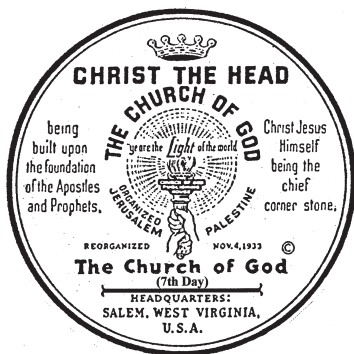


The Advocate of Truth



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Whatever We Do

*God can forgive whatever we do,
He is always there all the days through,
He will give us strength to hold our head high,
He can help us so much we cannot deny,
The power He can have in our life,
As He helps us with all the trouble and strife,
Whatever we do if we only turn to Him,
He can give such strength and peace within,
He forgave those who nailed Him to the cross,
His desire is that none would be lost,
Just get down on your knees and pray,
Ask Him into your heart to stay.*

By Bertie I. Adams



Baptism

What If I Wasn't Baptized?

Seven Questions Answered by Apostle Warren H. Randall Jr.

"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).

1. What happens if you have passed away and did not grow up in church to learn about God and needing to be baptized for eternal life?

We, as fellow humans, want to give everyone a chance for salvation. This especially applies to passed loved ones. I have never met anyone who doesn't believe their grandmother either is or should be in heaven. While we know the dead are in their graves and not anyplace else, the Apostle Paul tells us about the people in question. Rom. 1:18-20, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE." In (2 Cor. 6:2) the last part of the verse we read'...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

2. Knew you should be baptized but never got around to it?

If one knew to be baptized and chose not to, it seems like another one of those 'NO EXCUSE' situations. If we follow the words of the Apostle Peter found in Acts 2: 38, he first says to repent. Obviously, this person does not want to do that and it is a shame because it is "the goodness of God (who) leadeth thee to repentance." See last part of Rom. 2:4. In Mark 16:16 we learn." He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." and lastly, James writes in chapter 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

3. Had a child pass away as an infant?

This question comes up all the time and we have to leave this one with God. He knew young people were going to drown in the flood. He knew innocent children were going to die at the hands of Herod when Jesus was born and He knows what the future holds. That being said, we must believe the Lord when we read the following, Is. 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Lastly, in Proverbs 3:5-6."Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he

shall direct thy paths." Trust is a must.

4. When God returns will the unbaptized have a time to repent and be baptized then?

When the Lord returns at the warring phase it will be after the 7 last plagues of much death and destruction. The saints will rule and reign a thousand years with Jesus and all indications are that a teaching work (Is.2:2-3) would be taking place on the earth. (Revelation 5:8-10 and 20:6). For all practical purposes, a kingdom would have an area, a King, subjects and rules. However, we also know that Satan is imprisoned for those thousand years but will be loosed when they are expired and shall go forth to deceive the nations. (Revelation 20:7-8). Being properly baptized is a very good thing but it is really just the beginning. Standing up to the temptations that come one's way is the real test. Baptism is not mentioned in Revelation.

5. Will the baptized and unbaptized people all go thru the Seven Last Plagues together?

Before I get into the meat of this answer, I would like to point out that what we preach and teach is that more is required than just baptism. It starts with a proper baptism as we mentioned in the previous answer, but it doesn't end with it. It is necessary for a child of God to keep the commandments, keep the law of the clean and unclean, keep the Lord's Supper and tithe. (Ask for our Doctrinal Points)

Just because a person is baptized doesn't mean they won't go through the 7 last plagues especially if they are not keeping the aforementioned. However, it is true the plagues, or as they are known, the wrath of God, is reserved for the wicked. (Revelation 15:1, Colossians 3:5-6, 1Thessalonians 5:1-9).

6. Will the innocent live thru the seven last plagues?

I believe the use of the word innocent is not a very good choice. No one is innocent. Israel may be blind but certainly not innocent. In Revelation 9:18 we are told a third part of men are killed and in verse 20 reads, "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: (21) Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." God's wrath is reserved for the wicked or disobedient.

7. What do you do if there is no church or pastor in your area to be baptized?

While baptism is important, we would also want everyone to know how serious it is. In Luke 14:28-30 we read about 'counting the cost' and it is highly recommended that one take that into consideration. Remember that Jesus talked about us taking up our cross and following Him and we also learn in the parable of the sower that the seed, the word of the kingdom, does not always fall on good ground.

If, after due consideration one wants to be baptized, contact us for further discussion.

