



The Advocate of Truth



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

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
PUBLISHING HOUSE
P.O. Box 328
Salem, WV 26426-0328**

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**Volume LX V Number 1
June 26, 2017
The Advocate of Truth
USPS 542-940**

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Father's Day

By David DeLong

Father's Day is celebrated by many people the world over, to honor their fathers with gifts or greeting cards. It is celebrated in Canada and the United States on the third Sunday in June.

In 1909, after listening to a sermon on Mother's Day, Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington received the idea to set aside a day to honor fathers. She wished to honor her own father, William Jackson Smart, who raised six children after his wife died in 1898. Dodd made up a petition that recommended adopting a national father's day. Through Sonora Dodd, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane on June 19, 1910. But, it wasn't until Richard M. Nixon's presidency, in 1972, that Father's Day was signed into law.

--The World Book Encyclopedia, F, page 56.

We wish to honor our fathers, living and deceased, upon this Father's Day in June. Now, let us look at various fathers, from the Scriptures, who had an influence upon their children.

The first father upon whom we will look, is Noah. In Genesis 6:8-14 we find recorded: "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch."

Noah had an influence upon his sons Shem, Ham, and

Japheth to go along with him into the ark, and with their mother and wives, when the rest of the world was drowned in the great Flood. Noah was also a preacher of righteousness (see II Peter 2:5). He influenced his family to follow God.

Abraham is the second father to whom we will look. Genesis 26:4-5 tells us about Isaac, Abraham's son: "And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Abraham had a great influence upon his son, Isaac, and his grandson, Jacob. Apparently Isaac was completely trusting in his father, Abraham when the latter bound his son for an offering to the Lord (see Genesis 22:9-10).

In the New Testament, we find a man who was one of the seven. His name was Philip (See Acts 6:5). Later on, in the Book of Acts, the Scriptures tell us that Philip had four daughters which prophesied. "And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy" (Acts 21:8-9). We can only imagine the influence that Philip had upon his four virgin daughters who prophesied. But, many a godly father has had a great influence upon his children.

Think back upon your father, even if he was not a Christian, and then thank the Lord for the influence that he had upon your life. My dad has been gone many years, now, but sometimes I can picture him in my mind, and he still has an influence upon me, even today. God bless our fathers and their influence upon us.



ONE MIND SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

Bond Tennant

We find ourselves surrounded by coolness and opposition simply because we are ‘in the world’ but not ‘of the world’. Therefore, it is fitting that those who are walking in the narrow way together should be of one mind. They should have compassion for each other. Misunderstandings sometimes will occur because of our fleshly imperfections. Those who lay down their lives doing good, and do not return evil for evil, will want to be guided by this same Christian principle in their dealings with one another. They will realize that having their own way is not nearly so important as being all of one mind, and sympathetic toward all.

Peter strengthened the brethren by reminding them that God will not permit them to be harmed as New Creatures if they keep on following the right path of sacrifice. Peter wrote, “And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled” (I Peter 3:13-14).

As a New Creature, Jesus was never harmed. It is true that He was reviled, and His enemies spat upon Him. They placed a crown of thorns upon His head. They nailed Him to a cross, and let Him hang there until He died. They inflicted much suffering upon Him. However, they did not harm Him as a New Creature, because His suffering and death was His avenue to glory, honor, and immortality. Therein lies a truth for us today. Suffering inflicted upon us by our enemies can harm us only if we permit such experiences to embitter our hearts so that we will begin to render evil for evil. This may result in temporary satisfaction to the flesh, but, if continued, will lead to the loss of our entering into the kingdom.

Peter continued his message of encouragement. He

wrote, “For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (I Peter 3:17-18). Peter surely would not have admitted that it is better to suffer for well-doing than for evil-doing before his conversion. He knew that Jesus’ entire life was one of well-doing. He rebelled at the thought that such a man would be made to suffer and die.

After his conversion, Peter knew the purpose of his Master’s suffering and death. He knew that we, as His followers, have the privilege of suffering and dying with Him. To know why we suffer, and to be assured that this is the will of God for us, is a great source of strength in facing our experiences.

Remember that Peter said: “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin” (I Peter 4:1).



THE DEVIL IS REAL

Reprinted

“Something terrible has happened, pastor! Can you come right over?” That call sent me to the house of parents I knew well. Their boy had been jailed for possession of marijuana and attacking a young girl. Their consternation was evident, their grief pitiful.

“We don’t understand this. We’ve led him to Jesus and sent him to Sabbath School all these years. You know he’s president of the Youth Group. How could this happen?”

My heart went out to them. I offered comforting words, but they needed something else. My first question rocked them, “Did you teach him about Satan?”

“What do you mean?”

“Did you teach him how Satan works and what to do about it?”

“Well...he certainly knows about the devil.”

“I didn’t ask you that. Did you teach him how to DEAL with Satan?”

“No, not in so many words.”

“Then I’m afraid what has happened is your fault.”

“How can you say that?”

“Had you prepared him to deal with the devil as God has instructed, this probably never would have happened.”

“We’re ashamed to say this, but we don’t know ourselves!”

I am writing for mothers and dads who long to see their children mature in Christ. It is not enough to secure their decisions for Jesus and then cram their heads with Sabbath School material. And don’t count on youth activities to shield them either. They need more than the devotional side of the Christian life. They have an enemy who lives to destroy them. If they are not equipped to deal with him, the chances are they will fall easy prey to his wiles before they have gone very far with Jesus.

Most Christians are helpless at this point. They have little knowledge of the enemy. Even less have they any faith in his presence and power. Beyond that it has never occurred to them they are to do anything about him. What

is so very sad is that there are some Sabbath-keeping people (who think they are doing the will of God) and do not believe in a literal Satan. Satan is a personality and is as real as people. If there is no devil, there are no angels, and if there are no angels, there is no Son of God. The Father in heaven created His Son, His angels and along with them the devil, who was originally an arch angel called Lucifer. Such ignorance is dangerous. Christians, schooled only in Bible study and devotions, are like the young girl who is devoted to her parents, but ignorant of boys. Love for her parents does not protect her from the scheming lad who knows how to take advantage of female ignorance in a parked car. Satan ignorance is dangerous in this hostile world. Love for Jesus affords no anti-Satan protection.

