

The
Advocate
of Truth

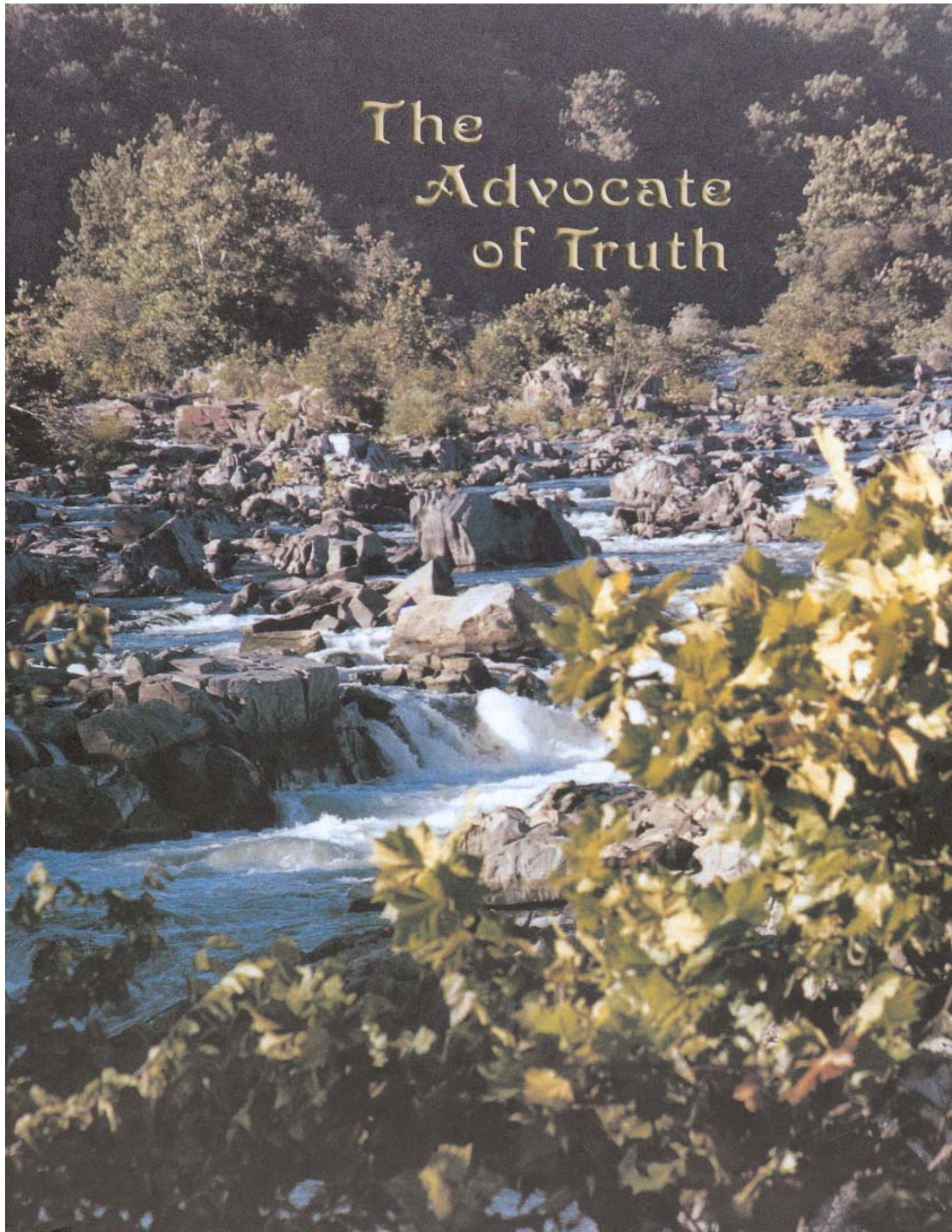




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The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Advocate of Truth Press, Inc. PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. Entered as Second Class Matter on January 22, 1990 (now periodicals) at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

POSTMASTER:

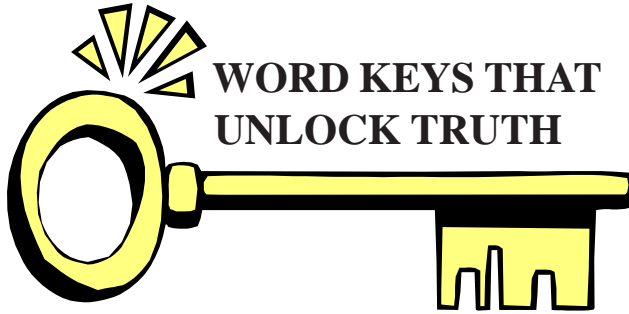
Please send address changes to:

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**Volume LIV Number 2
 August 23, 2004
 The Advocate of Truth
 USPS 542-940**



FILTHINESS

The source-noun for filthiness is "filth" and its adjective is "filthy." These are used in the Bible in a number of places as figurative for sin. In the original Hebrew and Greek Texts the words rendered in English as "filthiness" meant "foul matter" or anything that soils or defiles.

"How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?" (Job 15:16) "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psalm 14:3). But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (Isaiah 64:6).

God will purify Israel from filthiness. "When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning" (Isaiah 4:4).

Children of God must cleanse themselves from all filthiness. "Having therefore these promises (dearly beloved) let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Corinthians 7:1).

Psalms 24:3-5

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation."

7

Things You May Or May Not Know About

BRASS

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. Tubal-Cain was an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron.

"And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech. And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle. And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ. And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah" (Genesis 4:17-22).

2. There was a laver of brass in the tabernacle of the congregation.

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat" (Exodus 30:17-19).

3. If Israel did not hearken unto the Lord they were told

of penalties.

"And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits" (Leviticus 26:18-20).

4. Moses made a serpent of brass.

"Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (Numbers 21:7-9).

5. Samson was bound with fetters of brass.

"But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house" (Judges 16:21).

6. We may talk nice but really be empty.

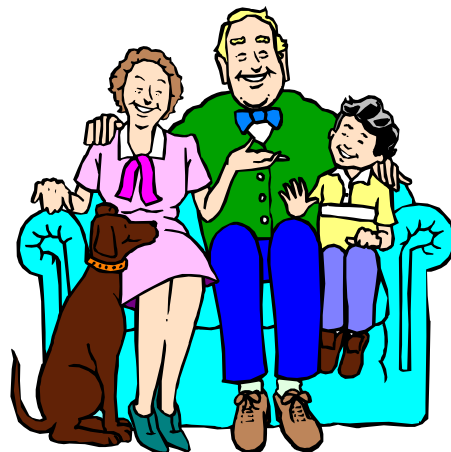
"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal" (I Corinthians 13:1).

