

# "Better-O-Meter"

by Sis. Jessica Streat (9 years old)  
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The Better-O-Meter is like seeing if you did something good and didn't boast about it, you would get 10 out of 10. God would have higher than 10 and break the Better-O-Meter. If you do boast you would get a 0 or 2, so don't boast.

In Luke 18:10-14, the Bible tells about how the Pharisee and the Publican try to be the best (perfect) person. If you read verses 11 and 12 you will see the Pharisee is bragging that he did better, so the Better-O-Meter went

down. Luke 18:11-12 says, "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." To God he had a hell on Earth (bad thing). He should not have bragged about his good things, but kept it to himself, and just felt good about it in his heart.

Next in Luke 18:13-14, the Publican called himself a sinner, but he did

not boast about the good things he did, "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." God probably would have given him 10 out of 10 on the Better-O-Meter. So remember, don't boast!

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## A Special Prayer

*Day by day, Dear God, Of Thee*

*Three things I pray:*

*To see Thee more clearly,*

*To love Thee more dearly,*

*To follow Thee more nearly,*

*Day by day!*

*(This prayer to God is attributed to Richard of Chichester)*



# The Word

by Elder Lee Price  
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Our English language is one of the most common of all languages spoken. It is also considered, by many, the most difficult of all to master. One of the problems in our language is that many words have a number of meanings. Some words may be used as nouns and verbs, or maybe even some other part of speech. This thought must be in our minds when we read and study the word of God, the Bible. There are many words in the Bible which are used in different ways. This should not discourage us from studying God's word: but rather it should remind us of the need we have to study it carefully and prayerfully, so that we might be able to "rightly divide the word of truth." When we rightly divide it, we do not separate the truth from error. All of God's word is truth. We take the scriptures and place those passages in the proper categories contained in the truth of God. We might explain this by saying we teach it correctly. I have already said this is difficult. Nevertheless, please do not be discouraged. The understanding of God's word is more important than anything you will ever have, and anything worth doing is worth spending some time in order to do it right.

While many words are used differently in the Bible, even "word" is not always used in the same manner. There are four different ways it is used which are the written, spoken, preached, and living Word. The spoken word is that which God in the past spoke to men, such as God speaking to Moses out of the burning bush. The written word is the Bible. The preached word is exhortation from the written word. The living Word is Jesus Christ our Lord. Any other way "word" is used may be placed in one of these categories. Basically, we have two categories: the written word and the living Word. The spoken word is contained in the written word, and, as I have already written, the preached word is derived from the written word. We now proceed in our comparison of

these two: the written word and the living Word.

Since "word" does not always mean the same, we must conclude there are some differences. Some of them are direct opposites and some are similarities, but still somewhat different. The written word of God is corruptible. This does not mean it is corrupt. Being corruptible means that men may use it in such a way as to corrupt it. Paul said men corrupted the word: "For we are not as many which corrupt the word of God..." (II Corinthians 2:17). When men add to the word of God, they corrupt it. One of the most common ways men add to the word of God is the idea some have of getting new revelations from God. God's word is complete. We will look further into this subject later in the article. Another way men corrupt the written word is by taking from the scriptures. If they find something displeasing, it simply is not taught. When men know the truth and willingly disobey it, the word of God is corrupted. When we teach the word of God falsely, willingly or ignorantly, we are then guilty of corrupting the word of God. Many, if not all, of the translations of the Bible printed to replace the Authorized King James Version are not versions but rather perversions of the scriptures. I John 5:7 is one of the most fundamental statements concerning God in the Bible. Check for yourself the other translations. Most of the time you will not find the contents of that verse. Some of the time you will not find some of the contents of the first few verses of the Gospel of John which deal with the deity of Christ. This is basic to all Bible truth, and without it you have a perverted book.

While the written word is not corrupt but capable of being corrupted (corruptible), the living Word Jesus is incorruptible. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Peter 1:23). Herod

tried to corrupt Jesus by putting him to death as a child. Satan tried to corrupt Him by tempting Him in the wilderness. The scribes and Pharisees tried to get Him to say something wrong in order to corrupt Him. He could not be corrupted in death! (Acts 2:24). Men tried to make sure the stone covering His tomb stayed in place. In all these attempts, Satan and the men he directed failed.

While in this way the written word and the living Word are opposite, this making them consistent. If both were the same, then the scriptures would be inconsistent. The word of God is consistent throughout its pages.

Let us look to another difference. The living Word gives life! (See I Peter 1:23-25). Jesus Christ, the life-giver, is preached unto us by the gospel. The written word has nothing to do with the giving of life. Only God gives life.

While the written word cannot give life, it "brings life and immortality to light." (Please read II Timothy 1:10.) The gospel is compared to water in the scriptures in a number of places. Water will not give plants life, but when plants have life, there is a marked change in their appearance when they are watered. When people hear the gospel, it has no effect unless they first have spiritual life. If they have spiritual life, that life is made manifest by the gospel. There is a difference. The written word can do nothing unless the living Word has been there first!

The living Word is divine. In I John 5:7, we see that the Father, the Word (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Ghost or Spirit are one. This plainly declares that Jesus Christ is one with God the Father, thus making Him equal to God. He deserves and demands that He be lifted up, and rightly so, because He is divine.

The written word is not divine, but is divinely inspired. II Timothy 3:16 tells us that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable. In our

day, as much if not more than any time in history, the people of God need to treat the Bible as the inspired word of God. It is not ours to make of it what we please, but it is God's. He has given it to us that we might serve and worship Him in spirit and in truth, but it is still His. We do not worship Him to please and satisfy ourselves; if we truly worship Him, it is in His way.

The living Word is God's living divine expression. The new testament definition of "word", no matter which form of "word" is being used, is divine expression. In John, the first chapter, verse one, we see the Word was God. Verse 14 of the same chapter tells us the Word was made flesh and dwelt among men. This is definitely Jesus Christ, the living Word. Jesus said if a person saw Him, he saw the Father (John 14:8-9). When people saw our Lord, they saw God. They saw His righteousness. He was God manifest in the flesh! The written word tells us about God.

The living Word finished His work, which He came to the earth to do, and will finish the remainder of His work. When Jesus was giving up His life on the cross, one of His last sayings was, "it is finished". This meant the work of redemption was accomplished. He yet works by interceding for His people at the right hand of God the Father. He

will finish all His work on the resurrection day. (John 6:38-39).

The written word is finished. Because it was written and completed many years ago, many people think it is not relevant for our modern times. The Bible is needed as much today as it was then. It is just as relevant. It will be relevant as long as this world lasts. In a previous portion of the article, I mentioned that men corrupt the written word of God in a number of ways. While they have, do, and will corrupt it, this does not change the truth of God. It stays the same. I believe also that God will have His truth intact and written here on the earth, even if it is 100 million years until the coming of Jesus Christ. I believe this by faith. I believe God is that sovereign.

