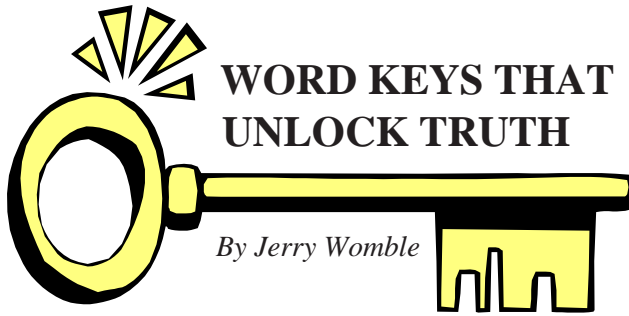


Advocate of Truth

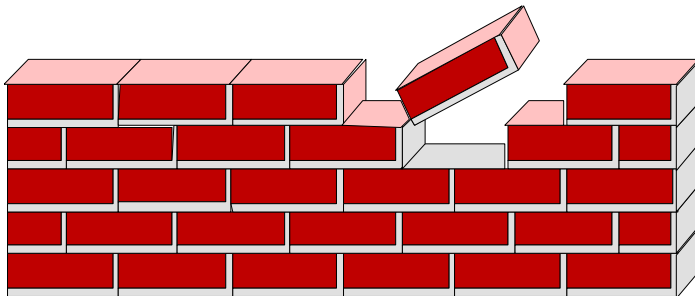




PERFECT

If perfect means "without fault", then no one will be able to attain it and yet the Bible states, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). The word perfect here means to become "complete or fully accomplished, or an adult in our understandings, growth in our spiritual life". We are to start out on the milk of the word, that is, knowing Jesus, the Son of God, and understanding our need for baptism and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and accepting that

God is the supreme being and creator of the world. Now that we have taken the milk, God expects us to continue to study and grow in our Christian life so that we may become fully accomplished or an adult in understanding doctrines, and completing His will in our life. This is what the writer of Hebrews is taking about in Hebrews 6:1, when he states "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection....." It means let us study to show we have become a mature person in the Lord. The first verse with the word perfect in it is found in Genesis, and is referring to Noah being a perfect and just man in his generation. He was not without fault because we know that Jesus was the only one that lived on this earth that had a sinless life, but Noah was a spiritual leader. He was faithful in building the ark no matter what others thought of him, because he was mature in his relationship with God. We know of Peter and his failure to Jesus, but, we know also of his repentance and how that he led the rest of his life as a true follower of Christ and mature in all of his work for the Lord. Let us be examples also as one that keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and accomplishes God's will in our life.



COMPATIBILITY

By Moises Torres M.

Compatibility is a very common word in our days which is related to modern computers, electronics and cybernetics. We are perplexed seeing how new and more sophisticated computers appear in the world markets everyday. Every time they are faster, with more capacity and memory, and this of course, makes them more powerful and compatible with the requirements of a modern world. This increase in technology demands that most companies and business are constantly updating their computational and communication systems in a way to be competitive and compatible in the international markets. In

other words, "to be compatible" is a requirement to continue alive in this modern world system.

But what about man? Is man updating himself to continue alive in God's eternal system? Is man getting compatible to enter into the coming age called "The Kingdom of Christ"?

Let us remember that the present state of man is obsolete because of his falling in Eden. A process of decadence and corruption came upon him, and he died. And death reigned until the Son of God came to overcome death with His resurrection over two thousand years ago,

the Son of God came to the world in human form to show in a clearer way the process and desire of His Father to update our mind and body, to make them fit or compatible for eternal life. The word used in the Bible for "updating" is "renewing." "And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...**" (Romans 12:2). Man has to renew his mind and body to be compatible and competitive in the coming world.

Man's updating starts in the mind of the person. We need to take away the obsolete memory of the old man, and insert the new one, which is the mind of Christ in us. This memory or mind is written in the Bible, and we only have to read it, study it, and set it up in our minds, as if we inserted or added new memory to our computers. We also need to add more capacity to our minds, and this strength is the Holy Spirit of God working in us. The last step in this process will be the updating of our physical bodies. This will take place at the second coming of the Lord Jesus.

Making an analogy of our mind and body, we notice that our body is not compatible with our mind. Our mind is much more powerful than our body. For example: Our mind is very fast and strong. It can transport itself to the speed of our thoughts (a twinkling of an eye). It is able to transport ourselves in a moment to France, Spain, New York, Japan, Russia, everywhere, etc., but our body is not able to follow it because it is limited by barriers such as space, time, and matter. Our mind is always ready, but our body is sick or weak. This thought was expressed by our Lord Jesus in Matthew 26:41. So, we need to update our body, and make it compatible to our mind.

Our Lord Jesus showed us this physical updating. After His Resurrection He was able to fly, change His appearance, become invisible, travel to the speed of His thoughts, pass over walls, etc. There was no more any kind of barriers for Him! No more gravity law, or barrier of time, space, or matter. His body has been updated and made compatible to His mind.

After His resurrection the Lord Jesus made a very interesting statement in Matthew 28:18: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and earth.**" This not only means authority to rule over all creatures in the universe, but also means authority over matter, energy, time, and space! This is wonderful. After His resurrection, His

body was updated and could travel along with His mind in a "twinkling of an eye." He became a spiritual being or conscious energy that could travel at the speed of light. He was made a "quickening spirit."

"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made **a living soul**: the last Adam was made **a quickening spirit.**" (I Corinthians 15:45). "Quickening spirit" means pure energy which is always ready and alive!

Our present physical body is only the temporary house of our thoughts and feelings, which are not impregnated with the eternal mind or spirit of Christ. Therefore, God will also provide an eternal house for us. The Apostle Paul expresses these thoughts: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, **we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.** For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." (II Corinthians 5:1-5).

The earnest of the Spirit is that divine energy that we receive by the Word of God and by the laying on of hands after we are baptized. In that very moment, a new being is begotten, and a process of renewing or updating starts in our mind to make it compatible to live according to the Commandments and life style of our Creator. This new being begotten through driven energy - The Holy Spirit, will be born at His due time at the coming of the Lord.

The first Adam was made from the dust of the earth and became **a living soul** by the breath of life. The second Adam is **a "quickening spirit"**, a man updated through the Holy Spirit to be COMPATIBLE with the divine nature of God. After we are begotten of the Spirit, we need to be fed by the same Spirit in a way to be born at due time. We, as children of God, find this spiritual food in the Words of Christ. "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**" (John 6:63).