7. Jesus feet will be like fine brass.

"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters" (Revelation 1:13-15).

ARE CHRISTIANS NORMAL PEOPLE?

By Siegfried Maywald



How do we understand the term normal? God created all people in an equal fashion as normal functioning people with similar physical appearances. The only difference is in how people think and act. Now we just have to ask ourselves the questions:

1) How do Christians relate to people who are not Christians?

2) Is the wisdom of God revealed and portrayed by normal people?

Christians relate to non-Christians as unchurched or heathens. They refer to them as worldly people who do not believe in a creator God. They are natural people, sinners

from birth on, for we all are descendants from Adam and Eve. They sinned and disobeyed God's word (Genesis 3:3-6).

But for those people who are spiritual minded, the scripture tells us in I Corinthians 2:9-10: "But as it is written, EYE HATH NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by

wisdom know not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Corinthians 1:21).

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10).

So we see that Christians are not "normal" people, but people who believe in the existence of a creator God and people who abide by His word. These Christians are special in the eyes of God and are referred to in the scriptures as peculiar people. They are also referred to as fools or servants for Jesus Christ. But in the eyes of the worldly-wise people, we who believe are referred to as crazy "nuts" not wise, but foolishly acting people and therefore are despised by worldly understanding. But the scriptures tell us in I Corinthians 3:19-20 that: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, HE TAKETH THE WISE IN THEIR OWN CRAFTINESS. And again, THE LORD KNOWETH THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE, THAT THEY ARE VAIN." The problem is that the worldly wise in their desire to serve humanitarianism think they know more than God. For them the word of God is outdated and not applicable to our modern society today.

Many so-called "natural" Christians are Christians who are neither hot nor cold in their faith towards God, but just comfortable in what they have and understand; not knowing that God does not accept such an attitude. Their minds are simply closed to glean further information from God's word. For we read the warning of the angel's message in Revelation 3:14-18: "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans writes; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see."

In other words, God tells them to open their minds to be able to understand what the scriptures reveal; But the trend in our Christian society is to be satisfied with little information about God's word. Therefore many people become misled by the teaching of the love of God only and forget about the expectancy of God in regard to our obedience to His word. The problem is that many people are reluctant to read the scriptures for themselves. They are satisfied with what is presented to them from the pulpits without proving it to themselves. This is the trend of our western society now. Many people lack the spiritual interest. Some even despise instruction and rather hold to traditional beliefs or turn to yoga, self-meditation, like mind over body and rely on self or turn to the occult and physics to have their dreams fulfilled. They set the word of God aside as out dated, as too restrictive and not applicable for our modern society. These people prefer a religion after their own liking to please themselves only.

In Hosea 4:6 we read of the warning: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me; seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

Why is this happening? Why do people neglect the wisdom of God? Well, for one thing our society wants a freedom from all restrictive laws especially those that govern moral behavior, laws as found in the Ten Commandments. They do not want to see any limitations to their so-called "freedom of expression." That is why they do not want to be restrained by the laws and rules as they are given to us in the the word of God. In their wisdom, the "worldly wise" declare that there is no such thing as absolute truth or a definite right or wrong. According to their thinking, it always depends on the circumstances and from which angle one views hesitation. The speech of these people is puffed up. They know better, but lack the principals and power of God, and therefore they reap the consequences, which we see already developed in our society. We see a steady increase in the crime rate. We see disobedience to authority in children and adults. We now have the problems, which the Apostle Paul foretold in II Timothy 3:1-5 and 7: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, inconti-

ment, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

God's word tells us in I Corinthians 1:19-20: "For it is written, I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND WILL BRING TO NOTHING THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRUDENT. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

All the wisdom of the wise men of this world cannot find God, because they have no correct views of the divine nature of God. Their minds are closed to the evidence of God's creative power that has been made visible to all without excuse, for it is revealed by what He has created.

"For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. 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 5:13-15.)

Paul was reputed by some to be deranged. Festus even thought so when he said "Paul, thou art beside thyself." And some of Paul's enemies attributed his derangement to be of a less worthy cause than genuine study and deep learning. To normal worldly people, it seems strange when we proclaim God's word with intensity and deep research to better instruct and encourage those who listen. Only to worldly people does it appear that we are beside ourselves when we speak of the glories of the eternal world that is to come. They can not understand what we are talking about. Jesus died for all that they which live might have redemption from their sins. We can justly say that we are not living to ourselves, but that we are bought with a price through His blood unto redemption and therefore should not live to ourselves for if we do, we live to our own ruin. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). But only those who comprehend the spiritual matters involved understand this.

"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of

God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Hebrews 11:25-26).

"Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" (Hebrews 12:9).

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

We understand that God has set laws into motion which when disobeyed lead to dreadful consequences. Because of man's disobedience, we now experience in our society the increase of crime, moral decay and general lawlessness amongst the youth. "Normal" people do not understand these scriptures. To suffer affliction rather than gaining treasure of Egypt does not make sense in their understanding of things. They do not recognize the consequences for disobeying God's will. Who then changed? Has God changed? Or has His word changed? No! Man and his ideas have changed. The worldly education changed the truth of God into lies. God does not change!

In Malachi 3:6 we read the statement: "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." And James 1:17 tells us: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

In Romans 1:25 the Apostle Paul tells us that some people like to serve the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

"For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth" (Psalms 33:4). And Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus is the light of the world, and we as His disciples are supposed to reflect that light in the world. We are not to put our light under a bushel, but ought to let it shine. We are commissioned to proclaim His word and explain it to His people! Remember the song, "This little light of mine"?

"And because I tell you the truth ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth,

why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:45-47). "Normal" worldly people can not understand nor believe what we just read in the scriptures for they are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath (Romans 2:8).

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels'; and then he shall reward every man according to his works" (Matthew 16:27).

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26) All the treasures of his world are as nothing compared to that which awaits us within the kingdom of God. "But as it is written, EYE HATH NOT SEEN NOR EAR HEARD, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN, THE THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM" (I Corinthians 2:9).

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44). What attracts a man? That which gives him delight. Just as a sheep is attracted to green pasture, so is a man drawn to abide in the word of God wherever he can find it. God's word shows us the way in which we ought to walk. It is man's manual in how to love a peaceful and happy life. It leads us unto salvation. It becomes our daily guide in how we ought to conduct our lives. But unless God draws, no man can come unto Jesus Christ, because without His drawing no man can come to feel the need for a Saviour. It is the alluring of God via the Holy Spirit that draws man to do His will. So we see that a man has to be receptive to the Holy Spirit of God first before he becomes interested in God's word and only then can he understand what is said in regards to spiritual matters. In John 3:5-6 and John 8:12: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter in the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:5-6).