There are many ways to communicate with other people. With few exceptions, we communicate best by words. We can see our Lord, the living Word, as God's communication to fallen man. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23). Because all have sinned and died a spiritual death, as spiritually dead people, we cannot come to God. He is righteous and will not lower His righteousness or forget His law to come to us. While both of these are true, praise

God He sent a communication--His living Word. This is Christ in His office as the Mediator between God and man. Because of His death and resurrection, He will someday bring all His people to God. He will bring us all the way from sin to the glorious righteousness of God. He will bring body, soul, and spirit and leave nothing He died for behind.

The written word is also God's communication. The living Word is God's communication to restore His people, but the written word is God's communication to those who have been restored. God's word is to His people! The Apostle Paul used in all his epistles, except one (Hebrews), a direct salutation to those who were of the church or who were faithful in God's service already. It was God's communication to those who were already children of God--the restored.

The living Word expressed God's feelings. Jesus Christ was God's expression of grace. (John 1:17& 18). The written word tells about His feelings. (Romans 5:15).

We might sum up the consistency of the four uses of "word" previously mentioned in this way: The spoken word is contained in the written word from which comes the preached word about the living Word.

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## Grow in Knowledge

1. "The LORD maketh poor, and maketh \_\_\_\_\_: he bringeth low, and lifteth up."
2. "He becometh \_\_\_\_\_ that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."
3. "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath \_\_\_\_\_: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches."
4. "\_\_\_\_\_ not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom."
5. "The rich man is wise in his own \_\_\_\_\_' but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out."
6. "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall \_\_\_\_\_ enter into the Kingdom of Heaven."
7. "And again I say unto you, It is \_\_\_\_\_ for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."
8. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for \_\_\_\_\_ sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."
9. "But they that will be rich fall into \_\_\_\_\_ and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."
10. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art \_\_\_\_\_, and miserable, and poor and blind, and naked."

# A Study of the Faith

by Elder Berley Welch  
(Deceased)

## THE SENTENCE OF DEATH

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Romans 5.12). In this passage of scripture, the apostle speaks of the sentence of death passed upon Adam (and subsequently all mankind) when he violated God's law in the garden of Eden. The record (Gen. 2:17) reads, "But of the tree of the knowledge of Good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." God did not tell Adam, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt get sick or crippled", but, "THOU SHALT SURELY DIE", Adam died as the Lord had said and, inasmuch as we are Adam's offspring, the sentence of death passed upon us also. Adam did not die a corporal death that day. He lived many years afterwards. But he did die "in trespasses and sins". Since death is separation, Adam was separated from God--without spiritual life, spiritually dead. So it is a dead man that is to be reckoned with. For God to make any kind of proposition to a dead man does not make sense. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and Truth. For man to do this, he must be made alive spiritually. The vehicle by which God made certain that those whom He had chosen would be given life was Redemption.

## REDEMPTION

The dictionary defines the word "redemption" as "To deliver from the bondage of sin, and the penalties of God's violated law; and to gain possession by repurchase." There are two views on this great subject.

One view is that Christ died for all mankind, and if they will accept Him they will be redeemed. If this view is correct, Jesus did not actually redeem anyone. He just made provisions for redemption. This view declares only the possibility of redemption and puts man

in a savable state. It pretends to be sufficient for all, but secures the salvation of none. It does not reconcile man to God nor God to man. It teaches that Jesus only made a down payment on our redemption and it is the decision of man that determines the worth of His Blood to us. Christ has exhausted His power but to no positive worth. This system for saving people will not work because man, being spiritually dead until he is born again, is not capable of accepting Jesus.

The other view is that Jesus came to earth to save His people by redeeming them back to God with His Blood. In Matthew 1:21 (And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins), the angel declared that the purpose of His coming was the salvation of His people. Jesus said that He came according to His Father's will and that of all the Father had given him, He would lose nothing. (John 6:37-39). Does this sound as if the effects of His precious Blood lie in the decision of a poor carnal man who is "dead in sin"? It definitely does not.

Since redemption means to "repurchase" or "buy back", anything less than that is not redemption. Jesus either "bought back" or He did not. If He did "buy back", His people are redeemed. If He did not, they are still in their sins and can do nothing to have themselves delivered. If a man were to say, "I have redeemed my watch", we would assume that he had brought the watch with him out of the pawnshop. If he had only paid a part of the required price he would not have redeemed it. He would only have made a down payment on the redemption. But when he had paid all of the price and there was no portion of the debt remaining, then and only then would he have redeemed it.

We are thankful to God for the truths in His word which declare to us that complete deliverance has come in the person of Jesus Christ. Listen to the

Apostle Paul as he declares this wonderful truth.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ: who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2.14).

## HOW MEN ARE BORN AGAIN

Men are born again (or regenerated) by the Spirit of God, certainly not by man nor by anything that belongs to an earthly kingdom. Man has no part in the work of regeneration for, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit." (John 3:6) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God (His eternal Word, not the written word) which liveth and abideth forever. (1 Peter 1:23). This work is accomplished without the agreement or assistance of man. It is the spirit that quickeneth: the flesh profiteth nothing. (John 6:63). Many feel that God regenerates by means of the gospel. If this were true, only those who hear and believe the gospel would be saved, and this we know is not true. God the Holy Spirit does the work of regeneration by His own power without the use of means or instrumentalities. When God created man, He did so without the use of means. When man is born again, the same is true.

## REGENERATION AND CONVERSION

Conversion and Regeneration are often confused. They are not the same. Conversion is a change in belief or in the course of one's life. Regeneration is a change in one's nature. The means of conversion is primarily the gospel. Regeneration is solely the work of God's Spirit. Because of the distinct nature of the two, regeneration must come first. Regeneration makes Children of God. Conversion

makes Children of God into Christians. Regeneration brings people into a saving relationship with God; Conversion then brings them into a serving relationship with Him.

**REASON TO SERVE**

God’s people have every reason to serve Him. In previous paragraphs, we have discussed some of the many things God has done for us. The Father out of love and mercy sent His only begotten Son to die in our behalf. The Son, Jesus Christ, willingly gave his life on the Cross and redeemed us from all our sins with His precious Blood. The third party of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, visits and quickens us, making us children of God. How marvelous it is that God, the Creator of the universe, has done such things for us, and we can address Him as our heavenly Father.

If the knowledge of these things does not compel one to earnestly serve God, nothing will do so. Fear should not be our motive for serving God. Service prompted by fear is pseudo-worship and is not acceptable to God. Such worship is essentially selfish worship and is only slightly less than idolatry. TRUE worship must be by a love that constrains us (II Corinthians 5.14). We who are parents know that we prefer that our children obey us out of love rather than fear. We would be downright disappointed if their obedience was prompted by the inheritance which they hoped to receive. Surely our heavenly Father is satisfied with nothing less. It is only through service motivated by genuine love for God and His teachings that we can be effective.

Let us assess the need for such a service of love. We live in perilous

times when we are being bombarded by all kinds of filth and ungodliness on every hand. Every Christian should take a firm stand for God and for what is right in His sight. This is no time for lukewarm Christians. God says in His word, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.” We call upon all of God’s people who feel a love for God in their hearts to step aside from the world, take up their cross, and follow our Savior in all things which He has commanded of us. God says, Arise my love, my fair one, and come away.

