



*The Advocate of Truth*





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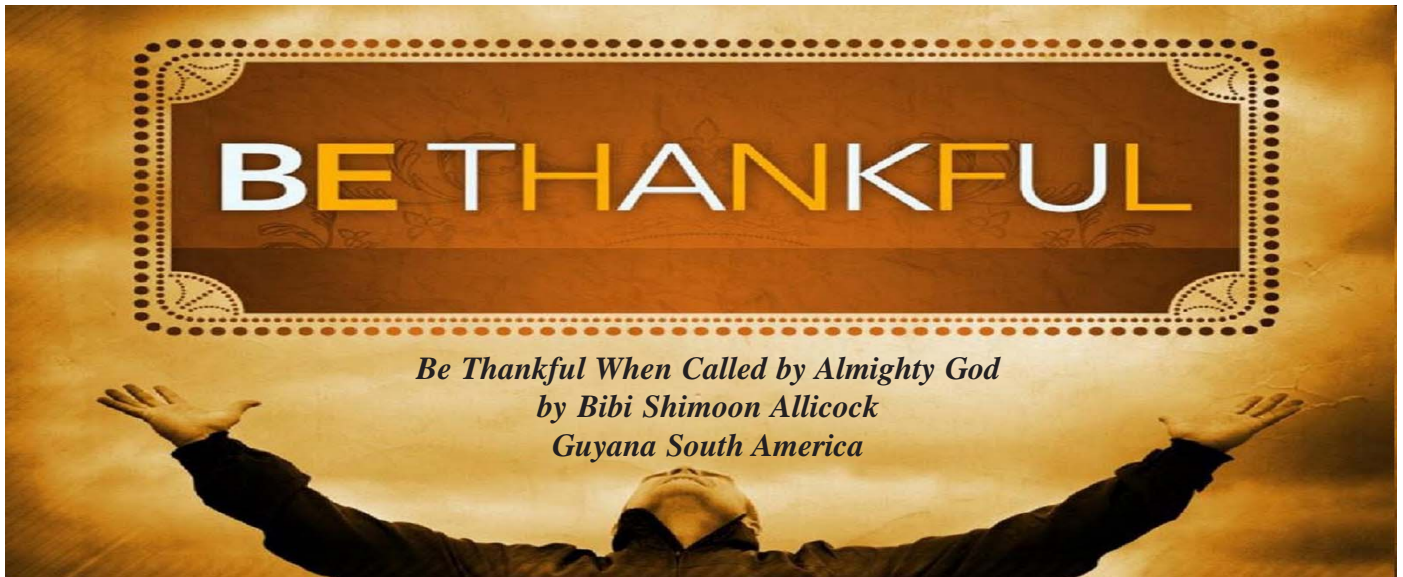
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*Be Thankful When Called by Almighty God*  
*by Bibi Shimoon Allicock*  
*Guyana South America*

God in His infinite wisdom made man in His own image and likeness to give glory and honour unto Him. It is said of the 24 elders in Revelation: "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:10-11).

Although Almighty God made us in His likeness and image, which is written for our learning so that we must adhere unto Him, yet it pleased man to worship the host of heaven and images of people and things they deemed to be god. The apostle Paul declared in the Book of Romans: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things" (Romans 1:18-23).

Therefore, as the wrath of God was upon them,

He gave them over unto a reprobate mind. "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them" (Romans 1:24-32).

Be thankful when called by Almighty God because it is a privilege when someone is called by Him. Abraham was one called by Him, and he moved with reverence and obedience unto Him. "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kin-

dred, 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. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came...And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold...And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD" (Genesis 12:1-5; 13:2; 14-18).

Abraham was very thankful because, as we can see, when he dwelt in Hebron he built an altar to worship and thank Almighty God for His goodness towards him. Also he was very faithful and obedient. "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son. Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure" (Hebrews 11:8-10; 17-19).

Many are called, but few are chosen. Let us try our utmost best to be among the chosen few. Christ teaches on discipleship. "And there went great multitudes with

him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple...For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple...And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple...Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Luke 14:25-26; 28-33; 27; 34-35).

We must be very thankful when called by Almighty God because He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him: Thus there is a blessing for those who hear and do accordingly. As our Lord was emphasizing on the parable of the soils, indicating of our calling, He admonished to be grounded and bear fruit. "And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given" (Matthew 13:10-11). We see here that those that are called get a chance to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I



should heal them" (Matthew 13:12-15). "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them" (Matthew 13:16-17)... "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:19-25). Many are called, but few are chosen. So let us look at the parable of the labourers. "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them