With all this information we get to know that Christians do not act normal or worldly, but are spiritually inclined. We have been made partakers of spiritual things (Romans 15:27). Although we do live in the world, we do not act according to worldly understanding. "Which

things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:13-14).

Listen to what God's word tells us: Love your enemies! Do good to them that hate you! Pray for them that despitefully use you! Do not repay evil for evil! Now think for yourself, is this teaching accepted as normal by worldly understanding? No, absolutely not! A normal reply would be why bother and go for one lost soul if you have 99 righteous with you? Why waste your time? To act in this manner does not make sense to normal worldly people. They think we are acting foolishly and dumb.

God's word tells us in Luke 6:35-38: "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again: and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal either it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:35-38).

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid" (Matthew 5:14).

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, VENGEANCE IS MINE; I WILL REPAY, saith the Lord. Therefore if THINE ENEMY HUNGER, FEED HIM; IF HE THIRST, GIVE HIM DRINK: FOR IN SO DOING THOU SHALT HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:19-21).

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matthew 7:12).

"And Jesus answered him saying, It is written, THAT MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD" (Luke 4:4).

When we read and teach the word to "normal" people, they only become more disturbed and irritated because they can not comprehend the underlying wisdom of God.

How can a man live by words when he is hungry. The spiritual meaning is passing them by.

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore the light which is in thee be not darkness" (Luke 11:33-35).

Every object is observed and seen within the reach of the eye just like the light of a lamp brings light to every part of the house. In like manner extends our influence to all who surround us and observe our actions and interactions in all circumstances here our presence is noticed. And if we continue in His word, then are we His disciples indeed. And we shall know the truth, and that shall make us free (John 8:31-32).

For Jesus said: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:9-10).

When we preach and teach these scriptures to normal people, they do not make sense to them. They hear but do not understand! Their "normal" response to these words would be: you are nuts with no guts, your talk is nonsense. Why don't you defend yourself when you are attacked? How can you love your enemies or do good to

them and even feed them? Where are your brains? Have you no pride? What do you mean that "Jesus is the door by which to enter and find pasture?" What "pasture" are you talking about? By their replies we get to understand that they are void of the spiritual wisdom and meaning of God that lies within His word. Only the Holy Spirit can open their minds to become receptive to God's word.

Jesus said in John 10:27: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." The difference is that: "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (I John 4:6).

In I Corinthians 2:14 we are told that: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

We have learned that Christians are not normal people, but retain the mind of Christ and by so doing are able to understand, believe the word of God and act accordingly. We are called a holy nation, a peculiar people, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood that we should show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

May God bless you in your continued effort to find guidance by His Holy Spirit.



There will be a great tribulation which will soon come upon the earth. It will be even greater than the flood during Noah's time. That flood was catastrophic worldwide. In Genesis 6:1-8 we read, "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the

Be Willing And Obedient

By Christian Germain

daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons came in unto the daughters of men,

and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping things and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

In the days of Noah, wickedness was found in the heart of men continually, and the Spirit of God did not dwell in men, so He decided to destroy them. He was sorry that He had made man, and it grieved His spirit. Noah, his sons, and their wives were the only ones who found grace in God's eyes. Because of man's wickedness, many of the beasts and fowls were destroyed along with the wicked men and women. Only Noah and his family were saved from the flood that ensued.

Noah accepted God's salvation from the flood by his obedience. Let us read Genesis 7:1. "And the Lord said unto Noah come thou and all thy house in to the ark for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."

It is simple to understand that only those that are willing and obedient will eat the good of the land. Noah, because of his humbleness and obedience, built the ark which saved him and his household.

The plan of salvation is still open. God is still calling. After the Lord returns for His Saints, there will be a time of great tribulation on the earth. This tribulation is known as the Seven Last Plagues. Isaiah 26:20-21 says "Come my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thy self as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be over past for, behold the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth also shall disclose her blood and shall no more cover their sin." The Lord has provided a place of safety for those who are willing and obedient. That place is the New Jerusalem, the city of God. Jesus will bring this city with Him when He returns at the time of the resurrection. His people will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and will remain on that "Sea of Glass", the New Jerusalem until the Seven Last Plagues are finished. These Seven Last Plagues are called the "wrath of God", and they will

be poured out upon the wicked. The Lord has provided a place of safety for His people during the time of this great tribulation.

Now is the time for repentance. We must encourage everyone who will listen to take heed to the word of God, because He desires that no one should perish but all should come to repentance.

In the Scriptures, we find an example of an unwilling man. Moses gave an invitation to Hobab in Numbers 10:29-36. "And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel. And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred. And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes. And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee. And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them. And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel."

Moses was not pleased when Hobab said that he would not go with him, but Moses pleaded with him to stay in godly fellowship. God wants His people to be in good fellowship one with another.

God is calling you, my friend, no matter how far you have gone out into this world. He can cleanse you from your sins if you are repentant. Let us read Isaiah 1:16-20. "Wash you, make you clean, Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the faithfulness, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land, But if ye refuse and rebel ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the

mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Noah was willing and obedient. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. You, too, can eat the good of the land if you are willing and obedient.

The feast is set before you - come without money. All you have to do is become willing and obedient. Isaiah 55:1-2 reads, "Everyone that thirsteth come ye to the water, and he that hath no money; come, ye, buy, and eat; yea come buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me; and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." So salvation is free to everyone that is willing to received it.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and he shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The choice is yours today.

Are you willing, and do you want to be obedient? The King urges you to come. Let's read Matthew 22:2-4. "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king which made a marriage for his son, and sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, tell

them which are bidden, Behold I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage.

Jesus went to prepare a place and the marriage supper is ready. Don't be foolish, but be wise, so that you will be a guest at this marriage supper. Verse 5 tells us that they made light of it, and went their ways. Verse 6 says the rest took his servants and entreated them spitefully, and slew them.

The people who had not entered into Noah's ark all perished likewise, so if you miss this marriage supper when Jesus returns, you will have to endure those Seven Last Plagues. Rejecting the Lord will guarantee you eternal death.

Come to the Gospel of Christ - it is the ticket to the marriage feast. The gospel of the kingdom is at hand. It is the free way to salvation.

Be willing and obedient to do what God asks you to do. The invitation is for everyone who wants to be in God's kingdom. We read in Revelation 3:20-22. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will grant to sit with me in my throne, when as I also overcome, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches." May God richly bless you as you read His word.

