

# What Is Wrong?

by Elder Greg Phillips  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

*"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Revelation 3:1-3).*

Jesus' messages to the seven churches of Asia were sent to correct the things that were wrong in those churches. As well, our Lord also saw that these messages were preserved for us as a standard for the church in every age.

Christianity in the United States seems to be weak, ineffectual, and declining. Among Primitive Baptists we have witnessed numerous churches that were once thriving decline and die. In some churches we have seen an attitude of acceptance of the inevitability of the death of the church. Some seem to believe it is only a matter of time until the doors are closed forever.

The fact is that Christianity cannot be weak, ineffectual, or declining. Counterfeit Christianity may seem vital and growing for a time, but will eventually show its weakness. A local body of believers, a church which is the bride and body of Jesus Christ, cannot die so long as she lives by Christ's standard.

Far too many times we have patterned our churches after the generation before us and after other bodies around us rather than the pattern put forth in God's word.

Jesus spoke to the scribes and

Pharisees who so often opposed Him and said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:38). The whole "house" of the Jews was left desolate when Jesus departed from them; and the temple, the holy and beautiful "house", became a spiritual desolation when Christ finally left it. God would abandon it and leave it desolate. He would no longer accept its worship. Jerusalem was too far gone to be rescued from the doom she brought upon herself. "Your house", which was to become desolate and soon to be burned and its walls leveled, had once been God's house. Slowly, the Jews substituted their own rules and traditions for the standard of God's word. "Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matthew 15:1-6).

When we go to the Scriptural record, we will find God's standard for the church by which we can judge our lives and our churches. We do not have to speculate about what our Lord requires of us. He has left us a record.

A generation ago, Walt Kelly, in his comic strip Pogo, had his main character say, "We have met the enemy, and he is us!" This was the case with the church at Sardis, and with us. The

message to Sardis lists no specific enemies, internal or external. There is no enemy named—no liars, no Balaam or Jezebel, no deep secrets of Satan, no synagogue of Satan, no throne of Satan. Of all the congregations in Asia, we know least about Sardis and its problems. Yet no other message is more damaging or more urgent than this one. Too often, when we encounter no spiritual adversaries, it is because we are the enemy.

To the church in Sardis Jesus said, "... I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Revelation 3:1).

Evidently, Sardis was famed among the churches for spiritual vitality. This church seems to have gained a great reputation for being a flourishing church. Christ, the Great Heart-searcher, who "...seeth not as man seeth..." but "...looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7), pronounced her dead.

We are not given a great deal of detail on the condition of the church at Sardis, but evidently they had merely an outward profession and form of religion. They may have had purity of doctrine. There may have been unity among themselves, uniformity in worship, decency, and order. We read not of any divisions among themselves. Every thing appeared well, so far as the observation of men could perceive.

This church was not really what it was reputed to be. They had a name to live, but they were dead. They had a form of godliness, but not the power. They had a name to live, but not a principle of life. If there was not a total absence of life, there was a great deadness in their souls and in their services, a great deadness in the spirits of their "worship." We can assume that there was a great spiritual deadness in the people in hearing, in prayer, and in conversation. What little life was yet left

among them was ready to die.

People may be regular and orthodox in the outward form of religion, and yet destitute of its spirit. As Charles Spurgeon said, "How beautiful may a fruit appear upon the outside and yet be rotten within." Without an effectual change, such cannot escape the judgments of God.

In Scripture, death stands for the concept of separation as well as the absence of life. For the unbeliever, death means without spiritual life, unregenerate, and without God—separated from relationship with God. For the believer, however, death, like sleep, is sometimes used as a symbol for carnality, for being out of fellowship with God, separated from Christ as the source of the abundant life (Ephesians 5:14).

Some at Sardis could have been only professing believers, and so they were spiritually dead, just professing believers involved in an active church. However, I don't think that is the emphasis here. Christ was talking to true believers who were spiritually carnal and working from the energy of their own resources rather than from His (the Word and the Holy Spirit).

This is a warning. A church is in danger of death when it begins to worship its own past or history, its reputation or name, or the names in the church. The situation is grave when the church is more concerned with forms than with function and life. When the church is more concerned with numbers and activities than with the spiritual quality of life it is producing in its people, it, like Sardis, is dead. The same is true when it is more involved with management of programs than with the ministry of the word or with the physical over the spiritual.

Jesus said, "...I have not found thy works perfect before God..." "Perfect" is the Greek verb *pleroo* which may mean "to fill, make full," or "complete." It carries the verbal idea as completed, or as completed with continuing results and looks at an existing condition. The word refers to the "works" done. This is what was incomplete or not completed, or without continuing results. But does this mean they need more works, or that there was something incomplete about the works accomplished, or both? The context suggests both, but perhaps the focus is on the second, a missing element in their deeds. Their works were incomplete in that they lacked the proper source and motive. They had not measured up to God's standards. They were not Spirit produced and could not stand the test of His examination. Their works would fall under the category of wood, hay and stubble (1 Corinthians 3:12-15). They were imperfect either in quality or in quantity.

There was some comfort and commendation for Sardis because there were a few who had not fallen into the above condemnation. "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy" (Revelation 3:4).

"Defiled garments" speaks of the contamination of the life and witness of a believer by adaptation to the standards of the world prevalent in any society. More precisely, it refers to the unrighteousness of men in immorality, apostasy, idolatry, or of their own religious works of righteousness in mere external religion and legalism (see Isaiah 64:6).

The church is to "...be watchful, and

strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God" (Revelation 3:2). What graces and Christian life remain, must be cherished and strengthened before they disappear entirely.

The church is next comforted and assured by calling their attention to certain promises of the Lord to every believer in Christ. The faithful will be arrayed in white garments, their name is not to be blotted out, and their name will be confessed before His Father.

"Walking with Christ in white" is a reward for faithfulness. Note that the reason given in Revelation 3:4 is stated in the words, "for they are worthy." The worthiness here is linked to the fact that these were believers "who have not defiled their garments." This shows us that walking with Him in white is a reward for personal righteousness or deeds of righteousness.

