

**INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004---Issue No. 19**

WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (775) 239-2119

E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Website: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute tapes and literature for others and ourselves to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00 PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 3. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis. Please ask us about hosting.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon---Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
1:00 PM---Sabbath Services
3:00 PM---Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM---Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
7:00 PM---Pot Luck Meal
(Bring Food)
8:00 PM---Bible Study
9:00 PM---Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, January 23, 2004
Friday, March 5, 2004
Friday, April 16, 2004

GUEST ROOM--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

LOCATION--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our March/April 2004 Newsletter is February 15, 2004. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. In 2001 expenses for services provided were **-\$4537.29**. We received **+\$1368.00** in gift donations for 2001, leaving us with a balance of **-\$3169.29**. In 2002 expenses for services provided were **-4066.37**. We received **+\$1737.00** in gift donations for 2002, leaving us with a balance of **-\$2329.37**.

Donations for 2003 total **+\$3463.80**. Expenses for 2003 are as follows: Postage **-\$1409.25**, Telephone **-\$106.36**, Internet Services **-\$345.29**, Printing Charges **-\$991.02**, Local Services **-\$271.31** and Research Materials **-\$141.46**. Total balance for 2003 is: **+\$199.11**.

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com Send your prayer requests here. They will go out via email.

Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com The deadline for Issue #20--March/April 2004 is February 15, 2004.

Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to answer your email, send it here.

Darwin-Laura@juno.com If you want us to read it, and delete it, send it here.

FAX--Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

SNAIL MAIL--Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

WEB SITE ADDRESS--<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

AD SECTION--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter and then we will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site.

Do you want to receive Prayer Requests & Updates via E-mail?

To receive Prayer Requests & Updates via email please go to: http://www.darwinlauralee.150m.com/darwinlauralee_049.htm and follow the instructions.

We are sorry, but we cannot sign you up on this list--you must sign yourself up.

David Ben-Ariel is a Church of God member whose website includes many articles of interest for those who are watching prophecy unfold in Jerusalem, Israel and the Middle East.

David Ben-Ariel
Beyond Babylon: Europe's Rise and Fall
www.benariel.com

If a Christian lives each day as if it were their last, God promises that day will never come.

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills, Michigan

SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

- December 20, 2003----Teaching the Law--Lesson #5--"The Story of the Sabbath: Its Link to the Kingdom, Its Purpose and How to Keep It. (Part 1)" and
Teaching the Law--Lesson #6--"The Story of the Sabbath: Its Link to the Kingdom, Its Purpose and How to Keep It. (Part 2)"
- December 27, 2003----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- January 3, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #7--"The Story of the Sabbath: Its Link to the Kingdom, Its Purpose and How to Keep It. (Part 3)" and
Teaching the Law--Lesson #8--"The Story of the Sabbath: Its Link to the Kingdom, Its Purpose and How to Keep It. (Part 4)"
- January 10, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- January 17, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #9--"Genesis 2:1-16" and
Teaching the Law--Lesson #10--"Genesis 2:16-3:5"
- January 24, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- January 31, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #11--"Genesis 3:5-6" and
Teaching the Law--Lesson #12--"Genesis 3:5-6 (continued)"
- February 7, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- February 14, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #13--Genesis 3:6 (Coveting Concept)
Teaching the Law--Lesson #14--Genesis 3:6-24
- February 21, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- February 28, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #15--Genesis 4:1-6 The concept of intimately knowing God.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #16--Genesis 4:6-16 The Way of Cain.
- March 6, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- March 13, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #17--Genesis 4:17-26 The Family of Cain.
Teaching the Law--Lesson #18--Genesis 5:1-10 Genealogy of Man--6000 year history (Part 1).
- March 20, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- March 27, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #19--Genesis 5:1-10 Genealogy of Man--6000 year history (Part 2).
Teaching the Law--Lesson #20--Genesis 6:1-2 Concept of Sons of God/Elohim and daughters of men (Part 1).

If you want to host Sabbath Services and need 2 Sabbaths in a row for your presentation and/or would like to have your presentation listed on our Sabbath Schedule in our newsletter which is sent out to the public, the next deadline for that would be: February 15, 2004. On those Sabbaths of Open Hosting where no one signs up, we will just play a cassette tape by any of various speakers. All Sabbath Services are Hosted by Darwin & Laura Lee unless otherwise stated.

INFORMATION SECTION -- This section is meant for various items which should be of interest to the general public. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We are not always in total agreement with all things we print.

**2003 FEAST OF TABERNACLES
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**by Rosemary Halley
Chandler, Texas**

A different lodging (Comfort Inn, Fiesta Park) and meeting place (Elk's Lodge, just a few feet behind the motel) did nothing to diminish the companionship and family atmosphere of God's Feast site in San Antonio, Texas.

The Feast of Tabernacles in San Antonio was hosted by the Church of God, San Antonio, affiliated with the Churches of God Outreach Ministries. Julian and Ofie Cruze did their usual outstanding best in providing a Feast filled with fun, food, and things to do. They seem to have a knack in providing the best of spiritual encouragement and education, whether it be in the spoken word or in the special music, and always interesting outside entertainment. They and all their volunteers do their very best to make it a Feast of Rejoicing to our God and always with special efforts directed to our babes in Christ, our children.

It seems that this Feast, even more so than the years before, was the Feast of the Children. Each day began with songs of praise and adoration, an opening prayer, a Scripture reading by one or more of the children, a prayer of blessing for our children, and then a little blessing song which we all learned, directed to our little ones. You can see, our children were always in our minds during this Feast.

Friday evening, all were "welcomed" with finger foods and fellowship. Mr. Cruz then gave a welcoming service. This was finished with praise singing. On the Sabbath, two services were held, with Mr. Cruz asking "Why are We Here?" and in the afternoon, Mr. Tom Justus spoke about "Beyond the Hill." That evening's entertainment was Mexican appetizers, Mariachi music and more fellowship. During Sunday's services, Mr. Cruz told us all about our "Partying God." That afternoon and evening was free for whatever each family wished to do. On Monday, Mr. Tom Williams gave us his first part of "Needed for Salvation." The Elks Lodge offered to provide (for a reasonable fee) hamburgers and chips, after services for any who would like to avoid having to go out for lunch. This was an offer that was hard to resist and we appreciated their offer. A new addition to our entertainment was presented that evening with live Andean music. Some of the group, "Inca Gold" who play on the

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steps on the River Walk, came to the Lodge to play for us. They were exceptional! Of course, more food and fellowship was enjoyed with the music.

Tuesday's service was a split sermon, Mike Smith told us about his life and how God had intervened and brought him into the fold, during and after his life-threatening health problems a few years back. David Hope then spoke about "Our Awesome God!" That afternoon, after a Hamburger Feast provided by the Church of God San Antonio, there was a Petting Zoo, with pony rides, a Magic Show, Face Painting, Balloon sculpting, Kareoke and other music provided for the children, whatever the age.

On Wednesday, Mr. Williams finished his sermon on "Needed for Salvation." After services, there was a baptism. Troy Frana from Springfield Missouri (son-in-law of Bonnie French) joined the Family of God. The evening's festivities began with a Sandwich Feast (provided by small groups from various congregations) and then Mrs. Sharon See graciously provided us with a Concert. She is so-o-o talented!

Another split sermon was provided on Thursday. The first by Mr. Ron Wilhoite "There is a Reality Behind the Word." And then Mr. Jim Arnold spoke on "Who Are We?" There was also a special recognition made this day to Mrs. Rosemary (Rosy) Halley for her work with the "Prayer Lines", an internet prayer request publication. (I find this hard to write about since it was for me.) I was introduced to the congregation, the ministers laid hands on and blessed me and my work, and I was then presented with a gift - - - A beautiful throw showing a beautiful scene and a Bible Scripture; along with a small pillow. It was so much appreciated, and I thank all for it. I will treasure it forever. The evening was spent watching the much awaited Fun Show, which again this year was great. It's amazing how much talent is available in God's church.

