

*The Advocate of Truth*



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*We would like to thank Heather Mills (Brunswick, Ohio) for these lovely pictures of Ohio above, the cover and page 9. Heather is the daughter-in-law to Brother Gary and Sister Ludina Mills.*





## FOR WHAT CAN A MAN GIVE IN RETURN FOR HIS SOUL?

MARK 8:37

*by Bibi Shimoon Allicock Guyana South America*

The Bible speaks in many places on the importance of following God's will and not worrying about the things of this world. It is important to remember that our time in this life is short in the grand scheme of things. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels... And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:38; 34-37).

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?...God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work...Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them (Psalm 62:11-12).

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having

food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" (I Timothy 6:3-12 first part).

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us...For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:18; 24-28).

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall

separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31-39).

Let us look at what Paul suffered for spreading the Gospel of God concerning our Lord Jesus Christ. "For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands" (2 Corinthians 11:20-33).

There are many things we do have to suffer as Christians, but we must keep our focus on the prize. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be

perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:" (Philippians 3:14-18). "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Philippians 3:19-21).

It is only Almighty God who can change our vile body into the glorious body; thus it will happen in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. 'But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

In the book of First Corinthians, chapter 15 verses 50-54; 58 we read: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory...Therefore, my beloved

brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"

What can a man give in exchange for his soul, when the Almighty has so much goodness, mercy, and pardon-ing grace to bestow upon us. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, 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... Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon...For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer" (Isaiah 55:1-2; 6-7; 54:5-8).

"Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him...Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall

eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation...I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?...Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine: Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over" (Isaiah 51:1-2; 4-8; 12-13; 21-23).

"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint...Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (Isaiah 40:28-31; 1 Timothy 6:17-19). Amen.

<p><b>BIBLE TRIVIA</b> Questions page 19</p>	<p>1. Abel 2. milk and butter 3. husks 4. forty 5. hid themselves from God 6. persecute the Christians 7. heal her daughter 8. watch 9. his mother 10. a dream 11. serpent 12. Philemon</p>
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# APOSTASY

by David Royer

Apostasy comes from the Greek word *apostasia*, meaning “defection”, “departure”, “revolt”, “rebellion”, or “to fall away” from God’s truth, and Christian Apostasy is the rejection of Christ by one who has been a Christian. Church apostasy also includes both Christ’s and God’s truth.

It is a phenomenon, beginning with the Garden of Eden until today. Other examples include the rebellion by the children of Israel during the Exodus from Egypt and their worship of false gods in Canaan. Even while Jesus was on earth, disciples turned their backs on Him. *“And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.”* (John 6:65-66)

Since apostasy has always been around us, and we know it exists, why is it important to recognize its increasing spread? The Bible indicates that there will be a great apostasy during the end times.

This “great apostasy” is mentioned in II Thessalonians 2:1-3. *“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”*. Most Christian denominations are looking for the arrival of this

“man of sin” also called the Antichrist. However, very few are looking for “the apostasy” that must come first.

Jesus also foretold a time when many will fall away because their love for God will grow cold. *“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”* (Matthew 24: 11-12)

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

How do we recognize an Apostate Church or any church slowly becoming one? Look to these signs:

- \* An Apostate church does not deal with the topic of sin
- \* Preaching a gospel of compromise
- \* Sermons are focused on accepting social norms rather than truths found in Scripture.
- \* The church is apostate when she performs as a showboat rather than a lifeboat\*
- \* Changing the Bible to suit gender-neutral wording
- \* An apostate church openly approves of homosexuality and same-sex marriages
- \* They teach: to win the world is to be like the world
- \* The church is apostate when she is a house of entertainment rather than a house of prayer\*



- \* A pastor is chosen based on his fund-raising ability and charismatic personality to attract people to increase the congregation's size and "build the church"
- \* An over-emphasis on our senses and experiences as a means to reach God rather than the Word of God
- \* The church is apostate when she dilutes the gospel message to make it more palatable to sinful man and broadens the way of salvation to make it more inclusive\*
- \* Their gospel has frequently become man-centered, needs-based, and an inspirational life-coach
- \* There will be a move towards ecumenism (universal/uniting) and a one-world religion under the guise of being socially correct

\* Source: Dr. E. A. Johnston from Evangelism Awakening at [www.blogtalkradio.com](http://www.blogtalkradio.com), May 13, 2015

Too many denominations are listening to the false gospel of the world and becoming secularized. Many former conservative Bible-teaching churches and seminaries have allowed humanistic doctrines of self-love and self-esteem to infect their churches. After all, how can one possibly love God or one another unless we first learn to love ourselves? This is psycho-heresy! The self-oriented integration of worldly psychology alongside the Bible has destroyed the doctrinal study of the Scriptures. Man is now dependent upon self rather than humbly seeking to be God-dependent. Source: By permission, Article by RC Burris at [www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-answers](http://www.versebyverseministry.org/bible-answers)

Many denominations have accepted the Catholic Nicene Creed for Sunday worship and the trinity doctrine. "The Roman Catholic Church protests that it transferred Christian worship from the biblical Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday. To try and argue that the change was made in the Bible is both dishonest and a denial of Catholic authority." A number of years ago, the Catholic Mirror ran a series of articles discussing the right of the Protestant churches to worship on Sunday. The articles stressed that unless

one was willing to accept the authority of the Catholic Church to designate the day of worship, Christian Churches should observe Saturday." Source: By permission, Copyright 2008 CCG, ed. Wade Cox; <http://www.ccg.org/weblibs/study-papers/p249.html>

Apostasy is growing in the world today and quite likely in most churches. Scripture tells us that apostasy will only worsen as Christ's return approaches. Brothers and Sisters, we need to be sober, alert, and on guard against this doctrinal defection, known as apostasy. Now more than ever, it is critical that every believer pray for discernment and contend earnestly for the faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

I leave you with these words of caution and encouragement from Paul and Jesus our Christ: *"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified"* (Acts 20: 29-32), and from Jesus: *"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved"* (Matthew 24:13).





