

The Advocate of Truth

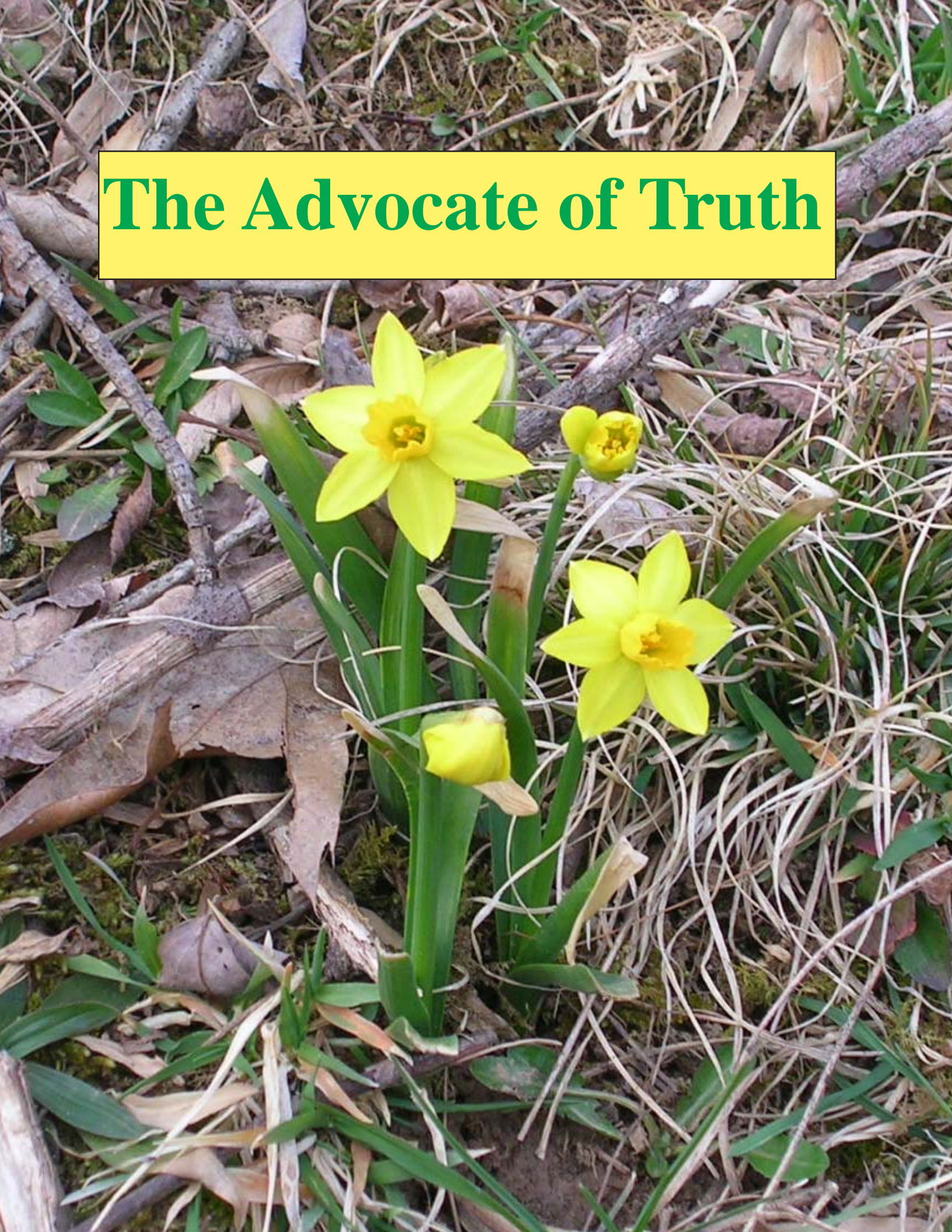


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Iron Sharpeneth Iron

By David DeLong

Proverbs 27:17 reads: "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." There are ways that a person can be "sharpened" only by the help of another person. One of those ways is to pray for your friend. The Lord can do more to "sharpen" us than anyone else. The Apostle Paul constantly prayed for his brothers and sisters in Christ. We find in Colossians 1:2-3: "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you".

We can help sharpen our friends, and they us, by giving counsel to them. This is often done by exchanging ideas with them from the Bible. Sometimes, things they have never considered before will come to light, or may enlighten us. In the Psalms it is recorded that David had a friend who reproached him. But before this took place we are told that the two had "sweet counsel together". Chapter 55:14 says: "We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company." This verse sounds like two good friends sharpening each other.

Being a good, consistent example to your friend is one of the strongest ways that you can sharpen him or her. I know this is true for me. Watching the good example of my friend, even in tough times, strengthens me almost like in no other way. This is true, especially of the example of Jesus, who was completely steadfast even in the the most trying of times. We are to have the same mind of Christ (see Philippians 2:5-8).

We are also to edify, or build up, one another. Paul admonished the Thessalonians in I Thessalonians 5:11: "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do." To the Corinthians Paul wrote:

"How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying" (I Corinthians 14:26).

I believe that one reason the Lord Jesus sent His disciples out two by two in their ministry was so that they would help sharpen each other. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 tells us: "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." We find the manner of Jesus sending the disciples out two by two in Luke 10:1: "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come." Together, these disciples could encourage one another, help each other, inspire one another, and give each other ideas in the ministry. Perhaps we would have more success in our ministries today if we worked together in pairs.

Finally, we can sharpen our friend's countenance if we hold him or her accountable. This is not a popular concept today when folks like to operate as "lone rangers". And this idea needs to be acceptable to both parties involved. Paul ordered Timothy to: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2). Not everyone is a preacher, of course, but all can still reprove, rebuke, and exhort when the time is right for such action.

Just like a good file will sharpen an ax blade so that the ax can cut more efficiently, so too a person can sharpen the countenance of his friend so that both that person and he or she can be a better servant of the Lord. May we learn this vital skill so that the kingdom of heaven will be further built up for eternity.



CORN

By David Royer

During our Sabbath School Lesson from the Quarterly, dated January 6, 2018, about Abib or Nisan being the first month of a new year, I noticed the Note which said, “Abib was called the “ear” month. I immediately thought this meant ear of corn.