Friday was designated as "Focus on the Family Day" where the day was devoted to a day when a family can get together and do something special. In the evening, there was a hymn along. Our second Sabbath of the Feast began as all the rest, but much sadder. Everyone knew what was coming. There was a blessing of the children by the ministers and Mr. Justus spoke about the extension of the very nature of God. This was followed by the usual rendering (and

that's definitely what it was, with all the crying going on) of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

THE SAN ANTONIO FEAST OF TABERNACLES WAS OVER! There was a registration of 196 like-minded, God-fearing, loving persons. Now is the time to begin thinking about the Feast of Tabernacles 2004. I understand that the Motel and Elk's Lodge both would like to have us back next year, so if you would like to consider this site for your Feast of Tabernacles 2004, just let Julian Cruz know. You can reach him at 219 Whitefield Ave, San Antonio, Texas 78223; Phone: 210/333-7229. E-Mail: jcruz@ix.netcom.com

Check out the Feast slide show and sermon messages, which are available on the church's website at: www.churchofgodsa.com

THE TESTIMONY OF GOD

by Jeffrey A. Caldwell
Cupertino, California

In a letter from Christian Educational Ministries dated March 1, 2002, Ronald L. Dart offers this fine insight:

"If we call on God to give us His Testimony, what is it that He has to tell us that is of prime importance? As it happens, the Testimony of God, the only time God ever spoke aloud to an entire assembly of people, was that work of law we call "The Ten Commandments." They were spoken from the mountaintop at Sinai and then written with the finger of God in two tables of stone and placed in a wooden chest. That chest was originally called, not the "Ark of the Covenant," but "The Ark of the Testimony"!

"Then put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you" – Exodus 25:16"

**"Our divine destiny is to
be transformed into
reflections of God's
perfection."**

by Alan Ruth
Farmington Hills, Michigan

LETTERS SECTION--This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and un-factual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Send your letters to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We do not print all letters that we receive.

**Letter Received:
December 8, 2003**

**Subject: BRETHREN WORKING
TOGETHER**

**by Michael Porter
Benin Republic, Africa**

Dear Brethren,

Greetings to you in Jesus most precious name.

Thank you all for your prayers and givings, which without we could not achieve any success.

Join me on a little outing. I know it's short notice, but that's all right. All you need is your imagination. If you have the time to read this, then you have the time for the trip.

Imagine standing on the sloping beach in the early morning. You are at Grand Popo in Benin, near the border of Togo. As we take in the surroundings, the pounding surf, the smooth beach, the multi-colored shells, we become aware of a dozen or more men down the beach pulling on a rope. What are they doing? It is some sort of one-sided tug-of-war? Looking again, we see a similar group of men further down the beach. Then it clicks!

They're drawing in the fishing nets positioned the night before. Each group of men is pulling one of the net's two ends. As we follow the group's efforts, we note two or three men treading water in the notoriously heavy seas beyond the breakers. They, too, are part of the team

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of fishermen.

As the work progresses, we are struck by the cooperation demonstrated by the fishermen. The men in the water observe the fish and the position of the nets. Hand gestures signal those on shore when and which direction to pull. Meanwhile, each man on the rope is poised for instant action, muscles flexed, feet firmly planted in the sand. At a signal from the guides in the water, and communicating by a series of chants, the rope handlers launch themselves into a synchronized rhythm, gradually reeling in the net.

Finally the net itself, now drawn into a sling-like bag, is hauled ashore, bursting with a variety of fish! The two teams now stand side-by-side.

A group of women arrives. Once the fish are sorted, some women wind the ropes into neat coils while others separate the fish into baskets for distribution. A few others have brought water to refresh those who have worked to pull in the catch.

This image provides us with a useful illustration of our partnership with our brothers and sisters in the faith. Jesus calls his disciples to follow him and become fishers of men. (Matthew 4:19) Brethren around the world work together towards a common goal, bringing in those who will believe in Christ. That's really why we've come to Benin and Togo, to participate in a fishing expedition!

But, it's not an easy task. There are a lot of fish out there! Could one of these Grand Popo fishermen have hauled in a net of this size by himself? No, such tasks require the exertion of many people working in an organized and mutually supportive way.

The harvest of souls calls for a united church, laboring side-by-side for God's glory, united by none other than Jesus Christ. In his wisdom, God gives each of us different personalities, strengths, and spiritual gifts.

Each person plays their part, whether giving the call to pull, digging in and pulling hard, coiling rope, or taking care of the day's catch. Not everyone can be in "front-line" ministry, but most of us work alongside Beninois, Nigerians and Togolais in various capacities. In God's fishing company, all the roles are of equal importance.

**Letter Received:
December 14, 2003**

Subject: FORNICATION

**by Ronald Barlow
Huntsville, Texas**

Articles mentioned in this letter are as follows: "WHO WERE THE PHARISEES AND THE SADDUCEES?" by Bryan T. Huie, and "WHAT IS FORNICATION?" Part #5, by Laura Lee. Both articles can be found in Issue #18.

Ronald writes:

Dear Brethren in Christ Jesus,

I was blessed recently by a brother who shared your newsletter (November/December 2003 -- No. 18) with me. I am a prisoner in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice -- Institutional Division, in Huntsville, Texas. We are not allowed to receive videos or audio tapes, but I would very much like to receive your newsletter and positional papers.

Laura writes:

I have added you to our newsletter mailing list. We do not have positional papers. If you want to know our position on something, you would have to specifically ask.

Ronald writes:

I am a gentile believer in Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

Laura writes:

To gather knowledge and to believe in God is not enough. We must also be doers of the law.

18. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
19. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **the devils also believe, and tremble.**
20. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
21. Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
22. Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
23. And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it

was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

24. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. James 2:18-24

13. (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. Romans 2:13

Ronald writes:

and only recently, learnt that there are a great number of Messianic Jewish assemblies in the United States who share their perspectives relating to first century Christian Church, its practices, customs and Hebrew roots. In reading your newsletter, I was thrilled to read the article by Bryan Huie, "Who were the Pharisees and the Sadducees?". In learning about my Jewish heritage I have been greatly enriched and many of the Scriptures have taken on a new brilliance and hue for a greater understanding of my Lord Jesus Christ; how blessed I've been.

Laura writes:

We are not a Messianic Jewish group. Our perspective focuses on the Bible, and not on the perspective of Judaism.

Ronald writes:

I enjoyed your article, "What is Fornication?". However, I perceive fornication from a different position. God creates by defining all facts. And by definition, He knows all consequences of His creation. All of God's creation is good within the boundaries He defines. (I hope I am not being too abstract.) Sin is the violation of God's boundaries which He has defined: Fire is good if it is used lawfully; sex is good if it is used lawfully.

Laura writes:

4. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 1 John 3:4

I agree. Many things can be used wrongly. All things should be done within the bounds of God's law as defined by the Bible.

Ronald writes:

God did not create the woman for sex, but as a help mate who would cling to her husband and the two would

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become one (Gen. 2:24) for the purpose of bringing forth Godly seed (Mal. 2:14-15) in a marriage covenant. Clinging and oneness speaks of loyalty and commitment, one to the other and to God, sealed by Holy covenant vow sacred to God. Wherefore, God says, "I hate divorce" (Mal. 2:16). What God has put together, let no man put asunder (Matt. 19:6).

Laura writes:

I totally agree that God hates divorce. Please keep in mind though that God himself was involved in a divorce.

8. And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of Divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. Jeremiah 3:8

We can be assured that God was not the one who broke this marriage covenant with Israel, but He was the one who filed for the divorce. So we must keep in mind that when man/woman breaks a marriage covenant the other mate is free to file for the divorce and God does not bind such marriages.

