

Let Every Man Take Heed How He Buildeth Thereupon

by Elder Greg Phillips
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"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire" (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

First Corinthians 1:2 gives us a threefold picture of the church which Paul addressed. They were: the church of God, sanctified in Christ Jesus, and saints. This perhaps brings to our imagination a group of people who were holy, dedicated, and living strong, triumphant Christian lives. However, it is good to realize that this threefold designation is what they were positionally. This was their standing through the infinite grace of God. They were the Church, the called-out ones. They were sanctified in Christ Jesus, but this was not anything they had achieved, this was the work of the Holy Spirit. They were also saints; they had been made holy in the sight of God.

In like manner we, too, are the Church of God; we, too, have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, and by the boundless mercy of God, we are

saints, not because of the quality of the lives we live, but because of what we have been made in Christ Jesus.

This then was their standing in the sight of God, but what was their standing in the sight of the people among whom they lived and worked and moved? If we turn to 1 Corinthians 3: 1-3 we find quite a different picture. Verse 1 says: "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." They were still sanctified in Christ Jesus, called saints in the sight of God, but what a different situation this chapter reveals. Paul could address them as brethren, but they were not spiritual. They were carnal, which means they were living the old life where self was in complete control. Verse 3 describes how this carnal life was showing itself, "there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions." Their beliefs were one thing, but their behavior was quite something else.

Verse 1 designates them as babes in Christ. From this we gather that they had been born again. They had life with all the potential of glorious future development for Christ. They possessed the capacity to be all that God wanted them to be but they were still babes in Christ. They had been saved by the blood of Christ through the infinite grace of God, but they were very immature in their Christian experience.

The Corinthian Christians had been born again, they had been given life through Christ Jesus, but something had entered to arrest the development of these young Christians. There was a resurgence of the old way of life. The carnal nature was demonstrating itself in their envy, strife, and division.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2 reveals another area where their complete failure was shown. "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you." Notice the word commonly. This was an open sin for all the world to gaze at, but no one in the church had been moved to judge it and put a stop to the moral cancer in their midst. What a mockery they were making of their faith.

The Corinthian church obviously was not properly building on the firm foundation on which they had been founded. All of us, in one way or another, are building on the foundation described in 1 Corinthians 3:11. Some of the works we do may be excellent; some may be satisfactory. With so many of us, we are completely unaware that we are building day by day in thought, word, or deed. We are always witnesses for Christ, but our heedless, careless, selfish lives so often make a witness which is anything but to His glory.

Verse 12 divides the quality of our work into six categories: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and stubble. Our Christian life will be a mixture of the six components. Notice that there is a descending order of values, beginning with the costliness of the pure gold and ending with the empty, spent, uselessness of dry, brittle stubble. Although there are six different groups, there are only two classes of works: those that remain, and those that are consumed. Verse 13 describes how these six groups are tested. They are tried by fire. Notice that it is the works that are tried by fire, not the Christian.

Gold, silver, and precious stones will remain untouched by the fire, but the wood, hay and stubble will disappear in a cloud of smoke. It is a beautiful

thought to consider that gold and silver can withstand the fire because that is how they are produced. They have already passed through the refiner's fire and therefore they are pure. Precious stones are produced in the earth by pressure and intense heat, so they, too, can withstand the testing of the Lord. This gives us a true indication of the quality of the works that please God and which meet with His approval at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They are essentially pure - refined as in gold and silver. They are the result of pressure and testing and fire, and each one had to be dug out of the earth by labor and toil.

This same passage in I Corinthians 3 gives us the two essential standards against which our works are to be judged. Verse 13 says, the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. Notice that last phrase, of what sort it is.

This is the standard by which your Christian life will be judged. It is not how big it is, or how much it is, but simply what sort it is.

There are two sorts possible, and your work for Christ will be one or the other. When the Lord Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus in John 3:6 He uttered a most profound saying, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." There are two sorts of work possible - that which is born of the flesh and that which is born of the Spirit.

When a sinner is born again he receives a new quality of life. The Lord Jesus comes to dwell in his heart and life in the person of His Holy Spirit. So a Christian has both the flesh and the Spirit. He is a partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4).

There can be two sorts of works. There can be that which I have done, which I have originated, the product of my own fleshly activity. Or there can be

that which is for Christ, and has come through the outworking of the Holy Spirit. It must be a "work of faith and labor of love." I Thess. 1:3

Romans 8:8 teaches, "they that are in the flesh cannot please God." The flesh always wants to have its own way, whether bad or good. It is an open demonstration of independence in defiance of the Lord Himself.

That which is born of the Spirit is what has come into my life as I have yielded and continued to yield my life to Christ. He has been in control. His will has been done through me, so that the works that came as a result are truly the works of the Spirit. These are the works that bring glory to Christ, that fulfill His will and that stand the test of the fire at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

So when verse 13 says, of what sort it is, we know now what is implied. There are two sorts - "my sort" and "His sort." "My sort" are the wood, hay and stubble. "His sort" are the gold, silver and precious stones.

There is another essential standard we need to see in I Corinthians 3. Verse 10 says, "But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." In verse 13 it was "what sort it is," now in verse 10 it is "how he builds." Notice that this is simply "how" you do the work. It is not how much or how big, but simply the manner in which you work for Christ.

The word "how" is very important in this passage. One can serve the Lord and be involved in the activities of the church simply because it is expected. If he did not join in, there may be criticisms and questions asked, so he takes part just because of others.

He can also serve the Lord to draw attention to himself. He can also serve as a means of promoting himself. It will be good for business and people will be able to learn about him and what

he can do.

There are endless reasons for "how" we do our work for Christ, but only a few are acceptable to Christ. First and foremost it should be out of deep love to Christ. To manifest our love for Christ we will work willingly, gladly, with all our heart, with no reservation or holding back. The "how" and the "what sort it is" will decide whether we hear those wonderful words, "... Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:23).

I Corinthians 3:14 says, "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." Revelation 22:12 states, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Therefore we see a definite teaching of rewards for work done.

In I Corinthians 3:8, Paul speaks especially of the ministers of the gospel, but his words apply to all; "... and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." We are not told what the reward shall be, but we are assured that "every man shall receive his own reward," given by the Master specifically for the individual. We can rest assured that it will be a fitting reward.

God does not reward His servants according to the success of their labor, because success depends on Him; but He rewards them according to the faithful labor which they bestow on His work.

What greater reward could we receive than to hear the words of the Saviour, "... Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:23)?

***Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:
except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Psalm 127:1***

The Visitor Who Took Over!