WE SUFFER WITH CHRIST

BY BOND TENNANT



"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: WHO DID NO SIN, NEITHER WAS GUILF FOUND IN HIS MOUTH: Who, when he was reviled, reviled INTO again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth right-

teously" (I Peter 2:21-23).

Many have the mistaken idea that children of God should expect to be exempt from trials, and that the degree of their Christianity would be manifested by the material prosperity and happiness with which they are blessed. Apart from an understanding of God's word how-

ever, this view represents what obviously should be the result of faithfulness to the Lord. In fact, there are many scriptures which show that ultimately those who are in harmony with God will indeed be blessed with material good things. However, these texts of scripture apply to the future kingdom period and not to the present.

The disciples who left their fishing and other businesses to follow Jesus did so because they believed Him to be the Messiah of promise. They expected that through the Messiah there would come deliverance to Israel, and blessings to all nations. They visualized Jesus as becoming a mighty King over all the earth, and hoped that they might share in some manner in His kingdom glory. There were many messianic promises in the Old Testament which, wrongly applied to His first advent, seemed to justify such an expectation. But there was one important thing which they overlooked, and this Jesus explained to them after His resurrection; namely, that Christ must suffer and die for the world before the promised kingdom blessings could come.

Just as the original disciple of Jesus overlooked the prophecies to His suffering and death, so many since have failed to realize that these foretold sufferings of Christ were not completed at Calvary. Failing to see this, they have mistakenly supposed that the next thing in order after the death and resurrection of Jesus should be the establishment of His kingdom and the bestowing of material blessings upon those who accept him as their Redeemer and king. This lack of understanding has led to all sorts of misconceptions of the Christ like life, and the manner in which the faithful followers of Jesus should expect to be blessed.

In this first epistle, Peter leaves no doubt in the mind of the attentive reader that when the Holy Spirit testified through the prophets concerning "the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow," the followers of Jesus, as well as Jesus Himself, were included in their testimony. He says, for example. "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing that happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings" (I Peter 1:11; 4:12,13). This, then is the true significance of Peter's words in our opening text in which he explains that in Jesus's persecution, suffering, and death he left us an example that we

should follow in his steps.

Yes, the sufferings of Christ are still going on, and the true followers of their Master should expect no different treatment from the world than that received by the Master. "For even hereunto were ye called," asserts the apostle. Yes, we are called to suffer and to die; to be reviled and persecuted; to sacrifice comforts, time, strength, means, friends-all that we love and hold dear as natural men and women - in order that we may devote ourselves to the one purpose of following our Master into death.

Jesus's suffering was not a case of doing penance, with no practical good resulting there for me. He suffered because He went about doing good. So selfish and fallen we the unbelievers with whom He mingled that His good was misconstrued by them as being evil. They reviled Him, speaking all manner of evil against Him. The child of God is called to endure the same kind of treatment, and largely for the same reason. If we suffer as evildoers, or as busybody, or for any other reason than that we have been faithfully doing the good works of God, then we have no cause for thankfulness. But if we do good and suffer for it, as Jesus did, then we can rejoice, "for even hereunto were ye called."

Jesus was not reviled because there was something about Him which could properly be reviled, for He was perfect. But Jesus was willing to be reviled because He knew that it was a part of the suffering He was undergoing on behalf of the fallen race. He knew that the world was out of harmony with God, but because He loved the people, He was laying down His life that they might be reconciled to God'; so He reviled not again. He suffered and rejoiced in it.

There inasmuch the fallen flesh of the child of God that merits criticism, but, as nearly as possible, our lives should be such that it can be said of us as it was prophesied of Jesus, and as He said, "They hated me without a cause" (Psalm 35:19; 69:4; John 15:25). If we catch the true inspiration of the call to fellowship in the sufferings of Christ we, like Jesus, will not want to revile when others revile us. We will look at the experience rather as evidence that we have been accepted for sacrifice, and that the Lord is permitting the necessary experiences to train us for the glorious future work in His kingdom.

Convictions Can Be Costly

A LESSON STUDY



Read Jeremiah 38:2-13.

"And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee" (Jeremiah 1:19).

It was inevitable that Jeremiah and the leaders of the Israelites who were endeavoring to hold Jerusalem against the Chaldeans, or Babylonians, must eventually come to grips, for Jeremiah was following the word of the Lord and informing the people that in order to save their lives they must abandon the city and submit to being taken captive into Babylon.

The "princes," or leaders of Israel, appealed to King Zedekiah to permit them to put Jeremiah to death. Their claim was that Jeremiah's message weakened the morale of the people, hence their will to resist. Under the circumstance, Zedekiah could do nothing against these princes. He said, "Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do anything against you."

Then they took Jeremiah and "cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison."

Had nothing been done Jeremiah would doubtless have perished in the dungeon. But here was an eunuch, apparently highly placed in the king's house, who reported to the king what had happened. Then the king commanded the eunuch to take thirty men to help him get Jeremiah out of the dungeon. Rags were put under his arms so that the rope used to lift him out wouldn't injure him. Obviously, thirty men were not needed to hoist the prophet out of the dungeon, but apparently the king was providing extra help in case the eunuch encountered opposition from the princes.

Our opening verse reminds us of God's ability to care for His people. The Lord knew that Jeremiah would encounter opposition from the leaders of Israel as he continued to prophesy against them, and to advise the people

to take a course which they did not approve. But he assured the prophet that his enemies would not prevail against him, "for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee." Jeremiah was delivered from the dungeon and remained in the court of the prison where apparently he had protection.

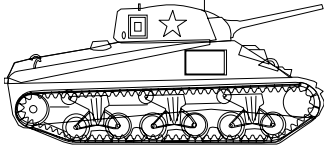
God loved all his ancient people, even as He loves his people of today, but He did not always deliver them from their persecutors, permitting many of them to be slain. The New Testament calls our attention to this fact in the 11th chapter of Hebrews, verses 33-34. In this chapter, Paul gives us brief accounts of many of God's ancient servants, prophets and others, naming many of them but in the verses cited, he does not give names, but simply explains how God dealt with His ancient people.

We quote: "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promise, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in the fight, and turned to flight the armies of the aliens." In this grouping, we note that the Lord gave them deliverance from their enemies, and the master over them.

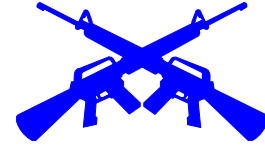
However, Paul continues, "Others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sown asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented...and these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

The important deliverance for all of God's people will be at the time of the first resurrection.

What Are The Church's Beliefs Regarding Carnal Warfare And Military Service?



By Errol Noel



Are you thinking about entering Military Service? Do you know someone who is? For a decision in your life as important as this, we should seek God's counsel.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." (Proverbs 3:5-7)

God had commanded us not to kill our fellow man. "Thou shall not kill" (Exodus 20:13).

