



ADVOCATE OF TRUTH



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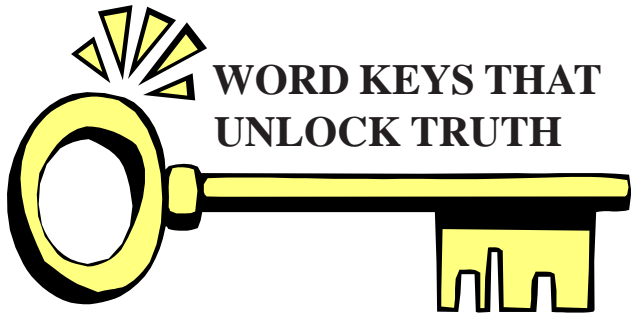
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COVETOUSNESS

Covetousness is a strong desire for the possession of riches or money, or wealth of any sort, that belongs to another person. The Bible calls covetousness a very great sin. It constantly warns us against falling victim to it. One

of the Ten commandments states a direct warning against it. "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbors (Exodus 20:17). Another scripture which gives us a warning about covetousness is Luke 12:15. "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

I Corinthians 6:9-10 informs us that those who practice covetousness will not inherit the kingdom of God. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, NOR COVETOUS, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

WORSHIP: INTENSE LOVE, DEVOTION, AND REVERENCE! HOW TO WORSHIP GOD!!



We can learn from the Bible about many who devoted their lives to worshipping God, and were greatly rewarded. God has said in Proverbs 8:17, "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Children of God, especially, must learn how to draw close to God by worshipping Him in a way that pleases Him. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8).

David was said to be a man after God's own heart, and he proved what special love he had for Him by his actions; as well as putting it in writing.

"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. Who redeemeth thy life

from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles" (Psalms 103:1-5).

We who came from among the Gentiles should be far more intense in our love and worship of God. We who were not a people according to virtue, He has called us from, gross darkness and placed us into his marvellous light in heavenly places in Christ. "O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders

and his judgements of his mouth" (Psalms 105:1-5). God's spirit will lead us and teach us how to worship Him. Jesus did emphasize this in his conversation with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. "But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: For the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit, and they, that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24).

The early disciples of our Lord worshipped him joyfully. "And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God" (Luke 24:51-53).

We are instructed how we must revere Him in His house, our place of assembly. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalms 100:4). We should be always joyous to assemble in his house of praise. "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalms 122:1).

It is a great honor even to be in God's house of prayer, to learn and admonish one another, as in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. "O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise unto the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker" (Psalms 95:1-6). "Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house,

even of thy holy temple." Psalm 65:4.

We worship him also in times of distress, as did Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them, And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed" (Acts 16:25-26).

Daniel also did not cease to worship God when his enemies threatened him with death, but persisted in honoring God three times daily. "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house: and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Daniel 6:10).

It is fitting that we learn new songs to sing to him when we assemble and give an offering, small though it may be, it will be accepted of the Lord if we give willingly and not grudgingly. "O SING unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the LORD all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.... he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:1-9).

He bought us with a great price. Let us be grateful and express our appreciation and thanks with true worship.

7 Things You May Or May Not Know About Tabernacle and Temple

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. The tabernacle in the wilderness was made with fine linen. "MOREOVER thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and

scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them" (Exodus 26:1).

2. Solomon's temple was built with stone. "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building" (I Kings 6:7).

3. Cyrus, King of Persia, decrees to rebuild the temple. "Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah" (Ezra 1:2).

4. Darius decrees to return the gold and silver vessels. "Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written: In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits; With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house: And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto

Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God " (Ezra 6:1-5).

5. Nehemiah encourages the people to build the walls of the temple. "Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me: as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they stengthened their hands for this good work" (Nehemiah 2:17-18).

6. Jesus tells of the future destruction of the temple. "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his discples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Matthew 24:1-2).

7. Paul states that our body has become the temple. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

LET US BE CONTENT



By Bond Tennant



"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE" (Hebrews 13:5).

These words of the Apostle Paul don't imply a listless, don't care attitude toward life and its responsibilities. These words imply a peace of mind based upon faith's

convictions that God will supply all the needs of His children. Paul continues the thought, saying, "So that we may boldly say, THE LORD IS MY HELPER, AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME" (verse 6).

The Greek word here translated "content" literally means to "ward off," or "to avail." The thought is that the

child of God can be content because, through faith, he knows that nothing which comes against him can prosper because the Lord is his helper. This is a blessed assurance of help in the face of attacks by enemies of the child of God. It is also a guarantee to cover the daily needs of the child of God, concern for which might otherwise disturb his rest of mind and heart.

To believe that the God of the universe is our Heavenly Father, and that He will take care of us, providing for all our needs, (if we do our part) and protecting us against all our enemies, banishes all anxiety relative to material things from the hearts of the Lord's people! Covetousness is a form of selfishness, brought on by the urge of self-preservation. Man has not only found it necessary to struggle against the "thorns and thistles" of an imperfect environment; but has developed the erroneous idea that it is also necessary to exert his combativeness against his fellow man and to "make a living." Sometimes this struggle of human selfishness is carried on with swords and guns. However, generally speaking, it is seen in the more honorable guise of competitive business in the labor and industrial markets of the world.

The child of God finds himself in this world of slushiness, but he must endeavor not to be a part of it. He must seek to have his conversation, or activity, motivated, not by selfishness, but by love. The worldly-minded would think such an attitude a very foolish one indeed. This is because they do not have the assurance of a kind Heavenly Father's care! They depend on their own ability to

provide for and to protect themselves and their own. For this resonate "every-body-for-himself" principle seems to be a very logical one for most men and women of the world. However, the child of God is not dependent upon his own wisdom and strength. He is assured that back of him and his interest there is the power of a loving and all-wise Father, so he commits all his care to Him.

With his blessed assurance of divine care, he can ward off the spirit of fear and discontent, and not be governed by the principle of covetousness. Why selfishly compete with our fellow men for riches which are temporary, when we enjoy the blessings of heavenly riches, represented in God's care for us now, and the promised glory, honor, and immortality of the future?

Truly, the child of God can have his conversion, or way of life "without covetousness," and be content, because the Lord is his helper.