A few months before I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small Tennessee town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer. He soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted, and was around to welcome me into the world a few months later.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complimentary instructors: Mom taught me the word of God, and Dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present, and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league

ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say. Then she would go to her room and read her books. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home... not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad was a teetotaler who didn't permit alcohol in the home, not even for cooking. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He

made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked... and NEVER asked to leave. More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in, and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you were to walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures. His name?...

We just call him, "TV."

He has a younger sister now. We call her "computer."

Grow in Knowledge

Integrity

1. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his _____, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without a cause."
2. "Then said his _____ unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die."
3. "God forbid that I should _____ you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me."
4. "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may _____ mine integrity."
5. "The Lord shall _____ the people: judge me, O Lord according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me."
6. "Let integrity and _____ preserve me; for I wait on thee."
7. "Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not _____."
8. "And as for _____, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face forever."
9. "The _____ man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him."
10. "The integrity of the upright shall _____ them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

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Purposes of the Gospel "Peace From God"

by Elder William M. Mullis
Waycross, Georgia
(7th in a series)

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Jesus declares that these things were spoken (written) that we might have peace in Him. What a blessing it is to have peace in Christ Jesus, to feel the peace of God that passeth all understanding and to rejoice in the presence of God in the kingdom of heaven. What a blessing it is to have righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost!

In John, chapters 14-17, Jesus is focusing on the fact that His disciples have tribulation in the world, persecution from men, and experience the hatred of the world. "In the world, ye shall have tribulation," "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you," and "Because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." These are just three examples of Jesus making it clear to His disciples that we will not have peace with the world. However, our peace is with and in Christ Jesus!

Jesus never hides the reality of persecution if we are His disciples. In the very beginning of His ministry, in the Sermon on the Mount, He said, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12).

If you want to be everybody's friend, you cannot be a friend of Jesus and have peace in Him! "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore

will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4b). We have to either be at peace with the world, refusing to take stands for righteousness and against ungodliness, OR we can be a friend of God, and be hated by the world. BUT, being a friend of God results in us having peace in Him, GREAT PEACE! "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165). Those who love the law of God will defend it, promote it, and proclaim it! They will lose peace with the world but gain peace in Christ Jesus! Stephen was not at peace with the world, but had the peace of God. John the Baptist did not make peace with Herod, but he had the peace of God! Remember the text: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Jesus, contrary to popular opinion, did not come to make everybody one big happy family! He did not come to bring peace to all people on the earth! Notice His words carefully: "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matthew 10:34-36). He is only the prince of peace to those who are His disciples and friends. We are only His friends if we do what He commands us to do. (See John 15:14.) If we are His friends, we are enemies of the world but we have His peace in our souls, which is far greater than anything the world has to offer!

God has always made it clear to His people that peace from Him is a result of obedience to Him. He gives us His commandments, teaches us His word,

and gives us the gospel so we can have peace! "Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea: Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me" (Isaiah 48:17-19). As Isaiah prophesied about the coming of the kingdom of heaven (remember, only obedient children of God enter the kingdom), he said, "For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees" (Isaiah 66:12). What is the kingdom of heaven we can enjoy as obedient children of God while we live here in this world? "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). Where is this peace? Jesus said it is "within you!" (Luke 17:21). Who is able to have this peace from God each day? Only those who obey His word! (See Matthew 7:21.) What is one of the purposes of the gospel? Jesus tells us, "that in me ye might have peace" (John 16:33).

To those who are His faithful disciples, He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). We read in Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." The Apostle Paul said, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ

Jesus" (Philippians 4:6,7). May God help us all to choose to serve the Lord, and be a friend of Jesus rather than a friend of the world. In obeying the gospel, we will have peace in Him each

day!!!

**KNOW GOD, KNOW PEACE!!
NO GOD, NO PEACE!!**

A Letter to my Friends

Dear Friends,

There is so much going on in the world around us. The abundance of news flying at us from many angles in rapid succession makes it difficult to narrow down the topic of this letter. I stay so busy with the concerns of the world, especially business and politics, that I sometimes have to take a step back in time and reflect on what I know that I can depend upon. I see a lot of contradiction in the world around me, and my objective is to make sense of it all. I relish in a moment of clarity. I don't get clarity from denial or withdrawal as some do. I love to see the world in a frenzy around me while I am calmly but steadily moving towards an end. Confidence to move forward when others are confused is a blessing that I seek openly. But, unlike some who would find success, I enjoy sharing the fruits of my accomplishment with those who will benefit, will appreciate God's blessings, and will share with others. I feel an obligation to share with the church. To those few friends that are laboring in the church, I offer you this observation: we cannot allow ourselves to be led around by false doctrine, nor blindly follow false "ministers" out of convenience or laziness. We must only be sheep of the Good Shepherd!

Look carefully at the words of Jesus in John 10:1-5. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers." If you are like most people in the church,

you have heard or read this Scripture hundreds of times. But do you really understand it? The building has so many openings. How do I know which one I should be watching? What is the door? How about the porter? Is Jesus talking only of sheep and shepherds, or is there more to it?

Jesus knew that if we were really thinking, we would probably ask the above questions. Therefore, he immediately followed with this statement, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7). What a profound statement: "I am the door of the sheep:" In the past, I always focused on the fact that Jesus is the shepherd. Although true, and stated later in the chapter, it wasn't the first thing out of Jesus' mouth. Now that we know that Jesus is the door, we can effectively study the rest of the passage.

I suspect that this passage concerns not just the sheep, but also those with more responsibility, and how the sheep should respond to them. It seems to be partially directed at those who have a responsibility for watching the opening. "To him the porter openeth." Don't overlook the significance of this short phrase. Someone must stand watch to see who comes in and who goes out: thus, the porter - the doorman. The sheep have a responsibility to know the voice of the porter, but they must also understand that it isn't the voice of the shepherd. The porter has a responsibility to watch the door. If the porter fails at his responsibility to watch the door, the sheep will likely suffer. If the sheep don't listen for the voice of the shepherd when the door is opened by the porter, they will likely suffer.

I am now having one of those sought-after moments of clarity. Sheep must be obedient to the shepherd, but they often don't look that far forward. Many are negligent in their duties. Some are

competent enough to look for those who don't use the door and would attempt a sneak attack. That defense is a responsibility, but not the only responsibility. We sheep must be quick to recognize the "thieves and robbers" who try to come through the door left open by a negligent or malicious porter. But let's be realistic. Most people just take the word of the doorman, the "porter," the gatekeeper, when it comes to those who try to enter through the door.

Although not necessarily the focus of this passage, it comes to mind that the "porter" holds a power over the sheep which would be sought after by many people with evil ambitions. In America, we have the responsibility of choosing the porters in the church, and also in our civil government and schools. We must know the voice of the porter, but we don't have the right to give the porter the respect of the True Shepherd.

