26) speaking of the Lord Jesus as King of kings.

Scarlet is the color for atoning sacrifice and brings before us Christ as the atonement Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. (Isaiah 53:5-6).

White is used for the glorious purity of the Lamb of God and the immaculate whiteness of divine righteousness. It speaks to us of the spotless humanity of the Son of God in whom there was no sin.

These colors also are suggestive of the four Gospels. Blue suggests the Apostle John's record of the deity of Christ. Purple suggests Matthew's presentation of Jesus as King and telling us more than any other writer about the "kingdom of God." White suggests Luke's account of Christ as the Holy and Perfect Christ. Mark's emphasis suggests the scarlet color because of the number of parables referring to the death of Jesus and upholding the Servant Christ giving up His life for all mankind.

Outer Court and Brazen Altar

"We have an altar..." the Lord Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 13:10).

The four-foot-square altar in the outer court was placed to be approached from any direction, suggesting the wideness of the Gospel invitation. To its horns, the symbol of strength and conquest, the sacrifice was bound. It was at the gate of entrance, for the first necessity of approach to God is atonement.

It is at the altar that we learn that the innocent must bear the judgment due the guilty. (Romans 4:25) The only place the sinner can meet God is at the altar - the cross. (Ephesians 2:13).

In the center of the altar was the grate on which the

fuel and offerings were laid. The ashes fell through into pans underneath, which later were carried out, the ashes to be used for the sprinkling of the unclean.

The blood of the sacrifice was poured out at the foot of the altar, suggesting the Lamb of God pouring out His blood unto death for us. (Isaiah 53:12; II Corinthians 8:9).

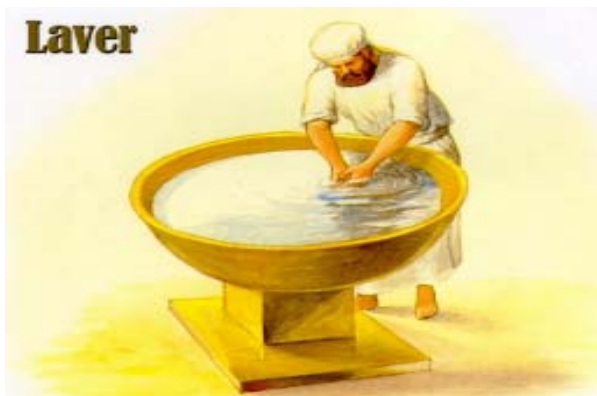
The fire of the altar was to burn continually. It was ignited first by God. (Leviticus 9:24) "For our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29) The continuous fire taught that God was always ready to receive through appointed sacrifice, no other way.

Now let us pause to say that we need not only an incarnate Christ as a Teacher and Head, but we must have Christ Crucified. (I Corinthians 2:2).

On a great natural rock (Exodus 20:25) outside the Holy City, our True Altar was filled. All demands of a wonderful Father were met when Jesus died. "It is finished." Only the way of the cross leads home. (Romans 8:1; John 5:24)

Therefore to Christ our Altar, we are called to present our bodies "...a living sacrifice..." (Romans 12:1; I Corinthians 6:19-20).

"Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." -Hebrews 13:13-15.



The Laver

After the altar must come the laver. First it is the Cross (altar of sacrifice) and then it is Pentecost, to give us strength to be obedient to the doctrines of Christ. First we are saved from our sin. Sin is the transgression of God's Holy Law. (I John 3:4-5) Then we are cleansed by the water of baptism. Until one knows what sin is and is willing to quit sinning, then will the blood of Jesus be effective. It is of no avail for him to try to clean up at the laver (baptism).

Washing at the laver was the day-by-day requirement for the priest in preparation for the sanctuary service. Purity is the great necessity for effective service, after one has been saved by the blood of the Lamb.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress ...or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long...' (...I die daily...' I Corinthians 15:31) we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." -Romans 8:35-37.

Every Believer is a priest. There is no serving of Christ acceptably while there is defilement of the flesh. I John 1:9 must be our daily laver: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The laver was made of brazen mirrors presented by the women. (Exodus 38:8) There are two ways to view one's self. We may see ourselves in our own polished mirrors after we have doctored up our defects, or we can see ourselves in the mirror of God's Word. (James. 1:23-25) When we have the latter view, we shall not doubt our need of the laver.