WAYS TO THANK GOD:

Expressing gratitude to God can be done in many ways, including prayer, worship, service, and sharing the Gospel. These acts demonstrate a recognition of God's blessings and a desire to honor Him. Here's a more detailed look at ways to thank God:

Prayer and Praise:

- Express gratitude through prayer, both formal and informal, acknowledging specific blessings and God's goodness.
- Use music to express thankfulness and devotion.
- Draw inspiration from sacred texts to express gratitude through song.

CAN YOU THINK OF A WAY TO THANK GOD?

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Doctrines Of Men

By David DeLong

Many beliefs that Christians today have are not according to the Bible, but are really only the doctrines of men. Given in this article are twenty beliefs, or doctrines, that are not based upon the Bible, but come about from traditions set up by men.

1.) All laws of God, including the Ten Commandments, have been nailed to the cross of Jesus Christ.

While a Christian cannot work his or her way into God's Kingdom by keeping the Ten Commandments, these Commandments most definitely have a function, and therefore cannot have been taken away when Jesus died upon the cross. The first function of the Ten Commandments is to point out sin. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans chapter 3:20: "Therefore by the deeds of the law (Ten Commandments) there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." In verse 31 he wrote: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." And in Romans 7:7 we read: "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Another function of the Ten Commandments is to help establish a person's faith. The Apostle James wrote in James 2:17: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

2.) Worship, on the seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday), has been transferred to Sunday.

God only rested on one day of the week (the seventh-day), and He only blest and sanctified (set apart for a holy purpose) one day of the week (the seventh-day) (Genesis 2:1-3). He did not rest upon the seventh-day because He was tired, but as an example for mankind to do the same. Jesus said the Sabbath was made for man. (The Greek word for man is anthropos which actually means mankind) (see Mark 2:27), and therefore He is the Lord of the sabbath, because He is the one who, with His Father, created it (Mark 2:28; Colossians 1:16). The Sabbath was placed in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11), was also given to the Gentiles (Isaiah 56:1-7), was kept by Jesus as our

example (Luke 4:16), and it will be kept in the new heavens and the new earth (Isaiah 66:22-24).

3.) Christians, when they die, go up to heaven.

Jesus plainly told Nicodemus in John 3:13: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." When a person dies, his or her body lies in the grave until a resurrection, when a saved person receives eternal life and a wicked person receives eternal death. Death is called a sleep in the Bible, to which one must be awakened out of that sleep. Jesus said regarding Lazarus in John 11:11: "These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." The Patriarch Job said this concerning death: "So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep" (Job 14:12). In verse 14 he continues: "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." The writer of Hebrews teaches us that all saints will receive their promise of eternal life together. Concerning some of the righteous, we find in Hebrews 11:39-40: "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

4.) The wicked are tortured in an everlasting, burning hell.

The wicked will be put into a burning hell (gehenna), but its purpose is not to torture people for eternity, but to totally annihilate them. Psalm 37:20 reads: "But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." Isaiah 66:23-24 reads: "And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh." Malachi 4:1-3 informs us: "For,

behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts." Jesus said plainly in Matthew 10:28: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

5.) The belief in a Trinity. The Bible teaches that the Father is the only inherent God. We read in Isaiah 45:6: "That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else." Jesus, when He was praying His prayer of intercession, said in John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." After Jesus was resurrected from the dead He told Mary Magdalene to tell the other disciples that He was going back to His Father and His God (John 20:17). Jesus said He was given all power in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18). So the Father is the one and only true God. Even the Holy Spirit is not a separate God in a Trinity. If that was the case, then the Holy Spirit would be Jesus' Father. Luke 1:35 tells us when the angel spoke to Mary: "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." The Holy Spirit is called "the power of the Highest". Only the Father is the "Highest".

6.) The Lord's Supper can be taken anytime. The Lord's Supper is tied up with the timing of the Passover service, which was a memorial, and was done only once a year (see Exodus 12:1-6; Exodus 13:9-10.) Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper on the evening of the Passover (Matthew 26:26-29). When He died upon the cross, He became our Passover (I Corinthians 5:7-8). The Apostle Paul gives us the time when the Lord's Supper should be taken. I Corinthians 11:23-25: "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took

bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me." The word "oft" in the Greek means "when" you do this. It isn't as oft as men would like to do it, but as oft as the Lord directs us to do it.

The footwashing is also a part of the Lord's Supper Service, and should be done before the emblems of the unleavened bread and the grape juice are taken. Jesus said in John 13:14-15: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

7.) Pagan holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, are alright to observe. Actually, the Lord condemns the keeping of pagan holidays such as Christmas and Easter. In Jeremiah 10:2-5 we read: "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good." Although this was sometime before the Christmas tree, it was eventually incorporated into the vain customs of the heathen.