I was curious about this note because I was taught in school that corn (maize) originated in the Americas and was not introduced in Europe and the Middle East until the 17th century. Allow me to share my findings.

First, I went to our Bible (King James Version) and discovered that **corn** is mentioned 203 times in the Old Testament and 33 times in the New Testament. Then I searched dictionaries and the internet. It seems that the word “corn” is an old English word meaning, in general terms, **grain**; typically referring to barley, wheat, rye and oats. This explains why the King James translators, translated the Hebrew and Greek word for grain as “corn”.

So, when reading Scriptures that use the word “corn” just think “grain”. For example: “Ears of Corn” becomes “Ears of Grain”. As in Matthew 12:1: “At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat.”

Now when we read that the first month Abib is called the “ear” month, I will remember that it is the month of newly-ripened grain.

Our Bible uses the word “corn” in various verses and situations:

Gathering: Genesis 41:49: “And Joseph gathered corn

as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for *it was* without number.” Genesis 41:35: “And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.”

Commerce: Amos 8:5: “Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?”

Food Source: Genesis 43:2: “And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.” II Kings 4:42: “And there came a man from Baal-shalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat.”

Blessings: Genesis 27:28: “Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine.” Psalm 65:9: “Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.” Deuteronomy 7:13: “And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.”

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

Measure of time: Deuteronomy 16:9: “Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from *such time as* thou beginnest *to put* the sickle to the corn.”

Symbolism: Mark 4:26-29: “And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” John 12:24: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

Symbolism in a dream: Genesis 41:5-7 (Pharaoh’s dream): “And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, *it was* a dream.”

In Prophecy: Isaiah 17:5: “And it shall be as when the harvestman gathereth the corn, and reapeth the ears with his arm; and it shall be as he that gathereth ears in the valley of Rephaim.” Amos 9:9: “For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.”

Offerings: Leviticus 2:14: “And if thou offer a meat-offering of thy firstfruits unto the LORD, thou shalt offer for the meat-offering of thy firstfruits green ears of corn dried by the fire, *even* corn beaten out of full ears.” Nehemiah 10:39: “For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where *are* the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters, and the singers: and we will not forsake the house of our God.”



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7).

The Lord, referring to the Christian dispensation, said: “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33). The Apostle Paul refers to the same thing in II Corinthians 3 where he says, “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” “But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory” (II Corinthians 3:3;7-9).

There is much confusion among many today regarding these verses. Many interpret them to mean that the law has been abolished. But notice the subject of these verses and just what was to be changed. In Jeremiah 31, the Lord states that He would write His law upon their hearts. He says nothing about a change in law. He does state that there will be a new covenant. The major difference under this new covenant is that His laws are now written in our hearts.

The Apostle Paul elaborates on this theme and explains that the law has been taken off stone and placed in our hearts. Once again, it is not the law that is changed but the ministration. Here in the United States we hold presidential elections every four years. This brings about



a change in administrations. But just because we have had a change from a Democratic to a Republican administration does not change our laws or constitution. Why can so many people easily comprehend this and yet become so confused when the Bible deals with a similar situation?

How did this new covenant or change of administration affect God's basic law, the Ten Commandments? Well, it definitely did not abolish them as Jesus told the young man that he must obey them to receive eternal life (Matthew 19:16-19). The Apostle Paul recognized that they are to be kept in this dispensation (I Timothy 1:8) as did James (James 2:10-12).

Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would magnify the law and make it honorable (Isaiah 42:21). This is the greatest change that took place under the new covenant. It is not enough to refrain from killing. We must not hate. It is not enough to refrain from adultery or stealing. We must not even covet. So instead of doing away with the law, Jesus established and magnified it. In the very last chapter of the Bible, it states that those who will enter the kingdom are those who keep the commandments. How, then, can some say they were abolished?

--From an old Sabbath School Lesson

FENCES

*The world is filled with all kinds of fences
To make us feel safe everyday;
But they really don't offer any protection
From the evil that darkens our way.*

*The picket is surely quite charming
As it circles our yards within;
It's a barrier we can easily step over,
But just as easily Satan can step in.*

*There are all kinds of fences to hide behind,
Some are concrete, even iron, or clay;
But the concrete can crumble,
The iron can rust,
And the clay lasts but for a day.*

*There's a fence made of steel we count on,
But even steel is not as strong as we think;
Though its height is truly impressive,
It's only as strong as its weakest link.*

*I can see God's strength in one made of wood,
And its ability to perform its duty;
While its function is really quite useful,
It's also a thing of great beauty.*

*The rails of this fence are from a tree,
Like on which Jesus hung;
His strength is there to sustain us,
And will be there when all is said and done.*

*The strength of this fence of Jesus,
Where we can stay safely behind;
The protection it gives is enduring
And will grow stronger with the passing time.*

Betty Whetstone



TWO OPTIONS OR CHOICES

Bond Tennant

Webster's New World Dictionary gives one definition of "option" as the act of choosing: choice.

In the secular world, we have many options or choices. Let us go grocery shopping. While a large part of the world suffers from shortages, many of our stores provide an overload of options. If we need to purchase a can of tomatoes, we go to the section where the cans are lined up, and we are dazed with the number of options. Do we want organic or natural? Do we want diced Italian style or petite diced? Do we want them with or without salt? Do we want whole peeled, crushed, pureed, or paste? The options go on and on. If we look at all the options, we may feel like we have wasted our time. If we quickly pull a can, we may go away feeling as though we have wasted our time. Either way it does not matter because the issue is insignificant.

God has given us just two options or choices that are very significant when it comes to life and death. Do we wonder why God gives us only two choices when those choices are hugely significant? Let us heed Deuteronomy 11:26-28. These words were written to the Israelites, but they apply to us today! "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside

out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." He really said the same in Deuteronomy 30:19: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live".

In everything we do and say, by every decision we make each day, we are either choosing life by our obedience to the law of God, or death by our disobedience. These are only two options, and they are eternal! If we reject obeying God and go our own way (choosing death), we are free to pursue any of the options of the world! These options include all the opportunities, pleasures, and false gods (material things) this world can offer. To the carnal man, these things seem very attractive, but they have one end which is death. Choosing to live by the law of God and securing life which is eternal may seem very restrictive now because it closes out this world. However, when we choose life and obedience to God, in reality we choose the only unlimited option there is.