Our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus, are the great scientists who created the universe, its systems and energy. They are the primary fountain of every type of energy. God created everything from "nothing", though that

"nothingness" was always there - His Energy or Holy Spirit.

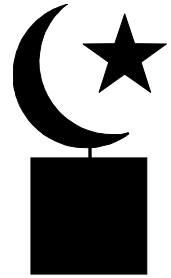
Science and technology are very advanced in our day, and everything is in a constant process of updating to be compatible and competitive. The new world system of information, "Internet", is something marvelous in our time which embraces most of the world business and human information available at anytime using only a personal pass-

word.

Like this, you can also enter into the depths of the Internet of God, the Holy Bible. "Click" the password - the "name" LORD JESUS CHRIST, and you will be in the spaceship of God's internet - His Holy Word. Update yourself to be compatible in the coming Kingdom of Christ!

Pagan Influences - In Ancient Israel and Modern Christianity

Reprinted



Throughout its history, Israel was enticed time and time again by the allure of pagan traditions. The laws of God delivered from Mt. Sinai, the warnings of the prophets, even the sweeping reforms of godly kings were not sufficient to keep Israel from following the customs of the heathen.

Jeremiah, for example, warned Israel:

"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work often hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil neither also is it in them to do good" (Jeremiah 10:2-5).

The pagans apparently made statues out of wood, plated them with silver and gold, and then bowed down to them. How foolish it was to attach religious significance to something made with one's own hands! But that is just what ancient Israel did and just what many modern Christians do as well.

Samaritans Mix Paganism With Worship of True God

One of the most striking examples of how the worship of God was mixed with paganism is that of the Samaritans. When the Assyrians carried the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity, they resettled the land with people from many different nations - each of whom brought his own religious customs. "Howbeit every nation made gods of their own, and put them in the houses of the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in their cities wherein they dwelt" (II Kings 17:29). But the people also felt that they should worship the indigenous "god" of this land, so they might be protected from local wild animals. Some of the priests were returned from exile to teach the people about the God of Israel. Happily, the Samaritans worshipped Him along with their own gods and their own pagan customs.

"They feared the Lord, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. Unto this day they do after the former manners: they fear not the LORD, neither do they after their statutes, or after their ordinances, or after the law and commandment which the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel; With whom the Lord had made a covenant, and charged them saying, Ye shall not fear other gods, nor bow yourselves to them, nor serve them, nor sacrifice to them: But the Lord, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye

worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice ...So these nations feared the LORD and served their graven images, both their children, and their children's children: as did their fathers, so do they unto this day" (II Kings 17:33-36, 41).

Israel could not resist the lure of pagan customs. Unfortunately, the early church followed a similar path. Even during the ministry of the apostles, false teachers were at work, watering down the true teachings of Jesus.

Jesus and Apostles Warn of False Teachers

Just prior to His crucifixion, Jesus prophesied about false ministers:

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you..For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:4,24).

Two and three decades following Jesus's prophecy. The Apostle Paul was already dealing with the false teachers who were infiltrating the church:

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

Paul wrote Timothy concerning false ministers:

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach another doctrine": (I Timothy 1:3).

And, in one of the last books of the apostolic period, John warned of Antichrists:

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son" (I John 2:18,22).

Implications of Heresies in Early Church

The point of quoting all these passages about false teachers in the early church is this: If false teaching was

such a problem during the time of the apostles, what would you expect any different today when the world seems to be more sinful? Would you expect the main stream of the church to remain pure and unadulterated by pagan influences skirmishing only occasionally with heretics? Or would you expect the "mystery of iniquity" to grow rapidly in influence with true children of God scattered and persecuted by those willing to use political power to gain their selfish ends? See II John 9-10 for an example of this.

If the apostles were continually fighting heresy, you would expect the Church of today to do the same and contend earnestly for the faith once delivered. Indeed, Revelation 2 and 3 reveal that paganism, idolatry, immorality, spiritual "adultery," a false prophetess, and mysteries were associated with several of the seven churches mentioned. True children of God seem to be in the background. The majority of so-called Christians, those that said they were following the Bible, were influenced more and more by the pagans who surrounded them.

Christians meet Pagans: Who Converts Whom?

When the Apostle encountered pagans, he told them to abandon their old customs, to leave behind their elemental religion and embark on a new way of life. His message wasn't very popular: he and his followers were persecuted and harassed by Jews and pagans alike. Acts 19:27-34 gives an example. People will cling to their traditions at all costs!

Those who did accept Jesus and turn from their old ways became unpopular with the pagan establishment. Because they refused to have anything to do with the idolatry of emperor worship and with other pagan customs (which were an integral part of Roman social and civic life), they were regarded as seditious and unsociable. Persecution at times was very severe, and only the truly converted would join the children of God. But powerful social and political forces were at work in the Roman world.

During certain periods of the first and second centuries in particular, anti-Jewish sentiment was very strong among the Roman. The true worshippers suffered because the Romans considered them merely a branch of Israel. So those that were not strong in the faith went along with the Romans. They did what they could to dis-

tance themselves from anything that was of a Godly nature. Some abandoned the seventh day Sabbath and substituted Sunday, borrowed from the pagan holiday for sun-worship. Some abandoned the Lord's Supper (celebrated on the the day of the first month, using the Bible Calendar). They instituted Good Friday and Easter, again borrowing from the pagans. As pressure mounted, more and more people - not so scrupulous as the children of God - made compromises with paganism. From the worldly point of view, compromise was the prudent course of action, but it was the plan of Satan to break up the true Church purchased by the Blood of Jesus . The same old lie was repeated again, as we hear it so often, "After all, what harm was there in a few pagan customs as long as people believed in Jesus and worshipped God." Remember that Satan believes also, and he will end up in the Lake of Fire. The so-called Christians went down the same road as ancient Israel had traveled to their destruction.

So-Called Christianity Officially Recognized

When Constantine made Christianity an official religion in the Empire, the gradual tend toward paganism became an avalanche. Noted church historian Jesse Lyman Hurlbut wrote of this period of time:

The ceasing of persecution was a blessing, but establishment of Catholicism as the state religion became a cure.

Everybody sought membership in the church, and nearly everybody was received. Both good and bad, sincere seekers after God and hypocritical seekers after gain, rushed into the communion. Ambitious, worldly, unscrupulous men sought office in the church for social and political influence.

