



*The Advocate of Truth*

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*New church building being constructed in India*

# THE NECESSITY OF INTEGRITY

Bond Tennant

*Webster's New World Dictionary* tells us that integrity is "the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity." Alan Simpson, a former U.S. senator, said "If you have integrity nothing else matters, if you don't have integrity nothing else matters."

Let us consult the Bible about the subject of integrity. When God spoke to King Solomon at the dedication of the temple, He gave the conditions of blessing. "And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded thee, and shalt observe my statutes and my judgments; Then will I stablish the throne of thy kingdom, according as I have covenanted with David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man to be ruler in Israel. But if thee turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations" (II Chronicles 7:17-20).

Keeping God's commandments is the basis of integrity. The high principles, honesty and good character in a person of integrity come from adhering to divine principles. Solomon had committed himself to serving God. The keeping of God's law was a necessary part of his commitment.

As we read further, we find out that Solomon did not walk in integrity of heart like his father David. As a result, the kingdom was divided. Eventually Israel did become

a byword and the object of ridicule. Why was this true? It was because as a nation, they lacked integrity!

David knew about integrity. Just before he died, he went all out to help prepare for the building of the temple. He desired to build it himself. However, God refused him permission, saying "No, your son will build it instead."

How did David respond to this denial? He did not mope and complain and blame God. David said to God, "I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee: And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for which I have made provision" (I Chronicles 29:17-19).

David was correct! God does try (test) the heart, and He looks for integrity! David put aside what he would have liked to do and wholeheartedly supported a plan not of his choice, even when he knew the credit and prestige for building the temple would go to someone else.

Integrity cannot be faked. There is no such thing as insincere integrity. It is not integrity if it is insincere. God is not looking for talent, or wealth, or education, or popularity, or anything this world can give.

Integrity implies being willing to do what is right, no matter what the cost, or what we prefer!

# Principles and Reasons Identifying the Son of God

By Moises Torres M.



*New church building being constructed*

Our faith in God is based on the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, as John 1:18 says, “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.”

This is really true; no one has ever seen God; and we can only know of His existence through His Son: “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature...For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 1:15; 2:9). God sent his only begotten Son as His representative to perform a mission: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). So, as our faith is based on Him as the Son of God, we must then study more and more about Him to make sure He is the true Son of God.

## 1. How can we know that Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, is truly the Son of God, the Anointed One, or Messiah sent by God?

He was first introduced to John the Baptist by the Father Himself:

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. **And I knew him not:** but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. **And I knew**

**him not:** but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. Again the next day after John stood, **and two of his disciples;** And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29-36).

Although John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins and from the same family, John was always a kind of skeptic about Jesus being the Messiah until God Himself introduced him through baptism; **this is one of the reasons John came baptizing with water (verse 31).** Another verse in the Gospel of John says: “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape” (John 5:37).

John “did not know who the Messiah was”; it was the Father in Heaven who introduced Him with a sign: “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son* of Heli” (Luke 3:21-23).

## THE REVELATION GIVEN TO PETER:

“When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: **for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven**” (Matthew 16:13-17).

## 2. Who else testified that Jesus was the Son of God?

THE ANGELS also identified Jesus as the Son of God.

Luke 1:29-32: The declaration of the angel to Mary: “...and shalt call his name JESUS... and shall be called the Son of the Highest...” Angels testified that Jesus was the Son of God before His birth, and during His life and work on earth. They were present during His ministry, His death, His resurrection, and ascension. (Matthew 1:20-24; 2:13; 28:1-6; Luke 1:26-35; 2:15; 15:10; 22:43; 24:4, 23; John 1:51; 20:12; Acts 1:10-11).

## 3. The devil and demons also testified that Jesus is the Son of God.

The devil knew that Jesus was the Son of God; and therefore he tempted Him, trying to hinder His mission of salvation for man. When the Lord overcame this temptation, the angels came and served Him. (Read Matthew 4:1-11; John 1:51). In other accounts we see that demons were rebuked by the Lord Jesus, and they always recognized Him as the Son of God:

Mark 5:1-9: Demons (LEGION) identified Jesus as the Son of God in the country of the Gadarenes. “What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of the most high God?” (verse 7).

Mark 3:11: “And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.”

Luke 4:41: “And devils also came out of many, crying

out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking *them* suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.”

**NOTE:** Why did the Lord not want demons to make known that He was the Son of God? Adulation is one of the ways demons acted, and this would be a hindrance to His mission. The same happened to Paul: He got upset when this girl who had a fortune-teller spirit flattered the apostles, saying: “... These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour” (Acts 16:16-18).

## 4. Did the Lord identify Himself as being the Son of God?

Yes, the Son of God identified Himself through His own words and testimony: “**I am one that bear witness of myself**, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me... Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.” (John 8:18, 28).