**SALVATION, ETERNAL AND TIME**

Eternal salvation (New Birth) comes to us as an unmerited favor (Grace) of God. It is not a result of works on our part, lest any man should boast. By their own nature all men are SPIRITUALLY DEAD. However, through the Holy Ghost, God the antecedent of all life, gives SPIRITUAL LIFE to each of His people. When we are born again, we have Eternal salvation; we have the nature of our heavenly Father and spiritual ears with which to hear the gospel. God says repeatedly, “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” But there are many salvations taught in the Bible, and we must rightly divide them. When Jesus and His disciples were on the Sea of Galilee and a storm arose, the disciples said to Jesus, “Lord, save us; we perish.” (Matt. 8:25). They were not asking for the new birth. Surely they already had that. Neither did the Apostle Paul have the new birth in mind when he said to the CHURCH at Corinth, By which also ye are saved if ye keep in

memory what I have preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. (I Corinthians 15:2). The salvation under consideration here depended entirely upon the memory of the church members. Paul said to the young minister Timothy, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee.” (I Tim. 4:16) Timothy was already a child of God, but in heeding the Gospel he would save both himself and the church from the world.

Someone may ask how we can know which salvation is under consideration in a given scripture. The answer is simple. When the salvation is given to us strictly by the Grace of God and without man’s works being considered, an eternal God has done an eternal work in our soul. However, when the salvation is predicated upon any works performed by man, we may know that because man is a time creature, the salvation is here in this time world. In Acts 2:40, Peter admonished the people to, “Save yourselves from this untoward generation”. To see the application of this scripture, one needs only to look around and see sin on every hand, and that many are cold and indifferent toward the church. When we count our church roll and then count those who are present, surely we can see that many need to be saved from this untoward generation. May God help us to sincerely love the God of our salvation and to so live that we will be saved from a life of ruin to a life of service to our Heavenly Father as we live in this time world.

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*Adam Hid from the Presence of the Lord*

Adam was afraid of God after he sinned, because he was a sinner, and his conscience hurt him. Sin causes fear in born again children of God. “The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.” (Prov. 28:1) If we know we are right, it gives us courage, but sin makes cowards of us.

If your neighbor’s dog comes into your yard, the moment he sees you, he runs for home, for he is in the wrong place. But when he gets in his own yard, he will meet you at the gate and challenge your right to enter. Adam had communion and fellowship with God so long as he was above sin, but when he fell under its power, by his own willful sin, he was no longer fit to face God; so when He came, Adam tried to hide.

# Are You Training or Sacrificing?

by Elder Otis McGee  
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The Bible teaches us to "TRAIN up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6). "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). We as parents should not shirk this responsibility that God has given us. But we have! And this has led to the **great moral decay** in our homes, churches, and in our nation today!

In view of God's holy requisitions and of the corruption now abounding in our country, we should be diligently impressing upon the minds of our children the necessity of being honest, truthful, obedient, sober, industrious, economical, well-behaved, virtuous, reliable, quiet, studious, punctual, and law-abiding! The Bible says, "**Ye Fathers,...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord!**" We have the responsibility of giving kind counsel and educating them in God's word.

We send our children to school; and we should. But do you know what they are being taught in school? I think this is one of the ways we are "sacrificing our children to Molech". "And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God. I am the Lord." (Leviticus 18:21 ). We make many sacrifices to see that our children learn the things of the world. We will get them up early, make them study, and do whatever it takes to make them

learn worldly things. But then when they face the world and all it has to offer, it is too much for them because we have failed to "train them up in the way they should go."

This has been very burdensome for me because I love children. When I try to encourage parents to bring their children to church where the word of God is preached, they tell me the children do not want to come, or that they are home in bed! If it had been a school day, where would the children have been?

Dear brothers and sisters, whenever this is the case, it is a burning reproach to us, and we ought to be ashamed of ourselves! Is that the way to "Train up a child in the way he should go? or to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?" Should any parent ever let their children "do as they please" and stay away from the house of God? If we do, we are in direct violation of the Apostle's injunction in Ephesians 6:4!

Is this the way we let our children do in other matters? Do we let them gamble, get drunk, use profanity, and other general ungodly conduct? "Oh, no!" you say. But why not? For while the latter offences are generally condemned by the law of God, the other is especially condemned. Meetings or assemblies where the gospel of the Son of God is being preached are the most important assemblies in the world! Not only so, but in the preaching of the everlasting gospel of Christ,

there is not only spiritual comfort and power but also the sublimest moral influence that this world has ever experienced. The gospel is an influence for moral good far excelling all the good ever effected by the moral institutions of men! The influence of the gospel often saves, not only from much evil but also from many of the religious nets, snares, traps, and gins of the religious jugglers, smugglers, and magicians of our day.

Shall we have so little love and respect for the great things of our God as to let our children go on in indifference toward them? Or, if we do esteem these things as truly being great and precious, shall we have so little care for our children as to be indifferent as to whether they hear them or not?

For our children to forsake our meetings in the house of God is dishonor to us and to God! Shall we actually encourage, by our indifference, our children taking a course which leads to destruction? WE should take our children to church every time the doors are open! We should constrain them to go if necessary! When they are old, they will not depart from it. If we train them as we should while they are small, there will be little constraining we will have to do when they are older. We should hold our church days sacred: They should be especially devoted and consecrated to God, and to training our children. May the Lord help us to do so!

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## Grace

*The doctrine of distinguishing grace is now discarded and pushed aside in current teaching. Why opposed and rejected? Because it lays the axe at the root of all our boasted moral excellence, and hews down every deception of human pride, paying not the least compliment to the learning, wisdom, or character of any who dare to accuse the Divine conduct, counting all men alike unworthy in themselves, and teaching that grace must begin, carry on, and complete the work of salvation in the human soul.*

# Creation

by Dr. Alvin L. McLendon  
(Deceased)

The word "creation", according to **Webster's Collegiate Dictionary** means: (1) The act of causing to exist, or fact of being brought into existence, by divine power; especially the act of bringing this world into existence out of nothing. (2) Act of constituting or investing with a new character, title or the like. (3) The presentation of a new conception in an artistic embodiment. (4) Something which is created. The second and the third definitions are strictly secular, and will not be discussed in this writing. The first and the fourth definitions are considered in Psalm 19: 1, which states: "The heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." We use the fourth definition specifically when we talk about God's great and wonderful creation, as we behold it in the beauty of nature and the universe.

The first chapter of Genesis is the grand example of the first definition in that it describes the order of God's creation of the earth and all that is in it. As believers in God, and having read this Genesis account perhaps many times, we are familiar with this description of what God did and the order of things as they were created during the first six days. These were days followed by nights as we know them. Measured by time as we have on our clocks, the evening and the morning was a span of almost exactly twenty-four hours by today's standard of time. (Not exactly the same, as explained in the next to the last paragraph of this article.)

The creation wrought by God was declared by believers shortly after Christ ascended into heaven, following a miracle of Peter and John, their arrest and release, when in Acts 4:24 "...they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth,

and the sea, and all that in them is." Jesus portrayed as "The Word" (John 1:1-3) is shown as not only being present during creation, but as having a very active role in the work of creation.

