

Freedom

from a sermon by Elder Isaac Abernathy

God made a promise to Jacob that his tribe would go into bondage and would become a great nation. He said He would, in due time, bring them out. Did you know that we are in bondage much of the time? I'm in bondage to myself, to excuses, and to the imagination of my mind. God sent Moses to them, and Moses led them to the edge of the land of freedom. Do you know where your freedom is? Paul said, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Romans 8:2). The Spirit makes us free, child of God. It sets us free from bondage. It gives us a new beginning. It gives us a new life. It gives us new strength. God told Moses to send them into the land to see what He had prepared for them. What is that to us? It is the Church of the living God. It is the inner nature. God has instructed us to search out this beautiful thing He has prepared for us. We are often unwilling to search and to make our lives

subject to the will of God. We sell our birthright. We sell our right to control the thinking of our own mind through and by the working of the Holy Spirit. I sell my birthright. I sell my right to be led of the Holy Spirit. Do you? They went into the land. God said to send twelve people, each to be a leader of his own tribe. They searched the land. They were searching for a new life. They were searching for a new beginning. They came from slavery, and they were going to freedom. Freedom lay over in that land. Freedom did not lay back in Egypt. There was nothing back there for them. God had given them a new life. They thought they only had to walk in and sit down. That's where man is making his mistake today. They went in and looked at that land. They said, "We came into the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it." (Numbers 13:27). But they said, "Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in

the land, and the cities are walled, and very great." (Numbers 13:28). Do you know what God told Jacob? God said Jacob, rise up and go upward. It takes some power to go upward. You have opposition. God's people "brought up an evil report of the land" (Numbers 13:32) for they reported, "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:33). In essence, they said, "We can't take the freedom that belongs to us". Freedom doesn't come easy. A new beginning doesn't come easy.

Paul said, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." (Ephesians 4:22). You cannot put away that old man easily. Following after the inner nature doesn't come easy. It will never come easy, but it will come with satisfaction when you do it!

Gripped By Greed

submitted by Bro. T. C. Hales (deceased)

"He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house." (Proverbs 15:27).

Advertisers constantly appeal to consumer greed, trying to convince us that we need their products.

An executive of an electronics firm I boasted that his company had created the demand for transistor radios. He said, "When we introduced pocket radios years ago, nobody needed them, so they didn't sell. We had to convince the consumer that he needed our products. Sales have boomed ever since."

The desire for more and more money, things, or power isn't unique to the

20th century. Thousands of years ago, Gehazi, Elisha's servant, saw a chance to get money from wealthy Naaman. He would be able to buy clothing, olive groves, vineyards, sheep, oxen, and servants. (II Kings 5:26). However greed took over.

Greed can drive us unmercifully and tarnish our integrity. For example, I know some Christian professionals who work hard and make lots of money, but the raises they give their staff are small. In another situation, a Christian earns more than \$200,000 a year, but some of his practices are unethical.

Is it greed that motivates these otherwise good people?

We are all susceptible to the powerful grip of greed. We must often pray, "Lord, help me to be most concerned about how I can please You, not how I can gain more for myself." -D.J.D.

*If money is your highest goal,
The thing you long to gain,
Its power will enslave your soul
And cause your life much pain.*
-D.J.D.

GREEDY PEOPLE ALWAYS LOSE
MORE THAN THEY GAIN.

Persistence

by Dr. Donald E. Wildmon
Tupelo, Mississippi

The Little Boy Who Wanted A Watch - And Got It

There is a story told about a certain little boy who wanted a watch. Day in and day out he pestered his parents about getting him a watch. His parents put him off every way they could. Finally, he drove them to the breaking point. His father told the youngster that he didn't want to hear another word about a watch.

Well, for the rest of that week, the lad said nothing about a watch. He knew that to do so would certainly bring some discomfort to his "sitting down place." However, Sunday soon rolled around, and the family gathered together for a period of devotion. It was the custom in the family for each member to learn a new verse of Scripture and recite it during Sunday devotions. Every other member of the family had said his or her Scripture verse when it came time for the small lad to quote his. Looking up with a solemn face, he quoted his verse perfectly: "What I say unto you I

say unto all, watch." (Mark 13:37).

The lad was persistent, and he got his watch!

That's a quality all of us could use - persistence! One of our faults today is that we give up too soon, call it quits after a single setback, let failure break us instead of make us.

There is very little a person cannot do in this life if he sets out to do it and stays with it. One reason we don't accomplish more is that we are quick quitters. We get a setback or two, and then we say it can't be done. We give up. We quit trying. History however, is full of things that couldn't be done. That means it is also full of individuals who did them.

The world looks up in admiration to a person who has staying power. He doesn't have to possess great brains, or great riches, or vast opportunities. If he believes in something, and has the persistence to stay with that belief

regardless of the praise or scorn he receives, the world ultimately will look up to him.

One reason there aren't any more people with persistence is the simple reason that it takes a big person to try again, to stick with the ship when the waves get high. Anyone can quit. Anyone can get into a lifeboat and float to safety. The person with persistence, however, is hunting neither safety nor another mission. He has something he wants to do, and he believes he can do it. So he stays with it, come what may. Then one day he finally accomplishes the "impossible."

Great and good goals aren't easy to accomplish. They require great and good people to accomplish them. Great and good people are people who keep on keeping on. I believe God wants a person who says, "I can." I believe God wants a person who will try again.

Prayer

by Elder W. H. Durrence
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Prayer is a tremendous subject with such extensive Bible coverage that it is difficult to adequately cover the subject in one lesson. The objective in this study of prayer is a simple one, to “stir up your pure minds” (2 Peter 3:1). Since prayer is one of the outstanding characteristics of the Christian life, it is impossible to describe by a single definition. The magnitude of this experience is evident by the variety of benefits attained from it. It is first of all a communication between man and God; therefore, it is called “the skylight of the soul.” By God’s allowing us to approach Him in prayer, He manifests His great love to us. In our praying we manifest our devotion to God, for He taught us to pray. The prayer of faith is on one hand to request from God what we want and on the other hand to seek His will. This quest for the will of God is said by some to be the deepest and holiest purpose of prayer.

The disciples of Jesus recognized the importance of prayer. They sought a meaningful communication with the Father when they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). In reply to their request, Jesus gave the model prayer which is often called “The Lord’s Prayer” (Mt. 6:9-13). It is acceptable to use it verbatim, but it is not simply to be recited as we repeat those words. It is also a pattern by which we may measure all our prayers, since every aspect of prayer is included in the model prayer. It begins with adoration to God and respect for His name. Then we are taught that the will of God is to be sought. Next temporal needs are requested, followed by an implied confession of sin. It encourages us to seek divine providence and to acknowledge His power. It ends with “Amen,” expressing both a fervent desire and an avowal of faith.

