

No Other Way

by Elder Jason S. Solomon
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Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. - Acts 4:10

Many Ideas

If you simply pay attention to most any media outlet either in print, television or radio, you would quickly note how many various notions exist regarding the nature and purpose of existence. Certainly it is not worded in those terms, but we have all heard some talking head give heed to popular culture's answers to our many woes. There are almost as many answers as there are people. Sadly, I am afraid that the name of Jesus rarely comes up in these discourses, and even if He is mentioned, the Biblical Jesus is usually not explored. Rather, His teaching is merely suggested as one of many answers to our problems but not as Judge of the quick and the dead nor an exclusive path to blessedness.

Lest we find this too discouraging, we must realize that this is not new. The notion that you can have things your own way is ancient. In fact, you might say that the only thing more ancient to mankind is God Himself. Ever since the serpent tempted Eve, we have been seeking to find answers outside of God's will.

Think about it. Eve knew what to do, but she chose to go another way. Cain knew another way but chose to slay his brother out of envy. Many generations later, we see the Israelites crying out to God in the wilderness in fear of starvation, ignoring the amazing proofs that God was with them. They even said that it would be better to be enslaved once more in Egypt. Jeroboam was made king over the northern ten tribes,

but almost immediately he established unsanctioned places of idol worship in Bethel and Dan.

In Jesus' day, the Greeks and Romans had incorporated innumerable cultures into their vast domains, but instead of finding exclusive Truth, they fell prey to that ancient problem that we have today. We want another answer. Why? Sin. Shame. Fear. Rebellion. For the same reasons that little children avoid their parents when they have disobeyed. It is in our fallen nature to run from judgment and seek another answer even when we know that we do so to our peril.

The Truth

If we believe the testimony of the Bible, then we must acknowledge the sovereignty of God. Complete sovereignty. He is in control. We are His to do with as He pleases. Our value comes from what we reflect of Him and not from any implicit goodness from ourselves. In fact, if you look at the raw value of the chemicals of the human body, we are worth very little. Estimates range from just under \$1 to as much as about \$4.50 depending on how the estimates are calculated. You could not even buy lunch at most restaurants with that much. It is a pitiful amount. Therefore, it is not materials but life that gives us value. A painting is worth more than the cost of the paint and canvas.

When we examine our place before God, realizing His greatness and our poverty, we are at the beginning of understanding (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10). Even the pagan thinker, Socrates, understood at least an inkling of this notion having said, "*An unexamined life is not worth living.*" Only when we realize that our worth is not in what we are but rather in who we are will we begin to grasp the wonder of the mercy and

love of God. This is the beginning of the path to godliness: humility before the Almighty.

The Apostle John understood this better than most, saying, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not" (1 John 3:1). John fully understood the truth spoken by Bildad the Shuhite to Job when he said, "How then can man be justified with God? Or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. How much less man, that is a worm? And the son of man, which is a worm?" (Job 25:4-6).

No matter what unbelievers may say and no matter what we may be falsely led to believe in our imagination, we have no leg to stand on before God. No man has ever or will ever find a path to God without His direct intervention. It is a practical impossibility. No amount of wishful thinking can change that fact. The people of Babel tried it and so did the followers of Jim Jones when they drank the Kool Aid in hope of reaching heaven. The reality is that we are in desperate need of a Savior who comes from Heaven to save us. Enter Jesus Christ.

The Way

The Bible, the Word of God to His people, outlines in rather clear terms that the heart of man is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). And in case you didn't realize, wicked people are not really into godliness. Therefore, in order for God to redeem His creation, He had to sovereignly make it happen. In due time, "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the

adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4-5)

God did not raise up an earthly savior from the ranks of ordinary men. He did not polish a diamond in the rough. God's Spirit overshadowed a woman, Mary, and conceived a Son outside the means and desire of man. This Holy Child was dwelling of the Holy Spirit on Earth. Therefore He was called the Son of God, Emmanuel (*God with us*), in whom dwelt all the power of the Godhead bodily. This was no mere mortal though He experienced all the weaknesses incumbent upon the flesh without sin.

The Law required a like for like sacrifice for sin. When sheep were stolen and killed, the sheep were to be returned fourfold (Exodus 22:1). When a man took a woman in fornication, they were to marry the woman (Deuteronomy 22:28-29). When murder was committed, the murderer's life was required, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth (Exodus 21:12; 21:24).

The sacrifices were always meant as a sign or proxy for the true sacrifice of the Redeemer who would be born to save His people from their sins, like for like (Hebrews 9:1-14). Therefore, in order to save them, Jesus had to take their place.

None other than Jesus has redeemed God's people from their sins. All others simply describe a mode of living with sacrifices and ceremonies, scripted prayers and strict requirements without true mercy. They do not have an answer for sin and guilt that requires retribution.

The Life

The most important difference in faith in Jesus Christ is that He brought with Him a promise of love and fellowship. While He stood in the place of His people going to the cross to die, His glory could not be held by the grave (Acts 2:24). Because of His divine nature, He arose from the grave giving hope of continued fellowship to

believers and with it eternal life, since He had taken their sins to the grave (Titus 3:5-8).

The way to God through Jesus Christ was so clear that Peter said, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12) We can only be saved from our sins by Jesus, and we can only approach God because of Jesus, and we only have eternal life and fellowship with God in any form through Jesus Christ. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:4).

For this reason, we should cling to Christ every day seeking fellowship through obedience, not because that obedience gets us a ticket to eternal heaven. Rather we should obey out of faith and love in the Savior for the Lord loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). Love Him who loved you first.

Grow in Knowledge

- 1. "A time to rend, and a time to sow; a time to keep _____, and a time to speak;"
- 2. "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day _____."
- 3. "Therefore the _____ shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time."
- 4. "Unless the Lord had been my _____, my soul had almost dwelt in silence."
- 5. "But the Lord is in his holy _____: let all the earth keep silence before him."
- 6. "I have set _____ upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence."
- 7. "Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to _____."
- 8. "The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, and _____ silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they have girded themselves with sackcloth:..."
- 9. He sitteth _____ and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him."
- 10. "And when he had opened the seventh _____, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."