We believe the Genesis story of creation today by faith, the same as the New Testament believers quoted above. Also in Hebrews 11:3, we read: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Through faith we can believe all of the word of God: His promises, the miracles, His plan of salvation, as well as the story of creation. All people do not have this faith. Those of us who have it should thank God for His amazing grace, for except for the Grace of God we would be as others who do not have such faith.

Some who do not accept the creation account in the Bible are professed Christians who lack a comprehension of God and His omnipotence. Their God is one of limited power. They must have difficulty with all of the miracles taught in the Bible. Others who are unable to accept the creation story are atheists. They do not believe that there is a God. The creation of the earth and of all living beings requires the existence of a Creator. They cannot accept creation, for to do so would be to acknowledge the existence of a Creator, thus to acknowledge God. For those who do not believe that God created "...heaven, and earth...and all that in them is," evolution is the explanation for how the earth became populated by all forms of plants and animals, as well as mankind. To explain evolution in the simplest manner possible: first, very simple one-cell life was formed by chance, then, by chance again, more complex living forms emerged from

the simpler living forms.

Charles R. Darwin is generally recognized as the person who started the idea of evolution. It is strange indeed that of the three men who were historically responsible for initiating the idea of evolution, one was a minister, one studied for the ministry for a while, and the third was encouraged to become a minister. Nicholas Steno was a Roman Catholic clergyman, who in the mid-seventeenth century published some writings describing his story of fossils in rocks and his conclusion that they revealed the history of the earth. About the year 1800, Chevalier De Lamarch, who had studied for the ministry for a short time but changed to biology was one of the first to propose a theory of biological evolution. Darwin's father wanted him to study for the clergy, but he chose the field of Natural Science instead. After extensive exploration, including a five-year sea voyage around the world, Darwin published in 1859, **The Origin of Species by Natural Selection**. This book was widely circulated and its contents accepted by many.

Evolution as a theory of science has flourished for a little more than a century as an idea. In this length of time, no scientific proof has been presented to support this theory. Creation has been a part of the word of God for nearly thirty-five centuries--dating back to the writings of Moses, inspired by God. Young people are often taught that all scientists believe in evolution. Such a statement is, of course, quite false. William Thompson, a noted scientist a century ago, who is better known by his British title, Lord Kelvin, urged the geologists of his day to recognize the limitations set by the science of physics on the age of the earth.

Lord Kelvin believed in the miracle of

the creation of life. He had no respect for the materialistic views of the origin of life, and stated. "Mathematics and dynamics fail us when we contemplate the earth fitted for life but lifeless, and try to imagine the commencement of life upon it. This certainly did not take place by any action of chemistry, or electricity, or crystalline grouping of molecules under influence of force, or by any possible kind of ...(accidental coming together)...of atoms. We must pause face to face with the mystery and miracle of creation of living creatures." He argued in favor of a very young earth that could not be billions of years old, using the fact that the earth is naturally slowing in its rotation rate with days getting slightly longer all the time, by showing that if the earth were as old as evolution requires it to be, the day and night would have been

only twelve hours long when the earth was formed, which would have given the earth four times the bulge at the equator than it does actually have. A second argument used by Kelvin concerning the age of the earth was based upon his knowledge of heat flow and the measured temperatures of rocks deep in the earth. He showed that the earth would have cooled down to its present state in a very small fraction of the time geologists claimed for the age of the earth.

There are many scientific evidences, as the above, that support the fact that the earth is quite young, such as several thousand years, and refute the idea of an earth that began billions of years ago as a molten mass of hot rock. Present day evolution scientists ignore these evidences just as the 19th Century scientists ignored Lord Kelvin and

the evidences he presented to them. All such scientific phenomena that support the idea of a young earth have been grouped into a body under the title of Scientific Creationism, to support the Creation Model and to oppose the Evolution Model. Atheists oppose the proposition that Scientific Creationism be taught in the schools, for reasons stated earlier in this writing. They have persuaded many believers to go along with them on the grounds that Creationism taught in the schools supports the Church, and thus violates the constitutional premise of Separation of Church and State. Satanic forces and Atheism will probably win out in this struggle, but if no other good is gained, at least many of our youth are finding out that all scientists are not Evolutionists, and that there is another logical explanation for the origin of things on earth.

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## The New Birth

W. L. Durden

February 1924

"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:1-3). No doubt these are familiar Scriptures to the majority of Bible readers, and no doubt the majority of the people who attend church services have heard them discussed at some time.

Many have wondered why Nicodemus came to Jesus at all, and especially why he came by night. According to the record he was very prominent among the Jews. He was a Pharisee and a ruler. There were frequent verbal clashes between Jesus and the Pharisees, and it was very unpopular at that time for a Pharisee to manifest more than ordinary interest in what Jesus was doing; so to try to keep the people from thinking he felt any interest in Jesus, he came to Him

by night. When he came to Jesus, he made a plain, simple, true statement of facts, "...Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2). We have but little idea what kind of answer Nicodemus expected Jesus to make to his statement, but hardly the one He gave him. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). This was a plain, true statement of fact, but Nicodemus did not at all understand it. To him this was a strange new doctrine. Never before in all the ages past had anyone taught that a man could be born again when he was old. Nicodemus thought such a thing impossible, and it was impossible from his point of view. But as much of an impossibility as it seemed to Nicodemus to be, it was a fact then, and is a fact now, that a man must be born again before he can see the kingdom of God. Born again, regenerate, quicken, etc., are synonymous expressions, and refer to the work of the Spirit of God in the

heart of a sinner, dead in trespasses and sins, that makes him able to see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus had been born again. Not that he was going to be born again after he had joined the church and been baptized, or complied with some other condition, but was already born again. If he had not been born again, he would not have gone to Jesus at all; his going, under the conditions that existed at that time, showed that he was deeply interested in the Master and in the work that He was doing. And what is this kingdom that is visible to him, and invisible to others? "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 14:17). "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" (1Cor 4:20). "But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:27).

So we see by these Scriptures, that man does not have to wait until after death to see this kingdom, but that it is a kingdom visible to some while they yet live.

# PROVE ME

by Elder Don McWilliams  
Brownsburg, Indiana

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Host, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10).

All through the history of Israel, God repeatedly promised to greatly bless them if they would only do what He had instructed them to do. In this passage from Malachi, God was telling them they had refused to support the Levites by robbing God of tithes and offerings. Yet God told them to bring in the tithes, and He would pour them out a blessing so great there would not be room to store it.

How many times do we feel that God’s hand is shortened to the extent He could not possibly supply our

needs if we did not do most of the work ourselves? We should labor to provide for ourselves as long as God allows us. But there often comes a time when we must rely completely on God to provide for our needs. There are numerous examples in the Word of God in relation to this.

In I Kings 17, we have the account of Elijah being sent to the widow of Zarephath who would sustain him during the 3 years of drought. As Elijah asked for food, she replied she had only a very little for her and her son. Elijah instructed her to feed him first; on faith she did so, and the barrel of meal did not waste, nor the cruse of oil fail until the Lord sent rain.

Our failure to render unto God all His due, whether it be in tithes and offerings, or of our time spent laboring in His vineyard here in this kingdom

(helping others, giving of ourself), is robbing God. Jesus said, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Will a man rob God? He always has.

