

# Dear God

As I travel on this earth, help me to leave my burdens at Your feet, and not place them on my friends and family. Help me to always remember that my Creator never sleeps, and that He has already been where I'm going. Help me to see the needs of others and seek their good. Lord, help me to never bring open shame and reproach on the cause of Christ. Help me to endure false accusations in a way that would please You. Help me to remember all things are possible with God on my side. I have the God who made Heaven and Earth on my side! As the

mountains are round about Jerusalem, so is the Lord round about me! Help me to endure with faith and patience that I may reap a full harvest! Remind me, O God, that You are the Builder of my house and the Watchman of my city. Blessings are promised to those who fear God and walk in His ways, so help me to do so. Help me to focus on the fact that even though I will have to endure affliction, I will prevail in the end. I thank You, God, for Your Unfailing Love and Full Redemption. Help me to be humble as I stand up for You and find hope in You. Help me to seek

You and find rest in Your love. Help me to remember that unity is a contagious blessing that spreads joy to many. Help me to do what You put me on this earth to do: Worship, Praise, Serve, and Bless Your Holy Name.

Amen

I find as I read and study the Word of God that I am far from where God has called me to be. I miss so many sweet blessings by doing things my way instead of the way God has instructed.

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## BIBLE SQUARES

Print these words one under the other to form a square. The first letters, if you read them down, will form another word. The first one is done for a sample. Can you do the rest?

### No.1 (4 letters)

1. What did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt to buy?
2. Who was the first man?
3. Who built the ark?
4. What king married Jezebel?

**Read down** to find where Jesus performed His first miracle. (Cana)

C O R N  
A D A M  
N O A H  
A H A B

### No.2 (5 letters)

1. A prophet who was swallowed by a fish.
2. A common tree in Palestine.
3. The district east of the Jordan.
4. The disciple whose name means "Rock."
5. Moses' brother.

**Read down** to find a seaport on the Mediterranean.

### No.3 (4 letters)

1. The mother of Jesus.
2. The last word in every prayer.
3. A gift of the Wise Men.
4. Where travelers often spend the night.

**Read down** to find another name for Wise Men.

### No.4 (4 letters)

1. An Italian city which ruled Palestine for many years.
2. Sacred symbol on the breastplate of a high priest. Exod. 28:30.
3. Where the dead are laid.
4. Musical instrument played by David.

**Read down** to find the Love story of the Bible.

### No.5 (5 letters)

1. One of the words Belshazzar saw written on the wall. Daniel 5:25.
2. Father of Methuselah. Gen. 5:21.
3. Son of Ishmael. Gen.25:13
4. Constellation mentioned in Job. 9:9.
5. Where sacrifices were laid.

**Read down** to find the home town of the prophet Amos.

### No.6 (5 letters)

1. The youth who killed Goliath.
2. Abraham's son.
3. Son of Aaron. Exod. 6:23.
4. First word in Greek alphabet. Rev. 21 :6.
5. Home of Laban. Gen. 27:43.

**Read down** to find the name of Jacob's daughter.

### No.7 (3 letters)

1. The mother of Cain and Abel.
2. A story which is not true.
3. Where there was no room for Jesus to be born.

**Read down** to find the name of the kind priest who brought up little samuel. I Sam. 1 :25.

# One Act of Kindness

by Bro. Donald E. Wildmon  
Tupelo, Mississippi

Back during World War II, there was a prisoner of war camp along the River Kwai. Men were carried there following their capture. The men in this camp were used in forced labor. They were given a handful of rice a day to live on, suffered disease, starvation, hopelessness, and death. Trapped in this situation, the prisoners forgot their humanness and became more animal than human. They became selfish, stealing from their comrades food and belongings. After one died, the others would jump, like vultures, to get the dead man's meager valuables.

This went on for some time. Then, one day, a man was left to die. A fellow prisoner found him and for some unexplained reason, began to care for him. He dressed the diseased body as best he could, even shared with the man some of his food. When asked why he did it, he said he wasn't sure except that he thought that somewhere in the Bible it said this was what one should do.

Soon, word of his act of kindness spread around the camp. It was followed by another, and then another. Before long, the camp had been changed from a hell on earth to a camp of help and hope. Men started acting like men. Selfishness was replaced by selflessness, greed was replaced by gratitude, and stealing was replaced by sharing!

The gradual transformation came to a high climax one day. A group of men, at work as a detachment, had finished their day's work and were preparing to return to their quarters. When the guard counted the shovels which the men had been working with, he counted one too few. He faced the men and demanded to know who had hidden it. No one spoke. He again demanded that the one who had hidden the shovel step forward. No one moved. He then drew his gun and shouted that he would kill the whole detachment if the guilty one did not step forward. The men sensed that he meant it.

Soon one soldier stepped forward,

saying he had taken the shovel. The guard beat and kicked him. The soldier was released from the pain through death long before the guard stopped beating.

It was an incident which, had it happened just a short time before, would have ended with the whole detachment being killed. But because of the transformation of the camp by the kind deed of one man, all the others lived.

We are surprised how far one deed of kindness will go toward healing the wounds of sickness both physical and spiritual. Our Creator made us to respond to love with love. It is something that our society could use at this time, this expression of love. How powerful is the power of love!

When they returned to the camp, the guard counted the shovels again. There were none missing. **He had miscounted earlier.** The man had not taken the shovel. **He died for love!**

And still some say the Galilean's Way is out of date!

# The Church Is The Body of Christ

by Elder Greg Phillips  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23).

The comparison of the church with a person or body, of which the Lord Jesus is the head, is not uncommon in the New Testament. In Romans 12:4-5, I Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 4:15-16, Ephesians 5:30, and Colossians 1:18, this comparison is made. The very designation “The Body of Christ” means Christ corporately present.

The Church is not simply an institution, organization, society, or religious fraternity. It is, in God’s intention, the embodiment of His Son in a continuation of His life and work on this earth.

The Church, as the Body of Christ, is the vessel chosen of God, appointed and revealed by God, to be the embodiment of the glory and greatness of Christ, the vehicle by which all that Christ is will be made known through the ages. The greatness of the work of Christ in His Cross indicates how great the Church must be. If Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it, if the work of the Cross of the Lord Jesus is so great, is not that a further indication of how great the Church must be, both in character and in works?

“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against

his own body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:15-20). Shall we, who profess to be members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones, connect ourselves with harlots, and thus dishonor and pollute the bodies which are members of Christ? Paul answers, “God forbid!”

Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12). The works of believers would not necessarily be greater miracles and not greater spiritual works in quality, but greater in quantity; greater in number, extent, and influence.