In the Gospel of John, which is more related to the divinity of Jesus, we find many statements of Jesus about Himself:

“I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).

“I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).

“I am the door” (John 10:9).

“I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11).

“I am the resurrection, and the life” (John 11:25).

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman” (John 15:1).

**NOTE:** The Lord Jesus fulfilled all of His own statements. (John 3:13).

## 5. His statements in the Book of Revelation:

In the book of Revelation there are seven other statements of the Lord Jesus Christ, saying of Himself: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8; 1:11; 1:17; 2:23; 21:6; 22:13).

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star" (Revelation 22:16).

## 6. Does He ever deny to be the Son of God?:

**NOTE:** No, He never did so, not even in the most difficult moments of His life.

**Before Caiaphas:** "But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matthew 26:63,64).

**In the garden of Cedron:** "When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of *men* and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am *he*. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am *he*, they went backward, and fell to the ground" (John 18:1-6).

**NOTE:** Quite apart from all these words and testimonies, Jesus did many signs. "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" (John 20:30-31).

## 7. The testimony of men:

**SIMEON:** "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:25-30).

**NATHANAEL:** "Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. Jesus answered and said unto him, because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man" (John 1:47-51).

**MARTHA:** "She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world" (John 11:27).

**THE CENTURION:** "Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54).

**THOMAS:** "And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust

it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God” (John 20:26-28).

**PAUL:** “And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God” (Acts 9:18-20).

### 8. How can we today have this testimony in ourselves?

#### THROUGH FAITH.

“He that believeth on the Son of God **hath the witness in himself**: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:10-13).

“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God” (I John 4:15).

“To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).



## *Will God Really Give Me The Desires of My Heart?*

What does that really mean in the context of Scripture? Psalm 37:4-5 has been misunderstood, bringing disappointment and doubt to many in the family of God. Let’s look closely at these Scriptures and others that may help us in our understanding.

Psalm 37:4-5: “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

At first glance, this seems to be a formula for getting anything that we may desire. It’s not. Look at it again. It’s a formula for you to receive “desires” from God. As you delight yourself in Him, He will place “desires” in your heart. This is confirmed by other Scriptures.

Philippians 2:13: “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

God is working in you to accomplish two things--to will and to do His good pleasure. As you delight yourself in Him, He will place His desires into your heart. His will becomes your will. He will then do His good pleasure through you.

Having a heart open to God, we are then in a place to receive from Him. We can then, with much greater assurance, discern God’s will--His good pleasure. And as we commit our way to Him and trust in Him, He will accomplish His good pleasure in us and through us.

Remember, it’s not what you want, but what He wants! Far too many are telling God what they want instead of asking God what He wants.

--From KJIC newsletter  
Selected by Bond Tennant

## CELESTIAL GOO

By Pat Evans

*What once was theory has now become fact,  
That's the current scientific view.  
If you accept as true what old Darwin has said,  
That'll make a "Monkey's Uncle" out of you.*

*From Ameba's to Zebra's including all of us,  
We are placed in all the same group.  
I sure don't believe it, but they say that it's true,  
We all came from Primordial Soup.*

*There are thousands of theories by thousands of  
groups  
That explain how it all began.  
But I believe what the Holy Scriptures say,  
From the beginning God had it all planned.*

*He's laid it all out for us to see,  
Just have faith and some imagination.  
In the beginning, along with heaven and earth,  
He created man's first generation.*

*He gave us dominion over all things,  
And he told us exactly what to do.  
But if evolutionary theory is based on fact,  
Why don't some of us still live in the zoo?*

*Between tadpole and man we're waiting for the  
proof,  
You know, something that looks sort of in-be-  
tween.  
But after thousands, and millions, and billions  
of years,  
The missing link still has yet to be seen.*

*It's easy to see how Darwinian theory  
Could be considered by man to be fact.  
He said all the animals were our blood relatives,  
And sometimes that's exactly how we act.*

*The best thing to do at this late date,  
Is believe Scripture, it's tried and it's true.  
Now ask yourselves, do you really believe  
We were all hatched from celestial goo?*

## THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

*Reprinted*

In the Bible, a common understanding of the Spirit of God is that it bestows power. It is the power of God and the power of the Son, Jesus. In the New Testament, it is said that: **"...Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee..."** (Luke 4:14). The apostles were to receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8).

The Children of Israel never did think that the Holy Spirit was a person. They knew it as the power of God. And because God was masculine in gender, they used the pronoun "He" and "Him." They believed that God was transcendent, but they were free to believe that the Holy Spirit would enter a person and produce the effects according to God's will. They often believed that a person could be filled with the Spirit of God, and this would produce great power.