Ronald writes:

Adultery and Fornication are sins because they violate the purpose and intent of God to bring forth Godly children within the wedding covenant. Adultery can not be committed by those who have not violated a marriage covenant. Adultery is the noun form of the verb, adulterate, which is to dilute, to weaken or make this the wedding vow, which may include the extreme form, by fornication. Not only is the one who has made a wedding vow guilty of adultery, but whosoever shares in the weakening of the vow, is guilty of adultery as well. However, adultery is not a cause for divorce:

Laura writes:

I do agree that the sins of Adultery and Fornication violate Gods purpose to bring forth Godly children, however it goes far deeper than that in that these sins deeply divide us from God and those we could otherwise have right relationships with.

If you say that adultery is not a cause for divorce, then you are saying that God had no reason to divorce Israel. Please keep in mind that God wrote the law and He would not expect things from us that He would not do himself. God would not

violate His own law, a law which God understands far better than any of us do.

Ronald writes:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, though shalt not commit adultery. But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5:27-28)

"It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement; But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery [by causing her to weaken her vow]. (Matt. 5:31-32)

In the case of Fornication, God has ordained of His creation, that each should be fruitful and multiply after its own kind. (Gen. 1:22-25) Fornication in Scripture (both Old and New Testaments), by definition is: harlotry (and idolatry) which as we know, is to give or sell oneself sexually for favor and/or consideration. Sexual idolatry is giving oneself over to worship and adoration of sexual immorality. This is a sin that deprives God of Godly seed and spawns children to the world, not after its kind, in the image of God. For this reason only, God will allow divorce, for the Godly spouse, that they be not unequally yoked together, that He may preserve His Godly children.

Laura writes:

Your definition of fornication seems only to include sexual sin, however if one studies it from Genesis to Revelation, it seems to be talking about people who are living a lifestyle of sin. By lifestyle I mean, alcoholism, homosexuality, adultery, wife beating, child molestation, murder and any number of other lifestyles which people choose to live even when they know these lifestyles hurt and affect other people around them who love them.

Many people use an even narrower definition of fornication than you do. Many say the definition of fornication is to have sex before marriage, however that doesn't hold up under study of scripture. In Matthew 5:31-32, the people this is directed at are clearly married and Christ clearly says they can be divorced for the cause of fornication, so my conclusion

would be that we are talking about something far different than sex before marriage.

The subject of marriage, divorce, remarriage and fornication is a rather large biblical subject and you came in on "Part #5" of "What is Fornication?". There was much more printed on this subject. If you are interested, you should ask for the following: "Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage" by Laura Lee, Issue #3---"Who is, or is Not Free to Marry?" by Rhoda Foust, Issue #11---Letter sent by Tommy West, Issue #12---Letter sent by Tommy West, Issue #13---Letter sent by Tommy West, Issue #14---"What is Fornication?", Part #1, by Laura Lee, Issue #14---"What is Fornication?", Part #2, by Laura Lee, Issue #15---"What is Fornication?", Part #3, by Laura Lee, Issue #16-----"What is Fornication?", Part #4, by Laura Lee, Issue #17 and---"What is Fornication?", Part #5, by Laura Lee, Issue #18.

Ronald writes:

Thank you for your invitation to respond to what you have written. I enjoyed what you had to say on the marriage covenant and I look forward to receiving your newsletter on a regular basis in the future, if you should so favor me with your thoughts about our Love and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May we all grow in knowledge and love in Him. Sincerely, your brother in Christ.

**Letter Received:
December 15, 2003**

Subject: PASSOVER DATE

**by Carol Bennes
St. Joseph, Minnesota**

This letter is in regard to the Editor's Note included in Issue #18, in the "Information Section", under the article "Calendar Program", by Alan Ruth.

Carol writes:

Greetings,
[Col. 3:16]

You write unclear as to what date you observe Passover. It's understood that you must observe it on 14/15.

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Laura writes:

We understand that Christ was crucified on the latter part of the 14th. We understand that Passover, the First Day of Unleavened Bread and the Night to be Observed are all the same day.

Carol writes:

As you know, God's days begin at sunset and end at sunset.

Laura writes:

We keep our Sabbaths and Holy Days from sunset to sunset, just as the Bible teaches us.

Carol writes:

God plainly commands us to keep the Passover *beginning* at twilight [just after sunset of the previous day when there is still some light] of 14th (Lev. 23:4-5)

Laura writes:

⇒ Leviticus 23:4 These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.

⇒ Leviticus 23:5 In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover.

In verse 5 the word even in Hebrew is "ben ha arbayim" and means between the evenings. In Hebrew the first evening is when the sun starts to decline at noon and the second evening is when the sun sets.

The term "ben ha arbayim" is used in several verses in the Bible, they are: Ex. 12:6, 16:12, 29:39, 29:41, 30:8, Lev. 23:5, Num. 9:3, 9:5, 9:11, 28:4, and 28:8.

⇒ In Ex. 12:6 it says: And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

Ex. 12:6 shows that the Passover Lambs were killed in the latter part of the 14th. Christ being our Passover Lamb was also killed in the latter part of the 14th.

Carol writes:

and keeping the *whole* day (24 hours) as a memorial Ex. 12:14.

Laura writes:

⇒ Exodus 12:14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

Passover should be kept from sunset

to sunset, just like any other Holy Day or Sabbath is kept. Passover is a memorial of Christ's death.

Carol writes:

(Ex. 12) The lambs were killed at twilight and burned by fire all night --

Laura writes:

I see no place in Ex. 12 or any place else in the Bible where it says the Passover Lambs were burned by fire all night.

⇒ Exodus 12:8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

They killed the Passover Lambs and roasted them in the latter part of the 14th, between noon and sunset and then they ate them at sunset on the 15th.

Carol writes:

Christ was arrested, illegally tried, and tortured all thru the night into the next morning and afternoon. All these events were part of His sacrifice which led to His moment of death. We must commemorate all His sufferings that actually led to His death for by His stripes are we healed, they were all part of the event of His Death.

Laura writes:

If you read the events leading up to Christ's arrest, you will see that the time frame in which he was arrested was most likely sometime between Midnight and early morning before the rooster crowed. Read Matthew 26:17-75.

I do understand that Christ was tortured long before they actually arrested him as he knew what he would soon have to go through. However his actual torture at the hands of man leading up to his death at approximately 3:00 PM on the 14th started sometime in the early morning hours while it was yet dark and before the rooster crowed.

Usually the death of someone is commemorated or memorialized at a point in time after the death has already happened. The reason we would not commemorate or memorialize a death before it happens is that we do not know ahead of time when someone is going to die.

Carol writes:

Do you begin Passover in the afternoon of the 14th thru the afternoon of the 15th??

Laura writes:

No, we keep Passover at sunset on the 14th as it turns into the 15th. It's a matter of a second or less between the 14th and the 15th.

Carol writes:

Does God tell you to keep it on *both* days??

Laura writes:

We only keep Passover on one day of the year. At sunset on the 14th going into the 15th. Our understanding of the date we keep has come from studying God's word for several years. We also study it again every time someone like you presents us with new information that we have not heard before.

Carol writes:

How ironic that you "testify" that God does not give us authority to keep His Holy Days whenever we choose, yet that is exactly what you do, if I understand your writings correctly.

Laura writes:

We have not made up our own date for Passover. If you read my Editor's Note I was talking about people who are making up new calendars all over the place. We use the Hebrew calendar which has been in use for well over 2000 years.

Herbert W. Armstrong also used the Hebrew calendar, but he changed the dates of Passover and Pentecost on that calendar. He then taught it to many thousands of people through the years, leading thousands of people to not only keep his made up dates but also leading many to believe that it is perfectly okay to make up their own calendars. The problem with believing and following only one leader as many did with HWA, is that when he leads you in things that are true, it is great and many learn. However, when he leads you into error, you still believe and follow him even long after he is dead.

I encourage you and everyone else to study this subject for yourself. I also do not believe you (Carol) understand our writings correctly.

Carol writes:

Deut. 12:32, "*Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.*" Just because Christ died at a different time than the physical lambs, does not give

you authority to change the date of when to keep the Passover.

Laura writes:

As I explained earlier, Christ died at the same time on the 14th as the Passover Lambs died on the 14th in Exodus 12.