The promise, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," was originally made to Joshua, when by divine appointment he took over the leadership of Israel as the successor of Moses. The apostle in quoting it, applies it to all the children of God. God is impartial in his care of His friends, servants, and sons. This means that promises of watch and care made to any of his people, are applicable with perhaps even more force for us today. Likewise, we may note the wonderful manner in which God did care for His ancient people, and ourselves by encouraged in the thought that the same God is now caring for us, and that the same love and power is being exercised for our blessing.



THE TRUE STANDARD OF HOLINESS

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (I Peter 1:22).

There are many false standards of holiness among the peoples of the earth. Many times the word "holiness" is erroneously used to convey the thought merely of moral uprightness. Even the standard of moral uprightness var-

ies much in different parts of the world. Many moralists of today would severely condemn Jesus for many things which He did. However, the scriptures declare that He was "holy, undefiled, separate from sinners."

The Bible sets forth a true code of morals for the child of God. It is of utmost importance that the child of God be guided by that code. Anyone who supposes that the Christian life consists merely of living up to a high moral

code will fail in this effort to be truly holy before the Lord. He will not be purified.

When Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth," He had far more in mind than the importance of moral uprightness. The various teachings of both Christendom and heathendom have produced a certain degree of moral integrity in those who have been brought under their influence, but the falsities in religion have not brought sanctification. The fear of eternal torment in hell has frightened many, but this unfounded fear is not God's way.

The full thought of sanctification as taught in the Bible is that of a dedication or seeing apart to the Lord's holy purpose. And the word "purity" has to do with the singleness of heart in living up to the terms of sanctification. It is for this reason that the truth of God's word is our means of sanctification. The truth is found in God's word, and God's word reveals the will of God for His people - those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus. In order to do God's will, one must know it. God has given us His word of truth that we might become acquainted with the work He is doing in the earth. It applies to our moral conduct, and it touches upon our responsibility to the service of God and His cause.

However, a mere technical knowledge of the truth will not in itself produce a sanctifying effect on the heart.

The Apostle Peter clearly shows that we are purified only by "obeying the truth through the Spirit." Jesus promised that He would send "the Spirit of truth" (John 16:13), and that it would guide His disciples into all truth. But even this does not complete the formula for soul purification. There is still another qualification! The truth must be obeyed "through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren." Peter concludes, "See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

The Apostle John adds his testimony to the importance of brotherly love as the final step in soul purification. "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him" (I John 3:18-19).

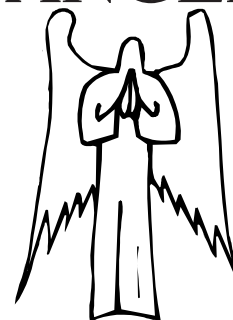
It is evident that if God's love prompted Him to give His only begotten Son as a sacrifice on the cross in order that His enemies might be blessed, the one who has not learned to love his brethren is far from the goal of Christian holiness. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (II Corinthians 5:14-15).

Contributed

JESUS CHRIST AND THE ANGELS



By Siegfried Maywald



The T.V. series "Touched by an Angel", moved me to address this theme. Earlier some Protestant scholars misidentified the archangel Michael with the pre-incarnation of Jesus Christ. They were trying to find support for their view, not only in the understanding of the "child ready to be born" and the archangel in Revelation 12, but also in some of the attributes prescribed to Him in the book of

Daniel. Even today there are still Christians who think and teach that Jesus is the highest angel of God. To find answers and clarification to this matter, let us turn to the book of Hebrews to see what the scriptures tell us about Jesus Christ and the angels. Let us read Hebrews 1:2-6,13-14 and 2,7,9.

Jesus is superior to angels.

Jesus received a title far superior than that of angel. He was inferior only for a little while, because He was born of the flesh, brought forth by a woman, and, therefore, was just as fragile and prone to temptation and death as we are. But God raised Him from the grave and crowned Him with glory and honor and appointed Him heir of all things. We have to remember that God, His Father, declared the decree "...Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee" giving him a title that was never given to any of the angels. Please read Psalm 2:7.

Jesus took not upon Himself that nature of angels, but He took on him the seed of Abraham as we read in Hebrews 2:16. Jesus is the One who has gone into heaven and is now seated on the right hand of God. All angels, authorities and powers are subject unto Him (I Peter 3:22). Therefore, the teaching that the archangel Michael is the pre-incarnation of Jesus Christ is false and not supported by the Scriptures. Jesus worked with God the Father in creating this world of ours. One can have no clearer view of God than by looking at our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the complete expression of God the Father. The book of Hebrews also links God's saving power with His creative power. The power that brought this universe into existence and sustains it is also providing purification for our sins through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's only begotten son. He created the angels, which are spiritual beings and messengers under His authority. "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him" (Colossians 1:16).

God has created an innumerable number of angels, as seen in Hebrews 12:22. In Revelation 5:11, there are "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." They worship God, their creator, as we earthlings do or should do. Let us read Revelation 7:11-12, "And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne of their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, A-men: Blessing and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." This shows that we should never worship an angel, but God only. "And I John saw these things, and

heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me those things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God" (Revelation 22:8-9).

Angels are ministering spirits - messengers of God.

Angels work for God. They are His servants who follow his instructions. In Matthew 24:1-11, we read that Satan tempted Jesus, but He repelled him with the word of God. Then angels came and ministered unto him.

In II Thessalonians, we see angels accompanying Jesus at his second coming to earth. "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thessalonians 1:7-8). All of these show us that angels are sent to announce, inform and minister. They will also take part in God's wrath, the seven last plagues, on them that believe not!

In Revelation 2 and 3, we see seven churches. Each church has an angel assigned to it. Each angel delivers a message for Jesus warning it of the things it lacks. The messages of the angels to the seven Churches of God that existed in the past can also be directed to the Church of God today. We are not to become lukewarm to try to please men rather than God. We must not eat things that God has declared unclean. We must have no shortcomings in doctrinal teachings. No one can please God by seeking friendship with the world "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

There are many people in the world today that do not follow God's laws, but there are still people left that teach and believe in the word of God. They make no compromises to please men, or just to increase the membership of their organization. "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (Revelation 22:16).