No person is ever worthy of salvation. Justification is a gift given by Christ. It is based on His worthiness and works, not ours (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7), but the white garment mentioned here is given as a reward for a worthy walk. Only overcoming believers, those who haven't defiled their garments (verse 4), will wear these particular garments representative of the righteous acts of the saints in the kingdom.

There is a solemn warning for failure to repent: "...If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Revelation 3:3).

*"Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you" (Jeremiah 26:13).*



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# Growth Toward Christian Maturity

by Elder W. A. Mullis  
(deceased)

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." (Hebrews 6:1).

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and

have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts:

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Ephesians 4:11-24).

There is one general thought, word and lesson which should be considered in the life of every member of every church. This is "Christian Growth." The word "grow" means "to spring up and develop to maturity; to increase in size, strength, force, understanding or in some other way." What percentage of those attending do you think have truly become more Christ-like or have put forth any genuine effort to become more Christ-like or grow toward Christian maturity? This should make us consider the complacency of God's people with awe.

It would certainly be well for every child of God and especially every church member to again realize that a knowledge of God's word is of no value or benefit to us unless applied to our lives in daily living! The person who constantly attends church but fails to grow unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, has gone to God's house for a false purpose. The main reason any person should attend church is to praise God, and to grow in knowledge in order that he might grow into Christian maturity, to the praise of the glory of God's grace.

In the beginning of our Scripture lesson for today, Paul has given us the very basic reason as to why God gave the gifts of preaching unto men. The purpose of the gifts of preaching and of the word of God is for the "perfecting of

the saints for the edifying of the body of Christ till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Now as we consider the purpose of the gift of preaching, let's look in and around the churches and see if our members are really growing more Christ-like day by day. Do you really believe that considering the effort your pastor has put forth, there has been as much growth as there should have been? Consider this prayerfully and honestly, please.

Now let's consider just where the failure has come. Is the failure on God's part. Has He failed to give the necessary gift, or has His gift been insufficient for the work at hand? Brother, God has never yet failed, and I thank God that I know beyond a shadow of a doubt it is impossible for Him to fail! If there has not been a failure in the gift of preaching, maybe the word of God is not sufficient for the work that is so greatly needed. But we believe and know that the inspired word of God is a perfect book, and that within that Holy Book is a remedy and a cure for every spiritual ailment that every child of God and every church has ever had or will ever yet have!

God has even invested the power and authority within the heart of every one of His children for them to become the children of God in an outward manifest sense. He has given us the power to "put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (John 1:13, Eph. 4:24). God has done His part to the jot and tittle, but the failure is to be found in the lives of God's children! Consider the words of Jeremiah in 8:22: "Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? Why then is not the

health of the daughter of my people recovered." Gilead was the place where balm was to be had, and the balm was for healing. There was also a physician there, and that physician was God. Why then was not the health of God's people recovered in the days of Jeremiah? Because they had failed to take, and refused to use the prescription of the Great Physician. The same reason still plagues the people of God today, and it can be the downfall of the Gentiles as it was to the Jews.

Brethren, there is nothing wrong with the balm or the physician in our day! We have failed to take and refused to use the Balm of the Great Physician. Consider Israel of old in Isaiah 1:2-9. Please be sure to read and consider these verses of Scripture carefully.

In verses 17-19 of Ephesians 4, Paul warned the saints of Ephesus that they henceforth were not to walk or live as other Gentiles walked and lived, in the vanity of their mind. Why a child of God would want to come into the church and yet continue to walk in the

vanity of their mind fulfilling the lusts of the flesh and of the mind is something I will never be able to understand. If they loved God and His Church as they should, they would rather not be a member of the Church than to drag her down into the mire and filth of this world.

Then in verses 22-24, Paul earnestly exhorted them that they do two things. First, they were to put off the old man which was corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. This was absolutely necessary before they could do the second. Compare the words to Titus in 2:12: "that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world." Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts was essential before they could live soberly, righteously and godly. We must first put off the old man with his ungodly deeds before we can put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness!

May God help us all to examine our-

selves and repent!

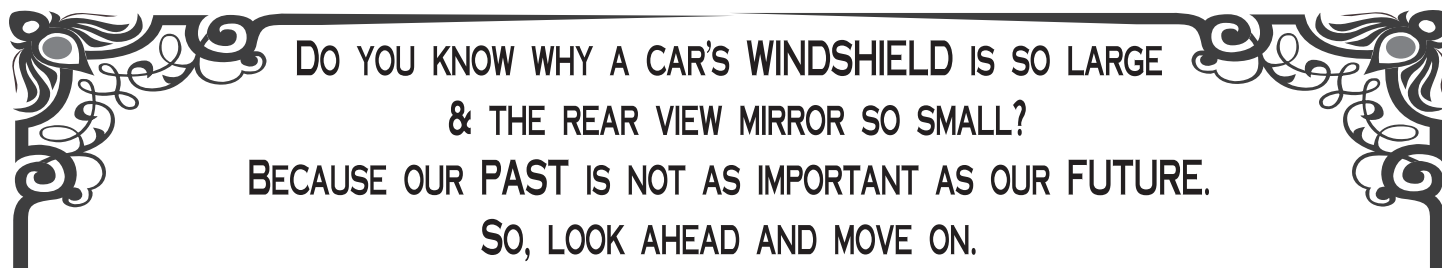
### THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. For what purpose was the Scripture given? 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
2. Why then have not we grown toward Christian Maturity as we should have? Is there anything wrong with what God has done?
3. Where is Gilead of today? What is the balm of today? Who is the physician of today?
4. Can you understand why a person would want to come into the church, yet continue to walk in the ungodliness of this world? Should the Church permit this?
5. Before we can "put on the new," what must we do? Please discuss this and quote other Scriptures which teach the same.
6. Now pray if you will, that every member of every Primitive Baptist Church will resolve in their hearts, that by the Grace of God we will GROW DAILY toward Christian maturity to a much greater extent than we have in the past.