Yes, we cut ourselves off from the limitless options of this world which have no future. However, we lay hold on a life that is unlimited in duration.

Let us repeat the voice of God's prophet and say, "I choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Being Right:

Daniel Cruz

Do we remember when we came to the knowledge of the Lord? It was a very moving and assuring feeling that God put in our hearts. It was the point that we experienced the Holy Spirit within us and knew at that moment, we will serve God and follow His ways. It is a personal time and affirmation that we know we are serving in Truth. "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:10). Be sure what Peter said. And refer to the title of this article. Be right in what you are undertaking concerning the things of the Lord, that our walk with God is the right thing in our lives and we can follow the directions that God gives us. As children we are given instructions and taught to be obedient to our parents. This shows respect and trust to those who give us guidance and it reflects the qualities in the home. Serving God should be done in the same manner. Peter said in verse 12 that he would not neglect giving them this correction or instruction as a responsible brother in Christ. He loved The Church and lovingly corrected those who had made their calling and election sure. Can we accept correction when needed?

Is being right all the time a good thing? I've learned that in most cases it's not. However, being there in the moments needed and allowing God to use us as a vessel of instruction is assuring our calling. "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?" (Acts 15:11). Peter stated, as counsel was being given to the newly called, we want to be right and yet we are causing others to doubt or fall in our self righteousness. In this passage it became evident that it was becoming a cause for conflict (see verse 7). We must remember that God

has granted us a privilege to know Him in a special way. He speaks to us and shows us of His understanding and goodness. Yet, we cannot forget in what condition He found us. And how He chose us to bring others out of that very same state. We were sinners and still are. However, through the mercies of God He finds favor and forgiveness and restores us when we falter.

Our troubled conditions are the very reason to seek out God daily. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2: 8-9). This is a saying that we can adopt to always have the understanding that we could not of ourselves find this salvation. It was granted by God as we sought Him out during our state of despair and uncertainty. We've been given the opportunity to make things right in our lives and to redeem ourselves with God. As we find God's goodness working in our lives we must not take credit or become self-righteous in our walk. This can be seen by others and we become unapproachable or avoided for advisement. We cannot always be right even when we are. We must be available and humble towards those seeking the same blessings that God has granted us. Helping others find this direction is a blessing and God is well pleased with His called child.

So, is it important to you to be right? Is our instruction sound enough to be adhered to? It's evident that we cannot strive to find the faults and act upon trying to correct them when our lives do not reflect God in us. "Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would

have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner” (Luke 7: 39). So, here we have a man, who was deemed wise by the people, making assumptions by knowledge. Had he truly seen what the sinner woman was doing he would have understood and received a blessing. Instead, he allowed the woman to perform her act of humbleness. This Pharisee, through his understanding, couldn’t see the act of love that Jesus was performing. Verses 47-50 shows the loving outcome. These men in all their knowledge were unable to see the love of God. We have been guilty of this at one point or another, not understanding and being presumptuous in our thoughts and acts.

Does this make our advisement a sure one, when we do not allow the Lord to guide us with our hearts and not understanding? When we trust in God and He gives us the words to speak, it becomes an affirmation that God’s understanding and knowledge is given unto us. We will not be right however, it will be the Holy Spirit that has guided us and thus, the blessings will be through the faith and trust that we have in God. Let us become those children who will trust and take heed to the body and strengthen it through His Words and Truth.



God in His infinite wisdom, many centuries beforehand, created wonderful types of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, the most wonderful and remarkable being Melchizedek, King of Salem, who typifies Christ as king-priest forever at the right hand of God. Without being previously mentioned, Melchizedek, with refreshments, meets Abraham on his return from the pursuit of the kings, and blesses him, Abraham, though himself the great patriarch, acknowledged him, by paying tithes, to be the priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:18-20). All the usual particulars about this king are entirely lacking. Centuries pass, until David, enlightened by the Spirit of God, mentions him, making the Son of God the archtype

of Melchizedek: “The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek” (Psalm 110:4). Again many centuries pass, Christ is by this time, after His victory over death, seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high, and in Hebrews 7 the writer reveals why, in the Old Testament record, there is no mention of the birth, death, or descent of Melchizedek, who, "made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually." His very name and that of his residence, Salem, being significant as types: “King of righteousness, and...of peace”. Surely the immutability of God’s counsel, confirmed by an oath, was now made manifest in Christ, being King of righteousness and high priest of peace for ever on our behalf: “Thus it must be.”

Blessed by Melchizedek, childless Abraham, “against hope”, and against all human possibility, believes the Lord, who, pointing to the innumerable stars, predicts: “So shall thy seed be.” Strong in faith, giving glory to God, fully persuaded that, what God promised, “he was able also to perform,” Abraham believed, and therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness (Romans 4:8-22). It is written for us also, “to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.” In two immutable things (prophetic promise and oath), “...in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation...” and hope as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, which entered within the veil, into the Most Holy Place in Heaven, “Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” (Hebrews 6:17-20).

Now consider how great Melchizedek was. He came to Abraham with refreshments, and also took the tithe from Abraham. This was a natural procedure because the tithe belongs to God, and His representatives have the right to take them. After the order of Melchizedek, came the Levitical order. The same rule applied to them as did originally to the King of Salem. “And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham” (Hebrews 7:5). We are under the order of Melchizedek and are also under the obligations to give our tithe to the High Priest Jesus Christ through the storehouse of the Lord. Are you blessed by Melchizedek, or are you cursed with a curse?

Forgetting the Past

By David DeLong

In Philippians 3:10-14 we read: "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

One of the biggest hindrances to Christian growth is not forgetting the past failures with which we, as disciples of Christ, have been involved. Our goal is to be in the first resurrection of the Lord, and every other goal pales into insignificance compared to this. The Apostle Paul also alluded to this goal when he wrote: "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." He knew that he had not yet attained that goal, but to help him attain it in the future he wrote: "but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul knew that hanging on to the baggage of his past would drag him down to possible defeat. He knew that he must forget his past to help him to become victorious. So must we forget our past failures and defeats, if they are covered by the blood of Jesus, and "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The problem is that we, as humans, cannot totally forget our past as God forgets. The best that we can do is

to not dwell upon the past with God's help.