Jesus has sent the angels to warn His churches the

same as God has sent angels to protect or to destroy, as we see in Genesis 19:1-3 and 12-13. When two angels came to Sodom, Lot saw them and took them into his house to protect them from evil people. Lot did not know that these two men were angels sent by God to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. He did not know that they also came to save him and his family. Read this chapter through verse 28 for the whole story.

We find another record in Acts 12:6-11. Here we read of an angel of God who appeared to Peter in the prison. Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. The angel woke him up, caused his chains to fall from his hands. He told Peter to dress and follow him. Peter, thinking it was only a vision that he saw, followed the angel. They came to the iron gate, which led into the city. This gate opened on its own accord, and they both went and passed on through the street. Then the angel, who had appeared as a man, departed. At this moment, Peter understood that this was an angel, sent by God, to deliver him out of Herod's hand.

In Daniel 3:22-27, we learn that God sent an angel to protect his servants from the fire in the furnace that was heated for their destruction. In Daniel 6:22, we see Daniel's deliverance from the lions, which would not attack him. We read of angels that not only protect, but also strengthen us, and minister unto us. In I Kings 19:4-7, we find that Elijah was cared for by an angel.

Hebrews 1:13-14 points out that all angels are ministering spirits sent by God to instruct them that want to be saved. They give us understanding as well as good news as seen in Daniel 9:21-22. The angel, Gabriel, was sent from heaven to give Daniel understanding when he prayed to God.

Luke 1:19 tell us that the angel Gabriel stands in the presence of God and is God's special messenger to bring good news. He brought good news to Zacharias, as seen in Luke 1:11-14, telling Zacharias that his wife shall bear a son, whose name shall be called John. In Luke 1:26-35, we read of the angel Gabriel being sent to the city of Nazareth to bring good news also to the virgin Mary, telling her that she will conceive and bear a son who shall be called JESUS.

Matthew 18:10-11 indicates that each true believer has an angel assigned over him, to give report to God in heaven. We are continually watched day and night. God knows all of our actions. These angels are instructed to

protect and guide all true believers (Psalm 34:7). Our Father's will is "... that none of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14). If we feel alone and lost in this world, we should always remember that Jesus with all his angels is near us.

The Angels will be judged.

In II Peter 2:4 and Jude 6, we read of angels that sinned. From these scriptures, we learn that God will not only judge all the wicked people that lived through all the centuries, but he will also judge the angels that have sinned. Destruction is the result of each individuals' own choosing, whether we are angel or man. All have the choice to be obedient or disobedient to God and will be judged accordingly at the Day of Judgment.

Who is Satan?

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18). These are the words of Jesus.

Satan is shown in the scriptures under different names. In Luke 11:15, Jesus Christ compared him to Beelzebub as the chief of the devils, one of the fallen angels. In Genesis 3:1, Satan is called "the serpent." "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9).

This tells us that Satan is the leader of all the angels that sinned and rebelled against God, while they were in heaven, as we read in Revelation 12:7-9. But Michael and his angels fought for God and won against the dragon (Satan) and his angels, which were cast into the earth. We find another name in the scriptures for Satan which he once possessed while being in the presence of God in heaven before his fall to the earth. Isaiah 14:12 tells of his former glory. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isaiah 14:12).

Revelation 20:1-3 speaks of his imprisonment. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And

cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season." Satan is the arch enemy of Jesus Christ. He is shrewd and cunning. He is the deceiver of all the nations of the earth. "For we wrestle not against the flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, we are advised to, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (II Corinthians 2:11). "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8). "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 light" (II Corinthians 11:13-14).

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24). "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not the truth, because there

is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

I I Thessalonians 3:5 and in I Corinthians 4:4, the Apostle Paul refers to Satan as the "tempter", "the god of his world" who blinds the minds of the people so that they believe not.

In summary, we conclude that:

1. Angels are created by God (Colossians 1:16).
2. Angels are great in numbers (Revelation 5:11).
3. Angels are ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:13-14).
4. Angels are messengers of God (Luke 1:11,19,26).
5. Angels have supernatural powers (Acts 112:6-77; II Peter 2:11).
6. Angels worship God (Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 7:11-12).
7. Angels appear also in human forms, so they can be visible as well as invisible (Acts 12:6-11; Genesis 19:1-3,12-13).
8. Angels protect and watch over all the believers (Matthew 18:10-11; Psalm 34:7; Daniel 6:22).
9. Some angels sinned and are fallen (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
10. Satan is a fallen angel (Isaiah 14:12-15).
11. Satan is the chief of the devils (Luke 11:25).



LAWS FOR LIVING

Exodus 34:18; Matthew 5:17-20



Reprinted



When the Ten Commandments were given by God through Moses the "Thou shalt not" was the basis of "Thou shalt keep." At the beginning, God sought to bring Israel, the new nation "under God," into a unique relationship with Himself. They had seen what He did for them, He

now desired to assure them of His care through the Covenant and by keeping these laws.

After the revolt of the Israelites at the foot of Mount Sinai, a molten calf was made as an idol (Exodus 3:1). Moses was delayed in returning from the mount and the

people committed sin into worship of the Golden Calf (Exodus 32). Moses, who had received the laws from God, came down the mount, but in judgement broke the Tables of Testimony. The gracious message was destroyed and then he destroyed the Golden Calf idol. Judgment followed (Exodus 32), and Moses interceded once more for the people. The Tabernacle was moved and another opportunity given Moses to speak with God (Exodus 33).

Exodus 34 tells of the reappearance of Moses as he came down a second time from the mount with the tables of stone in replacement of the first.

LAWS AS FOUNDATION, Exodus 34:1-8

God revealed his laws before the Mountain (Exodus 19:3-6). Israel was now in the position to receive this divine relation. Spiritual and moral education began here. This was the kernel and core of the nation's life. A priest-people of the covenant was created. A new kingdom among men was established. The mount became God's pulpit room to which came this message. Later, Jesus, on another mount, would complement this message. Clouds and darkness were round about God! Justice and righteousness were the habitation of His throne. Grace was the basis of all God's dealings with man. He showed mercy even as He gave the law. The law came from his love.