From the simple words of this prayer, we are taught many profound lessons. The expression “Our Father” teaches that prayer is not to be directed toward men to invoke their praise, but is to be directed toward God. As God is our Father, it denotes a relationship of grace. Since He is our Father, we recognize the need to pray for others (James 5:16). “Which art in heaven” reminds us that the abode of God is in heaven (Acts 7:49) and directs our attention upward. Praying to God in heaven helps us detach our hearts from things on earth and enables us for a little while to set our affection on things above (Col. 3:2). “Hallowed be thy name” is a phrase that can easily be uttered without the slightest thought of its profound and holy meaning, but this should not be done. God’s name is to be hallowed because He is holy (Ps. 111:9). We are to revere His name because of what He has done, is doing, and will yet do for us. “Thy kingdom come” is an extension or enlargement of the previous statement. We should want God’s name to be glorified in His kingdom. We should live in such a manner that our lives may personally glorify Him daily (1 Cor. 6:20). “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” declares our desire to be submissive to His divine will. Like Job, we are to be submissive when the providence of God allows unpleasant situations to touch our lives, and we are to manifest our submissive spirit by obedience to His written will, as expressed in the pages of the Bible (John 2:5, James 1:22). “Give us this day our daily bread” is the first of four petitions which relate to the supplying of our immediate needs. Here we express a confidence that God not only knows our needs (Mt. 6:8) but also is able to supply them (Phil. 4:19); how-

ever, there is more embraced here than a need merely for table bread. To desire only such bread is to forget the most important Bread - Jesus (John 6:48). Therefore, we ask both for food on the table to strengthen our bodies and for the presence of Jesus to strengthen our spirits. “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” is a statement which covers a multitude of circumstances. It acknowledges the presence of sin in our lives as we have failed to obey His Laws (1 John 3:4), and it reminds us of the need to forgive others as God has forgiven us (Col. 3:13). In reality this statement invokes God to forgive us in the same measure in which we are willing to forgive others! “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” is a petition that goes one step beyond the previous one. If we desire old sins to be forgiven, we should also desire to refrain from committing new sins. It is not implying that God causes or tempts us to sin (James 1:13), but it simply acknowledges the sovereignty of God in control of all things. This statement is intended to express our desire that God will keep us from the tempter and will keep us in His care lest we fall (1 Cor. 10:13). It acknowledges a faith in God’s ability to deliver and save us from sin, so we trust His providence to protect and keep us from the evil afflictions of Satan. When such holy desires are present, we will not willingly walk in the paths of sin (Ps. 119:11). “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever” reinforces our confidence in God. We acknowledge our weakness but rejoice in God’s strength and power (2 Cor. 12:9). We should want to live in His kingdom, by His power, and for His glory, forever. This holy thought serves to remind us that prayer and praise always belong

together. We cannot pray right unless the honor and glory of God are dominant in our hearts.

Having been divinely taught to pray, we find in the Bible a wide spectrum of men and women who have engaged in this spiritual exercise of the soul. Some prayed standing with hands lifted up to God, others knelt, and still others prostrated themselves before the majesty of the Most High. As they prayed, some did it inaudibly while others cried aloud as if to bridge the gap between heaven and earth by sheer vocal power. Some prayed in temples and synagogues while others withdrew to hills or gardens to be alone with God. Some of the prayers were completely spontaneous and some were repeated Scriptures. In ancient times prayer was often accompanied by sacrifice, which was often preceded by fasting in sack cloth and ashes. Some prayers were expressions of thanksgiving, other prayers contained confessions of sin which invoked the forgiveness of God, while still others were prayers of petition for others. Such intercession should be made for the church, our rulers, our families, the sick, and even our enemies. In all these instances, man has approached God in prayer. Several of these exam-

ples may seem incidental, while others are most vital to meaningful prayer.

There are several essentials of prayer. (1) In prayer there must be the absence of hypocrisy, for God can see the heart (Mt. 6:5). (2) There is to be perseverance as we pursue the blessings for which we pray (Eph. 6:18). (3) We are to pray with unquestioning faith that God has the ability to accomplish what we ask (Eph. 3:20). (4) In prayer we are to approach God in the Holy Spirit and by the name of Jesus (Eph. 2: 18). (5) Prayer should be a pouring out of the soul before God (1 Sam. 1:15). (6) Finally, we must remember that our prayers are to be fervent (James 5:16).

Praying does not always accomplish all we seek. We may think we need a particular blessing, but sometimes God in His omniscience knows we need something quite different. In answering prayer, God at times gives us exactly what we ask for, at other times the answer is "No," while on some occasions it may be "Wait!" We must always remember that delays are not denials; however, prayers that are prayed in the wrong spirit and for the wrong reason probably will not be answered (James 4:2). This possibility should not deter

us from praying, because it is certain that the unprayed prayer will not be answered. The simple fact to remember is that God does answer prayer, and we are to pray and not to faint (Luke 18:1). Let us pray and do so without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17). Every devout Christian knows the value of prayer. May this lesson encourage us to pray more often and to pray as we should. Our lives are enriched as our hearts are turned upward to commune with God in prayer. Thank God for this blessed access to His throne of grace.

As we thank God for the privilege of prayer, we should also use prayer time to thank God for other blessings which He has so graciously bestowed upon us. Prayer is not just a time for asking, but it should also be a time for giving of thanks. Paul wrote, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6). Have you yet experienced this blessed aspect of prayer? In all our prayers, we should gratefully acknowledge the natural and spiritual benefits which God bestows on us. "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah" (Ps. 68:19).

Grow in Knowledge

1. "Keep _____ in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."
2. "Humble yourselves in the _____ of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."
3. "Now we _____ you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly,..."
4. "Wherefore comfort yourselves _____, and edify one another, even as also ye do."
5. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the _____; prove your own selves."

- 6, "That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and _____."
7. "And ye, in any wise _____ yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed,..."
8. "Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye _____ the Lord your God."
9. "...Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the Lord, come _____ and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the Lord..."
10. "Speaking to yourselves in _____ and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Things to Remember

by Elder William M. Mullis
Waycross, Georgia

"Remember them which have the rule over you..." (Hebrews 13:7)

Before we can possibly go very far with this verse of Scripture, we must identify **who** has the rule over us, and we must determine what is meant by the **rule**.

Let us begin by studying **the rule!** The word of God, the Bible, the Holy Scripture is compared to many things. Sometimes we hear the word of God called seed. In other places, it is referred to as food. The Psalmist says in Psalm 119: 105, "Thy word is a **lamp** unto my feet, and a light unto my path." So the word of God is a guide to the people of God! It helps us to know the way to **walk**. As the Apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy, he stresses the importance of the word of God repeatedly! For example, he says in II Timothy 2: 15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Then a little later in this same letter, we read in II Timothy 3:16,17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works! The word of God fully and completely equips us with a knowledge of the **right way** to go!

You remember that the wise man Solomon warned in Proverbs 14:12 "There is a **way** which **seemeth right** unto man, but the end thereof are the **ways of death**." Jesus Christ restates this same truth in the Sermon on the Mount as we read in Matthew 7:13, 14, "Enter ye in at the **strait gate**: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that **leadeth to destruction**, and **many** there be which go in thereat: Because **strait** is the gate, and **narrow** is the **way**, which leadeth unto life, and **few** there be that find it."