What Is Wrong?

by Elder Gerg Phillips
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(Fourth in a series)

“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate” (Revelation 2:14-15).

The believer today faces many challenges in the world, challenges that our forefathers never knew. We may at times feel that we are tempted in ways that those before us never knew. It is true that temptations come in forms believers in the past never saw, but the temptations are simply Satan’s old tactics repackaged in a different form. Basic human nature never changes, and the tempter puts before us enticements that appeal to that fleshly nature. The spiritual struggles of believers are no different today than that of believers of the first century. The message of Christ for the church of that day has, therefore, as much value for us as for them.

Christ identified Himself as “...he which hath the sharp sword with two edges” (Revelation 2:12). In Revelation 1:16 John said, “...out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword...” His words were, and are, as piercing as a sharp sword, having a searching power to convict and convert some, and to convict and condemn to punishment others.

It is Christ Who in prophecy spoke as God’s servant in Isaiah 49:2 these words: “And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me.” His words condemn the sinner and strengthens and encourages the righteous. He pronounces judg-

ment upon the rebellious and assures deliverance for the obedient.

Hebrews 4:12 states, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). Many believe that this verse refers to Christ, the Living Word of God, Who is truly “...discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” This agrees with Christ’s words in Revelation 2:13, “I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.” He knows the conditions under which the church must suffer. He knows them who are faithful and have not denied the faith.

He knows as well the failings of the church. “But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate” (Revelation 2:14-15). The doctrine of Balaam is clearly explained: “...who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.” The meaning is, that they taught substantially the same doctrine which Balaam did, and deserved to be classed with him.

When Balaam could not obtain permission to curse Israel, he counseled Balak to seduce the Israelites to fornication and idolatry through the agency of the women of Moab, Numbers 25:1-

9; 31:16.

Nothing is revealed in Scripture to enlighten us on the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. The church at Pergamos had some who held this doctrine. The church at Ephesus may have faced a challenge from the same teaching, though evidently the doctrine found no foothold there. “But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate” (Revelation 2:6). We know from these passages that Christ hated both the doctrine and deeds of the Nicolaitanes.

Some suppose that the name Nicolaitanes was intended to be symbolic, and was not designed to designate any sect of people, but to denote those who resembled Balaam, and that this word is used in the same manner as the word Jezebel in Revelation 2:20, which is supposed to be symbolical there. The word is derived from nikov, victory, and laov, people, meaning victory of the people, or victory over the people. The Greek name is similar to the Hebrew name Balaam, meaning either lord of the people, or he destroyed the people.

The Nicolaitanes were corrupters or seducers of the people, like Balaam. They were evidently a class of persons who were in the practice of seducing Christians to participate in the sacrificial feasts of the heathens, and in the excesses which attended them--just as the Jews were led astray of old by the Moabites, Numbers 25. It is generally agreed, that they were distinguished for holding opinions which approved of gross social indulgences. This explains the strong language of aversion and condemnation used by the Saviour respecting the sect.

Peter spoke of the same kind of people: “But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Pre-

sumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (II Peter 2:10). He described them as, "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness" (II Peter 2:14-15).

These who followed the way of Balaam were supremely influenced by the love of gain, and would, for a price, forsake the right way.

Balaam, though he professed to be influenced by a supreme regard to the will of God, (Numbers 22:18,38,) was really influenced by the desire of reward, and was willing to prostitute his God given office to gain such a reward.

Balaam was disobedient to God, and, against his command, went to Balak. These men in Peter's epistle and in Revelation chapter two forsook the way of truth prescribed by God in his word. Just as Balaam taught Balak to entice the children of Israel to commit fornication, and eat things sacrificed unto idols, and these taught men to commit lewdness, and indulge themselves in their sensualities.

Peter said, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Peter 2:9). This is in keeping with the character of "...he which hath the sharp sword with two edges" (Revelation 2:12). There is deliverance for the obedient and judgment for the rebellious.

Some may object that there is no such challenge for the church today. Surely there are none who teach believers to "...to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication." That may be true in a literal sense. In a spiritual sense, however, there are

those who hold these doctrines and teach them to others.

The doctrine of Balaam and of the doctrine of the Nicolaitans are simply forms of *worldliness* that are so prevalent in the church today. Fornication, whether taken in the literal sense or the spiritual, is the yielding to the desires of the flesh. Idolatry and to eat "...things sacrificed unto idols" springs from the carnal nature of man. These sins are the result of man's saying "I'll do it my way." It is a rejection and a denial of God.

The doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, when set openly before us in Scripture as hateful to us as they are to Christ. In our lives these things come to us subtly and in disguise. They are often not so easy to recognize unless we have studied God's word and have trained ourselves to recognize Satan and his devices. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

John wrote, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:15-17).

Matthew Henry wisely wrote, "The things of the world may be desired and possessed for the uses and purposes which God intended, and they are to be used by his grace, and to his glory; but believers must not seek or value

them for those purposes to which sin abuses them. The world draws the heart from God; and the more the love of the world prevails, the more the love of God decays. The things of the world are classed according to the three ruling inclinations of depraved nature. 1. The lust of the flesh, of the body: wrong desires of the heart, the appetite of indulging all things that excite and inflame sensual pleasures. 2. The lust of the eyes: the eyes are delighted with riches and rich possessions; this is the lust of covetousness. 3. The pride of life: a vain man craves the grandeur and pomp of a vain-glorious life; this includes thirst after honour and applause. The things of the world quickly fade and die away; desire itself will ere long fail and cease, but holy affection is not like the lust that passes away. The love of God shall never fail

Many today have grasped this present world with both hands and will not let go. We too often claim to love God while turning from Him for the things of the world. Remember that He is "...a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

The message for the church today is the same as that for the church of Pergamos, "Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth" (Revelation 2:16). Balaam himself was first withstood by the angel of the Lord with "his sword drawn," (Numbers 22:23), and afterwards "slain with the sword" (Numbers 31:8).