(What God did can be seen in the deliverance of His people from Egypt.) The people were to remember that they had been slaves and they were to think of all the ways in which God had cared for them. They were to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, as also a peculiar treasure. I Peter 2:9-10 is a commentary on this. The Hebrew view is not of something special, but rather an instrument for a special purpose.

God reveals His Word (Exodus 34:1-4)

The foundation of all that God gave to Israel and to the world lies in this truth. God's word - that which He speaks - that which is recorded - that which is the expression of His thought - His word is foundational. It is the basis of the covenant relation. After the apostasy in connection with the Golden Calf, the broken Tables of the law are replaced by new Tables.

The term "Word" is familiar to us who have the light of John's Gospel in our minds. Greek thinkers used the

term to speak of the Divine Reason, the informing principle behind everything. John used an idea with which, as a Jew, he had always been familiar, "The Word of the Lord" by whom the heavens were made. It was the same "Word" which was spoken through the Lawgivers, or with an emphatic, "Thus saith the Lord," through the Prophets. That word given at Sinai was God articulating to men. He communicated His mind and will through the word spoken and recorded by Moses. Throughout the Ten Commandments, and later into the Sermon on the Mount, We discern the significance of words. Each word is frightening with meaning and power.

The study of words is important to the Bible student and the devotional reader. Words have meaning. Sometimes words used at one period of history are changed in another. It is vital then to search back for the original use and application of the divine words. In this context, we know that the words refer to the Ten Commandments which God had already given. They are repeated in substance. "Take with you words" say Hosea 14:2. "Who speaks for God?" asks the modern man. More important is the fact that God has spoken to modern man! These words of God are spirit and life. They are eternal.

Moses was invited to appear before God alone. He was to "be ready" with a life consecrated and one that was purified before coming to God. The top of the mount is where God gave these words at the first (Exodus 19:17). And now He would speak to them again at the same source. God is found in the heights when faith aspires and ventures. Moses alone would be caught up within the cloud of mystery and glory. The physical and the psychic elements of that ascent are left unexplained. The divine enfolding of the Commandments was evidently given in silence to one human who was alone in mystic communication with God the Creator. Like Paul who was "caught up into paradise and heard unspeakable words which is not lawful for a man to utter" (II Corinthians 12:4), so Moses could not tell of the wondrous experience on the Mount. The shining face was all that hinted at something beyond man's knowledge.

God proclaims His NAME (Exodus 34:5-7)

God's ways are now proclaimed by Moses in the thirteen characteristic qualities of the divine Nature. These are set forth in verses 6 and 7. God cannot be defined,

and who can describe Him? He is the hidden and yet the revealed one; the known and yet the undefinable and unknown. The Infinite, unapproachable by man, now unveils Himself. This is proclamation. The word used suggests "to call out" in the sense that others might be arrested and listen. It is sending forth the message. This proclamation rivals "the name of the Lord." Here are his characteristic qualities or attributes.

God here is the infinite, the undefinable, yet He sets forth His attributes as the God of mercy; the Almighty Lord of the Universe, Ruler of Nature and mankind. Step by step we may take these words about God, but we need not examine each one in detail as they find summary in the major attributes revealed.

God is merciful. He is full of affectionate sympathy for the sufferings and miseries of human frailty. The Hebrews word means "tenderly pitiful." Men in their sin and guilt need pity and mercy in the midst of their punishment - the exercise of justice. Much wrongdoing is due to ignorance and blindness. Correction and judgement there must be, but God also offers mercy. Shakespeare speaks of "the gentle rain that droppeth from heaven upon that which is beneath" (The Merchant of Venice). This refers to the mercy of God.

God is gracious. He assists the frail and forlorn. He consoles the afflicted and raises up the oppressed. Grace is a strong word in the Bible, but some have made it a basis of careless living. Not so here! We are saved by grace, and we need to receive gracious dealings from God all our life. In spite of sin and failure, we are never without God's grace: His compassion and love reach us constantly. Man's nature is intermittent in its acts of kindness, but God's actions are constant in His grace.

God is long-suffering. That God is "slow to anger" indicates how He is never impatient as man is impatient. Love suffers long, according to Paul in I Corinthians 13. Man never wears out God's patience, God is never weary, and His eternity can outlast man's time. Provocation and waywardness do not destroy His patient waiting for the sinner to return.

God is abundant in goodness. The lavishness of God's nature is seen in that He is "plenteous in goodness and

truth." God gives His gifts to men. His blessings are beyond man's desserts. There is no horizon or boundary to what God can do. The goodness of God is evident in His being and in all His works. His truth here is like the "troth" or the betrothal for marriage. Truth to the Hebrew mind meant all that God had spoken, and it was eternal. God pledges himself to His people. We may reckon upon His faithfulness.

God is forgiving. The sweep of His love comes in mercy without stint or measure, without distinction, and iniquity, transgression, and sin are forgiven. From one generation to another, God is the same. Sin from evil disposition, sin from rebellion against God, and sin through shortcoming or error - these are forgiven freely. The guilty are not bypassed, but the penitent are acquitted. God cannot change His moral laws for anyone. There is justice and punishment to the wrong doer, but there is remedial forgiveness to those who turn from their sin and turn back to God.

God receives WORSHIP (Exodus 34:8)

Upon hearing the Word of God and knowing God's disposition, Moses saw the mercy of God flowing toward Israel. As a mediator, Moses stood on behalf of the nation. He identified Himself with the people. He spoke of "our" iniquity (34:9). As God's chosen people, they stood in covenant relation. Moses, therefore, had the privilege to plead their cause. At the outset he came himself as a supplication and as a worshipper. The obstinacy of Israel was the basis of that which Moses used to remind God or to plead their cause before God. His confession was genuine. They were a sinful, stiff necked people, in that obstinacy God knew them for what they were, yet that was also why He would not let them go.

Worship is the undisputed end for which man was created. In acts of obeisance, Moses bowed before the Lord. In verse 6, "the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed the Lord, The Lord God..." What revelation of God was given in that moment! How awesome for Moses. Worship is to believe worship before God. This places Him above all and before all. Worship is the end of

all faith.

The Ten Commandments were given in this setting and context. The details as viewed in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 are summarized in this section of Scripture. The proclamation by God based upon His words contain the heart of the Commandments. These Commandments are the foundation of all that follows in the moral and spiritual life of Israel. Our Lord Jesus Christ knew them in His education and training for public ministry. Upon them He places His approval.

