

The Advocate of Truth



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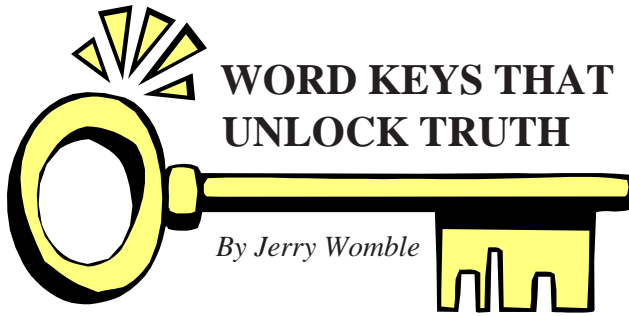
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WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

By Jerry Womble

ABASE-EXALT

Abase means to make low or to humble one's self. The opposite of abase is to exalt. Exalt means to elevate or lift up one's self. God will abase the person who exalts himself. "Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him" (Job 40:11). "Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low,

and abase him that is high" (Ezekiel 21:26). "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be based; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).

Jesus told us a parable on this point during his earthly ministry, "When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher; then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:8-11).

Let us humble ourselves before God.

7 Things You May Or May Not Know About EZEKIEL

By Warren H. Randall, Jr.



1. The prophet was sent to the children of Israel. "And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me" (Ezekiel 2:2).
2. Ezekiel was shown great abomination. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The Lord seeth us not; the Lord hath forsaken the earth" (Ezekiel 8:12).
3. He was told about the wicked and the righteous. "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath

done he shall live. Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord God; and not that he should return from his ways, and live? But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die" (Ezekiel 18:21-24).

4. He was shown the sins of the priests. "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them" (Ezekiel 22:26).

5. We learn about Satan from Ezekiel.

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold; the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created" (Ezekiel 28:13-15).

6. The prophet explains the valley of dry bones.

"The HAND of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O

my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel" (Ezekiel 37:1, 11-12).

7. He tells us the weapons of war will burn seven years.

"And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord. So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God; this is the day whereof I have spoken. And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the hand staves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years" (Ezekiel 39:6-9).

WITNESSES OF JESUS IN THE GOSPEL AGE



When Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the World. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14), He was speaking to His disciples. The time in which God miraculously manifested His hand in the protection and blessing of His chosen people, and in the punishment of their enemies, was rapidly drawing to a close. In a few short years, God's typical people were to hear those fateful words, "Behold, your house is left not you desolate" (Matthew 23:38). The light of God then was to shine out through others, the Gentiles, and by different means.

In this new arrangement, Jesus was the leader, the Captain, the Forerunner. He declared of himself, "... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). However, Jesus knew that He would not personally remain in the world, and that the work of God entrusted to Him would be continued by His representation of Jesus, and

for the word of God. This language describes the giving up of life in the service of Jesus and the word of God. We are encouraged by the promise, "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples at Pentecost, but their enemies refused to accept what they saw and heard as evidence of God's hand in their affairs. They charged that the disciples were intoxicated.

The Lord's people have been witnesses of Jesus, not because divine favor has been manifested toward them, but because they have been faithful in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God not salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

The commission given to these by Jesus is that they

should be His witnesses in all the world by preaching the Gospel. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

When the Lord's people were called His witnesses, in the past age, it was because God revealed His glory by the miraculous manner in which He dealt with them. In the Gospel age, those who witnessed for Jesus did so by proclaiming the marvelous plan for salvation which Jesus was sent in the world to execute. The witnesses of Jesus were strengthened by their knowledge of what occurred in the past age. They knew that God, who delivered Israel from Egypt and escorted them safely through the Red Sea and across Jordan into Canaan, who sent an angel and destroyed the Assyrian army in one night, and who delivered the three Hebrews from the fiery furnace was abundantly able to fulfill all His good promises pertaining to the deliverance of mankind from sin and its wages, death.

Only a handful of these witnesses for Jesus ever actually saw Him but they believe the testimony of those who affirm the fact that He was raised from the dead. They also believe to proclaim the testimony of Paul that when Jesus was raised from the dead He was highly exalted above angels, principalities, and powers, and above every name that is named. Read Ephesians 1:18-23. They also accepted and preached the further testimony of the Apostle Paul found in Philippians 2:9-11. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The witnesses of Jesus are glad to occupy this place, as His ambassadors, because they delight to obey the divine command to honor the Son seen as they honor the Father. They realize that they cannot honour the Father at all, except as they do so through the Son. "That all men should honour the Son, seen as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him" (John 5:23). They know to honor and worship the resurrected and glorified Jesus, and to

serve as His witnesses, does not detract from the glory of God. They realize that it was the Father's power that exalted His Son to this high position, at His own right hand.

The witnesses of Jesus know it is not necessary to go about shouting, Praise the Lord! However, they do praise and honor God by making known his loving plan as it is centered in Christ Jesus. They rejoice that the Holy Spirit has authorized them to be witnesses of Jesus, and that they are authorized to explain the plan of God as it relates to those who are invited to be joint heirs with Jesus in His kingdom, as well as to proclaim the hope of "restitution" for mankind during the thousand years of Christ's reign.

But this testimony which has been given during His Gospel age by the witnesses of Jesus has not converted the world, nor will it now convert the world. God's purpose during this age is the teaching and development of those who prove worthy to live and reign with Christ. Millions have heard but have paid no attention to it, but it has been a witness even to these. Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

Jesus likened His individual witnesses to candles shining in the dark. A candle does not project its light any great distance into the darkness. It benefits only those who are close to it. Therefore, the light of the Gospel shining through Jesus's witnesses is a guide and a great blessing to those who draw near to it, but the outside world sees only an indistinct glimmer.