Remember, we are God's sheep. When done correctly, this isn't as easy as it sounds. As sheep, we still have more responsibility than we might want to admit, and more than the "thieves and robbers" would like for us to exercise. We must look to the True Shepherd for instruction. The only way to find the Shepherd is through the door - Jesus Christ. I have confidence that you will look not only to the obvious weak spots when defending the rest of the flock, but will also stand in righteous judgment over those who would guard the door. Friends, many of you may even be called to be a porter. If it is God's will for you to take on this added responsibility, please keep your eye on the door. Remember that it was Jesus who proclaimed, "I am the door". This confidence in your dedication to the flock is what makes me thankful to have you as friends.

Sincerely,
Uncle Neal

Repentance

by Elder W. H. Durrence
Brooklet, Georgia

In the initial preaching of the gospel dispensation, there was considerable emphasis on repentance. John the Baptist preached repentance, according to the Matthew 3:2, and Jesus followed with a similar message saying, "... The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mk. 1:15). Since they ushered in this gospel age with the call to repentance, it must be considered one of the most important messages.

In more recent years, there has been a turning from this subject. It has become distasteful to those who are self-satisfied and complacent in their sins. Militant conservatives and liberals have both been guilty of abandoning this truth; yet there is possibly a greater need for such preaching today than in any other age in history. This nation needs again to be reminded of the ancient prophetic cry, "...Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns" (Jer. 4:3). We need to feel the plow of conviction sink deep into the soil of our souls so that we may repent of our sins.

In the beginning of New Testament preaching, we notice that repentance and baptism (in that order) were often linked together. The baptism of a believer, in the name of Jesus, acknowledges His power to pardon sin. When John the Baptist preached repentance, as previously noted in Matthew 3:2, he followed the message by baptizing those who had repented. No wonder then that Peter connected the two in his preaching on the Day of Pentecost, saying, "...Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). This order or arrangement of the two important messages seems to set forth a basic truth. When born-again people by faith viewed Jesus taking

away their sins on the cross, they became sorry for their sins and repented. Such genuine repentance was then followed by baptism in water, symbolizing their belief in a buried but risen Saviour, and the washing away of their sins by the shed blood of Christ. So when true repentance was experienced, it was generally followed by water baptism.

It therefore becomes essential that we understand what characterizes true repentance. How can we possibly repent, if we do not understand what is involved? Our understanding must be as comprehensive as possible. In general, repentance is termed as the art or process of repenting. To repent denotes sorrow or regret for sinful practices and a desire to abandon those wrong doings.

There are three levels of repentance which, if considered carefully, should greatly aid our understanding of the subject. The first level implies regret or concern after the action has been discovered. In a great measure, this concern or repentance is activated by the persons being caught or found out. This level does not manifest regret for the sin which had been committed, but rather for having been caught. A child may steal money and buy ice cream. He cries and says he is sorry only after he has been caught and reproved. It seems that such was the level of repentance experienced by Judas. Matt. 27:3, 4 states, "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." Some feel the consequence of sin, and then repent. While this form of repentance declares man's wrong way, it does not desire God's right way.

The second level of repentance is

deeper than the shallow regret of the first level. It is a change of mind and attitude with regard to sin. This repentance does not come as a response to the consequence of sin, but it emerges from deep within, and regrets the sinful practice merely because it is wrong. We can see this level of repentance manifested by the Prodigal Son. The Bible states, "And when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee..." (Luke 15:17-18). No one caught him in sin, for no one seemed to really care what he did. He came to realize the bitter consequences of sin, and was willing to seek better ways. As he acknowledged his wrong doing, he came to detest the taste of sin. He repented of his sinful behavior in general terms, which probably embraced **all** of his sinful actions.

The third and final level of repentance manifests regret for both general and specific sins. The repenting person sees each sin as the monster which it is, denounces it, and turns from it. Such deep repentance is more than a mere change of mind; it is a change of morality also. It is not only a denouncing of sin, but also a holy desire to live in righteousness. It is a complete reversal of one's ideas and actions. Therefore the message of repentance should never be a mere **cry** against sin, but a **call to godliness!** This depth of repentance alters not only the actions, but also the very character of the individual involved. Such repentance has been seen in the lives of noble Bible characters and countless saints of every age, as their lives were drastically changed by their altered views of sin. This deep repentance manifests itself

in lasting conversion. Peter said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord..." (Acts 3:19). Individuals who earnestly seek to turn from sin and live according to the laws of God, have experienced a "godly sorrow" for sins, which is repentance at work (2 Cor. 7:10). May we all seek such repentance as this; then we shall denounce the presence of sin in this world and despise every sin which enters our lives.

Having considered various levels of repentance, we need to explore some reasons that we should repent. The first and most important reason is very simple: it is the commandment of God. No greater reason can be found in the pages of holy Scriptures. God commanded it throughout the Old Testament as prophet after prophet brought the message of God. When John the Baptist began preaching, his message was "Repent!" Jesus also preached repentance, and every gospel minister who is faithful to preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) must preach repentance, for it is taught throughout the Bible. According to Scripture, repentance is a command-

ment of God. Acts 17:30 states, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent..." When we commit a sin by violating or transgressing God's perfect laws, we should then obey the words spoken by Peter in Acts 8:22, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

There is still another very important reason for repenting of sin. Sometimes it is the only way to divert the impending judgments of God. God condemns our sins and gives space (time allowed) for repentance before the judgment comes upon us (Rev. 2:21). If we repent, then often God withholds the judgment. The story of Ninevah is a clear example (Read Jonah 3). I believe that when the forty days were ended, God would have destroyed the city if the people had not repented. Many believers suffer needlessly today because of a failure to repent as God commands (Luke 13:2,3).

In conclusion, we should remember that repentance may be manifested in many ways. The people of Ninevah covered themselves with sackcloth and sat in ashes (Jonah 3:6). Job cov-

ered himself with dust and ashes (Job 42:6). It was not at all uncommon for individuals in the Old Testament to manifest their repentance by such external demonstrations. However, in the New Testament we see a better way. When Peter repented, he wept. The Bible says, "And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly" (Mt. 26:75). Such scalding tears of repentance have been called "holy water."

Regardless of how we manifest our repentance, we must always remember that true repentance is not merely external. Genuine repentance affects the whole of the individual. It pierces the heart and then permeates the entire life. It makes the repenting individual disavow sin and turn to embrace a new way of life (God's way) and thereby brings forth "fruits meet for repentance" (Mt.3:8). While there are warnings given to those who refuse to repent, there are also promises to those who do (2 Chron. 7:14, Isa. 55:7, Eze. 18:21). As you repent, and turn from sin, God will pardon and comfort you (Mt. 5:4).