The forms and ceremonies of paganism gradually crept into the worship. Some of the old heathen feasts became church festivals with change of name and of worship. About 405 A.D., images of saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches at first as memorials, then in secession revered, adored, and worshipped. The adoration of the Virgin Mary was substituted for the worship of Venus and Diana; the Lord's Supper became a sacrifice in place of a memorial; and the elder evolved from a preacher to a priest.

As a result of the Catholic Church sitting in power, we do not see the evangelistic transforming of the world

to goodness, but the world is becoming more sinful." (The Story of the Christian Church. 1962, page 79).

Another historian, P.V.N. Myers, made the following assertion under the subtitle The Paganizing of Christianity:

The subjects of the Roman Empire mingled with it (Christianity) many of their heathen notations and rites. Then, when these semi-Christian nations imparted their modified Christianity to their conquerors, it actually underwent a still further corruption among the latter.

"To dazzle the senses of the barbarians, and work upon their imagination," says Guizot, "she (the Roman Catholic Church) increased in her number, pomp, and variety of religious ceremonies,. She converted them by grand spectacles." ...Catholic missionaries so adjusting the requirements of Christian law, and so tempering its severity as not to do violence to the prejudices and practices of the idolaters whom they would win (Outlines of Medieval and Modern History, 18944, Ginn & Co., P. 42).

History makes very plain the fact that in the early Roman Catholic Church, paganism and Christianity were combined to form a hybrid religion. The Roman winter holidays became the "People's" Christmas. According to the New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, "The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular customs to be set aside by Christian influence...." So the church leaders simply adapted them to Christianity.

The pagan customs associated with worshipping Ishatar (eggs, bunnies, sunrise services) became Good Friday and Easter Sunday; pagan and demonic "all souls day" became All Saints Day. Pagan days of mourning and fasting became Lent. The pagan day of sun worship became the day for worshipping the Sun. On and on the list could go. You can check any good encyclopedia for the pagan origin of almost all of the major holidays and many religious traditions. In fact, magazines and newspapers frequently publish, around the time of the various holidays, articles which cheerfully reveal pagan origins of these customs.

There is no question about the facts of history. Church leaders did not have the courage to preach the pure Word of God at the risk of offending the pagans. They created an elemental religion in which form, ceremony, and tradition predominated over the real substance of Christianity which is a personal, spiritual relationship with God through

Jesus Christ.

God's Word is plain! He wants to be worshipped in spirit and in truth not with the traditions of paganism (John 4:24, Jeremiah 10:2, Revelation 18:4; I Corinthians 10:14-22). He is a very jealous God who wants to share His worship with no one and do nothing, not for His benefit, but for ours. Ancient Israel went into captivity because they were enticed into a hybrid religion because they worshipped God in conjunction with pagan customs. How much more is God displeased with Christians who would adulterate true worship with paganism!

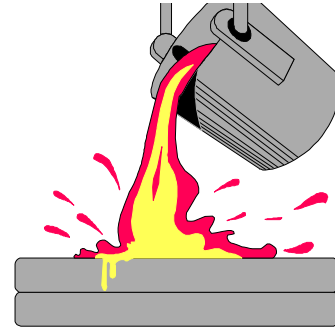
What About Your

Of course, you're not responsible for the merging of Christianity with paganism. You just inherited it from your forebearers, who inherited it from early church leaders, who succumbed to the political pressures of their day and compromised truth for the sake of expedience. But you're not bounding their choices. You don't have to accept paganism. You can dare to be different. You can search the Scriptures to seek the will of God.

Revelation 18:4 warns Christians to come out of Babylon. Remember, almost all of the pagan customs of Rome came originally from Babylon. God doesn't expect us to remove ourselves from Babylon geographically any more than Daniel was expected to learn ancient Babylonian. But we can and should depart from Babylonian ways and customs which are masquerading as Christianity. We can reject the pagan package of holidays, customs and doctrines, the traditions of men, and return to the faith once delivered to the apostles. We can turn to the Bible and let it and it alone be our guide for worshipping God.

Granted, it takes courage to go contrary to the mainstream of traditions to reflect the broad, easy way (Matthew 7:18). But the magnitude of Jesus' love for us should evoke the courage to put Him and His will before traditions. Do you have the courage to reject elemental religion and the customs of paganism in order to worship God in spirit and in truth? If so, you are the kind of worshipper God wants and seeks to worship Him!

Taken from "*Focus on Truth.*"



A Refiner Of Silver

There was a group of women in a Bible study on the book of Malachi. As they were studying chapter three, they came across verse three, the first part, which says: "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver..."

This verse puzzled the women, and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week, this woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest in silver beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest so as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. For if silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's the easy part - when I see my image reflected in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep His hand on you and watch over you until He sees His image in you.

-From the Internet

7

Things You May Or May Not Know About

THE SABBATH

by Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. Even your cattle and stranger were to enjoy it.
"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days, the lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11).
2. The Israelites were told they were to gather manna on only six days, but not on the Sabbath.
"And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning" (Exodus 16:23-28).
3. A man was stoned for gathering sticks on the sabbath day.
"And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said unto Moses, the man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp,

and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the Lord commanded Moses" (Numbers 15:32-36).

4. Nehemiah restored proper Sabbath observance in Jerusalem.

"In those days saw I in Judah some treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all manner of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day wherein they sold victuals. There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath. And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates, that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day. So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice. Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again. I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath (Nehemiah 13:15-21).

5. It was made for man and Jesus is the Lord of it.

"And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28).

6. It was Jesus's custom to go to the synagogue and read in it.

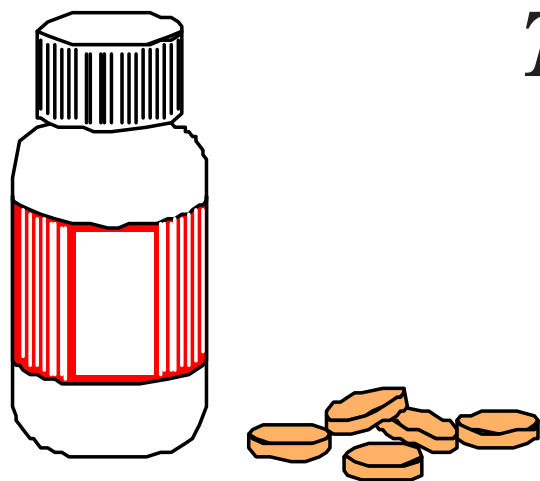
"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read" (Luke 4:16).