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## Grow in Knowledge

1. "...If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy \_\_\_\_\_! but now they are hid from thine eyes."
2. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in \_\_\_\_\_ ye might have peace..."
3. "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no \_\_\_\_\_."
4. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever."
5. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the \_\_\_\_\_."
6. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the \_\_\_\_\_ for the end of that man is peace."
7. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_."
8. "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
9. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye \_\_\_\_\_."
10. "And the \_\_\_\_\_ of peace have they not known."



# What Is Sin?

by Elder W. H. Durrence  
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Some are quick to respond to the above question by stating that it is an old fashioned, obsolete, outdated concept that has outlived its usefulness. Is that true, or are they blinded and badly deceived by Satan? The latter is admittedly my assessment of their position. Unfortunately they are not going to listen to anyone who suggests that point of view. So I will content myself to believe that there are those whose hearts have been touched by God's grace, and who are willing to look at themselves in the light of divine truth.

As we seek an answer to the question in the title, I will readily admit that the subject is too large for us to explore completely in this article. After all, the word "sin" appears in the Scriptures some three hundred and eighty-nine times. An exhaustive analysis would fill this entire publication many times over. Therefore, I encourage you to take your Bible and study this subject further!

Most people today avoid the subject of sin as if it were the plague. Yet while many avoid discussing the subject, they willingly indulge in sinful activities. Apparently they want to practice sin, just do not want to acknowledge their guilt. Often when a sin is condemned in the Bible, the world renames the act and calls it by a name that does not sound so offensive. Therefore the murder of the innocent unborn babies is called abortion; homosexuality is called an alternative life style; adultery is called an extra marital affair; fornication is living together; and a great number of other sins have been renamed to become more palatable to our society. Regardless of whether the action is called by the Biblical name or the new name, God sees through the farce and knows that the sin has been committed. Most of us are able

to do the same. Because of the nature of sin, it is not only unpopular to talk about, but to preach about, too. The man who does preach against sins accepts the fact that he will invariably get on someone's toes. Some prefer to take the easy way out and stay with current events, humor and social change. However, all who are called to preach are called to "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2). While God charges ministers to preach the word, He also charges you to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Through both study and preaching, we can understand God's perception of sin.

What does God say about **sin**? There are three basic statements made in the New Testament. First, sin is unrighteousness. John was inspired to describe it this way in I John 5:17, which says, "**All unrighteousness is sin**: and there is a sin not unto death." Second, sin emerges in the absence of faith. God inspired Paul to write "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for **whatsoever is not of faith is sin**." (Romans 14:23). The third definition is a very comprehensive one. It states that sin occurs when God's laws are broken. John wrote "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law**." (I John 3:4).

Sin had its beginning in the Garden of Eden. Adam broke God's law and thereby committed sin. Then and there its horrible consequences were revealed. Sin falls into two categories. There are sins of "commission" and of "omission."

The first sin was a sin of commission. Adam committed an act that was divinely forbidden. Therefore sin is committed when someone engages in an act that God has forbidden. On the other hand, when someone fails to do that which God requires, the sin is one of omission. The results are the same -- death! Paul said "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and **death by sin**; and so **death** passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**." (Romans 5:12).

The idea of sin as a "transgression" of divine law, means that those who break God's laws become lawless and are guilty of sin. Frequently in the early years of our nation, the laws of man were in harmony with the laws of God. So when a criminal violated the laws of God, he might also break the laws of the land. Such is not the case in our nation today. Today our system is often more concerned with technicalities and procedures than with guilt or innocence.

How truly sad because it has caused our nation to veer off the course divinely charted, in which people live under God's set of rules or laws. The tragic result is that lawlessness is ever on the rise and sin has permeated our society at every level. But God's laws were given to help us all stay on the right track. He did not give them to save anyone, but that sin might be revealed and avoided. Paul said, "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (Romans 5:20). Thank God that grace did abound, for without it we would have no hope of salvation at all. If sin were not so awful, God would not have given Jesus to die for sins, and thereby save His dear people from its lasting penalty. It is a pity that many people

take sin so lightly!

In conclusion, let me remind you that any time anyone breaks the laws of God, he has committed sin. That applies to you and to me. It is not limited only to the breaking of the Ten Commandments, but embraces every law and commandment which is to be found in the Bible. We are to learn God's will and live His way. If we refuse to do so, we have sinned whether or not society recognizes it as such. We must answer to God on the mat-

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ter of sin; and He knows everything we do, say or think. The only way to know if your life is in His perfect will is to read and study the Bible, to pray for divine guidance to understand, and for grace to live by His laws. **To fail to do so is SIN!** When we detect the presence of sin in our lives, we should repent. John the Baptist preached, "... **Repent ye:** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:2). When we observe the presence of sin around us, let us refrain from it. Paul said, "And

have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove them.**" (Ephesians 5:11). God help us to recognize sin, whether it is unrighteousness, actions apart from faith, or the breaking of God's holy laws. If we understand what sin is, then maybe we can succeed better at walking within the boundaries which God has lovingly set for us and thus live a holier life. May our gracious heavenly Father and loving Saviour be pleased and praised thereby.

## *Am I Sick*

by Elder Carl Staten  
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"Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?" (Jeremiah 8:22).

In simple terms, the text asks is there no cure for the sickness? Is there no doctor in the area? The implied answer is **YES!** The next question is, then why are we not cured? For a person to seek a doctor or help for a sickness, they must first acknowledge the sickness! They must admit the problem. You know the person who says he can quit smoking, is hooked! The one who says he can handle beer or whiskey, is being handled by IT! Until we come to the place we admit to ourselves we have a problem, no help will be sought or wanted! You know I've heard a lot of people say that they have quit smoking several times. What they really did was take a pit-stop between smokes. When you quit, you stay quit. I know what I'm talking about. When you admit the problem and WANT to quit, with God's help; you can! I wonder why people have to be at the bottom of the barrel or told that death is near before they want to quit? But that is usually the case.