Answers to Grow in Knowledge

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|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Integrity - Job 2:3 | 6. Uprightness - Psalm 25:21 |
| 2. Wife - Job 2:9 | 7. Slide - Psalm 26:1 |
| 3. Justify - Job 27:5 | 8. Me - Psalm 41:12 |
| 4. Know - Job 3:16 | 9. Just - Proverbs 20:7 |
| 5. Judge - Psalm 7:8 | 10. Guide - Proverbs 11:3 |

Your Church Garden

First, plant 4 rows of Peas.....
Presence, Promptness, Preparation, and Perseverance.

Let us be loyal and unselfish; Let us love one another.....

Next, plant 3 rows of Squash.....
Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference.....

No garden is complete, of course, without Turnips.....
Turn up for service; Turn up on time; Turn up with visitors; Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

Then, plant 4 rows of Lettuce.....
Let us be on time; Let us be true to our obligations;

Lessons for Children

Think No Evil

by: Elder McKinley Wright
Jacksonville, Florida

(Please read Psalm 94:11; Proverbs 15:26; and 23:7)

From the beginning of time, people have been trying to teach that Sin is just the doing of evil acts. When viewed from the standpoint of the flesh, such a conclusion seems logical. But the Bible teaches something vastly different from that. Jesus said, "Whosoever **looketh** on a woman to **lust** after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:28). The man has not performed a sinful act, but in **thinking** as he did, he has sinned.

As a person thinks in his heart, so is he. This is not a direct quotation of the scriptures, but it is according to their teachings. The things we think control the things we do. No act which involves intelligence is ever performed without there first having been a thought which motivated it. We all have a basic philosophy of life, and this philosophy is made up by our minds from the thoughts we think. This philosophy, in turn, controls to a large degree the thoughts which we will think in the future. So, it is very important that our daily thoughts be the right kind.

Thinking the right kind of thoughts is even more important to the Christian than to the non-Christian. We are not only involved in molding our personalities, but we are also engaged in the business of serving and honoring our God. The best way to honor God is to think good thoughts. Thinking good thoughts will not add anything to His Stature, but it honors Him when we show in our lives that He is our Guide. He will be our Guide only as we follow His leadership in thought, as well as in deed.

Evil Thoughts Are An Abomination To God

The Bible teaches that evil thoughts are an abomination to God. This means that He hates such thoughts. In the 6th chapter of Proverbs, there is a list of seven things which are an abomination to God, and the fourth item on the list is, "An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations." This big word "Abomination" means that to Him the thing is hateful or detestable. Evil thoughts come from our carnal natures. We all have that nature, but we are children of God and therefore ought to try to eliminate from our lives anything that God hates. Our efforts to eliminate them from our lives ought not to be motivated by a desire to escape punishment, but we ought to want to be apart from these things simply because they are not God-like. Evil thoughts do not show forth the mercy of God upon us. People see the result of our evil thoughts and believe immediately that we are a people upon whom God has not had mercy.

Entertaining Good Thoughts

The kind of thoughts which we entertain is very important. If we spend all of our time engaged in good thoughts, we will do good things. If we are always engaged in good thoughts, we are not as tempted to do evil things. If we have set for ourselves high standards in our thoughts, we automatically have high standards in our actions. In the same way, if we have low standards for our thoughts, we will also have low standards for our actions. Our thoughts and actions must be either high or low. They cannot be divided. They must both be the same. High standards for thought brings

us much joy. First, there is the joy in the knowledge that we have escaped the evil things of the world. Second, there is the joy in the knowledge that we are honoring God in our thoughts. Third, there is the purity of mind that goes with wholesome thinking. On the other hand, the one with evil thoughts is never satisfied. Each thought leads to another, and each act leads to another, until finally he is engaged in acts which are very unbecoming to children of God.

Bible Examples

The Bible is full of examples of the power of a person's thoughts. There was a wise man named Solomon. He was the son of a king, but he was humble. God gave him his choice of three valuable assets, and he asked for wisdom that he might know how to govern the people of God. That was a good choice, and it shows the power of good thinking. But later in his life, his choices were not so well made. The reason was that his thoughts began to be on a different level. He began to think on the levels of his heathen wives, and before long he was bowing down to idols himself. He then became a despot interested mostly in establishing his kingdom. He laid heavy burdens on the Lord's people instead of looking out for their welfare. If you want to read another example of good thoughts, read about the young king Josiah.

Unprofitable Things

The natural acts of man are unprofitable. The greatest accomplishment of a man will soon pass away. Today we honor very highly those who have done so much in the fields of Science and Medicine. But a few years from now, there will be another generation

which will erase from our minds most recollections concerning this present generation. Human things will not last long. But spiritual values will last forever. Are we going to ally ourselves with things which will not last, or will be allied with those things which will last? No one can make that decision for you, but yourself. Your parents, pastor, counselors, and teachers would like to do it for you, but they can't. The responsibility is upon you. Think big

and you will be big. Think good and you will be good. Think Godly and you will be Godly.

1. What is Sin?
2. What is the most important thing to consider in trying to be good?
3. What is the major cause of the things which we do?
4. Do you know anyone whose thoughts are evil but whose acts are good?
5. How can we honor God?

6. Why is it more important for Christians to be engaged in good thoughts than for the heathen?
7. Why is it important for anyone to engage in good thoughts?
8. Why should we not think evil thoughts? Give several reasons.
9. Name some other examples of high thinking leading to high acting.

Dependent on God

by Elder Don McWilliams
Brownsburg, Indiana

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;” (II Corinthians 3:5).

It is interesting to notice in the original Greek text we find the above words written thus: “Not that we are qualified of ourselves to reason anything as from ourselves, but our qualification is from God; who also qualified us to be servants of a new Covenants;” How strange and different these words seem to be from those we hear so much today telling us that the choice is all up to us in making US fitted for eternal Heaven. In the King James and the Greek, I read that our sufficiency, or our qualification, is only from God who qualified us. “For by grace are ye

saved through faith, and **that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; Not of works,** lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9).

We live in a land which celebrates a holiday called Independence Day. We are free and independent from the governing power of England and, so far, from other nations. Many people feel they are free and independent from the rule, guidance, chastisement, and sovereignty of God Almighty and that they can tell God they don't need Him or want Him. It may be true that these hearts have not been touched by His Spirit and cannot see His beauty and love. It is definitely true that every knee shall bow and shall acknowledge Him as Lord and King someday! Try as

hard as we can, we are not qualified for God's eternal heaven by our own efforts. All that we have and hold dear in Christ Jesus has been given us wholly apart from any effort on our part.