Jesus put it precisely, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Paul warns us to take up arms against him, and Peter describes him as a “roaring lion,” about to spring. Many, who love God’s Word, ignore His anti-Satan instructions completely. It’s a little like telling Paul Revere to “Forget it!”

To obey God’s commandments, one must first learn of Satan’s methods, which closely parallel those of the Holy Spirit. Satan’s spirit constantly bears witness with our spirit. Then one must move as deliberately AGAINST SATAN as he does toward God. You can see I am speaking of SATANWARD ACTION, which is not the same as Bible study or prayer. Those are GODWARD acts which mean nothing to Satan.

Never should a Christian view Jesus’ indwelling presence as insulation against attack. There is no such thing as automatic victory in the Christian life. Jesus’ presence is a resource only, a means, if I may say so, by which we fight Satan. If you have any notion that the Christian life is no fight, Satan has reached you with a deception. The call to Christ is a call to active duty. Even the Holy Spirit is a part of the arsenal, part of the weaponry with which we fight. But fight we must. And it is something we have to do FOR OURSELVES. God tells us to.

Echoes from the past
**DISCOUNT
RELIGION**
Beware

Discount stores are doing a big business these days, and one cannot be blamed for taking advantage of the cut rate prices. But it is quite distressing to see the same kind of thing going on in the realm of religion. Pastors and teachers are simply giving out the truth at a cut rate way. Let me illustrate:

Of the two hundred children who go to church schools (and some of them had perfect attendance) not one knew the "Ten Commandments, the beatitudes, could name all of the twelve apostles, could know where to find all the books of the Bible, etc. They were being taught a cut rate religion.

God, in His Holy Word, has set a price and a standard that does not change. The cost of spiritual blessings cannot be cut. But others have tried to offer discount prices, saying it is no longer necessary to be obedient to God's Laws. It is no longer necessary to repent or to live a life of holiness. But God's Word does not change, and God will not have a sale to get more people into His fold. God's Word was a guideline to the people in the past, and It is still the same guideline for us today with no changes at all. We cannot continue in sin. Sin is the transgression of the law. "Blessed and holy are they that do his Commandments."

Do not be swindled. An experience with God that involves less than a whole-hearted consecration to God will not stand the test of fire on the Judgment Day.

An experience that costs nothing is worth just that – NOTHING. Get a rebirth by crucifying the old man of sin. "For in that he died, he died unto sin... Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it

in the lusts thereof" (Romans 6:10-12). The lusts of the flesh are gratified by the discount prices hirelings place on the truth of God's Word.

It is better to yield to the "Thus saith the Lord your God" and experience the fullness of God's blessings and love. Try it and enjoy the difference. It is better to yield to God than to wish you had. Do it today!

--Editorial in the February 12, 1968 *The Advocate of Truth*

The Offense:

Daniel Cruz

We've been victims of an offense at one time or several. We have been put down by words of others, and sometimes for no reason at all, we are slandered or talked about. This leads to our feelings being hurt. This can cause so much damage to each other or the ones whom the cruel intent is for. So, is this a form of bullying or are there other reasons for such behavior? It's not to say that a child of God is constantly the source for such things. However, we can be the victims and often times the one whose feelings are hurt.

God wants us to be reminded that we must endure such things as they are only temporal. We only have this life to live and it should be in the service of our King. I'd like us to consider a few thoughts in the hopes that it will help us to avoid The Trap that the enemy sets before us as we walk daily.

Matthew 5: 43-45 reads: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. 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 the 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." This is a reminder from our Lord Jesus, that we are to

endure persecutions from all. We must not feel that we are protected from all things and that we are going to have a life that will not try our faith. We are His creation and are tainted with sins before we come to know Him. We were once the ones hated and yet a child of God loved us and prayed for our redemption towards God. We must in turn give this Love towards those who persecute and hate us. How do we do this? Let's find the verses that guide us to the answer.

Ephesians 2:1 informs us: "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins". The Apostle Paul reminds us of the condition that he found us in. We must accept that God has brought us out of the filth of sin and redeemed us for His purpose. Verse 10 reads: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Once we accept this we can begin to understand that the offense of others is not any different and that if God can forgive the sins that we inflicted upon ourselves, why would he not require us to do the same for others? It's very dangerous to judge others and not to ask God to help and forgive those who are seeking His truths.

Brethren our responsibilities to The Body is to provide understanding and to heal the different afflictions that come upon it. The enemy is constantly seeking a way in to cause confusion and despair within The Church (aka The Body) and how he can create calamity to destroy the works that have been completed for The Kingdom of God. It often occurs when disagreements and strife occur. We must remain vigilant to these things and not fall into the snares of the enemy. Romans 8:35 tells us: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" We must keep these things in mind and when we encounter offenses against us, having Christ we will remain strong.

Jesus paid so much for us, from the early days of proclaiming The Kingdom until His last breath. Let us live the example of Jesus and have the Peace that comes from letting the Holy Spirit guide us in all things.

HONORING OUR DADS

"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" (Psalm 1:1).

I saw a man - a young man - take that portion of goods which belonged to him and depart into a far country. I saw him as he spent his substance in riotous living, surrounding himself with people who only wanted his wealth.

I saw him as the money ran out, and he grew desperate. Now his "friends" were not there to help him. The ones who had been so close to him, so free with his money, now had forsaken him. He was alone, all alone, in a strange land. Where could he go? To whom could he turn for help?

In desperation and in humiliation he turned to a farmer who raised pigs, and sinking to the very depths, this young man took a job tending those pigs.

He was so hungry that he would have gladly eaten the food he gave to the hogs if he thought he could get away with it.