into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine



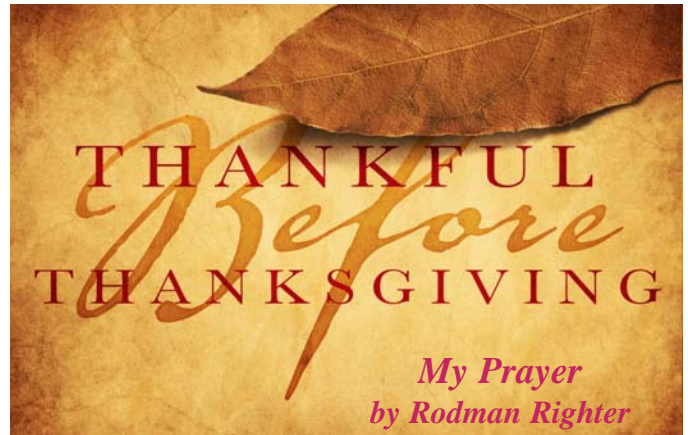
eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" (Matthew 20:1-16). We see here that some of them were not thankful for their payment after being called. Thus they murmured at their payment, but we have seen they agreed for the penny; and we must understand if some of us are sixty years or thirty years or two years or two hours in the vineyard, it is the same penny we all agreed for. Our Lord emphasized: "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. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:44-51). "The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew

from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray 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. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (John 6:52-70). In the book of Hebrews, there were other brethren who, when being called, were thankful for their calling. Thus, they served with faith and are now awaiting the promise that was promised unto them. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Hebrews 11:3-7). Moses was very thankful for being called by Almighty God, so that he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he would rather to be afflicted with the people of God. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 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. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned" (Hebrews 11:24-29). Also oth-



ers were thankful for being called; they did what they had to do in service to Almighty God, as Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Paul, Matthew, etc., "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, 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 fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth...Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:33-38; 12-16). Wherefore my beloved brethren, friends, and the world at large, let us be thankful and make our calling election sure and do the things that are required of us, so that we can attain eternal life. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust...According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue...And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (love). For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in

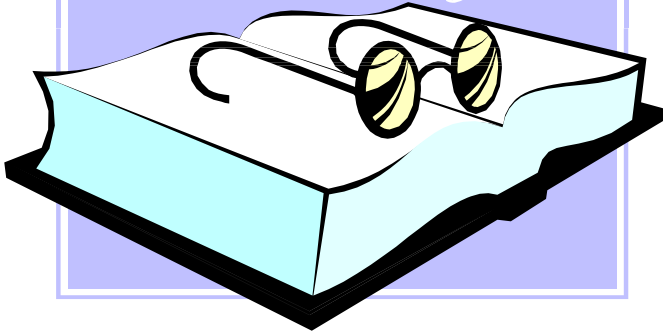
the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:4, 3, 5-11). Amen.



*Dear God on high,  
I offer up my life to You today,  
To shape and mold it as You will,  
In Your majestic way.  
Please take my very soul  
As a sacrifice to thee,  
Destroy my will and make me whole  
That I may once again be free.  
Lead me with that Master hand  
To where You would have me go,  
Teach me those secrets grand  
That I may full glory come to know.  
Help me lead a fuller life,  
To glorify Your Precious Name,  
Make me strong thru storm and strife,  
My turbulent passions tame.  
Take me thru life's darkest hours  
By the flame of Your sacred light,  
Help me build a life that towers  
Truly blest within Thy sight.  
Help me grow more like Thy Son  
As I live my earthly days,  
To love my neighbor judging none  
Your humble servant prays.  
A-men.*

# BIBLE

## Study



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Taken from **The Instructor of Truth 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 21 - THE TWO WITNESSES

**QUESTION: What was given to John?**

**ANSWER:** "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein" (Revelation 11:1).

**QUESTION: What was told in verse 2?**

**ANSWER:** "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty

and two months" (Revelation 11:2).

**NOTE:** The temple in verse 1 represents the holy city, New Jerusalem. The outer court for the Gentiles represents the earth. The holy city of verse 2 which is tread down for forty and two months or 3 ½ years is the earthly Jerusalem.

**QUESTION: During this time what will happen?**

**ANSWER:** "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth" (Revelation 11:3).

**NOTE:** A thousand two hundred and threescore days or 1260 days are 42, 30 day months or 3 ½ years, the same period of time mentioned in verse 2.

**QUESTION: What are the two witnesses called?**

**ANSWER:** "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth" (Revelation 11:4).

**NOTE:** Some people have tried to speculate as to whom these two witnesses are. Since the Bible does not name them we shall not try.

**QUESTION: Will anyone be able to hurt the two witnesses?**

**ANSWER:** "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceeded out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed" (Revelation 11:5).

**QUESTION: What other power will they have?**

**ANSWER:** "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will" (Revelation 11:6).

**QUESTION: At the end of their testimony what will happen?**



ANSWER: “And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them” (Revelation 11:7).

**QUESTION: Where will their dead bodies lie?**

ANSWER: “And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified” (Revelation 11:8).

NOTE: Our Lord was crucified in Jerusalem, Israel. All nations will be gathered against Israel at the battle of Armageddon; and, in its capitol city, Jerusalem, will the witnesses be killed.

**QUESTION: Will they be buried? How long will they lie in the street?**

ANSWER: “And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves” (Revelation 11:9).

**QUESTION: What will those on the earth do? Why?**

ANSWER: “And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth” (Revelation 11:10).

**QUESTION: What happened after 3 ½ days?**

ANSWER: "And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them" (Revelation 11:11).

**QUESTION: What command came to them?**

ANSWER: “And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them” (Revelation 11:12).