The works of Jesus were confined to Judea. They were seen by a relatively small number of people. The works of the apostles were witnessed by many nations, and the effect of their miracles and preaching was that thousands were converted to the Christian faith. The word greater here is used, therefore, not to denote the absolute exertion of power, but the effect which the miracles would have on believers.

The pouring out of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the power source behind those great works. Christ’s going to the Father led to the sending of the Holy Spirit.

Through his body a man interacts with the world around him and works in and on that world. So through His Church Jesus Christ acts upon society, and upon men in general. The Church is not the only medium through which

He works and acts, but it is the principal medium. A Church, then, must express the mind and will of Christ.

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” (I Corinthians 12:27). The church at Corinth is not said to be part of a wider body of Christ nor as ‘a body of Christ’ among many others. It is ‘the body of Christ’ in that place. This suggests that wherever Christians are in relationship there is the body of Christ in its entirety, for Christ is truly and wholly present there through his Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13). In Ephesians 1:22-23, Paul speaks of “the church,... Which is his body,” embracing, perhaps, all believers in every age. Every local church, however, is to be the body of Christ in that location, performing His works.

Jesus Christ is the Head of the body; its sole Head, its source of doctrine, of law and of order. He only has authority. “But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ” (Matthew 23:8-10). Christ only has supreme authority. He only has a right to give laws, to declare doctrines, and to punish disobedience. There is no “second in command.” Even the Apostles held no dominion over believers. “Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth. Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand” (II Corinthians 1:23-24). Peter admonished pastors with these words, “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as

being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:2-3).

As a human body consists of many members, united to each other, and dependant upon one another, so the church of Christ is but one general assembly, which consists of many persons, of different gifts and duties, and are all united together under one head, Christ. "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness" (Romans 12:3-8).

All members of the body are intended by Christ to have the same relation to each other; to be mutually submissive to each other; to mourn for and rejoice with each other. He has also made each necessary to the beauty, proportion, strength, and perfection of the whole. Not one is useless; not one unnecessary. "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one

for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (1 Corinthians 12:22-27).

Every member of the human body contributes to the health and harmony of the entire body. So it is to be with the body of Christ. "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:15-16).

Adam Clark in his commentary quotes Dr. Macknight's view of this passage. "The apostle's meaning is, that, as the human body is formed by the union of all the members to each other, under the head, and by the fitness of each member for its own office and place in the body, so the Church is formed by the union of its members under Christ, the head. Farther, as the human body increases till it arrives at maturity by the energy of every part in performing its proper function, and by the sympathy of every part with the whole, so the body or Church of Christ grows to maturity by the proper exercise of the gifts and graces of individuals for the benefit of the whole."

The joints here do not refer to the joint in the sense in which we commonly use it, but to that which unites or fastens together the different parts of the of the body where the supply passes to the different members, furnishing the body with the materials of its growth. The meaning is, that every connection of one part of the body with another brings nourishment that sustains the body. One part is dependant on another; one part derives nourishment from another; and thus all become mutually useful as contributing to the strength of the whole.

The edification, or building up, of the

church, must be produced by every little vessel operating efficiently where nature hath placed it. Any disease, or disorder, or defect of even the smallest member in some way affects the entire body.

In like manner, if any member of the body of Christ is missing, weak, or defective, the entire body will be less than it should be.

It is "the effectual working in the measure of every part," that "...maketh increase of the body." When every part labors to produce the great result, no one member is idle; none is useless. None are overtaxed or overworked. The support demanded and furnished by every part is in exact proportion to its strength.

In the healthy human body nothing is required of the nerve, blood-vessel, muscle, or bone which it is not equipped to perform, and each will work efficiently for many years. So it is with the church. There is no member so small or weak that he cannot contribute something to the welfare of the whole; and no one is required to labor beyond his ability. Each one in his place, and laboring as he should there, will contribute to the general strength and welfare.

When disease enters even the smallest member of the human body, the whole body is weakened. When a member is lost, the body is crippled, unable to function as it should. The human body has a remarkable ability to compensate for loss in faculties. Many who have lost eyesight have developed acute hearing that helps them function. They are, however, still blind. A church may continue to function when members are weak or lost, but other members become overtaxed, and the body, no matter how much it compensates, is not as efficient as it should be.

No body can live when severed from its head. No church can live without its Great Head, Jesus Christ, any more than a branch can live if severed from the vine. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me,

and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:5-7).

These two things are absolutely necessary to our fruit-bearing and our witness of God's grace. We must

continue closely united to Christ by faith and love, and live in and to Him. We also must continually receive from him the power to do good; for as the branch, however good in itself, cannot bear fruit from itself.

There must be a mutual union between Christ and His disciples. They abide in him by faith, love, and obedience. He abides in them through the Holy Spirit, as the source of their spiritual life, light, and strength.

We are dead, fruitless branches, without the Christ. The whole history of the world demonstrates that fruitfulness is only found in union with Christ.

We abide in Christ by an abiding in his words, John 15:7, by abiding in His love, John 15:10, an abiding in his Spirit, I John 2:27, a walking as Christ walked, I John 2:6, an abiding in the light, John 15:10, and not sinning, I John 3:6.

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## *Grow in Knowledge*

1. "Ye are my \_\_\_\_\_, if ye do whatsoever I command you."
2. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for \_\_\_\_\_: and he was called the Friend of God."
4. "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the \_\_\_\_\_ knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."
5. "These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend, Lazarus \_\_\_\_\_; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep."
6. "Art not thou our God who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy \_\_\_\_\_ Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend forever."
7. "But thou Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have \_\_\_\_\_, the seed of Abraham my friend."
8. "But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up \_\_\_\_\_: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee."
9. "His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my \_\_\_\_\_, and this is my friend. O daughters of Jerusalem."

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## *Please read these Scriptures!*

Ephesians 1:3-7

3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

## *Purposes of the Gospel*

# "That The Man Of God May Be Perfect"

by Elder William M. Mullis  
Waycross, Georgia  
(8th in a series)

"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."

II Timothy 3:16,17

Though there is one general purpose of the gospel expressed in these two verses, there are four statements which need to be carefully observed:

1. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God
2. All Scripture "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness"
3. All Scripture is given "that the man of God may be perfect"
4. All Scripture is given that the man of God may be "thoroughly furnished unto all good works"

Though there are many different purposes of the gospel described in the word of God, the primary purpose of the gospel that is expressed in these two verses is "that the man of God may be perfect". In studying the Scriptures, we find there are clearly two different "perfections" taught in the word of God. First and foremost, there is a perfection which is absolute. God is absolutely perfect, more perfect than we can even comprehend. In the eternal Heaven, the people of God will be changed, made absolutely perfect like God. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" I Corinthians 15:53. In the eternal Heaven, the people of God will be absolutely perfect. This absolute perfection cannot be reached by the people of God while they live here in this time world. Certainly, we should set high goals, striving for perfection,

but understand fundamentally that only God can make us absolutely perfect.