The Lord would fight with the Nicolaitanes primarily; but would also chastise of the whole Church at Pergamos. If they do not repent, he will shortly declare those judgments which shall unavoidably fall upon them. The church today must also repent or face God' judgment

I CAN do ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME.
Philippians 4:13

Renewing and Increasing Love

(in the home)

by Elder William M. Mullis
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LOVE is one of the greatest blessings we have from God. As we read the scriptures, we find that God has manifested His love toward us as His people in many ways. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us!**" (Romans 5:8). Probably the most often quoted scripture, John 3:16, again expresses to us the love of God and how it is manifested: "For God SO LOVED the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." There is no way we can begin to comprehend the magnitude or the perfection of the love of God. We do not begin to understand all that God has done, IS DOING, and shall do for us in the future because of His love for His people. And we have a peace that passeth all understanding in knowing that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God!

In His amazing grace, God has loved us, and has now given US the ability to LOVE Him and to love others! If all we do is talk about the ways God LOVES, we will not develop the love we should be showing toward God and His people. Always remember, "WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US!" (1 John 4:19).

In this article, let us consider ways to renew and increase love in the home. As we look at the word of God on the subject of love in the home, let us be careful to remember that we should be DOERS of God's word and not hearers only! We all need to be manifesting more love!

Though the love of God is perfect, and does not increase or decrease, we find that our love is different. Our love for some people today is much greater than it was five years ago, while our

love for others has grown cold. Can you think of someone that you love more today than you did last year? Is there someone you do not show love for today that you did last year? Can you see that your love fluctuates and varies? What do you think brings about a change in your feelings for other people? Do you think your love for your companion, your children, or your parents could improve? May God help us all to renew and improve our love in the home! Satan will do everything he possibly can to destroy your home. His most effective devise is to bring about events which effect your love for your family. "And because iniquity shall abound, the LOVE of many shall wax **cold!**" (Matthew 24:12).

The divorce rate in America is at an all-time high. Juvenile delinquency (which is a result of parent delinquency) is soaring. Children are showing little or no respect for parents. Parents are spending very little time really communicating with children, and are seldom spending the necessary time with children to train them in the way they should go. WHY??? One reason is because the love in the home has grown **cold!** A failure to recognize this problem will lead to the failure of the home, and every member of the family will experience heartbreak! You may think that your home is perfect and that you have no problem. If you feel that way, Satan has you right where he wants you. YOU NEED to renew and increase love in your home! We all need to work on this problem continuously!

God has set up in His word the prescription for a successful, happy, loving home! LOVE is the central ingredient! GOD IS LOVE, and He must be the Supreme Head of the home. He

has established that the husband is to be the head of the woman. (1 Corinthians 11:3). As the Apostle Paul wrote to the saints at Ephesus, he explained that the relationship between the husband and wife must follow God's order. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 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. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it!" The comparison is being made between the husband-wife relationship and the Christ-church relationship. Christ loves the Church so much that He gave Himself for it. That is the way a husband is to love the wife! A husband is to treat his wife with tremendous love and respect, showing her privately and publicly that his love for her is real. In word and actions, the husband is to show more love for his wife than for any other woman. Sometimes, we husbands give more compliments to other ladies about their hair or clothes than we do our own wives. This is not right. Husbands, renew and increase the ways you show your love to your wife! Express your appreciation for all she is doing for you. By your actions, let her know that she IS the most important woman in the world to you! Are you showing your wife as much love today as you did when you married her? Have you let time gradually wear away at the things you do to **show** your love? Do you still open doors for her, surprise her with gifts, take her out for a meal occasionally, and talk to her? Do you sit down every day for some "quality time" together

where you are just sharing with each other some of your burdens and joys of the day. Do you really listen to your wife any more? You can think of ways to renew and increase the LOVE for your wife. Make a list of things you feel would make your wife KNOW that your love for her is growing, and start doing those things today! Other than Jesus Christ, your wife should be the very best friend you have! If you want her to be your friend and show you the love and respect the Bible commands her to show, you are going to have to keep manifesting the love you feel in your heart for her. When you do, it will be easy for her to be submissive to you!

Much more could be said about the husband-wife relationship, but space will not permit an exhaustive study of this and all other subjects relative to renewing and increasing love in the home. For a few related scriptures to begin your study of this subject, please read: Ephesians 5:18-33; Colossians 3:12-21; Proverbs 31:10-31; Genesis 2:18, 21-24; 3:16-19; Proverbs 19:44; I Peter 3:1-11; I Corinthians 7:3-5,10,11. May God help us all to work hard to keep love from waxing cold. If it has already "waxed cold" in your home, then work hard to re-ignite the flames of love, and keep the fire burning!

Next, in the home, let us consider briefly the parent-child relationship. First of all, it should be emphasized that it is not just the responsibility of mothers to raise the children. It took both parents to conceive, and both parents have the responsibility to raise the child! In fact, contrary to modern-day actions, FATHERS are specifically commanded to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4).

Training children is probably the most difficult task we adults ever face. There is no easy way to be successful. It takes much prayer, hard work, more prayer, MUCH LOVE, more prayer, more hard work, and continuous blessings from God to train a child in the way he should go. From even before the child is ever born, we parents be-

gin to influence the rest of that child's life. Children are VERY sensitive, even while in the mother's womb. Arguing, fussing, yelling, fighting, and screaming (which are sometimes a part of the first year of marriage) will lead to problems in the proper development of the unborn child. In fact, that same arguing, fussing, and yelling will ultimately lead to love waxing cold between the parents, and will also have a "cooling" effect on the love between parent and child. We all need to develop a greater appreciation for each member of the family. Every member of the family needs to feel loved and respected. All members of the family must work to show love toward each other. Parents should be the leaders in developing good relations with the children all through life. As the children grow older, parents must repeatedly look for signs of development problems. When children begin to "go into a shell", stop communicating, or show other signs of withdrawing, these are danger signals which are sometimes hard to detect until the problem is serious. It is not unusual for a child to feel unloved. Buying toys and other items will not fill the longing for love which is felt by far too many children today. Rocking a child, talking with a child, reading to a child, playing with a child, and listening to a child are all important elements which are necessary to train up a child in the way he should go. The home should be a place where LOVE is abundant! Your home must radiate with love in order for your children to grow properly.