How do we do this? By reaching forth unto those things which are before and pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. This will keep our minds so focused that we will not dwell upon the things of the past. But we must do this every day of our lives.

First, we should always remember that it is a "high calling". As a matter of fact, it is the highest calling that there is. To be called sons and daughters of God is truly amazing. I John 3:1-3 reads: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Second, we must be pressing forward. If we are not consciously pressing forward we will be falling behind. Paul wrote in Romans 6:12-13: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Yielding ourselves unto God is consciously pressing forward. Sin can have no place in our lives if we are yielding ourselves unto God on a daily basis.

The Scriptures make it plain to us that there are stronger believers and weaker believers. Weaker believers will most probably find it harder to forget the things of their past. Therefore, stronger believers need to help and sup-

port the weaker ones. Paul wrote in Romans 15:1-3; "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me." Bearing the infirmities of the weak involves, most of all, praying for and with the weaker brother or sister. Only God can truly strengthen us and others, so prayer is vital to this success. Encouraging words to the weak are also helpful, but in this we must be careful. The weaker brother or sister needs to want the encouragement or they may become resentful.

What are some of the things that we should try to forget? Obviously this would involve sins and failures on our part. But also this could involve successes that we have achieved of which we are feeling proud. Maybe it is a special talent that has brought us much satisfaction. Or, it may involve success in winning souls for Christ. Whatever the situation, let these successes be given over to Christ, for His honor and glory, and let us press forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God. Our minds should not dwell too much upon even our past successes. The admonition is to "press toward the mark".

The best way that we can forget those things which are behind is to have our minds continually transformed by the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote in Romans 12:1-3: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And

be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

Sometimes forgetting the past involves forgetting the hurts that others have done to us. Of course, this also involves forgiving those who have hurt us. We understand the words of our Lord Jesus who taught: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).

As we mentioned before, God has the ability to not only forgive our sins but to forget them as well. We learn from Psalm 103:11-13: "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him." And in Isaiah 43:25 we read: "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

The Apostle Paul purposely worked to forget those things which were behind, and so should we. Let us ever be pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Is Tithing Optional?

By David DeLong

Many people who claim the name of Christ say that since we are no longer under the law of Moses, then tithing is optional and one no longer needs to tithe. But is this a true belief? It is true that we are no longer under the law of Moses, but the Apostle Paul uses examples from the law of Moses to show that tithing is still in force. In I Corinthians 9:7-14 he wrote: "Who goeth a warfare any

time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our

sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ. Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

In verse 12, Paul uses the word "power" in relation to the Corinthians' obligation to supply him with the carnal things he needs for sowing them spiritual things. In the Greek, the word for power is "exousia" and it means "privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, mastery of control, delegated influence, authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength" (see Strong's Concordance). The definitions for "power" in the Greek suggest more than free-will offerings which the Corinthians are to give to Paul, but actual obligations from tithes. Furthermore, Paul uses the example of the priests from the Old Testament living from the things of the temple. The priests were supported by tithes which the people brought to the temple. For instance, we find in the book of Nehemiah where the tithing system needed to be restored so that God's work could continue without hindrance. "And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field. Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place. Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries. And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful, and their office was to distribute unto their brethren" (Nehemiah 13:10-13).

The words of the Lord in Malachi, chapter 3:10-11 are still valid today. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove

me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts."

To prove that the Lord Jesus endorsed tithing we go to Matthew 23:23. Here He rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for their adherence to only a portion of God's law. "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." The weightier matters of God's law such as judgment, mercy, and faith, no Christian would contend that these are done away in the New Testament. Since the Scripture cannot be broken (see John 10:35), then tithing is also a part of God's law under the New Testament. Jesus claimed that both portions of this law need to be observed.

When we go to the book of Hebrews, chapter 7:4-8, we find: "Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth."

This passage of Scripture is referring to Melchizedek, the king of Salem, receiving tithes from Abraham. We know that this was centuries before the law of Moses was given. Tithing was a part of the patriarchal system as we can determine from Abraham giving tithes to Melchizedek, and Jacob promising to pay tithes to God in Genesis 28:20-22. Notice carefully Hebrews 7:8: "And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth." This verse is referring to Jesus receiving tithes after His resurrection.

Of course the tithes are paid to His ministers so that the work of the Lord can go on more smoothly. We are also under the Melchizedek Priesthood of Jesus today (see Hebrews 5:5-6).

God still has a system to ensure that His ministers receive a steady and faithful source of income to support them and their families. This system is still based upon tithing, or the congregations being served paying one-tenth

of their incomes to the Lord to support the ministers. The giving of only free-will offerings to support the ministers fluctuates, and is not a steady source of income. However, the ministers, like Paul in I Corinthians, chapter 9, can refuse to take tithes and minister to the Lord out of goodwill. May we, however, always prove the goodness of the Lord to take care of us with His wonderful blessings when we are faithful to Him by paying our tithes.

Blessed Assurance

By David DeLong

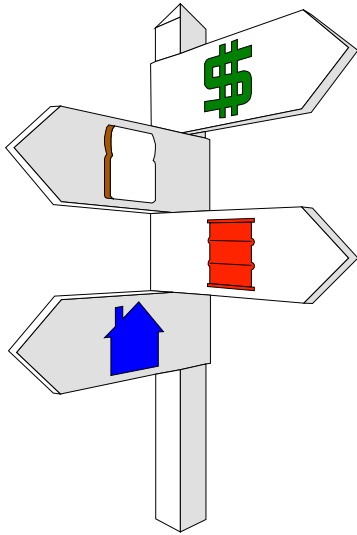
Some believers are serving the Lord the best they know how. However, they may still entertain some doubt as to their standing with the Lord. Are there methods from the Bible that show us how we may be sure of our right standing with Him? Yes, there most assuredly are. If we have truly repented of our sins and given our lives over to the Lord; if we have been baptized in Jesus' name; and if we have had hands laid upon us by the minister or ministers to receive the Holy Spirit; then we have become children of God. But, this is only the beginning of our walk with the Lord.