God's people, including myself, have a problem they need to face! We have grown farther and farther away from God's ways and from the fear of Him!

This problem is very clearly seen in our way of life. This country that founded "IN GOD WE TRUST" has turned to take the opinions of such as the ACLU and other humanistic "new age" groups until these very words mentioned are being removed from more and more places. There are some things that are called religion, that have been affected by these groups, that really are not missed by me. However, they would close the doors of your churches if they were allowed! You may say this cannot happen. A closed-eye and ear attitude, on our part, will help them win! Our families are falling apart! The family is one of the very basics of the Scriptures themselves. When so many children have divided homes, parents that differ, a dad that beats them, a mom who is not there or worse, wonder why it is when we try to relate to "our Heavenly Father" and our church as, 'mother,' they shy away or reject such teaching!

Remember the Scripture that states, "If the foundations be destroyed, what shall the righteous do?" More and more so-called churches are just social clubs, or a place to go, a place that is more concerned about quantity instead of quality! No real teaching of God's word is heard from the pulpits! Our schools aren't allowed to teach

true religion, but the religion of evolution and humanism is taught every day!

Lord help us to see that **we are sick!** We are on the edge of disaster. We are being destroyed within by diseases that result from no morals! The evils of a world that is anything but toward God, is pumped into our homes on TV everyday! You say I've finally shown I'm a fanatic. **God give us more fanatics that will stand up! We are SICK!** I'm sick! I'm sick of these things continuing even among God's people without what seems to be a care.

What is the answer? **There is a balm in Gilead!** There is a physician there! God is our only HOPE. He is the only cure. Every pastor should pray for messages that will move people, that will pray for courage to do what they have been led to do!

God give us weeping Jeremiahs and Nathans who will tell us, "**THOU ART THE MAN!**" Give us the courage and faith of the 3 Hebrews in the fire. May we be counted for the battle; may we fight the good fight and lay hold of eternal life! May we seek the Good Physician, the only cure, Jesus Christ! Pray for me, who feels burdened by these problems. God bless you all.

# Things To Remember

## REMEMBER DESTRUCTION FOR UNBELIEF!

by Elder William M. Mullis  
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"I will therefore put you in **remembrance**, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." (Jude 5).

Remember that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not!

Much is said in the Word of God about belief and unbelief! Probably one of the most familiar verses in all the Bible speaks of believing: "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." (John 3:16), Thus, we have a positive promise to those who believe in Christ. Many positive promises are given to those who believe, for we read further in the book of John, Chapter 5, verse 24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life!" Here we have the promise of Christ that while we are hearing, and while we are believing, we shall not come into condemnation! One might misunderstand the verse to be saying that if we have heard once, and have believed once, then we will not ever come into condemnation. But it is only while we are hearing and believing that the promise of not entering into condemnation is for us and to us! When we cease to hear and believe, we will suffer under the chastening hand of God.

Look a little further in the book of John to Chapter 6, verse 35. "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Again, we see a

promise to the people of God. Jesus is not saying that if we come to Him one time we will never hunger again. He is not saying that if we believe one time, we will never thirst again. But Jesus is saying that He is the BREAD of life, and when we are coming to Him, we will never go away hungry --- we shall be filled! And when we are believing on Him, we shall not be thirsty! What a promise to thrill our souls! While we are believing, we are filled to the uttermost, and indeed we find that our cups run over while we are believing.

Too many people of God are trying to lay hold on the promises of God because of their past belief or obedience! Are we presently believing and obeying?

Come down to John 11:26, and listen to another dear promise of Jesus to the one who is believing: "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" The words death, dead, or die, are used with various applications in the Scriptures, but it always means to be separated from!" Natural death is not the end of life - It is the separation of life from these bodies. In this eleventh chapter of John, Jesus is talking to Martha about the death of Lazarus, her brother. Jesus told her Lazarus would rise again, and Martha said that she knew Lazarus would rise again in the resurrection at the last day. At that point, Jesus actually makes two statements about believing. v. 25 says "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live!" In this statement, Jesus is saying that those who believe in Christ, though they die a natural death, yet they shall live again!! Then Jesus goes further in verse 26 by saying, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." While we are yet living

in this world, and while we are believing in Christ, we shall never die! That is, we shall never be separated from the communion, fellowship and blessings of God. The Father will be with us, and bless us abundantly while we are believing in Jesus Christ! While we live here in this world, God will bless us and be a father unto us, and we will enjoy His fellowship while we walk in the light as He is the light. Jesus says in John 12:46, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." If we are wilfully sinning and walking in darkness, we are not believing on Christ and having fellowship with Him. This can be understood as we consider the parable of the Prodigal Son. You can read this in Luke 15:11-32. A certain man had two sons. The younger son gathered his portion of the inheritance and took his journey into a far country where he wasted his substance with riotous living. Then, when all was gone, and he was starving, he repented and returned to his father very meekly and humbly! He confessed his foolishness to the father, and his father rejoiced at his return home! The father clothed his son with a robe, and ring, and shoes, then killed the fatted calf to eat. Now listen closely to the words of the father: "This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found." He says that his son was dead! Though we know the son had not suffered a corporal or natural death, he had been separated from the communion and fellowship of the father. When we waste our goods in riotous living and walk in unbelief, we are dead: separated from the communion, fellowship, and blessings of our heavenly Father!

Now listen again to the words of Jesus in John 11:26, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never

die! Believest thou this?" That is, whosoever is living, and is believing in Christ shall never be separated from communion and fellowship with Christ. Praise God for the many promises of great blessings when we do believe!

Let us now return to the original text which tells us something to remember! Jude 5 tells us to remember what happens when we do not believe!

"Remember that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not!" Think about the miracles God performed in delivering or saving the people out of the land of Egypt! God manifested His love and power in an amazing way to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage! Then God destroyed the vast majority of the people he saved, because of their unbelief!