It is the responsibility of parents (BOTH PARENTS) to teach their children the word of God. We are so blessed to have Bibles in such abundance in America. How sad it is that ignorance of the word of God is abounding. One reason there is so much ignorance of the word of God is because parents are failing to teach their children as God's word commands us to. (Please carefully read Deuteronomy 6:4-9!) It is the responsibility of parents to DAILY teach God's word to their children. God did NOT give this

job to the Church, and the Church cannot fulfill the work of the teaching the scriptures to the children! Your LOVE for your children, your companion, and your parents will increase as you read, study, and obey the various teachings in the word of God.

The teenage years can be very trying and difficult for parents and children if the home has not been following what the scriptures teach for the early, developing years! Even then, if parents HAVE been following God's word, there will be difficult and trying times. But with God's help (and He will help if we diligently are looking to Him each and every day, praying for Him to help us renew and increase in love for each member of the family), we can overcome every stormy time in the home! Satan is as a roaring lion, working continuously to bring about division, turmoil, strife, and ill-will in the home. Children may resent discipline. But they need to experience it all through life! LOVE AND DISCIPLINE ARE INSEPARABLE! (See Hebrews 12:5-11; Revelation 3:19; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13,14.) The devil has done a marvelous job of distorting the true meaning of love today, and has many parents believing that it is wrong to spank children. Brethren, let God be true and every man a liar! Read and study the word of God and you will find that **discipline is a part of true, godly love!** It is a difficult task to keep love from waxing cold in the home. But failing to discipline children is one sure way to kill LOVE. May God bless every parent to search God's way to better understand the way our Heavenly Father says we should work to keep love strong in the home! (For other related scriptures concerning parent-child relationships, please read and study Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:1-4; II Corinthians 12:14; Colossians 3:20, 21; and Proverbs 31:10-31.) May every father work and strive to be the kind of daddy he should be to EVERY ONE of his children, without showing partiality! Let every mother **leave other vocations** to fulfill the greatest

vocation of any mother --- to train up her children in the way they should go! That is a full-time job! Be a good mother! You are blessed to have children! They will soon be grown, and your time for training them will soon

be gone. Work hard NOW with your precious children. And to the children, be thankful that you have parents who love you! Work hard to show that you love them! May God bless every member of the home to renew and increase

in love toward every other member of your family! Even brothers and sisters can truly love each other and show that love!!!! Will you work hard to make your home a place where love is abounding?

"If I Were the Devil"

by Paul Harvey
written April 3, 1965

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of it's real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

"To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'"

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting.

I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills."

"If I were the devil, I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door."

"Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own

churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deity science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle."

"If I were the devil, I'd take from those, who have, and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work, in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing on what he's doing. Paul Harvey, good day."

But my God shall supply all your need
according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

Enriched By Christ

by Elder John Durden
deceased

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in everything ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you." (I Corinthians 1:4-6).

In the beginning of this wonderful letter to the church at Corinth, which was founded by Paul on his second missionary journey, he sets out the great facts so often preached by him: he has been called to be an apostle of Christ through the will of God, and that the ones to whom the letter is directed are called to be saints. He so often emphasizes the fact that people have not made themselves children of God, but it is all the work of grace. Now he knows the church at Corinth is not perfect. In fact he has been told of divisions of the church and of gross errors. These, in his letter, he firmly points out and demands that the church people act as becometh brethren. But regardless of these things, Paul rejoices that these people have the grace of God which has been given them by Jesus Christ. Brethren, if we are saved at all, it is by grace and that given us by Christ.

Christ has died for us and has come to us when we were so unworthy, and has become part of our lives by being set up in our hearts by the Holy Spirit of God. We think of this work primarily to make us fit for heaven but there are

other reasons for these great blessings God is to be glorified in time by the righteous acts of the creature; and this implanting in the human heart of the spirit of Christ just changes the whole life and enriches it. Enrich is to make rich, to make fertile, to make more productive, to enlarge. We then think of Christ as enlarging our lives and enriching them in everything. Notice that Paul says, "In everything ye are enriched by Him. "Yes, our home lives are enriched; our companions are dearer to us, our children mean more to us, the house in which we live in is better, the food we eat tastes better because we have this spirit of Christ; it makes us have a greater outlook upon the world! We appreciate the laws of the universe more. It sweetens our sorrows for us as well as making gladder the joys; and although we are poor, it makes us rejoice in what little we have and often makes us feel that we are rich. "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." (II Corinthians 6:10).

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye, through His poverty, might be rich." (II Corinthians 8:9).

Our conversation, our speech, our utterance and our knowledge is enriched by Him. Oh how sweet it is to speak of the love of God in our hearts,

to tell others that such great love for the brethren exists in the church, to rejoice in the conduct of one who is led by the spirit of God. This richness we have received has made our whole conversation different, and we study the attitude of people and rejoice when we see marks of grace in their lives. It makes our knowledge greater.

Several years ago, I read of a great scientist, honored by his work. When asked to speak to the people from a pulpit in a large city, he proclaimed that his work is all he knows, that nature is the only god he recognizes, that this life is the only thing of hope to him. He sees nothing ahead, he sees no life beyond, he can rejoice in nothing except the things he sees. How sad! He had great knowledge, yet he missed the greatest knowledge one can have - to know God! A little child who loves God and knows nothing beyond the second grade has greater knowledge than he. Let us rejoice then that we have the knowledge of God and although we might not know much in man's wisdom, let us thank God that we do know something of God's love and grace.

This richness also prepares our lives for productivity, for service. No one can serve God who does not have it, and it makes the service and our work so much greater. Let us use ourselves and produce abundantly in God's kingdom.

Let us rejoice that in everything we are enriched by Him!



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For Sermons and Prayer Requests



Jerusalem -- Zion

by Elder Roland Green
Dardanelle, Arkansas

Jerusalem is a very old city! Melchizedek, who lived in the time of Abram, about 1900 years before Christ, was king of Salem, which was a short term for Jerusalem. David used the name Salem in Psalm 76:2, "In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion."