7. Paul preached regularly on the sabbath.

"And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes fol-

lowed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and

judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I HAVE SET THEE TO BE A LIGHT OF THE GENTILES, THAT THOU SHOULDEST BE FOR SALVATION UNTO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:42-48).



TAKE ONE TABLET EVERY FOUR HOURS WITH FOOD

By Carol Buechner

The above title could be called the instructions or directions for a prescription of medicine. A prescription is a doctor or physician's written directions for the preparation and use of medicine. A physician is a person that has studied extensively and become licensed in the art of caring for and bringing healing to an injured or sick person. When a physician has a person come to him for a particular illness, he uses all his skills in order to do his best to resolve the matter. He may decide that a certain medication is needed for the condition. He then gives the person with the illness specific directions on how to take the prescribed medication so that it will bring about the cure being sought. The ill person then takes the written prescription to the pharmacy to be filled. He then takes the medicine home and follows the directions given him. The medication usually does not work immediately but may take many days for results to be achieved. If the ill person follows the directions as indicated by the directions, success in curing the illness may be obtained. However, if the person decides to change the directions to his own liking, success will not likely occur. For example, the directions may say to take the medication on an empty stomach. However, the ill person does not want to do this, and instead he

takes the medication with a full meal. This changes the effectiveness of the medication, preventing it from working in the body as it should. Perhaps the ill person decides after three days of taking the medication that it is not helping, so he discontinues its use. The medication cannot be effective when not taken and used as instructed. If the ill person takes the medication regularly and follows all the physician's instructions, healing can result.

BIBLICAL PRESCRIPTION

The Bible has a prescription of its own for healing. It is found in Proverbs 4:20-22:

"My son, attend to **MY WORDS**; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. **FOR THEY ARE LIFE UNTO THOSE THAT FIND THEM, AND HEALTH TO ALL THEIR FLESH.**" The medication prescribed in this passage is **WORDS**. What are the **WORDS** that are so important? "But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.." (1 Peter 1:25). It is everything that is written in the Bible that has been given to man by

God “. . . and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16). In the passage in Proverbs 4, these WORDS are said to bring LIFE. The word LIFE in Hebrew means to **NOURISH, RESTORE, REVIVE, SAVE, PRESERVE, QUICKEN, RECOVER** and **REPAIR**. Study carefully the meaning of each of the eight words that mean life. The impact on your understanding of what life brings to you should be greatly enhanced. To **NOURISH** is to feed, supply or sustain with what is necessary to live and grow. To **RESTORE** is to give back, repair or rebuild to a normal or former condition. To **REVIVE** is to bring back to life, restore to health, cause to flourish, refresh, make whole, rejuvenate, energize, invigorate and encourage. To **SAVE** is to rescue or preserve from danger, harm or injury. It is to bring to safety, to keep in health and well-being, deliver, set free, liberate, release, redeem and reclaim. To **PRESERVE** is keep from harm or danger or damage, to protect, to save, care for and shield. To **QUICKEN** is to enliven or bring to life, arouse, stimulate, strengthen, energize. To **RECOVER** is to get back, regain what was lost, bring into control or balance, reclaim, redeem, rescue, find again. To **REPAIR** is to put back in good condition after being damaged, to mend, renew, set right, remedy, fix, reconstruct, restore and rehabilitate. Now do you see what the word can do for you! Do not forget this! Hopefully, you also noticed that the passage said that “they are life unto **THOSE THAT FIND THEM.**” If you are not aware of what the word of God says, it cannot bring life to you. It cannot feed you, deliver you, energize you, quicken strength in you, restore you, and save you.

The next important part of the Proverbs 4 passage to contemplate is “**FOR THEY ARE... HEALTH TO ALL THEIR FLESH**” (verse 22). In Hebrew, the word **HEALTH** means **MEDICINE, CURE, HEAL, PHYSICIAN, THOROUGHLY MAKE WHOLE, REMEDY AND DELIVERANCE**. Study carefully the meanings of the eight words given that mean health. Let them enlighten your understanding. **MEDICINE** is a drug, substance or ingredient used as medication to kill or inactivate germs, viruses and other such things in order to treat illness, disease or relieve pain. To **CURE** is to restore, return, revive or recover health or a sound

condition. To **HEAL** is to get rid of disease, make sound or whole or restore to a healthy condition again. It is to rejuvenate, invigorate, renew or fill with energy and strength. The word **PHYSICIAN** means someone that specializes in healing and restoring to a disease free condition. The word **THOROUGHLY** means done totally or completely, omitting nothing, with accuracy and preciseness. To **MAKE** means to bring into being, form, cause or fashion. The word **WHOLE** means sound in health, not diseased, complete, entire and sound. To **THOROUGHLY MAKE WHOLE** means to completely bring about a healthy condition. **REMEDY** means to treat, cure, bring health, correct and restore. **DELIVERANCE** means to set free, save from danger, liberate and release. What message did you get from these words regarding the fact that words are health to your flesh? There can be no doubt that words can bring restoration physically from disease, revive completely and release pain.

PRESCRIPTION DIRECTIONS

There is no doubt that God’s words are the healing medication necessary to bring about and restore a healthy condition. It is absolutely necessary to understand completely the directions for this prescription. The directions are found in the same passage in which the medication was prescribed, Proverbs 4:20-21, in Psalm 119:172, and in Proverbs 3:21. Center your attention on each part of the direction and carefully ponder the full meaning of each specific one.

(1) “**ATTEND TO MY WORDS.**” According to the Hebrew dictionary, the word attend means to **PRICK UP THE EARS, HEARKEN, GIVE HEED TO, MARK AND REGARD**. Now look closely at each of these meanings. **PRICK** means to point, center or sting. This means that you must have your hearing centered on or pointed for hearing the word with your ears as well as in your spirit. **HEARKEN** means to hear intelligently, with attention, obedience, consider, discern, give ear to, listen to, regard and perceive. **HEED** means to pay close attention to, be aware of, take careful notice of and regard. **MARK** means to designate, acknowledge, be aware of, obtain knowledge of, observe, impress and imprint. **REGARD** means to view or look at intently, consider

diligently and observe attentively. These words carry a strong message. The word of God is to be carefully and diligently paid attention to. It is to be highly regarded and acknowledged. You need to have knowledge of it and be ready to discern the truth. You are to pay proper attention to it, be in a state of readiness to receive the word and devote yourself to learning it.