Someone has said that the light of the Gospel is like a lighthouse in the ocean. It is not put there to light up the ocean, but to guide the mariner. In like manner, the truth has not enlightened the world during the Gospel age, although it has been the only light in the world. However, the light of God's strength has enabled our Lord's people to find and walk in the narrow way" which leads to "glory and honor and immortality."

Jesus explained that the darkness of this world hateth the light. Satan is largely responsible for this. Let us consider II Corinthians 3:4, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

But when the "Sun of Righteousness" arises and the "children of the kingdom shine forth with him, Satan will

be bound, that he may deceive the nations no more. "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" (Revelation 20:1-3). With Satan thus prevented from interfering with the shining forth of light, all the world will have a full opportunity to become acquainted with the true God, and with His beloved Son, who died for them that they might live.

Contributed



A COFFEE BEAN

You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her Mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed that as one problem was solved a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first, she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes, she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what do you see?" "Carrots, eggs, and coffee," the daughter replied. She brought her daughter closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they got soft. She then asked her daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, the daughter observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, she asked her daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma.

The daughter then asked, "What's the point, Mother?" Her Mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity - boiling water - but each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin

outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water. "Which are you? " she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough inside a stiff spirit and a hardened heart? Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water get hot, it releases its fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level? How do you handle Adversity? ARE YOU A CARROT, AN EGG, OR A COFFEE BEAN?

Don't tell GOD how big your storm is. Tell the storm how big your GOD IS! May GOD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY!

From the internet

Death or Everlasting Hell



By Sigfreid Maywald



There are several teachings on this subject. Some teach that the soul of man goes to hell immediately after death if this individual does wickedly, is there tormented for ever and ever, and will live eternally in hell. Others say that man goes into the grave when he dies, remains there until he is resurrected and then receives the reward according to his works. Still others teach that the punishment of the wicked is of spiritual nature only, and everyone lives eternally. To find the correct teaching, let us turn to the Scriptures.

What kind of punishment awaits those who do not repent and turn to God?

Revelation 21:8 states, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Jesus said in Mark 9:43-48, "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell (sheol meaning the grave), into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." We see that Jesus tells us that a sinner will be cast into hell. He also speaks of the complete body which

either goes into hell or into the kingdom of God attaining eternal life. There is no mention anywhere in the Bible that the soul will separate from the body at the time of judgment. Jesus refers always to the complete body of a person, as we already read in Mark 9:43-48. So the Bible teaches that, when the wicked go into hell fire, they will go there in the same bodily form as they are seen walking on earth today. Let us also read Matthew 5:30, "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

How will the wicked, the enemies of God, be destroyed?

In Revelation 20:14-15, we read, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire," and in Matthew 3:12 that they will burn with unquenchable fire. "Whose fan in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Mark 9:44,46, and 48 reads, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Matthew 25:41 reads, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

NOTE: Jesus speaks here of everlasting fire, but does not state anywhere that the wicked will be everlasting.

Will the fire continue or only burn until all is consumed?

We find the answer in Jude 7. We are told that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha as set forth as an **EXAMPLE OF GOD'S PUNISHMENT WITH ETERNAL FIRE!** "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Is this eternal fire of Sodom and Gomorrha still burning today? Have these cities ever been rebuilt? No!

Psalms 37:20 tells us, "But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume, into smoke shall thy consume away." Let us also read Malachi 4:1-3, "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

The fire extinguished itself. After all that could burn was consumed. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrha were never rebuilt. Their destruction was forever, everlasting.

God used this eternal fire to warn people so they rather would choose life than be destroyed in like manner as the critics. II Thessalonians 1:7-9 reads, "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; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

Their death will be eternal, forever, but their torment will not be everlasting or unending. People may become confused by all the different Scriptures. In Jude, we read of eternal fire, and Jesus used the word everlasting fire, unquenchable fire, a fire where their worm dieth not. However, if we compare all these phrases, we find that they mean the same thing. They refer to a fire that is ignited by the power of God, and kept burning until it has fulfilled its purpose. It will burn until everything that can burn, and is put there to burn, is consumed. Then it will go out of its own accord.

The lake of fire as referred to in Revelation 20:14 is a place of complete destruction, not a place of continued torment. The wicked will burn only until they turn to ashes (Malachi 4:1-3). Jesus's teaching is very clear about this mode of punishment.



FIVE WAYS THAT SATAN CAN CRASH A WORSHIP SERVICE

Satan seeks to hinder true worship of the living God. Worship is to the soul what rain is to the parched soil. It waters, refreshes, and makes alive again. Worship strengthens while it refreshes. Without it, the believer is weak and easily can be defeated.

There is a song that goes like this, "We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him." This is the way it would be for people who gather to worship the true God! Unfortunately, this is not so. The question worshippers must ask is, "What is my real purpose for being here? Am I here to worship God or for some

other purpose?" Let us begin our list of five ways Satan can crash a worship service;

1. **Preoccupation** - Have we ever sat in church during the worship service with our minds elsewhere? During a Sabbath morning service, some may be thinking about the food left on the stove at home or are wondering if their stove was left on. No doubt, some are remembering the family argument that occurred before getting ready for church. Some may be thinking about the sporting event on television or that beloved Sabbath afternoon nap. The

younger folks may be contemplating getting together with friends and going out for pizza Saturday night.