In 11 Chronicles 7:14, God appeared to Solomon and said, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” Even with such great promises from God, the people would not humble themselves, and pray, and seek God. Often WE fail to prove that God will pour out such great blessings for us by not walking close to Him in this life. The great blessings of heaven are fixed and sure through Jesus Christ, but we miss so much here in time by our lack of close communion

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# Evolution: A Theory in Crisis!

by Elder Tony Jackson  
Tifton, Georgia

Having a son in tenth grade biology inspired me to review the high school biology textbook and to do further study and research on the subject of evolution. I am not a person who can dodge truth or twists facts to support my own beliefs. Give me truth, and I will try to deal with it. As I entered into a study of the textbook, I was prepared to accept the facts. I am ashamed to admit it now, but I questioned in my mind, “Did God use evolution as a process of creating this universe and all that is in it?” I suggested to my son that he learn the material in the book, but to give serious considerations as to whether the evidence for evolution is convincing. As I studied the same book, I followed my own advice. I questioned, “Is the textbook evidence truly convincing?”

In addition to studying the school textbook, I looked to other sources for

another viewpoint. I read several books and viewed quite a few videos on the subject of creation verses evolution. The most powerful book I found was, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, by Michael Denton. Dr. Denton is a medical doctor and research biologist, and by his own statement appears to be agnostic in his beliefs. I feel he is unbiased in his views. His conclusion?

*“Ultimately the Darwinian theory of evolution is no more or less than the great cosmogenic myth of the twentieth century. . .”The truth is that despite the prestige of evolutionary theory and the tremendous intellectual effort directed towards reducing living systems to the confines of Darwinian thought, nature refuses to be imprisoned.”*

If you will accept the opinion of a non-professional in the field of biology, I agree with Michael Denton in his conclusion.

The traditional “evidence” for evolution, the fossil record, comparative anatomy, molecular biology, and biogeography, rather than supporting evolution, support creation. “Kinds” have greatly diversified as in the case of dogs and finches and sparrows, but a dog is still a dog, and a finch is still a finch, and a sparrow is still a sparrow.

If you will not accept my opinion, I urge you to accept the statement of a Professional. This Professional said, “He which made them at the beginning made them male and female.” Concerning this Professional, the Apostle John said, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” Personally, I prefer the testimony of Someone who was there!

# Church Discipline

by Elder Mitchell Joiner  
(Deceased)

**To every reader:** Before reading this explanation, please read and study I Corinthians, Chapter 5 carefully in your Bible!

Verse 1 brings out that fornication (the physical act) committed by a member of the church at Corinth is what Paul is concerned about in this chapter. Such fornication was not even named among the Gentiles (who were considered heathen, and who did not belong to the church of Jesus Christ).

That one should have (commit the physical act of fornication with) his father's wife was abominable. I believe this was his stepmother, and certainly not his mother. Nevertheless, this man's iniquity was intolerable, and by no means to be winked at in the church of Christ.

In verse 2, Paul writes: "And ye are puffed up" -either these members of the Corinthian church were puffed up that they had not committed such an ungodly act themselves, or they did not feel it to be their concern that such an act had been committed by one of the members of their church. They did not feel any remorse personally, nor as a body, that such a sin had been committed. They showed no inclination that this individual should be put away from among them. It is thought by some that this individual was a preacher, teacher, or some leader in the church. If that be so, you can see the more pressing of the matter. I trust that you can see that by the "inaction" of this church, they are in a way saying they see nothing wrong with what this man is doing! Therefore, they are placing themselves in the same category by association.

## **FOR EXAMPLE:**

If a man's 16-year-old daughter associates regularly with commonly known prostitutes, even though this

daughter may be all so chaste, eventually someone is going to think of this girl as a prostitute simply by her association. As the old saying goes, "Birds of a feather flock together."

In verse 3, we learn that the Apostle Paul was not present at the church of Corinth when this epistle was written. The subscription shows him to be at Philippi. Of course, there was no question in the Apostle Paul's mind as he had determined already, as though he were present, concerning the one who had done this deed. It seems that this scandalous sin was not a single act, but was continued in. In other words, it seems that this man was living with his stepmother as husband and wife.

In verse 4, Paul admonished the Corinthian church, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when they came together to conduct the business of the church. Paul's spirit would be there, as would the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 5, we find that Paul instructs the church to deliver such an one (the one guilty of committing fornication with his stepmother) unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh (not the spirit, but the flesh). That is, that his body might be shook, buffeted, afflicted, and tortured in a terrible manner; that by this means he might be brought to a sense of his sin, to repentance for it, and to make an humble acknowledgment of it that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

In verse 6 Paul rebukes the church; telling them that their glorying (that is glorying in themselves, their riches, wealth, and even in their ministers or leaders) is not good. He reminds them of Jesus saying, "Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy" (Luke 12:1b), and asked them did they not know that "a little leaven

leaveneth the whole lump." Our terminology today might be: one rotten apple can ruin a whole barrel.

In verse 7, he instructs, or rather commands the church to purge out the old leaven (the one who had committed fornication with his stepmother). In doing this, "that ye may be anew lump, as ye are unleavened" (that is, to be without such iniquity in the midst). Then, he reminds the church that even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. Therefore, the church should not tolerate such iniquity within. Did they not know that they were bought with a price, and that price was nothing less than the pure, righteous, and holy blood of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God?!

In verse 8, Paul further recommends to this church that they keep the feast (specifically the Lord's supper, and the Christian life in general), not with old leaven -sin. This would happen by allowing such wickedness in their midst in the church worship service. Neither was the supper to be taken with the leaven of malice (hatred), and wickedness. But let the church come together with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (I might mention that the word "bread" was added by the translators, but was not in the original text.) it is not enough that churches come together for the purpose of worship in sincerity only; but they must come together in truth! In other words, they could not come together to worship with this wicked man in their midst and be worshipping in truth. Jesus said "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24 ).

In verse 9, Paul reminds the church that he wrote unto them in an epistle (or another epistle ), not to keep company with fornicators. He wrote in

Romans 16:17, "Now I beseech you, Brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." This seems to be spiritual fornication where one would lay hold on strange doctrine or commit themselves to heresies. Another scripture where Paul teaches church discipline is found in II Thessalonians 3:6: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

The word "tradition" here could be translated "Precept", which means a mandate of God or commandment of God. Also, let us look at II Thessalonians 3:14: "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed." Have no company with him because "birds of a feather flock together", or you are like those with whom you associate.

These instructions are to the church and about those in the church. I believe this is made evident by the following verse.

In verse 10, Paul recognizes that "Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world"! Note that Paul specifies "fornicators of this world." It seems that he is not including spiritual fornicator or physical fornication of a church member such as the incestuous man mentioned in verse one, but rather is speaking of those outside the church at this point. Now, continuing with verse 10 - "or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world." It further seems to me that Apostle Paul is here instructing the church at Corinth, and us today, that the church has no control over those outside the church. The point is that I might refuse to buy groceries from an unbeliever, or I would refuse to have my car worked on by an unbeliever, or further I might refuse to rent my house from an unbeliever, or not go to a doctor because he is an unbeliever. Surely, if we would

only have to do (conduct business) with those who believe as we do, as Paul says, we would need to go out of the world.

