

The Way of Truth

Vol. 80

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

No. 5

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May 2022

THE MOTHER OF US ALL

“But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”—Galatians 4:26.

THE MONTH of May ushers in the very important celebration of Mother’s Day, which this year falls on May 8. Of all holidays, this one is so worthy of observance. Motherhood is a sacred calling, and godly mothers are the backbone of an ordered society. They are worthy of appreciation and acknowledgement.

But in this editorial I want to express appreciation for my spiritual mother. The Bible says in Galatians 4, verse 26, “But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.” What does that mean? Of course, Jerusalem in this verse is not referring to the literal city, but is a symbol for God’s people or the church. What church you may ask? The only one that is free. That would be the one that proclaims the truth. “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Her name is the Church of God. “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Timothy 3:15). I am speaking of that organization that is made up of all the redeemed, the church that Jesus said that He would build (Matthew 16:18).

In what ways is the Church of God the “mother of us all”? First of all, she is the “bride” of Christ. The reference of the husband-wife relationship in Ephesians, chapter 5, is applied to the relationship between Christ and the church. Notice Revelation 21:2, 3, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” This is clearly talking about the same Jerusalem which is from above, and it is not a literal city, but rather is referring to God’s people, who are called out and separate from the world.

Zion is another reference to the Church of God. Isaiah 66:8 proclaims, “Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.” This scripture is talking about the church having a soul burden and travailing in prayer to see people saved or born again. The church in working with her husband (Christ) produces offspring in the form of individuals becoming Christians through the new birth. In this way, “Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”

All who are born again are brothers and sisters with the same spiritual mother and Father. We who are redeemed are all of the same family. “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him” (I John 5:1).

In what other way is the church the mother of us all? She feeds and clothes all the redeemed. By teaching us the truth of the Word of God she feeds us. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2). Every baby must eat or else he will die. Nourishment is provided by our mother (the church). She provides ministers who are able to feed us the Word. Peter encourages the ministers to “feed the flock of God which is among you” (I Peter 5:2). The ministry called by our Father and provided by our mother is to “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

Through our spiritual mother we are clothed and protected from the elements of the world. Through example she clothes the child of God with so many things. We are clothed with humility (I Peter 5:5). We are to put on “bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness” (Colossians 3:12-14).

This leads us to our next thought: our mother provides an environment of love. The Church of God is home for every born-again child of God. It is a place our spiritual mother has cultivated—a friendly, warm, loving, and welcome place. As they say, “There is no place like home.” That is because all the siblings love one another. Harmony prevails. Mother’s theme is, “Let brotherly love continue” (Hebrews 13:1).

Of course, chastisement is a part of mother’s responsibility. Misbehavior must be corrected. But the overwhelming atmosphere is not one of cruelty and harshness. Rather, mother provides hope and loving guidance to all of her children. If perchance one go astray, she weeps over such a one and reaches her hand in hopes of reconciliation, remembering the scripture in Galatians 6:1, “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”

So, I thank God, not only for my natural mother, but also for my spiritual mother. Where would I be without her? I know that God gave His Son for me, and it was Jesus Christ who died for me. But the church has played a significant role in my salvation and in my development and spiritual growth. I love and appreciate every saint who prayed for me through the years.

It is my burden that God will heal any fractured relationships among brethren and that we all may with renewed resolve determine to be that loving spiritual mother bringing forth children, supporting each member of the family of God, and providing an environment for growth and enrichment for all the redeemed. †

ABOUT THE COVER

Mother’s Day is a national holiday celebrated this year on May 8. It is very fitting that the importance of Mother’s place in society be pointed out. But she is to be appreciated every day. Be sure not to neglect your precious mother. Give her a call today and tell her, “Thank you.”

THE WAY OF TRUTH

(Registered Trademark)

Vol. 80

May 2022

No. 5

Devoted to the gospel of our loving Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave freely His life-blood, to save us from our many sins, to sanctify our fallen nature and to bring into one body all true believers, by whose stripes we are healed.

Published by the Church of God which assembles at 12819 Point Salem Road in Hagerstown, Maryland. Publishing office: 12811 Point Salem Road, Hagerstown, Maryland, U.S.A.

The Way of Truth is published without any given subscription price, and is supported by freewill offerings from our readers and funds supplied by the local congregation. It is sent out free to anyone who is interested enough to ask for it. We shall continue this policy as long as God sees fit to make it possible. FOREIGN READERS are requested to write us at least once a year if they wish to continue receiving the paper the following year. Address all correspondence to: The Way of Truth, P. O. Box 88, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741, U.S.A. Always when writing, give your name and address clearly, please.

—Gregory E. Tyler, Editor

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THE LONGSUFFERING OF OUR LORD IS SALVATION

By Bro. Darrell Sanford

II Peter 3:10-15—*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation ...”*

“The longsuffering of our Lord is salvation.” Why does God allow the wickedness and suffering to go on in this world? If He really is a God of love, why doesn't He stop it NOW, or why hasn't He stopped it already? Because “He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” Count His longsuffering as salvation, as opportunity, as mercy that more may be saved; that, perhaps YOU may be saved.

God knows that the suffering awaiting the lost in eternity cannot be compared to the suffering in this world, just as “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us ...” who are saved. “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

“For in him we live, and move, and have our being; ... For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:28-31).

Jesus came not to condemn the world, but to save it, but He will soon return, this time, not to save, but to judge and render sentence. †

THE LONGSUFFERING OF OUR LORD IS
SALVATION!

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All about Mother



BRING HER A SMILE TODAY

Garnett Ann Schultz

If you would bring her happiness
Bring her a smile today,
Wherever you might chance to be,
However far away;

Come home and you will thrill her heart
Whatever else you do,
It's not the gift that you might send,
She wants a smile from you.

If you will show your heartfelt love
Then tell her so today,
For mothers value little things
That you might do or say.

She's ever longing for your touch
And praying just for you;
Unselfishly she lives her life,
Her wants are very few.

If you'd put laughter in her eyes
And peace within her heart,
To see you there is all she'd need
These treasures to impart.

Give Mom a thought as hurriedly
You go upon your way.
Take time, come home, she's waiting there,
Bring her a smile today.

MOTHER'S WORK

Cora Lindsey Field

Mother's arms were made for holding,
Made for enfolding snug and tight
Little forms so soft and helpless
Nestled there to say good night.

Mother's hands were made for stroking,
Made for soothing childish woes;
Balm of wondrous magic healing
Through each gentle finger flows.

Mother's lips were made for kissing,
Made for drowning childish fears;
Smiles and kisses both together
Stop the flow of bitter tears.

Mother's heart was made for loving,
Made for love no others know.
God in heaven, bless and keep it
Ever pure as whitest snow.

HYMN FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Emily S. Coit

O God, we thank Thee for the gifts
That come from Thee alone,
And chiefly for that mother's love
Which is so like Thine own.

The love that shields our infancy,
The love that guides our youth,
That shows the wonders of Thy law,
The glories of Thy truth.

We pray that Thou wilt greatly bless
Our mothers on this day,
With treasures from Thy heavenly store
That cannot pass away.

We pray that sons and daughters all
May ever loyal be,
And may our mothers' prayers fulfill
By truly serving Thee.

A WONDROUS GIFT

Author Unknown

A mother is the gentle touch,
The word, the smiling face,
And all the things that make a home
A cheerful happy place.

A mother is the wondrous gift,
The bright and shining light
That God gave every one of us
To teach us wrong from right.

A mother is the sacrifice,
The sympathy and care,
That makes each joy seem brighter still,
Each care less hard to bear.

A mother is the someone dear
Who's cherished all year through ...
A mother is a wondrous gift,
Especially if she's you! †

HONOR THY MOTHER—Why? How?

Message delivered 05/12/02 by the late Bro. Alvin A. Craig



OUR THOUGHTS are entitled, “Honor Thy Mother—Why? How?” I’d like to read two verses of scripture. They are virtually the same, but one is from the Old Testament and the other from the New Testament. In Exodus, chapter 20, verse 12, we read: “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” And, Ephesians 6:2. This verse quotes from a portion of the verse that I just read: “Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.”

I looked in the dictionary and in my concordance in regard to the word *honor*. I’d like to quote part of what the dictionary said: “high regard or great respect given, especially glory, fame, renown, good reputation, credit; a keen sense of right and wrong; adherence to actions or principles considered right; integrity; chastity or purity; high rank or position; distinction; dignity; something done or given as a token or act of respect.” There is more to the dictionary definition of honor. In fact, some of the definitions that were given would be fitting only for God.

There are many scriptures in the Bible that use the word *honor*. Numbers of them are speaking of honoring God.

I would say to the mothers this morning, and to everyone else here, you are not honoring God if you’re living in sin, for sin does not honor God. It is our responsibility, as the entire family of man, to honor God. In fact, I would put that right at the top of the list. The whole duty of man is to fear God and to keep His commandments. So that’s our greatest responsibility and greatest duty of all. For us, I think if we will really honor God, it will help us in honoring our mothers.

There are scriptures in the Bible that speak about honoring others. In fact, it speaks about honoring a nation, honoring a city, and it speaks about honoring our parents. This being Mother’s Day, we want to think especially in reference to them.

Honor Thy Mother—Why? Well, first of all, God said to do so. That’s sufficient reason in itself. God said for us to honor our mother, and whatever God tells us to do is right. God is always right. Whatever He instructs us to do is right. So God said, “Honor thy mother.” Not only did He tell us to honor our mother, but He made a promise. He promised to bless us if we would do so. “Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Deuteronomy 5:16). So God not only said to honor our mother, but He said that if we would do so, He would bless us.

Now I realize we’re not living under the Old Covenant, and very frankly, I’m thankful we’re not. But under the Old Covenant, it meant death to curse your mother. “And he that curseth his father, or his mother,

shall surely be put to death” (Exodus 21:17). I gather from that scripture that it is very important for us to honor our mother. It is not a light thing. It is not an insignificant thing. As I mentioned last Sunday, in reference to the Word of God, it’s not a Book of suggestions.

It’s a Book of commands. It’s a Book of instructions. So God has commanded us to honor our mother. He has given us promises and blessings if we will do so, and I could say curses if we do not.

The word *mother* has a depth and a meaning to it that very few words do. We are emotional beings. Some of us are less emotional than others, but I tell you one thing that can cause emotions to stir, and that’s the word *mother*, and thoughts of mother. Of course, during the foregoing part of this service when they were talking about mothers, my mind went back to my own mother. I think you would agree with me that if some of us would have known in our younger days what we learned in our older days, we would have appreciated our mothers even more. Sometimes we learn too late. I would say to the children and the young people here who still have living mothers, honor them.