In today's world, war seems inevitable, as more and more countries seek to flex their military muscle, which in most cases would be the expense of starvation of their people. But if we stop and think a bit, we would see that the result of warfare is taking lives of other human beings. The teachings of Jesus shed light on this subject

"Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Matthew 26:52).

"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints (Revelation 13:10).

In some countries, the citizens are bound by law to sign up for military service. However, they have choices to serve in noncombat areas of the military, or even give voluntary service representing their country in another country.

While there is so much talk about right to life, there is the development of new and sophisticated weapons with the sole intent to kill or murder. Children of God are forbidden to take another person's life. (Exodus 20:13). Instead, we are to focus on the spiritual battle God asks us to fight.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds" (II Corinthians 10:3-4).

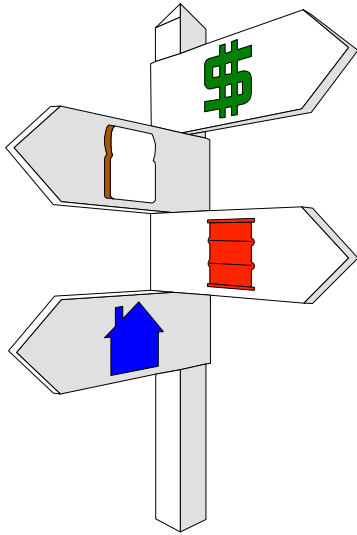
Avenging oneself isn't what God wants of His children.

"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord,. Therefore is thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on this head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Roman 12:19-21).

It is our understanding and belief, therefore that we should not participate in the act of war where we might have to kill another individual. We are to focus on the battle of saving lives for Jesus. The Armour we are expected to put on for this battle is found in Ephesians 6:11-18.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:11-18).

This Armour helps to save lives rather than take lives. If the soldiers of this world should be preachers of Truth everywhere, there would not be such a thing as warfare. Think on these things and may God guide the making of the right choice.



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 were taken from the Houston Chronicle.

Comparison shopping for a church?

by **Jim Remsen**
Knight Ridder Tribune News

Are you an Innie or an Outie? Do you live inside organized religion or outside?

Lord knows, millions of Americans are outside the bounds of congregational life these days. Or, as Carmen Renee Berry would say, a zillion gazillion of us are.

That's the way the breezy Berry writes. She is the author of an unusual new book aimed at Christian outies who are thinking of coming back inside, who are restless in their current church homes.

It's called "The Unauthorized Guide to Choosing a Church" (Brazos, \$19), and if ship packaging and prose may give the impression that Berry is one Outie with an Attitude.

For instance she warns against places where "worship services are B. Y. O. S. (bring your own snake)" or "the women's quartet are all married to the pastor." Her headings include "Sorting Through the liturgy, Lingo and lunacy."

But like a good preacher, Berry manages to be both entertaining and substantive. Relevant, even.

The seeker's ultimate goal, she writes, ought to be a congregation "that understands the transforming power of Christ. Pick one where you can have God's story told to you over and over again, where you're invited to God's

table to be fed and fed and fed until you are full."

Berry, 50, was raised in the Church of the Nazarene, left for a time, and has circled back in. Her split personality - offbeat and earnest, independent and surrendering - reflects the nature of many of today's postmodern sophisticates particularly young adults, scholars say.

Randall Balmer, religion professor at Barnard college and author of "Religion in Twentieth Century America", said many sophisticates "do want to take religion seriously and are looking. I think her attitude is fairly typical."

The national statistics on "looking" - call it shopping - are remarkable.

Princeton University religion sociologist Robert Wuthnow polled 1,530 people nationwide in 1999 and found that 38 percent had shopped for a church or synagogue.

"We've reached an age in American religion where the shopping mentality, the consumer mentality, means people choose what appeals to them," she said.

Balmer attributed the lateral movement to "a kind of homogenization of Protestantism" and to public mobility.

"Twenty or 30 years ago, if you were reared a Methodist and you moved, you'd find the nearest Methodist church and sign up," he said. "Now, people feel free to shop around. Their decision usually has to do with programs for their children and with a church's worship style.:

"It's gotten to the point", he now added, "that some of the 'seek churches' that benefit from this trend have discovered that they can be victims of shopping-around, too. So they try to have more intense small groups or service activities to draw people in and keep them."

For years, many traditionalist pastors have deplored

church-shopping as crass and undermining to the congregational goal of long-term interpersonal commitment.

Berry said she understood the criticism, "but why stay someplace if it chafes and you won't grow?"

"I think it's valid to change community if one's needs and gifts change," she said. "We are consumers. And I find that we tend to research the brand of VCR we're going to buy more than the church we're in."

Berry, who lives in Sierra Madre, California said she was a "burned-out" social worker who went on to pen self-help books. She mentioned to her agent that she had returned to church after a wide search - and from that, the Unauthorized Guide project was born.

Balmer praised the book as "kind of a Consumer Report about how to choose a church."

Berry is loaded with pointers. Some are obvious (beware of glitz of large churches and of "control freak" pastors) and some not ("see how easy it is to get copies of financial reports: if there is nothing to hide, nothing will be hidden").

She explores what she calls "Trinity affinity," the notion that some churches direct their worship to God the Father, some have a primary affinity with Jesus, and others emphasize the Holy Spirit.

"One way to sort out which church best suits you Berry writes, "is to see if their Trinity affinity matches yours."

Even new churches may have a history worth exploring, she said.

"A lot of people go to nondenominational churches because they think there's no bias here," she said "But it came from some tradition. It didn't just pop up out of the ground. Was the leader, say, a disgruntled Presbyterian? What are they for, and what are they reacting against?"

Berry provides the seeker with spry synopses of church vestments, creeds, cons, women's roles, the nature of heresy and other topics. There also are self-evaluation checklists, a Christianity time line and summary of the histories, beliefs and styles of major church groups.

"There are all kinds of normal, valid growth reasons to change churches," she said. "I believe ultimately, that the Holy Spirit is involved and will lead you to a good church community."

Study looks at diversity of religions

by Eileen E. Flynn
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN - Recent college graduate Joe Laycock is spending his spare time this summer at Buddhist temples, as well as at mosques and with Sikhs in back rooms of yoga studios.

He's hoping what he finds in these places will help people understand the increasingly diverse faith traditions taking root in Central Texas.

Laycock, an Austin resident who will pursue a master's degree in theological studies at Harvard University this fall, is one of hundreds of student researchers across the country working for the Harvard Pluralism Project, a nationwide religious education initiative begun in the early 1990s.