The water of the laver was from the smitten rock, (crucified Christ) a prophecy. The water and the laver are closely connected, but not more closely than the power of God, the water of life, the Holy Bible. (Ephesians 5:26)

The Holy Place

We have come through the outer court and now approach the Holy Place, or outside room of the actual Tabernacle. Here no one but the priests could enter. The

priests themselves were prophetic, for New Testament priests may enter into the Holiest. The true believer is "...made nigh BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST." (Ephesians 2:13) Ye are an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices. (I Peter 2:5,9).

At the entrance of the Holy Place, we find the same materials as at the gate of the outer court, but here there are five pillars for hangings instead of four. We suggest the four-fold presentation of Christ in the Gospels. It is striking that as we come nearer to the heart of God (heart of the truth) there were five Apostles who wrote the epistles to the Church of God, presenting the New Testament gospel and doctrines of Jesus Christ. They were: Peter, James, Paul, John and Jude.

The Golden Candlestick

As we enter this room, we find at the left in front, the beautiful candlestick, with its six branches and central staff, making the seven-fold light. These seven lamps filled with olive oil were always kept burning, though not seen by men.

Here we pause to think of Jesus Christ, our Light, (Matthew 5:16) shining in the fulness of the power of the SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD. (Revelation 1:4; 5:6) The number seven recalls the seven special titles: "The Spirit of life," (Romans 8:2); "The Spirit of truth," (John 14:17); "The Spirit of holiness," (Romans 1:4); The "Spirit of promise", (Ephesians 1:13); "The Spirit of grace," (Hebrews 10:29); "The Spirit of glory," (I Peter 4:14) and "The Eternal Spirit," (Hebrews 9:14).

Great importance was attached to the oil for the lamps. The Holy Oil is the prime necessity of all witness. Oil itself can not shine nor even make a dead lamp shine. It can only manifest its power through the fire of a living person. This was perfectly fulfilled in Christ Himself.

The candlestick was ornamented with flowers and fruits suggestive of beauty and fruitfulness connected with testimony. The Believer's life is not a bare, repellent religion, but one that is illuminating, fragrant and attracting.

In the candlestick we also have a prophecy of the church. In Revelation 1:13 we have the churches compared to seven candlesticks, with one like the Son of

man in the midst.

Bear in mind that within the Tabernacle proper there was no other light than that from the candlestick. There were no windows. Do we realize how gross would be the darkness of the world but for the light of Jesus Christ shining through true Believers and His Church, the pillar and ground of the truth?

"His lamps are we to shine where He shall say -

And lamps are not for sunny rooms, nor for the light of day,

But for the dark places of the earth where with shame, and wrong, and crime have birth,

Or for the murky twilight gray where wandering sheep have gone astray,

Or where the light of faith grows dim and souls are groping after Him."

Gold snuffers were used by the priest when lights began to sputter and flicker.

Our High Priest often has to use means on us to put down the rising of self-will and cure the flickering of the light.

Table of Shewbread

Now we turn to the right at the front of the Tabernacle court proper and face the table of shewbread, made of wood overlaid with gold, and with its utensils of gold. The bread was in two rows of six, suggesting the twelve tribes of Israel. They were baked fresh each week.

The Table of Shewbread is at the place where we begin to find real sustenance for a spiritual experience. The Lord prepares a table before you in the presence of your enemies. The Bible is the true bread from heaven as Jesus presented His Words, His Body and His mind. "Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die." (John 6:49-50).

Now we are ready to be men and women of prayer being sealed by the "Spirit of promise," we approach -

The Godlen Altar

In the outer court we tarried at the Brazen Altar for the burnt offering, but in the Holy Place, we stand at the Altar of Incense. There are no animal offerings here. It is sweet incense that is burned morning and evening.

The altar is of wood covered with gold. It is four feet square, with a horn on each of the four corners. It is placed before the vail which separates the Holy from the Holy of Holies, facing the Mercy Seat which is upon the Ark of the Covenant.

Incense touched by fire emitted odor, as when the Holy Spirit indicts the prayer of one who comes with a heart of repentance for salvation. Such prayers arise as a sweet savour before the throne of God. (Romans 8:26-27).