# MERCY

*by Mario Cantu*

Mercy is a very passionate and comforting word. Today, people hear the word, mercy, but really don't know what it means and why it is needed. Mercy is used many times in the Bible so that man may learn to train his heart to be compassionate to his neighbor. Mercy is about how you forgive even though there was no wrong done on your part.

Mercy is love, pity, comfort and compassion which glows with tender inward emotions. Jesus displayed all the characteristics of mercy. Many times sin surrounded Him, but He never condemned nor had a grudge against anyone. Read Isaiah 55:6-8.

We fail and commit many trespasses against our neighbors because we do not have mercy. We are not remorseful and do not obey God's commandments. Jesus understands the lack of mercy that may be in our hearts. "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" (Matthew 9:10-12). Jesus pointed out to the Pharisees the necessity mercy. He asked them why they questioned His disciples and why they questioned Him when he ate with publicans and sinners. We see the failure of the Pharisees to show mercy. They needed to show mercy instead of worrying about sacrifices.

Many times we see man fail to show mercy because he lacks love for his neighbor and for Jesus Christ and his teachings.

Know and believe that God is merciful! Both He and His son, Jesus, are merciful. Jesus taught many people to have mercy. He healed the blind, lunatics, lepers, lame, and removed devils from many people. Read Matthew 9:27; 15:22; Mark 5:18-19; Luke 17:12-13. He had so much love, compassion and pity in His heart for so many, and he expected nothing in return.

Why is it that we who are Christians and say we believe in Jesus Christ find it hard to actually forgive? Instead of holding grudges we need to face the facts and simply forgive with the same love that Jesus had. Jesus loved and forgave with no strings attached.

Read Luke 6:27-36. How do you apply these verses to your life? Do you retaliate or do you obey Jesus and do good to them that hate you? Do you love your enemies? Do you bless them that curse you? Do you turn the other cheek?

We are always in need of mercy. If we repent, He forgives us of our sin. We should be thankful to God for His mercy.

God shows great mercy when He forgives us. Can we not show the same mercy to forgive our neighbor?

When we correct each other with the mercy, we are on the righteous path. We must communicate with the same mind that Jesus had. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). God knows we are not perfect, but we must continue to mature ourselves in the Word of God.

Man's law and justice show little mercy. The Apostle Paul would go out of his way to settle wrongs among the brethren. He simply pointed out the wrong and corrected them as a merciful brother. Paul wanted the spiritual law



to correct wrongs. This was recognized by the brethren who heard God's Word.

Where is our prayer and fasting when it comes to sickness, trials and tribulation? Paul wanted mercy shown to those who offended their neighbor, no matter what the offense was. Paul traveled much, and he knew that the civil law of man was harsh. That is why he told the brethren to settle disputes among each other. We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit so we may be merciful toward each other, because we have spiritual understanding. We are here to save but not to condemn. "Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren" (I Corinthians 6:1-8).

We need to read and follow the Scripture to know Jesus and His testimony. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). Mercy toward others is in great need, so that we can find it when we need it. Read Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31; Galatians 5:14.

Thank God that love may be found in our brethren. When an error becomes a stumblingblock it may be corrected by the spiritual Word, and a soul is saved. We must remind ourselves never to hurt our neighbor. Let us be compassionate as Jesus was to everyone, and great will be our reward. We as Christians must have spiritual love one toward another. Mercy is great when you show it to your brethren and neighbor.

Let's remember when The Lord's Supper time comes that we are not worthy to partake of the emblems if there is wrong in our hearts. Let's pray for the mercy of God to be in our presence at this time.



## GOODBYE MY BROTHER

A man I know so strong and brave,  
I don't know how long he has to live,  
But I pray to God and hope for the best  
That God's power would and should in him manifest.

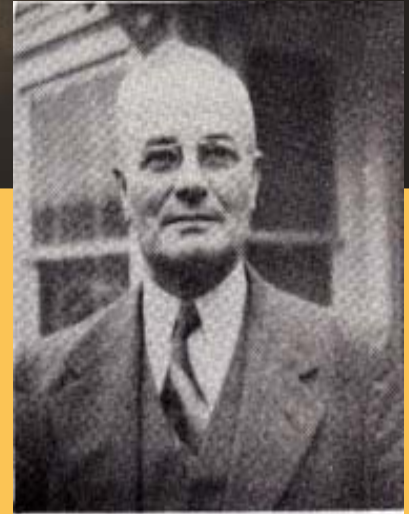
A powerful voice in a dedicated man,  
The Word of God and with the doctrine stand,  
He taught the Word and worked through it,  
Trusting in the Lord to guide him by faith.