How Do We Know Which Way To Go?

The rule tells us which way is straight and upright! The Scripture should be our **only RULE of faith and practice!** The word of God should be the instrument with which we

measure our lives to determine whether we are in the broad or narrow way!

For example, many churches are confused as to whether drunkards, fornicators, homosexuals, or railers should remain as members of the church. Some churches allow divorced men to be their pastors. Other churches have divisions and confusion about women preachers; and many other subjects cause divisions and confusion in the church. The reason for the confusion is that people try to decide what is the **right way** based on their feelings, rather than using **THE RULE!** THE WORD OF GOD is the RULE!

When our thoughts, ideas, and feelings are contrary to THE RULE given by God, we are headed for destruction and shall perish, unless we **repent** and **use** the RULE!

II Corinthians 10: 12, 13 tells us about those who do not use the Rule, but rather determine their way by "majority rule" BASED on their own ideas and feelings. Listen! "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they, **measuring** themselves by themselves, **are not wise**. But we will not boast of things **without our measure**, but according to the measure of the **RULE** which God hath distributed to us, a **measure** to reach even unto you!"

God has preserved **HIS RULE, HIS MEASURING STICK, HIS SHARP TWO-EDGED SWORD, HIS ROD OF IRON, HIS PLUMBLINE** unto this very day!

God's RULE is the Word of God! Remember **them** which have **the rule** over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation!"

Remember them which have the rule over you!

Remember that the **true** ministers of the gospel will be trying to follow the word of

God, THE RULE in their lives! Remember that the true ministers of the gospel are called of God! They are to be esteemed as men of God. I Thessalonians 5:12,13 says, "And we beseech you, brethren, to **know** them which labour among you, and are **over you in the Lord**, and admonish you; and to **ESTEEM them very highly in love for their works' sake.**" (See Philippians 2:25-29).

"**Remember them** which have the rule over you!" Esteem them very highly for their works' sake!

A **failure to Remember** that they are **sent** from God, and have a **message from God when they preach the WORD**, will cause people to take preaching lightly! Those who have the RULE over you are leading and commanding with **authority** which is greater than that of Congress or the president! Their leadership and direction is based on God's RULE!

Remember them which have the RULE over you! Paul commended the church at Thessalonica in I Thessalonians 2: 13 by saying "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, BECAUSE, when ye received the Word of God, which ye heard of us, ye **received it not as the word of men**, but **as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe!**"

The main reason many people of God do not obey the gospel is because they receive it as the word of man! Remember them which have the rule over you are sent from God and deliver a message from God!

The preaching of the gospel effectually works in those who BELIEVE! If our lives are not changed by the preaching of the gospel, we are guilty of unbelief! Paul wrote of the seriousness of disobeying the gospel in II Thessalonians 1:7-9 "And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the **Lord Jesus** shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **IN FLAMING**

FIRE taking VENGEANCE on them that know not God, and that OBEY NOT the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: WHO SHALL BE PUNISHED with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power!

A failure to obey the gospel is not just a slap in the face to the preacher! You are not just hurting the preacher! You are being deceived by the devil and are being led down the path to destruction and fire!

REMEMBER them that have the **RULE** over you!

Ignoring them and what they preach grieves the ministers! And that **IS NOT PROFITABLE FOR YOU!**

Look on further in this 13th chapter of Hebrews at verse 17, "**Obey them** that have **the RULE** over you, and **submit yourselves:** for they **watch for your souls;** as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for **that is unprofitable for you!**"

Remember them which have the rule over you! **Remember** that they must give account to God. Remember that when you cause them grief by **disobeying the RULE**, that is unprofitable for YOU! (See also I Corinthians 16:15-16).

Remember them which have the **RULE** over you, and **follow them** as they follow Christ. To the church at Corinth, Paul says in I Corinthians 11:

1, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ!" Christ is the Great Shepherd! The ministers are under shepherds; **FOLLOW THEM as they FOLLOW CHRIST!!!** (See also Galatians 6:16 and Philippians 3:16!)

REMEMBER THEM WHICH HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU!

When we see the magnitude of the office of a minister of the gospel, every other admonition concerning the care and support of the minister will come natural! So, remember them in a financial way!

When Jesus Christ first began sending out the Apostles, who were the first ministers of the gospel, He told them to "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves, **for the workman is worthy of his meat.**" (Matthew 10:10)

The Apostle Paul says in I Timothy 5:17-18, "Let the elders (and, by the way, a minister of the gospel is never to be called Reverend! God alone is reverend! The scriptures refer to a preacher as pastor, elder, or bishop!) that **RULE** well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labour in word and doctrine! For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the laborer is worthy of his reward."

To the church at Corinth, Paul says, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that

they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" (I Corinthians 9:14,11). **REMEMBER THEM WHICH** have the **RULE** over you! **Show** them the love and appreciation and respect and esteem you have for them, because of their work's sake and because of their office!

Though they reprove, rebuke, and correct you, **REMEMBER** that **they** watch for your souls and must give account to God.

If your pastor is not reproofing and correcting you when you walk contrary to **THE RULE**, he does not feel much love for you, and he does not love and fear God enough!!!

DO NOT IGNORE and **FORGET THEM WHICH HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU!** **THEIR** responsibility, burden, and concern is greater than you will ever be able to know or understand!

REMEMBER THEM WHICH HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU!

Please! Remember them by name every time you pray!!!

"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me **in your prayers to God for me.**" (Romans 15:30).

Remember them which have the **RULE** over you **in your prayers!**

REMEMBER THEM WHICH HAVE THE RULE OVER YOU!

A Puzzle About Joseph

Take the number of pieces of silver for which Joseph's brothers sold him. (Genesis 37:28)

Multiply by the number of cows in each of Pharoah's dreams.

Divide by the length in years of the famine.

Multiply by the number of Joseph's brothers.

Add Joseph's age when he stood before Pharoah. (Genesis 41:46)

Divide by the number of Joseph's sons.

Subtract the number of beasts laden with gifts which Joseph sent to his father. (Genesis 45:23)

Add the number of changes of raiment he gave to Benjamin. (Genesis 45:22)

The result will be Joseph's age when he died. (Genesis 50:26)

Regeneration and Conversion

by Elder A. R. Crumpton (deceased)

We shall endeavor to distinguish between regeneration and conversion. There is a difference; they are not the same. Regeneration is fundamental; conversion is practical. That which is fundamental, we as poor sinful creatures have nothing to do with. Then regeneration is unconditional. The prefix "re" means again. Generate means to create. The generator on a car creates the power in the battery. If the generator knocks off, the battery goes dead. Then regenerate means to create again, or create anew. The old creature is created anew. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away (old things with the old creature C.); behold all things are become new (all things with the new creature C.)" (II Corinthians 5: 17). This text has its limitation -it is limited to men who are in Christ. All men are not in Christ. Paul calls the Ephesians' attention to their former state and condition, and says, "That at that time ye were without Christ ...having no hope and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:11). There was a time therefore when the Ephesians were out of Christ. Paul refers to some apostles "who were in Christ before me." That is, ahead of me. If there was a time when the saints at Ephesus were out of Christ, how or by what means did they come to be in Christ? The answer is given in the tenth verse. "For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus." The creature is God's workmanship. God

creates him anew in Jesus Christ. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature." (Galatians 6:15).