As concerning Easter, we have the counsel of the Lord concerning this pagan celebration as well. Deuteronomy 12:2-3 instructs us: "Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the hills, and under every green tree: And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place." When Easter is celebrated, one of the names of a pagan goddess is preserved. That name is Eostre, a pagan goddess of Britain and probably of ancient Europe as well, but it is pronounced the same way as Easter. This name is derived from Astarte and Ishtar, and is even a descendant from the Ashtaroth that the Israelites worshipped. Judges 2:13

tells us regarding the ancient Israelites: "And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." Baal worship, having to do with sun worship, is tied in with Christmas celebration, and the worship of Ashtaroth is tied up with Easter celebration.

8.) Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, and was resurrected on Easter Sunday morning. Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees the time that He would be in the grave after His crucifixion. When these scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign, He replied: "But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Count them: a person can count three days from a Friday crucifixion to a Sunday morning resurrection, but one cannot count three nights out of the same time. Therefore, this time period is in error. Jesus had to have been crucified on a Wednesday evening, placed in the grave before sunset, and then three days and three nights later (72 hours), He would have been resurrected Sabbath evening before sunset. When the disciples came to His grave on Sunday morning, He was already gone.

9.) It is believed that Jesus cleansed unclean meats, such as pork, and therefore it is alright to eat these unclean meats today. Jesus never cleansed unclean meats. Galatians 4:4 tells us: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." Since Jesus was made under the law, He was under it all His life, and wouldn't have changed any part of it. Therefore, He wouldn't have changed the law of the clean and unclean meats. The issue at hand with the scribes and Pharisees who came to Jesus in Matthew 15:1-20 was not about cleansing unclean meats, but it was about washing of hands before eating. The first mention of clean and unclean animals is in Genesis 7:2,8, where God tells Noah about the animals going into the ark. This was centuries before there even was the Levitical Priesthood, indicating that the division of meats was under the Melchisedek Priesthood, which we are under today (see Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1-11). Nowhere in the Bible has the law of the clean and unclean meats been changed. Isaiah 66:15-17 is a dire warning that when the Lord returns, many of those still "eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse,"

will be destroyed.

10.) Tithing went out with the Old Testament, and we are only to give generously, today. Jesus endorsed tithing. We read in Matthew 23:23: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Hebrews 7:8 also endorses tithing: "And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth."

11.) Baptism can be done any way, by immersion or by sprinkling, or any other way. The Bible says there is only one baptism (see Ephesians 4:4-6) and it is the way that Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Matthew 3:16 says: "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:". Jesus going up straightway out of the water indicates that He was fully in the water and was immersed in it by John. Next, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus as well. This is how the disciples of Jesus baptized, and were baptized, in the book of Acts. Acts 8:14-17 tells us that after the disciples were baptized in Jesus' name, hands were laid upon them to receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 19:1-6 tells us the same thing: the disciples were baptized in Jesus' name, and then had hands laid upon them to receive the Holy Spirit.

12.) A church can have any name put upon it. The Bible teaches us in Ephesians 3:14-15, where the Apostle Paul wrote: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,". We are designated, therefore, as God's Church, being one family which consists of the inhabitants of heaven and the saved upon earth. When Paul penned his letters to the various churches, he did so by addressing them as unto the Church of God (see I Corinthians 1:2; II Corinthians 1:1; etc.) As God's people, we need to be known as the Church of God.

13.) Many Christians believe that man has an immortal soul. When the Lord created man, then man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7), but he does not have an immortal soul. In Ezekiel 18:20 the verse reads, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die...." Therefore, a soul can die. First Timothy 6:14-16 tells us that only God the Father

has immortality. This is inherent immortality. The Father will give immortality to those gaining eternal life (see I Corinthians 15:53-54).

14.) Most Christians believe that their church can be governed any way they wish, even being led by a President, etc. However, the Bible gives the plain teaching that the Church of God is to be governed by Apostolic government. Ephesians 4:11-13 reads: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:". Since there are still evangelists, pastors and teachers in the body of Christ today, there must still be apostles and prophets in the body because these ministries all must work together to perfect the saints, for the edifying of Christ's body, to help everyone come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to be a perfect man, unto the stature of the fulness of Christ, to help everyone to grow in the faith, and be settled in Bible doctrine.