Carol writes:

God does all things for reasons we may not see at the present but one must be patient and understanding will come.

Laura writes:

Understanding comes via prayer, study and the Holy Spirit of God.

Carol writes:

One thing though, the lambs were burned in a fire and Christ suffered a "fiery trial" that same time of the 14th - would you not agree that there's some "typing" there??

Laura writes:

There is much typology in regard to the Passover of Exodus 12 and how Christ kept the Passover while he was on the earth. Please remember though the Lambs were dead while they were in the fire and Christ was very much alive while He went through the trial that lead to his death.

Carol writes:

Num. 9:2-3 "on the 14th at twilight you shall keep it at its appointed time."

Laura writes:

In Num. 9:3, at twilight is again "ben ha arbayim" in Hebrew and is talking about the latter part of the 14th. When it says "at its appointed time", it is speaking about a Holy Day. Herbert W. Armstrong taught that Passover was not a Holy Day.

Carol writes:

Num. 33:3 "They departed...on the **15th** day..on the day **after** the Passover...". Clearly the Passover is not any part of the **15th** whatsoever.

Laura writes:

⇒ Numbers 33:3 And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the **morrow** after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

If you read the events in Exodus 12, there is a time order. The meal was eaten

at even on the 15th. The death angel passed over at midnight. As the Egyptians saw their dead and buried them the Israelites were leaving. The scripture is correct, the Israelites left Rameses on the **morrow** after the Passover, for that took place the night before.

I clearly see through scripture that the Passover is the 15th. That is my belief and you are entitled to believe whatever you want to believe.

Carol writes:

To keep the Passover into the 15th is biblical error.

Laura writes:

That would be your own opinion and you are entitled to it, but I suggest that you study the subject.

Carol writes:

HWA did have it right as also the Sunday Pentecost. Nonetheless, prove all things from scripture not any man's reasonings.

Monday Pentecost observance was derived by HOW men count not WHEN they began to count from. Those that observe MP BEGIN counting as HWA did, but they count differently to end up on the 51st day. They don't "count" a day until it is over, but if you do that, then HOW can you keep the Holy Day *on the appointed day*??????

Laura writes:

Do you realize that Herbert W. Armstrong kept at different times, 3 different dates for Pentecost. First he kept Sivan 6, then he kept a Monday Pentecost and then he kept a Sunday Pentecost. So which one was right and why was he so confused that he changed it?

The date on the Hebrew calendar is Sivan 6. That is the date Darwin and I keep Pentecost.

Carol writes:

You must be careful of what you read. Men tend to have scholarly reasonings which God says are worthless and are wind and confusion. (Is. 42:29). They cause you to err.

Please use God's Word NOT men's reasonings.

True unity will only come among God's People when they look to God to instruct them.

His paths are straight and smooth not crooked. [Rom. 15:6]

Please be diligent to prove all things and not let any human reasonings get in the way of God's plain and simple statements.

Laura writes:

My prayer would be that all people quit following men and study the scriptures for themselves. Men are wrong in some areas as was Herbert W. Armstrong, wrong in some areas. That is why we need to study the scriptures, so that when someone presents us with something new, we will know right away whether it is right or not. Satan can only fool you if you don't know what the Bible says.

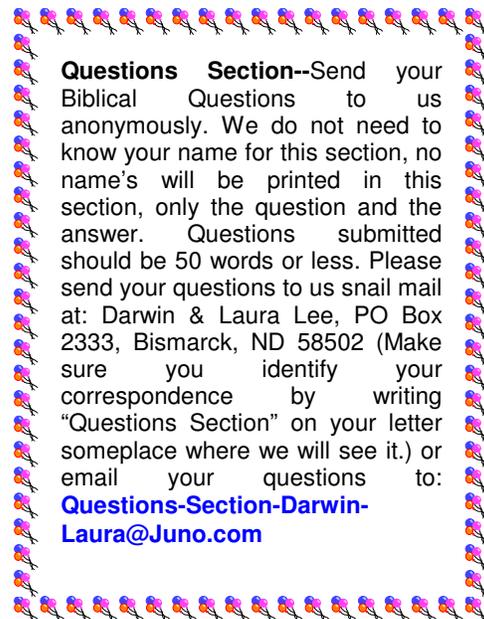
Carol writes:

I will expect a response.
Hopeful.

Laura writes:

I hope I answered your questions. If you truly want to study the Passover and Pentecost, we have some other articles in regard to these two Holy Days. They are as follows: "Passover" by Arlan Weight, Issue #3---Letter by Ted Saunders, Issue #9---"Counting to Pentecost" by Arlan Weight, Issue #10---"What Does "Between the Evenings" Mean?" by Bryan Huie, Issue #15---Letter by Richard Kraft, Issue #16---Letter by W. L. (Duke) Schneider, Issue #16---Letter by Brian Convery, Issue #16 and---Editor's note under "Calendar Program" by Alan Ruth, Issue #18. A related article appears in Issue #17, "Lesson from the Days of Unleavened Bread" by Jeff Caldwell.

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**Questions Section--Send your Biblical Questions to us anonymously. We do not need to know your name for this section, no name's will be printed in this section, only the question and the answer. Questions submitted should be 50 words or less. Please send your questions to us snail mail at: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502 (Make sure you identify your correspondence by writing "Questions Section" on your letter someplace where we will see it.) or email your questions to: Questions-Section-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com**

QUESTION #1

Is oral sex sin? Scriptures for proof please...

Sin is defined as the transgression of the law.

❖ 1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law.**

I don't know of any scriptures which say oral sex is a sin. All sex outside of a marriage relationship between a man and a woman would be sin.

Sex within the bounds of a marriage relationship between a man and woman is to be a very intimate relationship. Read the entire book of "Song of Solomon". For a better understanding of the book of "Song of Solomon" read it in several different versions of the Bible and look up meanings of the words in a concordance.

Answered by:
Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

QUESTION #2

How many animals were in Noah's ark?

❖ Genesis 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

❖ Genesis 7:2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

❖ Genesis 7:3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

From the following web site:
http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/Magazines/docs/cen_v19n2_animals_ark.asp

The Ark measured 300x50x30 cubits (Genesis 6:15) which is about 140x23x13.5 meters or 459x75x44 feet,

so its volume was 43,500 m³ (cubic meters) or 1.54 million cubic feet. To put this in perspective, this is the equivalent volume of 522 standard American railroad stock cars, each of which can hold 240 sheep.

From the following web site:
<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-c013.html>

The total available floor space on the ark would have been over 100,000 square feet, which would be more floor space than in 20 standard-sized basketball courts.

The total cubic volume would have been 1,518,000 cubic feet [462,686.4 cubic meters] --that would be equal to the capacity of 569 modern railroad stock cars.

Doctors Morris and Whitcomb in their classic book, "The Genesis Flood," state that no more than 35,000 individual animals needed to go on the ark. In his well documented book, *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*, John Woodmorappe suggests that far fewer animals would have been transported upon the ark. By pointing out that the word "specie" is not equivalent to the "created kinds" of the Genesis account, Woodmorappe credibly demonstrates that as few as 2,000 animals may have been required on the ark. To pad this number for error, he continues his study by showing that the ark could easily accommodate 16,000 animals.)

But, let's be generous and add on a reasonable number to include extinct animals. Then add on some more to satisfy even the most skeptical. Let's assume 50,000 animals, far more animals than required, were on board the ark, and these need not have been the largest or even adult specimens.

Remember there are really only a few very large animals, such as the dinosaur or the elephant, and these could be represented by young ones. Assuming the average animal to be about the size of a sheep and using a railroad car for comparison, we note that the average double-deck stock car can accommodate 240 sheep. Thus, three trains hauling 69 cars each would have ample space to carry the 50,000 animals, filling only 37% of the ark. This would leave an additional 361 cars or enough to make 5 trains of 72 cars each to carry all of the food and

baggage plus Noah's family of eight people. The Ark had plenty of space.