Zion is one of the low mountains of Jerusalem; also the Mount of Olives and Mount Moriah are two of the mountains that are "round about Jerusalem" (Psalm 125:2). Calvary, just outside the city walls, is the mountain on which Jesus was crucified. It is also called Golgotha.

Zion is also used sometimes to designate the city of Jerusalem. In Isaiah 33:20 we find this expression, "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation."

The expression "quiet habitation" brings us to the meaning of the word Jerusalem: founded peacefully! A quiet habitation is a peaceful habitation.

Zion is also the place which God chose for his habitation (Psalm 132:13), the place of his rest forever. He is going to bless and provide for Zion; that

is, he is going to provide for the needs of the inhabitants of Zion. He will satisfy her poor with bread and clothe her priests with salvation. In short, God is going to take care of the citizens of His holy city.

Jerusalem in the Bible represents, to me, the holy city or dwelling place of God. It is a peaceful habitation because our Lord and Savior dwells there. The Prince of Peace is there reigning in righteousness over His kingdom; and His kingdom is not a natural kingdom of this world, but a spiritual kingdom with a spiritual capitol city. The spiritual Jerusalem is not a physical geographic place, but rather a situation; it is not so much a where, but rather a what.

When we are living in an atmosphere of strife, wickedness, and worldliness, we are not in Jerusalem, the quiet, peaceful city. But when we are at peace in our hearts, when we feed on the bread of heaven, when we are "clothed with the garments of salvation, when we have the peace of God, which passes understanding, permeating our very beings," **then I think that we can say we are dwelling in Jerusalem and in Zion.**

Please read Isaiah 33:20-22 carefully. Isaiah 33:21 describes the pleasantness of this setting: "There the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams." Natural Jerusalem doesn't have such a plentiful source of water, but spiritual Jerusalem from above does! "Wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby." The illusion here seems to be to slave ships and war ships. Natural Jerusalem has been over-run and razed more than once, and the temple torn down. But in the spiritual Jerusalem is "a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken." (Verse 20.)

And why is this? "For the Lord is our judge (he judges righteously), the Lord is our lawgiver (his laws and statutes are just), the Lord is our king (he reigns in righteousness); he will save us." (Verse 22.)

What more can we ask for? This is so much better than I deserve. The Lord God omnipotent reigneth!

Answers to Grow in Knowledge

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. silence - Ecclesiastes 3:7 | 6. watchmen - Isaiah 62:6 |
| 2. long - Psalm 32:3 | 7. judgment - Isaiah 41:1 |
| 3. prudent - Amos 5:13 | 8. keep - Lamentations 2:10 |
| 4. help - Psalm 94:17 | 9. alone - Lamentations 3:28 |
| 5. temple - Habakkuk 2:20 | 10. seal - Revelation 8:1 |

**THOSE THINGS, WHICH YE HAVE BOTH LEARNED,
AND RECEIVED, AND HEARD, AND SEEN IN ME, DO:
AND THE GOD OF PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:9

God's Line

by Bro. Tony Jackson
Tifton, Georgia

(You will get more from this writing if you will read Psalm 19 before reading the following comments.)

Many times we read over a word in the Scripture without actually knowing the meaning, and by doing so we often miss the entire message in the passage. The word "line" in verse four of Psalm nineteen is an example of such a word.

The subject of the first six verses of the Psalm seems to be totally unrelated to the message contained in verses seven through fourteen. The content in one through six concerns the "speech" the heavens declare. Verses seven through fourteen concern the beauty of God's law, the consequences of failure to keep it, and the reward for obeying it. Verses one through six seem to be totally unrelated to verses seven through fourteen. What does the "speech" and "knowledge" which the heavens declare have to do with God's law and rewards and consequences? It seems to me that the answer is found in the meaning of the word "line" in verse four. The heavens tell of God's glory in a universal language which is understood by all who observe. The message is said to be a "line" and it is associated with the "Bridegroom" who is a strong Man with a universal circuit.

By using Strong's Concordance, we find that the "line" in Psalm nineteen is a "cord especially for measuring". You will better understand the meaning of "line" if you think of the lines that a builder lays out when preparing to build. Lines are stretched to identify the foundation, and continue the building to its completion. If the lines are moved from their proper place, the building will not be built according to the architect's drawings. By reading the following reference, you will find that God also stretches lines when He builds:

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measurers thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;" (Job 38:4-6).

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the city shall be built to the Lord, that the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner. And the measuring line shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath. " (Jeremiah 31:-38- 39).

The Lord commanded in Matthew seven to build the house of our life on the foundation of a rock. As we build our life on this Rock, we should use the lines of God's laws as our guide. Likewise, the Church is the "House of God". The Church should be built according to the lines of God's word. God's "line" has a universal application, and we conclude a nation should be built according to God's laws, "line". If we build according to God's "line", we will be blessed and rewarded, and the house we build will stand. If we do not observe God's "line," our house will be destroyed!

It is interesting that when God destroys, He again stretches a line. Consider the following references in this regard.

"And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down." (II Kings 21.-13).

"The Lord hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: He hath stretched out a line, He hath not withdrawn His hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together." (Lamentations 2:8).

When God judges for destruction, He stretches the same line used in building in order to show if the structure has deviated from its proper place and design. If the lines indicate our building is not according to His laws, testimonies, statutes and judgments, then He judges and corrects, or destroys. The expression of "laying judgment to the line" found in the passage in Isaiah 26:9-17 is especially meaningful in this regard.

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Wherefore hear the word of the Lord. ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we had ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

(Isaiah 28.-9-17).

The teaching in this passage which was "line upon line" is the same line to which God laid judgment in verse 13 and this is the same "line" which is under consideration in Psalm 19. Understanding the use of this word "line" is important in understanding many passages in the word of God. The "line" is God's laws, His judgments, His statutes, His word, His precepts!