Samson must have been a powerfully built man, yet nothing is said about his size. He performed great feats of strength, but not because he was large in size, like some version of a Hebrew Paul Bunyan. One thought is that his strength was not really his own and was not continuous. It came upon him only when he was moved by the Spirit from God. When Samson met up with a lion, **"...the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent (tore) him as he would have rent (tore) a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done"** (Judges 14:6). The Holy Spirit also came upon him when he killed 30 Philistines at one time (verse 19) and a thousand at another time (chapter 15:15). The Hebrew word for "came mightily" is very strong and means "rushed upon" or "leaped upon." This emphasized that the coming of the



Spirit was extraordinary and unexpected.

This explanation of unusual power and authority is common throughout the Bible. The superhuman strength displayed by Samson could, in the Holy Scriptures' presentation, only be explained as from God. The Spirit of the Lord came when it was needed and called for. Samson's strength was also to be seen as resulting from his consecration to the Lord as a Nazarite. When the barren wife of Manoah was promised a child, it was on the condition that **"the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death"** (Judges 13:7). Samson's mother was not told to the point that his Nazarite dedication would give him super powers and super strength. This was revealed to her later, specifically in connection with his hair.

The law concerning the Nazarite vow required only a temporary vow that might last only the time needed. During that time, the man must not shave or cut his hair, and he must not partake in any way of the fruit of grape, and he must avoid any defiling thing, such as a dead body. At the end of the period of the vow, the Nazarite must cut his hair and burn it with prescribed sacrifice, and he is then free to drink grape juice or anything made with grapes (Numbers 6:1-21). John the Baptist may have been a person like Samson that was confined to a lifetime Nazarite vow. We read of the Essenes, who wrote part of the Dead Sea Scrolls, had as an addition to I Samuel 1:22 a statement that the prophet Samuel was a **"Nazarite forever all the days of his life."** The prophet Amos also speaks of Nazarites who have taken lifetime vows (Amos 2:11-12).

To Samson, his strength attributed to his long hair. He wore this braided in seven locks, a sacred number. In ancient times outside of Israel a man's hair was regarded as the seat of life and strength: **"if I be shaven, then my**

**strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man"** (Judges 16:17).

An honest appraisal of the career of Samson sometimes makes us think that he was a bad character. But this is human reasoning. Samson is found in the **"Hall of Faith"** in Hebrews 11:32. He made numerous mistakes because he was human like us. We must remember that God on the heart of a person and not on the outward appearance. Samson's character and work are alike enigmatical. He was called of God to be a judge in Israel for 20 years. The contrast is highlighted by the reference to Samson as a negative hero, which is found in historical accounts. The times of Samson were days of roughness. It was then regarded as proper to use any methods to get even with the hated Philistines. God used rough servants in violent times, and the roughness of Samson was no worse than that found in some of the other stories of the Book of Judges.

Samson finally redeems himself in his death. Here is true tragedy. He was seduced and betrayed by Delilah. Samson revealed to her the source of his power, his hair, and his vow. He is shorn of his seven locks, and his strength leaves him. He is captured, imprisoned, blinded, and forced to grind grain like an animal. The Philistines bring him out to make sport of him for them at their feast of Dagon, not knowing that his strength had returned as his hair grew longer. God answered his last prayer, and Samson brings down the Temple upon himself and the enemies of Israel. **"So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life"** (Judges 16: 29-30). What was real in Samson was his mighty faith in God in a time of doubt and apostasy, and his faith was honored by God. (From the Scofield Bible, note for Judges 16:31).



# Children of Light

By David DeLong

Having light, from a biblical point of view, is the ability to see both physically and spiritually. God is the source of all light. In fact, He is light. I John 1:5-7 informs us: "This

then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him,

and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." In a spiritual sense, we learn from this text that light is truth and righteousness.

In chapter two, verses 9-10, we learn: "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." God's way is so holy, His standard is so pure that we learn of Him in I Timothy 6:16: "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen." But then He, through the Lord Jesus Christ, is the one we are to follow. It is His standard that has become our goal in life. Therefore, we should say with the psalmist: "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).

If we "Trust in the LORD, and do good;" if we delight ourself in the LORD and commit our way unto him, then "...he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday" (Psalm 37:3-6). This will allow one to proclaim: "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). This is so because, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). It is God's Word that brings His light into our life. Psalm 119:130 assures us: "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." And Proverbs 6:23 testifies: "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:" Furthermore, Isaiah warns us: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

The psalmist implored the Lord: "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles" (Psalm 43:3). We are safe when we are guided by the light of God's Word. And we are never safe when we are guided by some other source. Let us make it our practice to be so filled with the Word of God that we are continually in His light.

If we live God's standard of righteousness we are promised that our light shall break forth. Isaiah 58:6-11 promises: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to

loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

The Lord Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, was sent to earth to bring the light of God to all peoples. The Gospel of John has this to say about Jesus: "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:4-5). Chapter 3, verses 19-21, adds this to John's testimony: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

Therefore, the disciples of Jesus must imitate their Master and also give the Lord's light to the world. Matthew 5:14-16 has this to say about Christ's disciples: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

In John 8:12 Jesus proclaimed Himself to be the light of the world. "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." He

warned His disciples to walk in that light. "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them" (John 12:35-36). We have the teachings of Jesus in our Bibles. Let us, too, walk in the light.