All those in the covenant of Grace are, in one sense of the word, independent. And that means we are independent of our own works for our eternal salvation. I thank God that I do not have to depend on my works, but I can someday stand righteous before the throne of God, having been **qualified as righteous by Christ's work on Calvary! We should "...think.**

.....“ think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8).

We Need Your Help!

Postage costs have risen tremendously since we began our magazine. Also, we are currently spending about \$2.65 to send each magazine overseas. If you prefer to receive The Trumpet of Truth online or through email, it would reduce these costs. Most importantly, it is crucial that we hear from ALL overseas recipients. Please return the questionnaire by May 15, 2008, to keep your name on our mailing list. If you receive more than one magazine, if it is possible to duplicate more copies, you are more than welcome to do so. Our web site address is www.trumpetoftruth.org. Here is where you can read the magazine and listen to streaming online audio of preaching and other Bible Study materials. If you can help with our expenses in any way, we will greatly appreciate your manifestation of interest. Also, please ask the church of your membership to support this ministry.

Fathering

by Bro. Clay Gill
Patterson, Georgia

In his sovereignty, God understands that the family unit requires a design and structure. Without that design and structure, there is chaos and conflict. Disorder within the family creates disorder within each individual, as well as within our relationships with others, and most importantly with God. Basically, it creates disorder in our relationship with everyone else. I believe God has sovereignly chosen one individual within the family who is responsible for managing and maintaining His divine order in the home. When this person abdicates his responsibility or assumes more control of that responsibility than appointed him, the whole family unit will suffer. I believe that the problem with today's families is that the design God created for the family is not being followed. This is the root cause that leads people into real pain and hurt. However, if the family is able to realign themselves with the true order God created, then their problems begin to be resolved.

The key to God's design for the family rests on the head of the home, the man – husband – father. The head of the home has the authority to carry a rod. It is with this rod that he is to both provide rescue and protection as well as to provide discipline and wisdom. When these responsibilities are out of balance, there will be conflict and chaos. When they are used the way God intended them to, the family has stability and growth. We have forgotten the importance of the husband/father and his responsibility to lead the family.

First, our primary responsibility is to God and God alone. As a child of God and follower of Christ, we are not to divide our devotion between God and anything else. In being a follower of Christ, we have responsibilities that are not to be neglected. I believe it is im-

portant to understand the foundational truth that God always comes first. In fact, when you place God first in your daily actions and choices, it is a natural outgrowth of His presence to lead you into what are the next most important responsibilities, your wife and children. Ecclesiastes 12:13 states, "Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." The man is the leader of the home. This is a truth that is at work regardless of whether we men recognize it or not. I am always leading, even if I am leading in the wrong direction without wisdom. Remembering that my whole duty is to "fear God and keep His commandments" helps me to maintain the perspective that God comes first. Only as I am diligent and faithful in keeping Him first will I be able to lead my family toward spiritual maturity.

It is also the responsibility of the leader of the home to love. I John 4:7 reads, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." Ephesians 5:23 clearly delineates that the husband is the head of the wife. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body." The weight of this responsibility is understood by reading the entire passage (Ephesians 5:22 – 33) where we can clearly see that this relationship of husband toward wife and children is symbolic of Christ and His relationship with His church. Look closer at Ephesians 5:25. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." There are two main applications within this verse. The first is that husbands are commanded to love their wives. This passage does not read "husbands love your wives if you feel like it," or "when

it is convenient for you," or "when she is loving you like you think she should be loving you." Rather, it reads rather matter of factly, "Husbands, love your wives." I fear that we have taken the Biblical concept of love mentioned in this passage and have turned it into an emotion based on condition and circumstances. The second application from this verse is that our model and mentor on how to be a Godly husband and father is Jesus Christ himself. The passage reads, "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the church." Brokenness, pain, and hurt are the state of marriages and families when the husband/father chooses to love his wife based on how he feels or what's easy. Our job as leaders of the home is a great task with great rewards as we are diligent in choosing to keep His commandments, or with great pain when we ignore His commandments.

Teaching is also a responsibility the father has as leader of the home. This role is too often abdicated by the father. "Paid children's ministers or youth ministers" and "ladies bible studies" are trying to fill the role of leading children and wives toward spiritual "maturity." Proverbs 4:1 commands "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." Deuteronomy 6:69 says, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." Proverbs 22:6 reads "Train up a child in the way he should go:

and when he is old, he will not depart from it." It is the responsibility of the father to teach his children the truths and precepts of God. We can't rely on the church, or the public schools, or anyone else. God has placed that reasonability within the home. "Then

answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise (John 5:19)."

May God help us all as fathers to

fulfill our responsibilities. The children we have are a great gift from God, and we must give account to Him for what we do with them. It is wonderful to see fathers fulfilling their roles, and watch the children maturing into fine Christian young people.

Sons of A Wise Man

(A Study of Solomon in Proverbs 1)

by Bro. Jeffery Counts, Jr.
Brunswick, Georgia

I have two sons and I want to know what to teach them. I am fortunate enough to have a good father, father-in-law, and grandfather around to help me turn my young sons into good men. They managed to do a good job with their boys and their help is appreciated. However, I cannot expect them to do the job for me. I realize that the responsibility of bringing up Blake and William is primarily mine. I don't want to become lazy as I attempt this undertaking. I am usually proactive in my endeavors and I certainly can't let this be an exception. I know that it is usually best to observe the wise when devising solutions to the situations with which I am confronted, and I can think of few men as wise as Solomon. What would Solomon teach his sons? I found the answer in the book of Proverbs.

Solomon advises that we should give, "to the young man knowledge and discretion" (Proverbs 1:4). How do we impart knowledge in the mind of a young man? Solomon advises that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). We can teach "the fear of the Lord" with our words, but it must be followed up by our actions in life. Once we have established the beginning of knowledge by teaching a healthy fear of the Lord, we have a duty to build knowledge within

each child.

One of the first things that Solomon encourages is respect for both the father and the mother. This is found in Proverbs 1:8, which states, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:" This is something that we cannot overlook. We must, from time to time, remind our sons to listen to us. They should not wait until I get home in the evening to pay attention to adults. They should be taught that their mother's word is law, too.

Once our boys have a fear of the Lord and will listen to instruction from both me and my wife, I can move on to the next step. I will not go into detail of each at this time, but I would like to mention the topics that Solomon delves into. He advises them against violence towards the innocent, and also against robbery. After this, he immediately takes the conversation away from the physical and back to the thought process.