The project, headed by Harvard religion professor Diana Eck, gathers data and creates profiles of religious centers and offers the result on its Web site for teacher, journalist and the general public. The profiles are short description of the centers and include some basic statistics, such as how many members they have and how long they have been open.

Laycock will collect about \$500 from Harvard to learn about Muslims, Buddhist, Hindus, Sikhs, Zoroastrians and Janins, a stipend he figures will amount to about \$1 an hour by the time he's done. He schedules his research around a full-time job at the University of Texas.

"It's been a rough summer," Laycock said with a sigh.

His work is sometimes made more difficult by reluctant religious leaders.

"Words like 'profile' and 'collecting data' make people nervous, especially immigrants," Laycock said.

But persistence is paying off. He has observed several ceremonies, including a Sikh funeral.

The Pluralism project is also useful at the college and seminar level, according to Arun Joens, assistant professor of mission and evangelistic Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The research offers more than just academic value, he added.

"In terms of furthering civic peace and harmony and goodwill, it's crucial we do know who our neighbors are religiously," Jones said.



Questions and Answers

Question: Will you please compare the wording of Revelation 22:14 in the New International Version of the Bible with that of the King James Version?

Answer: Revelation 22:14 in the New International Version of the Bible reads, "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."

With the many new versions being printed these days, we find some places in Scripture where different meanings are expressed and being accepted by many religious organizations. This is another attempt by the master of deception to deceive the world and turn many away from the Lord Jesus Christ and the following of His footsteps. Let us compare for a moment a verse of Scripture, Revelation 22:14, which has been changed in these later versions.

In the King James Version of the Bible, we read thus in Revelation 22:14; "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may go in through the gates into the city."

By comparing these two different versions of the same verse, we find totally different thoughts expressed. We ask ourselves how could there be such a difference? The answer is found when we learn from which "base text" the translators were using as a foundation for their work. One of the "base texts" has been changed to leave out "Keeping of God's Commandments."

For example - the "Good News Bible for Modern Man" was translated from a base text prepared by an international committee of New Testament scholars...published in 1966. This is an important thought to remember. This practical translation may be very accurate, HOWEVER, because of a different "BASE TEXT" the final result will be different.

The following are two different "base texts: used in Revelation 22:14. This will help to understand how the two different words came into being.

K.J.V. "hoi poinoutes tas entolas autoa"...
"That keep his commandments."

N.I.V. "hoi plunontes tas stolas auton"...
"That wash their robes."

When we examine closely the "base texts", we may see the difference in certain words which would make the translation different also.

The KING JAMES VERSION of the Bible continues to be the most accurate version above all others. The Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the accuracy of the King James Version when comparison was made.

Let us not be deceived nor confused into accepting a watered down, weak version of God's Word. The keeping of the Ten Commandments cannot be compared in any way with the washing of robes.

Question: Is it true that Jesus said a person could break one of the Ten Commandments and still be given a home

in the Kingdom? He said in Matthew 5:19 they "shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven."

Answer: We read in Matthew 5:19 that Jesus said, "Who-soever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

In this part of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, He is speaking about the Ten Commandments. Jesus was informing the disciples that these Commandments have not been abolished. "...one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Were Jesus's words in verse 18. Much has yet to be fulfilled, even in these end-times, therefore we know the Ten Commandments are in force

When Jesus mentioned about those who practice and teach against one point in the commandments they "shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven:" Jesus did not imply that such persons were counted as being in the Kingdom. Today the Kingdom of heaven is within the believer through the power of God's Holy Spirit.

We are reminded of James's words when he wrote, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (James 2:10).

James informs us that if we practice and teach against any of God's Ten Commandments we are guilty of all. James did not contradict Jesus's words. One who is guilty is not in the kingdom of Heaven. That person is still carnal and is in sin. Inasmuch a condition, one would be considered the least by God.

Therefore, we conclude then that Jesus is saying that those who practice and teach sin are esteemed least by those in the realm of God's Kingdom. Sin, or any part of sin becomes a detestable thing of the lowest dimension (or least) to one who has Christ with him, the Hope of Glory.

Question: What is the nature of true conversion?

Answer: We often think of conversion, the desired end result of evangelism, as an event that occurs at a single point in time. However, conversion is a process that can take many years. To be sure, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour is the climax-but consider how many steps a per-

son must go through before he gets to that point:

1. To begin with, a person may have absolutely no concept of God, of life after death, of sin, or of salvation.
2. A person may not believe in a Supreme Being.
3. He comes to believe in the Resurrection and dreams the basic concept of God's plan of salvation.
4. He comes to recognize his personal need for salvation.
5. He is gripped with the conviction that he must do something about the Gospel, often as a result of personal suffering or frustration.
6. He repents and accepts Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.
7. He is baptized and receives the Holy spirit.
8. He begins the process of overcoming and growth as a child of God.

This process can take place very slowly, over a period of years or it can be compressed into a few days or hours. But regardless it does take place. Consider the conversion of the Apostle Paul. He was struck down on the road to Damascus and came to accept Jesus in a matter of moments. However, he already believed in a Supreme Being; he already had a general concept of God's plan of salvation; he knew about sin. All he needed was to be brought face to face with Jesus as the Messiah. The process was well underway before Paul went to Damascus.

Contrast Paul's situation with that of someone who does not even believe in the Bible or in God. It does little good to urge an atheist to "give his heart to the Lord." He is back on step one of the progression outlined earlier, and we are trying to rush him to step six. Many zealous Christians, oblivious to where a person is in this progression, have unnecessarily made themselves and the Gospel look ridiculous by their hard sell, prepackaged approach. In fact, many non-Christians are extremely sensitive about being witnessed to. Some people have been told to keep their religion to themselves, just for opening a Bible in a public place. These people have been sensitized by insensitive souls grabbers with "canned" witnessing presentations.

Because conversion is a process, we need to be very aware of where a person is spiritually before we begin to evangelize. The apostle Paul set an excellent example of us. He became "all things to all men"!

"And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the Law, as under

the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the Law to Christ) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you" (I Corinthians 9:20-23).

Part of the challenge of personal evangelism is to really get to know people and to minister to them where they are.

Because conversion is a process, you generally can-

not unload the whole message of the God spell at one time. In most situations, you will only be able to plant a seed, which will take time to germinate and grow. Others may plant more seeds. Others may water. Still others may reap the harvest - long after you are out of the picture. On the other hand, you may reap the harvest, which is really God's, where others have sown. Remember, it is God's word, not yours, that you are proclaiming. It is God who must grant the increase. You must simply have faith that the needs you plant will germinate. In due season, they will bear fruit for Him.