If you want to know about Noah's Ark, go to this web site:
<http://www.mysteries-megasite.com/frames/noahark-frame.html>

http://www.amendez.com/html/contact_information.htm
Arnold C. Mendez, Sr.
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For more information on this topic, see also in the "Articles Section" of this newsletter the article titled "The Size of the Ark" by Arnold C. Mendez, Sr.

Answered by:
Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

QUESTION #3

Can you explain fasting to me, and when does a person know to fast? I have always wondered about fasting, but never understood it.

Fasting is an important component of spiritual development. Christians are commanded to fast once a year at the annual observance of the feast of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27).

The Bible also makes it very clear that periodic fasting should be a part of our prayer life. The following examples clearly illustrate the necessity of humbling one's self before God through regular prayer and periodic fasting.

Various Situations that Require Prayer and Fasting

There are times of conflict in every
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marriage, and when they arise, we are commanded to "give yourselves to **FASTING** and **PRAYER**" (I Corinthians 7:5).

When ordaining elders, the body of Christ is commanded to "**fast**" and **pray** about the ordination of said ministers, in order to seek a revelation from God as to whether to ordain them or not (Acts 14:23).

Anna, the prophetess, and daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser, "served God with **FASTING** and **PRAYERS** night and day" (Luke 2:37). Like the Prophetess Anna, our prayer life should be filled with **devotional prayer** and **periodic fasting**, which humbles the believer before God.

Scripture tells us that there are some demons that can not be cast out of one who is possessed, "but by **prayer** and **fasting**" (Mark 9:29). See also, Matthew 17:21.

God, through the prophet Joel, told sinful Israel to "turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with **FASTING**, and with **weeping**, and **with mourning**" (Joel 2:12). Repentance should be accompanied with **PRAYER** and **FASTING**.

God told ancient Israel, "...rent (tear) your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil" (Joel 2:13).

Comment: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Like ancient Israel, each one of us must take time out of our busy schedule to "Rent our heart" and turn to God in repentance, through "**FASTING**" and "**PRAYER**."

Daniel 9:3-4, tells us we need to come before God periodically seeking his forgiveness and favor.

3. "And I set my face unto the LORD God, to seek by **PRAYER** and **SUPPLICATIONS**, with **FASTING**, and **SACKCLOTH**, and **ASHES**:

4. And I **PRAYED** unto the LORD my God, and made my **CONFESSION**, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that **LOVE Him**, and to them that **KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS**:

Also see John 14:15, 21, John 15:10, Hebrews 8:8-12, 10:16-17, Revelation 12:17, 14:14, 22:14

God tells us that we should "**Pray**" and "**Fast**" for those who spitefully use

you and hate you (Psalm 35:11-14).

We are also commanded to offer up "PRAYERS" for the sick and call for the Elders of the Church to "anoint" the sick and pray the prayer of faith to save the sick. "**PRAYER**" and "**FASTING**" are an essential part of the spiritual life of a Christian.

The holy scriptures are replete with examples of believers fasting through out the pages of the Bible in order to curry God's favor, protection, and to obtain divine revelation.

- **Divine Aid** II Samuel 12:16-23 and Daniel 9:3-4
- **Seeking Repentance** I Kings 21:27, I Samuel 7:6, and John 3:5-10
- **Periods of Mourning** Nehemiah 1:4
- **Obtain Revelation** Exodus 34:28
- **Expression of Devotion** Psalm 35:13, Luke 18:12
- **Obtain Divine Protection** Judges 20:26, I Samuel 14:24, Joel 1:14, Esther 4:3, and Ezra 8:21-23

As believers, we need to develop the habit of seeking God's will everyday through **PRAYER** and periodic **FASTING**. Through a prayerful attitude and periodic fasting, believers develop the habit of recognizing God as the source of all blessings and the sustainer of all life.

Answered by:
Larry Volk
Valley City, North Dakota

Editor's Note: by Laura Lee

To fast is to go without food and water.

☞ Esther 4:16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and **fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day:** I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

☞ Luke 5:33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

☞ Acts 27:33 And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and **continued fasting, having taken nothing.**

ARTICLES SECTION--We are always looking for good articles written by ordinary people, to consider for inclusion in this newsletter. Darwin and I do not always agree with every single thing that we print. Darwin and I also do not know everything. Like most people reading this newsletter, we are still learning. We do strive to bring to you Biblically Based Articles--The problem is that opinion and interpretation of scripture varies from person to person. So with that in mind let's let "iron sharpen iron" Proverbs 27:17--Let's learn from each other. Send articles to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

THE SIZE OF THE ARK

by **Arnold C. Mendez, Sr.**
Corpus Christi, Texas

And God said unto Noah... Make an ark of gopher wood; rooms shall you make in the ark, and you shall pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which you shall make it of... the length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shall you make in the ark, and in a cubit shall you finish it above; and the door of the ark shall you set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shall you make it." (Gen. 6:14-16)

A cubit is the distance between an adult's elbow and tip of the finger, generally 18-inches. Most Hebrew scholars believe the cubit to have been between 17½ -21½ inches long. This means that the ark would have been 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high if the 18 inch cubit was used. If a larger cubit was used it would have been proportionately longer.

The displacement tonnage of the ark, which is the weight of water it would displace at a draught of 15 cubits, would be more than 22,000 tons. Its gross tonnage which is a measure of cubic space (100 cubic feet is one gross ton) would be 15,100 tons. The U.S.S. United States which has a length of 990 ft. (660 cubits) is the largest American owned

ocean liner, has a gross tonnage of 53,330. The ark's total volume would have been 1,518,000 cubic feet. This would equal the capacity of 569 modern railroad stock cars. The standard size for a stock car is 44 feet long and a volume of 2670 cubic feet. This would make a train more than 5½ miles long. The floor space for the ark would be over 101,000 square feet. This would be more floor space than 21 standard college basketball courts. By comparing the measurements of the ark it is easy to see that it would be comparable to today's ocean going vessels. It was probably the largest vessel of its type built until the late 1800's when metal ships were first constructed.

The ark was built on a 1:6 ratio (50 cubits: 300 cubits). The science of naval architecture reveals that the most stable ratio for an ocean going vessel is 1:6. All modern day ocean going vessels use this same length to width ratio. It is estimated that the ark could easily have survived even the largest of ocean waves. If the ark were equipped with a dragging stone anchor, it would have been properly positioned to meet any size ocean wave. The design of the ark would have made it almost impossible to turn over.

Was Noah's Ark big enough to hold all the animals?

How many and what type of animals would the ark have to carry? Many scoffers suggest that the ark would have been overloaded. They suggest that Noah would need to gather millions of different animals. Since there are millions of species of animals there would have been millions of animals on the ark! Is this true?

The word species and the biblical word "kind" are often used interchangeably. This is incorrect since they are not synonymous. The biblical word "kind" denotes an organism that reproduces others like itself. The species concept is much narrower than this. Therefore many species can be included in a single biblical "kind." The word kind is probably closer to the modern taxonomic unit of genus, and in some cases the larger taxonomic unit, family.

The Canidae (canine) family includes about 14 genera of dog like animals. These include the coyote, dog, wolf, jackal, etc. The ark did not have to contain the hundreds of species of canines that make up this group. In reality, these were all represented by a few "kind." These "kind" would then

produce all the animals that make up the Canidae family. For example all of the hundreds of varieties of domestic pigeons that have all been produced originated from one species, the wild rock pigeon (*Columbia livia*).

Another question that often arises is the question of how many clean and unclean animals would Noah have to take on board the ark. Many scoffers will say that Noah had to take 7 pair of clean animals and 7 pair of the birds (Gen. 7:2-3).

How many birds were clean and how many were unclean? The answer to that question is found in Leviticus 11, and Deuteronomy 14. The clean birds are not described like the clean animals and clean fish. On examination of these two chapters certain characteristic of unclean birds are noted and by exclusion the characteristic of the clean birds can be determined. Also by examining other parts of the Bible these characteristics will dovetail with Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Clean birds belong to the orders: Galiformes, Anseriformes, and Passeriformes. This includes chickens, waterfowls, pigeons and some grain eating perching songbirds. The vast majority of the birds are unclean which means that only one pair of them would be included in the ark.