One day, feeling especially sorry for himself, he sat down with his head in his hands to think upon the distressing turn of events. As he thought about his life, what he had come from, where he had been, and where he was now, he acknowledged, to himself at least, that he had made a miserable failure of life. He thought of home, he thought of his Dad and of the other members of his family. What would they be doing now? Oh, yes, they would be out in hay or perhaps mending the fence or tending the flocks.

He thought of the hired hands who worked for his Dad. Even they were prosperous, compared to him. He, the son of a noble man, working in a pig sty while others of much less noble birth, were sharing in the prosperity of

his father.

“How foolish this is,” he thought. “I will get up from here and go to my father, and, though I have brought disgrace upon the family name, I will ask him to forgive me and accept me, no longer as a son, but as a hired servant.”

Having made the decision, he started home. How long the way seemed! How difficult the terrain! Was it really hard to get home? It did not seem possible. In fact, he was sure it was not. With grim determination he plodded impatiently onward, looking expectantly to catch the first glimpse of the familiar old homestead.

Reaching the top of the last rise, he saw first the top of the huge barn, and other outbuildings, and the result of a good harvest. Then the house came into view and in another moment the rolling fields with the sheep and cattle spread out before him in a graceful panorama which fairly shouted out the close association between God and man.

“But what is that? It looks like someone running up the road toward me. Oh, oh, it is Dad. Can it be that he is angry with me. Will he let me come home? Will he let me be just one of his servants? I could not stand that. He is running too hard towards me for it to be bad news! He must have been watching for me! I better run toward him also. Whatever happens I will take it. I have it coming to me!”

Father and son ran together with outstretched arms, their arms enfolded each other. The father lifted the son to his feet in wild excitement, and almost squeezed the wind out of the son. His boy was home at last. He had been watching for him. He had forgiven him before he even asked to be forgiven. The lost had been found. What a wonderful Dad. Thank God for such men who are loving Dads.

--Reprinted



The School of Christ

Bond Tennant

We know that the expression, ‘the school of Christ,’ is not found in the Word of God. However, the thought is suggested in many places. In Galatians 3:24 the Apostle Paul says, “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” Many have the conception that the schoolmaster was the teacher. This is not correct! The Greek word here translated ‘schoolmaster’ was the title applied to a servant kept in wealthy families among whose duties was that of leading his young master to and from school. Since we have come to Christ and are justified by faith, we no longer need a schoolmaster and to obey the old law of commandments contained in ordinances. See Galatians 3:24.

All who are in the school of Christ have entered to learn important lessons, and to have experiences profitable to their future life. A good school prepares its students for the duties of life. The lessons learned in the school of Christ prepare God’s children for duties and services in the Lord’s Vineyard and in the Kingdom.

The early church members were known as disciples, which means learners or pupils. The Lord told them that He was their Master or Teacher. He said, “Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am” (John 13:13).

The conditions for enrolling in the school of Christ are clearly set forth in the New Testament. Two fundamental conditions are repentance which is turning away from sin and recognition of Jesus as the Redeemer. The students must have a willingness to come to God by Him, and to be taught of Him.

School fees have to be paid, either directly or indirectly, before a child can begin his schooling. In the case of certain private schools, these fees are quite high. This is

true with the school of Christ. The Lord Jesus said on one occasion, "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). To become part of the Church, the body of Christ, full consecration is demanded.

On entering school, the scholars need textbooks from which to learn their lessons. The scholars in the school of Christ have been provided with a textbook, the Bible. We might call it a library of sixty-six textbooks all bound under one cover.

In every school, there are two primary requirements. They are obedience to the general rules of the school and properly paying attention to the lessons given. In some schools, the scholars are poorly taught. They are handicapped when the time comes for them to enter a school of higher learning, or to keep a job earning a living. This is true of many who would be foot-step followers of Christ. They may have entered schools professing to be associated with the school of Christ, but some of their lessons have been taught improperly.

Let us consider just two important subjects, spelling and arithmetic. In the case of spelling and the meaning of words, they have been taught that death is spelled *Separation from God*, and means life away from God. In the true school of Christ, the scholars learn that death is spelled *Death*, and means the opposite of life. Death is really a condition of nonexistence until the resurrection.

They have been taught that the *Soul* means something without exterior or interior. It has no body, shape or parts and leaves the earthy body at death. However, in the true school of Christ, the scholars learn that *Soul* means a person or being which results when the breath of life unites with a proper organism. The truth is that man is a soul and does not possess a soul. "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

In arithmetic, they have been taught that three multiplied by one equals one, but in the true school of Christ, they learn that three multiplied by one equals three. This has reference to the false doctrine of the trinity which teaches that God consists of God, the Father – God, the Son – God, the Holy Spirit.

Let us be sure that we are in the true school of Christ by carefully studying its textbook, the Bible!

THE LAMB OF GOD

by Pat Evans

*Mary had a little lamb,
His countenance was white as snow;
And everywhere that little lamb went,
God's Holy Spirit was sure to go.*

*He was created to be much more than a man,
In the beginning, with God, He was the Word;
And then He was made a living sacrifice,
His purpose: to be our Savior and our Lord.*

*From a simple beginning, just like the rest of us,
Yet perfect and sinless from the day He was con-
ceived,
His own people could accept Him as no more
Than just a carpenter's son from down in Galilee.*

*How could this man be the Son of God?
The long awaited, promised Savior and King;
For He had no huge armies standing at His right
hand,
And to Him silver and gold meant not a thing.*

*No servants, no vineyards, no great tracts of land,
No huge palaces standing royal and tall;
Yet He was truly more powerful than any man alive,
Without possessing hardly anything at all.*

*He traveled about spreading the gospel of God,
Gathering disciples and followers day by day;
And through parables He taught the knowledge of
the truth,
But many angrily disagreed with what He came to
say.*

*So they arrested Him and beat Him and put Him on
trial,
In His defense, He said nothing to stand in their
way;
They refused to acknowledge who He really was,
And by crucifixion, they said, He would have to pay.*

*As they nailed Him up, He said:
Forgive them Father, for they know not what they
do;
Then He said, "Into your hands I commend my
spirit",
And He sacrificed His life to gain salvation for me
and you.*

The Book of the Law

By David DeLong



Many people confuse the Ten Commandments, or the moral Law of God, with the book of the law, or the Mosaic law. One must never confuse these two law codes, because the Ten Commandments Law is eternal, whereas the book of the law was meant to be in force only for a certain period of time. Let's see the difference in the two law codes.