Whenever a young man asks a young lady to become his wife, he’s asking a lot of her. I realize that there are some women who are not, as it were, even worthy to be called mothers, but I don’t want to speak on the negative this morning. I want us to think about mothers that are indeed mothers. Whenever a young man asks a young lady to leave her home, to leave the safety, the love, the comfort, the provisions of a home, and cast her lot with him, he’s making quite a request of her. He’s asking a lot of her. He may not have very much. This is not intended to be critical, but a lot of young people want to start where Dad and Mom are now. But in most cases, it doesn’t work that way. Don’t ask me how many years Wanda and I were married and living in apartments, and so on and so forth, till we got our first new piece of furniture. I don’t remember how long it was. Now some young people want to start with a new house, new furniture, a new car, etc. Even though the economic situation is much better than it was years ago, I still say that a young man is asking a lot of a young lady to cast her lot with him.

Young lady, you think you know him, but you’ll find out afterwards a lot of things you didn’t know. You ladies can say “amen” to that. Very frankly, everything that you’re going to find out about him is not all together what you would like or what you would desire. I’ll give you a reason for trouble: try to make him over in your image, and you’ll have problems on your hands.

Young lady, your young married husband might not have much to offer you as you would like, but if you love one another and are committed to one another (as all young people should be when they get married), and

you have God's help, you'll make it. God is the One who ordained marriage and ordained family. God did not ask us to honor or to do that which is impossible.

Why honor mother? Because in working with God (and I want to emphasize that), she goes down, as it were, to death's door to give you birth. Most women suffer in giving birth, and some have lost their lives in giving birth. We read of one in the Bible. Jacob's wife, the one he loved the most. She gave her life in giving birth to her second son. Why honor mother? Because she, in working with God, gave you birth. But that's not all she gave you. While you were helpless, she fed you. She clothed you. Whenever you became sick and suffering, she might have sat up all night holding you in her arms and caring for you. Mothers, who are mothers, give themselves for their children. They are to be honored for that. They washed your dirty clothes, cooked your meals. Oh, there are so many things they did for you!

In honoring mother, when you get a little older, don't expect her to run around after you to pick up your dirty clothes. Don't expect her to wait on you hand and foot, for mother is not a slave. Learn to straighten up your room and make your own bed. Learn to help mother. I don't suppose it's limited to the girls that could help mother do the dishes. I don't suppose there's any law against the boys helping to do different things.

God's plan was not only that there would be mothers who would give birth to children, but He ordained that mothers and fathers would teach and train their children to assume responsibilities, because they grow up. I know sometimes mothers wish that their little ones could remain little, but if they did, you'd get concerned. So God ordained that they grow up. He ordained that mothers teach their children to assume responsibilities as they grow older. So mothers are to be honored because they fill a place that no one else can fill. I want to qualify that a little, because there are times when death takes the mother out of the home, even when children are small, and the father marries another lady. Many times the second wife has been a real mother to children who were not her own. She is to be highly commended for that.

Abraham Lincoln did not have the privilege of growing up under his mother, but you can read what he said about the one he knew. I don't think he could have loved his real mother really more. So there are times and situations like that. Such dear women are to be honored and respected, just as much as if they were actually the children's mother, because they fill that place and carry out that duty and responsibility. But mothers do fill a place that no one else can fill.

I'm not knocking our country and complaining about the economic situation, but in our society today, where so many mothers leave the home and go into the marketplace, the demand is that the Federal Government takes tax dollars to support child-care centers and day-care centers, etc., and studies have proven and shown that there are no day-care centers that can do for those little children what mother does. From what I have read, there's a lot of turnover in those kind of homes and institutions. That means that the children are continually meeting new people, whereas in the home,

there is a sense of stability. There is a sense of security there in children that they do not feel in some day-care center. It has been said that the nearest that can come to it is a near relative that might take care of the child, but even that relative does not succeed in doing what the mother can do.

Mothers influence their children at a very young age. They feel a sense of security, a sense of stability, because mother is in the home day after day after day. Mother, you're still working with God, not just by bringing children into the world, but by being a mother, and teaching and training them. You're still working with God. You don't get your name in the headlines of newspapers, but you're doing something that's more important than many of those who are making headlines.

On a radio program recently, I mentioned about some women who are CEO's in companies, and I mentioned the fact that it may not be too many more years until we'll have a woman president. It may not be but a few months until we have a woman governor. I'm not saying that the woman doesn't have the mental capacity and capability. Of course, she does. Many of them have more mental capacity than some of us men do. But let me tell you this morning, becoming the president of the United States is not as important as being a godly mother and rearing your children up to serve the almighty God and making heaven their home. Being a CEO of a company is not as important. It doesn't compare. So it isn't just working with God to bring them into the world, but working with God to bring them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Proverbs 31 tells us in regard to mothers: "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." Children, the next time Mother says *no*, remember it's the law of kindness. It's not the law of hate or spite. It's the law of kindness. Beloved, there are many times when children ask for things that the proper answer should be *no*. Don't think you're going to win your children's love and respect by always saying yes. It doesn't work that way. I mentioned this before, but I'll mention it again: a study was made some years ago asking young people who were away from their parents, to express themselves about their homes. The person that was questioning them got honest answers. They replied, "I want my parents to be firm with me. I want them to say no when no is right, because that shows me that they love me." So you don't win your children's love and respect by saying yes all the time. There are times when *no* is the proper answer. *No* is what you should say and then stand by it. "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

A mother who is worthy of honor is a humble person. She's not a proud and a haughty person. A mother who is worthy, a mother who is to be honored, is a humble person. "The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility" (Proverbs 15:33). "Honour shall uphold the humble in spirit" (Proverbs 29:23b). "A gracious woman retaineth honour" (Proverbs 11:16a).

Honor Thy Mother—How? First of all, to us husbands: How do we honor mother? “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25). A husband who wants to honor his wife, who is the mother of his children, must love her. He must love her in a way that he loves no other woman. “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife,” for it was your children that she went to death’s door to bring forth.

Now in regard to the children, and how they are to honor their mother: loving them. It isn’t just the husband that is to honor the wife by loving her, but children are to honor their mother by loving her. Do you know the Bible says, “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour”? How much more to mother! Oh, yes, I know children are children, but that doesn’t mean that they have a right to be disrespectful just because they’re children. Again, our text says to children: “Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee.” Children, if you want it to be well with you, if you want God’s smile of approval, honor your mother by loving and respecting her. I believe of all the people in the world that are worthy of respect, it is mother. Children, you show your love by obeying your mother. Being disrespectful and disobedient is not the way to show love.

Jesus said in regard to us loving Him, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” This is how we show the Lord that we do love Him. By obeying their mother, I don’t think it’s misrepresenting the Scriptures at all to say that’s the way children show their mother that they love her. Don’t forget the Bible teaches, “Children, obey your parents.” It not only teaches to honor your parents, it not only teaches to honor your mother, but it teaches to “obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” So, Children, you show honor to your mother by loving her, by respecting her, by obeying her, and by doing things for her. Again, don’t expect Mother to wait on you hand and foot, and do everything for you. The time comes when you should start doing things for her. Doing things for mother should not be limited to the second Sunday of May every year. This should be a year in and a year out thing.

It has been said, “A mother can take care of ten or twelve children, but ten or twelve children can’t take care of a mother.” Too many times that proves to be true.

I want to mention another special mother that the Bible tells us we should honor. The Bible says in I Timothy 5:3, “Honour widows that are widows indeed.” I realize the woman can be a widow without being a mother, but in many instances, she is a mother. All mothers are to be honored. But you know, there have been mothers who’ve been widowed by the death of the husband, and they have sacrificed to the extreme to keep their family together. I realize we hear stories where that’s not possible, and maybe this relative takes one and this relative another, but there have been many, many mothers down through the years who would work and deny themselves to keep their family together and to provide for them. So I certainly agree with the apostle Paul when he said, “Honour widows that are

widows indeed.” They are indeed worthy of honor. Honor widows—respect them, love them, and care for them.

If the norm of life follows through in your life, the time will come when you’ll not have your mother with you. If you’re going to love her, if you’re going to respect her, you must do it while she’s living.

In closing, I’ll quote from Proverbs 31: “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. ... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

Thank God for mothers, and thank God, especially, for godly mothers. You will agree with me, our nation needs, our homes need, the church needs godly mothers. God bless you. †

AN EXPERIENCE OF MINE

This is an experience I had 60 years ago:

I was living in Virginia in a small trailer with my husband and two young children, ages three and four. It was a calm day and the children were inside, probably asleep, so I went outside to burn some trash. Since there was no barrel or such for burning, I chose what seemed a safe place for a little fire. All was well for a few minutes, then a wind started, and quickly the fire was out of control. There was an old abandoned car, possibly with some gas in the tank, and two very nice large trailers, one on either side of me. I was alone, no phone, and terribly frightened as I was trying to put out the fire.

As I was doing the best I could, I looked up to see two very ordinary men also helping me. They didn’t talk, but they went to the old car and both stood behind it and pushed it out of the way, then continued putting out the fire. They did it all so quickly! Now that everything was under control, I turned around to thank them, but they were GONE! At first, I was bewildered! I looked every direction searching for even a glimpse of them. Nothing. The VERY LONG lane from the trailers to the country road would have taken at least five minutes to walk, and there was no car to show that the men had driven to help me. I hadn’t called them since I had no phone.

How did those men know I needed help? Finally, I realized that God, in His mercy, had sent the men, and they were NOT ordinary men, but ANGELS! I never told anyone. Who would believe such a story anyway! But I still get tears of gratefulness because God understood. I now realize it would have been better to have waited and found another way to dispose the trash, but I was young then and learned a serious lesson that I will never forget! He saved three trailers from being burned to the ground, and possibly, three lives—my children’s and mine. If the car did contain even a little gas and had blown up, all would have been lost.

It is with humility and deepest gratitude that I relate this true story.—A sister from the Hagerstown congregation †

THE COST OF REJECTING GOD

Radio Message by Bro. Greg Tyler

THE TIME has now come to share with you a Bible message. We are living in a day and age where people just don't seem to be interested in the gospel. They are so wrapped up in themselves and in their own cares that they do not hear the voice of God and respond to it.



I am not so much concerned with the reasons why people reject God, but I would like for us to think about "The Cost of Rejecting God."

I call your attention to the book of Genesis, the sixth chapter, and the third verse: "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man." This is very serious and very important. It is a statement that should be drilled into every heart. God said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." God said those words. I didn't.

In the Antediluvian world, man became so wicked and so ungodly that the Bible says, "Every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth." That's when He said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man."

We all know that God sent a flood and wiped out the human race, except Noah and his sons and their families. It was only because of God's goodness and mercy that He spared Noah, because Noah was just and right in his generation. He was perfect in his generation, and God spared him. That should thrill the heart of every Christian. No matter how wicked, no matter how vile, no matter how ungodly the world has become, if we stay true and faithful to God, He will see us through. But to them who reject God, to them who turn away from Him, to them who cling to their sins, they will not have any mercy or pardon at the judgment bar of God.