Solomon admonishes those that love simplicity, that are scornful, and hate knowledge. He issues this warning in Proverbs 1:29-31, "For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the

fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices".

Solomon then gives encouragement in Proverbs 1:33 when he writes, "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." There is the promise that by listening to his instruction and obeying it, they shall automatically receive the blessing of protection.

In summary, we as fathers must commit to the following: (1) Give knowledge and teach discretion to our sons; (2) Teach our sons to fear the Lord; (3) Require our sons to be mindful of the instruction that we, as parents, give them; (4) Teach our sons not to do physical harm to the innocent nor to take things that aren't theirs; (5) Teach our sons to desire and love knowledge; and (6) Offer encouragement and shelter from harm, as a benefit for our sons' obedience.

May God bless all Christian fathers to follow in the footsteps of Solomon by committing to follow the six actions outlined above. We now know the correct way to begin to raise our children. We can find comfort in knowing that our Lord will allow us to dwell safely with Him if we have the same fear and respect of the Lord that we are to be instilling in our children.

*And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
Ephesians 6:4*

A Virtuous Woman

*Some of this is from www.avirtuouswoman.org

God gives guidelines on how a virtuous woman should live. Proverbs 31 is an empowering look at the role of women. Not only is a virtuous woman righteous in the Lord, but she is a loving wife and mother, a smart shopper, a seamstress, a gardener, a good housekeeper, and trains her children with wisdom. Her husband appreciates her and praises her because she is worthy of praise. Most Christian women today are not living up to what God has called us to be, but with God's help we can do better! "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Through prayer and studying God's Word, we can be a "Virtuous Woman."

Read Proverbs 31:10-31 These are some attributes of a virtuous woman.

The words of our mouth - A Virtuous Woman serves God with all of her heart, mind, and soul. She seeks His will for her life and follows His ways. True wisdom comes from our Heavenly Father. Through praying and studying the Bible, our wisdom grows. A virtuous woman shows those around her the love of Christ through the words that she speaks (**Proverbs 31:26**, Proverbs 31:29-31, Matthew 22:37, John 14:15, Psalm 119: 15). There are times when your patience is tested and you find your temper flares. Sometimes a short reply seems to be the best response, but think before you speak. Ask yourself, "Is this what God would have me to say in this moment?" It is easier to bite your tongue than to take back words already said. A virtuous woman does not need to raise her voice in anger or criticize another person. Part of becoming a virtuous woman is learning to control the tongue and speak with respect. When was the last time you found yourself asking for forgiveness for something you said? A virtuous woman begins her day with the Lord.

Use that time to ask God to help you speak with wisdom and kindness to your family, friends, and those in your community. Remember that "a soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15: 1). The next time you are tested, give a soft answer and speak with wisdom.

Marriage - A Virtuous Woman respects her husband. She does him good all the days of her life. She is trustworthy and a "help meet". A virtuous woman builds up her husband. She offers praise and kind words that make him feel like the man he wants to be (**Proverbs 31:11-12**, Proverbs 31:23, Proverbs 31:28, 1 Peter 3, Ephesians 5, Genesis 2:18). Whether your husband works in an office, likes to putter around the tool shed, or uses his hands to work hard, he wants to know that he is the man you desire. He wants to be your knight in shining armor, your hero, your big strong, hunk of a guy. When he fixes the sink for you, tell him how clever he is. When he builds the kids a swing set, tell him how smart and strong he is. When he saves money on a purchase, tell him how much you appreciate his concern for your family's financial well-being. Don't criticize his efforts or tell him that you could have done a better job. Don't make him feel like a failure. Tell him you need him around and that he provides well for you. He will work hard to live up to your praise! Remember God's Word says not to usurp authority over the man! (See I Timothy 2:12.)

Mothering - A Virtuous Woman teaches her children the ways of her Heavenly Father. She nurtures her children with the love of Christ, disciplines them with care and wisdom, and trains them in the way they should go. (See **Proverbs 31:28**, Proverbs 31:26, Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6, and Luke 18:16.) Our job as mothers is one of the utmost callings in life.

The consequence of failing to do our job is far worse than the consequence of falling short on any other job. We have to remember that our job is to plant and water the seeds. It is God that gives the increase to the seeds. **Teaching our children the Word of God is so important.** The Bible tells us that God's word will not return void. It also tells us to "train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Notice the key word is TRAIN. Telling them isn't good enough. We have to TRAIN them. This means consistent, dedicated TRAINING. We have to walk it, talk it and breathe it.

Health - A Virtuous Woman cares for her body. She prepares healthy food for her family. (**Proverbs 31:14-15**, **Proverbs 31:17**, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Genesis 1:29, Daniel 1, Leviticus 11) The Bible tells us, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16). The Spirit of God dwells within your body. That makes you really special! You should not defile your body by smoking and drinking alcohol! You should not defile your body by overeating! Those who are given to gluttony (over indulging or overeating) are compared to drunkards. A recent study done by Ferraro & Cline 2006 suggests that Christian Americans are more obese than the general population. It is very hard to change your eating habits, but it is possible through Christ! Remember the Bible says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Appetite was a factor in Eve's first sin. As she gazed at the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, she saw that it was good for food. If you can overcome your appetite, you can overcome other sins with which you struggle.

Beauty - A Virtuous Woman is a woman of worth and beauty. She has

the inner beauty that only comes from Christ. She uses her creativity and sense of style to create beauty in her life and the lives of her loved ones. (Please study **Proverbs 31:10, Proverbs 31:21-22, Proverbs 31:25, Proverbs 31:28, Proverbs 31:30**, Isaiah 61: 10, and I Timothy 2: 9-10.) “Holy women, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands. Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord” (I Peter 3:5-6). Most of us in our wedding vows pledged to love and **OBEY** our husbands! Are we showing our beauty by being submissive wives? The Word also says for women to adorn themselves in **modest apparel** and with **good works**... adorning yourself with a **meek and quiet spirit** in the sight of God is of great price. Are you adorning yourself with modest apparel on the outside and with a meek spirit on the inside?

Finances - A Virtuous Woman seeks her husband's approval before making purchases. She spends money wisely. She is careful to purchase quality items which her family needs. (See **Proverbs 31:14, Proverbs 31:16, Proverbs 31:18**, I Timothy 6:10, Ephesians 5:23, Deuteronomy 14: 22, and Numbers 18: 26.) Setting financial goals (a budget) is the single most important thing you can do to take control of your finances. You will continue to spend every penny you earn if you don't plan for where you want that money to go. You need to set short term, medium term and long term goals. A short term goal might be paying off your credit card debt. The medium term goal might be saving for that family vacation you've always dreamed about. While the long term goal might be a certain dollar amount set aside for retirement. You need to be realistic. If you set the goals too high at the beginning, you won't stick with it. You can always raise each goal and set new ones as you reach them. You won't do that if you set them too high at the beginning, and then give up because they were totally unrealistic and unreachable. There are two categories

for spending: **NEEDS** and **WANTS**. What is the difference? A bag of fresh carrots or other good vegetables is a need. A bag of potato chips is a want. A bottle of milk or juice is a need. A package of individual juice packs is a want. A meal of beans and rice is a need. Steak is a want. There are lots of ways to purchase frugally and still enjoy good, wholesome meals and fun times with your family. You simply change the way you think, and then change the way you spend.