Remember that! Remember that the same God who delivered and saved them, later destroyed them in the wilderness! Though God gives us many promises of blessings for believing Him, He also warns us of the danger of perishing when we walk in unbelief!

Why did God save the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt? Over and over and over, God commanded Pharaoh, "Let my people go, that they may serve me!"

In that statement, God gave Pharaoh a command; plus God told Pharaoh the reason Israel was to be released from Egyptian bondage! "Let my people go, that they may serve me!"

Israel was saved by the almighty God of heaven and earth for a purpose: to serve God!

Israel was saved to serve God! But Israel served themselves and did not believe God nor serve Him! They died in the wilderness because they did not believe God! And many people have

been destroyed after having been delivered from the bondage of sin and death because they did not go forth to serve God!

Remember that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not!

Read Deut. 8:10-20; 10:12,13; 11:1-32

All of the children of Israel who were 20 years of age and older when they came out of Egypt, were destroyed afterward except for Caleb and Joshua! They all died in the wilderness..wandering, lost, and longing to enter into Canaan and sometimes even desiring to return to Egypt! But neither the personal desire of getting out of the wilderness nor returning to Egypt was ever fulfilled; and they died!

Hundreds of years later, we hear the Psalmist reminding the people about the horrible plight, and end of those who were delivered out of Egypt! Psalm 95:6-11 says, "O Come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker! For He is our God; and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. Today, if ye will hear His voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, it is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest." The people were here told to remember that the Lord having saved the people out of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not!

Not only does the Psalmist and other prophets remind us of the way

God destroyed those who were saved, but we find later that Paul tells us to remember what God did to Israel; and we better fear lest we, too, perish because of our unbelief!!

Please read Hebrews 3:8-13, Hebrews 3:17-19 and 4:1 and carefully notice 3:17-19 and 4:1. "But with who was he grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."

Unbelief is at the root of all sin! I am not saying that we do not believe there is a God when we sin. But we, at the time we sin, do not really believe God will chasten us and destroy us!


Let us say with one who desired great blessings from the Lord, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief?" (Mark 9:24). We believe so much about God! But there are times in our lives when we believe so little about God!

Remember that the Lord, having saved the people out of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not!

If we really believe God, what kind of life will we be living? Has God saved you from the bondage of sin and death? Why has God saved you from bondage? Remember that God says, "Let my people go that they may serve me!!!"

Are you serving God or serving yourself? Will your end be like that of Caleb and Joshua, or like the multitudes who walked in unbelief?

May we obey God, and remember that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not!



**Often we lose hope and think this is the end! GOD smiles from above and says,  
"Relax, my dear child, it's just a bend not the end!"**

# All Sin is Not Equal!

by Bro. Robert Varn  
Jacksonville, Florida

I strongly believe one of the errors that is greatly affecting our culture today is the false teaching that all sin is equal. Not only is it affecting Christians, but it is affecting society as a whole. I believe a majority of Christians and pastors of all denominations have bought into the lie of all sin being equal. There are a lot of very zealous Christians teaching this untruth.

It is dangerous because people see no difference in saying a word of profanity and killing someone. Let me say that profanity is wrong, and we should try to keep our speech as clean as possible; but it is not as severe as murder. Christians give in to adultery because they see no difference in that and having evil thoughts. Some Church goers commit abortion because they see no difference in killing someone and missing church one Sunday.

This lie is destroying many churches! I've heard this false belief often pro-

moted. Christians are also abusing the gift of forgiveness. They willingly sin and simply confess their sin. This is taking God's grace for granted. God will hold us accountable for our sin and our actions.

The Bible clearly states that sin is not equal. I will try to show you this. God's word calls some sins an abomination. An abomination is a sin that God calls more severe than other sins. In proverbs chapter 6 verses 16-19, God's word says, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren."

The Bible tells us that these are sins that God truly abhors. His word calls them abominations. Let's take a look

at Leviticus chapter 20 verse 13. God's word says, "If a man also lie with mankind, both of them have committed an abomination! They shall surely be put to death: their blood shall be upon them."

God is calling the sin of homosexuality an abomination and even calls for the death sentence for this sin. Every sin does not require the death penalty, therefore ALL SINS CANNOT BE EQUALLY BAD. All sin is bad, but all sins are not equal!

In I Timothy God's word says, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, **and is worse than an infidel.**"

This clearly tells us that one sin is worse than another. Let me also make the point that any sin, whether we may call it great or small, can put you in a hell. I am not saying any sin should be taken lightly, but what I am saying is all sin is not equal.

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## ~DEATH~

### WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT

*A sick man turned to his doctor  
as he was preparing to  
Leave the examination room  
and said,  
'Doctor, I am afraid to die.  
Tell me what lies on the other side.'*

*Very quietly, the doctor said,  
'I don't know.'  
'You don't know?  
You're, a Christian man,  
and don't know  
what's on the other side?'*

*The doctor was holding  
the handle of the door;  
On the other side came a sound  
of scratching and whining,  
And as he opened the door,  
a dog sprang into the room  
And leaped on him with  
an eager show of gladness.*

*Turning to the patient,  
the doctor said,  
'Did you notice my dog?  
He's never been in this room before.*

*He didn't know what was inside.  
He knew nothing except  
that his master was here,  
And when the door opened,  
he sprang in without fear.*

*I know little of what  
is on the other side of death,*

*But I do know one thing...  
I know my Master is there  
and that is enough.'*

**WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES;  
it takes away today's PEACE.**

# Before the Public Schools

by Gary Benoit  
from "The New American"

Not surprisingly, the education and opinion Cartels claim that the demise of the public school system would mean the demise of education. They paint a bleak picture of a nation of un-schooled illiterates who would not even be able to read and write, much less acquire technological or scientific expertise. As is the case with so much of what is presented as "conventional wisdom," however, the truth is exactly the opposite.