15.) It is believed that making important decisions in the church should be done by majority vote. Some decisions in the church should be done by majority vote such as what color carpet is to be in the church. But the very important decisions, such as who is to be an Apostle of the church, must be done by the biblical lot system. For instance, after prayer and fasting, slips of paper should be placed in a container with the names of various candidates for Apostle written on the pieces of paper. At least one slip of paper should be left blank in case none of the candidates are the Lord's choice. Then, one slip of paper should be drawn out of the container to determine the Lord's choice in the matter. Proverbs 16:33 tells us: "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD." And in Proverbs 18:18 we find: "The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty." When Judas Iscariot was replaced as one of the original 12 Apostles, the disciples used the lot system to choose Matthias to replace him (see Acts 1:15-26).

16.) The home of the saved is in heaven. While we know that Jesus said in John 14:1-3 that He was going to prepare a place for us, there is a sequence of events

that must first take place. We believe and teach the Jesus' return will be in 2 parts, the reaping phase and the warring phase. In the reaping phase the saints will be resurrected to the sea of glass. Rev. 15:1-4, and then the 7 last plagues are poured out. Rev. 15:5-8. After that Jesus is returning with saints in the warring phase. Rev. 19:11-16 so that the saints can rule and reign with Christ 1000 years on the earth. Rev. 20:6, Rev. 5:9-10

17.) Some Christians believe that we still need to keep the law of Moses. The law of Moses was nailed to the cross, not the Law of God, the Ten Commandments. In Acts chapter 15 a council was held in Jerusalem about this very issue of keeping the law of Moses. "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." The result of that meeting is summed up in verse 24: "Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:". The law of Moses is said to be a law of commandments contained in ordinances. This was nailed to Jesus' cross. Ephesians 2:15 reads: "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;". Colossians 2:14 says: "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;". The law of Moses was about circumcision, animal sacrifices, certain feast days, and tabernacle/temple worship. When Jesus died upon the cross He fulfilled the law of Moses.

18.) The Sea of Glass is not understood by many Christians. The sea of glass is just another description of God's city, the New Jerusalem. It appears to be glass because it is transparent like glass. However, the city is made of pure gold which is transparent like glass. Revelation 15:2 tells us: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God." Revelation 21:16,18 read: "And the city lieth foursquare...And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass."

19.) Most Christians believe in a secret rapture,

when they think that suddenly, a mass of Christians will be gone, and those left behind have no idea what is going on. However, there will be nothing secret about the rapture of the living saints when Christ returns, accompanied by the first resurrection. First Thessalonians 4:16-17 informs us: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Second Peter 3:10 reads: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

20.) Many Christians believe that one can get a divorce for any reason, and then marry another person. Jesus gives only one reason for getting a divorce and then getting remarried. Matthew 19:9 explains that situation: "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." Fornication, according to this verse, means any sexual sin committed.

WAYS TO THANK GOD continued from page 4

Service and Obedience:

- **Strive to live according to religious teachings and principles, demonstrating obedience as an act of thankfulness.**
- **Offer acts of service, charity, and volunteer work, mirroring God's love and compassion.**
- **Spread the message of faith and hope to others, demonstrating thankfulness for the blessings of salvation.**
- **Contribute financially or materially to your Church.**

continued on page 11

The flesh versus the Spirit ***The Christian's Hope - Romans 8*** ***reprinted by O.D. Grimm***

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me (us) free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:1-5).

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh....Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyng, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:16-21).

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-25).

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So, then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 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. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in

you. 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 (subdue) the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as 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. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:6-28).

"The Spirit and the bride say COME" (Revelation 22:17). Here is the clue to the "what of verse 6.

The Spirit filled Body is "the salt of the earth," a preservative influence (Matthew 5:13) and complete corruption is impossible while it remains on earth. It is also the "Light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) and complete darkness (Joel 2:2) will not come while its ministry is being exercised.

When the Spirit "steps aside" His instrument in this dispensation will disappear with Him and during the Tribulation the Holy Spirit has to do with the departure of the Church in the rapture. The very word for "rapture" (catch-

ing up) is found in Acts 8:39 in connection with the miraculous disappearance of Philip. "The Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away." In the Old Testament also we have a rapture. of Elijah, we read in II Kings 2:16 - "the Spirit of the Lord hath taken him up." We believe that the living and resurrected saints will be lifted up to meet the coming Bridegroom, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the withdrawing of Christ's ambassadors and therefore a declaration of war on the godless world - clear proof that the Body of Christ will not be in the scene when the period of wrath gets under way.



THE GIFT OF TIME

By David Royer

We know our time on earth is a limited gift from God. James 4:14 reminds us: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Since time is limited, time is precious and not to be squandered. The Bible tells us to be deliberate in how we use it. "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalms 90:12). We are reminded to seek and apply divine wisdom for the best way to live throughout each day. King David's prayer to God was: "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness" (Psalm 143:10).