In the new creation, or regeneration, the Jews circumcision (fleshly) was not counted, neither was the Gentiles uncircumcision. That's why Paul said, "Is any among you circumcised? Let him remain circumcised. Is any among you uncircumcised? Let him not become circumcised? In Philippians 3:3, Paul tells who the regenerated are: "For we are the circumcision (meaning the regenerated C.) which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." In Titus 3:5, the apostle tells us that this work IS unconditional: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Regeneration is that work which establishes our relationship with God -that which makes us sons and daughters. We need regenerating but ONE time, for once a son, always a son.

It is the dead alien sinner who is regenerated, but it is the regenerated, live sinner who is converted. To convert means to convince or to turn. None but living sinners can be convinced or can turn. David says in Psalm 51:13: "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee." It is the saved sinner who can become converted, convinced, and

who can turn to God. Again David says in Psalm 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." The word "converting" here means "restoring" or "convincing" the soul. And none but the living soul can be restored or convinced by God's law. As we study this word according to the light of the scriptures we learn that it is the regenerated or saved person who is converted, whereas when we studied the word regenerated, we learned that it is the lost, dead, alien sinner who is regenerated.

Jesus told Simon Peter that Satan desired to have him that he might sift him as wheat. Peter was in Satan's sifter when he denied his Lord. He did a great wrong, but when he left that old sifter, all the bran had been taken out of Peter. Jesus had prayed for His child that his faith might not fail. Peter was converted and able to strengthen his brethren. Peter did not need regenerating, but he needed converting, and converted he was.

James writes to the brethren and says, "If any of you do err from the truth and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth a sinner (the saved sinner C.) from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." (James 5:19,20). No one can err from the truth unless he has been in the truth. We cannot regenerate one another, but we can convert one another. In converting, we save. How many times do we need converting?: Every time we do wrong!

How Many Words In The Shortest Verse In The Bible

Take the total number of Psalms.
Divide by the number of Commandments.
Add the number of books in the Bible.
Subtract the number of lepers who forgot to thank Jesus for healing them. (Luke 17:17)

Divide by the number of men in the fiery furnace.
Divide by the age of Jesus when He talked with the doctors in the temple at Jerusalem.
How many words are left? (The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35).

Purposes of the Gospel

"Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet, and A Light Unto My Path."

by Elder William M. Mullis
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(5th in a series)

The word of God and the preaching of the gospel have many purposes. The above text declares that one of the purposes is to give light to the people of God, to help them know how to walk, how to live, each day of their lives. Of course, we all have enough understanding to know that light is only of value to those who have eyes to see. Those who are dead in trespasses and sins cannot see the light, cannot hear the gospel, and have no desire to walk in ways that please the Lord. We need to always remember that the word of God is a spiritual message, from a spiritual God, to a spiritual people. We also need to remember that God must first quicken His people before they can hear His word. The new birth, regeneration, being brought from death to life, always precedes the hearing, believing, or obeying the word of God. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14). The glorious light of the gospel is of no more use to one who is dead in sin, than the light of the sun is of any value to those in the literal graves.

Without the gospel, the word of God, we are in darkness. Being in darkness, we walk the broad way. If we lean to our own understanding rather than looking to God and His word for guidance, we will always do those things that are contrary to the will of God. Thank God for giving us His word as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths! What a glorious light is the word of God!

Look carefully at the following Scriptures showing the word of God as a light for the people of God:

1. "The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:8b).

2. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Psalm 119:130).

3. "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life" (Proverbs 6:23).

4. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19).

The text does not only say that the word of God gives light, but it focuses on the gospel giving light unto the way we walk: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." How can we know how to walk as Christians, as parents, as a Church, or as a nation without the light of the gospel?

The ministers of God in all ages of the world have always been trying to show God's people how to walk, how to live, by teaching them the word of God, God's way. When Ananias was sent to Saul of Tarsus, he was sent to remove the scales from Saul (Paul)'s eyes so that he could see God's true way to walk. As the Apostle Paul was sent to the Gentiles, Jesus told him he was sent "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are

sanctified by faith that is in me" (Acts 26:18). Just as Paul had been enlightened as to the way he should walk and worship by the preaching of the gospel, he taught others the word of God for them to know how to walk and worship. Even today, one of the purposes of the preaching of the gospel is to teach the people of God how to walk and to worship. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path! As the song-writer says, "When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His word, what a glory He sheds on our way; While we do His good will, He abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey."

Sadly, the people of God sometimes do not use the word of God as a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path. Far too often, when the light shines forth, God's people will not turn from their wicked ways and walk in the light of His word. When the people of God rebelled against the gospel, Paul said, "Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it" (Acts 28:25-28). May God help us NOT TO CLOSE OUR EYES TO THE LIGHT OF HIS WORD, but to use it as

a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path!

When the people of God “close their eyes” to the light of God’s word, refuse to walk in the light of it, they are headed for destruction, a hell on earth, separation from fellowship with God while they live here in this time world. Spiritual blindness is a condition describing God’s born again children who are blind to the light of God’s word. Prayerfully study the following Scriptures concerning God’s people being blind:

1. “Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men” (Isaiah 59:9,10).

2. “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind

lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch” (Matthew 15:14). See also Matthew 23:19.

3. “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (II Corinthians 4:3,4).

4. “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart” (Ephesians 4:17,18).

5. “For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and

hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (II Peter 1:8,9).

6. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes” (I John 2:8-11).

We are blessed to be chosen by God, to be born of the Spirit, to have spiritual eyes, and now to have the glorious light of the gospel as a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path! May God help us to realize how important it is for us to use the light He has given us!

The Perfect Gift

by Elder Don McWilliams
Brownsburg, Indiana

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ, the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11).

We once again come to the time of year when men, women, and children the world over celebrate a season whose true meaning has been lost by many. A season where, as spoken of in Exodus, “from the maid behind the mill to the prince in the palace,” (in other words, in all walks of life) there are those who do not observe Christmas as the celebration of the birth of

Christ.

Giving is a big thing at Christmas. Giving was a principle which Jesus taught and practiced throughout His earthly ministry. First of all, He gave up His heavenly home to come to this earth. As the angels spoke to the shepherds, the gift about which they were singing was not wrapped in bright shiny paper with a big bow, but was wrapped in swaddling clothes. **What a gift!**

Christ gave His healing power, His love, His understanding, His knowledge, and much, much more! Most of all, however He gave His perfect life for His children.