In Deuteronomy 4:13 we learn about God's Ten Commandments. "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone." So the Ten Commandments is the basis of God's Covenant. This Covenant is meant to be with all peoples of the earth, not just with Israel. We know this because of Romans 3:19 which is speaking about the Ten Commandments. "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." Everyone on earth, except the Lord Jesus Christ, has broken these Ten Commandments, or God's Covenant. Therefore they have become guilty before God.

The Lord also made another covenant, with the children of Israel, because they were not faithful in keeping the Ten Commandments. For instance, even before Moses came down from Mt. Sinai with the first tablets containing the Ten Commandments, the children of Israel had already broken God's Covenant by making the golden calf idol (see Exodus 32:1-8). Notice this second covenant (not the New Covenant) which was contained in the book of the covenant which Moses had written in a book. "And Moses came and told the people all the words of the

LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words" (Exodus 24:3-8).

This same episode is explained in the Book of Hebrews, chapter 9, verse 19: "For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people". To ratify this covenant, the blood from animal sacrifices was used. When God ratified His original Covenant, based upon the Ten Commandments, the Blood of Christ was shed upon the cross for all of mankind.

The book of the law covenant and the Ten Commandment Covenant seem to both be given in Exodus 34:27-28: "And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. And he was there with

the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he (God) wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments."

Some people, today, try to keep the book of the law covenant, which as we have seen was for Israel, and then only for a time. The Passover and other feast days were a part of this book of the law covenant. Notice what Galatians 3:10-12 tells us, which is speaking of the book of the law covenant. "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them."

If one tries to keep this covenant, then he or she must keep everything written in this law or a curse is upon them. For instance, if one tries to keep the Passover, then every part of the Passover must be kept, including offering the sacrifice of a lamb, shedding its blood, and eating of the lamb in Jerusalem (see Deuteronomy 12:5-8; the place where the Lord chose to place His name was Jerusalem). See Leviticus 23:4-44 for how Israel was to keep the feast days. If these feasts are not kept exactly according to the book of the law, then a curse is placed upon that person. Galatians 3:10 just told us so. Also, offering the blood sacrifice of a lamb would today be blasphemous, because Christ shed His blood for us and He became our Passover (see I Corinthians 5:7).

As we said before, the Lord gave Israel this added covenant because they were not faithful in keeping His Ten Commandment Covenant. Galatians 3:19 tells us: "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator." Because Israel was transgressing (breaking the Ten Commandments--I John 3:4), then the book of the law was added to them "till the seed should come". That seed, of course, was Jesus. When He died on the cross, the book of the law covenant came to an end. (See Galatians 3:13).

Also, concerning the book of the law, we are informed in Galatians 3:23-26: "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our school-

master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

The book of the law was not actually a book such as we read today. Rather, it was a scroll of parchment upon which Moses wrote, with pen and ink, the words that God gave to him. We find written in Deuteronomy 31:24-26: "And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee."

So, Moses wrote the words of the book of the law (hence, it is called the law of Moses even though God told him what words to write), and this book of parchment was placed "in the side of the ark of the covenant". On the other hand, the Ten Commandments were written on tables of stone, by the very finger of God, and were placed in the ark of the covenant (hence, they are termed the law of God). Deuteronomy 10:1-5 tells us: "At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me. And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the LORD commanded me."

When we come to the Book of Acts, chapter 15, we see an episode where some of the believing Jews felt that the book of the law, called the law of Moses, was necessary to be kept to be saved. Let us pick up this interesting story in verses 1-2: "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot

be saved. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question." This meeting was known as the Jerusalem Council.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, we continue the story: "But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them (the Gentiles), and to command them to keep the law of Moses" (verse 5). Notice the outcome of this Council meeting: "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Only the very "necessary" things were emphasized for these Gentile believers to keep: "Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood" (verses 19-20).

These "necessary" things didn't mean that the Gentile believers didn't have to keep the rest of the Ten Commandments, but these things mentioned were those that they should concentrate on. They had been involved in fornication in their fertility rites as pagans. They had offered sacrifices to idols. They also had eaten things which were strangled, and had eaten blood. The conclusion to the story shows Paul, Barnabas, Judas, and Silas bringing letters to the brethren showing that the law of Moses was not necessary to be kept. Verses 23-24 reads: "And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment".

The Jerusalem Council determined that the law of Moses was a "yoke upon the neck of the disciples". The Apostle Paul used the same word "yoke" in Galatians 5:1-4: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye

be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Some people think that Colossians 2:14-17 is partly speaking about the Ten Commandments, especially the weekly Sabbaths, being done away with. However, the "sabbath days" talked about here are the yearly sabbaths, from the book of the law, not the weekly Sabbaths from the Ten Commandments. Let us quote these verses. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."

The key to understanding these verses is the word "shadow". This passage is addressing the law of shadows which the Book of Hebrews also addresses. When we go to Hebrews, chapter 8, verses 3-5, we find the Lord Jesus being spoken of. "For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount." The law of shadows is actually the same as the Mosaic law, or the book of the law. We see this because in Hebrews, the law of shadows covers the tabernacle service which is from the book of the law.

Likewise, in Hebrews 10:1 we see that the law of shadows refers to the sacrificial system which comes from the book of the law. This verse reads: "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." Therefore, in Colossians, the sabbath days are also from the law of shadows which puts them in the classification of yearly sabbaths, or feast days. Further-

more, Colossians 2:14 told us that these law of shadows, including the annual sabbath days, or feast days, were blotted out. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross".