At this point there should be an inner witness with us that we belong to God. Romans 8:15-16 reads: "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". Then comes a lifelong walk with the Lord of obedience to His Word. I John 2:3-6 gives us more assurance of our standing with the Lord: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

How did Jesus walk? He walked in obedience to His Father's commandments. As a matter of fact, a young

man came to Jesus and asked Him how he could inherit eternal life. Notice that he asked Jesus about inheriting eternal life, not earning it. What were the qualifications for inheriting eternal life? Mark 10:17-22 records this incident. "And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. 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, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions."

So, we too need to keep God's commandments to inherit eternal life. Not everyone is told to sell what he or she has and give the money to the poor. However, we must be willing to do whatever the Lord requires of us so that we don't have anything ahead of Him. This includes entrusting all of our possessions to Him, realizing that He owns everything and we are only His stewards. And we, too, must take up the cross and follow Jesus.



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.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

At the time of this writing, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct are very much in the news. Many famous persons are accused now of sexual harassment or misconduct. Some are comedians and news journalists. Some are even members of the United States Senate and Congress. Of course, there is the Alabama candidate who is running for the US. Senate. When you receive this **Advocate of truth**, you will know if he won or lost the election. Even President Trump is accused of sexual harassment. After being silent for many years, women victims have come forth in great numbers to tell their stories.

I read an article in **USA Today** which stated that since 2016 to the date of this column at least 40 lawmakers--nearly all men--in 20 states have been publicly accused by more than 100 people of some form of sexual misconduct or harassment.

Comment

All forms of sexual harassment and sexual misconduct are abominations to God. One who commits these things does not have godly control over his body. The Apostle Paul wrote, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27). Let us keep our bodies in subjection to God's Word!

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES ARE COMING

The following is a commentary by Chris Tomlinson that appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. It is entitled

We're rushing along the road to change. It has been condensed.

"The self-driving taxi and the electric long-haul truck will arrive in 2019, making a turning point in the transportation revolution.

Walmart and J. B. Hunt, two of the biggest shipping companies, have placed orders for Tesla's new electric semi-truck. CEO Elon Musk promises it will go 500 miles hauling 80,000 pounds on a single charge.

The truck stole headlines from Musk's new sports car, mostly because trucking is potentially a more lucrative sector for electric vehicle manufacturers. Big rigs are expensive to maintain and operate, and an affordable electric-powered replacement would slash costs.

Electricity is cheaper than diesel fuel, and electric motors require little maintenance. There is also less range anxiety because federal law limits drivers to 11 hours behind the wheel a day. That's a built-in break for recharging both batteries and the driver.

Long haul trucking is also a huge fuel market. With diesel already more expensive than gasoline, and trucks getting low mileage, truckers would love a way to save on fuel.

All of these factors make trucking a far more accessible market for Tesla. Engineers know what range to design the battery pack for, and because they only need to build a few thousand trucks a year, Musk doesn't have to go through all of the process headaches that have kept him from mass-producing his new Tesla 3.

Self-driving taxis took a step closer to reality this week with Volvo agreeing to deliver 24,000 vehicles to Uber in 2019. That puts the company one step closer to eliminating drivers.

"This new agreement puts us on a path toward mass-produced self-driving vehicles at scale," Jess Miller, Uber's

head of auto alliances, told Bloomberg News. "The more people working on the problem, we'll get there faster and with better, safer, more reliable systems."

The first Volvos will be gasoline powered, but the manufacturer has promised to move all of its models toward hybrid or electric drive trains. So when the order is completed in 2021, the final vehicles will be much more fuel efficient.

Developers have touted the potential benefits of allowing cars to communicate with each other for a decade, and research underway in Britain is showing the benefits of cars alerting each other to emergencies, traffic jams and even sudden braking by the driver ahead.

Connected vehicles can avoid accidents, traffic and even get out of the way of ambulances. The U.S. Department of Transportation was considering a rule requiring future American automobiles to include connectivity hardware, but the Trump administration is considering dropping the rule."

Comment

There is already evidence of transportation change. There are cars advertised on TV that do automatically break to avoid an accident if the driver is not aware of the danger.

CONTINUED POLITICAL CHAOS

It is most difficult to describe what is happening in American politics at this time. There is continued chaos, and nothing is certain. Let us only mention three main events.

Today it was learned that the Senate version of the tax reform bill had passed the Senate. The House of Representatives had passed their version a couple of days before. Now, as I understand it, both the Senate and House will determine the final bill on which they vote. Who best it will benefit, the poor and middle class or the wealthy and corporations, depends upon to whom you talk.

There is some real opposition to President Trump in the Senate. Two senators made speeches in which they criticized the direction in which he is taking the country. A real attempt to impeach President Trump is making its rounds and is even appearing on TV.

The United States Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, is now much in the news. Newspaper articles report that Tillerson is on his way out of the White House, but that is

not for sure. President Trump said that Rex is still here. There are policy differences between the president and Tillerson at times. The idea has been put forth that President Trump wishes to embarrass Secretary Tillerson to get him to resign.

Let us pray for those in the government of America!

MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

I read that a group of troops have started what they call secular humanist services in the military. The idea was started by one humanist soldier who could not in good faith take part in the Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Protestant services provided in the military.

Comment

Webster's New World Dictionary gives one definition of humanism as "any system of thought or action based on the nature, dignity, interests, and ideals of man; specifically a modern, nontheistic, rationalist movement that holds that man is capable of self-fulfillment, ethical conduct, etc. without recourse to supernaturalism."

There is nothing wrong with humanism if we just consider the first part of its definition as given in **Webster's New World Dictionary**. Jesus taught about the nature of man and how we should treat others. The problem arises when it is believed that man can be capable of self-fulfillment and good ethical conduct without recognizing God. Atheists also believe that man is capable of self-fulfillment and having good ethical values without recourse to God who is very supernatural. Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

NORTH KOREA TENSIONS

Tensions are getting worse between North Korea, South Korea, the United States and other concerned countries.

More sanctions are proposed for North Korea.

North Korea has been put back on the list as a sponsor of terror. It was once on this list, but was removed.