Time - A Virtuous Woman uses her time wisely. She works diligently to complete her daily tasks. She does not spend time dwelling on those things that do not please the Lord. (**Proverbs 31:13, Proverbs 31:19, Proverbs 31:27**, Ecclesiastes 3, Proverbs 16:9, Philippians 4:8) Time management is a tough one for all of us! Make a daily time schedule **AND** keep a date book to keep up with things, like doctor's appointments that we often forget. It is often hard to keep a schedule for two reasons. **Reason one-A Lack of Self-discipline**. As you tweak your schedule, don't overdo the details. You will only frustrate yourself if you try to be too detailed in your planning. Begin by setting aside chunks of time for certain tasks, but do not plan in 15 minute intervals. As you make your loose schedule a habit, you can incorporate more details one at a time. **Reason two - Too Much to Do**. This is a hard one. It is easy to get overwhelmed by everything we need to accomplish on any given day. Schedule only the basics and do what you can to work in the rest. Keep your children on a schedule and work around them. Evaluate your schedule and make changes as needed. You can sit down and do this any time you feel that your schedule is not working well. It is not set in stone. As your life changes, so will your schedule!

Homemaking - A Virtuous Woman is a homemaker. She creates an inviting atmosphere of warmth and love for her family and guests. She uses hospitality to minister to those around her. (You must invite others over to be

hospitable!) If you are a stay-at-home mother, that does not give you the right to be a lazy mother and wife. Be busy about your Father's business. A virtuous woman works willingly with her hands. She sings praises to God and does not grumble while completing her tasks. (Proverbs 31: 13-16, Proverbs 31:20-22, Proverbs 31:24, Proverbs 31:27, Titus 2:5, 1 Peter 4: 9, Hebrews 13:2) Listen to all the things the Bible lists that the virtuous woman did. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She bringeth her food from afar. She riseth while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household and a portion to her maidens. With the fruit of her hands, she planteth a vineyard. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor and needy. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry. She maketh fine linen and selleth it. She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness. Just think about the women in recent years. They did not have washing machines, dryers, dish washers, electric stoves, microwaves, and vacuums. They did it all by hand! What reason do we have to complain about housework?

Being a holy woman-Another good place to look in the Bible to learn about being a virtuous woman would be Titus 2:3-5. “The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they 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.”

Behavior that becometh holiness (some of these are similar to Proverbs 31):

1. *Not false accusers-don't be associated with gossip or gossipers*
2. *Not given to much wine-remember that drinking, even one drink, can be a stumbling-block to others and lead to serious problems in your own life.*
3. *Teachers of good things-set a*

good example. You never know who might be looking up to you and watching your example-especially children

4. Sober-diligent, serious minded

5. Love their husbands-be a true help meet (**Created to be his Help Meet** is an excellent book written by Debi Pearl). You were created to fill a need and to make him complete (It is not good that the man should be alone.)

6. Love their children-teaching them the Word of the Lord, being patient,

nurturing, and disciplining consistently.

7. Discreet-careful of shunning the appearance of evil; modest

8. Chaste-morally pure; not having sex outside of marriage; do without

9. Keepers at home-spend quality time with your family at home-doing meaningful things with your family-making good memories

10. Good-just do right-follow God's Word

11. Obedient to husband-by being

submissive-don't argue with your husband, be fervent in praying; wait for God to change his heart

May God help us all to become more virtuous and more holy each day is my fervent prayer. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). Through prayer and studying God's Word, we can be virtuous women.

Little Birds

by Sis. Sarah D. Ledger
Bartow, Georgia

As winter approaches, my husband always puts out his bird feeders. We have lots of birds of many kinds and sizes. Although we provide them water, we don't usually feed them during warm weather so that they will eat the insects in the yard and garden, but as their food becomes scarce, we try to sustain them.

On one Sunday afternoon, I walked with my daughter-in-law out to her car after lunch. One of the feeders was simply covered with birds, many of which seemed no larger than my thumb. It had been a rainy morning and apparently

they had been sheltered somewhere and were just venturing out to eat. We were amused at how many had been able to get to the feed. I remarked to her that as small as those little birds were, our Heavenly Father would know if one of them hit the ground.

As I walked back into the house, I began to think about those little birds and somehow my faith was renewed. If our Father knows and cares about a little bird when it falls, how much more He must care about His children. He loves us enough that He sent His own Son into this world to die for us. He loves

us enough to provide for our material needs. Most of us have much more than we really need. I found great comfort in knowing that He knows those nights I can't sleep when I am troubled. He knows when I am distressed and there is no one to talk to. He knows when I regret the things I've done or said. In fact, He knows all about me. What a comforting thought!

In a recent day off, my husband got another feeder out and filled it. Before long, it too was covered with little birds. Our Father knows all about them and is providing for them too.

"Cyreanean Reflections"

by Elder Joseph A. Eckerle
Crawfordville, Florida

I helped carry His cross on
that ordinary day,
The one who was guilty
had a price to pay.
What was His crime?
No one would say,
But I helped carry His cross
on that ordinary day.

The people were screaming;
an unruly mob.

The soldiers were present;
doing their job.
What was His crime?
No one would say,
But I helped carry His cross
on that ordinary day.

We arrived at the hill,
shaped like a skull;
The crowd was quieted,
an unusual lull.
They said: "He's guilty,"

that's all they would say,
As I finished carrying His cross
on that ordinary day.

He died on that cross
and gave up the ghost,
The mob started to dwindle,
no longer a large host.
As I stand here alone,
towards the end of the day,
Salvation became complete,
on that ordinary day.