Someone might object and say that since we no longer follow the book of the law, then why do we keep the weekly Sabbath since it is written about in the book of the law, too? My answer is that we don't keep the Sabbath from the book of the law. The law of Moses makes it plain that the Sabbath was accompanied by sacrifices on it: one in the morning and the other in the evening (see Numbers 28:9-10). The shewbread was made each Sabbath for the priests to eat (I Chronicles 9:32). Also, the death penalty was given out for anyone who worked on

the Sabbath (see Exodus 31:14-15). When the Sabbath from the book of the law was taken away, we still have remaining the Sabbath from the Ten Commandments.

In closing we will look at a text from Ephesians which tells the same thing, basically, which we read from Colossians 2:14. "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Ephesians 2:15-16). We are not under the covenant from the book of the law. But, the Ten Commandment Covenant is still in force. May we honor it, and thus, honor our God who made it for everyone in the world.

Following Jesus

By David DeLong

If Jesus is your Savior,
Then, you must follow Him;
And if you heed His teachings,
Then your light will never dim.

He showed how one is baptized:
In water, you're immersed;
It must be done in Jesus' name,
As truth, by those who thirst.

The Lord's Supper must be done
One time, in every year;
On the fourteenth day of Abib,
The Scriptures make this clear.

But, before the Lord's Supper
Must the footwashing be done;
For an example, then, was set
By Christ, God's holy Son.

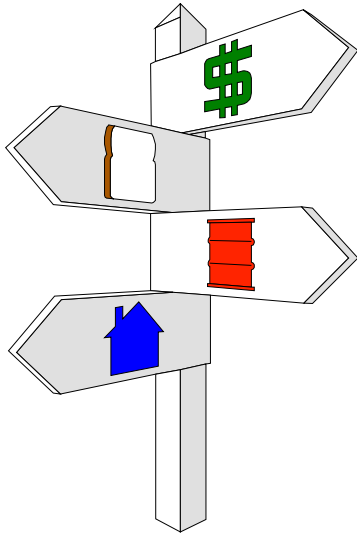
Christ taught about Commandments,
There are Ten we must observe;
They're still for us to follow,
And from them never swerve.

The fourth Commandment gives the truth
Of which day has been blest;
God sanctified the seventh one,
The Sabbath day, for rest.

The law of clean and unclean,
For meats, is still in force;
Only meats considered clean,
Does the Lord endorse.

When it comes to income,
The Lord expects a tithe;
This is a tenth of our increase,
We pay, if we are wise.

All these things Lord Jesus lived;
And if He is your Lord;
You also must obey His Word,
Which cannot be ignored.



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

ABOUT POLITICS

At the time of this column, President Trump has just given his first address to the Senate and Congress of the United States. It was a very uplifting address in which he laid out a very ambitious agenda. He covered immigration, tax cuts, repeal of the Affordable Care Act (Obama care), rebuilding the infrastructure, and other items. He proposed increasing money for the military. Many of his ideas sound very good, and they may very well improve conditions in America.

In the past, we have all heard various presidents give addresses in which they put forth their programs they wish to implement. The end result is that their programs hardly ever turn out the way they wish because there must be agreement in the Senate and Congress.

The point is that God is in control, and He can overrule the plans put forth by the politicians!

SECOND TERM?

I saw a newspaper article that said that President Trump was debating on running for a second term already. Another article said that he thought one man of the opposite party might become his opponent.

HOLY BOOKS ALIKE?

I read that two friends published a Quran that shows Christians how much holy books are alike. The article said that their intent was not at all to convert readers from one faith to another, or merge the two religions into one. The authors said that they seek to build bridges of understanding among people of the three Abrahamic faiths.

Comment

Was it really necessary to publish such a book?

THE MEDIA

President trump and a few others have attacked the media. Without the media, from where would the news come? Being a reporter of news is a great responsibility. All news items must be checked for accuracy. As one former president said, "The media is an absolute necessity in a democracy."

NATIONALISM VERSUS GLOBALIZATION

The idea that the good or bad conditions in one country affects the conditions in other countries is called globalization. In other words, all countries rise or fall together. Lately there is an idea that each country must do what is best just for its welfare. This is called nationalism.

For instance, the president of the United States stresses programs that will make America stronger and not be taken advantage of by other nations. I also read of a candidate for the presidency of France. She also wants to put emphasis on policies that benefit her country.

Nationalism seems to be gaining popularity in a few countries. Another example is when England withdrew from the European Union. This was called Brexit. England wished to make its own decisions in government independent of others.

THE UPS DRONE

I saw in a newspaper that UPS tested delivering a package by drone to a home from one of its brown trucks.

UPS said that they think drones can help them with some of their daily deliveries.

THE WARS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA CONTINUE

There were two headlines in a newspaper. One said that after six days of fighting, the Iraqi forces advanced in Mosul and struck ISIS forces in Syria. The other headline said that ISIS attacks killed dozens near a newly liberated Syrian town.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

Peace through strength is a popular slogan. It was frequently used in the 80's, and it has been repeated just recently. Let us consider this slogan from another perspective.

Worldly peace might be acquired by the nuclear arms race when one nation is afraid that they might destroy their own selves and their enemy by pressing the nuclear button.

This is not the kind of peace God's children have and our Lord Jesus Christ offers. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

There is another thought about this slogan. We know that during the thousand-year Kingdom there will be peace upon the earth, and the knowledge of the Lord will be as the waters cover the sea. This is because Jesus and His associates will be ruling with strength.

CRIME CONSIDERED

We hear much in the news today about so-called hate crimes and war crimes. To the mind of God, crime is crime, and there is no hate crime or war crime. It is all condemned by God.

MARIJUANA LAWS

I read that the Justice Department will enforce the federal law against recreational marijuana. This comes at a time when the majority of Americans believe it should be legal.

This is just another example of a federal law going against the wishes of the people in a state which may have a law which permits legal use of marijuana.

STOCK SURGE

I saw a newspaper article which stated that the stock surge might wane if reform and tax cuts move slowly. Let us pray that this does not happen. May our president and legislators move more quickly in the area of reform and tax cuts!