Whatever the service time, the devil sometimes provides something rather than worship to engage our minds. We may be preoccupied with what others think of us. Will I fit in? Am I dressed properly? Do I look out of place? Is my hair OK? Are people staring at me? Remember we do not enter the house of the Lord to please others but to please God.

On the day of Pentecost, "they were all with one accord" (Acts 2:1). There were no disinterested or preoccupied people in attendance. Their entire attention was upon worshiping God and obeying Him.

Watching others is certainly a preoccupation problem. We all - some more than others - do it from time to time. Our eyes scan the congregation to see who is or is not present so that we can report the information to others. We observe others to see their particular reactions to various events that occur in the service - to see if they are listening, singing, talking, sleeping, or what. For many churchgoers, the favorite watching preoccupation is checking out what others are wearing. This really gets the attention of some folks.

It is also possible that some people in the congregation are watching others with thoughts that are less than pure or sanctified. They play mind games or fantasize. How could these people possibly be involved in true worship to God? Satan does his job well! And we are often cooperative participants in his scheme when we willingly yield to our own carnality.

2. Prayerlessness - If Satan can keep God's people from praying, the worship service will become mere form and ritual. Many are the tactics used by the devil to keep us from praying. It may be with too much TV, too much play, work, or sleep. He hinders the believer's prayer life any way he can. He uses whatever works best on each individual.

Prayer prepares us for worship. It "turns us in" toward God. We become aware and sensitive to His prompting and are able to move with the flow of His Spirit. We better understand what God is trying to say to us, we are in a better position to commune with God, and the better acquainted we are with Him, the more worship becomes a natural part of our being. Our fervent, consistent prayer life will overcome the hindrances of Satan and

give us the freedom to worship both in our prayer closet and in the house of the Lord.

3. Pride - Pride is a strange disease. It makes everybody sick except the person who has it! A proud person is always looking down on things and other people. As long as one is looking down, he can't see anything above him and can easily miss out on the higher and better aspects of life.

It is certainly clear from Scripture that God hates pride. "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (Proverbs 8:13). Pride builds a wall and puts distance between the worshiper and the One to be worshiped. "Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth not" (Psalms 138:6). Pride is not easily disposed of. It is difficult to remove it from our lives. Nothing is as hard to do gracefully as getting down off your high horse! It takes prayer to control the pride. No person who prays struts. "..., God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6). The humble can worship the Lord. When we humble ourselves in the house of the Lord, we make glad the heart of God, and He responds. Rejoicing and worship go hand in hand.

4. Prejudice - Prejudice certainly can bind a worship service. Satan has used this tool many times to hinder saints during their worship of God.

To have prejudice simply means one has prejudged someone or something without sufficient facts to make an accurate judgment. For so long many have entered the church with prejudice toward others - and that does not mean just racial prejudice. There are many kinds of prejudice exercised in a worship service. People will wrongfully prejudice others in the church without cause or concern.

When the prejudiced ones see those in church who don't fit into their predetermined mold they immediately judge their spiritual condition as being in some way inferior to theirs. When this happens, the result is usually, furtively speaking, as though someone poured ice water over the congregation. Worship is over for those practicing prejudice, and that carnal, prejudiced spirit can affect the entire congregation.

Sometimes people are even prejudiced by how they

think people should worship. These people have predetermined how it should be done, and they consider their way the only way.

We must leave the judging to God. "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). Different people worship in different ways. Each person has his own unique relationship with God.

It is the responsibility of every believer to go to the house of God with the express purpose and desire to worship the Lord in spirit and in the truth!

5. **Presumption** - Presumption has to do with overstepping, taking for granted. We must not think that the manifestation of God's presence is automatic. Satan tries to lull us into an apathetic approach toward allowing God to manifest His presence in our worship services. He would have us not concern ourselves with such matters. God must be present to have effective and profuse worship services. Do we invite God's Holy Spirit? So often

we just rush into church at the last minute, take a seat, and wait for the service to begin. More than anything, we must desire the presence of the Lord! This takes a purposeful, concentrated effort. No shingle displayed on a building guarantees the presence of God.

Preparing for the presence of the Lord involves removing all the evil things from our lives. Preparation isn't in the building nor in the personalities. It is in our individual hearts. Preparing the way means that the crooked places must be made straight (Isaiah 40:4). All sin must be removed from the camp. It may involve repentance on the part of the saints. Whatever it takes to prepare for and ensure the presence of God in our midst should be done.

Today, many people are yearning to really know God. They wish to experience His presence. They are hurting. Many struggle with the task of hurt living one day at a time. They need church services where they can receive God's blessing.

We must not allow Satan to hinder the work nor the worship of God, especially now when the need is so great, and we are living on the brink of our Lord's return.



WHY WORK?



Work is not a dirty word, but it has been given a bad rap. Many associate it with the fall of any kind.. To many, work has come to be thought of as part of God's original plan for man. Even before Eve was created, God gave Adam work to do in the Garden of Eden. "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (Genesis 2:15).

Voltaire wrote, "Work spares us from three great evils: boredom, vice, and need." If work did only these three things, it would be of immense value. But it does more! Let us look at four reasons to work.

First, work allows us to fulfill God's purpose for our existence. Through work, we discover the unique gifts

God gives each of us. Kenneth Alsop, in *Letters to His Daughter*, wrote, "In work the greatest satisfaction lies in the satisfaction of stretching yourself, using your abilities and making them expand, and knowing that you have accomplished something that could have been done only by using your unique apparatus. This is really the centre of life, and those who never orientate themselves in this direction are missing more than they ever know."