Jesus called His disciples "the children of light". The Apostle Paul used this same designation unto the people of God. He wrote in Ephesians 5:6-8: "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" To the Thessalonian brethren Paul wrote: "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (I Thessalonians 5:5-6).

Peter reminded the children of light from whence they had come. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" (I Peter 2:9). Peter also warned the people: "We have also a more sure word

of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

Paul also had a sober warning for the followers of Christ. He wrote in Romans 13:12-14: "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

There are many good reasons for this. One is that Satan is a deceiver. Paul warned: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Corinthians 4:3-4). Paul knew of the deceptions of the devil because he wrote in chapter 11, verse 14: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

Let us be the children of light of which Jesus and Paul counselled us. If we have let that light dim then let us please heed the warning of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:13-14: "But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."

# The Compassion of Jesus



One of the great characteristics of our Lord Jesus Christ was the compassion that He showed to others. I am using eight passages from the book of Matthew to give a sampling of this wonderful compassion that He displayed. The first passage of Scripture that I am using comes from Matthew 9:35-38. "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion

on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Here we see Jesus having compassion on the multitudes of people because they were leaderless as far as spiritual matters were concerned. The scribes and Pharisees gave them practically no direction as we see from Jesus' statement about them in Matthew 23:1-4: "Then

spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." By telling His disciples to pray that the Lord would send labourers into His harvest, Jesus was involving them and others in having compassion upon the multitudes as well.

The second passage of Scripture concerning Jesus' compassion is from Matthew 8:1-4: "When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them."

Lepers were outcasts in society and very few people wanted anything to do with them. Jesus, by His compassion on this leper, healed him, and showed him that he was a valued person in God's kingdom. Every one who comes to the Lord Jesus is a valued person in God's kingdom, no matter their situation or their station in life.

The third passage of Scripture that I am using to show Jesus' compassion is from Matthew 12:10-13. This shows Jesus' willingness to heal a man even on the Sabbath day. "And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other."

Matthew 14:15-21 gives us insight into the Lord's compassion upon folks who needed to have a meal. "And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They

need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children."

A similar situation is found in Matthew 15:32-38, where Jesus again fed a great multitude, this time with 4,000 men as well as women and children, too. "Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way. And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude? And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full. And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children."

In this next passage of Scripture, we see that Jesus had compassion on an individual child. "And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour" (Matthew 17:14-18).

To show how much compassion that He had for everyone, Jesus gave a story about a lost sheep. "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and

nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:11-14).

Finally, in passage number eight, Jesus spoke a parable concerning the compassion that our heavenly Father has upon a repentant person. After one has had compassion placed upon him or her, that person must also have compassion upon others. This parable is found in Matthew 18:23-35. "Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

Yes, the compassion of Jesus, and our heavenly Father, is truly great. They have compassion upon the multitudes as well as upon an individual. May we have this same compassion upon our friends, acquaintances, and even our foes. It is this compassion which will give our witness to others a greater force.

## Think Before You Speak

By David DeLong

**The tongue is a small member,  
That, by man, is never tamed;  
And, this, we must remember:  
It will often leave us shamed.**

**Sometimes we're only jesting,  
But a person is our joke;  
Now is a time of testing--  
Cease the "fun" with which we poke.**

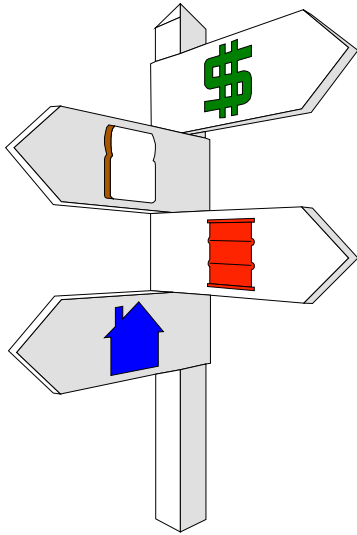
**Gossip is a horrid thing,  
Once started, it won't stop;  
It makes its way around the ring,  
From bottom to the top.**

**Some people call it a "white lie",  
It doesn't hurt a soul?  
But, God has said that all will die  
Who make a lie their goal.**

**Others think that they must swear  
So that they don't feel worse;  
But, rather, they should say a prayer  
And never bring a curse.**

**Praise to God is sanctified,  
By words, and when we sing;  
We honor Christ--the One who died,  
Who is our Lord and King.**

**To everyone be ready  
To give an answer, true;  
And speak your message, steady  
To the many or the few.**



# 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.*

## COULD IT BE DEMONIC ACTIVITY?

We believe in the personality of the devil and that he has evil angels to do his bidding. There are demons who are agents of the devil. Jesus cast out demons that possessed people. Lately there have been many incidents of shooting and killing of people and other types of crime in the United States, and many wonder why this is so.