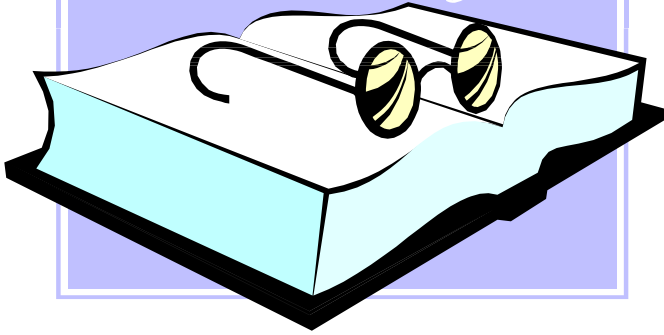
North Korea has just fired a rocket (or whatever) that went farther into the sky than any they have fired before.

American citizens have been advised to leave and not travel to North Korea.

North Korean tensions are causing ticket sales to the Winter Olympic games, to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea, to be on a slippery slope.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: What are some fears that many people face?

Answer: The human race is beset by many and varied fears which present a constant menace to happiness and success. These fears produce frustration, confusion, and torment: and they are responsible for much of the mental and physical sicknesses of our time. The Bible verifies that fear has a tormenting and harassing effect upon men (I John 4:18). One cannot resolve these fears until he faces them.

Most people endeavor to escape their fears through avoiding them and through refusal to confront the issues of life, but one must come to grips with the causes of fear in order to eliminate his fears.

This complex age is producing a multiplicity of new fears not known in other eras. However, there are some fears which have been common to every generation since the fall of Adam, such as the fear of sickness, the fear of old age, the fear of crowds, the fear of the past, the fear of the future, and the fear of failure, and the fear of people.

It must be understood very positively that these fears are not God-given. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). Now let us reflect on some of the common fears of our day. The first consideration is fear of the past.

Some people seem to be unable to forget their unpleasant experiences and blunders of the past. Their mistakes, failures, and difficulties continue to hound them

and break down their self-confidence. Those who are plagued with this difficulty should adhere to the words of the Apostle Paul, "...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before" (Philippians 3:13). There are victories in the past, rejoice in them. Where there are failures, use them as stepping-stones to success.

Another prominent fear is the lack of security. This fear produces worry and anxiety, and causes men to lose their proper sense of values. The materialistic concept of life has robbed men of their vision of the world to come. They sacrifice their future on the altars of the present. God does not desire that any should be anxious about his welfare. Does not He care for the sparrow and clothe the field with grass? Will He not then care for the man who is made in His own image? "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have..." (Hebrews 13:5).

The premise of your contentment is set forth in these words: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Complete trust in God will dispel all fear of insecurity. D. L. Moody once stated that you can travel first-class or second-class to the kingdom. "Traveling first-class," he said, your philosophy would be, "...I will trust, and not be afraid..." (Isaiah 12:2). Traveling second-class your philosophy would be, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psalm 56:3).

Death is another common fear which harasses mankind. It is an appointment which all men must meet; and none, regardless of status, can avoid it. Few people ever seem to be quite prepared or ready to accept death. For death casts its long shadow of grief, agony, pain, and loneliness

over the world. But when one views death in the true Christian perspective, he need not fear because to him death is a rest and not a terminus.

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9). Why fear death when Christ who is alive reigns in your heart? Life is not only something, it is Someone, and death cannot remain the victor.

Fear of the future is another common fear. The future is filled with uncertainty. Man most generally fears the unseen and the unknown. Lord George once said, “The future fills me with dread. I am afraid of what will happen.” Another great statesman said, “At this moment, many hearts are failing them because of the difficulties which are ahead.”

One can face the future with courage only as he sees it through the eyes of Christ. With the last page of human history about to be written, with nations in a suicidal race for ruin, and with civilization in the throes of death, our only security is in Christ. Although the backdrop of this day is very dark, the foreground for the Christian is very bright. “But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day” (Proverbs 4:18).

With every step into the future, the light of the Son of Righteousness becomes brighter. The reason men panic and lose their direction in this life is that they have lost the vision of the life to come. Therefore, fear and faintheartedness beset them on every side. The psalmist’s concept of the future gave him confidence for the present: “I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13).

There is also the fear of people. Though it might seem strange, I would say that the fear of people is possibly the most common of the fears. The wise man, Solomon, was aware of this when he said, “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25). Students fear their peers and tend to conform to their ideas and ideals to avoid social pressure. They fear criticism and disapproval of their group, and they conform to group standards whether they be right or wrong.

When one pleases God, he has power to resist the pressures of the group and yet retain respect. Then he can say, “So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me”

(Hebrews 13:6).

If one is to conquer fear, he must do it through perfect love. The Bible says, “...perfect love casteth out fear...” (I John 4:18). We can conclude by saying, “...O man greatly beloved, fear not...” (Daniel 10:19).

Question: What does it mean to be panoplied? Does the meaning have anything to do in regard to Ephesians 6:11 which reads, “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” ?

Answer: To be panoplied means to possess a protective covering. In Ephesians 6:11, it means to wear the whole armour of God. We need an armor because we have a foe, and we need to keep constantly before us the fact of a spiritual conflict which is described in this portion of Scripture. Please read verses 12-18.