But as time passed, his body got weak,  
Yet still on he pushed, God's tasks he seeks,  
Through pain and troubles he praised the Lord,  
In his dwindling time: "God is good" can be heard.

The day did come for him to rest,  
And to the end he gave his best,  
He tried to do more but God set his time,  
His parting hope: "The church be in line".

A brother has come and in pain departs,  
His message of God will stay in our hearts,  
Thank God and keep to His salvation plan,  
So that one day we'll all in Jerusalem stand.

This poem was inspired and written by Sister Alcyon De Coteau from Grenada West Indies about the loss of her Brother Septimus John. It highlights her emotional journey of his sickness to eventual rest. Thank you for reading.



*The Power  
of the Devil*  
by  
Elder F.L. Summers

Editors note: The following article was written by Elder F. L. Summers and published on February 2, 1953 in the Advocate of Truth. Elder Summers was a very faithful minister in Salem, West Virginia for many years and wrote many good articles for the Advocate of Truth. He was the father of long time Publishing House worker Virginia Royer, Grandfather of current Children's Page Editor Ludina Mills, and Great Grandfather of current Publishing House Office Manager Christy Howell and one of the Twelve Apostle Tim Buechner. God's message is timeless as the following article proves. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child" (Rev 12: 12,13).

Many people underestimate the power of Satan. They understand that God is powerful, that Christ is powerful, and that the Holy Spirit is powerful. Some believe that Satan has his habitation somewhere, while others believe that he exists only in the minds of certain individuals who are somewhat superstitious. The Bible was written under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit, as it moved upon the hearts of men. The only facts to be found about Satan are found in the holy Scriptures. Let us read and study this carefully. We are given in the Scriptures a description of his character, his ability, his power, and his limitations.

Satan makes his appearance in the very first book of the Bible, and is among the very first of God's creation. Here he is described as taking on the appearance of a serpent. In the third chapter of Genesis the serpent is spoken of as being subtle. "Subtle" means sly, cunning, crafty, and underhanded. Satan himself desired power, praise, and worship. He desired to usurp the power of God. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14: 12-14). Please note how many times the personal pronoun "I" is mentioned in the above Scripture. This is just what many of the people who permit Satan to direct their lives say. Many become jealous of certain ones in the church or in the work, and say in their heart, "I could do it so much better." This condition was shown to us in Israel which flared into open rebellion against God's anointed.

"And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of

the gate: and it was so, that when any man had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! ... he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel” (2 Sam. 15: 1-6). This was the undermining, cunning way Absalom had of trying to do away with the organization God had set up. If you follow on you can find the end of Absalom in 2 Samuel 18. It was Satan who placed in Absalom’s heart a desire to be great and have praise of men, not the Lord.

Again we read in I Kings where the Lord sent a prophet to Bethel to cry against the wickedness of the king, and when the king stretched forth his hand and said, “lay hold on him”, the king’s arm dried up so that he could not pull it again to him. Satan was present here as usual. God had warned this prophet not to tarry, eat, or drink anything in that place. Satan got busy at once and found a fallen prophet who went out and lied saying what the Lord had said when He had not spoken. The prophet gave in to this false report and never came out of this place alive. How easy it is for us to lose out quickly. “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (I Cor. 10:12).

Here we see how falsehoods hindered the work of the Lord. These false accusers are not just in the times before Christ, but they are among us today with all subtlety, mixing the Word of God with false doctrine to try if possible to destroy our very souls. Let us see if Peter knew anything about this. “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall 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 evil be spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not” (II Peter 2: 1-3).

According to the Word of God we are living very near to the coming of the Lord. We are in the last days of this dispensation. We therefore must be careful lest we be overcome with the cunning craftiness of our adversary, the devil. He is not idle, but goeth about seeking his prey. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (I Peter 5: 8,9). This adversary is very cunning, coming to us to say that the Lord hath said when actually He did not say. If there had not been more than one spirit, and deceptive spirits at that, we would not have been told to try the spirits and to believe not every spirit. We know that this warning is to the children of God. Why would He say this to the world when they are already under the power of the evil spirits. Choose the right way and try the spirits, whether they be of God.

We wonder how we are to try the spirits, if we are ignorant of what the Word teaches. We must have a knowledge of the Word, and not only that, but the same Holy Spirit in our lives which caused the Scriptures to be written. Then it is ours to know the mysteries of heaven. Many have a knowledge of the Word through knowledge of words, yet if the Holy Spirit is not in their lives, the deep things of God will go unnoticed and unheeded.

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa. 8: 19,20).

Satan quoted Scripture to Jesus to try to break Him down, but our Saviour answered with Scripture as Satan had misapplied lies, which he always does. Satan is not like the pictures we often see of him, with a pitchfork, tail, and a very homely creature, but he is a preacher of righteousness, quoting much Scripture as he did to Jesus. “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ...For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according



to their works” (II Cor. 11:3, 13-15). Yes, these men will continue to do the bidding of Satan until Jesus comes. “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt. 7: 22,23).