Second, work allows us to help others. "But the manifestation of the Spirit given to every man to profit withal" (I Corinthians 12:7). Work that serves only one purpose, to bring home a paycheck, will be unsatisfying. Human beings sense that they are contributing to the good of those

around them. Without it, they begin asking, "Is this all there is?" To be fulfilling, work must be more than a means for self-indulgence.

Third, work allows us to imitate God. Contrary to popular opinion, God is not sitting in heaven twiddling His thumbs in boredom or wringing his hands in despair. He is at work, and He is at work on our behalf. "Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in this doing toward the children of men. He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves" (Psalm 66:5,7). Likewise, our take is to work on his behalf. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24).

Fourth, work helps us to understand that man was

created in God's image. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). When we work, and especially when we find satisfying work, we get to know God better because we get to see a part of ourselves that is in Him. "A man's work is rather the needful supplement of himself than the outcome of it" wrote Max Beerbohm in *Mainly On the Air*. Much of the dissatisfaction and disillusionment in today's workplace comes from having people in positions that don't use their gifts and which, consequently, give them no sense of purpose or meaning.

When a person's work is matched with his or her gifts and abilities, it is a dynamic combination. The best types of work not only use our gifts; they also give us purpose.

Contributed

A MAN SUBJECT TO LIKE PASSIONS

(JAMES 5:17)



Scripture clearly states that the things written aforetime were written for our learning, to help establish our hope in the Gospel and the promises of God contained therein. We are told this in Romans 15:4. In I Corinthians 10, we read of happenings which can be considered with profit by those who are walking in the footsteps of our Lord, and seeking to make their calling and election sure.

In this chapter, it is the children of Israel who are held up as "examples," and we are warned not to make the same mistakes they made. Verse 6 says we should not lust after evil things, as they lusted. It is easy to think, "I am not likely to do that. I shall not get sidetracked." But Paul warns in verse 12, "Wherefore else him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." In the Scriptures, great men of faith, power, and prayer are many times brought to our attention. Hebrews 11 contains a list of those who "obtained a good report." And what an honored list it is!

Those listed are called a great cloud of witnesses." They should be an incentive for us to run with patience the race set before us (Hebrews 12:1). One who is not mentioned by name in this list is Elijah, but he is probably included in Hebrews 11:38, for he was certainly one: of whom the world knows not worthy, "who wandered in deserts, and in dens and caves of the earth. Perhaps it is fitting that he is not specifically mentioned and is apart from this work. Little is known of this great man.

Elijah is first introduced to us in I Kings 17:1, saying, "..., As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." All we know about him is that he was a Tishbite of the inhabitants of Gilead.

One writer has said, "He came to show to us the horrible abominations in which Israel, during those melancholy times, was so deeply immersed. Clouds and thick

darnes cover the whole land; the images of Baalim and Ashtaroth fearfully glean on every side; idolatrous temples and heated altars occupy desecrated soil; every hill smokes with their sacrifices, every vale resounds with the blasphemous yells of cruel priesthoods. The people drink in iniquity like water and sport in shameless rites around their idols."

The prophet came in the strength and power of the Lord, declaring with faith and confidence that the people were to be shaken into the acknowledgment that there was a God in Israel. "..., there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word" (I Kings 17:1).

For three and one-half years, the sun baked land was without rain. All vegetation became parched and burned up. Man and beast were reduced to skeletons, and all flesh faded like the grass.

Then the test was arranged to prove whether Jehovah or Baal was the true God. We are familiar with this test that was made to determine who was the true God. The prophets of Baal cried, raved, and danced; they cut themselves and muttered horrible incantations in their endeavors to obtain a reply from their God, but there was no voice, nor any that answered.

How different with Elijah! A deep silence prevailed. Then at the time of the evening sacrifice, he prayed: "... Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again" (I Kings 18:36-37).

Then came the fire from the Lord, The Lord God once again visited his people. Many times they turned away after strange gods, and He sent His prophets to restore them, as told by Jesus in the parable of the vineyard, "But last of all he sent unto them his son,...(Matthew 21:37). But they wouldn't hear, and the vineyard had to

passed to others.

When the people saw the answer of God in the fire, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, this the God; the Lord, this the God." After this, Elijah commanded that all the prophets of Baal be destroyed. Elijah's faith was justified, the foolish priests were put to shame, and all the false gods confronted and annihilated.

One part of Elijah's mission was now ended. It was time for the rain to come again upon the land. We could go on studying the life of Elijah if space permitted.

The Apostle James says, "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months" (James 5:17). James 5:16 tells us, "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

There are many instances in both the Old and New Testaments of effectual fervent prayer prevailing with God. Through prayer, Moses turned away the anger of the Lord from Israel. Through prayer, Samuel brought about the defeat of the Philistines. The three Hebrew children were preserved from the burning fiery furnace. At the prayer of the brethren on the day of Pentecost, the heavens were opened, and later, after they had prayer the place where they were was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 4:31.

Prayer burst the fetters of Peter and broke open the doors of his prison. The Scriptures are full of instances of the power of prayer.

Know that Elijah was an outstanding prophet of God. He was used specially to perform mighty works. But James was a man like as we are. Surely His purpose in bringing before us this instance of Elijah's success in prayer was to encourage us to persevere in prayer, and to believe that we also shall be answered if only we pray in faith and in harmony with the Lord's will.



Victorious Living



Victorious living for children of God is not simply for exceptional disciples. It is Christ's will for all His people. "Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to

triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place" (II Corinthians 2:14). Let us consider seven principles which mark the path of

triumph each day.