In Revelation 12:12 we read, "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

The devil and his helpers have been actively at work for many years, but as the years go by, the time grows shorter until Jesus comes. This makes him work harder in these last days! We believe that people are not necessarily possessed by demons. Could it be the mere influence of the devil and his cohorts, upon people who are not aware of him and his devices, that is the cause of all the increase in crime just recently?

Ephesians 6:12 tells us, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Every child of God must know the devices used by the devil. II Corinthians 2:11 tells us, "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

James 4:7 tells us, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

## UNREST IN SOUTH KOREA

I see from the newspaper that thousands protested in South Korea seeking the resignation of the president. The protest was over a scandal involving an unofficial presidential adviser.

It seems like some people just look for an excuse to protest and some even to destroy other people's property! This is also true in the United States!

## SHE WAS FROZEN AFTER DEATH

From an article in the **Houston Chronicle**, I read that a UK girl gets her wish to be frozen after death! The cancer-stricken girl told the judge that she wanted to live.

Let us just quote the first three paragraphs of the article: The teenage girl's instructions were direct: She didn't want to be buried, but to be frozen – with the hope she'd continue her life in the future when cancer is cured.

"I want to live and live longer, and I think that in the future they may find a cure for my cancer and wake me up," the 14-year-old wrote to a British judge before her recent death.

She said "being cryopreserved gives me a chance to be cured and woken up – even in hundreds of years' time."

## Comment

The young girl was on the wrong tract to secure living. If she could be woken up after many years, it would be the continuance of her same life she had before she died.

Being frozen after death in order to be awakened later is not a scientific reality. Many fiction movies have pictured this. It is only fancy.

It would have been much better if she were converted and believed in Jesus and His promise of the resurrection. Her life then would've been much better and happier!

A portion of our tract, **THE LAST DAYS**, is given in the space below.

It is an indisputable fact that we are living in the last days of this world's history. Any intelligent man or woman who reads the Bible can very easily tell, without any doubt, that this world will soon come to an end.

We read in Matthew 24:3, the question asked by Jesus' disciples. "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Reading this verse, we can understand that if the disciples had not been taught by Jesus that the world was to come to an end, they would not have asked Him when it was going to be, and also some sign to be given to prove that His statement was true. Jesus' answer was, "...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4-5).

This sign has been fulfilled, for the world is full of false teaching and doctrine, and many have more or less been deceived by such. If we look back to the time when Jesus was on earth teaching and preaching the gospel, there were not so many different beliefs then as there are now.

It is said that there are six or seven hundred different denominations in the world today, and by this we know many are being deceived, for they cannot all be right. Jesus knew that there was to be a corrupt power arise in the world speaking against the people of God, and trying to change the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Some do not even believe in Him.

Many have started out to preach, saying "The Lord has called me to preach," but what they preach does not stand the test of the Bible. We read in I John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." This is the truth as it has been proven in debates, as well as Bible studies. We will now give a few Scriptures to show the teaching of the Bible and the false teaching and doctrine of men.

### **Teaching Of The Bible**

Keep holy the Sabbath on the seventh day (Saturday, Exodus 20:8-11).

Christ rose from the dead on Sabbath (Matthew 28:1-6).

The "Church of God" is the Bible name for the church

(Acts 20:28).

The righteous and sinners go to the grave and remain there until Jesus comes (I Thessalonians 4:13-14; John 5:28-29).

The righteous will live on earth ( Psalm 115:16; Matthew 5:5).

Judgment begins when Jesus comes (II Timothy 4:1; Ecclesiastes 3:17).

Baptism is done by immersion in the name Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:38; Matthew 3:16-17).

The Ten Commandments are binding on all (Matthew 5:17,19).

Jesus is the Son of God (Matthew 3:16-17).

Unclean meats are forbidden for food (Leviticus 11:1-23; Deuteronomy 14:3-21).

The wicked are burned up and come to naught (Malachi 4:1; Matthew 13:30; Revelation 21:8).

The righteous will reign with Christ on earth one thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

Observe Lord's Supper once a year (Exodus 12:14; I Corinthians 11:25-26).

Paying tithes, a tenth of all increase, is an obligation for all (Malachi 3:10; Hebrews 7:1-2; Matthew 23:23).

### **False Teaching Of Men**

Keep the first day of the week (Sunday).

Christ rose from the dead on Sunday morning.

Give any name for the church.

The righteous go to heaven at death and sinners to a burning hell.

The righteous go to heaven to stay throughout eternity.

Man is judged at death.

Sprinkling is a proper mode for baptism.

The Ten Commandments are nailed to the cross.

Jesus is the Father and Creator of all things.