Satan, that old serpent, the devil is still on the job. He does not care how he deceives. If my weakness is one way, he will work on that. If another has some other weakness, he will work on that particular thing. He is no respecter of persons, but works on the lowest as well as the highest. It takes a constant prayer life, humbling ourselves before God, confessing all our faults, and then the Holy Spirit will dominate our lives. Even then we will scarcely be saved. “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins...And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (I Peter 4: 7,8,18).

May God bless and keep you that your heart may be made to hunger and thirst after the truth, that ye may follow in the footsteps of our Saviour and be saved.



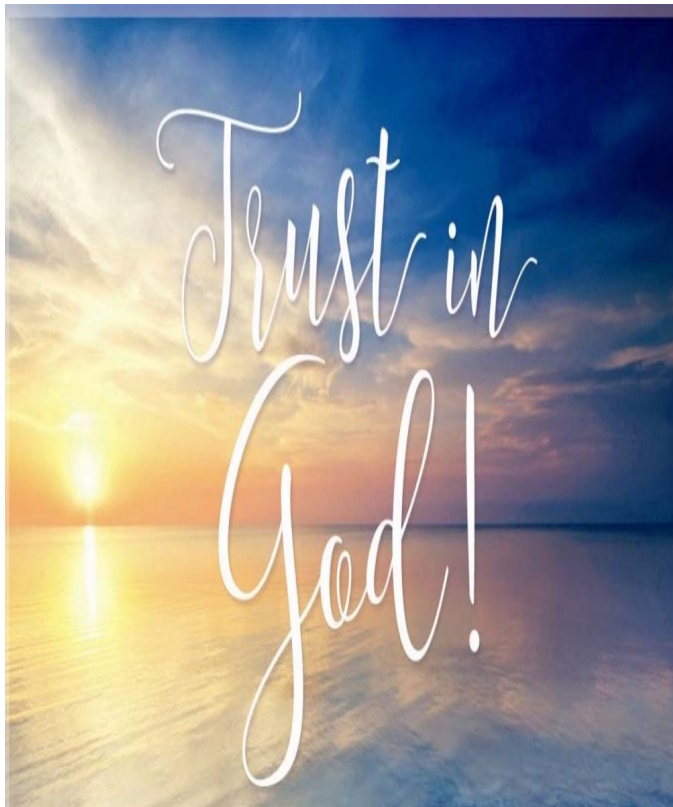
**BUSYBODIES**  
By Sister Alcyon De Coteau  
Grenada W.I

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren” (Prov 6:16-19).

The Lord is clear concerning all that he hates and we are called to follow His instructions and to live in love and unity. Instructions were given to man from the beginning: “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen 2:17). The devil then came, seemingly wise and innocent and added just one word: “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall NOT surely die” (Gen 3:4).

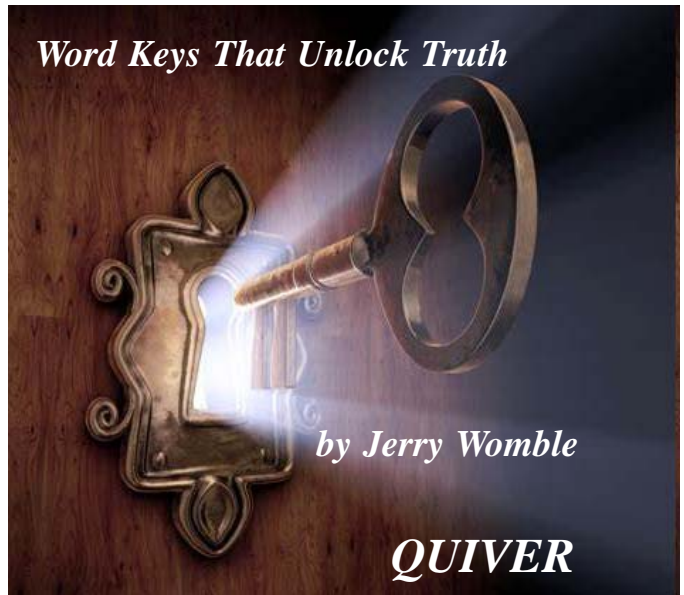
The devil sowed seed of discord and doubt in the mind of Eve and she forgot the command given by God and yielded to the temptation by the devil. Adam and Eve disobeyed the command and they surely died: “And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he DIED” (Gen 5:5).

Satan is the father of evil and all those who yield to him do his will: “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). The sowing of discord is a weapon used by the devil and



his servants to divide the church and cause confusion and doubts. He that soweth discord amongst brethren seeketh the separation of the Saints from unity in God: "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends...He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass" (Prov 16: 28, 30).

The Word of the Lord tells us what we must do to avoid such situations: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16:17-18). Separation from evil doings ensures that you are not partakers of or condon wrong doing, for we are called to be peaceful people: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Mat 5:9). The apostles in the early church acknowledged the presence of busybodies: "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies" (II Thes 3:11). The characteristics of a busybody were also written: "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not" (I Timothy 5:13). But as children of God, we are called to do our Christ-like duties and admonish that brother who is in a fault: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; That ye may be children of your father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mat 5:44-45). The Lord is a just rewarder of all works; whether they are of His will or not. Therefore, those who sow discord among the brethren or take pleasure in it, will reap their just reward. Our Lord God calls us all unto repentance, and to share in that great gift of life eternal. The will of the devil is to destroy God's people and we should not be partakers. Stay strong, rooted and grounded in the Word of God and the doctrine of the church, so that no passing wind of doctrine can make you lose out on the kingdom of God. Avoid a busybody's web of devilish attributes but with the Word of God, admonish them in the will of God for His obedient children. Always remember to love God and keep His commandments.