In verse 11, Paul clears the air of any doubt that might be in the minds of his readers. He has just told them in the previous verse that if they would only have to do (do business) with those who believe as they did, then they must needs go out of the world. Now he writes, "But now I have written unto you (the church) not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother (a member of the church) be a fornicator (either physical or spiritual), or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat." I believe this means to worship and partake of communion.

The key phrase in this verse seems to be "if any man that is called a brother". I understand this to mean a member of the church, a member of the body of Christ. In this verse, Paul is not writing of those in the world, as he did in the previous verse. He is rather here writing to and of the Church of Jesus Christ. We read in Leviticus 20:7-8, "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify YOU."

The statute that has been broken is found in Leviticus 20:11: "And the man that lieth with his father's wife hath uncovered his father's nakedness: both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." Surely God would not wink at such in the Church of Jesus Christ.

In verse 12, Paul wrote "For what have I to do to judge them also that are without?" Paul seems to say, "what responsibility do I have to judge them that are outside the church?" Then he poses the question - "do not ye judge them that are within?" He seems to be asking the church, "Is there no judgment in the church?" We find in I Peter 4:17(a), "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of

God: ..."

What is the church in relation to this? "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (I Timothy 3:15). If the church is to remain the pillar and ground of the truth, there must be some judging within. Else it will become as Israel of old:

In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (Judges 21:25). In verse 13, Paul states "But them that are without God judgeth." That is to say, those outside the church are judged by God. The church has no right or obligation to judge those in the world.

Paul continues, "Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." He is saying now, "I have divided the responsibility: God judges those who are in the world; nevertheless, the church has the responsibility of judging this wicked man (who committed fornication with his stepmother); and not only judging him, but excommunicating him. He was to be turned out of the church; depriving him of the right to church membership. Although the church has nothing to do with judging those without, it must endeavor to keep clear of the guilt and reproach of those within.

#### SUMMARY:

I feel the overall theme of the scripture assigned to me is church discipline. The scriptures reveal what God inspired the Apostle Paul had to say about an individual (a member of the church at Corinth) committing sin (the physical act of fornication with his stepmother), and the responsibility of the church to judge this individual and put him out of the church. These scriptures also instruct the church in discipline toward the covetous, the idolator, the railer, the drunkard, and the extortioner.

There is no mention of the procedure explained by our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 18:15-17, where we

are told how to conduct ourselves when our brother shall trespass against us. I do not know if this man had been confronted by the church concerning this matter or not, as the scriptures are silent in this particular case. I think the church had no choice but to proceed with judging this man and putting him out of the church, providing he refused to repent and ask the church for forgiveness.

Can we see our churches in this lesson? What is the attitude of our churches toward the following:

**A. A minister or deacon** not qualified (according to God's word).

1. We need to call a minister: The attitude of the church might be, "Let's call Elder So and So because he is a good speaker (not considering the qualifications in I Timothy 3:1-7)."

2. We need to choose a deacon: The attitude of the church might be, "Let's make Brother So and So a deacon because he has a good personality (not looking to I Timothy 3:8-12)."

**B. Fornication** - men and women living together without being married. It is common knowledge that Sister So and So is "living" with Brother So and So without marriage (I believe the modern term is "shacking-up").

1. I know they are living together, but that's not my concern; or 2. The church can't do anything because it is none of their business who Sister So and So lives with. The attitude of the church might be-

**C. Drunkenness** - officers or members in the church. It is common knowledge that Brother So and So was convicted for driving while intoxicated. The attitude of the church might be-

1. Brother So and So says it's none of the church's business what he does; or

2. The church tries to suppress the fact that Brother So and So was driving while intoxicated by saying you shouldn't spread rumors.

**D. Idolators** - Habitually staying away from church because they "have more important things to do."

1. It is common knowledge that Brother and Sister So and So have a place on the lake; therefore, they seldom attend worship service on Sunday. The attitude of the church might be that it is their business, and none of the church's business.

In closing, let me say that I believe the churches of today need discipline! It is my conviction that our church members would be stronger if they saw discipline in the church. You see, the man who had committed this heinous sin in the church was without judgment. The church should judge those within the church, and God judges those without the church. Therefore, this man, so long as the church did not judge him, received no judgment for his sin. Once he was judged by the church and put out of the church, then he would be judged by God outside the church. I think we can readily see what happens if the church fails to discipline her members: God judges the church "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31).

Finally, brethren, I have established that judgment must begin at the house of God. We as ministers should, each time we stand in the pulpit of our respective churches, declare the judgment of God against sin. Some of our people don't know sin, even when they are wallowing in it. The reason is they have never been taught, in the church, what sin is and what it does.

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## *Answers to Grow in Knowledge*

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. I Samuel 2:7 - rich      | 6. Matthew 19:23 - hardly      |
| 2. Proverbs 10:4 - poor     | 7. Matthew 19:24 - easier      |
| 3. Proverbs 13:7 - nothing  | 8. II Corinthians 8:9 - your   |
| 4. Proverbs 23:4 - Labour   | 9. I Timothy 6:9 - temptation  |
| 5. Proverbs 28:11 - conceit | 10. Revelation 3:17 - wretched |

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# Husbands and Fathers

by Bro. Clay Gill  
Patterson, Georgia

When God created Adam from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, God also said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18). God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh. From the rib, God made a woman, "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:23-24). Thus, we have the first family, the first husband and wife!

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

The key to God's design for the family rests on the head of the home, the man – husband – father. The head of

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

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

## HUSBANDS

It is also the responsibility of the leader of the home to love. 1 John 4:7 reads, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." Ephesians 5:23 clearly delin-

eates that the husband is the head of the wife. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." The weight of this responsibility is understood by reading the entire passage (Ephesians 5:22 – 33) where we can clearly see that this relationship of husband toward wife and children is symbolic of Christ and His relationship with His church. Look closer at Ephesians 5:25. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." There are two main applications within this verse. The first is that husbands are commanded to love their wives. This passage does not read "husbands love your wives if you feel like it," or "when it is convenient for you," or "when she is loving you like you think she should be loving you." Rather, it reads simply, "Husbands, love your wives." I fear that we have taken the Biblical concept of love mentioned in this passage and have turned it into an emotion based on condition and circumstances. The second application from this verse is that our model and mentor on how to be a Godly husband and father is Jesus Christ himself. The passage reads, "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ loved the church." Brokenness, pain, and hurt are the state of marriages and families when the husband/father chooses to love his wife based on how he feels or what's easy. Our job as leaders of the home is a great task with great rewards as we are diligent in choosing to keep His commandments, or with great pain when we ignore His commandments.