All things are cleansed, so we can eat anything.

The wicked burn throughout eternity.

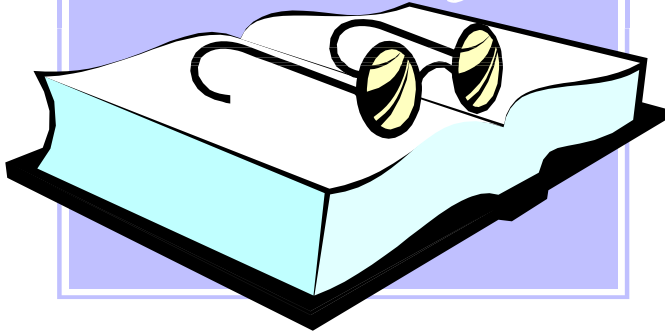
The righteous reign with Christ in heaven one thousand years.

It is proper to observe the Lord's Supper any time including every Sunday morning.

Tithes are done away with. It is up to the individual to pay any amount or even nothing.

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** What is Jesus' teaching on the subject of money?

**ANSWER:** Our money, which can buy us temporary comforts and pleasures and security, has a tight grip on us. Our money can be more important to us than what God says. Let us not beat around the "bush" on this subject. It is nice to hear about the miracles of Jesus. It is comforting to hear about Jesus' actions. It is nice to hear of the teaching presented by Jesus, and how good He was to the poor and the children. But please, it is not nice to hear about money.

Jesus comes at the subject of money in TWO ways. We might call these the "Negative" and the "Positive" ways or perhaps, "Warning" and "Opportunity." On the "negative" side, Jesus warns us that money and possessions can destroy us. There are 15 passages in which Jesus does this. Even though we have earned the money we have, we believe that gives us control of what we earned. **"Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking MINE OWN PROFIT, but the profit of many, that they may be saved"** (I Corinthians 10:33). Our strength and ability comes from the Lord. **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him DO IT as of the ability which God giveth..."** (I Peter 4:11).

Jesus told the rich young ruler that to share in everlasting life he must go a step beyond mere obedience to the law

of tithing. **"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor ..."** (Mark 10:21). And then Jesus said to those that heard Him speaking **"...How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!"** (Mark 10:23).

Neither Jesus, nor any of the New Testament writers, ever suggested that the tithing system had "accomplished its purpose" or was ready to "vanish away." This is important in understanding one of those "unabolished" prophets. Malachi 3:1-12 introduces John the Baptist and extends through Jesus' coming to His temple, the church. The Lord affirms His unchanging nature and admonishes His people to return to the ordinances they have forgotten (Malachi 3:6-7). (This last paragraph was written by George H. Russell).

Doctors are beginning to tell us that they are able to trace health problems directly to patients' attitudes toward money. They do not realize that not all money belongs to them. It is part of God's investment in His people. A man said to his doctor: "By the time I found out that God owns ten percent of what I earned, I already had five million dollars. What do I do now? Where do I go from here?" When we hear something like this, our first reaction is: "I should have a problem like that." It also reminds us that the patient could have given a tithe of the 5 million, but he was very hesitant to do so. He was very much like the rich young ruler.



Avoid greed in all its forms. Jesus said: “...**Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth**” (Luke 12:15). If our thought of obeying God is based on anything less than a conscientious effort to give what we are told to give, then let us notice how far we have strayed from giving the Father in heaven His tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:8-10). This is the true basis for our obedience. Jesus wants us to pay our tithe and also do the weightier matters of the law which are judgment, mercy, and faith. (Read Matthew 23:23).

Jesus wants us to transform ourselves from self-centeredness to other-centeredness, to avoid greed and avarice in all forms. In other words, Jesus tells us to return to a state of innocence that rejects money as the number one priority in life.

**QUESTION:** What is "apologetics," and what are some benefits of it?

**ANSWER:** “Apologetics” comes from the Greek word *apologia* which means “defense.” Apologetics focuses on the defense of Christianity. There are several benefits of apologetics. Let us name four of them:

1. Apologetics gives well-reasoned evidence to non-believers as to why they should choose Christianity rather than another religion.
2. Apologetics can be used to show the unbeliever that all the other many options in world religions are not really options at all because they are false.
3. Apologetics demonstrates why we believe what we believe.
4. Apologetics reinforces our faith. It does not replace our faith.

Christians are called upon to give an answer for their hope. I Peter 3:15 tells them, “But sanctify (honor) the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (respect).”

**QUESTION:** I have a friend who thinks that II Corinthians 8:9 confirms that financial prosperity is guaranteed in the atonement. Is this true?

**ANSWER:** Your friend is way off base! II Corinthians

8:9 has nothing to do with financial prosperity being guaranteed in the atonement. II Corinthians 8:9 says, “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” If the Apostle Paul was intending to say that financial prosperity is guaranteed in the atonement, he was offering the Corinthians something that he did not possess. In I Corinthians 4:11 Paul told the Corinthians, “Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace.” He also told the Corinthians to be followers of him (verse 16).