Bear in mind that there is no incense altar in the outer court. One had to pass into the Holy Place, and draw near to the Divine Presence. One does not become an intercessor outside of the Body of Christ, -The Church of God - though he may go through forms of prayer, or a form of godliness.

The fire of the Incense Altar was taken from the grate of the Brazen Altar. It is the fire of Calvary that indicts prayer. Prevailing prayer cannot be separated from the sacrifice of Calvary. There is no standing in the presence of God through any inherent dignity of human nature. It is only on the merits of the Crucified Jesus Christ that we have approach to God in prayer.

The priests were warned against "strange fire." There must be sincere and intelligent approach to the heavenly Father. It is perilous to trifle or to ignore the divinely appointed way. We cannot come in human energy or righteousness. The incense of the blood-sprinkled altar ascending up to heaven speaks clearly of the merits of the atoning blood, through which alone we can claim access.

Having stood in the place of divinely - indicated prayer, we now approach -

The Holy of Holies

In this curtained enclosure, the Father in Heaven chose to manifest His presence. The God who dwells "...in the high and holy place..." dwells also with him who

is of a contrite spirit - through "...Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Isaiah 57:15; Colossians 1:27).

The glory of God was concealed within the Second vail, made of fine twisted linen, about nine inches thick. This again speaks of the moral purity of Christ - the divine and human natures closely entwined and beautifully wrought together.

Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest and King is here represented in the colors of blue, (the Lord from heaven); scarlet (the Saviour who died for us) and the purple (King of kings). All these we see in the Son of God Who is -



The Vail

What is the significance of this vail? The New Testament suggests much concerning Jesus, the vail. Christ's flesh was the fulfillment of the meaning of the vail. Christ came into the world to reveal the glory of God that was concealed by the vail. On the Mount of Transfiguration there was revealed by vision, the glory of the Son of Man that He would receive like unto His Father. On Mount Hermon was this incidental burst of hidden glory revealed to some of the disciples that dwelt behind that vail of flesh.

Hebrews 10:19-20 tells us that the vail was a shadow pointing to the body of Christ. He was the Word of God, the embodiment of God's Law, made real, and the advocate and separation between the sinner and God.

"Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish THE SECOND. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts (Ten Commandments), and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and

iniquities will I remember no more....Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the HOLIEST by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, HIS FLESH;...Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies WASHED with pure water." -Hebrews 10:9-22.

Before the rending of that veil, no man could come directly into the presence of God, for by the deeds of the law no flesh could be justified (Romans 3:20). Then something happened. When Jesus gave up His life on the cross, "...the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom..." (Matthew 27:50-51).

As by an unseen hand, it was ripped from top to bottom. There was instant access to the Throne of God through Jesus who became the veil. The individual became a priest and the sacrifice was the Lamb of God. There was the END OF EVERYTHING THAT BEGAN AT MT. SINAI. The way was open through the veil of HIS flesh.

What meaning there is in the words "from the top to the bottom!" Wicked hands had crucified Jesus, but "it pleased the Lord to bruise him." After all, no man had taken His life. It was GOD who set before us this open door, as is so fully explained in Hebrews 9:24-26:

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

The rent was from the top to the very bottom. There is not a thread in the way of anyone who will come by the way of obedience to the doctrines of Christ. There is nothing to hinder anyone from approaching the throne of grace. There is nothing to climb over. Just step by faith up to the wonderful mercy seat of God.

The rending of the veil meant a number of things especially:

(1) Free access to God through Christ. (Hebrews 10:19-20).

(2) The end of the law contained in sacrifices and ordinances. (Ephesians 2:15).

(3) Blotted out the Law of Moses by nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:14).

(4) Removed all nationalistic and social distinctions. (Galatians 3:27-28; 4:24-31).

(5) Took away some of the powers of Satan. (Colossians 2:15).

To be sure the Children of Israel patched up the torn veil and went on conducting the old services for another forty years, with their backs (and hearts and minds) turned against Jesus of Calvary. But the sacredness of temple worship was not there. The holiest place had been opened for all to see. Then came Galatianism into the Church, the attempt to put Children of God back under the Mosaic Law. (Galatians 1:6-9) The way was open through the blood of Christ, but some were trying to keep it shut. This spirit of bondage is still being taught by some. They are trying to sew up the rent veil, and revert back to portions of Moses' Law. They do not understand that in Christ Jesus the believer is complete and free from ordinances. The Door is open!