Those who honestly seek the truth need only to examine the history of this country from colonial days until well into the 19th century. During that vast stretch of time, education, with the exception of a few "common" schools in New England, was conducted in an atmosphere of free enterprise based on the preferences of the parents. The one-room school and home schooling were common forms of education. Private schools supported by the parents or by churches or charitable institutions - flourished without the benefit of government subsidies. Parents determined how and what their children would be taught and how much of their resources (in time and money) to devote to their education.

The products of this *laissez-faire*, approach to education were not intellectually handicapped by the absence of government largess, educators, and facilities. Without compulsory attendance laws and other controls mandating a "good" education, they somehow managed to launch the world's "greatest experiment in human liberty" - an experiment that quickly transformed a supposedly backward wilderness nation into the envy of the collectivist old world. "Of the 117 men who signed the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution," Samuel Blumenfeld notes in his

book *Is Public Education Necessary*, "one out of three had had only a few months of formal schooling, and only one in four had gone to college." Benjamin Franklin, Blumenfeld notes, "was taught to read by his father and attended a private school for writing and arithmetic. Thomas Jefferson studied Latin and Greek under a tutor."

Rutherford Institute founder John Whitehead, in his book *Home Education and Constitutional Liberties*, notes that many Americans from various walks of life were educated primarily at home, including Presidents George Washington, James Madison, John Quincy Adams, and Abraham Lincoln. Regarding the latter two, Whitehead elaborates: John Quincy Adams never attended a formal school until he entered Harvard [a private institution] at the age of fourteen. President Abraham Lincoln likewise received all of his education, except one year, through home instruction."

Not just these famous Americans, but the common man, possessed a high degree of literacy and understanding prior to the establishment of the public school system as the most common form of schooling. John Adams stated in 1765: "[A] native of America who cannot read or write is as rare an appearance ... as a comet or an earthquake."

The enduring Federalist Papers of 1787 and 1788 provides Compelling evidence that Adams was not exaggerating. Originally written as a series of 85 newspaper columns to "sell" the Constitution to the man on the street, these Papers today offer a reading challenge to many of our college graduates.

But the colonial and post-colonial generations of Americans not only knew how to read and write; they also

possessed values that are under attack today - self-reliance, diligence, respect for authority, perseverance, honesty, hard work, bravery, etc. But how could it have been otherwise? Because the parents controlled the education of their children, they were able to transmit to their offspring the same traditional values they had grown up with.

The 19th century set of McGuffey Readers, which dominated the education market for decades, is a testament to the impressive quality of both the literary and the moral instruction of that time period. These readers became so popular that during their heyday approximately half of all American children learned to read with them. Between 1836 and 1850 alone, seven million copies of the McGuffey Readers were sold, even though the population at the time was less than 23 million.

Altogether, more than 100 million Copies were published, and they were especially popular in the American south and west - regions a few smug sophisticates in the east might have viewed as being "backward." Unlike the "see Spot run" look-say/whole-language drivel contained in the expensive public school readers of today, the McGuffey selections presented valuable moral lessons and good writing in a form that children could enjoy and understand.

Tragically, many Americans mistakenly believe that the public school system of today constitutes an integral part of our form of government and cannot conceive of its eventual elimination. What they fail to recognize, of course, is that such a separation of school and state would not constitute a revolutionary new development in the history of this country but a welcome return to our philosophical and cultural roots.

# Bible Study on Warfare

by Bro. Jeff Counts  
Brunswick, Georgia

Examples of old testament warfare teach us spiritual lessons: David and Goliath (I Samuel 17), Jonathan vs. Philistines (I Samuel 14), Children of Israel vs. Canaanites (Numbers 14; Book of Joshua).

## Physical Warfare ended with the establishment of the Kingdom ISAIAH 2:1-4

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills: and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. **And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**"

## HOSEA 2:18

"And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: **and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.**"

## DANIEL 7:21-22

"I beheld, and the same horn (king) made war with the saints and prevailed against them; **Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High: and the time came that the saints pos-**

**sessed the kingdom."**

## DANIEL 7:27

"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, **whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."**

## REVELATIONS 12:7-11

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. **And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."**

**Spiritual warfare is still part of  
Christian lives**

## ROMANS 7:14-25

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 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. Now if I do that I

would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. **For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, Warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

## II CORINTHIANS 10:3-5

"For though we walk in the flesh, **we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal,** but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

## I TIMOTHY 1:18-19

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, **that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;** Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

## I TIMOTHY 6:12

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

## II TIMOTHY 2:1-4

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall

be able to teach others also. **Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."**

**EPHESIANS 8:10-18**

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. **Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye all shall be

able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

**Warfare That Jesus Won  
(Eternal Salvation)**

**ISAIAH 40:1-2**

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. **Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished,** that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

**ISAIAH 42:1-4**

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth - I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench:

he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. **He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth:** and the isles shall wait for his law."

**ISAIAH 53:11**

"He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: **by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities."**

**ISAIAH 59:18**

"And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him."

**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."

**JOHN 19:30**

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

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***WE NEED YOUR HELP!***

*If you are able to help with the expenses of spreading the truth of Salvation by Grace, it will be greatly appreciated. Also, please encourage the Church of your membership to support this work on a monthly basis. We urgently need regular contributors.*

**When GOD solves your problems,  
you have faith in HIS abilities;  
when GOD doesn't solve your problems  
HE has Faith in your abilities.**

# Sanctity of Human Life

by Bro. Brooks Strickland  
Gray, Georgia

In our Declaration of Independence, we find these words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." One of these unalienable rights that we see our founding fathers "declared" is "Life." It should be obvious or 'self-evident' that this is the most important unalienable right because it is the one that has to be present to make all other unalienable rights possible. Notice that it is mentioned first of the three.

The Declaration goes on to say, "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men." One thing our Declaration has stated so far is that government does not give men rights, they are endowed to us by our Creator. Another is that the sole purpose for government is to secure these rights, to make sure they are never taken away and never trampled on. Life, among other unalienable rights, is given to us by God.