Bible Reading Calendar for April

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Luke 7:31-50	Judg. 3,4,5
2	Luke 8:1-21	Judg. 6,7
3	Luke 8:22-56	Judg. 8,9
4	Luke 9:1-36	Judg. 10,11
5	Luke 9:37-62	Judg. 12,13,14
6	Luke 10:1-24	Judg. 15,16,17
7	Luke 10:25-42	Judg. 18,19
8	Luke 11:1-28	Judg. 20,21
9	Luke 11:29-54	Ruth 1,2,3,4
10	Luke 12:1-34	I Sam. 1,2,3
11	Luke 12:35-59	I Sam. 4,5,6
12	Luke 13:1-21	I Sam. 7,8,9
13	Luke 13:22-35	I Sam. 10,11,12
14	Luke 14:1-24	I Sam. 13,14
15	Luke 14:25-35	I Sam. 15,16

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	I Sam. 17,18	Luke 15:1-10
17	I Sam. 19,20,21	Luke 15:11-32
18	I Sam. 22,23,24	Luke 16:1-18
19	I Sam. 25,26	Luke 16:19-31
20	I Sam. 27,28,29	Luke 17:1-19
21	I Sam. 30,31	Luke 17:20-37
22	II Sam. 1,2,3	Luke 18:1-17
23	II Sam. 4,5,6	Luke 18:18-43
24	II Sam. 7,8,9	Luke 19:1-28
25	II Sam. 10,11,12	Luke 19:29-48
26	II Sam. 13,14	Luke 20:1-26
27	II Sam. 15,16	Luke 20:27-47
28	II Sam. 17,18	Luke 21:1-19
29	II Sam. 19,20	Luke 21:20-38
30	II Sam. 21,22	Luke 22:1-30

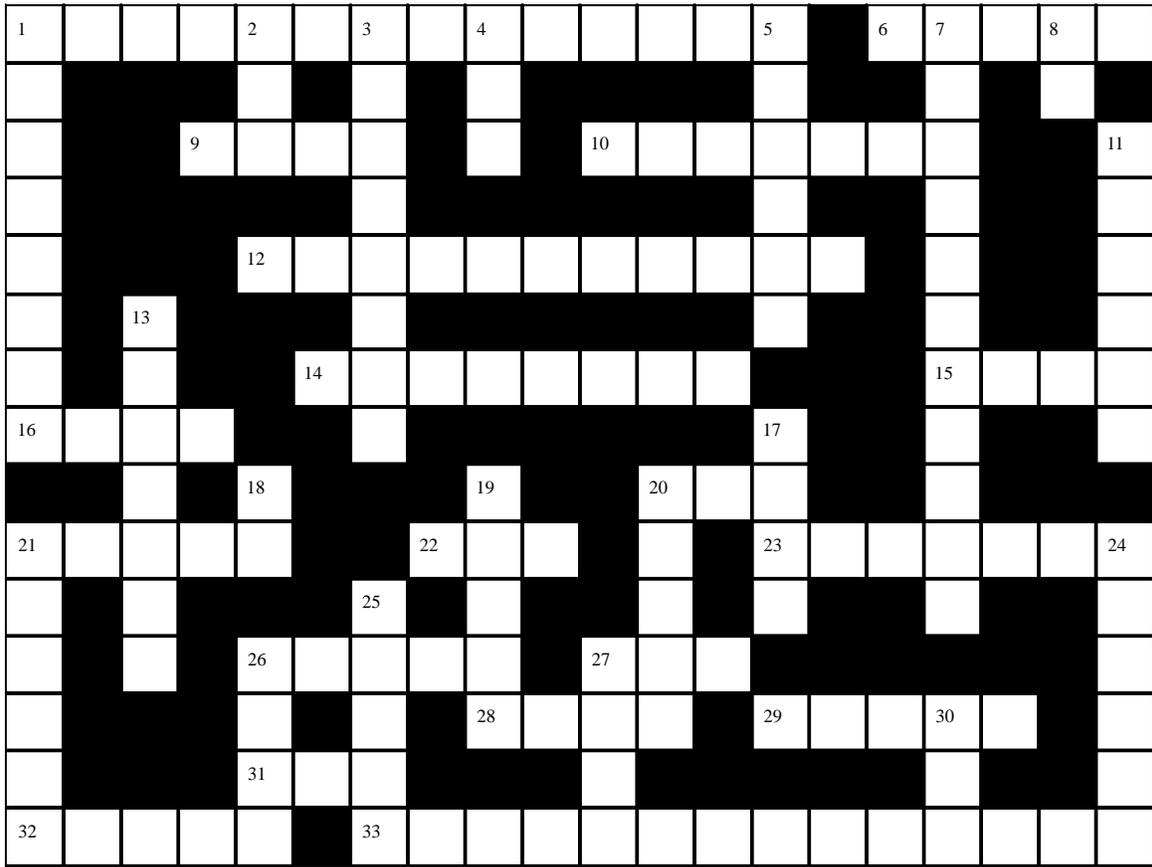
**ANSWERS TO
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE
VOLUME XXVIII
MARCH 2008**

1	A	N	S	W	E	2	R		3	O	4	S	A	5	N	C	6	T	I	F	7	I	E	D		
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8	F	E	A	R			9	C	A	M	E	O		M			10	U	S		I			11	R	
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26	L	O	V	E			R			27	T	E	28	M	P	L	E				29	B	O	R	N	
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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our _____ from us." 6. "He was a burning and a shining _____; and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light." 9. "And I _____ him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." 10. "The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men _____ him might believe." 12. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with _____ things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by traditions from your fathers;" 14. "When Jesus therefore had _____ the vinegar, he said, It is finished:..." 15. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the _____ that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:..." 16. "And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a _____ in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews." 20. "_____ we like sheep have gone astray;..." 21. "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I _____ the land of Egypt." 22. "For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is _____ mercy toward them that fear him." 23. "... the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a _____ people unto himself,..." 26. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be _____ of salvation?" 27. "... Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the _____ of the world." 28. "_____ released he Barabbas unto them:..." 29. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn _____ many brethren." 31. "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that _____ sanctified." 32. "If the _____ hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." 33. "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through _____ of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:..."



DOWN

1. "And we know that all things work _____ for good to them that love God,..." 2. "And I saw, and bare record that this is the _____ of God." 3. "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor _____ us according to our iniquities." 4. "And John bare record, saying, I _____ the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him." 5. "And I knew him not, but that he _____ be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water." 7. "In whom also we have obtained an _____, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:" 8. "This is _____ of whom I said, after me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me." 11. "Who by him do believe in God, that _____ him up from the dead, and gave him glory;..." 13. "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without _____ and without spot." 17. "Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he _____ called:..." 18. "And looking upon Jesus as _____ walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God." 19. "That we should be to the praise of his glory; who _____ trusted in Christ." 20. "_____ the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;" 21. "For the law having a _____ of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect." 24. "Purge out therefore the old _____, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened." 25. "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last _____ for you," 26. "And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the _____." 27. "There was a man _____ from God, whose name was John." 30. "...God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be _____ as though they were."