1. **SUBMIT TO JESUS CHRIST AS LORD DAILY.** "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him" (Colossians 2:6). "And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (II Corinthians 8:5).

2. **YIELD DAILY TO EVERY PROMPTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instrument of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: if ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness" (Romans 6:13-19). "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). We must not grieve, quench or resist in any way the Holy Spirit. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (I John 8:9). The child of God must be continuously filled, or controlled, by the Holy Spirit. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

3. **BE OCCUPIED WITH CHRIST HIMSELF, RATHER THAN SELF.** We must focus our thoughts upon Him. "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 2:15). Our entire life is to be Christ-centered and not self-centered. Turning from self is a necessary part of our becoming a new creature in **CHRIST.**

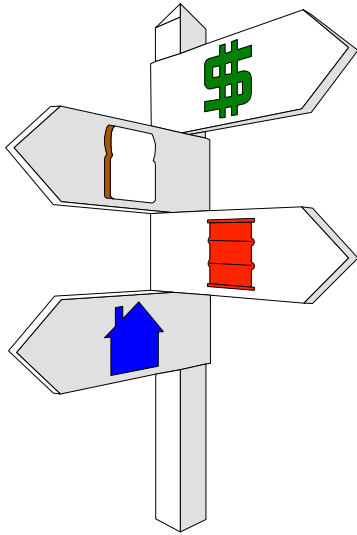
4. **OBEY THE WORD OF GOD.** "If ye love me,

keep my commandments. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:15,21). How can we call Jesus "Lord" and not do the things He says? "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Freedom of the Spirit is not to do as we please, but rather to do as He pleases. "We must will to do God's will. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17). Let us not call obedience to God's Word "Legalism." Legalism is adding to God's requirement, whether relating to salvation or living the Christian life.

5. **BELIEVE GOD AND TRUST HIM FOR EVERY NEED.** "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Hebrews 11:8). "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). Our walk must be by faith. (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) (I Corinthians 5:7).

6. **SERVE OTHERS.** "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty of an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13). "The liberal old shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself" (Proverbs 11:25). No child of God can grow by simply looking for blessings and not giving to others.

7. **DISCIPLINE YOUR LIFE.** "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27). Self Control, or temperance, is one of the fruits of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). We must resist the Devil, and we must endure and overcome temptation. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).



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 articles appeared in the Houston Chronicle.

Concepts of family at heart of debate over gay marriage

**by Frank Langfitt
Baltimore Sun**

After 13 years together, Martha Horn and Barbara White are ready.

If a Massachusetts court legalizes gay marriage anytime soon, the lesbian couple from Laurel, Maryland plan to head north and be among the first to apply for a license.

They aren't out to prove a point, they say. They just want the legal benefits of marriage.

Specifically, they want health insurance for Horn, who suffers from diabetes but doesn't qualify as a spouse under the policy that White's employer provides.

"It's really scary at our age for one of us to be without health insurance," said White, a 50-year-old nurse practitioner. "We pay taxes like everyone else, we have the same benefits of straight people."

But opponents of gay marriage say legalizing such unions threatens the fabric of American society. It would, they say, sanction immoral conduct and redefine marriage, an institution with deep resonance for religious and secular alike.

"It is about the concept of family itself and what a family is," said Peter la Barbera, senior policy analyst at the Culture and Family Institute, a Washington based think

tank.

"The historic concept of marriage is a man and woman united to raise children. The homosexual side is saying children don't necessarily need a mom and a dad."

The gay marriage debate has heated up this summer, drawing in such heavyweights as President Bush and Pope John Paul II - both against.

At its heart are tough questions about the purpose and meaning of marriage in modern society. Is marriage about preservation and raising biological children? Or is it about the commitment and legal rights of a couple, regardless of their sexual orientation?

Proponents say the issue is equal protection for homosexuals under the law. They also seek the community recognition that comes with a legal union.

"What gay people want out of marriage is the same thing heterosexuals want," said Susan Sommer, supervising attorney with Lambda legal, a civil rights group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. "It's a hugely powerful symbol of commitment, of love and support. The idea of being able to call up your parents and say: "Guess what? I'm getting married!" It's sort of a life dream.

Opponents say legalizing gay marriage could lead schools to teach that homosexuality is acceptable, and encourage more same-sex couples to adopt. Critics such as la Barbera acknowledge that the divorce rate has created many single-parent homes, but he says that is no reason to sanction same-sex parenting.

"There are all sorts of families, but do we embrace a new social experiment based on the everyday failing of a declining society?" he asked. "What we are talking about are households that are fatherless and motherless by de-

sign. That's the revolution."

A poll conducted early this summer by the Pew Research Center and per orum on Religion and Public life showed overall opposition to gay marriage has dropped noticeably since the mid-1990s.

More recent surveys, though, suggest that the tide may be turning.

After the Supreme Court overturned the Texas sodomy law, public opposition appeared to increase, according to polls by the Gallup Organization and the Washington Post. The Gallup poll, released late last month, showed that 57 percent opposed civil unions for gay people - an 8-point increase since May.

Alan Wolfe, director for the Boisi center for Religion and American public life at Boston College, says that after years of growing tolerance, some are drawing the line.

"Americans are much more tolerant about homosexuality, but we are going to stop with marriage," Wolfe said. "That's the message now."

Comment

We have mentioned the deifying of the family in a previous comment. Gay marriage does not even make sense. We live in a society where many people are calling good evil and evil good. It is strange that many religious groups are sympathetic to the "rights" of the homosexual, even protecting the evildoer. Very few speak out clearly as "Thus saith the Lord."