A good gift you say? A nice gift? It was the **one and only perfect gift** that man could receive from a perfect Heavenly Father.

Christ taught that we should give something, also. Give our love to our neighbor, our family, our friends, and even to our enemies. Most of all to give of our best to the Master.

May God bless, guide, and keep all of you through this season. Keep always before your eyes what great event we should be celebrating during this time of year -God’s gift of His precious Son to His people for the atonement of their sins.

Lessons for Children

A Great Man Who Remained Humble

by: Elder McKinley Wright
Jacksonville, Florida

Devotional Reading: Isaiah 57:15; Matthew 18:1-4. Background Scripture: Romans 7:18-21; James 4:10. Memory Selection: "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life" (Proverbs 22:4)

An Humble Man

I Corinthians 15:9. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Ephesians 3:8. Unto me, who am less the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ:

I Timothy 1:12. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13. Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious; but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

16. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.

Introduction

One of the most effective things in the life of a Christian is humility. It is also one of the most necessary. The life of a child of God who does not manifest humility cannot testify about the mercy of God. But one who has humility, no matter what his station, will make a good testimony. Children cannot understand the underlying cause of humility, but they can understand that the beautiful life must show it, and they can understand what it takes to be humble. They can be taught to practice humble works in their own lives. May the Lord help us to teach them this.

Comments on the Printed Lesson

Paul was a great man. He was also an humble man. In today's lesson, he wrote to the members of the early church and told them how he felt about himself. He confessed his unworthiness to be called an Apostle, but he acknowledged that God had made an Apostle of him. He testified to the success of his labors in the church, but immediately refused to take any of the glory for himself. He gave the glory for his success to God's grace which was with him. He described himself as less than the least of all saints, and was amazed at the great "calling" which had been given to him. He pointed out to Timothy some of the things in his life which made him unworthy of the grace of God. He said that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom he was chief!

These are things which show humility in a person's life. A feeling of unworthiness should be in the lives of each of us. Few of us have done things like persecuting the church, or blasphem-

ing the name of Jesus, but there are other things in our lives which should make us humble as we remember that God continues to bless us.

The humble man feels that others are better than himself. David always refused to lift his hand against Saul when Saul tried to kill him. He said that Saul was "the Lord's anointed." David would not lift up his hands against him. When Saul was killed, instead of rejoicing that he no longer had to flee for his life, David was sad. At this point in David's life, he was an humble man. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, and His life gave the greatest example of humility.

Humility makes us better servants of God. Unless we are humble in God's presence, we will try to declare our own glory instead of His; we will try to boast of ourselves instead of telling of God's blessings upon us. Unless we are humble when with God's children, we will expect them to minister to us instead of wanting to serve them. When we are humble, others can see Jesus in our lives, and we glorify Him!

Let us practice these things that we find in Paul's life.

Questions

1. Let each child name an humble person, and point out the things in his life that make us consider him humble.
2. What is the result of humility in our lives?
3. Who is the humble man whom we are studying today?
4. What is humility?
5. Where does humility come from?
6. If we don't have humility, how can we go about getting it?

A Letter to my Friends

Dear Friends,

I know it's a little late to be telling you this, but here I go anyway, Happy New Year! I have been told this quite a few times lately (it seems to be a very popular thing to say in January). I expect that many of the people who say "Happy New Year" actually care about my happiness, while others just say it to be nice. But guess what? I haven't had anyone take the time to ask whether or not I was happy in 2007, nor offer up any suggestions on how I might be happier in 2008. If it weren't for the Bible, some enlightening sermons and studying the lives of some truly happy people, I might have to try to figure out how to be happy all by myself.

You are my friends and I would like to do more than just wish for your happiness. Unfortunately, I just don't have the resources to ensure that each and every one of you have a happy new year. I do, however, have one of the secrets of happiness. I would like to pass it on to you. If you take what I am about to tell you to heart it will give you a down payment on a lifetime of happiness. I probably won't even have to encourage you to have a Happy New year in 2009 because you will be some of the happiest people on the planet.

One of the ways in which we can ensure a happy new year for ourselves is to choose a GOOD name. In fact, Proverbs 22 :1 states that "A GOOD name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor than silver and gold." Ecclesiastes 7:12 states that "A GOOD name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." I'm not saying that some of you who have great riches got them at the expense of a good name, but every time you are faced with the choice of a few more dollars or a better name, just understand that choosing a GOOD name will do more for your happiness than a couple of bucks ever could.

It wouldn't be right for me to tell you one of the keys to happiness without defining what I'm talking about in a little more detail. I would be disappointed in myself if you were to fail to have a happy new year after you made a commitment to follow my advice, but just wandered around aimlessly hoping for a GOOD name not fully understanding what I am talking about and what is required to gain a GOOD name. You see, some questions must be answered before you can make the right choices in life. What are the characteristics of someone who has chosen a GOOD name? What are some acts committed by people that would make most folks think of them in a positive light every time their name was mentioned? God didn't leave it up to me to figure out the answers to these questions all by myself. If you have a few more minutes available I would like to show you where to start looking for the answers. This isn't an exhaustive list, just a start in the right direction.

Acts 6:3 states, "Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom whom we may appoint over this business." Honest, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. That's a good start. What else is an attribute associated with a good name? Acts 10:22 states, "And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee." We are on the right track now. Add "just, feareth God and of good report" to the list and you will be well on your way to a happy new year.

Who do I think committed an act that made them be looked upon in a positive light? Although there are many answers to that question, the one that first pops into my head is the story of the Good Samaritan. To the best of my

knowledge, the Bible doesn't refer to him as good, but you would be hard pressed to find someone that would disagree with the fact that he was good at least a couple of days out of his life. The only part of his life that we are told about was spent doing a good deed. Therefore, we all refer to him as a good man. Let's look at what the Good Samaritan did to help a man who had been beaten and robbed. It is recorded in Luke 10:33-35, "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee." I'm pretty sure the wounded man thought highly of that particular Samaritan from that point forward. The inn keeper also had reason to consider him to be a man who had chosen a GOOD name.

Friends, think about this. If only a couple of days out of your life were recorded in history, and you didn't get to pick the days, how do you think that anyone who read the two day summary of your life would react. Would they think that you had chosen a GOOD name? Or alternately, would they have a few other choice words not fit for publication that they used along side your name.

Please make a commitment to do what God would tell you to do from this point forward; choose a GOOD name. Be honest, full of the Holy Ghost, full of wisdom, just, fear God, be of good report, and like the Samaritan, do something to help someone in need. You will be happy you did and I will be happy to call you my friend.

God bless you until we talk again.