I can't understand why people reject God. Only one or two things can happen: *if you reject God, you firstly hope that He will deal with you again that you can be saved at a later date. And if you are saved at a later date, you will regret having turned your back on God earlier in your life.* The second thing that could happen: *you could die lost and be rejected by God.* We have the power to reject God, but remember, God also has the power to reject us.

I want to share with you the reality of rejecting God, the results of rejecting God, and the seriousness of rejecting God. To do this, I'm going to use a tract that was printed in our print shop as a basis for our thoughts. A lot of things in this tract are applicable to your life, Dear Listener, so pay attention—

There was a boy of twelve who was full of life and vigor. Ambition and hopes beckoned him on to a life of success in this world. He had learned early in life that

we are all like sheep, having gone astray, and that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. He also learned that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And so as he was standing on the threshold of life, full of energy and vigor, he heard a still pleading voice from heaven, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." His heart was touched by the voice of God, and he was telling himself that he ought to heed that voice while his heart was young and tender, and while the cares of life were few. "But," he said to himself, "if I become a Christian now, I shall miss the pleasures of life. Then, too, I might have to suffer trials and persecutions from my associates in school. They would have nothing to do with me. They would call me crazy. I believe I will wait for awhile."

And so time went on. Conviction was stifled. He grew into manhood, and some of his pleasures were realized, but they did not bring the satisfaction he thought they would bring. There was a deep aching void in this young man's heart. Although financial success had come his way, yet cares and troubles accompanied them. His soul was empty, restless, and weary. Over and over the Holy Spirit was pleading, "My son, give Me thine heart. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." He felt the anguish of a lost soul.

One night as he was tossing on his bed, unable to sleep, he cried out in anguish of soul, "Oh, I must get right with God." This young man said, "I'll give my heart to God now while I'm young and still have some vigor. I want to give the best years of my life to God." Then he paused, and as he peered into the darkness of his room, he began talking to his soul, "Hold on, my soul, I can't change now, because now is the time to make a name for myself, honor and gold, home and lands. I'll turn to God when I am older." It was then that memory recalled the words of that old familiar song he'd heard in that little country church when he was just a boy—

*"Almost persuaded" now to believe;
"Almost persuaded" Christ to receive;
Seems now some soul to say,
"Go, Spirit, go thy way;
Some more convenient day
On thee I'll call."*

*"Almost persuaded," come, come today;
"Almost persuaded," turn not away;
Jesus invites you here,
Angels are ling'ring near,
Prayers rise from hearts so dear;
O wand'rer, come."*

But once more he stifled conviction, and he turned over and tried to go to sleep.

Days wore into weeks, months, and years, and he made some bad investments. And so he came to middle-age with youth gone, strength gone, health gone, wealth gone, and the best years life past. Ambitions and hopes were gone.

Again, he heard the voice of God, but not plainly, for he had turned down the Holy Spirit so long and so often that his heart had become hardened, but he did

faintly hear the voice pleading with him again, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” He thought that if anyone needed rest for his weary, sin-tossed soul, he surely did, and so he told himself that he would surrender right there and then, for he did want to make heaven his home. But again he reconsidered, and again he said, “No, I can’t now. I have several years yet to live. I’ll wait until life’s race is almost run, and when I’m just about ready to die, then I’ll give my heart to God, and at last go to that land of eternal rest.”

How many people have said that same thing? “Not now; when I’m old and can’t do anything else, then I’ll turn to God.” Dear Listener, you can’t turn to God when you want to. You must do it when the Holy Spirit deals with you.

When this young man made the decision to put it off again, he remembered a verse of scripture that came to him. He had learned this scripture when he was a boy in Sunday school, but he hadn’t thought of it in many, many years: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Those words stayed with him for a long time, but as he went about his daily tasks, he was finally able to get those words out of his heart and mind.

He went on until he was getting old. His hair had turned to silver, his shoulders were bowed with the weight of years, his steps had grown feeble and uncertain, and his eyes had grown dim and almost sightless.

One day disease laid hold on his body, and he realized that his time on Earth was short, and so he thought about his soul and making heaven his home. But where was that voice, that voice that had been talking to him in his younger years? He thought it was following him, but alas! it was gone! For the first time he realized that the words of the Lord are true: “My spirit shall not always strive with man.” And so in anguish of soul, he cried out, “The sun has gone down in my sky, and I’m lost; I’ve waited too long. O God! how dark is my way! I’m going down to the regions of darkness forever. I’m lost, lost, forever lost!” And he slipped into eternity to meet a just God.

Oh, Dear Listener, you have good intentions of getting saved some day, but take warning from this story. You’re saying, “Someday, but not just now.” Today is the day of salvation. Now is the accepted time.

I wonder if there is someone in our radio audience who not only feels the working of the Holy Spirit, but will decide to do something about it before it’s too late.†

THE HIGH COST OF POSTAGE RATES

We seldom say anything about the cost of publishing this magazine. But postage rates continue to climb. Especially expensive are international rates. We have a vision to increase our readership, not cut back. It is important to hear from international readers once each year to remain on our mailing list.

Though there is no subscription price to our magazine, we would like our readers to know that your offerings to help defray expenses are gratefully received!

BIBLE LESSON OF THE MONTH

FAITH AND MIRACLES

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

Scriptures: John 11:1, 2, 4, 14, 15, 17, 21, 27, 43, 44.

John 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)

4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Memory Verse: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.—John 11:25.

Aim: To show Christ’s miraculous power over death.

INTRODUCTION

IN RAISING Lazarus from the dead, Jesus demonstrated His mighty power of life and death. If He can raise the dead, we are encouraged to believe that He can more easily heal any sickness. At one time when Jesus sent out the disciples to preach, He commanded them to raise the dead. If in that age the dead were brought back to life through the labors of the church, do we not have the right to expect as much today? Has God lost any of His power, compassion and love? The answer is, NO! Then the shortcoming is with the church. Let us seek earnestly to be all that God would have us to be in these closing days of time.

MEDITATIONS

SICKNESS STRIKES—John 11:1—Was sick— We look for a land where there will be no more sickness. In the land in which we now live, we know that disease is likely to strike any moment. We may be in the best of health today, and tomorrow be taken captive by a great fever or become a victim of a serious accident. Mental powers may depreciate. Lazarus was not an old man, it seems, but was a victim of a serious disease. As is often said, the old must die, and the young may.

UNMATCHED DEVOTION—John 11:2—Wiped his feet— The Lord knew perfectly the heart of Mary

as she bestowed such affection upon Him. Mary, without doubt, had felt the joy of the forgiveness of a great load of sin, and it was a joy such as she had never known. She was entirely conscious of the fact that this great blessing had come from the divine heart and love of Christ, and in deep humility she tried her very best to show her Master true appreciation. This act of devotion pleased the Lord, and He found great satisfaction in His visits into the home. Divine favor becomes the blessing of all those who love as Mary loved, and we feel sure that this act of devotion had much to do with the raising of Mary's brother from the dead. If we would have the blessings of the favor of God, we, too, must show like devotion. **Verse 3—Whom thou lovest**—It is evident from this verse, too, that Lazarus had also shown special devotion to the Master. Mary and Martha knew of the love that Jesus had toward their brother; so, undoubtedly, sometime during their acquaintance Jesus had made an open avowal of it. In their great distress they did the very natural thing. They knew Jesus as One who did miracles; and though the distress of his sickness was great, there was help to be had.

MIRACLES GIVE GOD GLORY—John 11:4—Glorified thereby—Satan spends the entirety of his energy in an effort to make it appear that God, like himself, is a liar, having no power of His own. So when men offer faith, that makes it possible for God to work. He is permitted to reveal Himself to the world as He is, and that brings glory to Him. To fail to pray through, or to fail to believe God, pleases Satan and gives a testimony to the world that is misleading in regard to the personality of God. **Verse 14—Lazarus is dead**—Of course, Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen. Although Lazarus did die and had been buried four days, he would again take up his abode among the men of earth. Often in the Scriptures death is referred to as sleep. In mentioning the death of the Jews, the Scriptures often say, "So-and-so slept with his fathers." Even though the physical body does deteriorate and go back to dust, it shall be awakened from its slumber and stand before God in judgment.

DEAD WITHOUT DOUBT—John 11:17—In the grave—Christ allowed sufficient time to elapse after the death of Lazarus so that there could be no possible doubt about his being dead. All through the centuries men have deceived the people by making things appear different from what they were. Unscrupulous religious leaders have paid individuals to walk to a healing campaign on crutches (the individuals being perfectly normal), but after prayer was offered, the crutches were discarded. They have twisted the Scriptures and presented them in that manner as truth. The true religion of Jesus needs no deception nor any assistance. It is sufficient in itself to perform everything that is said of it. Jesus needed no deceptive help.

MARTHA HAS FAITH—John 11:21—If thou—Martha knew Jesus well enough that she could say Lazarus would not have died had He been there; but her faith was greater than that, for in the next verse she declared that even then the Father would give Him whatever He might ask. Not only is it true that the Father would have given Jesus whatever He asked, but

it is true that He will give us whatever we ask, if we ask in the name of Jesus.

CONFESSING CHRIST—John 11:27—Thou art the Christ—It is evident that Martha had an experience of salvation, this being the basis of her testimony. The Jews believed that the Promised One would be very unusual, possessing great power. Jesus had demonstrated His power, and Martha eagerly acknowledged that she had recognized it. It would be a great boon to Christianity today if Christ were permitted, through the faith of men, to demonstrate His miraculous power.

BREAKING DEATH'S GRIP—John 11:43—Cried with a loud voice—Jesus was somewhat filled with emotion at this time because of the sorrow of the sisters and His great love for the family. No doubt, He was eager to relieve them as soon as possible, but it was necessary to take advantage of this opportunity to set forth some truth concerning the gospel. This He took time for; and when He imparted the necessary gospel facts for the time being, He found relief in crying aloud, "Lazarus, come forth." Truly, Jesus is the resurrection and the life. **Verse 44—Let him go**—Jesus had successfully done His part. He had brought the dead back to life. The grave clothes, however, were still in place; and it was necessary that they be removed. Doubtless, the hands that loosed him were the hands of excited and joyous and amazed people. What a relief it must have been to the sisters to receive alive their brother!

CONCLUSION

This great account was recorded for our benefit, and surely we do want to get all the benefit that is to be had from its study. We know that Jesus Christ has not changed through the years; and if men could trust Him in those days for the needs of the soul and body, we know that we can today. At the command of Jesus, Lazarus came forth without any hesitation. There is still authority in His command, thank God!