On January 22, 1973, in *Roe vs. Wade*, our government, rather than securing our unalienable rights, made the act of taking away life "legal" by legalizing abortion. January 22, 2013 will mark the 40th anniversary of the

day our government made our most important unalienable right insecure, while completely overlooking its sole purpose of existence according to the Declaration of Independence. If we cannot guarantee the right to life here in America, we cannot guarantee anything. Of all the blessings and privileges here in America, what good are they to our future generations if it is not guaranteed that our future generation will be born. It would be better that the government not secure liberty and the pursuit of happiness than it would be to not secure life. What good is liberty (and all the other God-given rights that America promises to secure) if America cannot secure your right to life?

All of our rights as Americans are hinged on our right to life. If our society promises and guarantees liberty, pursuit of happiness, and all other forms of freedom, but does not promise life to an unborn child, then it has promised them nothing! It is better to be born in a communist country than to be aborted in a free one!

Not only is life the most important unalienable right to secure, it is the most simple. What sets America apart from other countries has been its ability to secure rights that are harder to come by throughout the world such as

liberty and freedom of religion. What is sad is that after all these other efforts, America does not guarantee the most basic human right! This is a shame because it is the most simple. In not securing this right, America ceases to be the greatest nation on earth. At least in most Communist countries, citizens are given the most important right, and with that right the opportunity to secure the other rights.

I hope you will take every opportunity to express to our government your opposition to abortion, and desire to protect the lives of unborn children. Our government cannot give or take away rights, only our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ does that. Our government has been established for the simple task of maintaining our rights as free men!

Will you stand with our founding fathers, stand against our current immoral and ungodly administration, in helping us to restore the right to life in America? Please write your congressman and Senator to be sure they have it on record that you strongly oppose the killing of children, born and unborn! "LIFE" is a God-given right recognized by our founding fathers and opposed by those who are working to destroy our nation and the principles of righteousness!

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## Answers to Grow in Knowledge

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Peace - Luke 19:42      | 6. Upright - Psalm 37:37      |
| 2. Me - John 16:33         | 7. Christ - Romans 5:1        |
| 3. Law - Galations 5:22,23 | 8. Kingdom - Romans 14:17     |
| 4. Effect - Isaiah 32:17   | 9. Thankful - Colossians 3:15 |
| 5. Wicked - Isaiah 57:21   | 10. Way - Romans 3:17         |

# Adoption Is A Wonderful Option!

by Sis. Becky Hataway  
Gray, Georgia

I was in my freshman year of high school. I can remember it as if it was yesterday. There I was sitting in my new history class, shy and timid, scanning the classroom, seeing who I may be able to befriend.

Two rows over, I noticed a girl who was new to our school. She was a senior and she seemed to have no trouble making new friends. When the bell rang and the class was dismissed, the new girl made her way out of the classroom. As she walked past me, I noticed that she was pregnant. It was hard for her to hide her belly because she was a short, petite girl.

Time passed on and one day I remember her talking about how she

couldn't have a baby right now. It would be too much. It is amazing how things can change in one weekend. One Friday, she left school, pregnant, and by the next week, she came back to school as if she had never been pregnant. She had an abortion. That was over twenty years ago. That "inconvenience" in her life would now have become an adult. An adult that would be finishing college, or maybe engaged to be married, or a million other 'maybes'. But the world will never know, because that life was cut short—even before he had a chance.

Every person should be given a chance. The people of God in America need to step up and take a stand

for those who cannot stand for themselves. Abortion is not the answer and it is not an option. There are too many loving couples who would love to cradle a baby that someone else does not want—loving arms that would reach out to caress that precious little one. Encourage those in your life that may be expecting to cherish the tiny miracle that is inside them. And if anyone is pregnant, and feels hopeless, remember there is hope in adoption.

Adoption is a three-fold blessing. You are blessing a couple who wants to adopt. You are blessing the baby with life. And you are blessing yourself with comfort and peace, knowing that you will not have to live with the guilt of killing your unborn child.

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## Stock Donations Gladly Accepted

We now have an account for readers to contribute stock to help spread the truth of salvation by grace. To make a tax deductible stock contribution to THE TRUMPET OF TRUTH, please call Elder Edward McIntyre, the treasurer, at 229-831-4020. Also, please encourage the church of your membership to support this ministry each month. With the rise in postal rates as well as printing costs, we urgently need more financial support. THANK YOU!!!