This is called "being justified by faith" through Christ. Justification by faith is one of the most distinctive truths of the Church of God. It is one of the basic principles of salvation. It alone offers to man salvation as a gift. So many persons claim and teach, that man must earn his way in order to be saved. They say a man is saved by the good works he performs, or by the religious feasts he keeps, or by rites and ceremonies which he observes. The Church of God boldly proclaims that man is saved by none of these things. Salvation has been freely provided by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Man comes to God with no merit of his own for he is a sinner by nature. Remember our definition for sin? It is the transgression of God's Law. (I John 3:4) Man has the knowledge of what sin is. When man comes to God he

must repent of his sins. Then he loves God enough to be his obedient child. It is this understanding of the greatness of God's love that draws him to repentance and love. And in response to that love, he gives himself wholly to God by faith. It is important for us to understand that the new way in Christ Jesus is the concept of faith not that of simple intellectual belief, but a total commitment of one's self to God. This makes the salvation experience not a mechanical action but a dynamic experience. With this general understanding of the doctrine of justification by faith, let us not return to the "weak and beggarly elements" of the laws of ceremonies and ordinances.

"Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain." Galatians 4:8-11.



THE MOSAIC LAW WAS ABOLISHED

The Ten Commandments of God are perpetual and immutable. The crime wave that is sweeping the world, wherein each offense is a definite violation of one or another of the Ten Commandments, should make every father and mother carefully consider that these Commandments must be taught. The hateful deception that God's holy Commandments have been abolished and nailed to the cross has had a world wide sowing, and how horrible the harvest. But the searchlight of God's precious Word focused squarely on the situation will clearly discern long hidden truth and people are everywhere awakening to the fact that it was the law of Moses and not the Law of God that was abolished and abrogated at the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Faith: Why Is It Necessary?

By David DeLong

Why won't the Lord just show us everything about Himself so that we can see what He is doing, instead of having to believe that what He is doing is for our best? Wouldn't that be much easier than our wondering why we go through the things that we encounter?

First of all, even if the Lord showed us everything that He is doing for our good, we still wouldn't understand all of His workings. For instance, if we asked the Lord for a certain thing, and He told us to our face, "no!" we still may not understand His reasoning behind the answer. Therefore, we must trust Him.

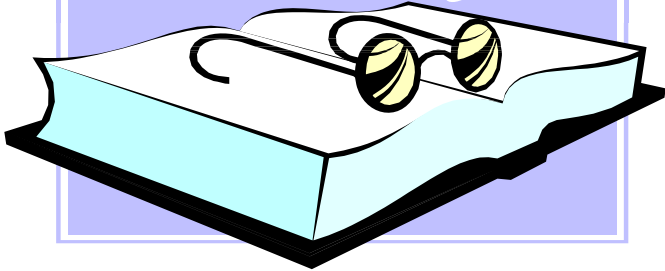
Secondly, we should understand that in every good relationship there must be an element of faith, or trust. When one spouse leaves the house on an errand, the other spouse must believe that the husband, or wife, as the case may be is really going on the errand and not meeting up with another person behind their backs. We may not fully understand why the Lord directed the children of Israel, on various occasions, to kill every man, woman, and child of the inhabitants of Canaan. But, He still wants us to trust Him that He is a righteous God and very loving and merciful. Some people won't serve the Lord because they feel He is a God of meanness or hate. Job said in Job 13:15: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him..." That needs to be the attitude of each of us.

We need to come to believe that: "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). It is Satan's goal to get us to doubt the Lord. He did this with our first mother, Eve, in the Garden of Eden. When God told Adam that if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would die, Eve chose to believe Satan who said, "...Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4).

If we come to trust the Lord in all things in this day and age, then we will be able to trust Him in the eternity to come. There will be no more Satan, then, to cast doubt upon the Lord. Let us just relax, today, in the loving arms of God, trusting Him, and knowing, that what comes our way will work out for the best.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: What are your thoughts about walking with God?