THE LAW AS FULFILLMENT (Matthew 5:17-20)

After the Mount of Sinai comes the Mount of the Sermon. The Old Testament is complemented by the New Testament. What is revealed in the Old Testament's confirmed in the New Testament. Gospel righteousness is taught by the Saviour. After speaking of the disciple as 'salt and light', He shows that the Christian character has a quality about it that marks it off from the life of others.

The tightest moral standards are given here. No one in his own strength can fulfil the demands made. Only the Holy Spirit, the indwelling presence of God can reproduce the fruits of faith and Holy living. In the teaching of Jesus this dynamic quality was given to His disciples.

The moral law of the old Testament was not set aside, but filled full with power. The letter was joined by the spirit of the code in love. A new emphasis and a new application was made. Only love can keep the law. Its inward meaning is finding obedience. The motive is the inward devotion of the heart.

The Spirit of God must interpret and apply true righteousness. Those who break or violate these principles are the least in the kingdom. Those who obey or do what is commanded are the greatest in the kingdom.

To fulfil is to fill full. This is ever the spirit and content of Jesus's teaching. He takes what is partial and completes. He takes what is preparatory and consummates. He takes the letter and reveals the spirit. "The law and the prophets refer to the Old Testament which was composed of those two divisions and what is known as the "writings." Thus our Lord is endorsing the historical accuracy and

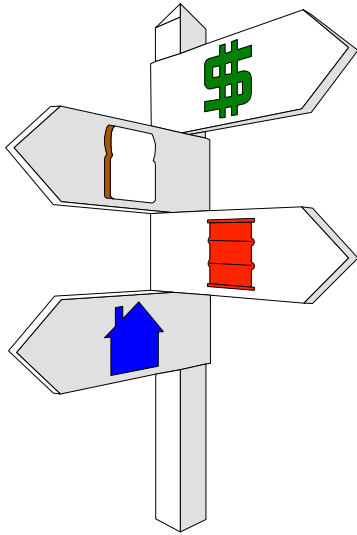
veracity of those books. He accepted them as true and as God's Word proclaimed.

While Christ "abolished the law of commandments contained in ordinances" (Ephesians 2:15), this does not mean that the Ten Commandments have been cancelled. Ritual and ordinances, sacrifices and feast days, of Israel are not obligatory upon the Child of God, but the law of God and content of the Ten Commandments are still valid. That law is more constraining, more compelling by its spiritual interpretation by our Lord. The duties are not dethroned: the duties are enthroned. Our Savior Himself obeyed that law; adorned it; and elevated it's principles by His teaching and passion.

One jot or one tittle. In the Hebrew this is the same as our dots over the i's and crossings of the t's. The least particle of duty stand binding forever. No one will use language or write words without taking notice of the "i" and the "t," so in life no one should disregard the small things which are important to the big things and the whole of life. In the Hebrew alphabet, certain words are distinguished from one another solely by the tiniest dot or projection. If omitted, the whole sense is changed. So it is in moral life. We dare not disregard the seemingly small things. The Law of God is that which cannot be broken. It is eternal and transcends everything else.

Except your righteousness exceed. The religious leaders of that day must have been startled at this saying. Their moral rectitude or righteousness seemed above the life of the ordinary man. They aimed at outward propriety; Jesus demanded inward spirituality. They were legalists; He asked for love. They put on a show of religion; Jesus required a new heart. They related what they had heard from others; He spoke what was true from heart-experience and divine authority. They discussed life; he offered abundant life.

Laws for living are seen now in this light. The light of the Ten Commandments is now caught up in the glory of the life of Jesus. The root of foretold Testament finds its fruit in the New Testament. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).



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.

Poll backs reality check by churches

by Helen T. Gray

Knight Ridder Tribune News

Pastors and church leaders may view the following statements from pollster George Gallup Jr. as either depressing, encouraging or challenging:

Americans are experiencing an intense search and hunger for the spiritual and an unprecedented desire for religious and spiritual growth.

Many Americans seem not to know what they believe or why. And many hold traditional and nontraditional beliefs at the same time.

Religious faith is broad but not deep, with many Americans holding strong beliefs but seeing little impact that religious faith has on individual lives and society.

God is popular but is not first in many people's lives. "Belief in God" does not necessarily translate into "trust in God."

In the opinion of pollster Gallup, some churches will do a reality check - physical and spiritual - of their members and their surrounding community. These are the ones that will grasp their mission and thrive while others will be left behind and be bewildered.

Gallup, chairman of the George H. Gallup Interna-

tional Institute, and D. Michael Lindsay, speaker and consultant to the Institute for Religion and Culture, explore the state of churches today in *The Gallup Guide: Reality Check for 21st Century Churches*.

The book, published last year, presents a survey of the religious landscape and sample questionnaires that congregations can reproduce to survey their members or people in their community. Although mainly directed at Christians, some of the surveys can be adapted to other faiths.

"We believe that survey research has never been more needed than it is today to help church leaders ascertain where people are in their religious and spiritual growth process and the steps needed to help them mature in their faith," the authors states.

The value of surveys has been long recognized in the economic, political and social realms, but less so among local churches, Lindsay said in an interview. But it is vitally important that churches in the 21st century use all the tools at their disposal, including surveys, he said.

"There are a lot of strategic decisions made by leaders in churches, and they are not in touch with the rest of the members," he said.

In his endorsement of the book, pastor and author Max Lucado said, "The possibilities of research-based - rather than hunch-based - decisions are exciting."

The authors show that it is a mistake for congregational leaders to take for granted the beliefs of the people who attend services. "Pastors who think they know their

churches might be in for some surprises." Gallup said.

The authors found that "Americans are practicing a do-it-yourself, whatever-works kind of religion, picking and choosing among beliefs and practices of various faith traditions." Much of this is due to a lack of religious education and awareness of their own religious traditions.

"The challenges to churches in their efforts to bring the populace to a deeper, more informed and committed level of spirituality or religious faith are indeed formidable. Yet, in the present climate, the opportunities to do so seem unparalleled."

This is where the sample surveys can help, Gallup said. Those in the book already have been tested and tried, but congregations can use them as a guide and develop their own.