The laws as stated in God's Word are clear. They leave no question as to what is right or wrong! We find no justification for homosexuality, therefore, there are no grounds for debate. God showed His attitude in His dealing with the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah. Their very grievous" sin (Genesis 18:20) was sodomy. God declared it intolerable.

Jude 7 (New English Bible) adds that these cities "committed fornication and followed natural lusts; and they paid the penalty in eternal life (eternal destruction), as an example for all to see.' Phillips' modern English reads that these cities "gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion,...defiling their bodies by their filthy fantasies."

Because homosexuality is a sin, the gay person must repent and change before his marriage can be blessed by God.

God created Adam and Eve-not Adam and Steve!

Smoking deaths worldwide rising

Associated Press

LONDON - The global death toll from smoking is shifting dramatically, with about as many people now dying from smoking in the developing world as in industrialized nations, according to the most thorough estimate to date.

The research, published this week in The Lancet medical journal, concludes that 4.84 million people died from smoking worldwide in 2000 - 2.41 million in developing countries and 2.43 million in rich nations.

"This study is the first to quantify that the 21st century's 'brown plague' is striking the world's middle and low-income countries with an intensity equal to that which has already been felt in the world's high-income nations and is, in fact, now very nearly surpassing it," said John R. Seffrin, chief executive officer of the American Cancer Society.

Experts say the study will likely spur governments to pursue anti-smoking health policies.

Experts have previously estimated tobacco death trends in the industrialized world, where smoking first became prevalent, but evidence from poorer countries has been thin.

The World Health organization estimated in 1990 that about 3 million people die every year from smoking worldwide, but that was a crude extrapolation of trends in the Western world. Much more has been learned since then about how smoking affects different populations.

A major study in 2001 of smoking patterns in China showed that, unlike in the West, tobacco causes many more deaths there from chronic lung disease than from lung cancer.

A study last month found that in India, smoking mainly kills through tuberculosis rather than lung cancer as in the West.

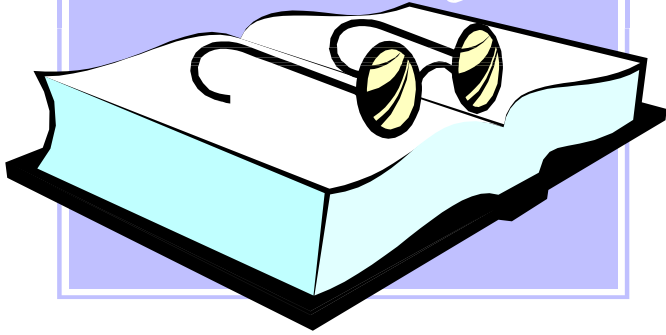
Comment

What reads the Bible? "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31). Usage of tobacco does not glorify God!

Request our tract on smoking.

BIBLE

Study



Question: What defilement would the Jews have contacted by entering the judgement hall of Pilate? "Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgement: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgement hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the Passover" (John 18:28).

Answer: Jesus answers the question very well. He said that what comes out of the heart and mind of a person defiles a man. Jesus was trying to get the children of Israel to see the many errors of the Mosaic laws that they had elaborated upon. The only thing we find that defiled a person was a carcass either human or animal, that had died of itself. A carcass used for sacrifice did not defile a person. "And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not to keep the Passover on that day; And they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day; and those men said unto him, We are defiled by the dead body of man; wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the Lord in his appointed season among the children of Israel? And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the Lord will command concerning you. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar-off, yet he shall keep the Passover unto the Lord. The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and

Questions and Answers

bitter herbs" (Numbers 9:6-11).

If you go to a library that has a Jewish rule book you will find many rules that defile a man. Even touching a Gentile would defile an Israelite. They went so far that even a clean animal touching an unclean animal could contaminate the clean. Read Acts 10:12-15.

Question: Some verses in the Bible tell us that we should not follow men. Other verses tell us that we should follow men. Can you explain this seeming contradiction?

Answer: First, let us give an illustration. Alice had been dating Robert. She was not sure that she should continue to do so. Robert said that he was a child of God, but he had some ideas that troubled her. He had a negative attitude toward church attendance. He studied the Bible for himself, using only a concordance and dictionary to help him. He had little use for doctors, saying he would seek help from God if he got sick. As proof for his position, he pointed to the Lord's displeasure with Asa for going to the physicians. Read II Chronicles 16:12.

Alice's pastor advised her to quit dating Robert. Alice decided to follow his counsel. When she told Robert, he said she was making a big mistake. He declared that she was listening to a mere man instead of to God. Was he right?

Let us consider some verses that tell us that we should not follow men. Let us also consider some verses that tell us that we should follow men in order to arrive at a scriptural answer to this seeming contradiction.

We should not follow men.

1. Putting our confidence in frail and dying men is futile. "Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man"

(Psalm 108:12). "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to this earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God" (Psalm 146:3-5).

2. Following the crowd is unwise, because the crowd is often wrong. "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment" (Exodus 23:2).

3. Following men of bad counsel can cost us much loss. Read I Kings 12:1-19.

4. Following the counsel of those promoting get-rich-quick schemes will lead to poverty. "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread; but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough. A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 28:19-20).

5. Following false prophets and false religious teachers harms the cause of Christ and brings about spiritual damage. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; and spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an exsample unto those that after should live ungodly" (II Peter 2:1-6).

We should follow men.

1. We are to follow the example of godly Old Testament believers. Read Hebrews 11.

2. We are to follow our leaders - respecting and obeying them. "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation" (Hebrews 13:7). "Obey them that have the rule over you,

and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).