"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14).

However, it is also important to rightly divide the word of truth in understanding that there is a perfection which can be reached by the people of God while they live here in this time world. It is different from absolute perfection, nevertheless, it is still called "perfection". For example, the word of God tells us about men who were perfect. "These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" Genesis 6:9. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" Job 1:1.

The word "perfect" described in the above two instances is a condition of spiritual maturity and uprightness which can be achieved by the people of God as they grow in grace and serve God faithfully in their daily lives. This is what God commands of His people. God said to Abraham, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect" (Genesis 17:1). The Apostle Paul said there was a sense in which he was NOT already perfect, and a sense in which he WAS already perfect! (See Philippians 3:12-15.) David said, "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart" (Psalm 101:2).

God blesses His people abundantly when they go on unto perfection. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace" Psalm 37:37). Jesus told the rich young ruler:

"If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (Matthew 19:21). As Paul was closing his letter to the saints at Corinth, he told them to be perfect. "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you" (II Corinthians 13:11). They were already brethren, already born again, already going to heaven when they died. But they were exhorted to be perfect and they would receive a blessing: "and the God of love and peace shall be with you!" God has given us His word, so we can be perfect in this world, and He will come abide with us and have fellowship with us in this world.

The word of God is given "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." It is NOT given to cause people to be born of the Spirit. It is not given to save people from eternal hell. It is NOT given to tell us what to do in order to go to Heaven when we die. It is given that the man of God may be perfect. It is of no value to one who is dead in trespasses and sins. They do not have ears to hear because God has not quickened them. They cannot "believe" because they have not been given faith as a part of the fruit of the Spirit. It is NOT given to the natural man, because "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). It is given that the man of God (one already born of the Spirit) may be perfect. It is given for the perfecting of the saints!

The Apostle Paul explains this basic

truth as he describes why God gave men the ability to teach and preach the word of God. "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:11-16). That is a long sentence, but study it carefully. Why does the word of God say God gave us apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers? Yes, they were to preach the word, but WHY were they to preach the word of God? "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Notice that Paul said it was "for the perfecting of the saints." Paul and Timothy both understood the word of God was of great value to those who were already born again, who were already saints, who were already men of God. The word of God is given for the intent of "perfecting" the people of God!

It is through a knowledge of the word of God that God's people know how to live, know the right choices to make, know which paths to take in order to find the abundant life each day. God says,

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). NOT knowing, NOT believing, and NOT obeying the word of God results in the people of God being destroyed. Children of God often perish while they live here in this world, are often separated from fellowship with God, because they do not believe and obey the word of God. Knowing, believing, and obeying the word of God results in abundant life, life in the kingdom of heaven, having righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost while we live here on the earth. God is so gracious to save us for the eternal Heaven by the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. And He is so good to bless us to enter the kingdom of heaven by doing what He tells us in His written word. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). Our works and obedience, walking uprightly, going on unto perfection enable us to enter the kingdom of heaven, have intimate fellowship with God each day. What is one of the main purposes God has given us His word? "That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:17).

Apollos was a great man of God, an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures, and instructed in the way of the Lord. But could he improve? Could he learn more, and become more perfect? Yes indeed! "And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 18:26). It does not matter how much you know, you can keep growing in grace and in the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. You can learn the way of God more perfectly. You can

become more mature, more upright, more perfect by reading, studying, and being taught the word of God by others! Paul said he was "Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith" (I Thessalonians 3:10). The word of God is given for the perfecting of that which is lacking in the man of God! He told the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colosse, "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily" (Colossians 1:28,29). Paul was not trying to get them ready to enter eternal heaven! He was working for their perfection here, so they could rejoice in the Lord here as they live. He told these same saints that Epaphras was "always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God" (Colossians 4:12).

In the parable of the sower, Jesus makes it plain that though there are many children of God who hear the word, and rejoice in the word, and for a while believe the word, they fail to bring forth fruit to perfection! (See Luke 8:4-15, especially v. 14.) They fail to be perfect, mature, upright. They fail to be doers of God's word, and are hearers only. They may perish, be cast away here in this world, but they are secure in Christ Jesus eternally.

"But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." James 1:4

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." James 3:2

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*The Old Testament opens with man made in the image of God.  
The New Testament opens with God in the image of man.*

# A Letter to my Friends

Dear Friends,

I hope that when this letter finds its way to you, all is going well. I've been preparing a garden, sprucing up the yard, performing maintenance on my lawn equipment and various other tasks. At first, I was at a loss of what to write about because I didn't think you would be very interested in a written description of me tilling the ground, putting out weed & feed, or changing the oil in my lawn tractor. Then it hit me. I haven't told you much about the importance of preparation and work. Preparation and hard work isn't a new concept, but I get the feeling that it is foreign to many people being brought up these days. I'm not saying that you necessarily need to be working on the same things that I've been working on, but most of us should be doing more, and we should be prepared for whatever trouble may come our way.

Work and preparation is one of the oldest activities that we are taught in the Bible. From the first man to the last, we are required to work. In Genesis 3:19, we find that God told Adam, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground;". We see a variety of occupations in Genesis alone. Two of Adam's sons, Cain and Abel, are talked about in the book of Genesis. Their story is taught to children from an early age. But this letter isn't about jealousy and rage as we see with Cain and Abel, so let's take a closer look at the first things that we are told about Cain and Abel.

You will find it recorded in Genesis 4:2, "And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground". We find in Genesis 4:17 that a city was built and named after Enoch, the son of Cain. If I kept up with the genealogy correctly, Noah was the great-grandson of Enoch. Those of us who have farmed, raised livestock and built buildings can look at the work done by

Noah's ancestors and determine that they not only worked, but prepared also. However, when it comes to Noah, preparation is described in detail. We don't have to wonder if he prepared for a tough time to come. We know that he labored in preparation for a crisis, and it saved him and his family. We may not be called to preserve life on as grand a scale as Noah, but we do have responsibilities for which we should be prepared.