The traditional thought of a quiver is something to hold arrows. Spiritually we see it as holding blessing for God's people but sometimes it holds corruption or disaster.

The first time we see quiver in the Bible it is literally holding arrows as Isaac tells Esau to take his quiver and bow to the field and get him some venison, and then Isaac would be ready to place a blessing on Esau before he died.

Then Job, Psalms, Isaiah and Jeremiah, all give us different views of what a quiver could represent both physically and spiritually. Sometimes they see the strength of a horse as a war machine and even if the quiver of the enemy that he sees is a potential for a losing battle he does not give up but continues the fight that is before him. At the vision of the valley, Israel has not kept the commandments and statutes of God; therefore, Israel's enemy would take over the valleys around Jerusalem and would gain strength because Elam would become an ally with the enemy and their strength is increased because the quiver of Elam is full and strong. Because Elam's quiver is full of strength Israel cannot win the battle as long as they will not repent and turn back to God.

God wants Israel to be the example of spiritualness to the Gentiles. He wants Israel to be the spiritual example to all the earth, and if they will God will glorify Israel before all nations. Then because of their faithfulness Israel can think of themselves as being in God's quiver, that is, a place that God will keep them secure and protected them both then and now.

The people of Jeremiah's time declared that they did not need a God and that they were self-sufficient and even said that God's prophets were just wind and had no credibility. At that time God told them he would bring a nation against them with a quiver of rottenness as an open grave. That with this quiver of rottenness might mean men would over take them even to the point of destroying their crops, vines, trees and animals.

In Lamentations the arrow of God's quiver pierces deeper than the flesh. It enters our emotions, our self-assurance and makes us be aware of our spiritual condition and the only escape is to be renewed to God.

In Psalm 127, children are given to us for an inheritance. As a warrior needs arrows in his quiver for hunting or war children are to be in the quiver of our household.

We see that sometimes the quiver brought blessings and sometimes punishment. To keep our spiritual quiver full, keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Home Instructor Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

### Part 19A - DANIEL 7 (THE DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR BEASTS)

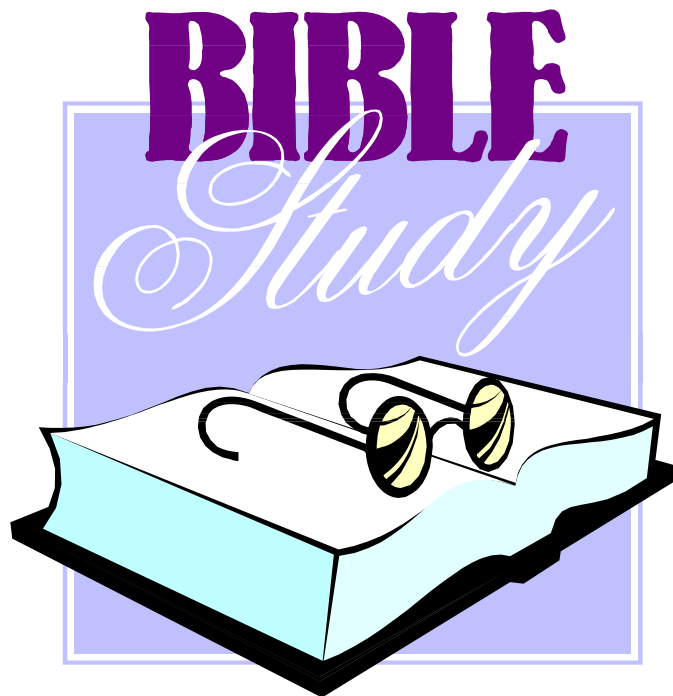
**Question:** What did Daniel do about a dream he had?

**Answer:** "In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters" Daniel 7:1.

**Question:** What had he seen?

**Answer:** "Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea" (verse 2).

**NOTE:** In prophecy winds represent war, strife and commotions, and seas represent nations, multitudes and



people.

**Question:** What further did he see?

**Answer:** "And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse (different) one from another" (Verse 3).

**NOTE:** Beasts represent kingdoms or empires and again seas mean peoples. So here Daniel saw four great kingdoms arise up from the people.

**Question:** What was the first beast like?

**Answer:** "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it" (verse 4).

**NOTE:** this first beast as a lion was the lion kingdom of Babylon which held rule over the earth (603-538 B.C.).

**Question:** What was the second beast like?

**Answer:** "And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said



thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh" (verse 5).

**NOTE:** This beast represented the two nation kingdom of Media and Persia. This is why one side was higher than the other. Cyrus the Persian was of greater importance than Darius the Mede. This two nation kingdom reigned over the earth (538-331 B.C.).

**Question:** How is the third beast described?

**Answer:** "After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it" (verse 6).

**NOTE:** The leopard beast represented the kingdom of Grecia. The four wings represented the speed by which Alexander the great conquered the then known world. The four heads represented the four divisions into which the kingdom was divided after the death of Alexander. It reigned over the earth (331-168 B.C.).

**Question:** How did the fourth beast appear?

**Answer:** "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse (different) from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns" (verse 7).