3. We are to follow men like Elijah in being patient and prayerful. "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit" (James 5:17-18).

4. We are to view our elders as examples and follow in their path. "The elders which are among you, I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock" (I Peter 5:1-3).

Let us now comment on an explanation. In Psalm 146:3, the psalmist warned against trusting men rather than God. He declared that depending on people can be a vain hope. Read Psalm 108:12. Also the Apostle Peter admonishes us to be on guard against false teachers. See II Peter 2:1-2. We must never blindly follow or totally depend on a person just because he is a leader or has great ability and charisma. All people, even the best of leaders, are subject to constant limitation and error of judgment.

In the opening story, Robert was right in pointing out that he intended to study the Bible for himself and to seek direction from God. However, he did not recognize the fact that God gave some men, like the Apostle Paul, authority in the church, and we are to follow their example. "Be ye followers of men, even as I also am of Christ" (I Corinthians 11:1). "Brethren, be followers together of men, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example" (Philippians 3:17). We are to acknowledge their leadership. God uses wise and good people to accomplish His will in us.

We must never follow men instead of God, but we must be ready to follow the example of men who follow God. We must also be ready to follow those whom God has placed in positions of authority and leadership over us.



MEXICO

The following photographs, on this page, show the old church in Imprenta, Mexico which needs to be demolished and rebuilt. The photographs on the next page show the progress of the rebuilding of the church. These photographs were submitted by Elder Moises Torres M.





LESSON I

**JETHRO BRINGS TO MOSES
HIS WIFE AND SONS**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 18:1-12.

Golden Text: Exodus 18:9.

"And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians."

1. Who was Jethro? What did he do when he heard of all that God had done for Moses? Exodus 18:1-2.
2. What were the names of Moses's two sons? Exodus 18:3-4.
3. Did they go into the wilderness to see Moses? Exodus 18:5.
4. Was Moses pleased that they had come to see him? Exodus 18:6-7.
5. Did Moses tell them all that the Lord had done for him? Exodus 18:8.
6. Did they rejoice and praise God for his deliverance? Exodus 18:9-10.
7. Jethro knew now that the Lord was the great God. What did he do to show his praise of God? Exodus 18:11-12.

LESSON II

JETHRO COUNSELETH MOSES

Scripture Reading; Exodus 18:13-27.

Golden Text; Exodus 18:25.

"And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, ruler of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."

1. What was Moses doing for the people in Exodus 18:13?
2. What questions did Jethro ask Moses, and how did Moses answer him? Exodus 18:14-16.
3. Did Jethro think this was good? Why? Exodus 18:17-18.
4. What counsel did Jethro give Moses? What was Moses to show and teach the people? Exodus 18:19-20..
5. Who were to be rulers? What would the duties of these men be? Exodus 18:21-22.
6. Did Moses hearken to Jethro's voice? Exodus 18:24.
7. Whom did Moses choose, and who judged the people? Exodus 18:25-26.
8. Where did Jethro go? Exodus 18:27.

LESSON III

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL COME TO SINAI

Scripture Reading: Exodus 19:1-14.

Golden Text: Exodus 19:9 (first part).

"And the Lord said unto Moses, lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever..."

1. In what month did the Children of Israel reach Sinai? Exodus 19:1-2.
2. The Lord called unto Moses, and what did he tell Moses to say to the Children of Israel? Exodus 19:3-6.
3. Whom did Moses call before him? Exodus 19:7.
4. Did the people agree to do all that the Lord had spoken? Exodus 19:8.

5. How was the Lord going to appear unto Moses? Exodus 19:9.

6. What further was Moses to tell his people? In how many days would the Lord come down upon mount Sinai? Exodus 19:10-11.

7. What bounds were to be set round about? Exodus 19:12-13.

8. What did Moses do when he came down from the mount unto the people? Exodus 19:14.

LESSON IV

GOD'S PRESENCE ON MOUNT SINAI

Scripture Reading; Exodus 19:15-25.

Golden Text: Exodus 19:17.

"And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the neither part of the mount."

1. What happens on the third day in the morning? Exodus 19:16.

2. Where did the people stand when Moses brought them forth to meet God? Exodus 19:17.

3. When the Lord descended upon the mount what happened? Exodus 19:18.

4. Did God answer Moses when he spake to him? Exodus 19:19.

5. Did Moses go to the mount as God instructed him? Exodus 19:20.

6. What did the Lord tell Moses to do? Exodus 19:21-22.

7. Who was to come up to the mount with Moses? Exodus 19:23-24.

8. Did Moses speak to the people? Exodus 19:25.

FAULTS

Hazel H., Banks

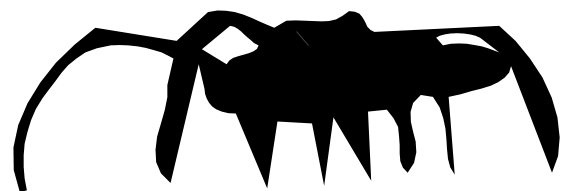
When I see, your fault, I'll pray about it,
When you see mine, pray about it too,
That is how the saints can help each other
And behave as Christ would have us do.

If instead of praying we should gossip,
Some may stumble on the narrow way;
All our words are listened to by Jesus,
Is He pleased with what His children say?

Some of us confess that we are guilty,
Of beholding in the other's eye,
Motes we cannot see in our own vision -
And we'll be so sorry by-and by.

Let us ask the Lord to cleanse and fill us,
With an overflowing of His love,
'Till we take all faults we see to Jesus -
For the help He gives from up above.