ANSWER: “Can two walk together, except they make an appointment and have agreed? This is the reading of *The Amplified Version* of Amos 3:3. One of the greatest privileges of the child of God is walking with the Father. But to truly walk with God, one must first make an appointment with Him and agree to walk as He directs. In God’s relationship with Israel, this was true. Through a covenant, they made an appointment with God to walk with Him and in His ways. However, they did not continue to keep this appointment, and God did not continue to walk with them. Leviticus 26:40-41 informs us, “*If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and then accept of the punishment of their iniquity.*”

Enoch walked with God. “*And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him*” (Genesis 5:24). We are assured that Enoch strove diligently to walk in the way that God would have him to go. We are also told that Noah walked with God. “*These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God*” (Genesis 6:9). We know of Noah’s walk with God by his faithfulness in building the Ark. As a result of this close

Questions and Answers

walk with God, eight souls were saved from the Flood.

WALKING ACCORDING TO IMAGINATION

We read of those who walk according to the imagination of their own hearts. “*Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not*” (Jeremiah 11:8). The Apostle Paul gives us the antidote for this in II Corinthians 10:5. “*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*” We can determine the difference between our own imaginations and the will of God only through God’s Word and the example given us in Christ. Selfishness and self-gratification are the results of our own imaginations. We may like to think that our own imaginations are in harmony with the Lord, but in most cases they are not.

We also read of those who walk according to the course of this world. “*Wherein in time past ye walked according to...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience*” (Ephesians 2:2). The course of this world is a selfish one, and it seeks self-gratification. Regardless of how others might feel, it seeks joy. Little or no consideration is given by those who walk according to the course of this world as to how the Lord may desire them to walk. The course of this present world is following what seems to be good in its own sight.

I Peter 1:14 describes the selfish course of those who assume they have made an appointment with the Lord but do not keep it. “*As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.*” These would rather serve the interests

of their flesh as they did in former days. We know that this is not walking with God!

WALKING FROM BEHIND

We read in Isaiah 30:21, “*And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*” We can believe that the voice from behind mentioned here by the prophet is the voice of God speaking through His holy Word. All of the followers of the Lord reach crisis times in their lives. There are times when a decision has to be made as to which direction to take in order to be pleasing to the Lord. We are reminded that these decisions should be made in keeping with the instructions of the Word of God.

If we change our plans, symbolized by turning to the right hand or left, it should be only as we are assured that such change would be pleasing to the Lord. Let us ask some questions. Would it make it easier for us to fellowship with the brethren? Perhaps the change would tend to isolate us from the Lord’s people! The answer to all of our questions can be found in the voice from behind.

II Corinthians 5:7 tells us, “*(For we walk by faith, not by sight.)*” Again we read, “*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” (Hebrews 11:1). Walking by faith is a severe test because it means that we follow things that are set forth in the Word of God. Many of these things are invisible to the human eye. The flesh always wants to take hold of something which is tangible. However, the Lord’s way is not for us to look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. Isaiah wrote, “*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint*” (Isaiah 40:31).

Our walk with God is upon the basis of faith while we are in the flesh. If we walk faithfully and humbly with Him, the time will come when we will be actually with Him. We can think of no greater blessing than that!

QUESTION: Is the eternal torment tradition the divine penalty for sin?

ANSWER: No! The eternal torment tradition teaches

that the divine penalty for sin is eternal torment, not death. This tradition teaches that those who die without accepting Christ are doomed to this fate, where they will have to suffer throughout the endless ages of eternity.

Most supporters of the eternal torment “precept” are sincere in their belief that it is taught in the Bible. Therefore, let us examine the Word of God in order to ascertain what its testimony really is concerning the divine penalty for sin. The Book of Genesis is the proper place to begin this examination. It has a record of creation and the fall of man. We can be assured that whatever God there states to be the penalty for transgressing His law has never changed, for He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17).

The first mention we have in the Bible of punishment for sin is in Genesis 2:16-17). This passage reads, “*And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*” *Young’s Literal Translation* reads, “*dying thou dost die,*” meaning that if Adam disobeyed, the dying process would immediately begin, and he would finally succumb and return to the dust from which he was taken.

God explained very clearly what the penalty for sin would be. There seems to be no good reason for misunderstanding His words. However, this is exactly what has happened. Various false teaching has resulted. Death, it is claimed, does not mean death as we know it, but eternal separation from God in a state of constant torment, often including the thought of literal fire and brimstone. By attaching these false meanings to the word death, the entire testimony of the Bible on this subject becomes confused and distorted.