In reality when properly understood Noah took on 7 individual (not 7 pairs) animals and birds of each kind that were clean. Since these were clean animals and clean birds that would be used for food later, it would be important to have extra breeding stock. In reality there were 3 pair of clean animals and clean birds plus a seventh. The seventh one was to be offered as a sacrifice at the end of the flood (Gen. 8:20). If an animal were unclean, which the vast majorities were, then only one pair was taken aboard.

The ark would have had more than enough room to carry all the animals. When the Bible is properly researched this is very obvious. Only air breathing, land dwelling animals would have to be placed aboard the ark (Gen. 7:22).

The following animals could have survived outside the ark (Whitcomb 1998, p.68):

- ✓ 25,000 species of fish
- ✓ 1,700 tunicates (mane chordates like sea squirts) found throughout the seas
- ✓ 600 echinoderms including star fish and sea urchins
- ✓ 107,000 mollusks such as mussels, clams and oysters

- ✓ 10,000 coelenterates like corals and sea anemones, jelly fish and hydroids
- ✓ 4,000 species of sponges
- ✓ 31,000 protozoan, the microscopic single-celled creatures.

Noah would not have to be concerned with the aquatic mammals such as the dolphins, whales, porpoises, sea lions, and walrus. There are also many aquatic reptiles that could survive outside of the ark. These would include many types of snakes, alligators, crocodiles, and sea turtles. There are almost a million species of arthropods that would survive the flood. Animals such as the following: shrimps, crabs, lobsters, and many other crustaceans. All of the insects could survive outside the ark. More than 35,000 species of worms and nematodes would also survive the flood.

In reality only a small percentage of the animals would have to be taken on board the ark. The vast majority of the animals that inhabit the earth either live in water and/or do not have "the breath of life."

How many animals did the ark carry?

Many writers on the subject of Noah's ark have different estimates for the amount of animals that the ark would have to carry. Doctors Morris and Whitcomb in their book, *The Genesis Flood*, estimate that approximately 35,000 animals were placed on board the ark. In another book written on the subject, *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*, John Woodmorappe states that only about 2,000 animals would have to be on the ark. Being rather conservative he continues his study with the assumption that 16,000 animals could easily be cared for on the ark.

Let's be conservative and use the figure of 40,000 animals. This allows for extra animals to represent those that have gone extinct and those animals that have not been properly cataloged. This figure of 40,000 animals is 5,000 more than the largest of the previously mentioned numbers. Based on our present understanding of the number of animals this figure should satisfy even the most skeptical.

Animal Space Calculations

Most animals are not very large. The average size of all animals, is the size of a sheep, some say a small rodent. One railroad stock car can carry about 240

sheep. This would mean that all 40,000 animals could fit in 167 railroad cars. The arks total capacity was 569 stock cars. The 40,000 animals would require less than 30% of the ark's space. In other words all the animals could fit on one of the ark's three decks. This would leave the other 70% of the ark's space for Noah's family, food, supplies, and baggage.

- Dimension of the Ark---300 cubits x 50 cubits x 30 cubits. If the cubit used is 18" then conversion gives us the following dimensions: 450 ft x 75 ft x 45 ft
- Deck Area of the Ark---450 ft x 75 ft x 3 decks = 101,250 ft³
- Volume of the Ark---450 ft x 75 ft x 45 ft = 1,518,750 ft³

Many biologists state that the average size of most vertebrates is the size of a sheep. Other sources state that the average size is about the size of a small rabbit. Since there is some doubt as to what is the average size of the animals that were brought into the ark, and this paper is a conservative analysis of the carrying capacity of the ark, we will use the larger sheep average.

We will also base our calculation on four different occupancy estimates. The first is my own conservative estimate of 40,000. The second is the estimate of Whitcomb at 35,000. The final two figures of 16,000 and 2,000 are based on the work of Woodmorappe. The 16,000 figure is based on the biblical kind being equivalent to the taxonomic rank of genus. The second figure of 2,000 is based on the biblical kind being equivalent to the taxonomic rank of family.

Based on railroad industry figures a railroad stockcar can hold 240 sheep and each stock car has a capacity of 2670 ft³. Therefore each sheep requires 11.125 ft³. Most authorities on rabbit husbandry give the dimensions for a rabbit hutch as 3.0 ft³ per animal. If the average animal size is indeed the size of a small rabbit the calculations shown below could be reduced by a factor of three.

The following calculations show the amount of the ark space that would be required to carry the stated number of animals, the average size of a sheep.

- **40,000** animals x 11.125ft³ = 445,000 or 445,000 ft³ x 100 = **29%** of the Ark's capacity: 1,518,750 ft³
- **35,000** animals x 11.125ft³ = 389,375 ft³ or 389,375 ft³ x 100 = **25%** of the Ark's capacity: 1,518,750 ft³

- **16,000** animals x 11.125ft³ = 178,000 ft³ or 178,000ft³ x 100 = **11.7%** of the Ark's capacity (kind = genus taxon): 1,518,750 ft³
- **2,000** animals x 11.125ft³ = 22,250 ft³ or 22,250 ft³ x 100 = **1.4%** of the Ark's capacity (kind = family taxon): 1,518,750 ft³

Summary

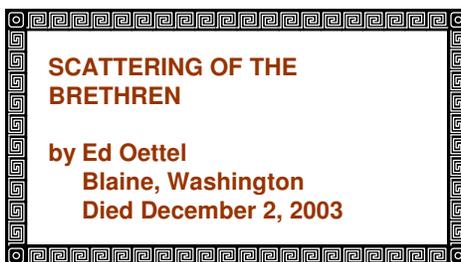
It is obvious that when all the facts of the Genesis account of the flood are examined that there is no reason to doubt that the ark could easily have carried its intended cargo. The biblical account is not a revision of a Babylonia myth. All the scientific evidence shows that the ark could easily have contained all of the animals that were used to repopulate the earth after the flood.

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There were thoughts that Occurred to me while we were attending our small feast site this year. We are representative of a small remnant of thousands of brethren that are now scattered into hundreds of different groups. Most of us assemble to keep the feast as we have been taught over the years to keep. In Dan 12:7 God stated that He would scatter the holy people at the time of the end. This process has been ongoing now for many years. Some members were forced out of WCG, others were forced out of splitoff groups, and many just left of their own accord because they could

not accept what was being taught. There are many reasons that caused people to split off from the larger groups. If we believe what God has written for us it was His will to scatter the members.

Some conclude that the millenium should begin at about 2031AD if Christ died 2000 years earlier, that would start the beginning of the millenium at that date. As Matt 24:22 states Christ would shorten that time, how much, no one can guess. Mankind has been trying to guess that precise time for many years. Its quite apparent that the scattering was mostly caused by the church diverging from truth and following lies and idolatry. Idolizing church leaders was the major factor, as many members have placed the idolizing of church leaders ahead of their relationship with God. God has plainly stated that those that really know Him will keep His commandments. Following truth is much more difficult when you're on your own. For many years most of us have followed "church doctrine" even when some of those doctrines were false. Many of us have come to see the fallacies that we were brainwashed with, that caused us to loyally follow a man into idol worship. We did it blindly, and there are some who still uphold these false doctrines as if their lives depended on it. Some get offended if you mention the singing of any song that is not written in the "old purple hymnal" we used in WCG.

From what has happened to God's church, it will never be the same again like it was, until Christ returns. Perhaps this scattering is for our own good, especially if the return of Christ is much closer than any of us imagine. We can certainly say without question, since 911 our lives and our country have changed forever.

When you look at this world we should be able to see the setting beginning to take shape for all the prophesied events the bible states will begin to happen in our lifetimes. One major event is the worldwide alignment of all the Moslem nations against Christianity and the Jews. Who knows, perhaps the king of the south are the Moslem nations of this world? One thing for certain, it seems European sentiment has changed against the United States. Perhaps these things will bring down the US politically, militarily, and economically?