In the Word of God we are admonished,
Our own faults to others to confess,
Not the faults of those we see around us,
For their need we are to pray and bless.



THINGS THAT CRAWL AND CREEP

On a blank sheet of paper, make a list of insects and reptiles mentioned in the Bible.
Genesis 49:17, 11:30, Exodus 7:10, Revelation 9:10,
Exodus 8:2, Isaiah 11:8, Proverbs 30:28, Proverbs 6:6,
Matthew 6:19-20, Proverbs 30:27, I Samuel 26:20,
Psalms 58:8, Job 20:16, Leviticus 11:29, Exodus 8:21,
Joshua 24:12.

ANDY WAS AFRAID

By Dorothy Walter

One day Mother told Ross, Andy's older brother, that she and Daddy were going to have to make a business trip to the city.

"We will be gone for two days. Do you think you and Andy will be all right here until we come home?"

"Sure," said Ross. "We'll get along fine." He turned to Andy. "We'll play we're on a camping trip while the folks are gone."

Andy had never gone on a camping trip. He wasn't sure whether he wanted to try one or not.

"It will be fun," said Ross.

"Who will cook our dinner?" Andy asked.

"I will," said Ross. "You never saw such fine stew as I can make. Last year at summer camp I learned to make a lot of things like stew and camp biscuits and pancakes." He grinned at Andy. "You can help me, and we'll make out fine."

Mother hurried around and got things ready for the trip. Andy didn't think too much about it until he saw Mother and Daddy drive away in the car. Then he began to think about the big, empty house with no one in it but Ross and himself. Then he thought about Mother and Daddy being gone all night.

As it got later and later, Andy began to feel worse and worse. The more he thought about the night coming, the more unhappy he felt. He began to cry.

"Why, Andy," Ross said, "what's the matter? Are you lonesome?"

Andy shook his head. Then he nodded. He did miss Mother and Daddy. He didn't want Ross to know that he was afraid to stay alone. He was afraid of the dark. Even when Mother and Daddy were home, he was sometimes afraid if they were too far away from him in the house. Now he and Ross would be all alone. He cried harder and harder.

"They'll be gone only two days," said Ross. "They'll be home before we know it." Ross patted Andy on the shoulder. "Come on, let's go make some waffles for supper. That ought to keep us busy for a while."

Ross had never made waffles, but he followed the recipe in Mother's cookbook, and the waffles turned out quite good. But Andy didn't enjoy the waffles very much. His fear made a big lump in his throat, so that it seemed that his food couldn't go down very well.

After supper they washed the dishes. Then they fed Noodles, their dog, and put him to bed for the night.

"I want Noodles to stay in the house," Andy said.

Then Ross understood. "Are you afraid?" he asked.

Andy nodded. "I don't like the dark. I can't see where things are. I can't see what's there."

"I remember when I was little," said Ross. "I was afraid of the dark, too. Mom always had to leave a light on in my room."

"You were afraid?" Andy asked. He had never thought about his big brother being afraid of anything.

"Sure," said Ross. "Most children are afraid sometimes."

"Are you afraid now?" Andy asked.

"No," said Ross. "You see, God is with us even though Mom and Dad aren't. He can take care of us even better than they can. So what is there to be afraid of?"

"But it's so dark," answered Andy.

Ross put his arm around Andy. "When Mom found out that I was afraid she told me to pretend that the night was a lovely, soft, dark blanket that covered up the world at night so little animals and little boys and girls could go to sleep. It would be hard to sleep with the sun shining. God made the lovely night blanket so we could have it dark for sleeping."

Andy thought about that. "We'd get really tired without our good sleep, wouldn't we?" he said.

Ross nodded. "God knows what is best for us. He knows we need sleep and rest. So he makes it easier for us to sleep." He smiled at Andy. "Would you like to sleep with me tonight?" He asked. "It might be fun to stay together." He reached for the Bible. "We ought to have worship first," he said as he opened the Bible. "There's a verse I like that always helps me when I'm afraid of something. It goes something like this, 'What time I am afraid, I will be trusting Thee.'"

"I will trust in Thee," said Andy softly. "That's a good thing to do, isn't it?" Thinking about the verse and saying it would help him not to be afraid any more.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

People of the Bible liked music. They had many different musical instruments.

Fill in the blanks with thirteen musical instruments mentioned in the Bible.

There is only one way in which they will fit correctly and each word is used only once.

- HARP PIPE VIOL FLUTE ORGAN
 CORNET TABRET CYMBALS PSALTERY TRUMPET
 SACKBUT DULCIMER TIMBRELS

The crossword puzzle grid is partially filled with the word "PSALTERY" in the center. The grid consists of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The word "PSALTERY" is written in all caps across the middle. Surrounding the grid are several line drawings of musical instruments: a harp (top left), a horn (top center), a trumpet (top right), a sackbut (middle right), a dulcimer (bottom center), a timbrel (bottom right), and a cymbal (middle right). There are also several musical notes scattered around the grid.

Winter Has Come

By Del DeLong

The arctic air breathed on our town,
The chill was felt by all.
The howling winds came rushing down -
The winter came to call.

Summer's warmth had come and gone,
And now it's winter's turn.
The nightingale had sung it's song
Warm fires we must burn.

When Jesus gives His love to us,
It's like a summer's breeze -
That wraps around and caresses us,
And puts our lives at ease.

Satan, on the other hand,
Dumps out a frozen chill,
And like the winter's howling wind,
Tries to force his will.

But Jesus's love is strong and sure
If we just let him in.
He drives the cold of Satan's lure,
And pardons all our sin.



SUMMER