## MORE SCRIPTURES ON HUSBANDS:

Genesis 24:67; 29:20, 30; Prov-  
erbs 5:18; 18:22; Eccl. 9:9; 1 Peter

3:7 Hebrews 13:14; Colossians 3:19; Matthew 5:32; Mark 10:7-9; Romans 7:2

## FATHERS

Teaching is also a responsibility the father has as leader of the home. This role is too often abdicated by the father. "Children's ministers or youth ministers" and "ladies Bible studies" are sometimes trying to fill the role of leading children and wives toward spiritual "maturity." Proverbs 4:1 commands, "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." Deuteronomy 6:6-9 says, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." Proverbs 22:6 reads, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." It is the responsibility of the **father** to teach his children the truths and precepts of God. We can't rely on the church or the public schools, or anyone else. God has placed that responsibility within the home. "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but **what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise** (John 5:19)."

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

### FATHERS' INFLUENCE ON THEIR HOUSEHOLD

**Joshua** "And if it seem evil unto

you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

**Abraham** "And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him" (Genesis 18:17-19).

**Jacob** "Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went" (Genesis 35:2-3).

**David** "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself: That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel" (I Kings 2:1-4).

**Cornelius** "There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Ital-

ian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always" (Acts 10:1-2).

**Philippian Jailer** "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house" (Acts 16:31-34).

### MORE SCRIPTURES ON FATHERS:

Fathers expressing strong feelings for children: Genesis 31:28; 37:35; II Samuel 12:16; Mark 5:23; Luke 15:20

Partiality of fathers: Gen. 25:28; 37:3; 48:22; I Chronicles 26:10

Fathers' failures to discipline children: I Sam. 3:13; I Kings 1:6; Proverbs 29:15; Luke 15:12-13

Following footsteps of Godly fathers: I Kings 9:4-5; II Chron. 17:3; 20:32; 26:4; 27:2

One of the greatest needs in America today is for men to be what God has ordained us to be: faithful sons to God as our Heavenly Father; faithful husbands to our wives who are a gift from God; and faithful fathers to our children who are special blessings from the Lord! The word of God has given us much instruction on our duties as husbands and fathers. We need to study the Scriptures more, so that we might know all we are supposed to be doing. We also need to pray for grace to be able to be good husbands and fathers. And finally, we need, as fathers, to be teaching our sons how to be good fathers and husbands. The best way to teach them is by example, as well as by thoroughly instructing them on the Scriptures that they might know exactly how they are to conduct themselves as husbands and fathers!

# I Saw An Angel Today!

by Sis. Marie Counts  
St. Simons Island, Georgia

I saw an angel today. He was at Magnolia Manor Nursing Home. He is not able to walk, and I don't think he sees well. He is not able to be with his wife because he can't take care of her, and she can't take care of him. She has had bypass surgery and is not able to come to the nursing home where he has to stay, yet he is a very happy man!

I take my three children and the three children that I babysit there often, but today I learned something new about this man that made me love him even more. He always follows us around the nursing home and helps us sing. Today he was eager for us to go to many extra rooms. He led us to one room where we met someone who was distantly kin to my husband.

In another room he led us to a lady we thought we'd never see again because she had moved, and we did not know that she had just returned.

In two of the rooms in which we usually sing, he rolled up to the beds and said, "Give me your hand." The two residents who were bedridden smiled, recognizing his voice and knowing that he was about to place an unwrapped peppermint in their palms. I never knew, but every morning this wheelchair bound man makes his way around the nursing home handing people who could never unwrap a peppermint an unwrapped peppermint. The two residents he went to sing to with us were thrilled to get two in one day! The last extra stop he asked us to make today was to a man that he said, "I don't think he knows Jesus, but

I'd appreciate it if you'd let your children stop by and sing to him anyway." The wheelchair bound man was happy to see that his friend allowed the children to sing to him.

I can see. I can walk. I do not have the physical problems with which this man faces every day. I am blessed to spend my days with my husband and children. This man is separated from his family, and has many physical problems. However, he is more spiritually healthy than I and many other Christians. May God continue to motivate me and others as we see true Christians dedicating their lives to serving others is my prayer.

Isn't it a blessing to see angels around us... both celestial and terrestrial?!

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## For Me

He must increase,  
and I decrease:  
Less of myself  
and more of Him!  
I am all emptiness,  
and He a fountain  
filled up to the brim.

He takes my poverty and want,  
To give me  
His o'erflowing wealth;  
He takes my sickness  
on Himself,  
To give me His

celestial health.

He goeth down  
that I may rise,  
Is bound in chains  
to set me free;  
Enters my lonely prison-house,  
That I may know His liberty.

He drinks my sorrow,  
weeps my tears,  
That I may taste  
His joy and rest;  
His hunger and

His thirst are mine,  
That mine may be  
His heavenly feast.

He takes my name,  
and gives me His,  
For my poor raiment  
gives His own;  
And all that He  
has done is mine,  
His worth, His fullness,  
and His crown.

*Horatius Bonar*

A good conscience is able to bear very much and is very cheerful  
in adversity. An evil conscience is always fearful and unquiet.

# Bible Reading Calendar for February

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Exodus 27,28	Matthew 21:23-46
2	Exodus 29,30	Matthew 22:1-22
3	Exodus 31,32,33	Matthew 22:23-46
4	Exodus 34,35,36	Matthew 23:1-22
5	Exodus 37,38	Matthew 23:23-39
6	Exodus 39,40	Matthew 24:1-22
7	Lev. 1,2,3	Matthew 24:23-51
8	Lev. 4,5,6	Matthew 25:1-30
9	Lev. 7,8,9	Matthew 25:31-46
10	Lev. 10,11,12	Matthew 26:1-19
11	Lev. 13	Matthew 26:20-54
12	Lev. 14	Matthew 26:55-75
13	Lev. 15,16,17	Matthew 27:1-31
14	Lev. 18,19	Matthew 27:32-66
15	Lev. 20,21	Matthew 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	Numbers 1,2	Mark 3:1-21
20	Numbers 3,4	Mark 3:22-35
21	Numbers 5,6	Mark 4:1-20
22	Numbers 7	Mark 4:21-41
23	Numbers 8,9,10	Mark 5:1-20
24	Numbers 11,12,13	Mark 5:21-43
25	Numbers 14,15	Mark 6:1-32
26	Numbers 16,17	Mark 6:33-56
27	Numbers 18,19,20	Mark 7:1-13
28	Numbers 21,22	Mark 7:14-37