(2) “INCLINE THINE EAR UNTO MY SAYINGS.” The word INCLINE has quite a list of interesting meanings associated with it. They include: **TAKE UP, DELIVER, TO HAVE A PREFERENCE, TENDENCY OR LIKING FOR, MAKE, PAY HEED TO, LISTEN WILLINGLY AND BE DISPOSED TO.** What does all this mean? **TO HAVE A PREFERENCE** means to have a great liking for, give priority to, favor and put before other things. **TENDENCY** means to have an inclination to go in a particular direction. **WILLINGLY** means doing something readily, cheerfully, voluntarily in an agreeable manner. **DISPOSED** means to have a natural tendency to do certain things. **EAR** would refer to hearing and being ready to listen. **SAYINGS** would be what God has spoken in the Bible. The message that you may receive from the discussion of these words is that you are to listen to the word of God, to prefer it, make it a priority in your life, be inclined to cheerfully study it and let it become a natural part of your everyday life.

(3) “LET THEM NOT DEPART FROM THINE EYES.” **DEPART** means to turn aside from, cast off, go away, leave, be separated from and withdraw. **EYE** means the power of vision, sight, gaze, attention and observation. The idea of this instruction is to not allow the word of God to be separated from, or put away from your eyes or your constant attention to reading them and keeping them as a focus at all times.

(4) “KEEP THEM IN THE MIDST OF THINE HEART.” **KEEP** means in Hebrew to guard, protect, maintain, obey, observe and preserve. **GUARD** means to keep safe and watch over carefully. **PROTECT** means to keep from loss. **MAINTAIN** means to continue in and carry on. **OBEY** means to carry out the instructions or do what is said. **OBSERVE** means to adhere to, follow, abide by and pay special attention to. **PRESERVE** means

to keep from harm, to protect and save. **MIDST** means the very middle or central part. **HEART** is your source of understanding, thoughts, mind, soul, conscience and emotions. This all instructs you to make the word of God of extreme importance in your life. You are to keep it in the very center of your being and have your mind focused on it so that it is always present and ready when needed. The word must penetrate your very being. To penetrate means to have an affect, move deeply and to grasp mentally. It must become a part of you.

(5) “MY LIPS SHALL SPEAK OF THY WORD.” The word **LIPS** refers to your voice and your mouth. **SPEAK** means to make known by saying words out loud. The direction in this part of the prescription is to say the word out loud. Repeat it so that it can be audibly heard. As you repeat the word of God, do not let it become a rote practice. It will then be said only from your memory as a *fixed*, mechanical and repetitious routine void of feeling the impact. That is not the purpose of repeating God’s word.

It is quite obvious that the prescription for bringing life and health to your body is centered on the use of the word of God. If this is true, then one must have knowledge of it. Hosea 4:6 reminds you of the importance of knowledge: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” Looking at the word knowledge, you see the word know. Exploring the meaning of know will help to understand what knowledge really means. To know is to have a clear perception or understanding of as a result of study; to be well informed; to have a firm mental grasp of; to have in the memory; to recognize; be in possession of the facts; to comprehend. You cannot have knowledge without effort. It does not just come, it is acquired with time spent in study and listening to others. Knowledge does not stand alone. “. . . Keep sound wisdom and discretion” (Proverbs 3:21). Wisdom is the ability to judge rightly and follow the best course. It is having good sense. Discretion means being careful about what one does or says and includes knowing when to keep quiet. You can have all the knowledge you need, but without wisdom and discretion, it may not be properly used.

Just having knowledge of God and His word is not enough.

You must believe what it says. To believe is to take as true, to have trust or confidence in, accept, be convinced and be certain of. You must have a strong conviction that what God's word says is absolute, and there can be no doubt. You must believe that God is your physician. However, you must take a couple more steps. You can believe in something, but it goes no farther than that. For example, you have been diagnosed by the doctor as having high blood pressure. The doctor prescribes a medication for you to take and informs you that you must change your dietary habits, lose weight and exercise. You believe that this will help lower your blood pressure. However, if you do not take the medicine, change eating habits and exercise, it will not help you. Therefore, you must take action. You must do what has been described. Likewise, you must activate your faith in God, and put your full hope and trust in Him. Doubt and wavering cannot enter into the action. For example, you are using Psalm 42:11 as one of your healing prescription scriptures: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and *why* art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." This verse must become a part of you and you must apply it constantly. When you are feeling downcast, you must remember that your hope is in God because He is your God and health to you.

How important is it to include God in the healing process of your body? The Bible gives two contrasting examples of including God. The first one concerns the actions of King Asa. "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: YET IN HIS DISEASE HE SOUGHT NOT TO THE LORD, BUT TO THE PHYSICIANS. And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign" (2 Chronicles 16:12-13). The other examples concerns the actions of Hezekiah. "In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him. Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court,

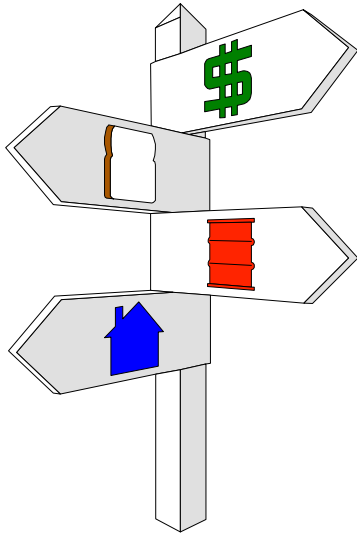
that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered" (2 Kings 20:1-7). King Asa completely left God out of the healing process, and he did not recover. King Hezekiah went immediately to God seeking his healing. Not only was Hezekiah healed, but he had his life extended fifteen years. The important thing to remember is that you must not leave God out of a need for healing. It is important to seek a physician's help, but it is absolutely essential to make God the central focus of your healing need.

Of course, the word of God is not only for the healing of the physical body, but is for use in all areas of your life. It keeps you full of life and motivated to do what is right. You can have some favorite verses that really energize you. One such verse may be:

"Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit" (Job 10:12). What can this verse mean? God has given you nourishment and wholeness with special blessings, kindness, support, and encouragement. He is dwelling with you, spending time with you and this is protecting you, keeping you from harm and revitalizing your mind, heart, soul and spirit. What a wonderful thing to know!

Start today writing your prescriptions for every area of your life. As you encounter life's difficulties, search for those scriptures that will bring you life and health. Study them until they are deep in your spirit and have meaning. Speak them with all your heart so that Satan will hear them and retreat. Continue speaking them until you get results. It may take time, so do not give up!

(See the back cover for your prescription.)