Gallup and Lindsay provide step-by-step instructions on how to collect data, draft a questionnaire, reduce error, process the questionnaire, analyze the data, report the results and, finally, mobilize for action.

The Rev. Christ Cook of Partake Baptist Church in Columbia, Mo., wanted to find out the members' perception of the strengths and weaknesses of the church and direction for future ministry. He used the information and surveys in the book as guidelines and developed his own questionnaire.

"I think surveys are helpful," he said. "It gives leadership a picture of the congregation's feelings, attitudes, thoughts and perceptions about what's important. From a leader's perception, it gave me an opportunity to know how to lead the church."

The congregation, which averages 200 on Sunday mornings, had held contemporary and traditional services for several years. As a result of the survey, it has consolidated the two into one blended service.

"One problem was that the quality of worship was not where it should be," Cook said. "We were spreading our staff too thin with two services.

"We also discovered that relationships are very important, and we felt that we could better serve ourselves by coming together. We all will encourage intergradational small groups and bring fractions of the church together."

What won't come directly from surveys is the answer to the question, "What does God want you to do as church leader?" said the Rev. Jim Cirillo of Trinity Epis-

copal Church in Buckingham, Pa.

"If what comes out of our a survey is different from what you feel God wants, you may have to start with small groups and do consensus building, explaining what you feel God is telling them to do," he said.

Cirillo, who has conducted numerous church surveys, said members like having the opportunity to give their input.

"The problem is that once people fill them out, they want to know what was said, and if they see nothing changed and nothing is said (about the results), then they get discouraged or even angry."

Although churches are facing a lot of challenges, they are up to the task, Lindsay said.

"I am optimistic that the church is the single greatest change agent to make a difference to transform itself and the world," he said. "Americans are very interested in spiritual issues, more than the past 100 years. Terrific things are going on in America's churches."

He sees the 21st century church as one that expects much from its people, that following their faith will require time, energy, resources, mind, body and soul.

"The real challenge is not only to continue to reach out to seekers, but also to shore up its own people in Christian discipleship and training and to live transformed lives," he said.

Comment

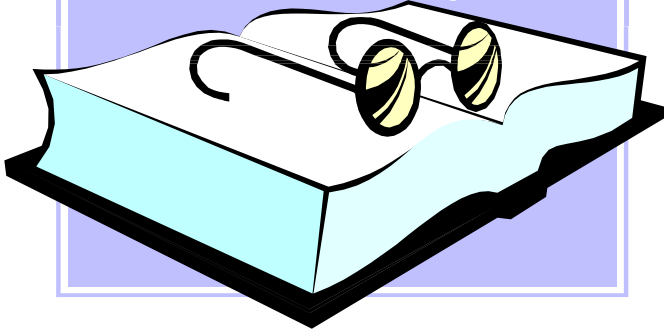
The above article shows us a sad state of affairs. Yes, many do not know what they believe, and they cannot give a reason or explain why they believe certain doctrines or points of faith. But the follower of Jesus is told in God's Word to always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is in him. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15).

It is wise to avoid the classification of traditional and non traditional beliefs, and let the Bible be our guide. Many of the beliefs of The Church of God are considered by members of the mainstream churches to be nontraditional.

It is important that we prove all things, and hold fast to what is good.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: How can I be assured that I am begotten of the Holy Spirit? What are some of the evidences?

Answer: From time to time, many of us may wonder if the Holy Spirit is working within us. Let us consider a list of nine evidences of Spirit-begettal.

EVIDENCE NUMBER ONE IS HUNGER. "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven" (John 6:32). The hunger for spiritual food is one important evidence that the new spiritual life has begun within us! When a baby is born, he needs food. The mother will feed the baby, and he is satisfied. When he gets hungry again, he cries and is fed again. We all realize how important proper nutrition is to us.

We, who are new creatures through the begettal of the Holy Spirit, need spiritual food. To us, it is a great joy and pleasure. Where do we get this food? It must come from the Word of God. We realize that this food will not come to us without effort on our part. We may satisfy this appetite for truth by personal studies and by going to meet us. Because we have such a great drive within us for this spiritual food, we are willing to sacrifice in order to obtain it. If we can do this, we have a real evidence that the Holy Spirit is working within us!

EVIDENCE NUMBER TWO IS KNOWLEDGE. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruc-

tion in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17). The windows of heaven are open for us if we are really serious about the truth. We come to understand many great doctrines such as ransom, salvation, restitution and many more. We may think these doctrines are simple to understand, however our understanding of these things has given us the time of our lives.

Every time we open Gods Word, the Bible, we can see something new. We may say "I have never seen this before!" If our knowledge is growing then we have another evidence of the Holy Spirit working in us!

EVIDENCE NUMBER THREE IS SEPARATION. In every age, God's people have been a separated people, In II Corinthians, the sixth chapter, the Apostle Paul gives us a list of ways in which we must be separate from the world. Verse fourteen tells us not be to be unequally yoked. This means that there must be separation from worldly marriage partners. Verse fifteen asks us what concord has Christ with Belial, or what part has a believer with an infidel. This means that we must separate ourselves from worldly activities. Verse sixteen asks us what agreement the temple of God has with idols. Therefore, we must separate ourselves from worldly worship. Verse seventeen tells us, "WHEREFORE COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, SAITH THE LORD, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." This is never an easy path. The world continues to call us. We hear voices in our ears calling us to take part in worldly pursuits.

When the enemies of God tried to stop Nehemiah in the work of building the wall at Jerusalem, he answered, "...I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?" (Nehemiah 6:3).

God's enemies did not give up. They tried to interrupt the work four times. Four times Nehemiah said, Oh no, no! We must say no to similar temptations and suggestions to hinder the work God has given us to do. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

EVIDENCE NUMBER FOUR IS DISCIPLINE. "If ye endure chastening, God deatleth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the Father chasteneth not?" (Hebrews 12:7). Chastening in this Scripture has the thought of tutorage, education, or training; by implication, disciplinary instruction. God is watching over our actions, whether they be influences or present advantage, worldly policies, personal friendships, earthly loves, honor among men, love of ease, or love of peace at any price. In our walk, we must look for correction and for instruction. These things will help us become more pleasing to God.