The reason I am calling this to your attention is because throughout my life I have seen both comforts and necessities become easier and easier to obtain. We no longer have to grow our own food, raise our own cattle, hunt and fish, put up food for the winter, or build our own shelter. There are businesses that will do all of this for us for a small fee. This has not always been the case. Stores, restaurants and gas stations were not always open 24 hours a day, seven days a week as they are now. Mortgages were not available to people who didn't have at least a 20% down payment. You couldn't always borrow more than a car was worth and get a 7-year loan to pay for it.

Some of you may even remember a time when gas stations were rationing gas. Others may remember when much of the population didn't have enough money for necessities, much less comforts. Why am I bringing this to your attention? Because I want you to spend some time in preparation for the future. I believe that the story of Noah and the Ark shows the benefits given to God's people who prepare properly for things that are to come. You can also learn about the benefits of preparation from Joseph who helped the nation of Egypt prepare for famine. How can we prepare for troubles or famines in the society that we are now a part of when we are conditioned to conveniently receive anything we need?

First we may need some reconditioning. We should "hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord", as we are told in Deuteronomy 28:1. We find in the book of Deuteronomy that the Lord blesses them that work and do His commandments. However, later in this same chapter, we learn that mankind is cursed and God's blessings are removed and enjoyed by others if we forsake His commandments. There are 68 verses in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, but only the first 14 deal with a blessed people who not only had enough goods for themselves, but also enough to lend to others. The next 54 verses paint a bleak picture for those who disobey God. I believe that if you read through this chapter just once, you will feel the burden to prepare, labor, store for the future, and follow God's commandments.

As you read the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy (and I advise you to do so), I hope that you will be inspired. I encourage you to take steps to bring the bountiful blessings that God has given you into your storehouse. Don't let them go to waste. We can't continue to live for today and depend on the bounty to keep coming our way. We must labor and we must set aside a portion of the fruits of our labor for when the hard times come. Truly take ownership of the things that you need. If you have to make a regular payment on a vehicle to get to work, or tools to complete your work, you don't actually own those items. They will probably be the first things to be repossessed when you need them most. If you get sick and miss a couple of payments and suddenly don't have the tools of your trade or transportation to your job, you could lose your job and everything for which you have worked. The purchase of some larger items, such as your home, may require you to borrow in order to obtain them. Because



of this, you should set aside enough money to pay your payments and other expenses for a few months' time.

In conclusion, we need to pay off the things in life that are most necessary for the well-being of our household, set

aside a little money, and keep enough groceries and water on hand to sustain us if a crisis should arise. Please read the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy again, and pray for God to help you develop a plan that will enable you to be pre-

pared for the unexpected. And above all, we must follow the commandments of God, or all of our labor and preparation will have been done in vain.

Sincerely,  
Uncle Neal

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***Please read these Scriptures!***

Ephesians 2:8-10

- 1: And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
- 2: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- 3: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- 4: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- 5: Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- 6: And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
- 7: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
- 8: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- 10: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**THE TRUMPET OF TRUTH ON-LINE!!!**

**You can now read THE TRUMPET OF TRUTH each month on the web-site at [www.trumpetoftruth.org](http://www.trumpetoftruth.org) In addition, you can hear sermons, look at Bible Study lessons, and look at Scriptures on 'THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST.' Please take a look, and share this web-site with others.**

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**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!**

Occasionally, we find it necessary to let our financial needs be known. Presently, we are able to distribute the magazine all over the United States and into several foreign countries. However, we have more requests from schools and churches overseas than we are able to supply. We had a school overseas last month that requested 900 copies per month for them to use in teaching their students the truth of God's word. That would have cost us about \$3,000 per month, which we are not able to do. We have many more requests from overseas which we are not able to provide. If you and the Church of your membership are able to help spread the truth financially, please give generously. Every penny goes to the printing and distribution of the magazine. The editors, proof-readers, packagers, and all others workers receive no money for their labors.

*Lessons for Children*

*The Authority of The Bible*

by: Elder McKinley Wright  
Jacksonville, Florida

The Bible is the word of God. God caused it to be written so His people might know how they should conduct their lives. Since He has given us the Bible, we should work hard at following its teachings.

Some people think that because times have changed there are some parts of the Bible which we don't need to pay any attention to in our time. But God never changes. He has never changed, and He will never change. So, what was once right in His sight is still right in His sight. Since God never changes, His word never changes. So, the things He caused to be written, although they were written about two thousand years ago, are still the rules by which we should go.

Sometimes we don't like the things we find in the Bible, but that does not give us any reason to disobey them. If we do disobey them, we can surely expect God's displeasure to be expressed toward us. The Bible tells in many places about the times that He

was displeased with His people. When He was displeased with them, He always allowed something bad to happen to them. Sometimes they were carried away to another land and were made slaves there. At other times they were left in their own land, but were slaves there. Sometimes they lost battles. Sometimes other bad things came upon them.

But when God was **pleased** with them, He gave them good things. They won battles. They enjoyed freedom in their own land. They received blessings such as good seasons for their crops. And God is the same way toward us. If we live as we should, our land will be a place of happiness. But if we don't live as we should, our land will be cursed. We will know wars. We will be afraid of things which are not worthy of fear. We will become weak, and might even be carried away captive. We know these things because the Bible says so. It has always been that way, and will always be so.

All of these things tell us that we should study the Bible to see what it says about how we should live. And when we know what it says, we should do what it says. It does no good to know its teachings unless we obey it. The Bible is supposed to change our lives away from those things which are evil, to those things which are good. If our lives are changed, the Bible then becomes a blessing to us. Unless our lives are changed, we might as well have been reading a comic book. Let us resolve to study the Bible diligently, and to live our lives according to its standards.

*Deuteronomy, chapter 28:1-14 gives promises of blessings to those who obey God's word, while verses 15-68 describe God's judgments on His people when they disobey God's word. If you read and believe this chapter, your life will be different!*

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*Answers to Bible Squares*

*from inside back cover of magazine*

No. 2  
**JONAH**  
**OLIVE**  
**PEREA**  
**AARON** (Joppa)

No. 3  
**MARY**  
**AMEN**  
**GOLD**  
**INNS** (Magi)

No. 4  
**ROME**  
**URIM**  
**TOMB**  
**HARP** (Ruth)

No. 5  
**TEKEL**  
**ENOCH**  
**KEDAR**  
**ORION**  
**ALTAR** (Tekoa)

No. 6  
**DAVID**  
**ISAAC**  
**NADAB**  
**ALPHA** (Dinah)

No. 7  
**EVE**  
**LIE**  
**INN** (Eli)

# Revival

by Elder W. H. Durrence  
Brooklet, Georgia

Revival can be defined as a coming back to life or consciousness, or as an awakening or increase of interest in religion. We need to pray for revival, that God will reawaken an interest in spiritual matters. Our hope for revival is that God will bring His people back to a conscious need of Him and His service.