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Give one reason why Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
2. In your estimation, why do we see no one raised from the dead today?
3. Can we look forward to a land that sickness will not visit?
4. How does God get glory by working miracles?
5. Why do you think Jesus delayed His coming to help the sisters?
6. Why did Martha confess with such certainty that Jesus was the Christ? †

SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE

The Way of Truth publishing work provides Church of God Sunday school literature for many congregations. If you would like a sample of our literature and a price list, please request it. We have a six-year series of lessons. Each quarter we print quarterlies for Adults and Young People, Intermediates and Juniors. We also print leaflets for younger children. Write or call today.

THE GODLY TREATMENT OF WOMEN

Message delivered 03/27/22 by Bro. Brian Richards



I HAVE A message this evening entitled, “The Godly Treatment of Women.” This message isn’t just for women. There’s something in it for men as well. This is another broad topic that we’ll just be touching on. We’re not going to go deep into any one thing.

The Word of God has a lot to say about both women and men. It speaks about our relationship with others and the relationship between husband and wife, so it’s fitting that we preach it since the Word of God has something to say about it.

I thought about all of us, not just our young people. We have a newly-wed couple. We have a couple that’s dating, a number of young people looking for a companion, and a number of young people who are not too far from the age of looking for a companion. We have quite a spread here. The message is not just for them, but for each one of us as well.

Thankfully, I’ve been very happily married for almost 24 years, so I know a little bit about the husband and wife relationship. I’ve learned some things along the way, and I continue to learn some things.

I trust as we look into the Word tonight that we’ll be reminded of some things and of principles we need to remember from time to time. These are things that young people need to hear, and things we all need to be mindful of, because we’re living in a world that is very contrary to the Word of God. On this particular topic, the world is very opposed to what the Word of God teaches.

I’d like to start out with a statement that came to my mind, and that is, *Christianity elevates women, protects women, and provides for women, like no other religion or ideology does.*

In many religious circles, women are second class citizens, we might say. Women are held under the thumb of men. Women are not elevated and protected in many cases, and definitely not provided for as they should be. But Christianity is different. Christianity elevates women. It provides and protects them. Outside of religion, of course, I mentioned ideology. There’s no other ideology that provides for women better than Christianity. I’m talking about pure Christianity, true Christianity, not nominal religion. Pure religion which is undefiled. In many cases, the culture of our world today is not what it claims to be. In many cases, it’s not elevating and promoting women.

Let’s look into our thoughts this evening. First, we will begin with the creation of the woman. Genesis 2:18, “And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” That verse alone is something that is mocked and scorned at in today’s world, but the Word of God is still true. It is still real. It is filled with the best plan that mankind knows, and it always will be. You can’t change or improve upon the plan of God. God said, “I will make him an help meet for him.” He didn’t say a slave, a

servant, and a second class citizen, but a help meet. We’ll expound on that in a moment.

There’ll be some instructions later, and maybe some advice to the young men and women that are looking for a companion. As we go through this, I hope you’ll pick out some nuggets here and there. Here’s one: Young Men, you’ll probably want to look for a companion that is going to be a help meet to you, and not one that you’re going to be at odds with constantly, not one that you’re going to be struggling with or fighting with, but you want one that is going to be a help to you. You’ll want one that’s going to help strengthen and support you, one that you can trust in and share in the joys of life together.

God made Adam, and then He made Eve. He didn’t make Eve, Sally, and Jenny. He made one man and one woman. He didn’t make Adam and Steve. He didn’t make two men. He made Adam and Eve. His plan was that there would be one man and one woman united together for life in the institution of marriage. I know that’s tremendously under attack today in ways I have never imagined I would see in my lifetime. But it is still true that marriage is between one man and one woman.

In Matthew 19, verse 8, we read where Jesus says, “Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.” It wasn’t the plan of God that they would have multiple wives and divorce, but it was the plan of God from the beginning that there would be one man and one woman united together for life.

We see a lot of attacks in our world today on the institution of marriage. We see attacks on the definition of a woman. We see that in public today. It’s amazing the things we are seeing. But God created Adam and Eve, male and female. Each has a role and a purpose in life. When we follow that God-given role and purpose for our lives, it makes for beautiful, beautiful lives. It makes for a beautiful marriage when we follow God’s plan.

The Word of God teaches us that we are to be joint-heirs together. I mentioned in the beginning that pure Christianity, the Word of God, elevates women. It provides and protects them. There have been many in the past that have misused the Word of God. Men have used it to control and to keep a woman or a wife under their thumb. We need to rightly divide the Word of God. We need to understand it and the precepts that are there for us. There is much in the Word of God about how to treat our wives and how to treat women. One of the principles here is that we’re joint-heirs together. We’re joint-heirs together in life.

We read in I Peter 3:7, “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto

the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.” I don’t see where the Scriptures teach that wives are second class citizens, but we’re heirs together for life. We share things together. We work together. We have our strength as men and our weaknesses as men. Wives have their strength as women, and they have their weaknesses as well. But we work together as one—together for the future of the gospel, for the future of our family, and for the future of our community. Heirs together, not mere servants. Again, there are so many other religious groups and entities in the world that do not treat wives as heirs. They do not treat them with that same level of honor and respect.

I would like for us to look at a portion of scripture in Proverbs 31, beginning with verse 10: “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

Did you notice all of the things the virtuous woman was able to do that we read about in Proverbs 31? How she made things, sold things, and made decisions? She was quite capable in a number of areas. What a blessing that is! What a blessing it is to be able to have a companion, a wife, that is capable of doing things!

The Bible teaches that a woman has liberties and talents. She has talents and abilities that should be used. These talents and liberties should be utilized and not hindered. I’m so thankful we understand that in this congregation, and we involve the ladies. The ladies are a big, big part of our congregation. They do so much. I just thank the Lord for them. I thank the Lord that we’re part of a congregation where we understand that truth, where we understand that we’re workers together in the

kingdom of God. Women are capable of doing things. A proper relationship between a husband and a wife should cause her to blossom, to bear fruit, to develop.

Again, there is a force at work in our culture that is very, very much against the plan of God. It is important for us to recognize that. It is important for us to understand how the enemy works, how he’s trying to get into homes, into relationships, how he’s trying to destroy marriages, and even trying to destroy the definition of what a male and a female is. We need to understand these things. We need to see how the enemy is endeavoring to tear down everything good that God has created.

God’s plan is to work through men and women. I’m glad we’re not in a congregation that teaches women are to keep silent in the church. We wouldn’t be able to hear their testimonies, their singing, and their comments in a discussion. I’m glad that we understand that it’s God’s plan to work through men and women. We read comments about this in Joel 2:28: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.” Of course, we know on the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up and preached a message saying, “This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.” They shall labor and work in the gospel. I know in general there is a place for women and a place for men, and the Bible speaks about women not usurping the man’s authority. I know a lot of other things could be brought out here, but I don’t intend to do that this evening. I think we understand God works through men and women, and there’s a place for each one in the work of God.

We have many examples in the Bible of God working through women. God even instructed some men through women. God works and moves. We’ve even seen this in the Church of God’s history and in the congregations that we’ve been in. We’ve seen situations where women have been pastors and have led congregations. They have been called of God to give instruction, guidance, and direction to a congregation. God works through men and through women. We need to understand and respect and nurture that relationship with women. We shouldn’t suppress them. I know we don’t do that in this congregation. I’m just preaching the truth. This is one of the common truths that we understand and have been taught and maybe we take for granted from time to time. Not everybody understands this. Not everybody teaches this. It’s important for us to teach it, to understand it, and to propagate it, so that we will continue to uphold the truth.

A godly woman also has responsibilities. I’m not going to be able to mention them all this evening. We read in Colossians 3:18, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.” We understand that obeying God is our highest responsibility. Whether we’re male or female, obeying God is our highest responsibility. There is a principle taught here. Wives are to submit unto their husbands, but *as it is fit in the Lord*.

Women have responsibilities: Titus 2:4, 5: “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their

husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” Those are responsibilities that could be expounded upon. Women are to teach their daughters how to love their husbands. Women have a lot of responsibility in teaching and in the upbringing of their children. It doesn’t all fall on the man, and it doesn’t all fall on the woman. Again, husbands and wives need to be workers together.

Sometimes I like to give my wife the credit. She’ll say something about our children, and I’ll say, “You’re responsible for that.” But in reality, we both have roles, don’t we? The husband and the wife both have roles. There’s something here about teaching young women to be sober, to love their husbands. Do you think that ever has to happen? Would you have to teach your daughters to love their husbands? It should be natural if you’re in love, right? Well, there are things that have to be taught: “to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” The Word of God needs to be taught under the Spirit of God and not used as a club to suppress people or to bring people under man-rule. We’re talking about some of the responsibilities of women.

Godly women are to be modest. We read in I Timothy 2:9 that women are to conduct themselves as women professing godliness. That is contrary, so contrary, to what we’re seeing in the world today. I don’t want to get too graphic in the comments here, but in many cases our culture is teaching young ladies and girls to be objects of desire, which is so contrary to the Word of God. Women are not objects. Women are to be heirs. They’re to be companions and to be a part of us in our labors, in our joys and challenges, and in our highs and lows in life. They’re not to be looked at as objects. Of course, the enemy has a way of working through our culture. Pop culture does not elevate women. It does not build them up. It does not protect them.

We had some friends who had a couple of daughters. I don’t even think their oldest one was 13, but she was afraid to go to school. She was a little on the heavier side, and she was being bullied at school to the point where she was afraid or ashamed to go to school. She couldn’t even go to public school because she had this inferiority complex upon her for this bullying that she was put under. I tell you, the enemy is working in so many ways to break down the plan of God. Women and young ladies today in the world are brought under tremendous pressure. May God help us to keep our eyes on Christ. May He help us to teach our young ladies and daughters so we can build them up, strengthen them, and that they will have confidence in themselves, to have self-esteem, and not follow the ways of the world.

Now we have some things for the men. We read in Ephesians 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” That verse alone says so much about how men should treat their wives: ... “as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” When Christ works with us, and we displease or grieve Him, He doesn’t put us under His thumb and press us down, does He? No! He works with us with love to help us, to teach us, to help us to

grow, and to be stronger. Men are to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Do we respect our wives? Do we treat them with kindness and tenderness?

In the best of marriages, things happen. Husbands, when we get frustrated or things don’t go the way we want, how do we handle them? How do we treat our wives? We need to keep this before us as husbands. I have a responsibility to treat and love my wife as Christ loved the church. How does Christ treat me when I do something that displeases Him? Your wife is going to do something that displeases you at some point. When your wife displeases you, how do you treat her? How do you work through it? Marriage is a high-calling. I know there are a lot of books out there that have been written on this one point. There are books stating that men are from Mars and women are from Venus. It talks about differences. There are many differences. We’re male and female. God made us different, and we need to respect what He has done.