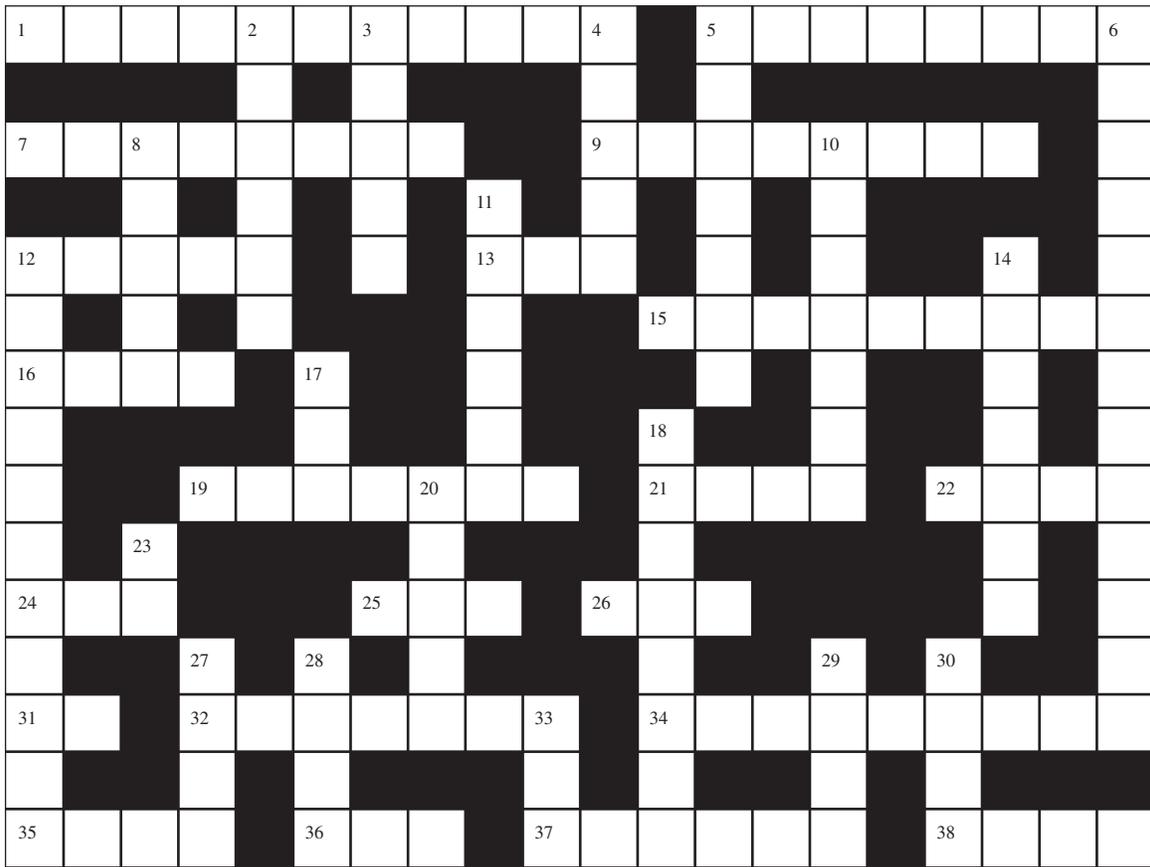
**ANSWERS TO  
CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
JANUARY 2011**

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# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have \_\_\_\_\_ life." 5. "And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was \_\_\_\_\_ in those days; there was no open vision" 7. "Study to shew thyself \_\_\_\_\_ unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth " 9 "Having predestinated us unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" 12. "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express \_\_\_\_\_ of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" 13 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting \_\_\_\_\_ another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." 15 "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with \_\_\_\_\_, bringing his sheaves with him" 16. "Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips for mine eyes have \_\_\_\_\_ the king, the Lord of hosts." 19 "In the beginning God \_\_\_\_\_ the heaven and the earth." 21 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his son, who he \_\_\_\_\_ appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" 22. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in \_\_\_\_\_ past unto the fathers by the prophets" 24. "No \_\_\_\_\_ hath seen God at anytime; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" 25 "In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" 26. "For \_\_\_\_\_ have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" 31. "Where there is \_\_\_\_\_ vision, the people perish but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." 32. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is \_\_\_\_\_ life through Jesus Christ our Lord" 34 "But the natural man \_\_\_\_\_ not the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness unto him. neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" 35. "The \_\_\_\_\_ was in the beginning with God" 36 "And \_\_\_\_\_ the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;" 37 "And they shall \_\_\_\_\_ from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." 38. "That at the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;"



## DOWN

1 "Whom God hath raised up, having \_\_\_\_\_ the pains of death. because it was not possible that he should be holden of it." 3 "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God \_\_\_\_\_ we in Christ." 4 "To the praise of the glory of his \_\_\_\_\_, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved." 5. "We see not our signs there is no more any \_\_\_\_\_: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long" 6. "I can do all things through Christ which \_\_\_\_\_ me" 8 "And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his \_\_\_\_\_, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;" 10 "But not as the offense, so also is the free gift For if \_\_\_\_\_ the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many" 11. "And that every \_\_\_\_\_ should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." 12. "Neither yield ye your members as \_\_\_\_\_ of unrighteousness unto sin but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." 14 "In that day shall the fair \_\_\_\_\_ and young men faint for thirst." 17 "The heavens declare \_\_\_\_\_ glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" 18. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your \_\_\_\_\_ to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" 20. " \_\_\_\_\_ up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" 23 "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine \_\_\_\_\_ the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" 27. "All things \_\_\_\_\_ made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made" 28. "That the Lord called Samuel and he answered, \_\_\_\_\_ am I" 29. "For there are three that \_\_\_\_\_ record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." 30. "They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy God, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Bursheba liveth; \_\_\_\_\_ they shall fall, and never rise up again." 33. "For the \_\_\_\_\_ was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

# The Names of Jesus

To the ARTIST  
He is the One Altogether Lovely.  
To the ARCHITECT  
He is the Chief Corner Stone.

To the BAKER  
He is the Living Bread.  
To the BANKER  
He is the Hidden Treasure.

To the BIOLOGIST  
He is the Life.  
To the BUILDER  
He is the Sure Foundation.

To the CARPENTER  
He is the Door.  
To the DOCTOR  
He is the Great Physician.

To the EDUCATOR  
He is the Great Teacher.  
To the ENGINEER  
He is the New and Living Way.

To the FLORIST  
He is the Rose of Sharon

and the Lily of the Valley.  
To the GEOLOGIST  
He is the Rock of Ages.

To the HORTICULTURIST  
He is the True Vine.  
To the JUDGE  
He is the Righteous Judge,  
Judge of All Men.

To the JEWELER  
He is the Pearl of Great Price.  
To the LAWYER  
He is the Counselor,  
the Lawgiver, the Advocate.

To the NEWSPAPER  
He is the Good Tidings  
of Great Joy.

To the PHILANTHROPIST  
He is the Unspeakable Gift.

To the PHILOSOPHER  
He is the Wisdom of God.  
To the PREACHER  
He is the Word of God.

To the SCULPTOR  
He is the Living Stone.  
To the SERVANT  
He is the Good Master.

To the STATESMAN  
He is the Desire of All Nations.  
To the STUDENT  
He is the Incarnate Truth.

To the THEOLOGIAN  
He is the Author and  
Finisher of our Faith.  
To the TOILER  
He is the Giver of Rest.

To the SINNER  
He is the Lamb of God that  
taketh away the sins of the World.

To the CHRISTIAN  
He is the Son of the Living God,  
the Saviour, the Redeemer  
and the Lord.

Author unknown

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## In My Flesh Dwelleth No Good Thing

Paul said there were no good things-no principle of righteousness or holiness in his flesh, because he had learned it by experience. He thought there was much good in his flesh, or much merit in what he could do, but after the light of God's grace had shined in his heart, revealing to him his own unworthiness and the riches of God's saving grace,

he could then say, "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." (1Cor. 15:10). He knew he was nothing and that Christ is everything. "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth

in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom 7:17-19). We often do the evil, even when we know it is not right, and do not do the good that God requires of us.