Our time, like all times, is in God's hand (See Psalm 31:15). This is what it means to live by faith in relation to time.

Observations: (Source: Article by Jon Bloom 8/8/21 "My Times Are in Your Hand" www.desiringgod.org)

- * God-time moves at different speeds than ours.
- * God works all things, at all times, in all places, in all dimensions, after the counsel of His will to accomplish all His purposes.
- * God has a purposeful time for everything (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8), and He makes everything beautiful in its time.
- * However God chooses to use our times, it's critically important that we learn to trust His timing over the relative and unreliable earthbound perspective that shapes our expectations.

In closing, the knowledge of a timeless, eternal God increases our love for Him. We find great comfort knowing that He is with us right now in our limited gift of time. We can approach God with humble confidence. Since He is always with us, we can offer praises, commune, and pray to Him for our needs and His mercies.

WAYS TO THANK GOD

continued from page 9

Living a Life of Gratitude:

- Cultivate a habit of recognizing and appreciating God's presence and blessings throughout the day.
- Reflect on past experiences and acknowledge God's guidance and provision.
- Appreciate the beauty and wonder of the natural world as a testament to God's power.
- Find happiness in God's gifts and express gratitude for the blessings of life.
- Dedicate yourself to God's service through your actions and efforts.

Thank you to Denise Gonzalez of Pico Rivera, California for her picture to the left of one of God's beautiful works of nature.



LESSON I

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-26.

Golden Text: Exodus 20:2.

"I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

1. What words did God speak to the children of Israel? Exodus 20:3-7. If you do not already know these Ten Commandments by heart, let us all try to memorize them.
2. What did the people see on the mount after this, and what did they do? Exodus 20:18.
3. Were the people afraid? What did they say to Moses, and what was his reply to them? Exodus 20:19-20.
4. Where did the people stand, and where did Moses stand? Exodus 20:21.
5. What did the Lord tell Moses, and what were they to make? Exodus 20:22-26. Were the children of Israel promised a blessing of obeying God in this request?

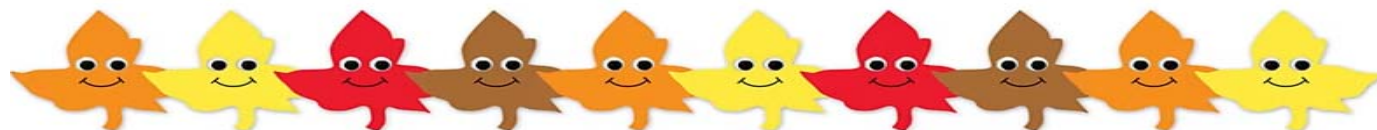
NOTE: In Chapters 21-31 of Exodus, the children of Israel are given additional laws and ordinances that they are to keep.

6. What did God give to Moses when He finished talking to him on Mt. Sinai? Exodus 31:18.

NOTE: The Ten Commandments were written on these two stones.

7. Are we to keep the Ten Commandments still today? Ecclesiastes 12:13; Revelation 22:14.

NOTE: The darkness of the night cannot extinguish the smallest candle.



LESSON II

THE GOLDEN CALF

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:1-16.

Golden Text: Exodus 32:7.

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves."

NOTE: Moses is still talking to and receiving instruction from God. He was delaying in coming back down to the people. Let us see what the children of Israel have done while Moses was talking with God.

1. What did the people ask Aaron to do for them? Exodus 32:1.
2. Did Aaron listen to them? What did he ask the women and daughters to do? Exodus 32:2.
3. What did Aaron do with the golden earrings? Exodus 32:3-4.
4. When Aaron had finished the altar, what did the people do? Exodus 32:5-6.
5. How did the Lord instruct Moses when He saw what the children of Israel were doing? Exodus 32:7-9.
6. Was the Lord angry with them? Exodus 32:10.
7. How did Moses plead with God to be merciful unto them? Exodus 32:11-13.
8. Did the Lord repent of the evil which he thought to do unto them? Exodus 32:14.
9. What did Moses have with him when he came down from the mount? Were these writings of God or Moses? Exodus 32:15-16.

LESSON III

MOSES BREAKS THE TABLES

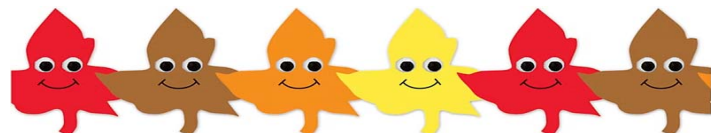
Scripture Reading: Exodus 32:17-35.

Golden Text: Exodus 32:19 (last part).

".....and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount."