India

The following photographs were sent to us by Apostle M. Yehoshuva from India. These baptisms were accomplished earlier this year. The drought has been very damaging and extensive in southern India, in so much as the brethren there are having to travel long distances to find sufficient water for the baptisms.





This is the dedication of a new church building in Chinnagopathi. Elder M. Kanakarathnam is cutting the ribbon.



LESSON I

THE WALLS OF JERICHO FALL

Scripture Reading: Joshua 6:1-27.

Golden Text: Joshua 6:5 (last part).

"....and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him."

NOTE: Do you remember about the spies going into Jericho and how Rahab hid them from the king? Now today we study how Israel went back to that city to take it by the help of the Lord, and what happened to Rahab.

1. Was Jericho afraid of the children of Israel? Joshua 6:1.
2. What did the Lord tell Joshua? Joshua 6:2-3.
3. What instructions did Joshua give his people? Joshua 6:6-7.
4. Were the people to talk or shout as they went around the city? Joshua 6:10.
5. What happened for 6 days? Joshua 6:14.
6. What did they do differently on the 7th day, and what was to happen after they did this? Joshua 6:15-16.
7. Were they to allow anyone within the city to live? Why? Joshua 6:17.
8. Were the people to keep anything for themselves that was within the city, and what were they to do with the silver and gold? Joshua 6:18-19.
9. Tell what happened after they marched around the city seven times and the priest blew the trumpets and shouted? Joshua 6:20-21.

NOTE: Jericho was taken by the direct help of God to give the Israelites confidence that He would be with them.

LESSON II

THE SIN OF ACHAN

Scripture Reading: Joshua 7:1-26.

Golden Text: Joshua 7:20.

"And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done."

NOTE: You remember in our last lesson the Lord told the people not to take anything for themselves which was within the city for it had been cursed by the Lord. One man did not obey. Let us see what happened.

1. Joshua sent spies to the city of Ai ,and what report did they bring back? Joshua 7:2-3.
2. Joshua did as the spies said, and what happened? Joshua 7:4-5.
3. What did Joshua say to the Lord? Joshua 7:6-9.
4. What did the Lord tell Joshua was wrong? Joshua 7:10-12.

NOTE: Joshua started searching through the camp to find who was guilty.

5. Who was found to be the guilty one, and what had he done? Joshua 7:19-21.

NOTE: Achan took something which did not belong to him, and the Lord had told him not to take anything in the city. Do you think people are the same as Achan today?

6. Joshua sent messengers to find the things Achan had taken. Where did they bring them? Joshua 7:22-23.
7. What happened to Achan, his family and all he owned? Joshua 7:24-25.

NOTE: Coming right after the miraculous crossing of the

Jordan and the fall of Jericho, it was a terrible shock to Israel. God was with them, but He wanted them to understand that He wanted absolute obedience. It was a lesson for the people. Does God change, or is He still the same today?

8. What did the people place over the bodies of the ones who were stoned? Joshua 7:26.

LESSON III

THE CAPTURE OF AI

Scripture Reading: Joshua 8:1-28.

Golden Text: Joshua 8:21.

"And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of the city ascended, then they turned again, and slew the men of Ai."

1. What did the Lord instruct Joshua to do? Joshua 8:1-2.
2. How many men did Joshua choose to go against Ai? Joshua 8:3.
3. Did Joshua obey the Lord? Joshua 8:9-11.
4. What method did Joshua use to capture Ai? Joshua 8:14-17.
5. Did the plan which the Lord had given Joshua prove successful? Joshua 8:18-21.
6. What is the condition of the city of Ai even to this day? Joshua 8:28.

NOTE: If Joshua had not obeyed the instructions which the Lord gave him, he never would have captured Ai in such a wonderful way. We too must obey the Lord in everything He has told us to do.

LESSON IV

THE GIBEONITES

Scripture Reading: Joshua 9.

Golden Text: Joshua 9:15.

"And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation swore unto them."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned how miraculously Joshua captured Ai by following the Lord's instructions. Let us study now about the land of Gibeon and how they made a league with Joshua.

1. When the Gibeonites heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, what did they do? Joshua 9:3-5.
2. The Gibeonites went to Joshua's camp at Gilgal. What was the purpose of this meeting? Joshua 9:6.
3. Did Joshua make peace with the Gibeonites? Joshua 9:15-16.
4. What did the Gibeonites become to the children of Israel? Joshua 9:21-23.
5. Why were the people of Gibeon so hasty in making a league with Joshua? Joshua 9:24.
6. What did Joshua do to these people that very day? Joshua 9:27.

WHAT LOVE DOES

Love is loving, love is kind;
Love makes you your mother mind;
Love makes you forgive a wrong;
Love makes people brave and strong.



WHY JERRY WAS GOOD

By Alta Yoder Bauman

Jerry ran home. He was angry. And John came into the house looking very unhappy. He and Jerry had quarrelled again.

"Mother, Jerry was bad again, and he didn't play nice at all," complained John.

Mother was sad because it seemed that John and Jerry could never play nicely.

"Can't you and Jerry ever learn to play together like good little boys ought to play?" asked Mother. "Why don't you ask God to help you?"

Jerry didn't say anything, but he looked as if he was thinking about what Mother had said.

A few days later, Jerry came over to play at John's house again. John met him with a smile. They started playing in John's play store. First they tidied the store and arranged the rows and rows of empty cans and boxes. One boy was the store keeper and the other the customer. After they were tired of that they got the wagon and played mailman. Then they went to the sand pile and made houses and roads and bridges.

In no time at all, it was time for dinner, and Jerry had to go home. Both boys had played together all morning without a quarrel.

"Goodbye, John," said Jerry. "I'll come back again this afternoon."

"All right," answered John, "that will be fine. We really had a good time all morning, didn't we?"