We have a responsibility as husbands to be leaders in our homes and to be leaders in our relationship with our wives. When we stop and think about husbands loving their wives as Christ loved the church, it takes care of a lot of issues in a marriage. It really does. It helps us to see how to handle difficult times when they come into our marriage. It shows us how to respond. It shows us how to work through situations. It shows how committed our love needs to be.

We’ll read part of I Peter 3:7 again: “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel.” Does that mean that we should look at the women as incapable and feeble-minded? No. Many women are smarter than I am. However, we need to honor them as the weaker vessel. In general, women are emotionally weaker, and we need to recognize that as husbands. Sometimes we may be hard on ourselves because of our personality. I can speak for myself. Sometimes we’re pretty hard on ourselves, and we think that we can be hard on others. Sometimes we take the liberty to be hard on our family. Somehow we think we can be hard on our wives and children as well, because they’re our family. We need to be very careful about that. If you have a type of personality where you’re hard on yourself, that’s one thing, and you might need to learn something to help you as well. The Bible talks about us discouraging our children.

Colossians 3:19, “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.” The whole idea here is treating women as weaker vessels, treating them with care and tenderness, endeavoring to build them up and not tear them down. I’ve heard this taught and found it to be true: *what we get out of our marriage, what response we get back from our companion, it is going to depend largely on what we put into that relationship.* This depends on how we treat our companions, how we respect, honor, and nurture them, and how we handle the difficult situations of life. I believe it’s much easier for a wife to fill her role in being submissive and obedient when she’s properly treated. Wives struggle when their husbands try to hold them under their thumbs and control them, and treat them as if they were servants and second class citizens. Rightly so, because

they're not treated according to God's plan. God's plan is a beautiful plan. Oh, if the world could just see!

I mentioned a while ago that I've been happily married to my wife. Lord willing, June will be 24 years. You know, that's almost unheard of today. There are so few marriages that last five years or 10 years. God's plan is still beautiful. It's still the best way and the right way. There's nothing wrong with God's plan, but He has to be in the center of it.

I have some more instructions for men. Men, we need to know how to handle ourselves with a lady. The Bible teaches us that it's good for man not to touch a woman. Of course, this could be applied to dating and courtship. We need to be careful. We need to keep our hands to ourselves. We need to be careful not to stir up emotions. Emotions are very, very strong, and we need to be careful to keep to ourselves. This also applies to men not getting too free with other women. We need to be careful. That's why we refrain from getting too comfortable or too close to other women. That's not proper; that's not fitting. We need to keep ourselves pure in the sight of God. We need to keep ourselves free from temptation.

Even with our words, we need to be careful. I know, maybe not everyone agrees with this, but we need to be careful of what we say and how we use endearing terms with other women. I can tell you, if my wife hears me using endearing words to other women, I'd be in trouble. If I were to refer to other women as "dear" or "honey" or some other words like that, it wouldn't sit well with my wife. And it shouldn't! Those are endearing terms for my wife. She's special. She's not just another woman. She's my wife. She's my companion in life. She's the one I share life with—its highs and lows.

Flee fornication. Young Men, and all others, when we're at work and around other women, we need to be careful. We need to guard ourselves. Our behavior should show that we're taken. Our behavior should show that we're committed to one woman, our wife. We need to treat women with respect, whether it's our wife, our daughters, or another woman we come in contact with. Respect goes a long way in reaching people. Respect is a tool that the Lord is able to use to reach people. When people see us as Christians treating others with respect, God can use that to reach them. There is so little respect in our world today. Again, there is so little respect for women, for a woman's body. There's so little respect for chastity and for proper relationships. Young Men, that is something to keep in mind when you begin courtship. When you start to show an interest in a young lady, first and foremost, treat her with respect. In all of your conduct, treat her with respect.

We want to close our message by giving some advice to young men and young women who are seeking a companion. Men, first thing I'll say is, you need to look deeper than the outward appearance. I know we all have heard "love is blind." People get infatuated, and they don't see a person for who that person really is. It's good and needful that there be attraction, but it needs to be so much more than that. As we read earlier, "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." When you're looking for a companion, look at the inward beauty.

Look at what type of person she is on the inside. Look deeper than the outward appearance.

Another thing that you should do while looking for a companion is, work to spend time together. When I say "spend time together," I'm not just talking about the nice romantic things—dinners, walks in the park, and watching the sunset. Those types of things are good, but after you get married you might not have money for dinners or time to watch the sun go down. But in reality, you need to make time. After you get married, you *do* need to make time for dinners, for walks together, and time to watch the sun down. When I say "spend time together," I mean spend time together, working and doing things together. If you have someone you're interested in, spend time working together. Learn a little about each other. Do you want to be committed to each other the rest of your life? You don't want to get married and then be surprised that this person doesn't have the personality that you thought they had. You need to get to know each other before you're married. You need to know about strengths and weaknesses.

Men, what other interests are you looking for? What is her interest in having a family? Some women today have no interest in having a family. I had some real estate clients, a young married couple, that I was showing a house to. There was a toy or a family picture in the home that revealed that this family has young children. The young lady said, "Ew! children!" I didn't bother to tell her that we had four. But, Young Men, if you're looking for a companion, and you want to have a family, you don't want your finance to say *Ew! children!* I know this may sound comical, but again, there is a pressure in our culture towards women that's not making women very good candidates for a companion. Is the one you're interested in interested in having a family?

What about cooking? I'll use my wife as an example. I know she won't mind. When we first got married, I knew more about cooking than my wife did. I worked in restaurants for five years during my high school years and through college. I helped to prep food and make things. You might think, *Well, she came from a family that were all great cooks.* That wasn't the case. She had older sisters who cooked, and she didn't really have a need to cook. So when we got married, she didn't know much about cooking. That didn't concern me, because I knew she had a desire, an attitude that she wanted to be a help meet. That's what's important. She wanted to be a companion. She wanted to have a family, so she quickly learned, and she's a wonderful cook today. But those things that I've mentioned are what young men should look at while looking for a companion. There are some women in the world today who want to be pampered. They want to be taken out to restaurants all the time. They don't want to do the laundry and cleaning. They're not really interested in having children. It's all about self, about image, about self-indulgence. Sorry, but those types of persons are not made for good companions.

Young Men, something else you could look at. What about the handling of money? This could go for men and women, of course. Young Ladies, what about his handling of money? Does he manage money well? Does money seem to fall through his fingers? Does he have

an interest in saving and preparing for the future? Do you know money issues are the leading cause for problems in a marriage? There are different opinions on how money should be handled and managed. These are things you should not be surprised of after you get married.

Young Men and Women, you should come to know the person you're interested in. Do you have the same goals? Do you have the same priorities in life? Are you going to be on the same page when you get married? You don't want to find that you're in a completely different book. You might be in different chapters. You might have to work towards getting on the same page, but you need to be close. You need to have some goals and aims that are similar. These things may seem simple to you, but in reality, they are important when looking for a companion. These are things you need to review, understand, and discuss with the one you're going to commit to the rest of your life.

I'll close with what I opened with: *Christianity elevates women, protects women, and provides for women, like no other religion or ideology does.* The plan of God is beautiful, it's rich, it's rewarding, and fruitful.

May God help us to keep teaching and preaching the beautiful Word of God. †

SHADOWS OF GOOD THINGS

By the late Russell R. Byrum

(Part VIII)

THE TABERNACLE AND ITS FURNITURE

(Exodus 25-27, 30, 35-38, 40)

The Golden Candlestick

(Exodus 25:31-39; 37:17-24)

This great candelabrum, which stood at the south side of the first room, was one piece of pure beaten gold. It was made of a talent of gold, or about \$27,375 worth of gold. Its size is not given in the Bible; but the amount of gold used, and the size of it in relation to the height of a man as shown by the bas-relief on the Arch of Titus, is ground for supposing it was probably two cubits, or three feet, high, as was the golden altar on which it was to shed light.



It was made with a central upright shaft from each side of which went out three branches; oil lamps were on the top of the branches and central shaft, all on one plane. It was more properly a lamp-stand than a candlestick. On each of the arms or branches were three bowls like almonds, with a "knop," or knob, and a flower with each bowl. Four of these bowls, knobs, and flowers were on the central shaft. Thus it had the appearance of a golden almond-tree with fruits in the three stages, as was Aaron's almond-rod laid up in the tabernacle, which,

in one night, budded, blossomed, and bore almonds. The purpose of the candlestick was to give light on the table of shewbread opposite and for the priestly ministration there and at the golden altar. It was to be kept always burning with beaten olive-oil, and to be trimmed and cared for by the priests evening and morning.

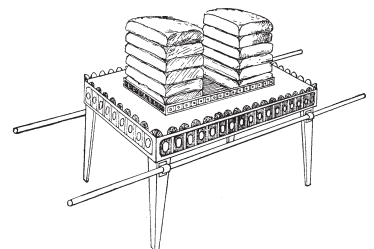
Typical Significance of the Candlestick—As the altar and the laver were typical of Christ, so was also the candlestick and all the other articles of furniture in the sanctuary, as well as the two veils. It is necessarily so because He is the only Savior. The different articles of furniture were needed to set forth the various phases of His work in our salvation much as He used, in His parables, different things to illustrate the various phases of the kingdom of God. He it is who is the source of all spiritual light. Christians merely reflect His light. He said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). In a special sense this light is shed on those who are saved. The sinner is said to be in darkness; but Christians are called "children of light" (I Thessalonians 5:5). "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8). "That ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9). Even without these clear statements from the Bible, it would still be evident that the golden candlestick typified Christ, who is the giver of light to His church. Seven is the number of perfection. Christ's light is perfect. Its being made of gold may be significant also, because gold is the sacred metal that characterizes the presence of God and probably symbolizes the glory of God. As the boards and pillars have already been shown to be covered with gold, so the Christian is clothed with God's glory and presence. But the candlestick was solid gold—a fit representation of Christ. The blessedness of the light of Christ is better appreciated if we compare the condition of "saints in light" with those groping in the darkness of sin and heathenism.

"My darkness now is passed away,
In Jesus all is perfect day;
And peace and comfort ever stay,
Since Christ is my perfect light."

The Table of Shewbread

(Exodus 25:23-30; Leviticus 24:5-9)

On the north side of the holy place, opposite the candlestick, stood the gold-covered table of shittim wood, called the "table of shewbread." It was a table of ordinary size, two cubits (three feet) long, one cubit (eighteen inches) wide, and one and one half cubits (twenty-seven inches) high. It was encompassed by a crown and border of gold, and had a golden ring on each leg through which bars were passed, by which to carry it. On the table were placed, each Sabbath-day, twelve loaves of bread, as many loaves as there were gems in the high priest's breastplate, one for each of the tribes of God's people. Six loaves were



placed at one end of the table and six at the other end. On each of these rows was laid frankincense. When fresh loaves were brought each Sabbath, the former loaves were eaten, in the holy place, by the priests, while the incense was burned upon the golden altar near at hand.