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.

The following article appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**.

Virus made in lab to highlight threat

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Experts can now download a genetic blueprint from the internet and use mail-order materials to assemble a deadly virus, say researchers who made a synthetic polio virus in the lab to demonstrate the threat.

"The world had better be prepared," said Dr. Eckard Wimmer, leader of a biomedical research team at the University of New York at Stony Brook where the virus was assembled.

The researchers made the virus in the laboratory using data from the Internet and tailor-made sequences ordered from a laboratory supply service. They injected the virus into mice to show that it worked. The animals were paralyzed and then killed.

"The reason we did it was to prove that it can be done, and it now is a reality," said Wimmer, senior author of a study appearing today in the journal, *Science*.

"This approach has been talked about, but people didn't take it seriously," he said. "Now people have to take it seriously. Progress in biomedical research has its benefits, and it has its downside. There is a danger inherent to progress in sciences. This is a new reality, a new consideration."

Wimmer said the laboratory demonstration proves that eradicating virus in the wild may not mean it is gone forever.

The polio virus assembled in the laboratory is one of

the simplest of the human plagues, said Jeronimo Cello, first author of the study.

"It was very easy to do," he said.

Smallpox and other lethal viruses are much more complex and difficult to assemble, but Cello said, "Probably in the future it would be possible."

Wimmer said it "would be very difficult now to recreate the smallpox virus, but eventually you would be able to do that."

Smallpox was eradicated in the wild, but laboratory specimens were retained in the United States and in the Soviet Union. Some experts worry that some specimens could have been hidden for later use as a weapon.

After last fall's terrorist and anthrax-by-mail attacks, U.S. officials became concerned about the threat of smallpox and arranged for the manufacture of enough vaccine to protect the U.S. population. They're now determining how that vaccine should be used.

Polio is on the brink of being eradicated worldwide, and there are plans to stop inoculations against the disease after it disappears from nature. Wimmer warned against such plans, saying stopping vaccination could lead to a generation of people highly susceptible to polio, enhancements danger as a weapon.

The World Health Organization is planning to stockpile polio vaccines, and Wimmer said that should be done everywhere.

"Our message is that you have to keep a stockpile of vaccines for every agent that you try to eradicate," he said.

C.J. Peters, director of the Center of Biodefense at

the University of Texas Medical Center at Galveston, said experts have known for years that it was theoretically possible to assemble a virus in the lab.

"This may be the culmination of sewing Frankenstein together, but this is not the research that led up to Frankenstein," Peters said of Wimmer's work. "We've known this could be done. We've known it was just a matter of time before it was done."

Peters criticized Wimmer's demonstration, saying, "I don't think this has been very helpful."

"Wimmer is a very smart guy," he said. "He has made a lot of contributions to polio, but his is not a great contribution."

Peters said he was concerned that publicity about a synthesized virus may lead some people to believe "there is nothing that can be done about bioterrorism, which is not the case."

He said it is possible that viruses like Ebola could be assembled in laboratories, but few people in the world have that skill.

"I don't think we need to encourage people to take this up as a hobby," said Peters.

"Bioterrorists didn't learn anything from us," said Wimmer. "Everything we did has been published before. We just put the steps together. Many laboratories could repeat what we have done."

Comment

Man's evil imagination is free to run wild. He can destroy himself if left alone. Before man destroys God's very elect, Jesus will return to shorten the days. "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).

Despite the news, most apples in barrel are good by Dan Rather

There are two stories I've been thinking about lately. The first happened to a reporter covering news in Haiti, one of the poorest nations on Earth. This reporter had muddied up his jeans, and in a quick break between shots, stopped in at the hotel where he was staying to change. He left the pants in the room, with instructions that they were to be washed.

Getting a story to air can be something of a high-wire

act in a foreign country. It doesn't take many trips abroad before the correspondent learns that one needs to be ready for any contingency - last -minute equipment replacements, on the spot hires and baksheesh in all its forms. One learns to carry a good supply of cash at all times, usually in hard currency. Good old U.S. greenbacks.

Our reporter had \$3,000 worth of said currency in the pocket of his jeans. In an epic moment of numbskulery, he failed to remove the cash when he left the hotel room.

Time to come clean: The reporter was me. And I didn't realize I had lost the money until I returned to the hotel room to find the jeans lying on the bed, cleaned and pressed, with an envelope sitting on top - an envelope containing \$3,000 and a note explaining where the money was found.

In Haiti, the average annual income is somewhere between \$250 and \$300. So the sum left in my pocket no doubt represented at least 10 years of earnings for the woman who washed my pants. Seeing it returned before I had realized it was missing was humbling.

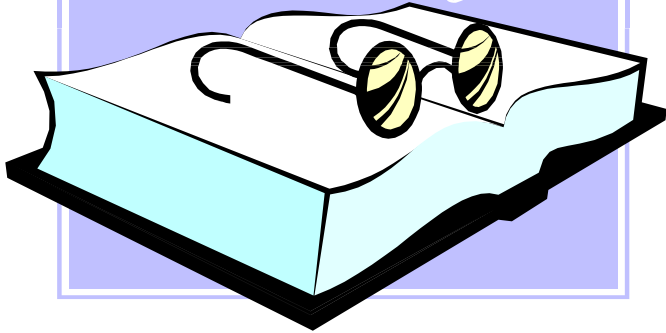
The other story is short but follows the same theme. It involves a colleague who was new to New York City and a taxi driver who was new to the country. Her destination reached, the passenger dug into her purse and pulled out a bill to pay the fare. The driver took the bill, looked at it, then handed it back. "I do not think you meant to give me this , miss," he said. Instead of a ten, she had inadvertently given the driver a hundred.

We are inundated by images of hatred and violence taken to extremes in Indonesia, the Philippines, the middle East and here at home. We hear that American prosperity has ceased to be the subject of whole wide aspiration and has become a cause for murderous resentment. And we cannot escape the realization that there is truth in this. But we should take care not to mistake the terrible actions of a few for the intentions of the many. No matter where you find them, the overwhelming majority of people are still good. Not saintly, far from perfect, but good. Like the new York cabbie, like the Haitian laundry woman, they can be counted on to do the right thing when the situation arises, and to do it reflexively.

Profound? Hardly, and I know it. But it might be worth remembering just about now. The snipers, terrorists and extortionists grab the headlines, but the good people have them outnumbered. By far.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Will you please comment on astrology? What does the Bible tell us about it?