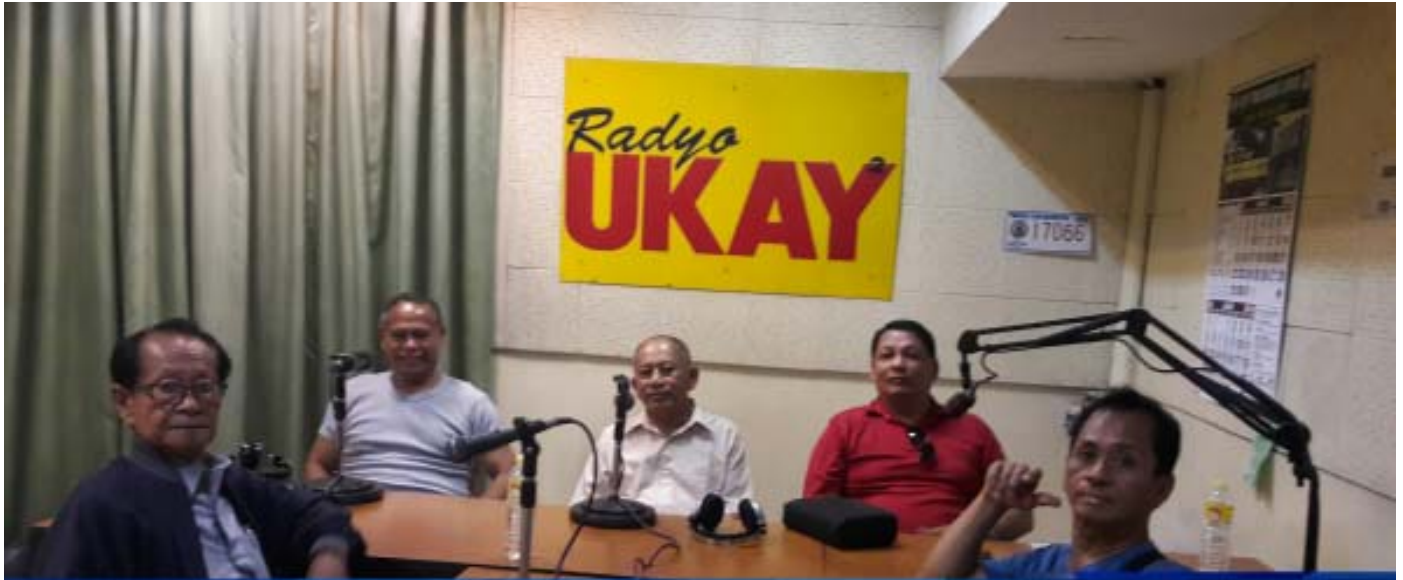
The Christian’s enemy is not a figment of the dark ages, as some would tell us, but a master foe likened in Scripture unto a roaring lion going about seeking whom he may devour. Many have ruled Satan out of their thinking feeling he is but a superstitious character, but the Bible never underrates him or his power and continually warns us against his wiles and subtle tactics. While Christians often fight each other and waste their spiritual energies in trivial conflicts, we are reminded that the warfare is “not against flesh and blood,” but against wicked forces “in the heavenlies.” The conflict is real in spite of man’s constant denials of it. Too often we forget that though invisible, Satan is a person, just as truly as is the Son of God, his great opponent, a person. Nothing pleases our adversary more than to keep God’s people in ignorance concerning his real character and the nature of his conduct. If he can keep men in the natural state of death, he is sure of them. If he can lull, soothe, deceive, and blind the Christian concerning his activities, the Christian falls easy prey to him. The closer we get to the end of this age the more active our enemy becomes, and it is not amiss to say that he is filled with sleepless malignity.

If the Christian is to come forth victoriously in this deadly conflict, he must avail himself of “the whole armour of God.” And not just a small portion of it. Some of us go about wearing only a helmet and omit the shield of faith, or we neglect to have our feet properly shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Is it to be wondered that Satan defeats us when the greater part of us is wholly unprotected? He does not have to look for some open joint in our armor when so many vital parts of the armor are missing.



The Philippines





Minister's Meeting



LESSON I

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS IN EGYPT
THE FIRST TRIP

Scripture Reading: Genesis 42:1-18.

Golden Text: Genesis 42:8.

“And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.”

1. What did Jacob, Joseph’s father, tell his sons to do about the famine which was causing them to starve? Genesis 42:1-2.
2. Who did Jacob say could not go to Egypt and why? Genesis 42:4.
3. How did Joseph treat his brothers when he first saw them? Genesis 42:6-9.
4. What did Joseph command them to do? Genesis 42:18-20.
5. What did Joseph tell his servants to put in his brothers’ corn he had sold them? Genesis 42:25-26.
6. How did the brothers feel when they saw the money in their bags? Genesis 42:27-28, 35.
7. What did Jacob say when his sons returned and told him what happened? Genesis 42:38.

LESSON II

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS IN EGYPT
THE SECOND TRIP

Scripture Reading: Genesis 43:1-34.

Golden Text: Genesis 43:15.

“And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.”

1. Why does Jacob want his sons to return to Egypt? Genesis 43:1-2.
2. What does Israel (Jacob) tell his sons to do when they return to Egypt a second time to buy corn? Genesis 43:11-13.
3. When Joseph saw Benjamin with his brothers, what did he order the ruler of his house to do? Genesis 43:16-17.
4. Why were his brothers afraid when they were brought to Joseph’s house? Genesis 43:18-22.
5. What did Joseph tell them after they explained how they found money in their sacks the first time? Genesis 43:23.
6. What question did Joseph ask his brothers, and what answer did they give him? Genesis 43:26-28.
7. When Joseph saw Benjamin, what feeling did he have toward him? Genesis 43:29-31.

LESSON III

JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF
TO HIS BRETHREN

Scripture Reading: Genesis 44:1-13; 45:1-15.

Golden Text: Genesis 45:4.

“And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.”

1. What happened after Joseph’s brothers left the city the second time? Genesis 44:1-5, 11-13.

NOTE: The event that happens next in Genesis 44:14 was the fulfillment of one of Joseph’s dreams he had as a child. Genesis 37:6-8.

2. What was Joseph’s punishment to them for having been caught with the silver cup? Genesis 44:17.

- 3. What did Judah beg Joseph to do? Genesis 44:18, 30-34.
- 4. What did Joseph do after Judah offered to become his slave in place of Benjamin? Genesis 45:1-2.
- 5. Did Joseph tell them who he was? Genesis 45:3.
- 6. What did Joseph ask his brothers to do, and did he blame them for selling him into Egypt? Genesis 45:4-8.
- 7. What message did Joseph tell his brothers to give to his father, Jacob? Genesis 45:9, 13.
- 8. What was Joseph going to do for his family? Genesis 45:10-12.
- 9. Did they all really rejoice to see each other once more? Genesis 45:14-15.

NOTE: Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him and said that God delivered him into Egypt. We should remember also so try to forgive others who hurt us or do something wrong to us. Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14-15.

LESSON IV

JACOB GOES TO EGYPT

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:16-28; 46:1-7.
 Golden Text: Genesis 46:3.

“And he said, I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt; for I will there make of thee a great nation”.

- 1. After Joseph meets with his brothers, what does Pharaoh tell him to do? Genesis 45:16-20.
- 2. What did Joseph give to each of his brothers? Genesis 45:21-22.
- 3. What was sent to Joseph’s father? Genesis 45:23-24.