NOTE: The saints will be on the sea of glass in the air at this time with the life giver Jesus. This is called the first heaven. Therefore this must be the heaven to which the two witnesses are called.

**QUESTION: What will happen at this same hour to Jerusalem?**

ANSWER: “And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven” (Revelation 11:13).

**QUESTION: How do we know that this will happen under the second woe which is the sixth plague or trumpet?**

ANSWER: "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly" (Revelation 11:14).



*Answers to Trivia on page 19*

- 1. out of a whirlwind*
- 2. forgive others*
- 3. tithes*
- 4. wife*
- 5. neighbor*
- 6. Theophilus*
- 7. consume the Samaritans with fire from heaven*
- 8. pay their taxes*
- 9. barley fields*
- 10. Abraham*
- 11. Benjamin*
- 12. red pottage*



## *GOD'S FINAL WARNING*

Many Christian nations in the world have been blessed and have prospered for many years. Yet they do not recognize that it was God who bestowed unto them all these blessings. God has set these nations above all others in the earth. He made them plenteous in goods, in the fruit of their cattle, and in the fruit of their ground. They have lived in relative peace amongst the other nations, but instead of being thankful, they have become stubborn and rebel against God's directives.

Prayers have been banned from school. The 10 commandments have been removed from public places, because some people felt that it was not right to be exposed to some special religious concepts. Society now scoffs and acts in total disobedience to God's 10 commandment law. God's directives are turned upside down. They that indulge in wickedness are set up high.

In Alberta Canada on January 14, 2018, The Lethbridge Herald published "Pagan cultural festival returns to city of Lethbridge on May 1." With it the City of Lethbridge is promoting a lesson of Pagan spirituality, as the Pagan Cultural Festival returns for its second time to southern Alberta. In this article, they say: "In hopes to help share the culture of Paganism, 'unite communities and spread true knowledge' of this faith, and the

(misunderstanding) being that we do practice what is more commonly known as witchcraft. Hollywood has created negative images of what paganism is, so this festival is a great way to show the world who we really are." Then they continue: "We believe in a balance of love and dark, like nature, we need balance in our lives and it's a very harmonious culture,".

In today's times, such morally destructive and deceptive understanding is socially and politically declared acceptable and good. God's moral code is turned upside down. The world says God's law does not allow enough "freedom of expression" and therefore is declared politically incorrect to be adhered to in our modern society.

God has sent watchmen to proclaim warnings to His people. These warnings have been passed down to us today thru the Holy Scriptures. We read of such warnings in the following texts.

Isaiah 59: 12-15 "For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgment is turned away



backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him. . . .”

(Ezekiel 2: 4-6). “... Thus saith the LORD GOD. And whether they, will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them. And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.”

Malachi 3: 7,13-14 “... ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, sayeth the LORD of hosts. But ye said, wherein shall we return?” “Your words have been stout against me, says the LORD. Yet ye say, what have we spoken so much against thee? Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?”

In the Old Testament the people were warned of the following consequences and plagues for not following what God told them to do. “All these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day.” (Deuteronomy 28:15).

1 – “For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth. Therefore also I will make thee sick in smiting thee, in making thee desolate because of thy sins. (Micah 6:12-13).

2 – “The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.” (Deuteronomy 28:20)

3 - The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. (Deuteronomy 28:21)

4 – “The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.” (Deuteronomy 28:25).

“And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee.” (Deuteronomy 28:37).

5 – “The stranger (or refugee) that is within thee (amongst us) shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.” (Deuteronomy 28:43).

6 – “Thou shalt eat, but not be satisfied; and thy casting down shall be in the midst of thee; and thou shalt take hold, but shalt not deliver; and that which thou deliverest will I give up to the sword.” (Micah 6:14)

7 – “Thou shalt sow, but thou shalt not reap; thou shalt tread the olives, but thou shalt not anoint thee with oil; and sweet wine, but shalt not drink wine.” (Micah 6: 15).

8 – “The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;” (Deuteronomy 28:49).

9 – “And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.” (Deuteronomy 28:62).

10 – “Therefore thus saith the LORD GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations. Wherefore, as I live, saith the LORD God; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.” (Ezekiel 5:8,11).

11 – “Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries.” (Ezekiel 6:8) “Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness. . . .” (Jeremiah 31:2) “And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall loathe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations. And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.” (Ezekiel 6:9-10).

12 – “Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon

the head of the wicked.” (Jeremiah 30:23).

Contrast the above to God’s following blessings for obedience:

(Deuteronomy 28:1). “But if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.”

(Deuteronomy 28: 11,12) “And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee. The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand...”

(Proverbs 3: 5-6) “Trust in the LORD with all our heart; and lean not unto our own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

If we acknowledge Him, He will direct our paths and bring peace into our hearts and minds.

#### The Watchman of the LORD

(Ezekiel 33:7) So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

The prophet is here reminded that he has been set apart as a “watchman unto the house of Israel” (see also chapter 3:17-21). If there were no dangers, there would be no need of the watchman. The enemy is ever seeking whom he may devour. What God said to Ezekiel He now says unto all. “Watch”.

Jesus warns this as well in Mark 13:37 “And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”

There are several things to consider from the Scriptures when discussing being Watchmen and those they are to warn.