In the Bible two words are used, **revive** and **reviving**. There are fifteen different Scriptures in which these two words are used, and most of them are recorded in the Old Testament. Remember that Paul referred to the Old Testament when he wrote, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). We have a hope for revival that is based upon the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments, as the inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).

The basic idea conveyed by revivals is that someone is restored again to a position or attitude which he once possessed. It is not so much the idea of something new as it is of something renewed. Let us notice some Scripture references and look for this idea of renewal.

Notice what happened to Jacob according to Genesis 45:27. "And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived..." Jacob had a broken spirit because of the loss of his son Joseph. When he learned that Joseph was alive and well, his spirit was revived. That which he once possessed was returned.

Something very similar happened in the presence of Elijah. A boy died and Elijah stretched himself upon the child

three times and prayed to God for the child's life to return to him. "And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he **revived** (1 Kings 17:22). Life he had once possessed was returned as he was revived. Another person was revived to life as his body was cast into the tomb of Elisha (2 Kings 13:21).

The word **revived** was also used in the account of Jesus' resurrection. Paul said, "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living" (Rom. 14:9). As Jesus took again the life He previously possessed, He was said to have **revived**.

Furthermore, there are sometimes certain characteristics or actions which need reviving in a person's life. His zeal may die and need to be revived; his love for the church and the preached word may die and need to be revived. Whatever we have lost that once enabled us to serve God we need to find again through revival. The revival which we need was described by Isaiah, who said, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones" (Is. 57:15). Those who are low (humble) and bruised (contrite) need to be revived and restored in their spirit and heart.

As we suffer the frailties of our humanity and the bondage of our depraved nature, we need reviving from time to time. As Ezra prayed, he said; "And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the Lord our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us

a little reviving in our bondage" (Ezra 9:8). It is because God is gracious that we can hope for revival. We have been saved by grace from sin but not yet from self. We still live in our flesh and are often beset by its weaknesses. If God will be pleased to "open" our eyes and show us our failures through the gospel, then a little reviving will do great things for us.

So often the sins which we have put aside are revived in a moment of weakness. What we need is strength to overcome sins completely and to cast them one by one from our lives. Revival gives us strength to dig the stones of good character from the rubbish of ruined life. Though our walls may have been broken, we can collect again the stones of good works and godly deeds, using them to rebuild a life of noble character which pleases God. (Read Nehemiah 4:2). Rebuilding our lives with old stones is a vivid description of what takes place when revival touches the hearts and lives of God's children.

It is not enough to recognize the need for revival; we must also recognize its source: God. Revival does not come from programs, from meetings, or even from ministers. Revival is a blessing which comes from God: therefore, church people should pray that God will bless every meeting to be a revival. David recognized this need and prayed for revival by asking, "Wilt thou [God] not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Ps. 85:6). He had experienced the benefits of revival before and now sought them once more at the hand of a merciful and gracious God. Like David, we need God to revive us often and should pray for Him to do so.

Sometimes God's children are rebellious and disobedient. Though He

is long suffering, He will chasten us because He loves us so much (Heb. 12:6). He who tears us, will also heal us (Hosea 6:1), and "After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight" (Hosea 6:2). The objective of His judgments is to revive us. He shows us the errors of sin and then leads us to the blessed pathway of righteousness (Ps. 23:3), so that we may live upright in His sight; but how much better it is to be revived and turn again to the Lord before we have strayed so far that we must be chastened. It is better by far to pray that God will revive us and thereby allow us to rejoice than to weep beneath the chastening rod.

Hosea described a beautiful scene which, if painted, might be called, "revival." The corn is twisted and the vine is withered, but God showers His rich blessings, and they are revived. Notice his words: "They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon" (Hosea 14:7).

Every Lord's day as we assemble to hear the preaching of the gospel, let us do so with a prayer for revival in our hearts. Pray for those who preach the Word of God that it may be preached in the power of God's Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:4); then ask for the blessings of revival for yourself and for all that hear

the gospel. If you know someone who has gone astray or simply grown cold, pray for him in a special way that he may be revived. Revival will lift him again to those heights of service which he once enjoyed. Pray not only for a reviving of God's people, but also for a reviving of all good works that are so needful in this sin darkened world. May the prayers of Habakkuk become our daily prayer: "O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy" (Hab. 3:2). May God truly send such revivals that our souls may be refreshed and His worthy name may be glorified.

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## *Whom Seekest Thou?*

by Bro. Robert Varn  
Jacksonville, Florida

After being crucified for our sins, and rising from the dead, Jesus asked Mary, "Whom seekest thou?" (John 20:15). It is a question we all need to ask ourselves: "WHO and WHAT are we really seeking?" Are we seeking fortune and fame? Are we obeying the command of Jesus, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33)?

Many times, when I start to do something, I ask myself, "Whom seekest thou?" I admit that I need to do a better job of seeking Jesus in all things, every day.

Many years ago, my pastor, Bro. Bill Mullis, taught me to try to practice

this every day. He taught me to get out of my bed every morning, get on my hands and knees, and pray, seeking Jesus to thank Him for sparing me through another night, and asking Him to guide and bless me all during the day. I have found that when I do this, my days go much better; and when I fail to seek Jesus, my days seem to turn into chaos.

If my heart is not right with Jesus, then my words and actions are in vain. Whether we are adults in the workplace, children in school, or even retired, we need to seek Jesus daily so we can lead peaceful lives.

When I stand outside abortion clinics to sidewalk counsel to try to stop

abortions, the first thing I try to do is to seek counsel from Christ Jesus. I know that without Him, I can do nothing of any value.

May God help us all to seek Jesus daily. Then, all that we do will honor Him.

"For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Luke 11:10).

"That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:" (Acts 17:27).

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## *Answers to Grow in Knowledge*

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Friends - John 15:14       | 6. People - II Chronicles 20:7    |
| 2. Brother - Proverbs 18:24   | 7. Chosen - Isaiah 41:8           |
| 3. Righteousness - James 2;23 | 8. Higher - Luke 14:10            |
| 4. Servant - John 15:15       | 9. Beloved - Song of Solomon 5:16 |
| 5. Sleepeth - John 11:11      |                                   |

# Children of God Going To The Dogs!

by Elder William M. Mullis  
Waycross, Georgia

There are serious judgments from God upon His people, His children, those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, when they turn their backs on God. Those who believe these people were never really children of God, pervert the truth of God's word. They contribute to children of God continuing in their sins, believing that severe judgments mentioned in the Scriptures only apply to those who are not eternally saved, or redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus. Other people who believe one can be eternally saved, but then banished eternally from the presence of God in eternal hell, fail to understand eternal security as it is described in the Scriptures.