NOTE: While Moses was in the mount talking with God, the children of Israel had Aaron to make them a golden calf and worshipped it. Now let us study to see what happens to them for disobeying God.

1. When Moses came nigh unto the camp, what did he do as a result of his anger? Exodus 32:19.
2. What did Moses do with the calf? Exodus 32:20.
3. When Moses asked Aaron why he had done this, what was Aaron's excuse? Exodus 32:21-24.
4. Moses stood in the gate of the camp. What question did he ask the people? Who gathered unto him? Exodus 32:26.
5. What were the children of Levi instructed to do to the people? How many were slain that day? Exodus 32:27-28.
6. Why was Moses going back unto the Lord the next day? Exodus 32:30.
7. When Moses returned unto God, did he plead for God to forgive their sins? Exodus 32:31-32.
8. Did the Lord forgive them? Where was Moses instructed to lead the people? Exodus 32:33-34.
9. What did the Lord do to the people because they made the calf? Exodus 32:35.



LESSON IV

GOD TALKS WITH MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:1-11.

Golden Text: Exodus 33:11 (first part).

"And the LORD spake unto Moses face, to face as a man speaketh unto his friend."

1. What does the Lord tell Moses to do in Exodus 33:1?
2. What was the Lord going to do before Moses and the Israelites? Exodus 33:2-3.
3. Were the people happy when they heard what the Lord said about them? Exodus 33:4.
4. What did the Lord then tell Moses to say unto the children of Israel, and did they obey him? Exodus 33:5-6.
5. Where did Moses put the tabernacle? What did he call the tabernacle? Exodus 33:7.
6. What did the people do when Moses went out unto the tabernacle? Exodus 33:8.
7. What stood at the door of the tabernacle as Moses entered? Exodus 33:9.
8. Did the people worship the Lord when they saw the cloudy pillar at the door? Did the Lord speak to Moses at this time? Exodus 33:10-11.





In the mountains that rise beyond the campus and buildings of the University of Colorado at Boulder, there was once a town with the odd name of Oradelfen. During the gold boom, many pioneers from the East settled in Oradelfen in their search for wealth lying hidden in the ground. Some came outdoors and went home rich, for there were gold strikes at the Poor Man Mine and the Golconda Mine.

But for the few who found gold, there were many who found nothing but sorrow and misery, like the widow we shall call Hattie Jones.

Larkin Jones, her husband, had been killed in a power blast, and the wife left with two small children, no money and poor health. She supported herself by taking in washing for the wives of prospectors and miners. But there were long periods when she was too ill to work, and then Hattie Jones would have no money to pay the rent for the ramshackle log cabin, or to buy food and firewood.

In the midst of all tribulations, however, Hattie Jones remained the staunchest Christian in Oradelfen. Hungry or cold or facing eviction, she was never known to falter in her faith. And this confidence in Providence she maintained in spite of constant ridicule from a neighbor called Bart Atkins.

Bart was the town atheist and quite proud of his heathenism. On every possible occasion, he would start a religious argument, and he proceeded to take a persistent pleasure in pointing out to Hattie Jones that the God she prayed to seemed quite unconcerned about her distress.

"Do you expect He's going to perform a miracle just for you?" Bart would taunt the widow.

"Yes, I do," she told him. "He can soften the hardest hearts."

It was late autumn then, and the family needed firewood, but Hattie had no money with which to buy it, and everybody in town was too busy digging for gold to chop down trees for the widow. One freezing morning she knelt down with her two children and prayed long and fervently for God to help her by sending some firewood.

Just outside the cabin window Bart Atkins stood listening.

"It's just a stinking shame," he uttered. "That trusting fool woman refuses to learn anything from experience. On her knees there now praying to empty air, that's all. I'll show her. He started off down the road with grim determination on his face. But a curious neighbor stopped him.

"Where you headed for, Bart?"

"I'm going to prove to Hattie Jones once and for all there ain't no God," snapped the unbeliever. "He won't answer her prayer. He won't send her no firewood. So, I'm getting her the firewood myself!"

Of course, there are always different views about these matters. Some would argue it was only a coincidence, but for the rest of her life Hattie Jones insisted that God softened Bart Atkins' heart that morning, and she thought that was a greater miracle than she had dared to pray for. And she used to add: "I'm thankful for the wood, too!"

That Bart did chop the wood for Hattie Jones is history.

The story comes from Helen Worden whose mother was a little girl when it all happened in the now vanished town of Oradelfen, Colorado.