The message that is declared by the heavens and the firmament is said to be a "line" that goes out "through all the earth" and even to the "end of the world". This message is a universal message which makes all men and institutions accountable to God. No individual or group of people can successfully claim ignorance. This message justifies God when He judges and punishes sin. This is the same message found in Romans 1:18-20.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of 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:

By coming to an understanding of the meaning of the word "line" in verse four of Psalms nineteen, we can understand the connection between the message declared by the heavens in verses one through six, and the transition to the subject of God's law in verse seven through fourteen. We can also understand the theme of Psalm nineteen which is summed up in verse eleven, "Moreover by them is thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is great reward." It is interesting that this is one of the most basic themes of God's word. Consider the following passages: Genesis 4:7; Deuteronomy 30:14-15, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Matthew 7:13-14, Galatians 6:7-6, Revelations 1:4;6-7 and Revelations 22:1-4. The message from the stars is true in both the Old Covenant and New Covenant dispensations of time.

In conclusion, go back to verse twelve of Psalm nineteen; "Who can understand his errors". By stretch-

ing the line of God's word across our lives, our homes, our church, our nation, and the world at large we can better understand errors. Right or wrong is not determined by what we think or what preachers preach, or even by the United States Congress. Killing babies is and will remain a violation of God's law "thou shalt not kill." The sin of homosexual acts will remain an "abomination" according to God's word. We, the United States Congress, preachers, nor school textbooks will influence God to move His "line." He will not change what His word teaches about the home or the church even though we abandon the principles which He has set forth. Nor will we avoid His judgment for failure to keep His word. But those who build in harmony with the "lines" will be blessed no matter how small a minority they be. "In keeping of them there is great reward!"

Our conclusion should be that of the one who penned the Psalm: "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

Look around at what you have before you complain about what you don't have.

The strong person forgives and forgets!

The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.

Mark Twain

"I Will Make You Fishers of Men"

by Bro. Marty Mullis
Tifton, Georgia

The following article is a continuation of an article in last month's publication. The first article dealt with an exhortation to **follow Jesus**. This article will look at the result of heeding that exhortation.

The text for this article can be found in Matthew 4:18-20. Throughout this study, we will try to examine 1) who can be "fishers of men"; 2) who can we catch, and 3) the purpose in "going fishing."

Let us begin by determining exactly who **can** be a fisher of men. We need to realize that not everyone has the ability, to be a "fisher of men." There are at least two prerequisites that must be met in order to be a fisherman. First of all, an individual must be a child of God that has had the Spirit of God implanted in his soul. This does not happen by "accepting Jesus" or "letting God" into one's life. No man, woman, or child has power over the Spirit of God. In John 3:1-8, we see that except a man be born again, he cannot even see the Kingdom of God. This passage of Scripture goes on to compare the Holy Spirit with the wind. Just as the wind "bloweth where it listeth," so does the Spirit of God. So anyone that feels he has "accepted Jesus" did not bring about the new birth. That has already taken place by the mighty hand of God. However, it is a sign that the person has the spirit of God or is born again, or is a "new man," if he has a desire for the things of God. The only reason anyone would have a desire to be close to God or to walk in paths of righteousness is **if God has first placed His Spirit** and love within that individual. In I John 4:19, it says, "We love Him, because He first loved us." Until God quickens or regenerates one of His children, that individual is living in darkness and has no desire or capability to dwell in the light (Jesus). Once

a person has been born again by the Spirit of God, then that person has the capability and opportunity to love and serve both God and others.

In Ephesians 2:1-13, we see that in addition to having the **capability** to serve God once we have been quickened, we have the **responsibility** to do good works and to walk in them!

In order to be fishers of men, we must be following in the steps of Jesus! "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19). Only those born again children of God that are doing the will of God can be fishers of men in God's kingdom. In James 1:22- 25, we are commanded, to **be doers** of the word, and not hearers only. This passage of Scripture promises that **if we will be doers of God's Word**, we will be blessed in our deed. Also, please read and study Luke 8:1-15. May God help us to be as the seed that fell on good ground. Let us remember that only those children of God that have been born again and are **doing the will of God** are those that have the ability to be "fishers of men. "

Some might ask, "Who can we catch?" The only people that we can "catch" as "fishers of men" are children of God that have been born again but are not walking down that "straight and narrow path." As fishers of men, we don't have the capability to save anyone eternally. But we can "save" them from suffering a hell here on this earth and give them an opportunity to enjoy that "righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost" while they live here on this earth. In James 5:19, 20, the Scripture says, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." It says "Brethren, if any of you..." This is written from one

brother in Christ to others of his brethren. They have all already been saved eternally and have been born again and are currently following after the truth. But they, just like we ourselves, were capable of falling away from following after the things of God. It is then where the opportunity arises for us to go "fishing." Brethren, the waters are **full** with hungry "fish" that are ready for the "catching. "

Let us turn again to Luke 8:1-15. Too often, we are all like those that are described in verse 13. We are not "instant in season, out of season." It seems like our service and dedication to God goes in cycles. We start off serving God, and we go strong for a while. But before long, we usually begin to back-slide, at times to the point where we really don't care. It is at times like these that we ourselves are "fish" that need to be "caught." May God help us to first of all, stay strong in the Lord and not err from the truth. And secondly, may we be striving to "save" our brethren when they err from the paths of righteousness!

Another question that might be asked is, "What is the purpose in going fishing?" Let us again reiterate that it is not to save anyone from the Eternal Hell to the Eternal Heaven. The works of man are not sufficient to save a single soul eternally speaking. But rather it is the grace of God that saves one in an eternal sense. (See Romans 8:28-39, Titus 3:4-7; and Ephesians 1:3-12). If the Lord has blessed us to see a glimpse of Him and enter into that "Canaan land", we should feel a great sense of indebtedness to God. And the Lord is pleased when one of His children is "saved" from the error of his way.

Perhaps one of the greatest "fishermen" besides our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the apostle Paul. In I

Corinthians 9:19-23, he says that he made himself servant to all so that "I might gain the more." If we will humble ourselves and be willing to "serve and

be served," we can become successful fishers of men in God's, kingdom just as Paul was. Let us remember that "he that winneth souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30).

May God help us all to heed the exhortation by Jesus to "**Follow Me.**" For in doing so, we have the promise of becoming "**Fishers of Men.**"

Few Words, Much Said!

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity" (I Cor. 16:13-14).