The purpose of this study is to look at a few passages of Scripture that clearly show children of God turning away, falling away, or sinning willfully. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Hebrews 12:6). This word "scourgeth" means to whip or lash; to severely punish; to cause great trouble or misfortune. Please remember, "...The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (see Hebrews 10:30,31). Jesus saved "His people from their sins," and He now "judges His people according to their works" as they live. When this world is over, they will be carried Home to be with Him forever because of the amazing grace of God, and the precious blood of Jesus Christ! But because He loves us, He will not allow us to walk in disobedience to His teachings and commandments without suffering serious consequences.

Let's now consider some passages of Scripture which show how seriously we can err from the truth. May God help us realize the terrible consequences.

## First Passage

II Peter 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world

through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21: For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22: But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, **The dog is turned to his own vomit again;** and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Even after we are born of the Spirit, if we do not fear, obey and serve God, He can turn us back over to that reprobate mind where we live and act just like we did before being born of the Spirit. That does not result in our eternal destruction, but we experience a hell on earth. It can result in us not having fellowship with God any more in this world! (See Romans 1:18-32; 11:13-36; Hebrews 3:7-4:1; 6:4-6; Acts 7:38-42; II Peter 3:17; I Timothy 1:18-20; 4:1,2; II Timothy 4:1-4; Exodus 32:1,30-35; Judges 2:16-23; I Samuel 15:10-31; 16:14; 28:6; 31:4-6; I Chronicles 10:13; Proverbs 1:24-28; Psalm 81, esp.v.12; Judges 16:20-30; II Chronicles 30:7; Joshua 7:11,12; Isaiah 59:1,2; 64:7; Hosea 5:6.) For another interesting reading showing the mercy and grace of God, and manifesting how longsuffering He is, see Nehemiah 9:4-38. This gives an overview of Israel's repeated blessings, their disobedience and God's judgment, their repentance and God's forgiveness, then them turning away again, etc. But remember, they were finally broken off because of their unbelief!

## Second Passage

Read Romans 1:18-32. These individuals were "**men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for **God hath shewed it unto them.** For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are

clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that **they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened**" (vs. 18-21). Those who understand total depravity know that this must be talking about those who have been born of the Spirit of God. They are the only ones who can experience the things in bold type. They held the truth. God showed them the truth, they knew God, BUT they "**became vain**" and their "**foolish heart was darkened.**" The only ones who can "become vain" are those who were not vain. The only heart which can be "darkened" is a heart that has had light. In verse 22, they "became fools" also indicates that beforehand they were not fools. Because of their actions, God "gave them up to uncleanness... gave them up unto vile affections... gave them over to a reprobate mind" (vs. 24,26,28). The transition is from a good condition to a bad condition. It is a decline in position, a decline in morality, a decline in thinking and actions. Before one is born of the Spirit, he cannot decline, go backwards, or go down. He is totally depraved, completely bad, entirely rotten. He cannot go lower. But after one is born of the Spirit, but fails to follow God, THAT individual can "go to the dogs!"

## Third Passage

Romans 11:13-36 declares that the Jews were broken off because of their unbelief. Warning is given to the Gentiles that we better fear His same judgments on us, because as God dealt with the Jews, He will likewise judge the Gentiles, and graft the Jews back in! God's children among the nation of Israel turned their backs on God; they went to the dogs. They suffered and are still suffering as a nation today because of their disobedience. We shall experience the same kind of judgment

since we as a nation have also “gone to the dogs.”

#### Fourth Passage

Read Hebrews 3:7-4:1. This epistle to the Hebrews (Jews) is warning the Jews in Paul’s day that they better learn from the sins of their fathers. They better realize that when their fathers (who were loved and blessed by God) went to the dogs, God destroyed them. They are being reminded that their fathers hardened their hearts in the wilderness, therefore God refused to let them enter into the land of rest, the land of Canaan. As God dealt with their forefathers, Paul tells the Hebrews He will also deal with them. **“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; **lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;** While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. **Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it”** (Hebrews 3:12-4:1). Notice again the wording that makes it clear that the ones under consideration were “born again” children of God. They were “brethren.” (“Brethren” is indicative of being children of God, brothers in Christ Jesus.) They could begin to have an “evil heart of unbelief.” (Those who are not born of the Spirit do not begin to have an evil heart of unbelief. Their heart is only wretched, corrupt, and vile.) They could “depart from the living God.” (They could not depart from where they had never been!) They could be “hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (The only ones who can be “hardened” are those who

have been soft, tender, quickened, and alive.) They would only be “partakers of Christ” if they held steadfast unto the end. This experiential “partaking” or fellowshiping with Christ, is only for faithful children of God who are steadfast and endure! An admonition to be steadfast and endure is only given to those who have the ability to do so (born again children of God). Finally, notice carefully 4:1, “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.” Who is to fear losing the promise of “entering into his rest”? The only ones who can do something about entering into the rest God has for His obedient children while they live here are children of God. We better fear. We better understand that as children of God, if we “go to the dogs,” we will not enter into His rest but will be shut out of the kingdom of heaven, will be cast into outer darkness, and will have a hell here as we live.

#### Fifth Passage

Read Hebrews 6:4-6. This passage is again showing the seriousness of children of God going to the dogs! Anyone who understands total depravity (the condition of one prior to being quickened by the Holy Spirit) knows that this is talking about children of God who have been born of the Spirit and have experienced great spiritual blessings in their lives! They have been “enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.” One who is “dead in trespasses and sins” has never experienced even one of these blessings. It is impossible for them to do so because the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God! (See I Corinthians 2:11-14.) If a child of God who has experienced these wonderful blessings does “fall away”, turn to the dogs, harden his heart in unbelief, sin willfully after he has come to a knowledge of the truth, then it is impossible to renew him again unto repentance! God can renew him, but he cannot renew himself, and he cannot be reached by others. (Also, **please study Hebrews 10:24-31**, as this same

truth is expressed there!)