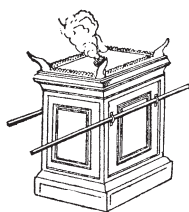
The Antitypical Shewbread—But what phase of Christ's redemptive work is foreshadowed by this golden table with its twelve loaves and frankincense? The loaves are not to be understood to be symbolic of the tribes, as some have supposed, but symbolic of something for those represented by the tribes, because they are eaten by the representatives of the tribes, the priests. But what is the bread of those in God's church, the "kingdom of priests" who were represented by those who entered into the first room of that ancient tabernacle? Let Jesus answer: "I am that bread of life. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (John 6:48, 51).

The loaves of the shewbread typified the same spiritual food as is symbolized by the bread of the communion Supper in the New Testament church. The one pointed forward to it, the other points backward to it. Jesus is the bread on which the soul of the regenerated feasts. He satisfies every hunger of the heart. As natural bread sustains the life of the body, so He sustains the life of the soul. And this bread is for all God's people. There was a loaf for little Benjamin as well as for royal Judah. As all God's people were then represented, so all of them are included in spiritual Israel now. And there is plenty to satisfy their hunger, which was signified by those sumptuous loaves; each one containing twice as much flour as was needed for the food of a man for a whole day.

But God also received a portion from the table of shewbread. The incense that was burned upon the golden altar was a memorial of the loaves that belonged to God. Here at this golden table, then, we feast with Jehovah. We not only have communion with one another, but we have blessed communion with the Father. There, through the broken body of our Saviour, without which fellowship with our holy Creator were impossible, we have fellowship with Divinity. There He sups with us and us with Him (Revelation 3:20). There we tell Him our inmost thoughts. There also He reveals to us the indescribable glories of His own perfection. Thank God for Jesus, the true bread; for without Him we could never know the blessedness of communing with our Maker.

The Golden Altar (Exodus 30:1-10)

The golden altar, though not so large as the brazen altar, was more precious, being made of shittim wood but overlaid with gold. It was one cubit, or eighteen inches, square and two cubits, or three feet high. Like the brazen altar, it had horns fashioned on the four corners of it. Around the edge of the top was a crown, and two golden rings on the sides held gold-covered bars as a



means of carrying it. This beautiful little altar was located in the holy place near the second veil, before the ark, which was just beyond the veil. It was midway between the north and south sides of the tabernacle. It is described as the "altar to burn incense upon," because this was its chief use. Each morning when the priest trimmed the lamps, and again when he lighted them, specially prepared holy incense was burned there in worship to Jehovah. Similar aromatic substances were not uncommonly employed by Orientals in offerings of tributary homage as marks of honor to kings. The Magi brought such an offering of frankincense to the infant Jesus in worshipping him as King of the Jews.

There was a close connection between this altar and the brazen altar. Live coals of fire were brought from it to the golden altar, on which the incense was burned (Leviticus 16:12). That fire had been divinely sent from God (Leviticus 9:24). Nadab and Abihu profanely offered incense with other or strange fire and died as a result (Leviticus 10:1). Also the blood of the sin-offering was smeared upon the horns of the golden altar once each year, on the great Day of Atonement. And, too, in every sin-offering for the priests or for the whole congregation collectively some of the blood from the brazen altar was brought and applied to these gold-covered horns (Leviticus 4:7, 18).

Typical Meaning of the Golden Altar—as the golden altar had two uses, we need not be surprised to find an antitypical meaning of each of those uses. The significance of the offering of incense is clearly brought out both in the Old and in the New Testament. "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense" (Psalm 141:2). "The four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials [bowls, or censers], full of odors [marg., incense], which are the prayers of saints" (Revelation 5:8). (See also Isaiah 6: 3, 4; and Luke 1:10). What a beautiful symbol is the fragrant odor of this sweet incense ascending there before the Lord! How pleasing to Him must be the devotion of loving hearts, the devout feelings of faithful worshipers, the praises of His people, the reaching-out of the souls of the redeemed for blessed communion with Him! All this is prayer in the broadest sense. We no longer offer incense, but "let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name" (Hebrews 13:15).

This incense-altar was "before the Lord." Though the veil intervened, yet it is constantly described as being connected with the ark and the mercy-seat. In Hebrews 9:4 it is stated that the holiest room "had the golden censer," which was doubtless the incense-altar. Therefore when we pray today we come into God's holy presence, before the throne of grace, the mercy-seat. There we give pleasure to the loving heart of a kind Creator by sincere hearts' devotion. And as the incense was offered continually, "a perpetual incense," that is, each morning and evening always, so we are admonished to "pray without ceasing," to be "instant [constant] in prayer," to be "praying always." "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

The blood on the horns of the golden altar also shadowed forth some of the good things that God has now provided for us. Like the brazen altar and the laver, it was directly between the entrance to the court and the ark of God; signifying that it was one of the means by which the sinner came to God. Those who have had their hearts “sprinkled from an evil conscience” (at the brazen altar), and have had their “bodies washed with pure water” (at the laver), the writer to the Hebrews exhorts, “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ... let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:19-22). It is clear from this that the blood of Jesus gives entrance through the veil into the holiest, as we have already shown that the sacrificial blood at the brazen altar gives admittance through the first veil into the holy place. Also we have shown that this holiest place is typical of entire sanctification. A very definite proof of this is that the atoning blood was put on the horns of the golden altar only for those who had been admitted to the holy place—the priests, as individuals, or for the whole congregation, whose representatives, the priests, were admitted (see Leviticus 4:7, 18). The blood of the sin-offering for “one of the common people” was smeared on the horns of the brazen altar out in the court (Leviticus 4:30). How remarkably did God in these ancient symbols predict the minute details of the process of our salvation. But it may be objected that the priests did not gain entrance to the holiest by this blood on the horns of the golden altar. This was because “the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing” (Hebrews 9:8). Likewise the common people were not admitted into the holy place by the blood of their sin-offering on the horns of the brazen altar. But as the sinner is now admitted into the holy place of the church by the atoning blood of Jesus, so also those who have already entered it are now admitted into the holiest by the same blood on the horns of the golden altar. †

THE CHILDREN'S CORNER



AN UNINVITED GUEST

A Bible Lesson by Sis. Rebecca Bland

“It’s time to stop playing around and get to bed!” my mother called up the stairs.

I took a flying leap and landed in the bed I shared with my two younger sisters, Twila and Wilma. “I’m in bed!” I called back.

“You just now got into bed!” Twila said. She was eight years old and smart enough to point out holes in my defenses.

“Well, at least I’m there now,” I retorted. “You two don’t even have your nightgowns on.”

“I don’t want to go to bed,” said six-year-old Wilma. “I want to stay up and play.”

“I do, too,” said Twila, “but Mommy said we have to go to bed.”

I sighed and turned my head toward the wall. I wasn’t sleepy, either, but I didn’t want to get in trouble with my mother.

“Where’s my nightgown?” Wilma asked. I could hear dresser drawers being pulled open and banged shut.

“Did you put it away after you took it off this morning?” I asked. Getting ready for bed was taking too long. Mom would soon be calling up the stairs for us to turn the lights off.

I turned toward my sisters just in time to see something fuzzy and dark fly past my head. It hit the wall next to me and fell down between the wall and the bed.

Daddy’s socks! I thought to myself. *How did a pair of Daddy’s socks get into our dresser drawer, and why would my sisters throw them at me?*

“Who threw those socks?” I yelled. I leaned over the side of the bed and reached for the socks to throw them back.

My fingers had barely closed around the socks, when they moved in my hand. I screamed and jumped out of bed. I ran to my sisters, who were standing by the dresser, their eyes wide with shocked surprise.

“They’re alive!” I gasped. “Those socks you threw at me are alive!”

“What socks?” Twila asked. “We didn’t throw any socks.”

“Then what came flying and fell down behind the bed?” I asked.

My sisters didn’t answer. They hadn’t seen anything. I walked back over to the bed and peered over the side. Two tiny eyes looked up from a small furry head.

“It’s a bat!” I shrieked. “There’s a bat down there between the bed and the wall!”

“A bat! It’s a bat!” my little sisters echoed as we pounded down the stairs. We burst into the kitchen and ran to our father who was already getting to his feet, startled by our noisy entrance.

“There’s a bat upstairs in our room!” I told him.

“Oh, is that all?” Dad asked. “Just a little old bat? The way you came running down here, I thought maybe you had seen a lion or a tiger.”

“Please come and get it!” we begged. “We’re scared to go back into our room until it is gone!”

Dad slowly mounted the stairs, a broom in his hand. “Somebody get me a pillowcase,” he said. “I’ll get that little monster one way or the other.”

In no time at all, Dad had removed the bat from our room. But we made several searches behind, beside, and under the bed before turning out the lights and going to sleep that night.

It has been many years since the night my sisters and I discovered an uninvited guest in our room, but I can still remember the surprise of finding out that what I had thought was a pair of socks was really a bat.

We can sometimes feel very sure we are right about something, only to find out we are wrong. This month’s wise saying comes from Proverbs 16:25, which says,

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

As you grow older, you will meet people that tell you something is ok to do when it is actually harmful and wrong. The wisest thing you can do is to search the scriptures to see what God has to say about it. The Bible will guide you. Many children and young people today are ruining their lives by walking in a way that seems right to them, but that actually leads to destruction and death. Ask God to help you to always choose the right path.

Activity

Can you match each scripture with a Bible character who made the choice to walk in the right way?

1. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
2. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."
3. "Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."
4. "And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."
5. "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully."

Answer to Last Month's Activity

1. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
2. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.
3. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
4. For now being made free from sin, ye become the servants of righteousness.
5. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. †

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These questions and answers in this issue are taken from *The Way of Truth Question and Answer Book, 1946-2001*.



QUESTION: It has been said that there is but one kind of jealousy, and God is jealous. I don't think He breaks up homes. I think there are two kinds. What do you say?

ANSWER: There is more than one meaning to the word *jealous*. One is, "suspicious; apprehensive of rivalry; uneasy through fear that another has withdrawn or may withdraw from one the affections of a person he loves." That kind can break up a home. Another meaning is, "careful in protecting; watchful; solicitous." That is the way God is jealous.

QUESTION: Please explain Matthew 16:18. To whom does the word "rock" refer?

ANSWER: Jesus had asked the disciples who the people were saying He was; then He asked them who they said He was, and Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." So Jesus told them in effect, Peter was right, God had revealed that to Peter, and that He would build His church on Himself! He is the Rock. Peter was a stone, but he was not "the Rock." Paul tells us in I Corinthians 10 that Christ was with the church in the wilderness, and he said they "did all eat the same spiritual meat: and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ" (verses 3 and 4).