**Answer to Trees of the Bible on page 15
Down:**

2.evil 3.pay 4.milk 5.my 6.rain 7.every
8.prune 10.early 11.covet 12.die 13.of
15.Abel 16.make 17.you 18.advice 22.at
Across:
1.tree 3.palm 5.myrtle 9.mulberry 11.ce-
dar 14.leaf 19.mustard 20.olive 21.fir
23.rest

**TREES OF THE BIBLE
BIBLE PUZZLE**

DOWN

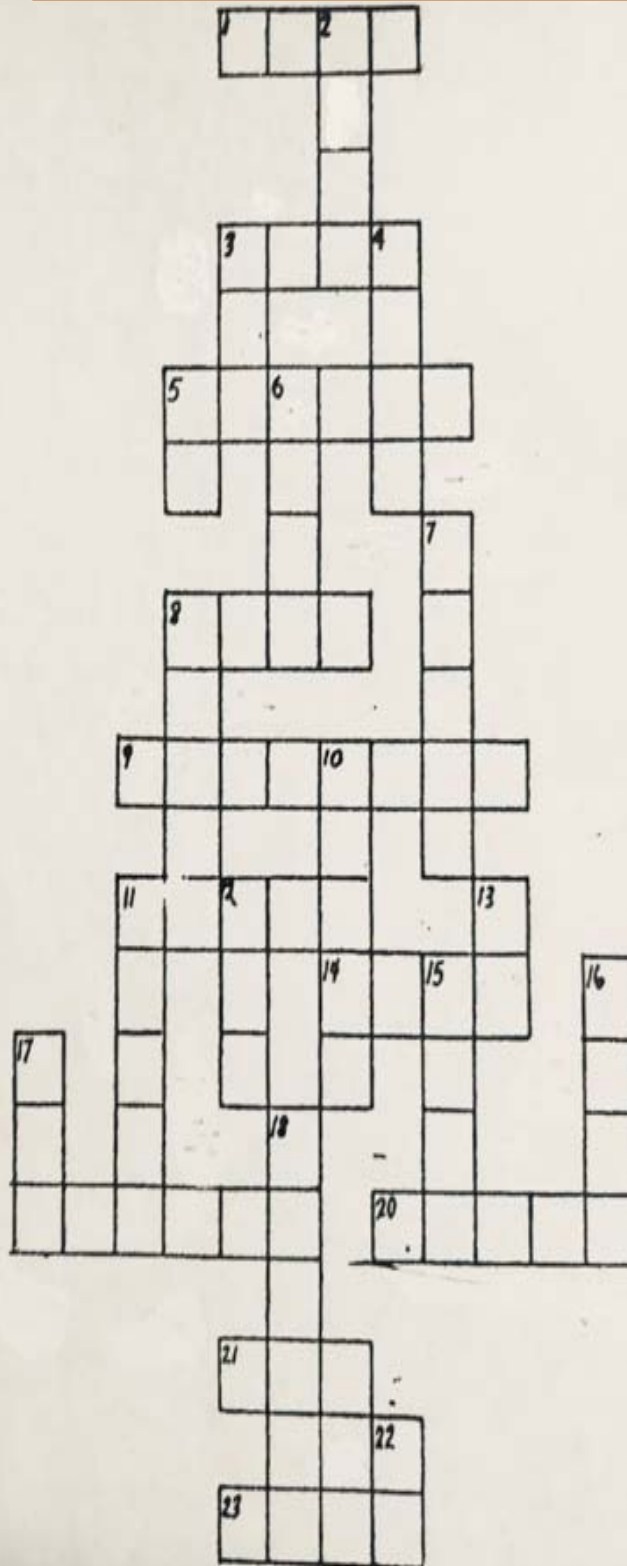
2. "Tree of knowledge of good and ____" (Genesis 2:17).
3. "I will ____ thee all" (Matthew 18:26).
4. "Hills shall flow with ____" (Joel 3:18).
5. "With ____ disciples" (Luke 22:11).
6. "The ____ descended" (Matthew 7:25).
7. "Unto ____ good work" (II Timothy 2:21).
8. "Thou shalt ____ thy vineyard" (Leviticus 25:3).
10. "Shall seek me ____" (Proverbs 1:28).
11. "And they ____ fields" (Micah 2:2).
12. "Ye shall not eat of it, lest ye ____" (Genesis 3:3)
13. "____ every tree of the garden" (Genesis 2:16).
15. "Talked with ____" (Genesis 4:8).
16. "A tree to be desired to ____ one wise" (Genesis 3:6).
17. I shall not find ____" (II Corinthians 12:20).
18. "Blessed by thy ____" (I Samuel 25:33).
22. "And ____ even, when the sun did set" (Mark 1:32).