## "BIBLE MATHEMATICS"

NO ADDING TO IT! +

NO SUBTRACTING FROM IT! -

JUST RIGHTLY DIVIDE IT! ÷

SPREAD THE TRUTH, AND IT WILL BE MULTIPLIED! X

# Bible Reading Calendar for April

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

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

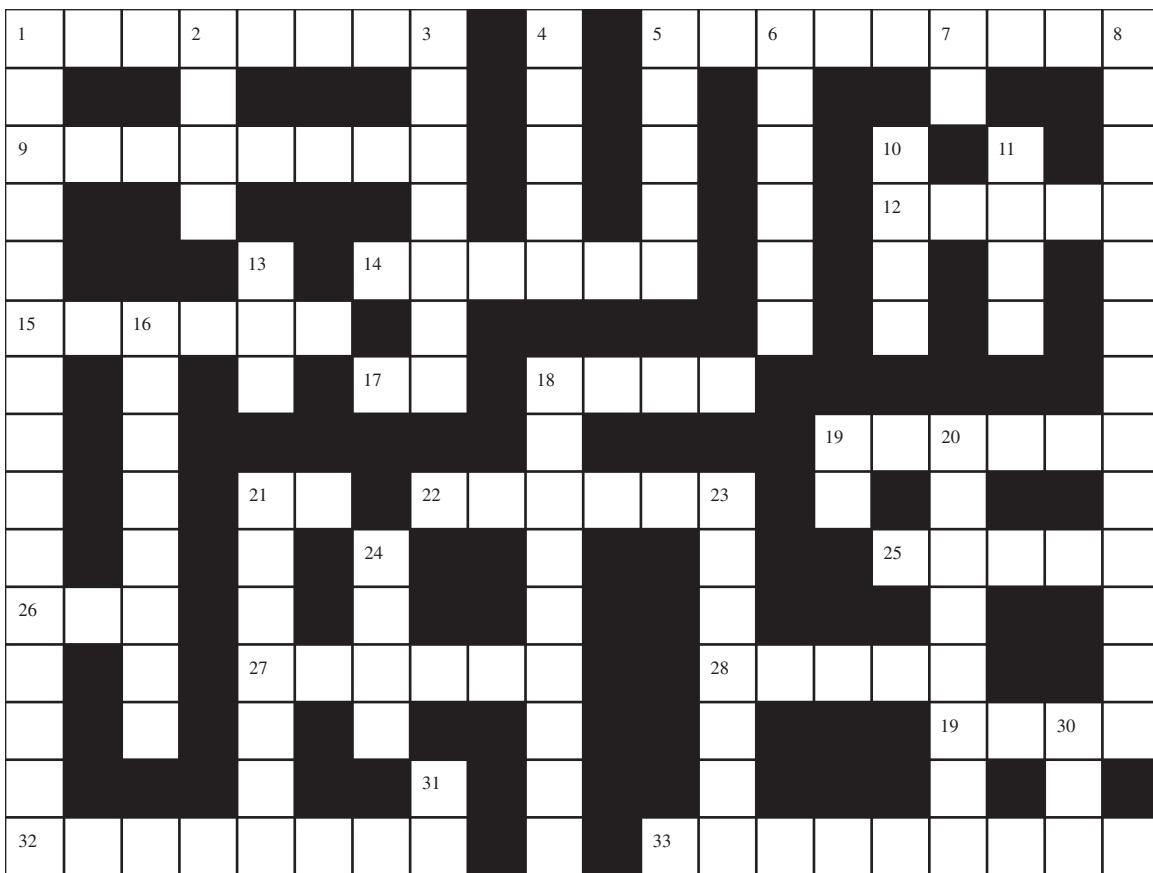
## ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE MARCH 2013

<sup>1</sup> M	E	M	B	<sup>2</sup> E	R	S		<sup>3</sup> T	<sup>4</sup> H	A	N	K	<sup>5</sup> S	G	I	<sup>6</sup> V	I	N	<sup>7</sup> G
A				T					E				O			O			R
N		<sup>8</sup> F		E			<sup>9</sup> A	F	A	R						W			A
<sup>10</sup> Y	O	U		R			L		R				<sup>11</sup> L	I	<sup>12</sup> P	S			C
		L		N			S					<sup>13</sup> J			E		<sup>14</sup> H		I
<sup>15</sup> S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N		<sup>16</sup> A	R	E		<sup>17</sup> L	O	V	E		O
A				L								S			P				U
N					<sup>18</sup> S	I	N	S		<sup>19</sup> C		U		<sup>20</sup> A	L	W	<sup>21</sup> A	Y	S
C			<sup>22</sup> S		H					<sup>23</sup> H	I	S			E		L		
T		<sup>24</sup> S	H	O	U	L	D			I			<sup>25</sup> P			<sup>26</sup> B	O	R	<sup>27</sup> N
I			U		T			<sup>28</sup> B		L			U				N		U
<sup>29</sup> F	A	I	T	H		<sup>30</sup> C		L		D		<sup>31</sup> P	R	A	I	S	E		M
Y			T		<sup>32</sup> L	I	F	E		R			G						B
			L			T		S		E		<sup>33</sup> Y	E						E
<sup>34</sup> L	I	B	E	R	T	Y		<sup>35</sup> S	E	N	T		<sup>36</sup> D	E	V	I	L	E	R

# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. "Lord, I believe, help thou mine \_\_\_\_." 5. "...and the \_\_\_\_ sheweth his handiwork." 9. "\_\_\_\_ that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." 12. "For this my son was dead, and is alive \_\_\_\_; he was lost, and is found." 14. "And whosoever \_\_\_\_ and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" 15. "And saying, repent ye: for the kingdom of \_\_\_\_ is at hand." 17. "For \_\_\_\_ that is dead is freed from sin." 18. "Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my \_\_\_\_, but thine, be done." 19. "...old things are passed away; behold, all things are \_\_\_\_ new." 21. "...is there \_\_\_\_ physician there?" 22. "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might \_\_\_\_." 25. "And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name \_\_\_\_ for he shall save his people from their sins." 26. "...a city that is \_\_\_\_ on an hill cannot be hid." 27. "And It came to pass, that after three days they found him in the \_\_\_\_, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions." 28. "Ye are the \_\_\_\_ of the world..." 29. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed \_\_\_\_ all men, for that all have sinned:" 32. "Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many \_\_\_\_." 33. "...why then is not the health of the daughter of my people \_\_\_\_?"



## DOWN

1. "All \_\_\_\_ is sin: and there is a sin not unto death." 2. "But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desiereth, \_\_\_\_ that he doeth." 3. "And \_\_\_\_ us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." 4. "...But where sin abounded, \_\_\_\_ did much more abound:" 5. "...for whatsoever is not of \_\_\_\_ is sin." 6. "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a \_\_\_\_ for many." 7. "If I regard iniquity in \_\_\_\_ heart, the Lord will not hear me." 8. "...for sin is the \_\_\_\_ of the law." 10. "And I saw, and \_\_\_\_ record that this is the Son of God." 11. "Is there no \_\_\_\_ In Gilead;..." 13. "\_\_\_\_ us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." 16. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath \_\_\_\_ me to preach the gospel to the poor;..." 18. "\_\_\_\_ committeth sin transgresseth also the law:" 19. "Now if we \_\_\_\_ dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:" 20. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new \_\_\_\_..." 21. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, \_\_\_\_ indeed can be!" 23. "The heavens \_\_\_\_ the glory of God;..." 24. "And it came to pass, when the \_\_\_\_ was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem " 30. "I and my Father are \_\_\_\_." 31. "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left \_\_\_\_ of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."