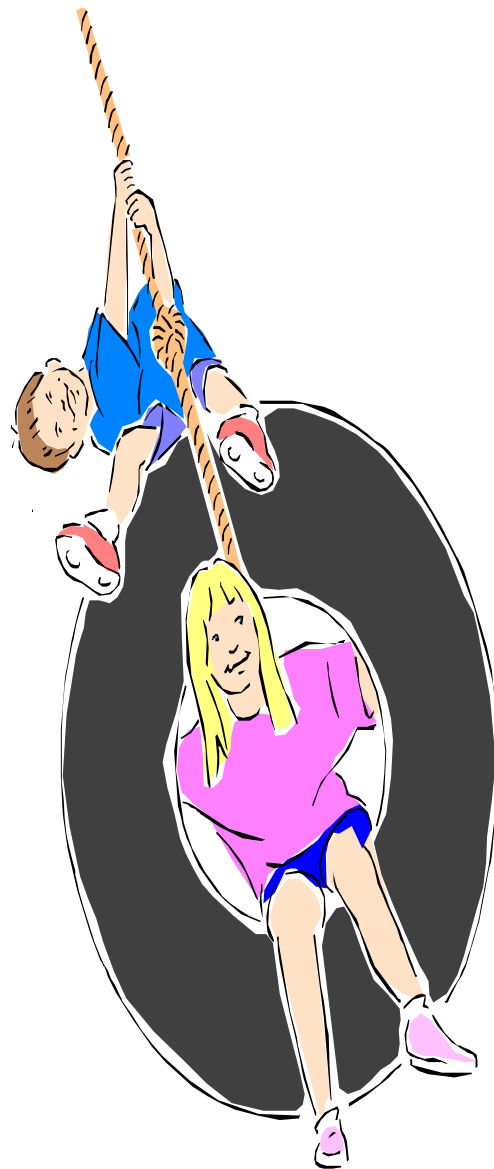
"Well, John," said Mother, when he came into lunch, "how did you and Jerry get along today?"

"Mother," said John, "Jerry was very nice today. He didn't quarrel at all. I'm sure he did just what God wanted him to do."

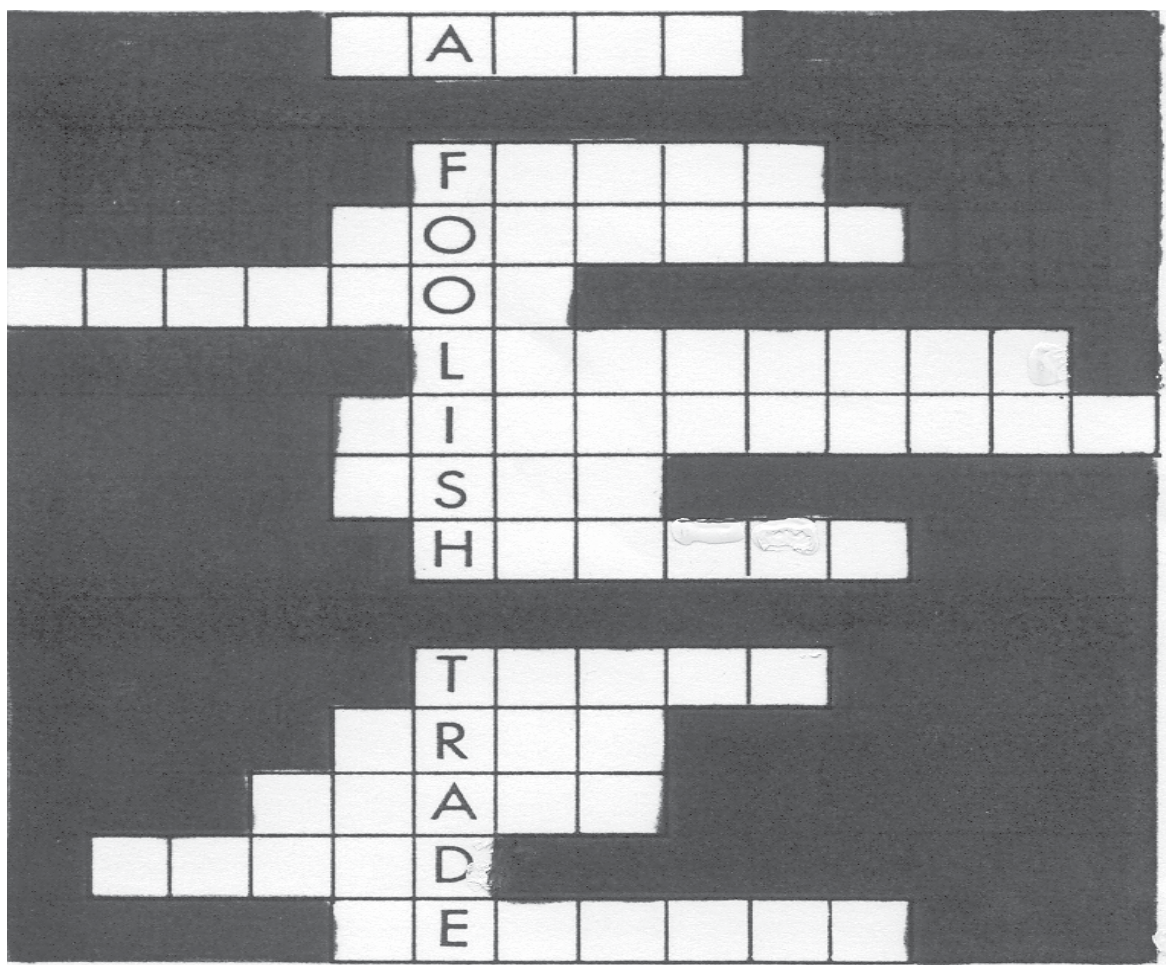
"Well, that's fine," said Mother.

"But, Mother, maybe Jerry was good because I was good, too. I tried to do what God wanted me to do all morning, and didn't start any quarrel," said John.

"I'm glad to hear that," said Mother. "Try to do that every day. You will have a much better time."



A FOOLISH TRADE GENESIS 25:27-34



A - One of the twins (verse 27).

F - Weak (verse 29).

O - A thick soup of meat and vegetables (verse 30).

O - Deer meat (verse 28).

L - Beans or peas (verse 34).

I - right of the oldest son (verse 32).

S - One of the twins (verse 27).

H - One who searches for game (verse 27).

T - Canvas shelters (verse 27).

R - "The boys ____" (verse 27).

A - Father of the twins (verse 28).

D - Food made from flour (verse 34).

E - Mother of the twins (verse 28).

WE THANK YOU, LORD

We thank you, Lord,

for those whose encouragement has made us strong;
for those in whose company the frightening things
were not so alarming, and the hard things not so difficult;
for those whose strong arm has saved us from falling into
temptation, and who have helped us choose the right.

Save us, Lord,

from making the same mistakes over and over again;
from doing things which we know annoy others;
from magnifying trifles into principles;
from failing to realize our own weaknesses and
refusing to see our own faults;
from persisting in courses of action which we learned
long ago lead to trouble.

Forgive us, Lord,

for the times we have been ungracious and ungrateful;
for the times we have discouraged others instead
of encouraging them;
for the times we have grumbled and complained,
or been cross, irritable, faultfinding, and difficult to live with.

Help us daily

to grow stronger, purer, kinder,
to shed old faults and to gain new virtues;
to live as befits those who begin each day with You
and who go out to live every moment of it
in Your presence.

We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