In Ezek 38:5-16 the focus of events in this chapter and in chapter 39 show
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what will come to pass in the latter years. That seems to be speaking about the time frame we are now living in. From reading these two chapters, along with other prophesies, we can conclude that God's judgment shall come upon all non-christian nations of this world.

God will come to the aid of His People, and deliver them from the hands of death. At that same time, the population of the peoples of the earth shall be drastically reduced in number by divine intervention. Even countries of Israel that have followed after idolatry shall suffer population reduction prior to Christ's return.

As Ezek. 39:9 states it will take 7 years to destroy all the weapons of warfare that were prepared for the last great conflagration. Essentially the world will come to fight against Christ and the heavenly army.

Nuclear missiles and bombs shall be unleashed against the United States and Canada. Arrows out of the north are the bible's way of depicting nuclear attack. In Isa. 10:17-19 it states the forests of Europe shall be leveled to where you can count the trees on one hand.

With the brief look, we can see perhaps the scattering of brethren is merely a preliminary to events that the future beholds for all mankind including members of God's church. The place of protection in Petra, as we were taught may only be a figment of imagination. God can and will protect His people from destruction when all this occurs, but it may be entirely different than we were taught in the past.

from the Greek word "Logos" which means spokesman, speaker, talking, exhortation and message. The "Word" in this passage is talking about Jesus. Jesus is the Spokesman for God.

We see in verse 1 that Jesus was with God the Father and He was also God, a member of the God Family.

From this passage, in verse 3, we learn that Jesus is the Creator of all things. He created the heavens, the earth and the sea and all that is in them, and THEN - HE RESTED.

Let's notice this in Exodus 20:11: "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and *rested the seventh day*. Therefore *the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it*."

When we read the Bible, what is the first thing that we find that Jesus made holy? The answer is: a 24 hour period of time called a day. Let's notice, it is not just any day, but the seventh day. Let's read Gen. 2:3-4 (NIV) "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he *rested* from all his work. (3) And God *blessed* the seventh day and made it *holy*, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

Let's notice the three things that Jesus did on the seventh day: He *rested* on the seventh day, He *blessed* the seventh day and He made the seventh day *holy*.

Jesus even blessed the seventh day by giving it a name. The seventh day of the week is the only day that Jesus gave a name to. He called it the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11).

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath!

Jesus had many confrontations with the Pharisees. Let's look at the following passage and see how Jesus condemned them for their wrong use of the Sabbath and we will see His proclamation that He is Lord of the Sabbath.

Let's begin in Mark 2:23 (NKJV): "Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. {24} And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?"

To the Pharisees, this was unlawful that Jesus' disciples had plucked some grain. They challenged Jesus on this question. The Pharisees were legalists and saw no difference between the act of plucking one head of grain, or harvesting

their whole grain field. Obviously there is a difference and that difference is in your intent, your attitude and your frame of mind.

The Pharisees made a false statement that Jesus' disciples did "what is not lawful on the Sabbath" by plucking a few heads of grain. God made provisions for the poor and the strangers by commanding the farmers not to totally reap their grain fields and their vineyards: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. {10} 'And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God" (Lev 19:9-10 NKJV).

The corners of their fields were left unharvested to meet a human need for those who were poor and hungry.

You can read the book of Ruth to see how beneficial this law was in providing for the poor and the strangers. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi were the recipients of these provisions.

Jesus and His disciples were not doing anything unlawful on the Sabbath by picking a few heads of grain.

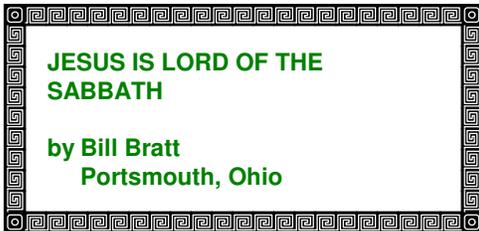
Let's continue verse 25: "But He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: {26} "how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat, except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?"

The showbread was placed on the table of showbread in the tabernacle. It was renewed every Sabbath by one of the priests, and the old showbread was then removed and eaten by the priests (Leviticus 24:5-9, 1 Samuel 21:6).

David and his men were hungry and here was an exception to the rule. The exception to the rule was that there was a human need, they were very hungry, and on a rare occasion, this human need can take precedence over the law. This does not set the law aside, it is an exception to the rule.

Let's continue in verse 27: "And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. {28} "Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.""

The Sabbath was made for man. The Sabbath is one of the greatest gifts that



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made".... {14} "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-3,14 NKJV).

The English word for "Word" comes

God and Jesus has given man. It is a day of freedom from work and the daily "rat race" that most us have to endure. It is a time when we can focus on God in extra prayer and Bible study. It is a time of fellowship with other people of like-minds. The Bible admonishes us: "not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb 10:25).

The Sabbath is a time to worship God in singing songs of praise to Him and hearing His word expounded.

Jesus said that He, "the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." Jesus is our Lord and Master. He is the member of the God family who created the Sabbath at creation (Genesis 1-2). Since Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, that makes the Sabbath the true "Lord's Day."

Jesus Kept the Sabbath!

"So He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read." (Luke 4:16 NKJV).

Notice that it was Jesus' custom to keep the Sabbath.

Jesus has a commitment to love and protect the Sabbath, as a husband is to love and protect his wife (1 Peter 3:7). Jesus never spoke negatively about the Sabbath. He observed the Sabbath and showed how it should be kept and observed.

We Should Follow Jesus and Keep the Commandments!

Jesus set a perfect example for us and we should follow Him.

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (1 Pet 2:21 NKJV).

The Apostle John tells us that we should walk as Jesus walked. He also tells us that we must keep His commandments. "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. {4} He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. {6} He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:3-6 NKJV).

Jesus made the Sabbath at creation and included it in the Ten Commandments. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. {9} Six days

you shall labor and do all your work, {10} but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. {11} For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11 NKJV).

Jesus Healed on the Sabbath!

Jesus did many "good works" on the Sabbath. Many people were healed by Jesus on the Sabbath. One of the things that the Sabbath pictures is freedom, and healing on the Sabbath gave the people who were healed freedom from their afflictions.

In Matthew's account of when Jesus said that He was Lord of the Sabbath, an example of healing follows: "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath. {9} Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. {10} And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"; that they might accuse Him. {11} Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? {12} "Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." {13} Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. {14} Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him" (Mat 12:8-14 NKJV).

Notice that in verse 12, Jesus said that "it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."

Prophecies regarding the Sabbath!

At the end of Jesus' ministry, a few days before He was crucified, He indicated that the Sabbath would continue after His death. In prophesying the destruction that was to come upon Jerusalem in 70 A.D., which was forty years after His death, Jesus told His followers: "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath" (Mat 24:20 NKJV). This statement shows that the Sabbath would continue as a commanded holy day for God's people.

Jesus indicated that an emergency flight, though not strictly prohibited, would not be in "keeping the Sabbath" with God's purpose of His holy day.

In the future, Jesus will return to this earth and will reign as Kings of kings and Lord of lords and will establish the Kingdom of God and He will rule from Jerusalem for one thousand years. Let's notice what day the people will worship Jesus on: "And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD" (Isaiah 66:23. NKJV). Also see Ezekiel 44:24.

The writer of Hebrews in chapter four is using the theme of "rest" in comparing the reward of the saved, which is the millennial Kingdom of God, to God resting on the Sabbath Day. We have had six thousand years of Satan inspired human mis-rule in a world totally deceived by Satan the devil (Rev. 12:9). Students of prophecy will recognize the day for a thousand year principle that is related here. The seventh day Sabbath then pictures the time that Jesus will return, set up the millennium Kingdom, and will rule for a thousand years. We will then have a thousand years of "rest" from Satan's way of life. This theme of "rest" reaches a conclusion in Hebrews 4:9: "There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God" (Hebrews 4:9 NIV). The Greek word for "Sabbath-rest" is "Sabbatismos," which means "to observe the Sabbath!" The Jewish New Testament Commentary on page 673 says: "This passage shows that Sabbath observance is expected of believers."