CIVIL UNREST

The conflict between police officers and others continues on. I read that a video of an officer's scuffle with teens sparked protests in Anaheim, California.

CYBER SAFETY

I read a headline in the **Houston Chronicle** which stated that the cyber safety net of Texas must be strengthened. Cyber safety concerns everyone from the highest levels to the households which have technical devices.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Could it be that electric vehicles are becoming a little more popular? I hear that they are quickly cutting into oil demand.

WELLS FARGO

The following is a short article by the *Associated Press* which was published in the **Houston Chronicle**. It is entitled *New checking accounts down, Wells Fargo says*:

NEW YORK – Customers are still turning their backs on Wells Fargo after a scandal over Sales practices. The bank said late last week that the number of new checking accounts customers opened was down 31 percent in January from a year earlier.

Applications for credit cards were even worse, dropping 47 percent.

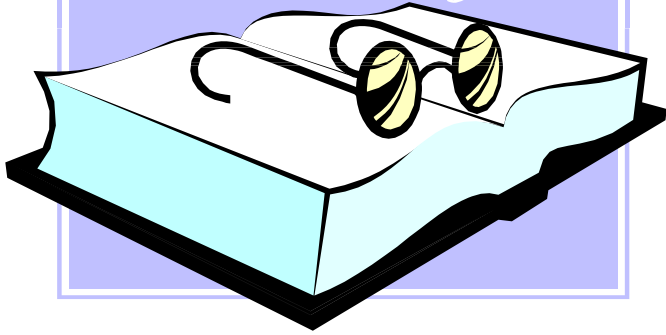
Branch bankers had 14 percent fewer interactions with customers.

Wells Fargo has been releasing monthly reports on these figures since the outcry over its sales practices as a sort of "report card" on how the bank has been dealing with the scandal.



BIBLE

Study



Question: What is a decision we all must make?

Answer: Of the many decisions we must all make, one is paramount--God or mammon; the spiritual versus the material; the noble versus the base. The decision involves whether we shall follow the high road along the sunlit peaks which faces up and forward or the lower levels where men fret out their lives in strife and unhappiness.

To us, God means more than making a decision. If one chooses to be a lawyer or a doctor, that is not the end of the matter. He must study diligently for many years and then make the practice of his profession the major interest of his working lifetime. If one chooses to be a farmer or engineer, the pursuit of his calling in acquiring and using the skill essential to success will occupy from forty to eighty hours of each week throughout the greater part of his life.

Choosing God is a decision which changes one's life. Thereafter, seeking to know and to do the will of God becomes one's major preoccupation. It does not mean that one must desert his trade or profession, for we all are called upon to share in the production of wealth. But it changes one's motivation and gives direction and purpose to his life. Having chosen God, one's goals will be different. Selfish gratification, ambition and worldly success, will appear less important, while harmonizing one's life to the will of God as revealed to him throughout constant seeking becomes paramount. Seeking first the Kingdom of God is likely, indeed, to increase one's

Questions and Answers

material welfare, but that surely is a by-product and is not the main objective of righteous living.

To succeed in understanding God's purpose for ourselves requires much time and thought. If one wishes to become a musician, he will spend many hours every day faithfully pursuing his objective. If his desire is to own a beautiful home, he will work many years to acquire it and additional years to make it comfortable. Likewise, if one's objective is to cooperate with God in making this a better world, he will spend much time in seeking to understand and do God's will.

We often say we believe in this or that, but unless we take time for it, the expression is idle. One who really believes in music and loves it will take time for it. The golf or photography enthusiast will take much time for his hobby. We hear people say that they want to paint, and yet, they seem to do everything else but the declared object of their interest. Likewise, people say that they want to be Christians and do God's will but spend little time in finding out what it is or in seeking to cooperate with it. All this is merely wishful thinking.

We all take time for those things which are the chief interests of our lives. We may claim that other things are uppermost in our desires, but the infallible test of what we really want to do is what we actually do with the time available to us. We all have the same amount of time. The important thing is what we do with it.

If we really choose God, we will use as much time as possible seeking to understand and to do His will. If we devote as little as half an hour each day to reading the Scriptures, and quietly meditate, seeking to understand God's purpose, our lives will be completely revolutionized.

The attractions of evil will grow less and less until they finally become insignificant. On the other hand, fine, noble and beautiful things will become increasingly attractive. The desire to do wrong will lose its grip upon us and become less and less tempting; while doing right will seem less a duty and more a joy.

In the beginning of our search, we may shrink from dedicating ourselves to the will of God for fear it will impose upon us disagreeable duties and require the giving up of gratifications and activities that we enjoy. Increasing understanding, however, of the purpose of God, which comes from devoting time to sharpening our insights, causes spiritual things to take on new interest as physical gratifications lose their attractiveness. As one sees that the path that he is following “.....shineth more and more unto the perfect day” (Proverbs 4:18), the sordid things of an evil world lose their hold upon him, and the joys and satisfactions he experiences in his endeavor to cooperate with the Creator of the Universe so far exceed any pleasures he has previously known, that his satisfactions in life come to surpass the fondest dreams of his youth.

Successful, triumphant, happy, glorious living is possible for all those who put God at the center of their lives and dedicate themselves resolutely to finding and doing His will for them. There is no doubt about this. It has been demonstrated over and over by multitudes of people in sickness and in health, in poverty and when blessed with abundance.

Question: The Jehovah’s Witnesses teach us to abstain from blood transfusions. Are they correct?

Answer: They get their idea from Acts 15:20. The mention of blood there has nothing to do with blood transfusions. It is speaking of eating blood. Eating blood was associated with pagan rituals.

Question: Do you believe the bow mentioned in Genesis 9:13 refers to the rainbow?

Answer: Genesis 9:13 reads, “I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.”

Apparently this verse speaks of the origin of the rainbow. Scientists tell us that the rainbow is caused by the sun’s rays passing through the rain and shining upon clouds. It is easy to see that to those who had never seen a rainbow the effect might be terrifying. The bow was God’s sign to the people that the earth would never be destroyed by a flood. Read Genesis 9:12-17.