Education for a Christian Republic

by Bro. Jim F. Kennedy
Lincoln, Nebraska

The purpose of government, authorized by the two documents of law to which American Christians are obligated and privileged to submit, the Bible, and the U.S. Constitution, is to protect life and property. American Christians find themselves in 2008 with a government that has veered from this authorized purpose to become an instrument, not of our protection, but of danger, waste, and destruction. Our American government is intentionally and purposefully building an amoral, anti-Christian society which darkens and threatens our day. Its programs undermine families, waste the potential of our children, destroy our unborn, eradicate character and productivity, scorn God, and make us number one among our peer nations in violent crime, divorce, illegal drug use, teenage pregnancies, and illiteracy.

Not only have American Christians created these results by consent, but we pay money to finance this destruction. Our President is now asking us to sacrifice financially (pay more) for a government that has become a reproach to God, to the church, and to the community of nations. The reproach is more loathsome when we remember that we were intended by our founders (and our history proves this) to have been the nation expressing the fullest Christian civilization ever known.

The results are in, and the evidence is measurable that ungodliness is destroying our nation, yet the typical response is what can I do about that? Christians confess an impotency (a lack of power) which comes from one source—**unbelief!** We have become like the Nazarenes among whom Jesus would do no mighty work and of whom it is said, “he marvelled because of their unbelief.” They “acknowledged the two great proofs of the divine original of his gospel—divine wisdom ...and the divine power ... and yet, though they could

not deny the premises, they would not admit the conclusions.”

Three Biblical Truths Essential to “Belief”

Unbelief is the indictment against American Christians today when we stand to account for the effect of our salt and light in preserving our American Christian republic. What is this unbelief that plagues us? Do we think God isn’t able to turn our nation back on track, that the Gospel isn’t relevant? Have we given up and declared it unsalvageable? Are we unsure if God wants to restore it? If we are sure, do we believe it, pray for it, and offer ourselves as his instruments in bringing it about, or do we cower in our Christian huddles consenting to the impending doom and destruction of our Christian constitutional republic by doing nothing? God is the God of nations and individuals. If He cannot direct our nation in His providence, He cannot direct us individually. Is our unbelief personal as well as national?

The answer to all these questions lies in three basic Biblical truths that American Christians must believe, embrace, embody, teach, expound, propagate, and inculcate in the consciousness of our nation:

1. The Hand of God In Human Affairs!

God is the God of nations and of individuals. He is sovereign over the universe and has a story of wonderful works: of His providential care for His creation, of His purpose for every person, every nation, in the unfolding of history. The Bible is a model for us of the prominent position this providential history should have in our culture, in teaching our children and the generations His story, as in Psalm 78:2-8 which exhorts us to hear “sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation

to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel which **he commanded our fathers that they should make them known to their children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children; That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:** And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.”

We must know and teach the works of God in history providential history in order to set our hope in God and keep His commandments. When we forget, when we don’t teach providential history, we become as the children of Ephraim who, “being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.” They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law: and **forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shown them.**”

It is the knowing and teaching of America’s providential history which enables us to see God’s purpose for our nation and to be empowered by that vision to restore it, to reclaim its purpose for this age, and to believe for its future.

“History is not a string of striking episodes, with no other connection but that of time. It is rather the working out of a mighty system, by means of regularly defined principles as old as creation, and as infallible as divine wisdom... [it is] **the Hand of God in American History .**”

If we are able to apply our “belief,” or faith, to all areas of our lives and knowledge, the providence of God in history and in individual lives cannot be denied.

There are no accidents in the lives of men or of nations. We may go back to the underlying cause of every event and discover in each God's overruling and intervening wisdom. It has been said that history is the biography of communities; in another, more profound, sense, it is the autobiography of Him "who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" [Ephesians 1:11], and who is graciously timing all events in the interests of His Christ, and of the kingdom of God on earth. Tracing the history of men, we find the most trivial and seemingly fortuitous things issuing beyond all human expectations or intentions in the sublimest events; we see men planning and working with only their own more immediate and material interest in view, and yet a power behind them is noiselessly and effectually, though possibly for generations unobserved, overruling their action to the furtherance of higher, more widely extended and more permanent purposes.

Human freedom and human responsibility in bringing about either good or evil, are not to be pushed aside; providence is not fatalism; but, on the other hand, man's free activities do not prove the despotism of a blind chance, shifting as man's caprice may dictate. Neither social order, moral progress, nor a Christian civilization, can spring out of chance. These demand a prevision and adjustment of causes keener and mightier than man with his wisest forethought and highest intelligence can exercise. There are influences which man can wield, and should control, right; there are others which God alone originates and shapes. There are, again, other influences which are under human management, but which become might for good only by their timing; and this timing is sometimes a visible, but more frequently an invisible, interposition of God's overruling care, only truly seen after many generations have passed away. God's hand is seen in the starting, speeding, retarding, and matching such coincident and colliding influences as mark the progress and constitute the varied crises of history.

A true Christian world view must be broad enough and "believing" enough to recognize, honor, and teach **the Hand of God in history!**

2. God's Purposes Must Be Honored!

The second point we must know and teach is that in God's providence there is a purpose for every nation and individual. Our nation has a particular purpose which has been forgotten in this generation but which is identified in the letters, documents, writings, speeches, law, judicial records, character, family histories, and the public records of the founding generations. The purpose of our nation, the United States of America, is to be the first nation in the history of the world to express the Christian idea of man and government. Our government is diagrammed in our constitution as Biblical in form for the express purpose of establishing civil and religious liberty -not just freedom to take the form of any number of godless expressions from anarchy to democracy -but **Christian civil liberty** -for establishing a Christian civilization and culture which would **give glory to God and propagate His Gospel to the world, giving its citizens the full protection of their Christian character and conscience.**

This was the express purpose understood by the founding generations who know that without Christianity, liberty could not exist.

"The principles of all genuine liberty, and of wise laws and administrations are to be drawn from the Bible and sustained by its authority. The man therefore who weakens or destroys the divine authority of that book may be accessory to all the public disorders which society is doomed to suffer." (Noah Webster).

They knew that the great experiment of self-government must be government under Christ or else it would be slavery to sin and Satan.

"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all our political

institutions ...upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." (James Madison).

They knew Christian principles were necessary to the exercise of true liberty.

"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous, they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." (Samuel Adams).

They knew that Christianity is part of the common law; that the Mosaic law is the foundation of our liberty which cannot exist without it.

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. **Our constitution was made only for amoral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.**" (John Adams).

The United States of America was established for the purpose of establishing civil and religious liberty. All people who come to America are invited to enjoy its benefits by submitting to its laws. Christianity assumes that there will be those who are not Christian, and neither the church nor the state can force people to profess a belief in Christianity. However, the structure of our government, **the basis of our liberty is expressly Biblical and Christian!** As our founders said, without it there is no American liberty. This purpose must be returned to the memory of all Americans today, must be proclaimed internationally, and must be wholly understood and embraced by every American Christian.

"The record of America as a Christian nation resides in the documented history of her founding. This record has been deliberately obscured in order to deprive the individual of his Christian heritage of individual liberty. **The rediscovery of the Christian foundation of our country will restore the Christian**

leadership of America! This knowledge needs to be part of the background of every individual engaged in the education of American youth."