It seems clear that Paul was speaking about spiritual prosperity in II Corinthians 8:9. The immediate context in II Corinthians and Paul’s other writings bear this out. If financial prosperity was guaranteed in the atonement, we have to wonder why Paul informed the Philippian brethren that he had learned to be content in whatever state he was in. “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need” (Philippians 4:11-12). One would think that he would claim the prosperity guaranteed in the atonement.

**QUESTION:** Is immortality given to every human at birth?

**ANSWER:** No, it is not! “Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life” (Romans 2:6-7). If one was given immortality at birth, why would he have to seek it?

**QUESTION:** Why do you think God created the earth?

**ANSWER:** God created the earth not in vain, or to be a waste. He created it to be inhabited by man. Isaiah 66:1 informs us that heaven is His throne, and the earth is His footstool. There are many other planets, but the earth is a very important place in the universe.



## India

A new church building being constructed in India.





**Different stages of the construction of the new church.**



LESSON I

KINDNESS

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:25-32.

Golden Text: Ephesians 4:32.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

1. Should we be kind and forgiving? Ephesians 4:32.
2. Will we receive more of a blessing from the Lord if we give and do not expect something given to us in return? Acts 20:35.
3. If a boy or girl be found doing something wrong, should we correct and help them, in the spirit of kindness? Why? Galatians 6:1.
4. Why should we help someone or bear his burden? Galatians 6:2.
5. Should we always be kind to strangers and care for them? Hebrews 13:1-2.
6. Besides doing good and lending to our enemies, does God expect us to love them? Luke 6:35.

LESSON II

OBEYING GOD

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-10.

Golden Text: Deuteronomy 11:27.

"A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day."

1. Can we serve Christ and Satan? Matthew 6:24.
2. Should we obey God rather than men? Acts 5:29.
3. Did the winds and sea obey Christ? Matthew 8:27.

4. What causes us to sin when we do not use our tongue to the glory of God? James 3:8.

5. If we use our tongue for speaking evil to others, are we obeying God? James 3:9-10.

6. Whom do we obey when we speak evil of others? James 3:15.

7. Is it pleasing to the Lord when children obey their parents? Colossians 3:20.

8. If we obey Christ and follow His way, will we receive a reward from Him? Colossians 3:24.

9. What has God promised us if we obey Him? Deuteronomy 11:27.

LESSON III

FLEEING FROM SATAN

Scripture Reading: James 4:6-16.

Golden Text: James 4:7.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

NOTE: The word "flee" means to run away.

1. Would a child flee from youthful sins? II Timothy 2:22 (first part).

2. Instead of walking in a sinful way, who should you follow? II Timothy 2:22 (last part).

3. Will Children of God follow a stranger, or will they flee from him? John 10:5.

NOTE: In Hebrews 13:2 in Lesson I, we learned to be kind to strangers, but now we are being told to flee a stranger. We need to be aware of what strangers are doing. If we fear the stranger is doing evil, we should avoid this person. If we have God in our lives, we can ask Him

to guide and help us in making this decision.

4. Who will deliver us if we flee from Satan? Psalm 143:9.
5. Whose will should we do and why? Psalm 143:10.
6. Does Satan lay snares, or nets, to try to catch us? Psalm 141:9.
7. If we listen to the Lord, shall we be free from the evil of Satan? Proverbs 1:33.
8. Will we be blessed of the Lord if we keep His way and flee from the devil? Proverbs 8:32.

LESSON IV  
REPENTANCE

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-10.

Golden Text: Luke 13:5.

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

1. What do we mean by repentance? Acts 14:15; I Thessalonians 1:9; Hebrews 12:1.

NOTE: According to Webster's Dictionary, "repent" means to feel regret or sorrow on account of something done or felt left undone; to change one's conduct because of regret.

2. Why must every individual repent? Psalm 51:5; Galatians 3:22; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 3:23.
3. When is the proper time to repent of our sins? Psalm 95:7-8; Hebrews 3:7-8; II Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 4:7.
4. Repentance should be accompanied by:
  - (A) Humility, II Chronicles 7:14.
  - (B) Confession, Job 33:27-28.
  - (C) Faith, Mark 1:15.
  - (D) Prayer, Acts 8:22.

NOTE: What is the danger in waiting for "the right time" to repent? Do you think that when we repent and begin to serve the Lord that we leave all pleasure behind, or can joy be had from living a Believer's life? Have you sought the Lord and "repented?"

# "HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE"

"Mamma, let me read tonight," said seven-year old Maxine as her mother took the Bible from the table for their evening devotions.

"Very well," agreed the mother, and Maxine got her own little Bible to read from. "Shall I read the Twenty-third Psalm again?" she asked.