I am often amazed at how much God can say in such a few words! Going back to Genesis 1, looking at what the word of God tells us about the tremendous works God did in Creation, it is marvelous to see that He spoke, and it was done. Just a few words by God and it was finished, and it was good!

In just a few words on two tables of stone, God gave us the Ten Commandments. Want it shorter than that? Fine, He said it in two commandments: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). All the law and the prophets combined into a few words! BUT oh how much is said in those two commandments! Just a few words, but much is said!

"It is finished!" WOW! How much is said in those few words? Everything is said about His coming, His birth, His perfect life, His redeeming His people from their sins, His completed work... "It is finished!" Few words, but so much said!

Numerous other examples could be given of few words and much said (see "THE SUM" article and Bible Study lesson). But look now at the above two Scriptures of our text: "**Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with char-**

ity" (I Cor. 16:13-14). Few words, but much said!

Let's start by looking at the first two words of these admonitions: "**WATCH YE!**" The word "watch" as it is used in the Scriptures, usually means "to diligently stay awake, to be alert, to pay careful attention, and to be vigilant in observing." As Jesus neared the end of His ministry in his body of flesh, He told His disciples that He was going to return shortly to establish His kingdom and begin judging His people according to their works. He told them to "WATCH!" They were to be looking for His coming. There were some of them living who would see Him coming in His kingdom (Matthew 16:27-28). He also said, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42-44). (See also Matt. 25:1-13; Mark 13:1-37; I Thessalonians 5:2-10; Revelation 16:15; Luke 12:37-56.)

The word of God tells us other things for which we must be "watchful." Look at the following Scriptures to see some of the things for which God tells us to be carefully looking.

1. Revelation 3:1-4 The Church was warned to "watch" those who were ready to die (perish), to try to restore them and save them from the

error of their way!

2. "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer" (I Peter 4:7). The disciples were told to "watch and pray!" (Matthew 26:38-41)
3. Paul told Timothy many would turn away from the truth, but for Timothy to watch and be faithful in preaching the word of God! (II Timothy 4:2-5).
4. Pastors are to watch over the souls of those under their care, and warned that they must give account to God for their "watching" and warning! (See Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ezekiel chapters 3 and 33; Isaiah 56:10.)
5. We are warned to watch out for temptation! "Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38). We are to pray, "Lead us not into temptation," (Matthew 6:13), and to be watchful and prayerful lest we enter into temptation!
6. We are taught to watch out for the devil! "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). The word "vigilant" in this verse comes from the exact same Hebrew word as "WATCH" in the text.

WATCH YE! JUST TWO WORDS, BUT SO IMPORTANT!!!! STUDY ALL THE TEXT!

"Anything Is Possible With God"

by sis. Ashley N. Yates
Stockbridge, Georgia

In July 2010, my world changed forever. I was on vacation with my family when we received a call from my grandmother saying that my grandpa had an aneurysm and was being taken to the hospital. There was so much I wanted to tell her. When I knew she was on the phone, I planned on telling her how great my vacation had been so far and how much I missed both of them. I remember thinking, "How could this happen to him?" Will he be okay?" She told us that we did not need to come home yet until the doctors figured everything out; but we packed our stuff and come home immediately. I believe that if you put your faith in God, then anything is possible.

When we got home, we went to Emory Hospital to check on him. My grandma told us that he had an aneurysm that had ruptured and a stroke. After doing a few surgeries, the doctors stated they did not know if would

make it; and if he did, he might not be the same as he was before the aneurysm. It took a great deal of persuasion from my family members in order for me to go into his room to see him. Of course I wanted to see him but I was scared. The first time I saw him I cried because I knew there was nothing I could do to help him.

When I finally realized that I had to put my faith in God and trust that everything was going to be okay, miracles started happening for him. After waiting for weeks, he finally opened his eyes. he was moved to another hospital where more care would be provided. There he started responding more and could consume food easier. After a few more months, he finally started talking and remembering who we were.

I started to realize how much my family had worked together through this difficult time in our lives. Old bonds that had been served were mended and forgotten. My dad and aunt took turns

going to the hospital to visit him. Also, I got to connect with members of my family that I had not talked too much before. There were still difficult times during this hard time in all our lives. I remember spending the night at my grandmother/s house with my cousin. We were looking through old birthday and anniversary cards between my grandparents. After reading all the sweet words between the two of them, I almost broke into tears again. I could see and feel the love that they have for each other all these years. If something like this ever happens to me, I do not think I would be able to hold it together as well as my grandmother.

After going through this ordeal, my perspective of life has been drastically changed. I believe that if you put your faith in God, then absolutely anything possible. As soon as I realized that, everything improved. Even though life may have up's and down's, God will always be there to help and guide you.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

Bible Reading Calendar for January

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Genesis 1,2	Matthew 1
2	Genesis 3,4,5	Matthew 2
3	Genesis 6,7,8	Matthew 3
4	Genesis 9,10,11	Matthew 4
5	Genesis 12,13,14	Matthew 5:1-26
6	Genesis 15,16,17	Matthew 5:27-48
7	Genesis 18,19	Matthew 6
8	Genesis 20,21,22	Matthew 7
9	Genesis 23,24	Matthew 8
10	Genesis 25,26	Matthew 9:1-17
11	Genesis 27,28	Matthew 9:18-38
12	Genesis 29,30	Matthew 10:1-23
13	Genesis 31,32	Matthew 10:24-42
14	Genesis 33,34,35	Matthew 11
15	Genesis 36,37	Matthew 12:1-21

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Genesis 38,39,40	Matthew 12:22-50
17	Genesis 41	Matthew 13:1-32
18	Genesis 42,43	Matthew 13:33-58
19	Genesis 44,45	Matthew 14:1-21
20	Genesis 46,47,48	Matthew 14:22-36
21	Genesis 49,50	Matthew 15:1-20
22	Exodus 1,2,3	Matthew 15:21-39
23	Exodus 4,5,6	Matthew 16
24	Exodus 7,8	Matthew 17
25	Exodus 9,10	Matthew 18:1-20
26	Exodus 11,12	Matthew 18:21-35
27	Exodus 13,14,15	Matthew 19:1-15
28	Exodus 16,17,18	Matthew 19:16-30
29	Exodus 19,20,21	Matthew 20:1-16
30	Exodus 22,23,24	Matthew 20:17-34
31	Exodus 25,26	Matthew 21:1-22