1. The responsibilities to the Watchman are twofold:

a. Make sure they “HEAR” the Word of God (Ezekiel 33:7). The watchman must not only have eyes to see and a mouth to speak, but ears to hear the Word of God as from His own mouth. The first necessity is to hear Him and to enter intelligently and sympathetically into His mind and purposes.

b. To “WARN them from Me.” Warn them, because there is impending danger; and warn them from Him, as one who is wholly devoted to His will. The watchman’s

responsibility lies in making men feel their responsibility to God.

2. Responsibility of the Warned. The “wicked” here are literally the lawless and the watchman must observe their:

a. CONDITION. “...O wicked man, thou shalt surely die...” (Ezekiel 33:8). Sin is lawlessness, and lawlessness is death. Death is the result of alienation from God.

b. OPPORTUNITY. “Warn them from Me.” Through the prophet they were distinctly “warned of God.” It is sad to be deluded and deceived, but it is surely a mercy to be faithfully warned of our danger. “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3) was not spoken in anger, but in love. The warning comes from God just as directly as the invitation of His mercy.

c. RESPONSIBILITY. “...if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity...” (Ezekiel 33:9). The warning is “to turn.” If he turns not, he shall die in his sins, his blood shall be upon his own soul. Regeneration is the work of the Spirit of God; but conversion - turning about at His bidding - is an act of our own will. The trumpet warning of the law may be despised, and the trumpet blower may be reckoned behind the times. Turning from sin and having faith in the LORD Jesus Christ is the only way into the Kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

But if people in the land do not turn from their wickedness (Ezekiel 33:28-29): God will lay the land desolate, their pomp shall cease; even the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through. Then shall they know that I am the LORD, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed.”

3. Attestation and Appeal of the Watchman to the Wicked. The following are words for the Watchmen to deliver to the wicked.

a. “...As I live, saith the LORD GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked (lawless); ... turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways, for why will ye die...” (Ezekiel 33:11). This is the agony of Divine love that found its fuller expression in the dying cry of His beloved Son on the atoning tree.

b. “...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34). “The LORD is ... longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish...” (2 Peter



3:9). "...He that taketh warning shall deliver his soul" (Ezekiel 33:5).

The watchman tells the people to listen to the word that cometh forth from the LORD.

(Ezekiel 33:31-33). "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."

One of the watchman's main messages to the people is for them to trust in the LORD.

(Jeremiah 17:7-10). "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

God has repeatedly told us how we should act and behave. We are forewarned and should be prepared.

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8) "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments." (Proverbs 3:1). "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:" (James 2:8). Jesus said: If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15).

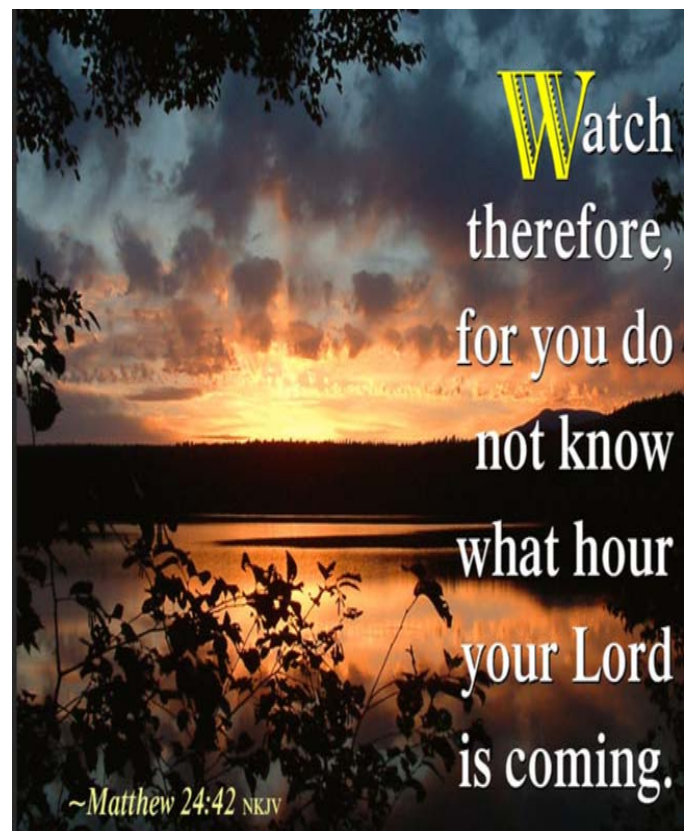
We are told that if we keep God's commandments we will receive a reward. "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father." (Revelation 2:26-27). "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 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 14:12 & 22:14).

Whatever you do:

- Avoid your own will on any matter (Matthew 26:39; John 4:34).
- Don't ever go simply by feeling (II Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 1:17-18).
- Study God's Word (Psalm 119:105).
- Consider providential circumstances (Deuteronomy 8:2).
- Consult with godly friends (Proverbs 11:14; Psalm 1:1).
- Ask God in prayer to reveal His will (James 1:5; 4:2).