3. God's Law Must Be Obeyed!

The third Biblical truth we must understand and teach is that the **"social crisis" in our nation is a direct result of rebellion to God and the principles of His Word!"**

An article by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan titled "Defining Deviancy Down," is reported to say that America is undergoing a profound social crisis and the nation has more or less decided to pretend that it isn't happening. He calls it psychological denial and sociological normalizing --that people have a tendency to adjust to a gathering disaster instead of confronting or escaping it, and that as a nation we deny the evidence. For instance, he says that the data shows a vast social disaster unfolding evidenced by astonishing statistics on teen pregnancy, family breakup, teen suicide, street violence, murders by children, burgeoning jail populations, sexual disease, child sex abuse, drug use, gun incidents in schools, and so on. The evidence is "incontrovertible that fatherlessness and family breakup stand out in research as key variables in most statistics measuring the social crisis", yet we "redefine" the family and adopt a casual attitude toward family breakup and single parenting. It is "equivalent

of having to argue over and over that the world is round. If it were just a matter of evidence, we wouldn't be having this debate."

It is more than a matter of evidence; it is rebellion against God and His law, and our nation is breaking itself on it. "... This nations' leaders have allowed the Supreme Court to reject the standards delivered to us by our Founders and to take stands which God cannot bless but must rather oppose."

But we must do more than plead before the throne of grace for our nation; **we actually must 'foment a revolution'** -a turning back -to restore the Biblical education of the founding period in raising up a leadership for our nation that possesses the Biblical character of statesmanship and scholarship -by **restoring the Biblical principles of education in character and curriculum.** As Verna Hall used to say, "We have the blueprint." We have the record of the education of the founding fathers, and know what elements formed their Biblical reasoning, principled leadership, the level of learning worthy of a people entrusted with the stewardship of a Christian constitutional republic.

We are powerfully placed to mold and form the generation, with vital ministries nationwide that understand what is at stake and are actively at work in the restoration. We have Christians becoming alert to the times and searching for solutions. We still have the liberty to

educate our children and ourselves in the correct principles! We are empowered with vision, authority, strategy, arms, resources, and providential calling. **God has given us everything to meet the challenge mandated by the task!**

The Restoration of a Christian Constitutional Republic!

To turn our nation back, we must confront evil in all areas of our national decline to do nothing less than rebuild our Christian civilization. We must use our financial resources to support a comprehensive cultural transformation if we American Christians can stretch our belief to embrace all aspects of American life.

This envisioning of a culturally transformed Christian America also depicts what the founding generations had once achieved, and we rejected -a society in which Christian character and Biblical principles were the norm, the standard, and the basis of enterprise.

By Carole G. Adams, The American Christian Prompter Supplement, Winter 1993 F.A.C.E. P O Box 9444 Chesapeake, VA 23321

[Edited for publication in The Trumpet Of Truth by Bro. Jim F. Kennedy, Lincoln, Nebraska]

How Old Was Jesus When He Died?

To the number of books in the Bible add the number of books in the old Testament.

Subtract the number of stones David took from the brook when he killed Goliath. (I Samuel 17:40)

Add the total number of Psalms.

Divide by the number of Commandments.

Add the number of people saved in Noah's ark. (Genesis 7:13)

The result is the age Jesus lived to be. (approximately)

The greatest knowledge is to know the will of God
The greatest endeavor is to do it.

He that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. *I John 2:17*

How To Raise A Juvenile Delinquent

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up believing the world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will also encourage him to pick up cuter phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.
3. Never give him spiritual training. Wait until he's 21 and let him decide for himself.
4. Avoid the use of the word "wrong". He may develop a guilty complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around --books, shoes, clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility to others.
6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.
7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.
8. Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustration.
10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.
11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him."
12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will be apt to have it.

How to Raise a Christian Child

Train up a child in the way he should go:
and when he is old, he will not depart from it"
Proverbs 22:6

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he
that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.
Proverbs 13:24

Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let
not thy soul spare for his crying.
Proverbs 19:18

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;
but the rod of correction shall
drive it far from him.
Proverbs 22:15

Withhold not correction from the child: for if
thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.
Thou shalt beat him with the rod,
and shalt deliver his soul from hell.
Proverbs 23:13-14

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.
Deuteronomy 6:7

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

How Long Did It Take To Write The Bible?

Take the number of tribes of Israel.
Divide by the number of Wise Men who brought gifts to
the manger.
Multiply by the number of days in which the world was
created.

Add the number of books in the New Testament.
Subtract the number of Joseph's brothers.
Multiply by the number of years the Hebrews spent in travel-
ing from Egypt to the Promise Land.
The result is the approximate number of years it took to write
the Bible.

Different "Drug" Problem!

Submitted by a concerned citizen

Editors note: The following letter has appeared on the internet and was viewed by many readers. Many felt it would be appropriate for the readers of The Trumpet of Truth.

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county, and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"

I replied, I had a drug problem when I was young: I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community so-

cial no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburrs out of dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one

to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood, and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place.

God bless the parents who drugged us."

Which Psalm Is The Most Popular?

Take the number of days Paul drifted in the Mediterranean before his shipwreck. (Acts 27:27)
Subtract the number of waterpots in the wedding of Cana. (John 2:6)
Multiply by the number of pieces of silver Judas received.
Divide by the number of foolish virgins in the parable.

(Matt. 25:2)
Subtract the number of sons of Job. (Job 1:2)
Add the length in years of the famine in Egypt.
Divide by the number of altars Elijah had built on Mt. Carmel.
Subtract the number of chapters in Jude.
The result is the best loved Psalm which has comforted millions of people.

Answers to Grow in Knowledge

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Yourself - Jude 21 | 6. Laboureth - I Corinthians 16:16 |
| 2. Sight - James 4:10 | 7. Keep - Joshua 6:18 |
| 3. Command - II Thessalonians 3:6 | 8. Love - Joshua 23:11 |
| 4. Together - I Thessalonians 5:11 | 9. Near - II Chronicles 29:31 |
| 5. Faith - II Corinthians 13:5 | 10. Psalms - Ephesians 5:19 |

Answers To Mathematical Puzzles

A Puzzle About Joseph... $20 \times 7 / 7 \times 11 + 30 / 2 - 20 + 5 = 110$ years

How many Words in the Shortest Verse in the Bible... $150 / 10 + 66 - 9 / 3 \times 12 = 2$ words.

How Old Was Jesus When He Died?... $66 + 39 - 5 + 150 / 00 + 8 = 33$ years.

How Long Did It Take to Write the Bible?... $12 / 3 \times 6 + 27 - 11 \times 40 = 1600$ years.