EVIDENCE NUMBER FIVE IS SUFFERING. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:16-17). This evidence is often lost through a circumscribed conception of what the sufferings of Christ are. We may think of the cruelty heaped upon the Lord while He was on earth. We may think of the cruelty suffered by the people of God at the Colosseum at Rome. We may think of the persecution during the pagan and papal times in early church history. We may then compare these trials with the more or less tranquil kind of lives we lead today. Jesus endured actual physical abuse only the last day of His life on earth. Also He suffered uncomplaining during the many preceding days of His ministry. This suffering was the ridicule and scorn of the Pharisees, weariness and fatigue, and rejection from His people

When we have plunged wholeheartedly into the Lord's service and we bear some twinges of painful fatigue, some

loss of vitality, some ridicule or rejection of our witness of the truth, we have cause for rejoicing because our Heavenly Father considers this part of the sufferings of Christ.

EVIDENCE NUMBER SIX IS LOYALTY. Loyalty is part of faithfulness. At the beginning of each day, let us go to our Heavenly Father to say. "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" (Psalm 116:12). The answer is then given, "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people" (Psalm 116:13-14). This must be the song in our hearts. All day long, because we realize our loyalty belongs to God, we will go to the throne of grace for His direction. The Spirit-begotten child of God does not sin willfully because he is so loyal to God's righteous principles.

EVIDENCE NUMBER SEVEN IS WITNESSING. Jeremiah said, "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jeremiah 20:9). Jeremiah had to speak the Word of God. He had to give God the glory! It is so with us.

We witness by being an example "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (II Corinthians 3:2). Witnessing is a thrilling experience for us as we tell of God's plan of salvation to a sin-sick world.

EVIDENCE NUMBER EIGHT IS SACRIFICING. In the eighth chapter of Leviticus, we have a beautiful picture of consecration. The blood of the ram of consecration was put upon Aaron and each of his son's right ear, right thumb, and right big toe by Moses. Every thing that one may do or possess was represented in this. What are we listening to? What are we doing with our hands? Where are our feet taking us? "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" (Romans 12:1).

EVIDENCE NUMBER NINE IS PROVIDENCE. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE OVER THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN UNTO THEIR PRAYERS: BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THEM THAT DO EVIL" (I Peter 3:12).



THE PHILIPPINES

Pictured below are five newly baptized individuals. The service was conducted by Elder Salvador Oliverio, Jr. at Puan Beach, Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental on April 5, 2003. The next photo, at the top of the next page, is the dedication of a new church building located at Camanjac, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. On the lower left, from left to right, are: the local church elder David Rendal; Elder Gedeon Flores; Assistant Overseer Elder Salvador Oliverio, Jr.; and General Secretary, Elder Orlando Obnimaga. The photo on the lower left pictures the newly baptized members coming out of the water after baptism.





LESSON I

GOD'S MESSAGE TO PHARAOH

Scripture Reading: Exodus 4:18-31.

Golden Text: Exodus 4:22.

"And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn."

1. Who did Moses ask permission to leave - to go to Egypt? What was his reply? Exodus 4:18.
2. Who went with Moses, and what did he take in his hand? Exodus 4:20.
3. When Moses returns to Egypt, what is he to do, and what will God do? Exodus 4:21.
4. What was Moses instructed to say unto Pharaoh? Exodus 4:22-23.
5. Where did God tell Aaron to go, and did Aaron obey? Exodus 4:27.
6. Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord and the signs which He had commanded them. What did Moses and Aaron do after this? Exodus 4:28-29.
7. Aaron spoke to the people, and Moses did the signs before them. Did they worship God after Aaron spoke to them? Exodus 4:30-31.

LESSON II

MOSES AND AARON SPEAK TO PHARAOH

Scripture Reading: Exodus 5:1-14.

Golden Text: Exodus 5:2 (first part).

"And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice to let Israel go?"

1. What message from the Lord did Moses and Aaron give to Pharaoh? Exodus 5:1.

2. What was Pharaoh's answer? Exodus 5:2.
3. What were the Children of Israel supposed to do, and what would happen if they did not do this? Exodus 5:3.
4. What question did Pharaoh ask Moses in Exodus 5:4?
5. What did Pharaoh command the taskmasters to do to punish the people? Exodus 5:6-9.
6. Did the taskmasters tell the Children of Israel what Pharaoh said. Exodus 5:10-11.
7. What other punishment did the Children of Israel get while they were working? Exodus 5:14.

LESSON III

THE ISRAELITES MURMUR AGAINST MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 5:15-23.

Golden text Exodus 5:22 (first part).

"And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people?"

1. What did the officers of the children of Israel say to Pharaoh? Exodus 5:15-16.
2. What was Pharaoh's answer? Exodus 5:17-18.
3. Who did they go and meet then? Exodus 5:20.
4. What did they say to Moses? Exodus 5:21.
5. What question did Moses ask the Lord? Exodus 5:22.
6. What did Moses say that Pharaoh had done since Moses had spoken to him in the Lord's name? Exodus 5:23.

LESSON IV

WHICH WAS WHICH?

GOD REASSURES MOSES

Scripture Reading: Exodus 6:1-13.

Golden Text: Exodus 6:2.

"And God spake unto Moses and said unto him, I am the Lord:"

1. What did the Lord say unto Moses? Exodus 6:1-2.
2. By what name was He not known to the Israelites? Exodus 6:3.
3. God had established His covenant with Israel. What land was He to give to them? Exodus 6:4-5. God heard their groanings and remembered this covenant.
4. What was Moses instructed to tell the children of Israel? Exodus 6:6-8.
5. When Moses tried to tell these promises to the children of Israel, did they listen? Exodus 6:9.
6. What then did God tell Moses to do, and was Moses doubtful that Pharaoh would hear him? Exodus 6:10-12.
7. What did the Lord speak unto Moses and Aaron? Exodus 6:13.