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the entire world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Matthew 24:42)





*Thanksgiving  
by David Royer*

While recently flying back to the United States without being required to wear a face mask, I thanked the Lord for lifting most of the Covid requirements and sparing my family from this virus. We need to be thankful daily, not just on occasion or Thanksgiving Day. How often do we forget to be grateful to friends, family members, or especially God?

To challenge us to be more thankful, here are the words to an old hymn written in 1940 by Mr. and Mrs. Seth Sykes. The Sykes were traveling Evangelists, well-known in the United Kingdom.

- (1) Some thank the Lord for friends and home,  
For mercies sure and sweet;  
But I would praise Him for His grace  
In prayer I would repeat:

Chorus

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul,  
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole;  
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me  
Thy great salvation so rich and free.

- (2) Some thank Him for the flow'rs that grow,  
Some for the stars that shine;  
My heart is filled with joy and praise,  
Because I know He's mine.

Chorus

- (3) I trust in Him from day to day,  
I prove His saving grace;  
I'll sing this song of praise to Him  
Until I see His face.

Chorus

We faced a life different from what many of us had known during the pandemic: Work from home, Social distancing, Quarantine, and School interruptions. Folks have lost jobs, Church family, friends, and the ability to socialize with people how we used to interact. As Christians, we must retain our [faith](#) in God and spread joy and thankfulness for what we have. In a letter to the Church in Thessalonica, Paul wrote: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:18).





## BLESSED ARE OUR ELDERS

Blessed are the old whose years add grace,  
Whose lines of age, have decorated their face.  
Faith their crown and time their adorning,  
You are evening's grace to youth's bright morning.

Blessed are your hearts, grown tender with years  
That heal with love and dry hot tears.  
The perennial string of a rare instrument  
That plays the measure of sweet content.

How blessed are the old when they relate  
Of times they laugh at hostile fate.  
For the things they did and thought long ago,  
Fresh courage we gain from the faith that they show.

Blessed are their words, a song of praise  
Of God's merciful keeping and their long days.  
Blessed are their memories and what they've said,  
A guide to our journey that lies ahead.

Blessed are our elders, our foundation of old,  
Our appreciation for you, will always be told.  
You've been our example; your work was well done,  
Our sunrise may continue to your setting sun.

by Sister Alcyon De Coteau  
Grenada West Indies



## "That I May Win Christ"

By David DeLong

Winning is wonderful! Winning a Super Bowl; winning a Stanley Cup; winning a World Series is a remarkable event, but one that is attainable for only a few people. But this winning is absolutely nothing compared to winning the Lord Jesus Christ who can be won by everyone. The Apostle Paul wrote it this way: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead" (Philippians 3:7-11).

Like Paul, before we can win Christ we too must suffer the loss of all things and count them as dung. That doesn't mean that we can't have things in this life. It doesn't mean that we must all live as paupers. But what it does mean is that we cannot let anything or any person mean more to us than our Lord Jesus. All things belong to the Father in heaven and to His Son, Jesus. The most that we can claim to possess is a stewardship one.

But even more than that, to win Christ is also to be able to understand the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. Ephesians 1:18-21 informs us: "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." It took the exceeding greatness of God's power to raise Christ from the dead. We may never completely understand such power as that, but it appears to me that it may have taken all of the Father's strength to raise His Son from the dead and to seat Him at His right hand.

We may never suffer the way that Jesus did, but we must enter the fellowship of His sufferings. I Peter 2:19-21 reads: "For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." I Peter 3:14-17 adds: "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and



fear: Having a good conscience, that, whereas they speak evil of you, as evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." And I Peter 4:12-19 further informs us: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."

None of us can win Christ by our own righteousness. We have no righteousness of our own. Isaiah 64:6 tells us: "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." Back in Philippians 3:9 we read: "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."

The Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 9:24-27: "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but

we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Paul is telling us all that we are in a race for eternal life, but the good thing is we can all win if we're faithful to the end. I can remember that when I was in High School I ran cross country. The courses were usually about three miles long, but the terrain was, at times, almost unbearable. We ran uphill, downhill, through forests, on gravel roads. There were times when my side ached so much that I wanted to quit. I wasn't the fastest runner, but I always finished the race. How good it felt to rest after those gruelling races. How good it will be to gain the kingdom of heaven after the many trials we go through in this spiritual race for eternal life.

And the best prize will be winning Christ for all eternity!

## Why Do We?

Why do we go our own separate way  
When each time we do, we fail?  
By now we should know our sins make us pay,  
And doing them's of no avail.

Why do we think that our way is best  
When really, it is the worst?  
Our arrogance sees that we don't pass the test,  
And doesn't put the Lord first.

Why do we trust in the wisdom of men  
When faith in the Lord is the right?  
Why do we look to the paganized pen  
When Scripture is all that brings light?

*Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, is someone I spend quite a bit of time thinking about.*

*I find myself wondering how someone who literally walked with Jesus and talked with Him, shared meals with Him and witnessed His miracles could betray Him. How could he remain unchanged by Jesus?*

*I find myself envious of the access Judas had to the Son of God. An intimate, personal relationship. Someone who knew what Jesus' favorite meal was, the places He liked to visit and the sound of His voice. How could He remain unchanged by Jesus?*

*I find myself wondering how many sermons Judas must have heard. How many times did He hear Jesus speak of His Father's love? How many times did He see Jesus extend that same love to those around Him? How could he remain unchanged by Jesus?*

*I find myself wondering how Judas could have allowed Jesus to wash his feet? How could he have walked away from that intimate moment with Jesus and enter into the presence of Satan himself? How could he remain unchanged by Jesus?*

*I find myself wondering how Judas could have led Roman Soldiers to the garden where he knew Jesus would be praying. How could he have stood before the Savior of the world with an army behind him. Jesus on one side, Judas on the other. How could he have kissed the cheek of the One who would lay down His life for Judas? How could he remain unchanged by Jesus?*

*And then I think about myself. And I think about how I sometimes stand with my fist raised in rebellion.*

*How sometimes I choose my way instead of His way. How sometimes I tell Him not to mess with parts*

*of my life that I want to control. How sometimes I choose to leave His presence and allow my eyes to wander to the things of the world. How sometimes I put my faith in people around me instead of the God before me. How sometimes I seek selfish ambition instead of the glory of God. How sometimes I refuse His best and settle for less. How sometimes I make much of me and less of Him. How sometimes I trade Him for temporary pleasures. How sometimes I serve my own flesh and not a holy God. How sometimes I let my eyes wander from the old rugged cross to a shiny materialistic world. How sometimes I spend time with Him and remain unchanged by Him.*

*How sometimes I am Judas.*

*But He loves me anyway. What kind of love is that? It's a reckless, redemptive, restorative, rescuing, relentless love. It's a love that is heavy on grace and overflowing with mercy. It's a love that holds no record of wrongs. It's a love that is patient and kind. It's a love that knows no beginning and no end. It's a love that surpasses all understanding. It's a love that lays down its own life to rescue another. It's a love that leaves 99 faithful to seek out 1 who is lost. It's a love that pierces the heart and changes the mind.*

*And I must be changed by Him. I am responsible for letting Him in to the deepest, darkest, and most unholy places in my heart. I have to lay out my mess and let Him clean it up. I have to relinquish control of the things I hold tightly to. I have to follow His plan and not my own.*

*Judas was doing all of the right things on the outside but He didn't allow Jesus to penetrate the inside.*

*And that, my friend, is what scares me the most. That we would walk around with the appearance of following Jesus without ever being changed by Him.*

*Author Unknown*



# BIBLE TRIVIA

- 1. God rebuked Job (out of a whirlwind; from a high mountain; by the seashore). Job 38:1*
- 2. Jesus taught that if we desire forgiveness we must (pay our tithes; forgive others; keep the law). Matthew 18:35*
- 3. Malachi told the people to bring all the (food; tithes; animals) into the storehouse. Malachi 3:10*
- 4. Job's (three friends; eldest son; wife) told him to curse God and die. Job 2:9*
- 5. The Samaritan was a (good friend; relative; neighbor) to the one who fell among thieves. Luke 10:33-36*
- 6. The Gospel of Luke was written to (Theophilus; Titus; Luke). Luke 1:3*
- 7. James and John were rebuked by Jesus when they wanted to (go to the Temple; consume the Samaritans with fire from heaven; follow Him to the mount). Luke 9:54-56*
- 8. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to (the Passover feast; pay their taxes; pray). Luke 2:4-5*
- 9. In order to obtain an interview with Joab, Absalom's servants burned his (house; barn; barley fields). II Samuel 14:29-30*
- 10. (Job; Abraham; David) said he was but "dust and ashes." Genesis 18:27*
- 11. Joseph asked his brothers to bring (more money; Jacob; Benjamin) when they came to Egypt the second time. Genesis 42:20*
- 12. Esau exchanged his birthright for (a new robe; red pottage; gold). Genesis 25:30,31*

## LESSON I

13:13.

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
(PART I)**Scripture Reading: Acts 13:1-13.****Golden Text: Acts 13:3.****"And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."***NOTE: We will begin a study of the missionary journeys of Paul and Barnabas. They will be traveling to different areas and cities preaching to the people. You may want to locate these places on your Bible maps as we study about Paul.*

1. Who could be found in the church at Antioch (Syria)? Acts 13:1.

*NOTE: Remember that Saul is also called Paul.*

2. As the brethren prayed and fasted, what were they told to do? Acts 13:2.

3. What did they do next in Acts 13:3?

4. From where did Barnabas and Paul depart, and to where did they sail? Acts 13:4.

5. Who was also with Paul and Barnabas on this journey? Acts 13:5.

6. Who were Bar-jesus and Sergius Paulus, and which one wished to see Paul and Barnabas? Acts 13:6-8.

7. With what was Paul filled? Acts 13:9.

8. Did Paul approve of Bar-jesus, and what happened to him? Acts 13:10-11.

9. Did the deputy believe in the doctrine of the Lord? Acts 13:12.

10. What did John do when they reached Perga? Acts

## LESSON II

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
(PART II)**Scripture Reading: Acts 13:14-43.****Golden Text: Acts 13:38.****"Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins".**

1. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after leaving Perga? Acts 13:14.