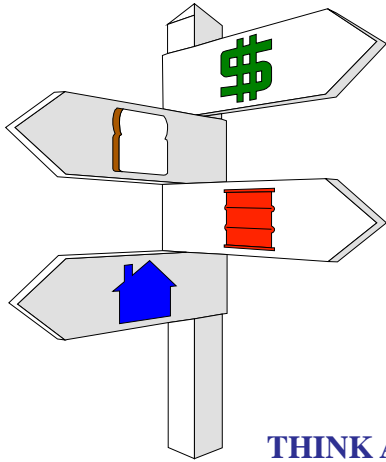
For example, when a person is convinced that death means torment, Paul’s statement in Romans 6:23, “*For the wages of sin is death,*” means that “*the wages of sin is torment.*” When the Apostle Paul added that “*the gift of God is eternal life,*” it means that the gift of God is escape from eternal torment. According to this distorted viewpoint there is no death. All must live eternally regardless of belief or unbelief, the difference being that the believer lives in heaven and the unbeliever in a hell of torment.



Honduras

Some of our brothers and sisters in Honduras showing their earned certificates.





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.

THINK ABOUT THIS

When we read the documents which pertain to the original establishment of America, we cannot help but be impressed with the reverential spirit in which they were written. Most of our founding fathers believed in the overruling providence of God and demonstrated this in their lives. Many of the original colonies had been established by deeply religious men who sought a refuge from the political and religious persecutions that prevailed in Europe. A free system of public education was set up to ensure that all would be enabled to read the Bible, and the English primer became the first textbook.

Quite a change has taken place in less than two hundred and fifty years. This is very true especially in the last few decades! Today, we witness an ever-increasing deterioration of faith in God and belief in spiritual things. The result has been the same whether it be in high levels of government, in the educational systems, in society at large, or even within the providence of the churches themselves. One must look far and wide to find God-fearing individuals who have not lost their integrity or their confidence in God. Many do not stand for the principles of truth and righteousness.

One notable exception to this condition of spiritual and moral decay which is sweeping our country and world today is found in the lives of a relatively few individuals who can be called “footstep followers of Jesus Christ.” These have honest and upright hearts to whom the Lord is pleased to reveal Himself and His plans.

MARRIAGE VERSUS COHABITATION

The following are some quotes from an article appearing in *Does God Exist?*

“A U.S. Census Bureau report released last year says the number of unmarried partners living together has tripled in the past two decades. The number went from 6 million in 1996 to 19.1 million in 2018. Cohabitation may satisfy the immediate sexual gratification of some, especially males. It does not meet the needs of both men and women in the long term.

When it comes to marriage versus cohabitation, God’s Plan works. The alternatives do not.”

SINS OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH

The sins of Sodom were dreadful, and God Destroyed the two cities because they could not be tolerated anymore. “Time” magazine of October 31 devoted seven pages to the subject, making public “the unfruitful works of darkness” (Ephesians 5:11). What the Apostle Paul said needs to be said again: “It is a SHAME even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” – and now are being done by our society in public.

This sin is condemned in the Bible as a perversion of God-given powers and distinctions. Indeed, we believe it is true that no one that practices this sin can be freed from it until he accepts what God’s Word says about it. Until he has agreed to God’s judgment on it, man can not get a clear conscience. He will have shame, loathing, fear, etc. – but not until Jesus cleanses and takes away the habit can he be set free from this terrible sin.

Thus, for the sinner of this kind of sin Jesus is the only hope. By turning to God, there is both forgiveness and freedom. This is the Gospel we preach. It is the power of God unto salvation, and there is none so chained that the Gospel cannot set free.

Reprinted from *The Prairie Overcomer*

LESSON I

DAVID FLEES THE COUNTRY

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 21:1-15.

Golden Text: I Samuel 21:10.

"And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson how Jonathan warned David with the arrows that Saul was still angry. Jonathan was heir to the throne, but he had learned that God had ordained David to be king. Now we shall see why David flees to Ahimelech.