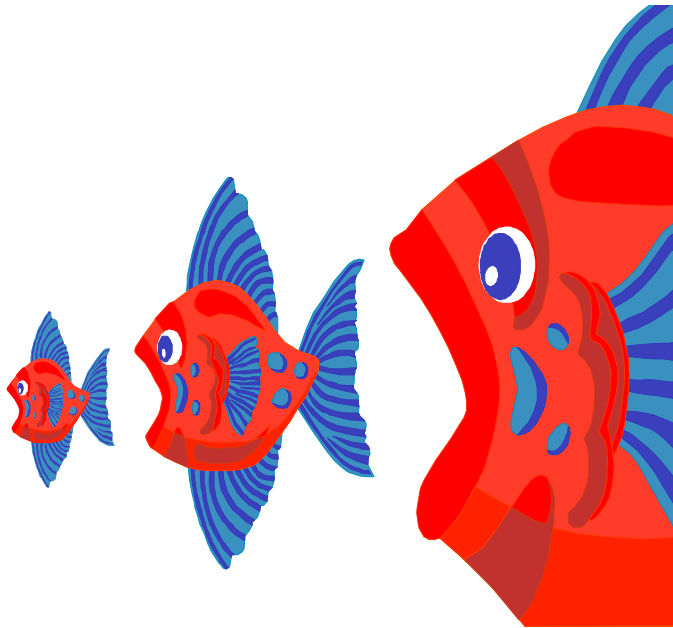
Answers to "WHICH WAS WHICH"

1. Naaman (II Kings 5:27)
2. Samson (Judges 16:20-21)
3. Enoch (Genesis 5:24)
4. Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
5. Nahum (Book of Nahum)
6. Jona (John 1:42)
7. Judah (Genesis 35:23)
8. Baal (I Kings 18:19)
9. Nazarite (Numbers 6:1-5)
10. Ur (Genesis 11:27-32)

1. Which was a leper - Nathan or Naaman?
2. Which had his eyes put out by his enemies - Samuel or Samson?
3. Which "walked with God" - Enos or Enoch?
4. Which "sat at Jesus' feet" - Martha or Mary?
5. Which wrote a book of the Bible - Nadab or Nahum?
6. Which was the father of Peter and Andrew - Jonas or Jona?
7. Which was son of Jacob - Judas or Judah?
8. Which was a god of the Canaanites - Balaam or Baal?
9. Which allow his hair to grow - Nazarene or a Nazarite?
10. Which place was the early home of Abraham - Uzor Ur?

FISHING TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

Do you like to go fishing? Did you ever hear of going fishing on dry land? Do you know what Jesus meant when He asked Peter and Andrew to leave their nets and he would make them fishers of men? See how many fish you can find in this picture. Even as young as you are, you can be fishers of men. How?



BIG FISH, LITTLE FISH

By Diane Randal

It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining in a bright blue sky. The air was warm and smelled like fresh flowers. The birds were singing their sweet songs. Everyone should have been happy.

Daddy was happy! He went off to work whistling a merry tune.

Mother was happy! She was busy in the kitchen and humming softly to herself.

But for some reason Ryan was cross and miserable! His little sister, Ellen, brought out her toys one after another. And Ryan grabbed every one of them away from her.

"Waaaa! Waaaa! Waaaa!" Ellen cried again and again. "Ryan take it away fum neeee!" She sobbed each time and went running to Mother.

Mother looked at sad, unhappy Ellen. Tears were falling down Ellen's pink, dimpled cheeks. Mother looked at cross, miserable Ryan. He did not want to look at Mother. He did not want to look at Ellen. He ducked his head and looked at the floor.

"Big fish, little fish" said Mother looking at Ryan. He lifted his eyes and looked at her. "Big fish, little fish",

"Mother said again, smiling.

Ellen did not understand. But Ryan knew what Mother was thinking. Ryan was thinking about it, too.

Last Sabbath afternoon, Daddy and Mother and Ryan and Ellen had walked down to the ocean. This was their favorite place to watch the sun set. They strolled along the sandy beach. They found pretty shells. They threw small stones into the water. They climbed around on the large rocks until they came to a quiet pool.

The water was so shallow and clear that they could see many fish. They sat down to watch the fish swimming, swimming, swimming round and round and round.

There were short fish and long fish and medium-sized fish. There were brown fish and gray fish and striped fish. And there were some big, black, fat fish that hid behind the rocks.

As the little fish came swimming along the big black, fat fish chased the little fish. When the little fish found something to eat, the big, black, fish took it away from the little fish. And sometimes the big, black fat fish seemed to have nothing to do but swim around snapping and biting at all the little fish.

"I don't like the black fish!" exclaimed Ryan.

"They're naughty! They're not nice!"

"Not nice!" repeated Ellen.

"I'm glad I'm not the poor little fish," Mother said.

"And I would not want to act like the black fish," admitted Daddy. "But sometimes boys and girls act like that," Daddy continued. "Some big boys and girls are naughty and take things away from little boys and girls. Jesus wants big boys and girls to take care of little boys and girls and to teach them to be nice."

That is what Ryan was thinking about when Mother said, "Big fish, little fish." Ryan knew that Mother was thinking about the poor little fish. Ryan did not want to act like the big, black, fat fish. Ryan smiled at Mother.

Ryan smiled at Ellen, too. "I'm sorry I grabbed your toys. I won't do it anymore," he promised. "Come outside, and I'll push you in the swing."

So now everyone was happy!

But if Ryan forgets, Mother says, "Big fish, little fish." Then Ryan smiles, because he remembers what Mother means.

BIBLE VERSES

1. "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you."
2. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."
3. "Prove all things; holdfast that which is good."
4. "Judge not that ye be not judged."
5. "Jesus wept."
6. "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

We have listed six Bible texts above. Below in the puzzle you will find each of the words from each text listed.
See how many you can find.

CLOUDS

By Del DeLong

*My eyes climbed skyward one bright day,
To view a churning cloud.
I saw a dog and lion stay,
But briefly in that crowd.*

*The rising clouds all billowed high,
And darkened as they grew.
They boiled and reached up in the sky -
A storm they were to brew.*

*A sharp and jagged lightening bolt,
Stretched straight across the sky.
And then the mighty thunder told
The rain to fall from high.*

*The majesty of God was there,
And soon the storm was gone.
But left behind high in the air -
God's bow, and birds with song.*

*We know when Jesus will return,
He'll come to clouds on high,
And catch the saints from off the earth -
That time is drawing nigh.*