2. While in the synagogue, what was Paul asked to do? Acts 13:15-16.

3. Name five things Paul spoke of in the synagogue. Acts 13:17-26.

4. About who are verses 38 and 39 talking? Acts 13:37-39.

5. Explain in your own words what you think Acts 13:41 means.

6. After the Jews left the synagogue, who talked to Paul, and what was said? Acts 13:42.

7. Who followed Paul and Barnabas after the service? Acts 13:43.

## LESSON III

PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
(PART III)**Scripture Reading: Acts 13:44-52.****Golden Text: Acts 13:49.****"And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region."**



*NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Paul and Barnabas are at Antioch (Pisidia), and Paul preached to the people in the synagogue. The people enjoyed hearing his message, and he was asked to return next Sabbath. We will now continue our lesson.*

1. What happened the next Sabbath day? Acts 13:44
2. What did the Jews do when they saw the large gathering? Acts 13:45.
3. To whom was the gospel now to be directed? Acts 13:46-47.
4. How did the Gentiles react when they heard Paul's words? Acts 13:48.
5. Was the Word of the Lord published throughout the region? Acts 13:49.
6. What was the action of the Jews toward Paul and Barnabas? Acts 13:50.
7. Did the action of the Jews disturb Paul and Barnabas? Acts 13:51-52.

*NOTE: Paul had been commissioned to bring the "Good News" to the Gentiles. Prophecy was being fulfilled. The Gentiles were glad to hear the Word of God.*

### LESSON IV

#### ICONIUM AND LYSTRA

**Scripture Reading: Acts 14:1-18.**

**Golden Text: Acts 14:7.**

**"And there they preached the gospel."**

1. Where do we find Paul and Barnabas preaching at this time? Acts 14:1.
2. A great multitude of Jews and Greeks believed . What did the unbelieving Jews do? Acts 14:2.

3. List two things Paul and Barnabas did in Iconium. Acts 14:3.
4. What was the ending result of Barnabas and Paul's presence in Iconium? Acts 14:4-6.
5. Who did Paul and Barnabas find at Lystra? Acts 14:8.
6. What was necessary for this man to be healed, and was he? Acts 14:9-10.
7. What did the people do when they saw that Paul had healed the man? Acts 14:11.
8. What did the people call Barnabas and Paul? Acts 14:12.
9. The people wanted to worship Barnabas and Paul. What was their action to the people gathered? Acts 14:13-18.



How God can stretch a loving hand  
I do not know how it is so,  
That streams of loving water flow  
**From me.**

I do not know how it could be  
That Christ the Lord is seen  
**In me.**

I do not fully understand  
How the love of God can be seen  
**Through me.**

But I don't have to see or know,  
Enough that He has said it's so  
**For me.**

*THE TALE OF A BLESSING**TODAY'S MENU*

*LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING,  
GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH,  
MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE*

The sun was hiding that Thursday as the wind and leaves danced their last fling before winter, whirling around the snug little homes on Mulberry Street.

Tilda Hawkins stood squinting at the television set as the picture stopped rolling and the clowns and huge balloon figures came into focus. She smiled. "Well," she said briskly, "it is going to be a different Thanksgiving for us but a nice one."

Her eyes went to the framed photos on the piano. Her own dear Bill was gone now, and the children were married and scattered across the country. "NO, it won't be a big celebration, but it will still be Thanksgiving!"

She beamed at the cat. "Smell that bread, h-m-m?" She hurried to the kitchen just as the timer buzzed. Humming a favorite old church song, Tilda put on oven mitts and lifted out the large pan of light brown rolls. She sniffed and smiled. Still humming, she turned out the steeping rolls and piled them in a large bowl. Leaving two for herself, she spread a napkin over the heated rolls and, taking a breath, began to speak.

"Dear Father, thank you for allowing me to continue our custom of giving. Bless this food and bless the ones who receive it. Fill their home and their lives with love as you have filled mine. Bless everyone, everywhere, on this day." Tilda pushed, trembling a bit. "Thank you, Father. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For a moment, she stood there, held by emotional pull of her concern for others. Then she pulled on a sweater, picked up the bowl, and called, "I will be right back, Rupert."

She darted out her back door and crossed to her neighbor's back door. As she knocked, she heard children's voices, the TV, a dog, and a man's voice. The door was opened by little Nancy Freeman, and Tilda wondered how such a tiny woman could have six husky

children.

"Mrs. Hawkins!" the little woman cried. "How nice!" "I cannot come in dear. Just like to share on Thanksgiving." She gave her the rolls. "I hope you enjoy them." With a wave she said, "Happy Thanksgiving" and left.

Nancy pushed the door shut with her foot as she lifted the napkin. "H-m-m, homemade bread."

Dick Freeman walked in. "What did you say?"

"Homemade bread. Mrs. Hawkins brought us some fresh baked, homemade rolls. Take a whiff."

"That was nice of her. Maybe you should have asked her to eat with us." Then he frowned, "NO, on second thought, she would probably rather be alone."

Nancy was not listening. "Trouble is," she muttered, "the kids will not eat brown bread. Why not take out enough for us and your folks, and you take the rest to the Millers? I could save them, but, somehow, I would rather share."

Dick, nodding, leaned forward to peck his wife on the cheek.