QUESTION: How could we identify the gift, if we have a gift of the Spirit?

ANSWER: The apostle Paul lists a number of these gifts in I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4. In I Corinthians 12:4 he says there are "diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." In verse six Paul says "there are diversities of operations." So the different gifts operate differently, and by this we can know what gift it is. One with the gift of preaching will preach. One with the gift of miracles will work miracles. One with the gifts of healing will see people healed. One with the gift of teaching will be able to impart knowledge, etc. You have listed a number that we will comment on briefly:

Pastoring: A pastor is more than just a preacher. He is the overseer of a flock, and needs the gift of government, and also the gift of teaching. He stays in a given place and looks out for a local congregation. His preaching will include messages that feed the saved.

Evangelist: One who is an evangelist will travel from congregation to congregation holding meetings. Most of his preaching will be directed toward the unsaved. His burden will be along that line of work.

The discerning of spirits: This gift will not enable a person to “look through” everyone and tell you what they are! The gift, as it operates, will enable a person to discern that another has a false spirit and thus be able to warn the congregation.

The gift enabled Peter to discern that Ananias had lied to the Spirit, but not Sapphira. However, having discerned that Ananias had lied to the Spirit, Peter was alerted, and he ASKED Sapphira if they had sold the property for so much, and when she said yes, Peter knew she was party to the lie—see Acts 5:1-10.

Gift of faith: All Christians have faith, for without faith you cannot please God. One with the gift of faith would be able to manifest faith for things that one without the gift could not.

Teaching: One with the gift of teaching would be able to impart knowledge. They would be able to explain the Scriptures in such a way that people would understand. Some can get up and talk for awhile, without the gift, but the gift will be manifest in the fact that the person who has the gift *can teach!*

Apostleship: We understand that an apostle, in the full meaning of the word, was he who personally knew Jesus Christ. Some questioned Paul’s apostleship on this basis. His answer was, he saw Christ as one born out of season.

The secondary sense of the word *apostle* is one who goes into a new field, possibly where the pure gospel has never been preached, and there “plants” a congregation. He may stay there until someone is able to take the oversight, such as was done in Paul leaving Titus on the island of Crete. Then he moves on to a new field and does the same there. You will see by this that his ministry is different from a pastor or an evangelist.

QUESTION: Does Acts 2:4 have any relationship to I Corinthians 14:2?

ANSWER: In Acts 2 the Spirit enabled some—not all 120—to speak in other languages. These were not unknown, for we read in verses 7 and 8, “And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaean? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?”

In I Corinthians 14:2, the word *unknown* was added by the translators, and is not actually in the ancient writings. If someone spoke a language that others could not understand, even though it was “mysteries,” it would not benefit them, for they could not understand it. So the person would have to speak to God, who, of course, would understand it. So Paul is speaking of something different here than Acts 2:4, and, in fact, Paul says, if there be no one to interpret, then the person is to be still. (See verse 28.)

What some do not seem to realize is, that in this portion of his letter Paul is de-emphasizing the importance of the gift of languages. It seems that some in the congregation at Corinth were abusing this gift, and Paul is trying to correct this abuse. “If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are

unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad [crazy]?” (Verse 23).

Paul says he would rather speak “five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an *unknown* tongue” (Verse 19).

The modern tongues movements of our day have twisted and misrepresented the truth of God’s Word in regard to the Bible gift of languages. Nowhere does the Bible teach one must speak in an *unknown* tongue as an evidence that he has received the Holy Spirit. Beware of such false teachings.

QUESTION: Does a sanctified person get irritated or out of humor, and cross, when sorely pressed?

ANSWER: A wholly sanctified person does not get irritated or cross as a result of sinful elements in his heart, from the fact that such sinful elements have been put to death. But may there not be irritation, vexations, etc., that are not attributable to sin in the heart? Much depends upon what is meant by these terms. Sometimes individuals are accused of being unsanctified when the accusers do not rightly consider what they regard as signs. A person may have the heart purified, and yet not have cultivated meekness, kindness, patience, etc., as we are enjoined to do. These things are to be considered; physical temperaments are to be considered, as well as those “fiery darts” of the devil which do not find lodgment in the heart but yet are present long enough for us to resist them.

QUESTION: In Judges 17:1-5, Micah and his mother set aside money to make molten and graven images. Was this not against the law and commandments which God gave Moses?

ANSWER: It was indeed contrary to the law God gave Moses. Some think this may have been the first instance of the making of idols after the children of Israel entered the promise land.

It was some time after Joshua had died. We are told in Joshua 24:31, “And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that [out lived] Joshua, and which had known all the works of the Lord, that he had done for Israel.”

You will note, the mother had planned for one idol, but her son had “an house of gods!” This is an example of how evil increases. The son also made one of his sons a “priest.” The priest of the Lord ministered at Shiloh at that time.

QUESTION: The Bible says that women are weaker vessels. What is women’s weakness?

ANSWER: This statement has been misunderstood by many it seems! Peter was simply saying, as a rule, the woman is physically smaller and weaker than the male part of the family of man. He was not saying she was inferior mentally or less courageous.

God made the woman to fill a given place, and He made the male to fill a given place. He did not intend for them to be rivals. If all would fill the place God intended, we would see much sin and evil disappear from our world, and happiness take its place. †

ANTICHRIST

WHO IS antichrist? When will he appear? How fierce will he be? These questions and similar ones are being asked by many religious-minded people today. With the help of the Holy Spirit, it is my sincere desire to relieve your mind of all the confusion and erroneous teaching which you may have heard on the above subject.

For a beginning, I want to state that antichrist is not an individual as many people are led to believe. "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."—I John 4:3.

You will notice that the above scripture reveals to us that antichrist is a spirit, not a tyrant, political dictator, Communistic leader or a person of like nature. John tells us that this spirit of antichrist was in the world during his time, "And even now is it already in the world." This, to me, seems very clear, and were our nominal religions of today rightly dividing the Word of truth, they would not be expecting antichrist to rise up in the form of man when the Bible definitely states that antichrist is a spirit. The Bible also tells us in I John 2:18, "Even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." In this scripture, we are given more proof that antichrist is a name not reserved to one human being. You may ask, "If antichrist is not an individual, what then is it?" Again I state, in agreement with God's Word, antichrist is a spirit that is directly in opposition to Christ.

The word *anti* means "against or opposed to." Hence, antichrist means a spirit opposed to Christ. I John 4:3 states that every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is that spirit of antichrist. Therefore, you may tell yourself that the spirit of antichrist exists only among the heathens and Jews. Not so—we are compassed about by the spirit of antichrist. If you will look more closely, you will see that the scripture tells us that every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is that spirit of antichrist. Most everyone you come in contact with today will confess with his lips that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. However, this is not enough. While people, church members in the majority, are admitting from a head knowledge that Jesus is the Christ, they indulge in all the modern sins of the day which is mockery in God's sight. Oh, the deceptive powers of Satan which will cause men to live contrary to God's laws, and yet with their lips acknowledge Him! Is this confessing Christ in spirit? No! The man who confesses Christ with his spirit is one who will live in direct line with God's Word. His heart, spirit or inner man confesses Christ by the life which he lives. We must therefore draw these conclusions from the above: a man who denies God's power to change a sinner into a saint by the blood of Christ; a man who is in opposition to the truth; a man who worships God with his lips when his heart is far from the Lord—they all comprise the spirit of antichrist.

The antichrist spirit is prevalent throughout the world. The sectarian churches and ecclesiastical powers which are gaining such popularity in these days are nothing more than antichrist religions. Man with the combined powers of Satan has streamlined religion as he has everything else. The present trend of the world is that man might make everything easier for himself; shorter work week, more pay, modern electrical gadgets, leisurely living and the like. This may be all well and good, but when the spirit of ease carries over into the religious world, conditions have then taken on a serious aspect. Man's flesh calls out for a way which is easy, and Satan is right there to supply. Hence, a white-washed, watered down gospel is preached by the modern ministry.

Seldom do we hear preachers cry out against sin and worldliness. They are afraid of losing prestige with their congregation, and as a result, they preach some flowery sermonettes and the masses are contented. —II Timothy 4:3, 4. Reader, the religious world today is in a deplorable state. They are gathering in great memberships and their coffers are becoming full. They look upon this as successful Christianity when all the while the moral state of man is becoming more degraded. Murders, thefts, suicides, juvenile delinquency, etc., are increasing at an alarming rate. This does not prove to me that religion is the answer. No, dear ones, Christ, when accepted in the heart, is the answer. Sectism today has taken Christ out of their worship and substituted socials, banquets, large memberships, great buildings with all spires, men's favor, etc. Where are the churches today with the old mourner's bench used for the purpose of men yielding themselves to God and repenting of their sins? Preachers no longer labor because they love souls but for the financial gain involved. All these conditions combine to make up that spirit of antichrist which opposes God's precious truth. Church members deny the blood of Christ, they deny that a Christian can live without sin, they call good evil and evil good. What is this but the spirit of antichrist?

Dear Reader, if you find yourself in like condition, I beseech you to seek the Lord, read and believe His Word and confess your sins to Him. Thank and praise God that He still has a holy remnant who worship Him in Spirit and in truth. God still has a people who are obedient to His laws and find it a delight to serve Him. This is what composes God's church and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. The ministers in God's church are not afraid to declare the whole counsel of God. They cry aloud against sin and spare not.

The spirit of antichrist is laboring hard to turn men's hearts from God, but I am thankful that Christ leads His people, and we can be assured of certain victory.

We need not look to the future with fear expecting some tyrannical personage as the antichrist to raise up and conquer. Men are living with a sense of fear trying to imagine what antichrist will be like, trying to understand prophecy and unravel the Scriptures without the Holy Spirit's teaching. Do you suppose a holy God would reveal His truth to the hypocritical, pleasure loving,

idol worshiping professors of today? God reserves this for those who will meet His conditions and live a life of abandonment to God. The human creeds which religious zealots have concocted have served to turn God far from them and all that remains is their own dogmatic views. If one of their ranks would have any spirituality, these creeds and human rule will most certainly snuff out that spiritual life.

Yes, the spirit of antichrist is already here, and we who know Christ as our Savior must renew our efforts to oppose all that is unrighteous. Many times the battle waxes hot, but if we keep our hearts and minds on Him, we shall be the conquerors. If God be for us, who can be against us? †

—Reprinted from the book,
Messages by the late Evelyn Colberg

LOVING THOUGHTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

“No language can express the power and beauty and heroism of a mother’s love.”—Edwin H. Chapin

“Mothers are like glue. Even when you can’t see them, they’re still holding the family together.”—Susan Gale

“The influence of a mother in the lives of her children is beyond calculation.”—James E. Faust

“Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short while, but their hearts forever.”—Unknown

“My mother was my role model before I even knew what the word was.”—Lisa Leslie

“I remember my mother’s prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life.”