**NOTE:** This fourth beast is called non-descript because it had parts of the three first beasts. Study the lesson on Revelation 13. The iron teeth with which it devoured designates it as the iron monarchy of Rome. It reigned over the earth (168 B.C.-476 A.D.)

**Question:** What did Daniel consider?

**Answer:** "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" (verse 8).

**NOTE:** He considered the ten horns and specifically the

little horn that plucked up three horns. This little horn represents the Papacy that came up and from 325-538 A.D. plucked up three of the original horns. To take over the beast or Roman Empire it had to make room for itself. All three of these nations were Arian kingdoms, keeping the sabbath on Saturday the seventh day of the week.

**Question:** How far into the future did Daniel see?

**Answer:** "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire" (verse 9).

**Question:** How did he see the judgment at the beginning of Christ's reign?

**Answer:** "A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened" (verse 10).

**Question:** What did he see happen to the beast?

**Answer:** "I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame" (verse 11).

**Question:** How had the other beasts or kingdoms ended?

**Answer:** "As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time" (verse 12).

**Question:** Who gave Christ his kingdom?

**Answer:** "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (verses 13-14).

# Blessings

By David DeLong

God is a person who blesses His people. For instance, the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:". God has blessed His people "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ". I would like to list some of the spiritual blessings that the Lord gives to His people as revealed in His Word.

In Psalm 32:1-2 we find: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." This is the greatest spiritual blessing, having our sins forgiven so that we can live with the Lord eternally. Romans 4:5-8 gives a little more understanding to the passage in Psalms. Here Paul writes: "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Having our sins forgiven is done by the Lord without our doing any works to achieve that. Christ paid for our sins on the cross. We just have to believe that. What a wonderful blessing!

However, there is a place in our lives for keeping God's commandments, not to have our sins forgiven, but to keep from sinning. Psalm 1:1-3 reads: "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." What a blessing for keeping God's law. We also know that the last book of the Bible,

Revelation, tells us something similar: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

Other blessings from the Lord, spiritual and physical, are given in Psalm 103:1-5: "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

We may not think that when we are tempted to sin, that it can turn into a blessing for us. James 1:12 informs us: "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."

The Lord blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. He did this to Abraham when He blessed him. "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3).

The Lord so desires that His people be a blessing to others that He tells them to bless even when they are persecuted. Romans 12:14 tells us: "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." Furthermore He informs us: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" (Matthew 5:44). Paul was a good example of this.

In I Corinthians 4:12 he wrote: "And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:"

The problem is, though, that we often do not bless men. James wrote of this problem in his epistle, chapter 3, verses 8-10. "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

We are to bless the Lord as individuals as is inferred from Psalm 134:1-2: "Behold, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD. Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD." And we are to bless Him in our congregations. "Bless ye God in the congregations, even the Lord, from the fountain of Israel" (Psalm 68:26).

Just how do we bless God? One way, that we just read is to "lift up your hands in the sanctuary". Another way is told us in Psalm 96:2-3: "Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people." We also bless the Lord by being thankful to Him. Psalm 100:4 says: "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

We must bless the Lord at all times, not just when we come to church. "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

Sometimes our blessing comes from helping the less fortunate. Psalm 41:1-2 reads: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies." At other times it comes from our disciplining. "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law" (Psalm 94:12).

In Matthew 5:1-12 Jesus taught about a group of people who will be blessed by God. They include the poor in spirit, they that mourn, the meek, they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, they which are persecuted for

righteousness' sake, ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

We want to be in the group of which Jesus spoke about in Matthew 24:45-47. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods."

This group also includes those who have been invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. "And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Revelation 19:9).

When the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan river into the land of milk and honey that the Lord promised them, they set up stones covered with plaster upon which was written a copy of God's law. They were commanded to be obedient to this law. Also, six of the tribes of Israel were to be witnesses to the obedience of the people. "These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin:" (Deuteronomy 27:12). The other six tribes of Israel were to stand upon mount Ebal to curse if the Israelites were disobedient.

The Lord instructed Moses to teach Aaron and his sons to bless the Israelites. This is how they were to bless them: "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:24-27).

## **The Cross of Christ**

By David DeLong

The cross was a weapon of hate,  
The agony on it, was great;  
But, God from above, made it a blessing of love,  
When His Son bore our sins' full weight.





*AFRICA - Pastor Leonard Chaunga and members of the Malawi Africa Church in which eight souls (pictured to the right and below left) were baptized into the Church of God 7th Day family. Pictures below right Malawi Church of God 7th Day Board Members from left to right: Brother Moses Mnthali, Brother George Muhamndo, Elder Leonard Chaunga and Brother G. Nyasulu*