1. David went to Ahimelech, the priest. What did he tell Ahimelech? I Samuel 21:1-3.
 2. What was the priest's answer to David's request? I Samuel 21:4.
 3. Did David receive the hallowed bread? I Samuel 21:6.
 4. What servant of Saul was there that day? I Samuel 21:7.
- NOTE: Doeg will play an important part in the story of David as we will learn in future lessons.**
5. What did David ask Ahimelech to give him? I Samuel 21:8-9.
 6. Why did David flee, and where did he go? I Samuel 21:10.
 7. Was David afraid of Achish? I Samuel 21:11-12.
 8. Why did David pretend to be insane? I Samuel 21:13-14.
 9. Was Achish doubtful then about accepting David in his presence? I Samuel 21:15.

LESSON II

DAVID A FUGITIVE

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 22:1-11.

Golden Text: I Samuel 22:1.

"David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him."

NOTE: We studied in our last lesson how David escaped to the Philistines and feigned insanity. It was at this time that he composed Psalm 34. David senses danger among the Philistines, so let us see where he goes now to get away from it.

1. To what place did David escape, and who gathered there with him? I Samuel 22:1.
2. How many men were with him? I Samuel 22:2.
3. Where did David then go? I Samuel 22:3-4.
4. Where did he prophet Gad advise David to go from there? I Samuel 22:5.
5. Did Saul discover where David was? I Samuel 22:6.
6. What did Saul say unto his servants in I Samuel 22:7-8?
7. Did Doeg, the Edomite, who saw David with Ahimelech, tell Saul what he had seen? I Samuel 22:9-10.
8. For whom did Saul then send? I Samuel 22:11.

LESSON III

SAUL SLAYS THE PRIESTS

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 22:11-23.

Golden Text: I Samuel 22:21.

"And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that David hid from Saul in a cave. He now has about 400 men under his command. King Saul learns that the priest, Ahimelech, helped David by giving him food and the sword of Goliath. We will now study what King Saul does out of his anger towards David.

1. Saul called for Ahimelech and all his father's house to come before him. What did Saul say unto him? I Samuel 22:11-13.
2. What was Ahimelech's answer to Saul? I Samuel 22:14-15.
3. What did Saul then decide to do with Ahimelech and his family for helping David? I Samuel 22:16.
4. What did Saul instruct his footmen to do, and did they follow his command? I Sameul 22:17.
5. Who then did Saul order to kill the priests, and how many were slain that day? I Samuel 22:18-19.
6. Did anyone escape? I Samuel 22:210.
7. Did Abiathar tell David that Saul had slain the Lord's priests? I Samuel 22:21.
8. Did David know immediately who had told Saul? I Sameul 22:22.
9. What did Avid advise Abiathar to do in I Samuel 22:23?

LESSON IV

DAVID SPARES SAUL'S LIFE AT EN-GEDI

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 24:1-22.

Golden Text: I Samuel 24:12.

"The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not

be upon thee."

NOTE: We have been studying how David has had to flea from King Saul as he was trying to kill David. In chapter 23, you may read of David's flight to Keilah, Ziph and Maon. Now David is in the wilderness of En-gedi, and we are going to see how Saul is trapped, and David refuses to come to the throne by blood.

1. When Saul returned form following the Philistines and found that David was in the wilderness of En-gedi, what did he do? I Samuel 24:1-3.
2. What did David do to Saul in I Samuel 24:4?
3. Was David sorry he had done it with Saul? Did he have mercy on Saul? I Samuel 24:5-7.
4. David arose and went out after Saul. What did he say to him? I Samuel 24:8-11.
5. Tell what Saul said to David in I Samuel 24:21?
6. What was Saul's reaction in I Samuel 24:21?
7. What did Saul request David to do? I Samuel 24:21.
8. Did David promise to let Saul go home without harm? I Samuel 24:22.

Clean and Unclean Animals in the Bible
Unscrambe these words -

1. OLFW 2. ERDE 3. OTAG
4. ATCLET 5. ESPEH 6. HIFS 7. ANEKS
8. OGRF 9. EPTSRNA 10. PINOSOC
11. PGI
12. IOLN





THE RAFT RESCUE

"For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" John 5:20-24.

"Help! Help! Save me!" Todd screamed out the words as his homemade raft rushed down the swiftly moving river toward the falls. It had all started just a few minutes ago. Todd had gone down to the river's edge to play on the raft he and his friends had built. It was tied to a sturdy elm tree on the river bank. Because the current was rough, the raft was never untied, but the boys used it as an imaginary "tug-boat on the Mississippi." Unknown to Todd, the once thick rope had become badly frayed from rubbing on a rock. When he jumped on the raft to catch a frog that was sunning itself on the warm boards, the frayed rope snapped, and the raft lunged out from the river's edge and went pell-mell downstream.