Question: When I meditate upon the ninth commandment of the Ten Commandments, which speaks of not bearing false witness against our neighbor, I think about the subject of lying. Will you please comment a little on the subject of lying?

Answer: There are many ways in which one can lie. Four of the main ones are: perjury, boasting, telling half truths, breaking vows.

A lie has terrible effects upon people. The truth is misrepresented when a lie is told. A lie camouflages and hides the truth. The person lied to does not know the truth. He has to act and live upon a lie. A lie can be very damaging. When a lie is told about a business deal, it can cost money and terrible loss. A lie about loving someone most certainly will stir emotions which could lead to destruction. Eternal life can be lost if someone lies about how to be saved. Lying also deceives and leads a person astray. A person deceives to get what he wants, to cover up or hide something, to cause harm or hurt. Lying builds a wrong relationship. Two people cannot possibly be friends if the relationship is based upon lies. Confidence, trust and hope are destroyed by lying.

Bearing false witness, or lying, about a person always hurts the person. The person being talked about also has feelings just as we do. Therefore, when we bear false witness, or lie, about a person, we are going to cause pain and hurt. Let us cite three verses that tell us how God feels about this: “All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt” (Psalm 41:7). “The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Proverbs 18:8). “A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow” (Proverbs 25:18).

The person who bears false witness shall be judged by God. “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,....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 1:29-30, 32). “Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer” (Psalm 101:5). “A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish” (Proverbs 19:9).



Myanmar

A wedding taking place in Myanmar.





A Footwashing service during the Lord's Supper.



LESSON I

THE LAW OF THE CLEAN AND UNCLEAN

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 14:2-20.

Golden Text: Leviticus 20:26.

“And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.”

1. Who made the law of the clean and unclean? Leviticus 11:45-47.
2. When Israel kept the clean and unclean law, were they separated from other people? Leviticus 20:25-27.
3. What do we find about the clean and unclean in Deuteronomy 14:3-20?
4. Do we provoke God to anger if we know about the clean and unclean but do not follow it? Isaiah 65:1-16.
5. What did the Lord say through the Apostle Paul about the clean and unclean? II Corinthians 6:17-18.

NOTE: An idol is unclean unto God. So are the animals that God said not to eat. “Touching”, in reference to the unclean animal means, “not to eat it.”

6. Did Paul write to Timothy and say it is alright to eat the unclean in I Timothy 4:1-6?
7. People who eat the unclean are an abomination to God. Can they have eternal life if they eat unclean meats? Revelation 21:8.

NOTE: If we eat the unclean animal, we defile our bodies. The body is the temple of God and His Holy Spirit. If we defile it, we cannot enter the New Jerusalem.

8. What will happen to these people who follow false teachings and eat unclean meats when Jesus comes again? Isaiah 66:17-18.

LESSON II

PAYING TITHE

Scripture Reading: Genesis 14:17-24.

Golden Text: Malachi 3:8.

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”

1. Who did the “priest of the most high God” bless, and what did he give? Genesis 14:18-20.
2. What is the king of Salem also called? Hebrews 7:1-2.
3. Who is higher than the priest Melchisedec? Hebrews 6:20.
4. How does someone rob God? Malachi 3:8-9.
5. What will be poured out upon those who pay their tithe? Malachi 3:10-12.
6. How are God’s ministers to be paid? I Corinthians 9:13-14.

NOTE: We should look after the needs of our ministers. A minister in distress cannot be fruitful.

7. What are we required to do in addition to paying tithe? Matthew 23:23.
8. What part of our increase is to be used for the tithe? Numbers 18:21-26.

LESSON III

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 11:23-29.

Golden Text: I Corinthians 5:7 (last part).

“For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us”.

1. When was Israel to observe the Passover, and what was the reason for the institution of it? Exodus 12:2, 17-18, 27.
2. What month did the children of Israel come out of Egypt? Exodus 13:4.
3. For how long was this memorial to be kept? Exodus 12:14.
4. Who is our Passover? I Corinthians 5:7.
5. Who did Jesus send to prepare the Passover, And what did He tell them? Luke 22:8-12.
6. Did this all happen as Jesus said? Luke 22:13.
7. What did Jesus do to the disciples that was done as an example for us today? John 13:12-17.
8. What is the symbol of Jesus' body? I Corinthians 11:23.
9. What does I Corinthians 11:26 mean to you?

NOTE: Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper so that we can remember Him. Once we are baptized and have received the Holy Spirit, we also should wash one another's feet and partake of the emblems of Christ. We do this once a year, at the time appointed, as Jesus did.

LESSON IV

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

Scripture Reading: Job 14:1-22.

Golden Text: Job 14:12.

“So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.”

1. What happens when we die? Psalm 146:3-4.
2. What does Isaiah say about the people of God who

- die? Isaiah 26:19.
3. When a person dies, does he go to heaven? Job 14:12-14.
4. Did David ascend into the heavens? Acts 2:34.
5. When God's people die, what does the Bible say has happened to them? I Thessalonians 4:13-14.
6. Do the dead praise the Lord? Psalm 115:17.
7. In death, is there any remembrance? Psalm 6:5.
8. What will happen at the last trump? I Corinthians 15:51-56.
9. Do any of God's people have the promise yet? Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40.

Answers to Peter's Occupation:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | |

Answers to Afraid:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Some Bible Firsts Answers:

1. Joseph
2. Babel
3. Jonah
4. In Egypt just before the Israelites left the land.
5. When the Israelites left Egypt and were encamped at the Red Sea.



A CHOCOLATE CAKE IS RUINED

By Alice M. Brawand

Timmy, Tommy, Daddy, and Mother were riding in their car one hot, summer afternoon. The twins, Timmy and Tommy, were six years old. They loved to hear stories Mother told to them.

“Mommy, tell us a story about when we were little,” pleaded Tommy.

“Well,” thought Mother. “What should I tell?”