# BIBLE TRIVIA

*Answers found on page 5*

- 1. (Nimrod; Abel; Moses) was the first keeper of sheep. Genesis 4:2*
- 2. Jael gave (bread; milk and butter; meat) to Sisera when he asked for water. Judges 5:25*
- 3. The prodigal son ate (husks; bread; corn) while feeding swine in the far country. Luke 15:16*
- 4. The children of Israel ate manna for (seven; forty; one hundred) years. Exodus 16:35*
- 5. Adam and Eve (fled from the garden; asked forgiveness; hid themselves from God) after eating the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:8*
- 6. Saul was on the way to Damascus to (preach the Gospel; persecute the Christians; stone Stephen) when the Lord spoke to him. Acts 9:1-2*
- 7. The Syrophenician woman asked Jesus to (heal her daughter; raise her son from the dead; drink at the well). Mark 7:26*
- 8. When Jesus went to Gethsemane, He asked His three disciples to (watch; pray; fast). Mark 14:34*
- 9. At His crucifixion, Jesus asked a disciple to care for (his mother, the church, the other disciples) John 19:26-27*
- 10. The wise men did not return to Herod because of the leading of (the star; an angel; a dream). Matthew 2:12*
- 11. The tempter came to Eve in the form of a (heavenly being; serpent; dove). Genesis 3:1*
- 12. The book of (Philemon; Titus; Jude) was written by Paul in behalf of a runaway slave. Philemon 1:10*



LESSON I

PETER'S LOVE FOR JESUS

Scripture Reading: John 21:1-19.

Golden Text: John 21:17 (last part).

"And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

1. Who was gathered together at the sea of Tiberius, or Galilee, as recorded in John 21:2?
2. What did Peter say he was going to do, and what happened? John 21:3.
3. Who stood on the shore the next morning? John 21:4. Did the disciples know who this was? Remember Jesus had been crucified prior to this time.
4. What did Jesus say to the disciples? John 21:5-6. What was the result when the disciples followed the command of Jesus?
5. Who first recognized Jesus? John 21:7. What did Peter do when he heard it was the Lord?
6. When Simon Peter brought the fish to shore that they had caught, how many fish were there, and what was the condition of the net? John 21:11.
7. How many times did this make that Jesus had showed Himself to His disciples after He was risen from the dead? John 21:14.
8. What question did Jesus ask Peter? John 21:15. What was the reply, and what did Jesus then say?
9. What did Peter answer the second and third time Jesus asked him this question? John 21:16-17.



LESSON II

PETER PREACHES IN JERSUALEM

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-42.

Golden Text: Acts 2:38.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

1. Where did Jesus say the disciples should remain, and why? Acts 1:4-5, 2:1.
  2. What happened as the disciples were gathered in one place in one accord? Acts 2:2-4.
- NOTE: Tongues mean languages.
3. What was the action of the men gathered together? Acts 2:5-7.
  4. What words were being heard by all present? Acts 2:9-11.
  5. What was said of the disciples, and who became their spokesman? Acts 2:13-14.
  6. Name at least three statements Peter made in his message. Acts 2:15-36.
  7. After Peter gave this message, what did the people ask him, and what was his reply? Acts 2:37-38.

8. What did those who believed Peter's words do? Acts 2:41. How many people were added to the church that day?





LESSON III

A LAME MAN IS HEALED

Scripture Reading: Acts 3:1-20.

Golden Text: Acts 3:6.

"Then Peter said, silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

1. Where do we find Peter and John in Acts 3:1?
2. What do we know about the lame man? Acts 3:2.
3. What did Peter reply when the lame man asked him for alms? Acts 3:3-6. What are alms?
4. What happened to the lame man after Peter took him by the hand? Acts 3:7-8.
5. Who did the lame man give credit to for his healing? Acts 3:9.
6. What was the reaction of the people who saw this miracle? Acts 3:10.
7. Who gathered at the porch of Solomon? Acts 3:11. Peter took this opportunity to preach to the people about Jesus.
8. What did Peter say was responsible for the lame man's ability to walk? Acts 3:16.
9. What did Peter say in Acts 3:19? Define the words "repent" and "converted."

LESSON IV

PREACHING FORBIDDEN

Scripture Reading: Acts 4:1-22.

Golden Text: Acts 4:12.

"Neither is there salvation in any other. for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

1. Who was not happy that Peter and John were teaching the people about Jesus? Acts 4:1-3.
2. How many that heard the words of Peter and John believed? Acts 4:4.
3. What did the rulers of Israel and the high priests ask Peter and John about Jesus? Acts 4:7.
4. What answer was given to the rulers? Acts 4:10. Peter and John did not take credit for the miracle they performed. The glory was given to Jesus where it belonged.
5. What is said of the Lord Jesus Christ? Acts 4:12.
6. What did the rulers say about Peter and John? Acts 4:13.
7. What did the rulers decide among themselves? Acts 4:16-17. Why do you think the rulers were afraid for Peter and John to continue to preach the Word of God?
8. What reply did Peter and John give when they were commanded not to speak nor teach in the name of Jesus? Acts 4:20-21.





**TOO MANY MELONS**  
by Moeita M. Burch

Bill whistled softly because he was happy. Jack and Melvin had told him to meet them at the bridge at two o'clock and they would have a surprise for him.

Bill had lived in Happy Valley only a week, and Jack and Melvin were his nearest neighbors. They had taken him to their swimming hole in a nearby creek and into the woods to pick wild raspberries. He had much fun with his new friends.

Soon the bridge that crossed Cherry Creek came into view. Jack and Melvin were sitting under the bridge. They got up as Bill came near and went to meet him. "Hi!" they called, "you're right on time."

"yes," said Bill, "I like to be on time. If I tell someone I will meet him at a certain time, I don't want to be late."

"Well, most people are not so particular," said Melvin.

"What do you have to show me?" asked Bill.