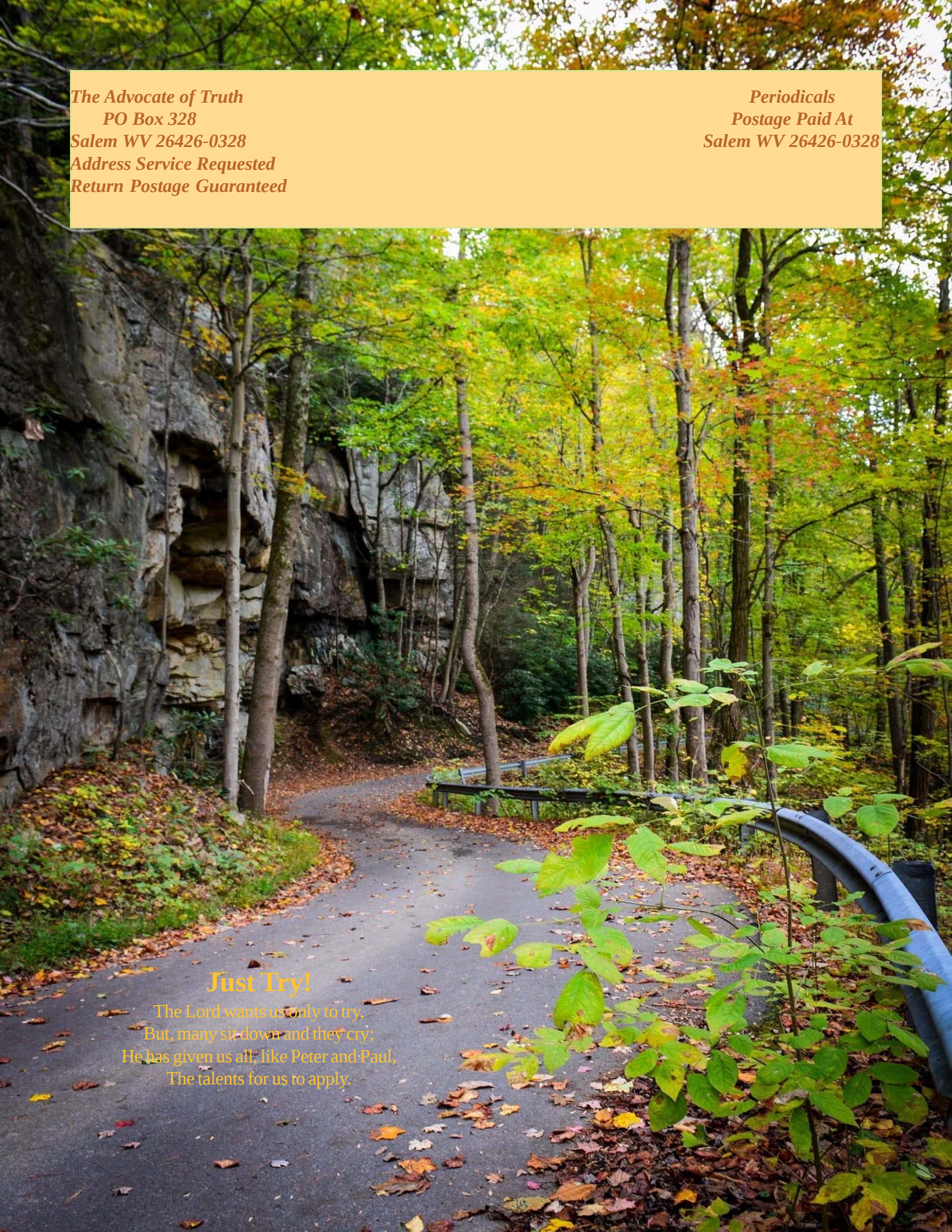
ACROSS

1. "And the ____ yielded fruit" (Genesis 1:12).
3. "And their ____ trees" (Ezekiel 40:22).
5. "And he stood among the ____ trees" (Zechariah 1:8).
9. "Over against the ____ trees" (II Samuel 5:23).
11. "The highest branch of the high ____" (Ezekiel 17:22).
14. "His ____ also shall not wither" (Psalm 1:3).
19. "A grain of ____ seed" (Matthew 13:31).
20. "Thine ____ tree" (Deuteronomy 24:20).
21. "The ____ trees are her house" (Psalm 104:17).
23. "The whole earth is at ____" (Isaiah 14:7).



Answers found on page 14





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Just Try!

The Lord wants us only to try,
But, many sit down and they cry;
He has given us all, like Peter and Paul,
The talents for us to apply.