- 4. What did Jacob do when he heard that Joseph was alive? Genesis 45:22-28.
- 5. Where did Jacob first stop on his journey to Egypt, and what did he do there? Genesis 46:1.
- 6. While Jacob is at Beersheba, what did God tell him in a dream? Genesis 46:2-4.
- 7. Who was with Jacob, and what belongings did they carry? Genesis 46:5-7.

MOTHERS

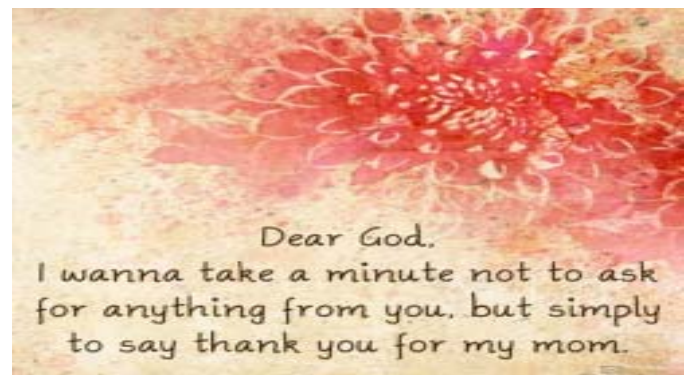
How many words can you make out of the word **MOTHERS**?

Don’t use the same letter twice in one word.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

Answers to: A SCRAMBLE TYPE PUZZLE

- 1. Hummingbird-Helicopter 2. Eye-Camera 3. Mind-Computer 4. Ear-Receiver 5. Shade-House 6. Bird-Airplane 7. Fish-Submarine 8. Ducks-Ships 9. Rain-Sprinkler 10. Scent-Perfume





STORIES FROM THE BIBLE THE BABY WHO HAD TWO MOTHERS

King Solomon was so wise that people for miles around came to him with their troubles and asked his advice.

One day, two women appeared before the King. One of them carried in her arms a baby, who she said was her little son.

“Oh king,” cried the second woman, “She is not telling you the truth. We live in the same house, and we had babies the same age, but hers died in the night, and she has stolen mine. The child you see is my son, not hers.” But the other woman held the baby tighter and shook her head. “No, no! It was her child who died. The living child is mine.”

This was a hard problem to solve, because both women were so sure they were right. Solomon thought a moment. Then he called to his servant.

“Bring me a sword. Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.”

One woman thought this was a fair way to settle their quarrel, but the other woman cried out quickly, “Oh, my Lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it.” But the other woman said, “Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.”

Then King Solomon knew that he had found the right mother who loved her child so very much that she would rather give him to another woman than see him killed. So

he put the baby in her arms, and she went home happy.

A MOTHER'S FAITH

When Jesus was still on earth, He went about doing many wonderful things. Everyone around knew of His fame, and when they heard that He was near, they would all want to see Him. Jesus never turned anyone down when they asked to be healed or when they asked Him to heal some of their loved ones.

One time when Jesus was near the cities of Tyre and Sidon, where He had come to be alone, a woman came to ask His help. This woman was a Gentile woman, and the disciples wanted to send her away, but she cried and fell down and worshipped Jesus and said, “Lord help me, for my daughter is very ill and is grievously vexed with a devil.”

The tender heart of Jesus was touched as it always was when he would hear the cries of those who were in need. He could see that this woman had faith, but He decided to test her faith further. He said to her, “I am not sent but of the lost sheep of Israel, therefore it is not meet to take the children’s bread and cast it to the dogs.” She answered Him by saying, “You are right dear Master, but the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master’s table.” Jesus knew then that she had great faith, and He said to her, “Truly you have great faith, and your prayer is answered this very hour. Go home now, and you will find your daughter every bit whole, for the wicked spirit is now gone from her.”

At these words, the woman jumped to her feet and quickly obeyed Jesus for she believed that her little girl was well. When she arrived home she found her lying upon the bed resting quietly, for the evil spirit had left when Jesus spoke the word.

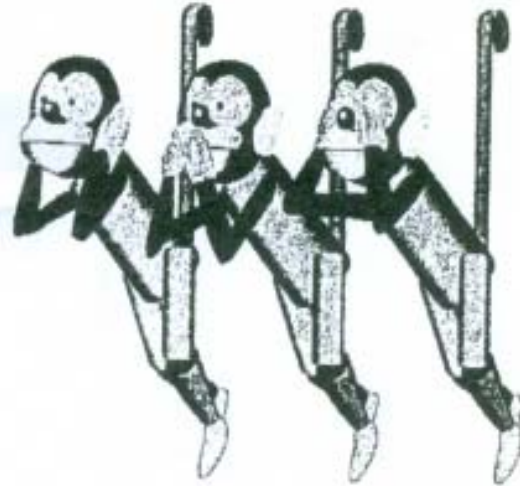
Jesus still hears today. We must have faith in Him and do His will, and He will heal us too when we are sick.



Happy Mother's Day !

A SCRAMBLE TYPE PUZZLE

Many things that people have made are just imitations of God's Creation. In the double puzzles below, the horizontal lines are things God has created. The vertical lines are man's imitation of it.



1. It flies straight up, and down and sideways.
2. It sees.
3. It thinks.
4. It hears.
5. It protects its occupant.
6. It flies.
7. It swims under water.
8. They swim on top of the water.
9. It waters the lawn.
10. It gives a particular fragrance.

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THE NIGHT TO BE REMEMBERED

By Pat Evans

*There are certain times in history,
Yes, we all remember when
That certain things have happened,
That we won't forget again.*

*The attack on our Pearl Harbor,
And the day that Kennedy died;
The Hindenburg disaster,
And the Challenger's short ride.*

*But, what we think is so important,
Is not what we should recall;
The real event to be remembered,
Is when Christ stood up for us all.*

*That night He met with His disciples
Together in the upper room;
And partook of the last supper,
For He knew the end was soon.*

*When Christ began with the foot washing,
Peter said Lord, no, not me;
He said if I do not wash yours,
Then, you'll have no part with Me.*

*He continued with the emblems,
His body was the broken bread;
And for the blood of His salvation,
They drank from the cup instead.*

*He also left these brief instructions
For every one of us to heed;
He said, at the time appointed,
"Do this in remembrance of me".*

*And last, They sang a hymn together,
Then headed to Gethsemane;
That day He stood in our place,
And gave His life for you and me.*