#### Examples:

Let’s look for an example of a child of God going to the dogs. One of the most clearly portrayed is Saul, the first king of Israel. Samuel was a great judge and prophet chosen by God. God told Samuel to anoint Saul as King of Israel. “And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God. Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, **Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?**” (I Samuel 9:27, 10:1) As God gave King Saul and the Israelites victory over their enemies, Saul gave God the glory and said, **“Today, the Lord hath wrought salvation in Israel”** (I Samuel 11:13). But, as he grew in popularity and power, he began forgetting God. Notice his decline and fall, as this great king lost his kingdom because he went to the dogs. “Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for **he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.** And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night” (I Samuel 15:10,11). “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. **Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.** And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. And **Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of**

his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou” (I Samuel 15:22-28). “Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God. So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD” (I Samuel 15:30,31). Notice the contrite spirit of King Saul as he confessed his sin. It is also very significant that Saul then “worshipped the Lord.” The only people who have the ability to worship God are His children. An extremely significant statement the word of God makes in the next chapter is, **“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him”** (I Samuel 16:14). The Spirit of God departing from Saul is positive proof he was a born again child of God who had the Spirit of God dwelling in him. However he went to the dogs. **“And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not,** neither by dreams nor by Urim, nor by prophets” (I Samuel 28:6). When God’s children go to the dogs, one of the consequences is that God will not hear and answer their prayers! What a horrible experience Saul is having because he departed from the Lord! The last scene in Saul’s life is a clear portrayal of what happens to children of God who go to the dogs. **“Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me.** But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. **Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.** And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died

with him. **So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together”** (I Samuel 31:4-6). He lost his kingdom, his glory and power, his honor, his three sons, and his own life. What a tragic end to one who had been lifted up so high by God. But it is a clear picture of the result of children of God going to the dogs.

Finally, consider the nation of Israel. Go all the way back to where they were in the wilderness on the way to the land of Canaan. God had brought them out of Egyptian bondage, provided for them, and led them. But they rebelled against God. Look at Exodus 32:1, 30-35. “And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.... And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, **blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.** Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.”

Being blotted out of the book can only be done if your names have been

in the book. This book is not a book listing those who will be in the eternal heaven, but rather a book of those who are able to have fellowship with God. God’s children are blotted out of that book when they “go to the dogs” by turning their backs on God, His word, and His way. We have a great promise that **if we overcome** the temptations of the devil, our name will not be blotted out of His book. “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” (Revelation 3:5).

May God help us all to realize the serious consequences of failing to honor God once we have been born again. Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:43-48).

May God help us as His children to look to Him for the strength and grace we need to faithfully serve Him each day, lest we “go to the dogs” and suffer the serious consequences.

*I pronounce it as certain that there was never yet a truly great man*

*that was not at the same time truly virtuous.*

*Benjamin Franklin*

# Be Salt by Peacemaking

by Dr. Ben Brown  
Thomaston, Georgia

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matthew 5:13).

The Bible is a love story with many adventures. God is the preserver (Salt) of His word, and we, His disciples, are His salt of the earth. Therefore, it is our duty to use our salt in obeying His word just as did Jesus' apostles. Jesus speaks directly to His disciples in Matthew 5:9, which is one of the beatitudes that was presented during the Sermon on the Mount. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Pay close attention that this verse does NOT say peace lover or peacekeeper, but rather it plainly states "peacemaker!" Here, peacemakers are called the children of God.

## Components of Peacemaking

### A. Love

Peacemaking begins with love for God, our family and friends, our neighbor, and even our enemies. Christ speaks not only to the chosen twelve in Luke 6:27-42, but also to us today for we are His followers. In these verses we see that we are to "love our enemies" who are our brothers. It is important to note that this love is for God's children. It is NOT the love of every human in the world, but rather those in the world of God's elect. Some of God's children hate some brethren who are their brothers in Christ. To love our enemies is very difficult and requires much salt. However, through much prayer and by the grace of God, this love can be achieved. God is all-

powerful and through Christ we can do all things. Read Titus 3:3. It takes a lot of salt and peacemaking to avoid hate. If there were no hate, would there be a need for peacemaking? Read Romans 12: 9,10 and 18-21. "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:1-2).

### B. Forgiveness

When someone has wronged you, You will need more than your human nature in order to forgive. This can only be done through the salt of God that He gave His children. In Matthew 18:15, we read, "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." We are not to go to others, but rather to the brother with whom a problem exists. It takes salt not to tell the fault to all that will listen. Look carefully at this Scripture: "Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another" (Mark 9:50). In the Old Testament, salt was used in covenants. Salt was used to seal the covenant making it permanent. This salt could not be contaminated. Having a covenant with someone means having peace and friendship with those involved.

### C. Wisdom

In Colossians 4:4-6, salt is used as a symbol for wisdom--the wisdom to use words that are pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Read these two verses: "That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace,

seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Jesus taught His disciples the value of wisdom and knowledge. Thus, Jesus taught SALT. If we use good salt (wisdom), we, as disciples, should "follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19). If these teachings become contaminated by the world around us through the teachings of men, that salt loses its savor. Read James 3: 14-18. If we have bitterness and hate within our hearts, our salt is totally contaminated. "It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Luke 14:35).

## Conclusion

To be the salt as a peacemaker requires constant vigilance, self-discipline, and earnest prayer. It can only be achieved by the grace of God. Unity is the result of the salt used by the peacemakers. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalms 133:1)! This evidence is also seen in II Corinthians 13:11 and I Peter 3:8.

## Questions

1. "Blessed are the peacemakers," for they shall be called what?
2. List three components of peacemaking.
3. What does it take to avoid hate?
4. If your brother in Christ trespasses against you, what should you do?
5. If Jesus' teachings become contaminated by worldly things, what happens to our salt?



# Bible Reading Calendar for May

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	II Sam. 23, 24	Luke 22:31-53
2	I Kings 1, 2	Luke 22:54-71
3	I Kings 3, 4, 5	Luke 23:1-26
4	I Kings 6, 7	Luke 23:39-56
5	I Kings 8, 9	Luke 24:1-35
6	I Kings 10, 11	Luke 24:36-53
7	I Kings 12, 13	John 1:1-28
8	I Kings 14, 15	John 1:29-51
9	I Kings 16, 17, 18	John 2
10	I Kings 19, 20	John 3:1-21
11	I Kings 21, 22	John 3:22-36
12	II Kings 1, 2, 3	John 4:1-30
13	II Kings 4, 5	John 4:1-30
14	II Kings 6, 7, 8	John 4:31-54
15	II Kings 9, 10, 11	John 4:51-24

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	II Kings 12, 13, 14	John 5:25-47
17	II Kings 15, 16, 17	John 6:1-21
18	II Kings 18, 19	John 6:22-44
19	II Kings 20, 21, 22	John 6:45-71
20	II Kings 23, 24, 25	John 7:1-31
21	I Chron. 1, 2	John 7:32-53
22	I Chron. 3, 4, 5	John 8:1-20
23	I Chron. 6, 7	John 8:21-36
24	I Chron. 8, 9, 10	John 8:37-59
25	I Chron. 11, 12, 13	John 9:1-23
26	I Chron. 14, 15, 16	John 9:24-41
27	I Chron. 17, 18, 19	John 10:1-21
28	I Chron. 20, 21, 22	John 10:22-42
29	I Chron. 23, 24, 25	John 11:1-17
30	I Chron. 26, 27	John 11:18-46
31	I Chron. 28, 29	John 11:47-57