Answer: The fact that nearly all largely circulated newspapers carry columns on astrology seems to indicate that many people are giving considerable attention to the statements of such columns as to the influence of the stars, and consider their predictions of the future to be of real significance. The fact that these astrological readings and prognosticates are part of many peoples' lives shows that the Church of God needs to tell the people the truth concerning this so-called "science" which is called Astrology.

In the first place, there is nothing scientific about astrology! Just because the word has an "ology" connected to it does not make it a science. The word "Astrology" is often confused with the word "Astronomy" which is actually a science meaning the study and knowledge (or science) of the heavenly bodies (planets and stars).

There actually is no truth in Astrology because there is no experimental or observational proof, or Scriptural statements, that the stars or planets have any influence at all on personal human lives. No one who has studied the stars with the aid of the wonderful instruments found in our observatories has ever been known to place their faith in the predictions of the astrologers.

There would be no more reason for thinking that the trees, or rocks, or even the clouds have an influence on

our futures than to think predictions could be made on the basis of some mysterious connection between a planet, that may be nearer to earth at one time than another, or that it has something to do with the fortunes or misfortunes of men and women.

Astrology, as we know it today, may be thought of as a remnant of ancient Babylon with its pantheistic religion that considered natural objects, such as rocks, streams, trees, mountain, wind, rain, even the sun, moon and stars, to be inhabited or were to be in themselves some deity. Modern people know enough about most of those pagan gods to have dropped such superstitions. However, the knowledge of the stars is still vague. They are so remote from us that people still cling to superstition of their influence. A consideration of astrology will, however, show that it is in the same category with the various ancient forms of pantheism as taught by Babylon.

A study of God's Holy Word, on the other hand, shows it to be a wonderful and divinely inspired guide for our lives. Its prophecies are found to tell all that an individual or the race as a whole needs to know about the future. Therefore, a real Bible scholar has no use for the vague predications of astrology. "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for sin, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the

firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening the the morning was the fourth day" (Genesis 1:14-19).

Now the astrologers will tell you that God made the sun, moon and stars "FOR SIGNS" because that is what it says in the 14th verse that was just quoted. The word "Signs" does not pertain to portents or prognostication. The word "Signs" refers to the different months of the year in order to tell time. In other words, the heavenly bodies are given to us to tell months, seasons, weeks, days and years. There are twelve constellations of stars-one for each month. The first month is the constellation of the ram, etc. The Lord's Supper always comes in the sign of the Ram. If people partake of the Lord's Supper in the thirteenth month, they partake of it in the second sign of the stars and not the first. This is what is meant by the word "signs" in connection with the stars in the sky. Please read Isaiah 13:5 and Job 38:31-33. "Mazzaroth" means twelve signs.

Astronomers who study the heavens in the light of all scientific knowledge of the day are able to make many wonderful statements of the future. But these statements are not predictions or prophecies. They have to do with types of occurrences that can be figured out mathematically. Nearly all of the details of time, place and movement, for example, the various manifestations of a certain eclipse of the sun, can be known for years and even decades in advance. However, the things that have to do with the natures and actions of men and the workings of God through them, cannot be predicted by men. Only God himself can foretell such things. There is ample proof that the Bible in the only inspired revelation of God and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, dealing with the future.

A careful study of the two will show that a person cannot take any stock in astrology if he believes the Bible. Young's Analytical Concordance refers to only one passage that mentions those we think of today as astrologers. The reference is Isaiah 47:13. Let us quote part of verse fourteen also. "Thou art wearied in the multitude of

thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them;" A reading of the context shows that astrology is classed along with idolatry and enchantments and sorceries, and that God has no use for it.

The reference to astrologers in the book of Daniel will doubtless come to the readers mind. The more accurate translation of the Revised Version uses the word "enchanters in all of these references. The Authorized Version does, however, show clearly what the Bible students of King James's time thought about astrologers, for they classed them with the magicians and soothsayers, and all are shown to have no power to reveal the mysteries of God.

In contrast, we have the words of the inspired prophet Daniel to the effect that "...there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known...what shall be in the latter days" (Daniel 2:28).

The fact that God in His Word associates astrologers with sorcerers and soothsayers justifies us in turning to Micah 5:12-13 for His attitude toward such. "And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers: Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands."

Question: Do the dead know what the living are doing?

Answer: Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 reads, "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun."

Verse ten of this same chapter declares, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." These plain statements of the word of God leave no doubt as to the correct answer to the question. The statement in verse six, "...neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun," does not mean that the dead will not be resurrected. It is simply stating the matter from the human standpoint. If God did not intervene, the dead would continue in eternal oblivion. However, God's promises assure us that they will be awakened from the sleep of death.



INDIA

Below, we see the congregation from Chinnagopathi where their new church building was dedicated on September the thirteenth. On the facing page, we see Elder M. Kanakarathnam, our Indian overseer, and his son, Apostle M. Yehoshuva, conducting the ribbon cutting ceremony. At the bottom of the facing page, Elder Kanakarathnam is presenting the message to the congregation.





LESSON I

REBEKAH SEES ISAAC

Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:60-67.

Golden Text: Genesis 24:64.

"And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel."

1. What did Rebekah's family say to her just before she left? Genesis 24:60.
2. How did she travel? Genesis 24:61.
3. Where did Isaac live at this time? Genesis 24:62.
4. What was he doing, and what did he see? Genesis 24:63.
5. What did Rebekah do when she saw Isaac? Genesis 24:64.
6. When she found out that it was Isaac, what did she do? Genesis 24:65.
7. Where did Isaac take her, and what did he think of her? Genesis 24:67.

LESSON II

JACOB AND ESAU

Scripture Reading: Genesis 25:11, 20-34.

Golden Text: Genesis 25:27.

"And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents."

1. After Abraham's death, what did God do to Isaac? Genesis 25:11.
2. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah? Gen-

esis 25:20.

3. What prophecy did God tell Rebekah concerning her twin sons that were to be born? Genesis 25:23-24.
4. What was the name of the first one born, and who was born second? Genesis 25:25-26.
5. What type of men were the two brothers, and who loved each one the most? Genesis 25:27-28.
6. Why did Esau want some of Jacob's pottage? Genesis 25:30.
7. Why did Esau agree to sell his birthright? Genesis 25:31-33.
8. What did Esau do after he had received the pottage of lentiles? Genesis 25:34.

LESSON III

JACOB RECEIVES ISAAC'S BLESSING

Scripture Reading: Genesis 27:1-29.