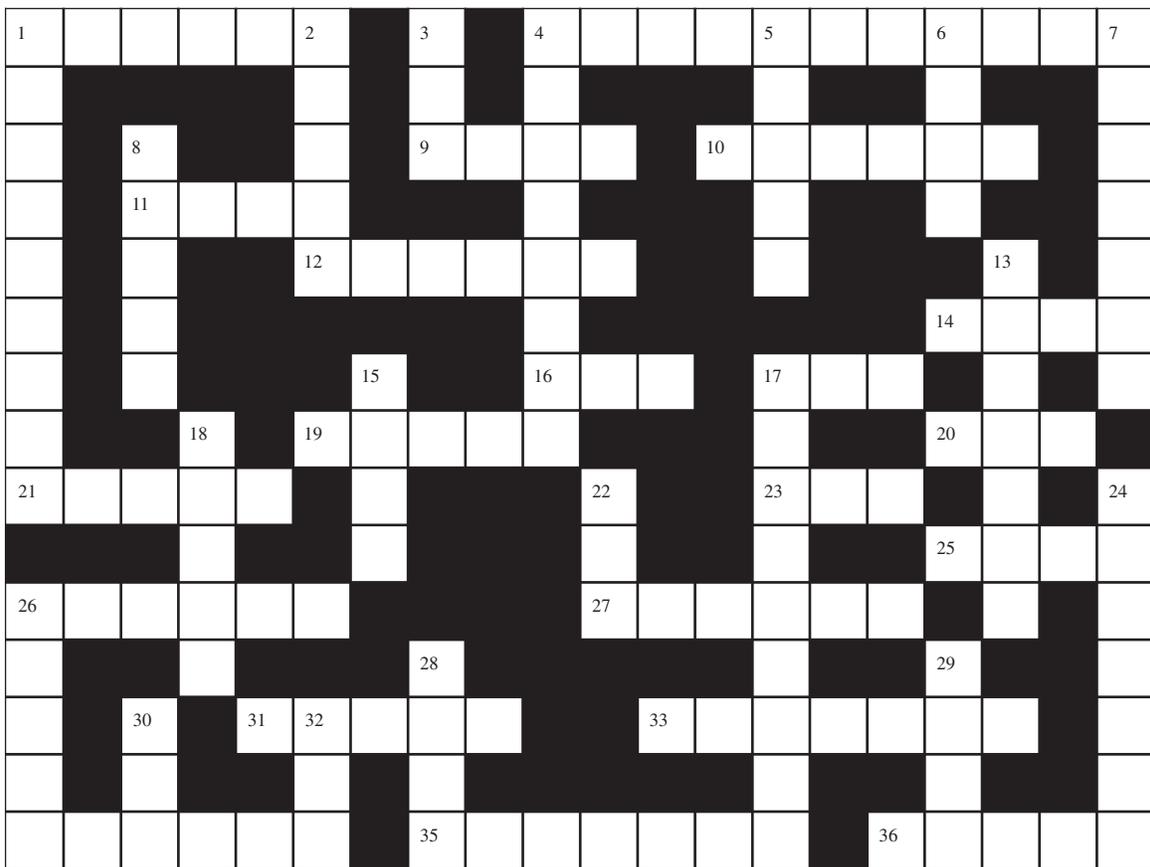
**ANSWERS TO
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE
DECEMBER 2012**

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¹⁹ L	O	V	E	R	S				²⁰ E		L				²¹ A	L	O	N	E
Y			R			²² T	H	I	N	G		L					U		A
	²³ S	A	I	D		H			E					²⁴ S			R		N
²⁵ G			L			I			²⁶ M	U	²⁷ Z	Z	L	E		²⁸ A			C
²⁹ I	G	N	O	R	A	N	T		I		E			³⁰ R	E	B	U	K	E
R			U			G			E		A			V		L			
³¹ T	R	E	S	P	A	S	S	E	S		³² L	I	F	E		³³ E	V	E	R

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "Therefore they say unto God, depart from us; for we _____ not the knowledge of thy ways." 4. "And he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the _____ of the earth:..." 9. "...and _____ can stay his hand, or say unto him, what doest thou?" 10. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never _____, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." 11. "He saith _____ them, but whom say ye that I am?" 12. "Moreover he must have a good _____ of them which are without;..." 14. "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that _____ me" 16. "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath _____ revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." 17. "... _____ my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven." 19. "We love him, because he _____ loved us." 20. " _____ the truth, and sell it not:..." 21. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and _____, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." 23. "And they said, Some say that thou _____ John the Baptist..." 25. "For I _____ them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" 26. "...and he that believeth on me shall never _____." 27. "...because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also _____ thee..." 31. "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their _____, and my people love to have it so...." 33. "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not _____ against it." 34. "...he that cometh to me shall never _____,..." 35. "And ye also shall bear _____, because ye have been with me from the beginning." 36. "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation _____ to be revealed in the last time."



DOWN

1. "My people are _____ for lack of knowledge...." 2. "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the _____ of his way shall save a soul from death,..." 3. "...he asked his disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the _____ of man am?" 4. "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be _____,..." 5. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the _____ of life:..." 6. "But I said unto you, that ye _____ have seen me, and believe not." 7. "There is a way which _____ right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." 8. "But God said unto me, Thou shalt not _____ an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, hast shed blood." 13. "And all the inhabitants of the earth are _____ as nothing:..." 15. "Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore _____ us this bread." 17. "A bishop then must be _____, the husband of one wife; vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;" 18. "...lest he fall into reproach and the _____ of the devil." 22. "Blessed are the merciful: _____ they shall obtain mercy" 24. "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all _____;" 26. "Pilate saith unto him, what is _____?..." 28. "If ye _____ these things, happy are ye if ye do them." 29. "...he that winneth souls is _____." 30. "(For if a _____ know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" 32. "Brethren, if any of you do _____ from the truth, and one convert him;"