"Oh, no!" Todd thought. "What am I going to do? I cannot swim well enough to reach the shore, and just two miles downstream the river plunges fifty feet over Drop-Off-Point." For about a mile before the falls the river ran right next to the road. Thinking someone might see him, he waved his arms frantically and yelled loudly.

Todd's father was driving home from work on that very road, and he looked out at the river. Upstream in the distance, he could see the raft spinning around and he saw that someone was on it. Quickly stopping the car, he kicked off his shoes and headed for the river. Being a strong swimmer, he stroked toward the middle of the river and waited for the raft to reach him. How surprised he was to see his own son on it! Knowing he would never be able to stop the heavy raft, he called out, "Todd...jump! Jump! I will save you!"

Todd looked at the sturdy raft, then at his father in the swirling waters. He was not sure he wanted to leave the raft, but he knew it would mean sure death if he did not. As he leaped into the surging water, his father caught his arm. Slowly, and with strong, sure strokes, Todd's father made it safely back to the shore, with Todd in tow.

Later, as they were drying off at home, Dad said, "You know, what I did for you today is sort of like what Jesus did for us. We were headed for sure death, and we could not save ourselves. Just as you had to trust me to save you when you jumped, so we had to be willing to "leap out" by the father and trust the Lord to save us from our sins."

HOW ABOUT YOU? Have you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ? If not, you are headed for trouble, God says you are a sinner, and sin brings death - eternal death. But Jesus suffered that death for you. Through Jesus, you can receive life - eternal life. Accept Him as your Saviour today, before it is too late!

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

Answers to Unscramble Bible Animals -
Clean Animals - Fowl, cattle, deer, goat, sheep and fish
Unclean Animals - Pig, scorpion, frog, snake,
serpent and lion

Unscramble the books of the New Testament and then find them in the puzzle.
They are backwards, forwards, up and down.

1. Asloniscos 2. Repet 3. Tacs 4. Nathinicos 5. Stiut

6. Tailganas 7. Temtawh 8. BresheW 9. Sanmor 10. Deju

11. Ramk 12. Samje 13. Hesienspa 14. Mothyti 15. Kuel

16. Lapipinship 17. Elimophn 18. Nojh 19. Slanonesithans 20. Neltevaioir

A	V	C	O	L	O	S	S	I	A	N	S	D	A	B	J
K	J	I	F	W	J	J	N	O	D	S	L	S	E	E	A
R	E	K	U	L	N	O	E	E	L	S	P	P	T	Z	M
T	N	E	A	I	T	H	V	T	P	R	X	H	P	O	E
A	T	H	A	I	N	N	E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S
S	N	E	A	D	C	B	I	X	R	O	T	L	K	O	R
A	S	U	E	D	U	J	S	R	A	E	Q	I	T	T	E
C	I	O	A	Y	R	E	T	E	P	E	N	P	I	D	V
S	C	O	G	I	R	D	T	D	W	O	J	P	M	E	E
T	A	E	T	D	N	R	O	M	A	N	S	I	O	C	L
O	C	O	R	I	N	T	H	I	A	N	S	A	T	V	A
H	T	I	A	O	Q	I	R	S	I	F	U	N	H	U	T
Q	K	R	A	M	A	H	E	B	R	E	W	S	Y	T	I
S	N	A	I	N	O	L	A	S	S	E	H	T	Y	D	O
T	T	I	T	U	S	S	N	A	I	T	A	L	A	G	N
C	S	T	O	I	P	H	I	L	E	M	O	N	T	I	T
A	M	A	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	P	A	E	C	D	S

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Hover Me Over

By David DeLong

Hover me over, O Spirit divine,
Reshape my will until it's not mine;
Indwell my heart, and bring it in line,
Hover me, cover me, Spirit divine.

Hover me over, O Spirit divine,
Come gentle Jesus, and with me please dine;
I'm just a branch, but He is the Vine,
Hover me, cover me, Spirit divine.

Hover me over, O Spirit divine,
To be like my Savior, this is my design;
Please sanctify me, before I decline,
Hover me, cover me, Spirit divine.