Golden Text: Genesis 27:22.

"And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

1. When Isaac was old and his eyes dim, what did he say to his son Esau? Genesis 27:1-4.
2. Rebekah hears what Isaac tells Esau. What did she then tell Jacob to do? Genesis 27:8-10.
3. What concern did Jacob have in doing this? Genesis 27:11-12.
4. What did Rebekah say would happen if he got caught, and did Jacob obey his mother? Genesis 27:13-14.

5. What did Jacob's mother give to him to put on? Genesis 27:15-17.

6. How did Jacob receive the birthright blessing from his father? Genesis 27:21-29.

NOTE: Jacob lied to his father and was deceitful. God tells us not to lie to anyone. Exodus 19:16; Proverbs 24:28. Jacob is punished for his sins as you will learn in a future lesson.

7. Was Esau upset that Jacob received his father's blessing? Genesis 27:34 & 41.



LESSON IV
JACOB'S VISION

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:1-22.

Golden Text: Genesis 28:16.

"And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not."

1. Where did Isaac tell his son, Jacob, to go? Genesis 28:1-3.
2. What did Isaac continue to tell Jacob at this time? Genesis 28:3-5.
3. Where did Esau go to get a wife, and why did he do this? Genesis 28:6-9.
4. When Jacob left home, where did he go, and what did he dream? Genesis 28:10-15.
5. What did Jacob say about the place where he slept? Genesis 28:16-17.
6. What did Jacob do when he arose the next morning? Genesis 28:18-19.
7. What vow did Jacob make? Genesis 28:20-22.

SORRY
BERTHA SUE

by Fern Row Casebeer

I've been a naughty little girl;
I'm sorry as can be.
I didn't want to disobey,
But Satan tempted me.

Will you forgive me, mommy dear?
Forgive your Bertha Sue?
And I will do my very best
Always to mind you.

And when I say my little prayer
Before I go to bed
I'll ask dear Jesus to forgive
The naughty things I've said.

I want to be as Jesus was
When He was little, too.
I want to be a helpful child
And do as He would do.



OUR SABBATH WALK
by Maryan B. Wilkinson
The Dodder and the Lemon Pie

Randy was still thinking about Sabbath dinner as the Perkins family walked down the hill from the park.

"Those flowers are just the color of lemon pie," he said.

Daddy looked at the bright yellow flowers.

"Those are buttercups," said Daddy. "They look like lemon pie, but they look like butter, too."

"I like yellow flowers the best of all," Randy said. "They look like sunshine and gold and butter and lemon pie!"

Mother laughed. "You can not seem to forget that pie," she said. "Would you like it if we had lemon pie every Sabbath?"

"Yes," Randy said. "And I would like to have the big piece that is left all for myself!"

"No!" Nancy objected, glaring at her big brother. "He can not have it all, can he?"

Mother did not laugh, then. "Would you really like to eat that whole big piece that belongs to all of us?"

"Of course I would," Randy answered. "You could have some applesauce."

Daddy quickly began to tell a story so there would not be cross words to ruin the Sabbath walk. Then, as they walked, Daddy seemed to be watching the side of the road, looking for something. He seemed to be thinking hard, but he had a secret sort of smile on his face. Suddenly he stopped walking.

"Look at this," he said. "Here is something yellow for

you to see."

Randy and Nancy looked at the tall weeds beside the road. Daddy was pointing to a piece of ugly yellow thread, tangled in a tall weed.

"Do you mean that string? What is it?" Randy asked.

Daddy leaned over and started to untangle the yellow thing. "It looks like string or thread, but it really is a plant."

"A plant!" said Randy with surprise. "It does not have any leaves!"

Nancy looked close, too. So did Mother. "It does not have any roots, either," Mother noticed.

Daddy broke off the tall weed and held it up so they all could see the yellow, stringly plant.

"This is a dodder," Daddy said. "It never grows any roots to get its food from the ground. It just clings to another plant and takes the food that that plant gets from the ground."

"The lazy thing!" Randy said. "But why does it not have any leaves?"

"Leaves are the plant kitchen, where each plant 'cooks' its food into warm sunshine. The sunshine turns the food from the ground into starch and sugar to make the plant grow. This dodder does not bother to grow leaves and make its own food. It only takes the food that the other plant has made."

"It is a selfish plant," Randy said. "Is that why it is so ugly?"

Daddy smiled a big smile. "I think you have the idea, Randy. That is what I hoped you would say. Jesus did not make very many ugly plants. I think He made this one just to show us that selfishness is ugly."

"That dodder reminds me of a girl I knew a long time ago," Mother said. "Hattie was a pretty girl with brown curly hair and pink cheeks, but she always wanted to get everything without working for it. One day we each took some cloth to school to make aprons. We worked hard to make them neat and nice. But Hattie only walked around and watched us work. She would not work on her apron. She would not help anyone else, either. When all the aprons were finished she liked mine the best. She thought I should give it to her."

Daddy laughed. "So you gave it to her, didn't you?"

Mother was surprised. "Why, yes, I did. I gave the apron to Hattie. But somehow it never helped her to look

A PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALING

By Carol Buechner

- (1) TAKE THE SCRIPTURES THAT MEET YOUR NEED.**
- (2) WRITE THEM DOWN WHERE YOU WILL SEE THEM.**
- (3) READ AND STUDY THEM UNTIL THEY PENETRATE YOUR HEART.**
- (4) REPEAT THEM MANY TIMES A DAY, BELIEVING IN WHAT THEY SAY WITH FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD.**
- (5) REFILL YOUR SOUL AND SPIRIT WITH THE WORD OF GOD EVERY DAY.**

"... I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).

"...I will take sickness away from the midst of thee" (Exodus 23:25).

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (III John 2).

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

"There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health" (Proverbs 12:18).

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:1-2).

"O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me" (Psalm 30:2).

A PRESCRIPTION FOR ALL THINGS

- (1) STUDY THE SCRIPTURES UNTIL THEY FILL YOUR HEART AND SOUL**
- (2) REPEAT THEM MANY TIMES A DAY WITH FEELING.**
- (3) REFILL YOUR SPIRIT WITH OTHER SUCH SCRIPTURE.**

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy councils of old are faithfulness and truth" (Isaiah 25:1).

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

"Bless the Lord, o my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty" (Psalm 104:1).

"...Holy, holy, holy, is the lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3).

"...Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Thou, even thou, art Lord alone..." (Nehemiah 9:5-6).

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me..." (Isaiah 61:1).