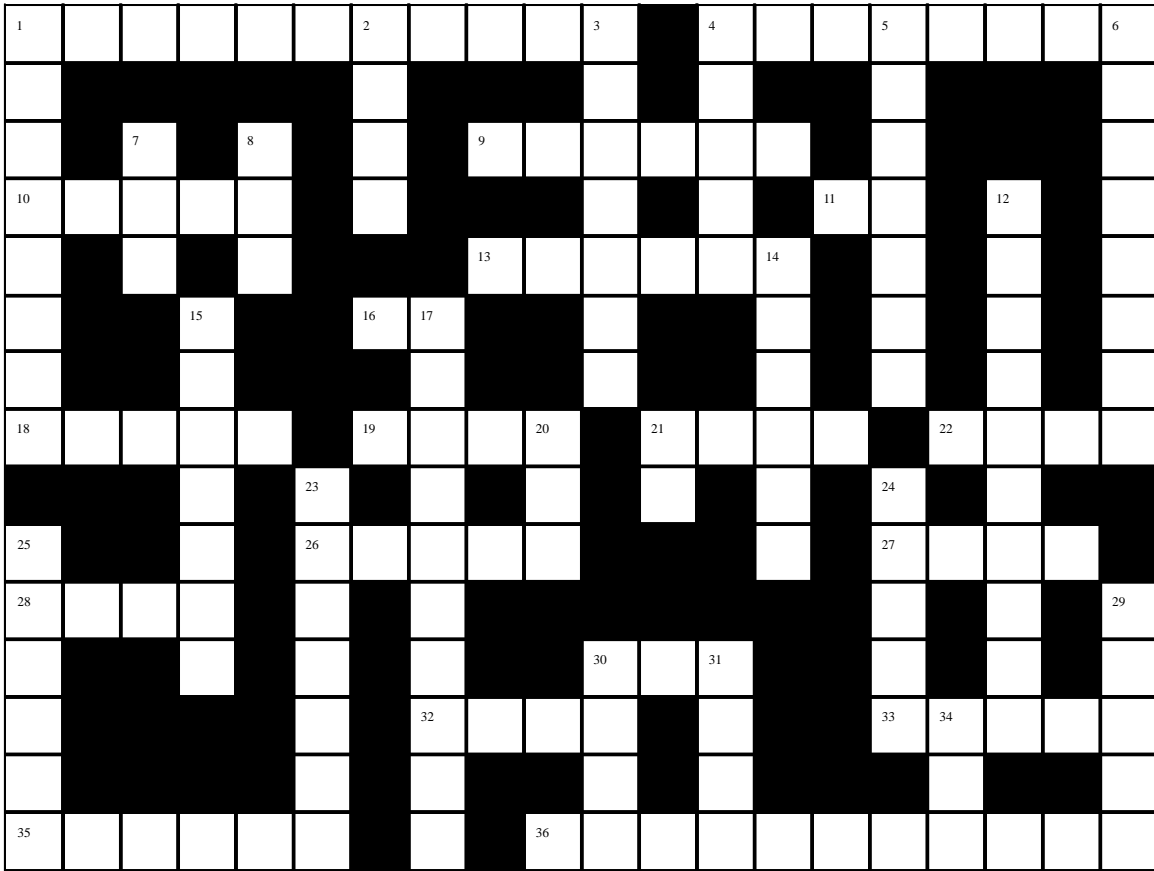
**ANSWERS TO  
CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
VOLUME XXIX  
MAY 2008**

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# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. "But \_\_\_\_\_, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;" 4. "To be, \_\_\_\_\_ chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." 9. "Husbands, love your wives be not \_\_\_\_\_ against them." 10. "But put forth thine hand now, and \_\_\_\_\_ all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face." 11. "So ought men to love their wives \_\_\_\_\_ their own bodies..." 13. "For it please the Father that in him \_\_\_\_\_ all fullness dwell" 16. "The young man saith unto him, all these things have I kept from my youth \_\_\_\_\_: what lack I yet?" 18. "And if they will \_\_\_\_\_ anything, let them ask their husbands at home:..." 19., "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us \_\_\_\_\_ all unrighteousness." 21. "Then Satan answered the Lord, and \_\_\_\_\_, doth Job fear God for nought?" 22. "For the husband is the \_\_\_\_\_n of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church:..." 26. "If we suffer, we shall also \_\_\_\_\_ with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:" 27. "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 \_\_\_\_\_?" 28. 'Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the \_\_\_\_\_, and the wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;" 30., " \_\_\_\_\_ now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator,... with such an one no not to eat." 32. 'Husbands, \_\_\_\_\_ your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" 33. "For no man ever yet \_\_\_\_\_ his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church." 35. "But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that \_\_\_\_\_ person." 36. "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the \_\_\_\_\_."



## DOWN

1. "It is a \_\_\_\_\_ saying; For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:" 2. "For what have I to do to judge them \_\_\_\_\_ that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?" 3. "For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the \_\_\_\_\_." 4. "Likewise, ye husbands, \_\_\_\_\_ with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, ..." 5. "And he is before all things, and by him all things \_\_\_\_\_." 6. "His substance also was seven \_\_\_\_\_ sheep, and three thousand camels, ...so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east." 7. "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall \_\_\_\_\_ away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery:..." 8. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold all that he hath is in \_\_\_\_\_ power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand " 12. "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not \_\_\_\_\_: but rather giving of thanks." 14. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath \_\_\_\_\_ the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 15. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the \_\_\_\_\_ and admonition of the Lord." 17. "Nevertheless let every one of you in \_\_\_\_\_ so love his wife even as himself;..." 20. "Young \_\_\_\_\_ likewise exhort to be sober minded." 21. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ let the wives be to thine own husbands in everything." 23. "For by him were all things \_\_\_\_\_, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,..." 24. "That they may -the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," 25. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the \_\_\_\_\_ of death, I will fear no evil:..." 29. "Hast not thou made an \_\_\_\_\_ about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?..." 30. "I will therefore that the younger women marry, \_\_\_\_\_ children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully ." 31. "For the \_\_\_\_\_ is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:..." 34. "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they \_\_\_\_\_ commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law."