"Well," hesitated Mrs. Martin, "you read that pretty often; suppose you try another one tonight. I'll help you with the words. Let's try the Ninety-first Psalm."

So little Maxine began.

"He that d-w-e-l-l-e-t-h,"

"Dwelleth," prompted her mother.

"-dwelleth in the s-e-c-r-e-t-,"

"Secret."

"-secret place of the Most High shall a-b-i-d-e-"  
"Abide."

"abide under the shadow of the A-l-m-i-g-h-t-y,"  
Thus went the reading of the Psalm by the little girl, stumbling over the big words. So intent were mother and daughter on the reading that neither heard the faint rustle out-

side the window nor saw the dark face peering through the pane. It was summer and the window was partly raised so that the words spoken inside were clearly audible to that crouched, watching figure so near.

"...'He shall give his angels charge over thee.' What does that mean, Maama?" Maxine interrupted her to ask.

"It means, dear, that God sends His angels to take care of us so that harm will not come to us. They are watching over us all the time."

"Right now?" questioned the child. "Right now when Daddy's gone and it is dark outdoors? Are there angels here now?"

"Yes, right now" assured the mother. "God and his angels are watching right now." And they proceeded with the reading once more.

Could they have seen the figure outside their window, they would have noticed his quick look about him at the mother's words. She said God was watching. Where was God? Who was God? It was a name he habitually used vilely--and he had a vague notion that God was some terrible Being. "The wrath of God." Those words that he had once heard spoken by a preacher as he passed an open air service one night came suddenly to mind. Somewhere in the darkness, unseen by him, was their God who could see all. The woman had spoken so confidently of His watching eye. Then, if God were watching over this mother and daughter, He could see him, too. The wrath of God! What would God do to him? Fear made him almost motionless, and while he was crouching down to the ground he heard a child's clear voice lifted in praying. "...Thank you God for having Your angels take care of Mommy and Daddy tonight, and help all the bad people tonight to stop being bad..."

The fear in the man's heart gave way to a new emotion. A lump rose in his throat and tears -- strange unaccustomed tears -- smarted his eyelids.

He had a little girl, too, just about her size. What was she doing now, while this little girl was saying her prayers and would soon be tucked in by loving hands? He could imagine her in the dingy little room they called home. Perhaps she had crept into bed by now, trying to get to sleep, or maybe crying again. He remembered one night recently

when he had gone home to find her crying because she was hungry. There hadn't been anything in the room to eat. He had slapped her for being a baby and told her if she didn't like the way he fed her she could get somebody else to take care of her. Anyway, if she had any backbone she'd be going and steal something if she was hungry. The wife and mother had died two years before, and this was how he cared for the little girl. He thought of her now; poor, thin, hungry-looking and ragged. Scant attention had he given her, spending his days and nights in drinking, gambling, and petty thievery.

He thought of himself as a child. How different his life might have been had he been reared as this child that he had been watching read and pray. How different his child would be with proper training. Slowly he raised himself from the ground and stumbled away. He was going home--home to his own little daughter.

"Mamma, what was that noise outside?" asked Maxine.

"I never heard anything," her mother answered.

"I guess it must have been the angel's wings brushing against the lilac bushes," murmured the child sleepily, curling up in bed.

But the next day while outdoors Mrs. Martin noticed footprints under the window by the lilacs. They were the prints of a man's shoe. Her heart seemed almost to stop its beating for a moment. Had Maxine really heard something last night? Had danger been close to them?

The man who crouched beneath the window that night, bent on mischief, went to his room to pray for the first time in his life. He didn't know how to pray but he wanted God, and God heard his cry. Life for the little daughter became a new thing. She could scarcely comprehend it all, even when the man explained that it was Jesus who had changed him. Daddy didn't gamble. He had a real job instead and brought home groceries and clothes to her. They moved out of the stuffy, little room into a nice, airy, sunny one with a carpet on the floor. Daddy took her to Sabbath School and church, and at night he read Bible stories to her and taught her to pray. Many times he read to her from the Ninety-first Psalm: "He shall give his angels charge over thee."

-Mrs. Audre Pitts



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*THE PRAYER OF A PEOPLE*

*O, Father, come quickly, Your people now pray,  
We're footsore and weary, and need You today.  
Your face we are seeking as we bow to pray,  
We earnestly tell You, we need You today.  
Our freedom has vanished somewhere on the way,  
And our rulers would tell us where and when we can pray.  
Our steps grow more slowly, Our hearts lose all hope,  
For Satan has brought us to the end of our rope.  
O Father in Heaven, won't You speed up Your plan,  
And come and rule over us, as only You can?  
We are constantly seeking Your mercy and grace,  
And long to behold the sight of Your face.  
We need You, Dear Father, we are so alone,  
Please, come to us quickly, We need to come home.*

*--Betty Whetstone*