Which Psalm Is the Most Popular?... $14 - 6 \times 30 / 5 - 7 + 7 / 2 - 1 = 23$ rd Psalm

Bible Reading Calendar for February

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Exod. 27,28	Matt. 21:23-46
2	Exod. 29,30	Matt. 22:1-22
3	Exod. 31,32,33	Matt. 22:23-46
4	Exod. 34,35,36	Matt. 23:1-22
5	Exod. 37,38	Matt. 23:23-39
6	Exod. 39,40	Matt. 24:1-22
7	Lev. 1,2,3	Matt. 24:23-51
8	Lev. 4,5,6	Matt. 25:1-30
9	Lev. 7,8,9	Matt. 25:31-46
10	Lev. 10,11,12	Matt. 26:1-19
11	Lev. 13	Matt. 26:20-54
12	Lev. 14	Matt. 26:55-75
13	Lev. 15,16,17	Matt. 27:1-31
14	Lev. 18,19	Matt. 27:32-66
15	Lev. 20,21	Matt. 28:1-20

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Lev. 22,23	Mark 1:1-22
17	Lev. 24,25	Mark 1:23-45
18	Lev. 26,27	Mark 2
19	Num. 1,2	Mark 3:1-21
20	Num. 3,4	Mark 3:22-35
21	Num. 5,6	Mark 4:1-20
22	Num. 7	Mark 4:21-41
23	Num. 8,9,10	Mark 5:1-20
24	Num. 11,12,13	Mark 5:21-43
25	Num. 14,15	Mark 6:1-32
26	Num. 16,17	Mark 6:33-56
27	Num. 18,19,20	Mark 7:1-13
28	Num. 21,22	Mark 7:14-37
29	Num. 23, 24	Mark 8:1-9

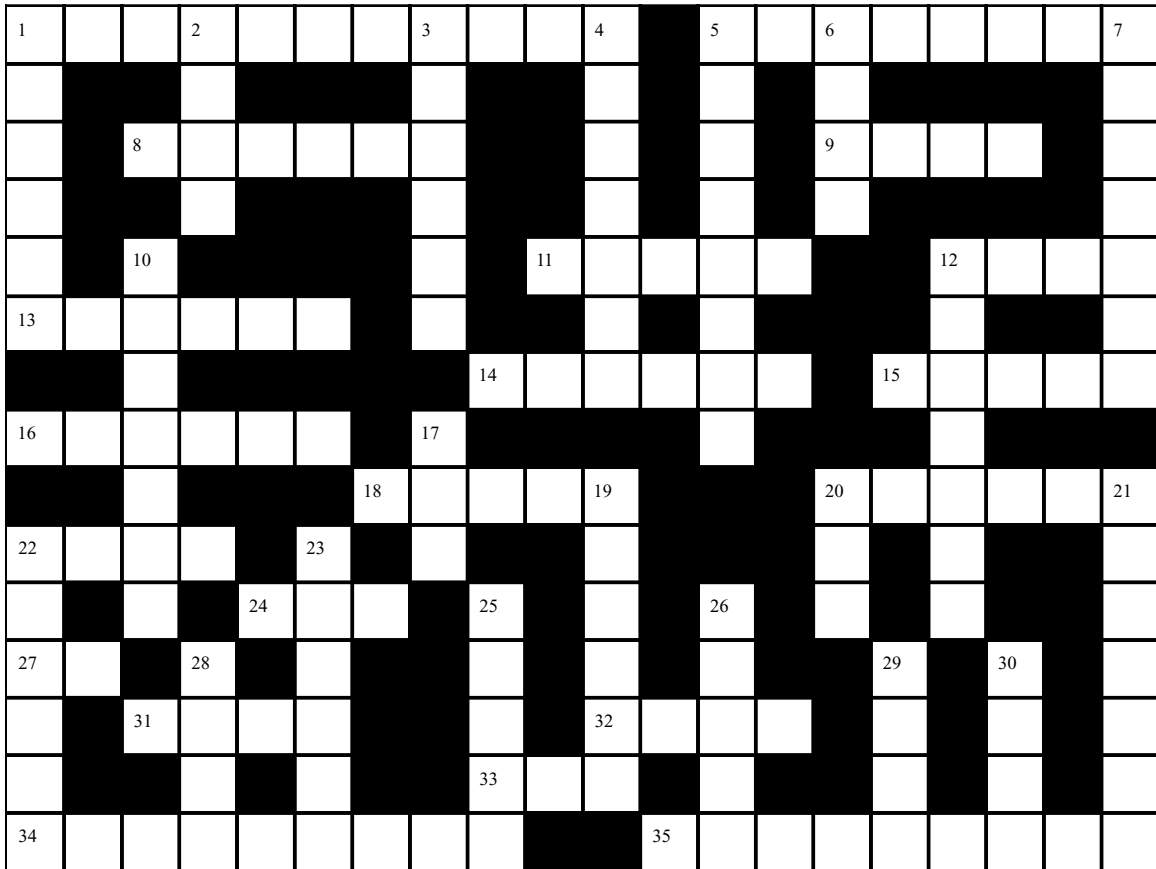
**ANSWERS TO
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE VOLUME
XXVI JANUARY
2008**

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Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "Who shall be punished with everlasting _____ from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" 5. "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and _____ you;" 8. "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from _____ with his mighty angels," 9. "Be ye followers of me, even as I _____ am of Christ." 11. "O Timothy, keep that _____ is committed to thy trust,..." 12. "For the prophecy _____ not in old time by the will of man:..." 13. "And to _____ them, very highly in love for their work's sake..." 14. "Who changed the truth of God in a lie, and worshipped and _____ the creature more than the creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." 15. "And what I say unto you I say unto all, _____." 16. "For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have _____ upon sorrow." 18. "Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellow soldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my _____." 20. "... Behold, how great a _____ a little fire kindleth!" 22. "And the angel said unto them, _____ not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." 24. "For he longed after you all, and _____ full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick." 27. "Thy word is a lamp unto _____ feet, and a light unto my path." 31. "For unto us is _____ this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." 32. "Woe unto them _____ are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight." 33. "... The Labourer is worthy of _____ reward." 34. "I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to _____ ornaments:..." 35. "in flaming fire taking _____ on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"



DOWN

1. "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of _____ honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." 2. "And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto _____, Peace be unto you." 3. "Even so the _____ is a little member, and boasteth great things..." 4. "I know thy works, that thou art _____ cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot." 5. "I beseech you, brethren, (Ye know the house of Stephanos, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have themselves to the ministry of the saints,)" 6. "Nor scrap for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his _____." 7. "That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that _____ with us, and laboreth." 10. "And this is life _____, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." 12. "As many as I love, I rebuke and _____:..." 17. "And when I passed by thee, and _____ thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, live;..." 19. "Do ye not know that the _____ shall judge the world?..." 20. "... If any _____ walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because seeth the light of this world." 21. "_____ him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:" 22. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and _____ created he them." 23. "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing, if we shall reap your _____ things?" 25. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for _____, and light for darkness;..." 26. "And God said, Let us make man in our own _____ after our likeness:..." 28. "I sent him therefore the _____ carefully, that weh ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowfull." 29. "Remember them which have the _____ over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God:..." 30. "_____ so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."