"Come on, and you'll see," said Jack. Bill followed them across the bridge, under a wire fence, through a little meadow and down a narrow trail to a big green field. The boys stopped at the fence.

Bill's mouth fell open.

"This is a surprise," he said. "I never saw so

many watermelons in my life. Aren't they beautiful?" The boys grinned at him. "They taste better than they look" said Melvin. "Hold the wire down, Jack, and I'll crawl through." Jack held the wire, and soon Melvin was among the melons.

"What are you going to do?" asked Bill. "Is this your father's garden?"

"No, it's Sam Barnes' patch," answered Melvin. "He won't miss a couple of melons. He has hundreds. I heard him say he would be in town at two o'clock. That's why we're here."

Bill was shocked. They were going to steal Mr. Barnes' melons. "Don't!" he exclaimed. "Please don't pick any. That is stealing."

"Aw, it isn't either," growled Jack. "We'll only borrow a couple. He wouldn't miss them if we took a dozen."

"When you borrow things," said Bill, "you pay them back. I know you're not going to put two melons back where they were."

"Of course not, silly" said Jack. "We're going to take them to the creek and have all the melons we can eat for once." Melvin handed Jack a big green melon and went back for another.

Bill still protested. "You know it isn't right," he said. "You said it isn't stealing, and you know it isn't borrowing. What are you doing, then? What do you call it?"

"We're swiping them, if you like that better" said Jack. "It isn't bad to swipe watermelons. Everybody does it. Sam Barnes has too many. He never sells all of them."

"We are not mean, either," added Melvin. "Some people trample all over the fields and poke the melons to see if they are ripe. I walked carefully, and I thumped them to see if they were ready."

"I hope these are ripe," said Jack. "If they aren't, I will pick out the next ones."

"Come on, Bill", said Melvin. "Let's eat them."

Bill followed the boys slowly. He didn't feel right. "I wished we had waited and asked Mr. Barnes for the melons," He said.

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed Jack and Melvin, "I can see him giving us any. He would probably sick the

dog on us," added Jack.

"Well, then, he certainly wouldn't want us in this patch." said Bill. "Perhaps Mr. Barnes was selfish with his melons. Maybe he did have too many." Bill looked back. The fields reached as far as he could see. There must be melons enough for all the towns nearby.

Bill was hot and thirsty, too. He had not had a watermelon for a long time. His throat was dry. He had not helped steal the melons. Maybe it wouldn't be wrong to eat a little slice as long as it was given to him. But even at the thought of it his conscience bothered him.

One melon gave a loud pop as Melvin's knife cut into it. It was bright red and dripping with juice. Bill's mouth watered.

"Look at that," said Jack. "Isn't that a beauty?"

Melvin cut a big slice and handed it to Bill. He reached for it, and then dropped his hand to his side. "No, thank you," he said quietly. "I couldn't enjoy a melon that was stolen."

"Well, if you aren't an odd fellow," said Jack.

"I may be odd," said Bill, "but I am honest."

He turned and made his way through the tall grass toward home. He was warmer than ever, but he felt good. His feet were as light as a feather, and he wasn't thirsty at all.

Bill found his mother on the porch mending. "Mom," he said. "I almost did something wrong, but I didn't."

"I am glad that you didn't," said Mother. Bill told her the whole story. When he had finished he said, "I wish Jesus wouldn't let Satan tempt us. I wanted a slice of that melon so badly that I almost took it."

"Yes, Satan is allowed to tempt us," said Mother. "But remember that Jesus can give us power to overcome every temptation."

"I am glad of that," said Bill.

"Now, I have nice surprise," said Mother. "Mr. Barnes came by this afternoon with a truck load of watermelons had left two big ones for us. He said he had too many melons, so he is to take in a load to the county hospital so the sick people there could have a treat.

CITIES AND TOWNS  
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Look up these New Testament verses to see if your town is mentioned in the Bible.

1. M \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 16:9
2. B \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 21:1
3. J \_\_\_\_\_ John 5:2
4. B \_\_\_\_\_ John 5:2
5. C \_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 1:2
6. N \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 2:23
7. P \_\_\_\_\_ I Thessalonians 2:2
8. A \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 27:6
9. P \_\_\_\_\_ Revelation 3:7
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 11:26
11. D \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 22:10
12. J \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 10:5
13. O \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 1:12
14. B \_\_\_\_\_ Mark 6:45
15. B \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 17:13
16. C \_\_\_\_\_ John 4:46
17. B \_\_\_\_\_ Mark 11:12
18. R \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 28:16
19. S \_\_\_\_\_ John 4:4
20. A \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 17:15



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## **CLOUDS**

*By Del DeLong*

*My eyes climbed skyward one bright day  
To view a churning cloud,  
I saw a dog and lion stay  
But briefly in that crowd.  
The rising clouds all billowed high,  
And darkened as they grew,  
They boiled and reached up in the sky -  
A storm they were to brew.  
A sharp and jagged lightning bolt  
Stretched straight across the sky,  
And then the mighty thunder told  
The rain to fall from high.  
The majesty of God was there,  
And soon the storm was gone,  
But left behind high in the air -  
God's bow, and birds with song.  
We know when Jesus will return,  
He'll come to clouds on high,  
And catch the saints from off the earth -  
That time is drawing nigh.*