"That is because you are a very nice person."

A moment later, Dick Freeman was crossing the street to the little brick house. Lettie Miller answered the door, but Mel was right behind her. Two white-haired persons peered through two pairs of round glasses. "Why, hello, Dick! Do come in," Lettie spoke happily.

"No, thanks. I just brought you something to go with your dinner." Dick handed her the bowl and stepped back. "Happy Thanksgiving...from all of us." He turned to jog home.

"Oh Mel, look here! Yeast rolls." She held the bowl. Mel nodded, "Delicious!"

She frowned, so he frowned. "But I made bread pudding, and that is too much bread for us," she said. Then she brightened. "But we will share, too! We will take our pudding to the Sedbrooks!"

Together they marched to the closet, helped each other with wraps, and walked rapidly next door.

Freckle-faced Jimmy answered the door, followed by Janie, Joel, Junie, Judy, and Irving. Irving was the dog. Judy was Mrs. Sedbrook. "Why, hello," she called, "come in!"

The Millers stepped inside. Lettie began, "The



Freemans were nice enough to give us some homemade bread. I had made a bread pudding and thought..."

Mel picked up the story. "And that is too much bread for us, so we want to give you our pudding."

A deep, male voice said, "Did someone say, bread pudding?" Jim Sedbrook appeared. Judy laughed. "That is his favorite."

Lettie's eyes twinkled. "Do you like it with raisin and some chocolate syrup dribbled through it, and then the egg and milk mixture to pour over it?" She held out a pitcher.

Jim sighed, "Oh boy, do I!"

The Millers both nodded, said "Good," and turned to leave, adding quickly, "Happy Thanksgiving."

"That was nice of them." Judy paused. "You know, sometimes you begin to wonder." She did not finish the sentence but just looked at her husband.

He nodded. "You wonder if there are any nice people left in the world."

"Yes, people seem so wrapped up in themselves." She took a breath and chewed her lip. "You know, actually I have an extra pie." Her eyes were questioning.

A moment later, young Jimmy was on his way to the old, two story house on the corner where the Rodgers sisters lived. The night was not long until Lucinda Rodgers was going around the corner with a covered dish in her hands while her sister was going the other way with a pot of bright yellow mums.

It kept spreading. Each show of kindness produced more kindness. In the 1400 block of Mulberry Street, a certain landlady, who had just acquired a pot of yellow mums, invited all of her renters to bring the new renters and share her dining room.

Over on 21st Street, a retired teacher was so inspired by the gift of a fruit salad that she took her special cranberry nut salad to the newlyweds who had just moved next door from another state.

That is not the end of the tale, of course. An end can never be written because a blessing once shared never stops.

*Answers to Love Verses - 1.of herbs, Proverbs 15:17 2.waters, Song of Solomon 8:7 3.Knowledge, Ephesians 3:19 4.truth, Ephesians 4:15 5.fear, II Timothy 1:7 6.conquerors, Romans 8:37 7.owe, Romans 13:8 8.Breastplate, I Thessalonians 5:8 9.rebuke, Revelation 3:19 10.sins, Proverbs 10:12*

**HOW GOOD ARE YOU IN BIBLE GEOGRAPHY?**

1. *Jesus was born in \_\_\_\_\_?*
2. *In what city did Zacchaeus climb a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus?*
3. *On what sea did Peter start to walk to Jesus?*
4. *In what garden did Jesus go to pray before the betrayal?*
5. *Naomi and her husband left \_\_\_\_\_ during a famine and went to sojourn in the country of \_\_\_\_\_.*
6. *Jonah refused to go to \_\_\_\_\_ when the Lord first commanded him to do so.*
7. *Job lived in the land of \_\_\_\_\_.*
8. *From what place did Lot and his family flee?*
9. *What is the place that is called the place of a skull?*
10. *Saul and his sons fell in battle at Mount \_\_\_\_\_.*

**'LOVE VERSES'**


*Here are some familiar verses that speak of love. Can you supply the missing word?*

1. *"Better is a dinner \_\_\_\_\_ where love is..."*
2. *"Many \_\_\_\_\_ cannot quench love..."*
3. *"And to know the love of Christ which passeth \_\_\_\_\_..."*
4. *"But speaking the \_\_\_\_\_ in love..."*
5. *"For God hath not given us the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_; but of power and of love..."*
6. *"...we are more than \_\_\_\_\_ through him that loved us."*
7. *"\_\_\_\_\_ no man anything, but to love one another..."*
8. *"Putting on the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith and love..."*
9. *"As many as I love, I \_\_\_\_\_ and chasten..."*
10. *"...Love covereth all \_\_\_\_\_."*

*Answers to Bible Geography*

1. *Bethlehem*
2. *Jericho*
3. *Galilee*
4. *Gethsemane*
5. *Bethlehemjudah-Moab*
6. *Nineveh*
7. *Uz*
8. *Sodom and Gomorrah*
9. *Golgotha*
10. *Gilboa*





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***Autumn Leaves***

*by David DeLong*

*More gorgeous than the richest robe  
Of any king or queen  
Are Autumn leaves, around the globe,  
That to mens' eyes are seen!*