—Abraham Lincoln

“My mother taught me to be nice to everybody. And she said something before I left home. She said, ‘I want you to always remember that the person you are in this world is a reflection of the job I did as a mother.’ ”

—Jason Segel

“My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.”—George Washington

“Mothers and their children are in a category all their own. There’s no bond so strong in the entire world. No love so instantaneous and forgiving.”—Gail Tsukiyama

“Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; A mother’s secret hope outlives them all.”

—Oliver Wendell Holmes †



Dear Young People,

One of my favorite songs is “Our God, He Is Alive.” How many times have we been moved to tears by singing about, hearing about, or seeing the resurrection of Jesus Christ portrayed? The Holy Spirit witnesses to our hearts, and we see through the eyes of faith

the reality of His death and resurrection. Truly, Christianity has a message of power and hope like no other religion! The death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior is a time of reflection on the great sacrifice that was paid for our redemption, but also a time of rejoicing in the victory of our God over sin and death!

May our faith be inspired even more as we read Sis. Lauren Swain’s thoughts this month.

Blessings,
Bro. Doug

MY THOUGHTS

By Sis. Lauren Swain

EASTER is the most special time of year for the Christian. It’s the time that we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross to save us from our sins. However, while Easter is full of meaning to the Christian, many people scoff at the idea of a miracle like Jesus’ resurrection. I would like to share some evidence that I’ve read recently in support of the resurrection of Jesus.



Firstly, Jesus’ tomb was found empty on Sunday by Mary Magdalene and some of Jesus’ other disciples. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each tell a story of the women or some of the twelve disciples finding the empty tomb. In I Corinthians, Paul writes, “And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures,” implying the empty tomb. Even the Jews supported the empty tomb story through their response. They told the guards, “Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.” If the disciples had somehow been mistaken that the body was gone and then preached that Jesus was risen, the Jews would gleefully have pointed out their error. Since they responded by accusing the disciples of stealing Jesus’ body, however, the tomb must have been empty.

Secondly, Jesus appeared to the twelve disciples and to many other followers after His death. This fact is independently attested, not only by the four gospels, but also by Acts and I Corinthians. In I Corinthians 15, Paul makes a very careful list of the eyewitnesses to whom Jesus appeared. “And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part

remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." Paul made it clear that anyone who doubted the resurrection could read this list and ask the eyewitnesses themselves. Fascinatingly, the majority of New Testament scholars agree with the idea that many different people did have experiences where they believed they saw Jesus alive after His death. However, Christians and many scholars disagree from here onward. Naturalist philosophers and scholars believe that miracles are impossible. They scoff at the very idea of miracles. They believe that the disciples and other followers of Jesus experienced hallucinations instead of seeing Jesus in the flesh. There are a couple of problems with the hallucination hypothesis. First, they occur in individuals, not groups. Different groups of people saw Jesus after His death. It was not an isolated event experienced by one or two people. Also, the hallucination hypothesis fails to explain the sudden growth of the Christian religion among all types of people, not just Jesus' followers.

Lastly, the disciples came to believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus so strongly that they were willing to lose their lives for this belief. In Acts, it's recorded that Herod killed James, John's brother, and put Peter in prison to be killed as well. Peter was delivered at that time, but he was later martyred during the reign of Nero. All of Jesus' other disciples except John are believed to have been martyred. The fact that most of the disciples preached the resurrection, even in the face of death, stands out to me as the single most convincing evidence for belief in the resurrection. The disciples and other followers of Jesus staked their lives on the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to them. They knew that the Jews hated Jesus so much that they had put Him to death. They knew they most likely would face the same fate, and in the end, most of them did. Atheists and skeptics have no good answer for this. Why would intelligent adult men face almost certain death to preach that a man crucified as a criminal had risen from the dead? The disciples must have experienced some kind of dynamic, life-changing event to alter their lives in such a way. I think the best and honest answer is clear: Jesus did rise from the dead and is truly the Messiah He claimed to be.

The empty tomb, the appearances, and the disciples' unwavering belief in the resurrection all combine to produce a powerfully compelling case that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. Jesus was not just a good, moral teacher; He was the Savior prophesied by so many of the Old Testament prophets. Since Jesus rose from the grave, we can have courage to face death and receive eternal life. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." †

If you are saved and between the ages of 13 and 30, and would like to share a testimony, poem, or article for publication on the Young People's Page, please feel free to send it. Mark it, Attention: Doug Shenberger.

THE JESUS-ONLY DOCTRINE

In the Light of the Scriptures

By the late Bro. Alvin Craig

THE TEACHING is abroad in the land today that Jesus Christ is the only one in the Godhead, that God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are only titles for Jesus; but by the help of God and His Word, I would like to show you that this is false.

Remember, the Word in Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." First, let us look at Genesis 1:26, "And God said, Let us make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness." We see here the words "us" and "our" are used. These words do not carry the thought nor mean one, but mean at least two or more. If Jesus were the only one, the Scriptures should have read, "**I** will make man in **my** image." First, we will show you that God the Father and Christ are not the same. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Verse 17, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world." Verse 18, "The only begotten Son of God." Now it would be very foolish to say, "For Jesus so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. [He gave Himself, as He was the Son.]" How could Jesus be the only begotten Son of Jesus?

I had a man to tell me that he (the man) was a father, a son, and a husband, yet he was the same person. This poor, blinded soul did not realize that he could not be a father except there were two others besides himself, a woman and a child. Neither could he be a son except there be two others, a man and a woman. This person also quoted this verse to try to prove his point. John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Here again he did not get the truth from these scriptures. These scriptures only prove that his teaching was wrong. For the Word (Christ) was in the beginning, and the Word (Christ) was **with God** (the Father), and the Word was God (the Son). I asked this person whom Jesus was praying to in John 17 when He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father." His answer was that it was the flesh crying out to the Spirit, but again his statement was false, for the Spirit of Christ was in the physical body. For we read in Luke 23:46, "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my **spirit**." Now I would like to call your attention to a few other scriptures before we go on to speak of the third person in the trinity.

First, I will show by the Scriptures that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and not the Son of Himself. Matthew 3:17 says, "And lo a **voice** from heaven, saying, This is my beloved **Son**, in whom **I** am well pleased." Mark 9:7 says, "And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is **my beloved Son: hear him**." Now let us see what Jesus said about His Father in Matthew 19:17, "And he [Christ speaking] said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." Many other scriptures could be given to show that there is a Father and a Son. Whoever heard of a father and a son without their being two separate persons? Whoever heard of

anyone's being his own father or his own son? It is foolish, is it not? Let us then keep this in mind as we read.

Matthew 8:29 says, "What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God?" Matthew 14:33 says, "Of a truth thou art the **Son of God**." In Matthew 26:63 we find, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be **the Christ, the Son of God**." Mark 1:1, "The beginning of the gospel of **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**." John 1:34, "And I saw, and bare record that this is **the Son of God**." We could go on and on, giving scripture after scripture where **Jesus Christ, the Son of God** is spoken of.

But what is the meaning of "son"? Webster says, "son—a male child, or descendant; male issue of a **parent**. Son [Capital letter]—the second person of the holy trinity." And the meaning of father is a male parent or ancestor, one who stands in relation of a father (to have both son and father, there has to be two). Now you will notice in all the scriptures given, the word "of" (the Son **of** God). The word *of* means "from, out of, belonging to, according to, proceeding from." Then if Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He belongs to God the Father. But if God the Father is Jesus, where does the Father (1) and the Son (2) come in at? No, my friend, to have a father and a son you have to have two separate persons. This then explains why Christ prayed as He did in Mark 14. In verse 36, He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will [says Christ], but what thou [Father] wilt." Also in Luke 22:42, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." It would seem foolish to me for Christ to pray such a prayer if He Himself were the Father. He would be asking Himself to remove the cup from Himself. **But this is not what He did; He asked the Father.**

Now a few questions. In I Corinthians 15:24-28, you can read of the end of time. In verse 28 we read, "And when all things shall be subdued unto him [Christ], then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." How could the Son (Jesus Christ) be **subject** unto God, the Father, if He were the Father? We read in Colossians 3:1, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." If Christ were God the Father, how then could He sit down on the right hand of Himself? We read in Romans 8:16, 17, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." How could we be heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ if Christ and God the Father were the same person? I will stop with the questions now, lest this article gets too long. But remember, you cannot have a father and son without having two. Neither could the man who said he was a father and son be a father without a woman and child; neither could he be a son except there had been a father and mother. Also remember the many times, especially in John 17, Jesus prayed to His Father. He was not praying to Himself. Have you ever prayed to yourself? Jesus Christ was praying to His Father in heaven.

The third person in the Trinity is the Holy Ghost. We first read of the Holy Ghost in Genesis 1:2, "And the earth

was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." First, we will show that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost are three separate persons. In Matthew 3:16, 17 we find, "And Jesus [1], when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God [2] descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice [God-3] from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Christ (1) was in the water, the Holy Ghost (2) came and descended and lighted upon him (Christ), and a voice, the voice of God (3), spoke from heaven.

Again we will give you a scripture to show the three separate persons in the Godhead. In Acts 7:55, 56, "But he [Stephen], being full of the Holy Ghost [1], looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God [2], **and Jesus [3] standing on the right hand of God**, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." How could this be? Stephen saw in a vision God, and on the right hand of God he saw Christ. He was filled with the Holy Ghost. How could Stephen be filled with Jesus on Earth and see Jesus standing on the right hand of Jesus? These things **cannot** be! And if this is not enough to show that the teaching of "Jesus only" is wrong and is of the devil, let me give you one more scripture. Matthew 12:31, 32, "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh **a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven** him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." If you speak against Jesus, it will be forgiven you; but if you blaspheme the Holy Spirit, it will **not** be forgiven you. How then could the Holy Ghost and Jesus be the same person? And now a scripture that just comes out plainly and says there are three is I John 5:7, 8: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word [Christ, John 1:14], and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. [They're one; one in purpose, as we can plainly see in the next scripture. They are one in purpose, but still three separate persons.] And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one." Agree in one. This is exactly how the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are one; they agree in one. But who will say the spirit, water, and the blood are not three distinct things? Who then will say the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not three distinct persons?

Dear Reader, earnestly study this truth, and let God open your eyes before you are eternally lost. Remember, Friend, the Father, Word (Christ), and the Holy Ghost are three. They are one in agreement and purpose, but separate in personality. At Jesus' baptism, God in heaven (1) spoke; the Holy Ghost (2) lighted on Christ (3) on the earth. These are three personalities.

May God add His blessings to His truth, the Word of God of God that liveth and abideth forever. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:31). "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). †

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Carmichael, California

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Bro. David Goble, Pastor