Before the boys could answer, Mother began her story. “One day our church was going to have a school picnic. You boys were each fifteen months old. After I got dressed in clean clothes, I put you on the clean kitchen floor to play. I went upstairs to get ready myself.

“In a few minutes I heard clashing and banging from the kitchen. You boys were laughing hard. You had pulled out all of Mommy’s pots and pans. You banged them together and made loud noises.

“In a few minutes I stopped and listened. I became disturbed because I didn’t hear a single sound. All was quiet. I knew you must be getting into mischief when you were quiet. Hurriedly I ran down the stairs in the kitchen. “I was so surprised and sick at what I saw. One of you had found a chocolate cake I had hidden away back, in one of the cupboards. I had baked the cake for the picnic. You both had chocolate cake and icing in your hair, on your clean clothes, faces, arms, hands and legs! What a sight! Each one of you blamed the other one for ruining

the cake.

“It took Daddy and me a whole half-hour to scrub you boys and put more clean clothes on you. We were late to the picnic and had no cake to take.”

At first the boys giggled. Then they sat quickly, thinking. “You didn’t love us as much when we were naughty and dirty, did you, Mother?” asked Timmy.

“Boys, I loved you just as much when you were dirty. I love you when you’re dirty and when you’re clean. I didn’t like to see you dirty, so I washed you to make you clean,” answered Mother.

“That was a good story!” answered Mother.

Daddy was driving, and he said, “boys, Jesus died for everyone. His blood will wash all our sins away and make us as white as snow. He is waiting to save all those who call upon Him.”



HAVING FUN!

By Fernrow Casebeer

Hi there! Please come and play with us,
 We’re having lots of fun.
 We’ll share our playthings with you all;
 Come on! Hurry up! Run!
 We play out here ‘most every day,
 Right in our own back yard.
 Don’t have to watch for cars, you see,
 So we play very hard.
 We’re just as happy as can be;
 I’m sure you see our smile;
 So come on over, all of you,
 And play with us awhile.

AFRAID

There are many brave people in the Bible but sometimes they would be frightened too. Read the clues and look up the Bible text to find who was afraid.

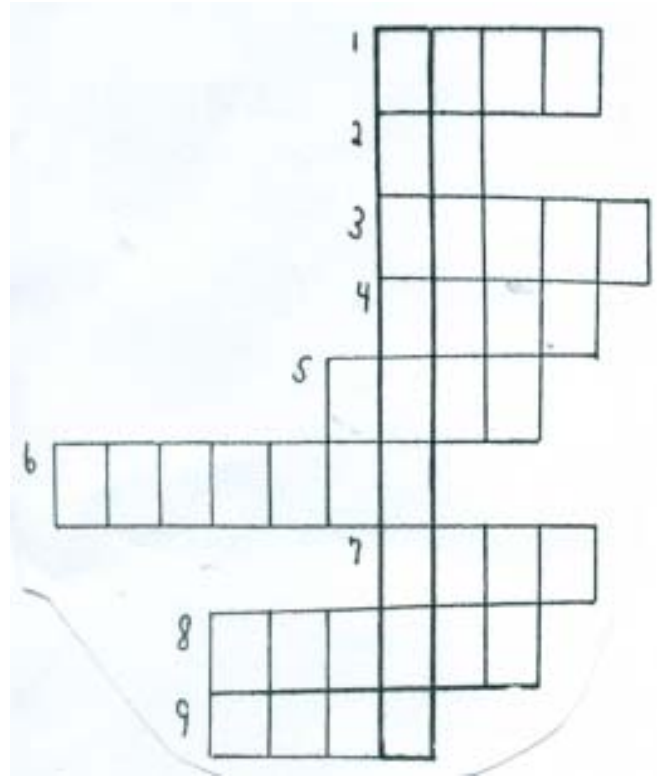
1. I was afraid to look at God and I hid my face. _____ Exodus 3:6.
2. A king tried to kill me with a spear, but the king's son helped me escape. _____ I Samuel 20.
3. A wicked queen tried to kill me and I ran away. I was one of God's prophets. _____ I Kings 19:2-3.
4. A silver cup was put in my sack of grain. I was afraid the ruler would try to kill me. _____ Genesis 44:12-13.
5. I deceived my brother and now he is coming to meet me. I am scared. _____ Genesis 27:27, 41.
6. We ate some fruit we were not supposed to touch. God wanted to talk to us but we hid. _____ Genesis 3:8-10.



SOME BIBLE FIRSTS

1. Who organized the first Community Chest? (Genesis 41:47-49; 54-57)
2. What was the name of the first skyscraper? (Genesis 11:4-9)
3. Who rode in the first submarine? (Jonah 1:17)
4. When was the first blackout recorded in the Bible? (Exodus 10:21-23)
5. When was the first smoke screen used to protect God's people and hide them from their enemies? (Exodus 14:19-24)

IF YOU WERE ANOTHER PERSON, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A FRIEND OF YOURSELF?



PETER'S OCCUPATION

The answers to these questions can be found in Acts 2:1-21. Put the answers in the correct boxes above. If your answers are correct, Peter's occupation will appear in the heavy squares.

1. What were the cloven tongues like?
2. What gave them utterance?
3. What men were dwelling in Jerusalem?
4. What did Paul say they should do to his words?
5. What prophet did Peter mention?
6. What will God do to His Spirit in the last days?
7. What will the old men do?
8. What will the sun be turned into?
9. What will be turned into blood?

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A FATHER

*At the head of each home there should be one
To guide and protect us each day;
To set before our eyes an example,
Never telling us, "Just do as I say".*

*We knew he could always be trusted,
For he lived every day by this creed;
He worked hard to set an example,
And to furnish all of our needs.*

*"You should stand up for what you believe in,"
Many times he was known to say;
"If you don't, then your word will be worthless,
And no good will you see, come what may".*

*His example was always before us,
And we always knew what he would say;
"When you are called on for what you believe in,
Never falter, and don't turn away".*

*So thank God for our earthly father,
And all of his teachings we've had;
For someone who has been brave and honest,
The one that we proudly call DAD!*

Betty Whetstone