In Conclusion: Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath because He created it, He rested on it, He made it holy, He blessed it, He kept it, He gave it a name and He made it a part of the Ten Commandments.

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath!

SMALL MEETINGS

by Al Van Dyk
Bella Vista, California

THE KEY TO PERSONAL AND POWERFUL CHRISTIANITY

This is a message about practical
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Christianity, and how to get back to living and ministering according to the New Testament meetings.

☺ "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20

We have departed from the ways of God for Christian living and for church life. The kind of Christianity and churches we see in the New Testament is very different from what we call Christianity today. This short message is about one of the very important aspects of genuine Christianity according to the New Testament. It deals with the basic foundation of functioning in the Kingdom of God - Christian meetings.

TWO OR THREE IN MY NAME MEETINGS

☺ "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25

The preceding verse admonishes us to meet together with other Christians. We need each other and it is important for Christians to meet together. However, institutional churches have interpreted and preached that this means to meet in an institutional church meeting on Sunday morning or other formal church "service." Nothing could be further from the truth. At the time when this was written there were no formal church "services" such as we commonly have today. Christians met together in small groups in homes.

The preceding verse says we should meet with other Christians for encouragement. While we can be encouraged by the preaching of the word, singing and so on in a large formal meeting, helping and encouraging each other is much more effectively done in small groups. It is after religious people fulfill their religious obligation of attending a church "service" that they often get together in small groups for coffee, fellowship, prayer, sharing and so on. It is in these after-meetings - two or three or a few more - where the real needs of people for encouragement and fellowship are met, and they are also closer to the New Testament pattern for church meetings.

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A PRIEST

According to the New Testament every Christian is a priest or minister.

☺ "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable

to God by Jesus Christ. ... But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." 1 Peter 2:5,9

Every Christian should relate directly to God; no need for a specially trained and ordained minister or priest. Every Christian should help and share (minister) the word of God to others.

This is of course in contrast to the common practice of religious groups of people who hire a specially trained and ordained minister or priest to do the work which all are supposed to do. This practice of having a paid preacher do the work which every Christian should do is the product of the world system and Babylon.

If you really are a Christian.-- born by the Holy Spirit into the family of God -- you are ordained to the ministry. You are supposed to be a minister of the good news of Jesus Christ and salvation through Him to people you meet every day. You can share the good news with people in your neighborhood, at work and people you know and meet daily. You can help people with needs they have and thus find an opportunity to share the good news. You can visit people who are in jails, hospitals, rest homes or convalescing at home.

The Holy Spirit teaches us about God and how to live through the Bible. As you read the Bible the Holy Spirit will teach you. John 14:26.

CHURCHES ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

You can learn from other Christians; by sharing with one another what you are learning from the Word of God and from daily experiences. The Bible tells us that the work of special ministers - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers - is to equip the saints (the Christians) to do the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:11,12. In other words, special training ministers equip all the Christians to be ministers who in turn do the work.

The Bible never uses the word church to refer to religious buildings or organizations such as we do today. The word church is a very special word referring to Christians in three ways:

1. All Christians, everywhere. The entire worldwide family of God;
2. All Christians living in a city or community; and

3. Christians who meet in homes.

Now this brings me to the point of this message: The idea of having large special buildings for church meetings is not Biblical. According to the Bible, Christians should meet for church meetings in small groups in homes with the Christians ministering to each other. Acts 20:20; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 16:19. Each one helping others according to the gifts (special abilities) given to them by the Holy Spirit. Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11. All Christians can participate in church meetings. 1 Cor. 14:26. Christians who are older in the Lord (elders) teach those who are newer in the faith. See how beautifully simple and practical the ways of God are and how we have departed from His ways with our complicated religious traditions, buildings and organizations? Let's return to the New Testament and God's way for church life.

God's way is for us to live and relate to each other on the basis of the life of Jesus Christ within us instead of according to human structures, plans and man-made doctrines or theology. Life not liturgy. The Divine life of God within us can be our life and way of relating to others. Gal. 2:20

"TWO OR THREE IN MY NAME" MEETINGS

You can begin to have meaningful relationships with others right now. Find someone or two or three people to meet with. You only really need one other person to have a meeting. Meet regularly or according to opportunities. Whenever you meet another person it is an opportunity to minister to his or her need and share the good news of Jesus Christ and salvation. Whenever you meet another Christian it is an opportunity to have a "two or three in my name" meeting. Help with needs, share from the Word of God, pray and encourage one another and praise the Lord together. This is how to have "two or three in my name" meetings. It is God's way for Christian meetings.

There can still be larger Christian meetings for special teaching when several small groups come together, but the mainstay of Christianity should be small meetings - two or three or just a few - in the name of Jesus Christ. Do not let human organizations, institutions and church buildings take the place of these small, daily living meetings.

This is the way to have dynamic

personal and effective Christianity. It is the key to spontaneous and rapid growth of Christianity. Each one reach one and teach one. Each Christian a missionary and a minister.

GOOD AND EVIL
by Name Withheld
Canada

It is very clear in the Bible that there are only two sides to this 'Great Controversy Battle' down here in our earth. There is God's side; and Satan's side.

There are many ways to describe these two sides: Truth VS. Error; Right VS. Wrong; Light VS darkness; Good VS evil; and so on.

WE seldom think of things as altogether good or altogether evil. WE have a habit of looking at things and saying "WELL, there is SOME good in it. It is not all bad." OR "Well, it is MOSTLY good, it's only a little bad and so it's OK."

What Would you say If I gave you a nice big glass of pure water and I said, "Here drink this". You could drink it down, no problem— right?

Now suppose I put a drop of deadly poison in there and now I say to you, "Here— drink this nice water." You would reply, "No way!! Do you think I am crazy? That will kill me!"

"AWE, go on with you," I continue, "It is almost all pure water, 99 94/100 % pure— it only has a teensy, tiny bit of bad in it." Or maybe I do it with a nice glass of orange juice, fresh and tasty— and I say, "Think of all the good vitamins in this to make you healthy! And there is only such a tiny bit of bad in it."

Mouse poison is more than 98% good, nutritious grain, but does it help the mice?

Do you remember what the tree was called that Adam and Eve were NOT to eat from back in the beginning? It was called the 'Tree of GOOD and evil', wasn't it? It was not called the 'EVIL TREE'. When Eve ate off that tree, and gave it to Adam, was it because they wanted to get EVIL? No! They thought they saw some GOOD in the tree— sure they realized they were disobeying God, but if there were so much GOOD in that fruit, surely it must really be OK.

Here is an interesting fact: Did Adam and Eve get GOOD out of that fruit? They didn't! WHY? Because they ALREADY had everything that was good. God had given them EVERYTHING that was good, but He had to test their loyalty. When they chose to OBEY and BELIEVE the serpent, who was Satan in disguise, they LOST what they had. Thinking to gain even MORE good, they lost their good, and gained only evil.

When a lot of GOOD is mixed with a tiny bit of evil— the result is EVIL!! Remember our drinks- When even a tiny bit of poison is mixed in a good drink- the result is POISON!! If you drink that good orange juice with all the nice vitamins in it with that one little drop of cyanide - you will not be benefited by the good, you will quickly die of the evil.

This is a MOST IMPORTANT LESSON!! God does NOTHING in partnership with Satan. God Uses NOTHING part good and part bad; part right and part wrong! Once the teensy bit of not right is mixed in- the whole thing becomes WRONG!!

You see, there is a great Universal Law that evil can not get anywhere alone. It is the Great PARASITE! It has to be attached to at least some good before it can get anywhere. Satan knows this and so he mixes and mixes— all sorts of combinations. And always that bit of poison.

Remember if you drink that juice with the drop of cyanide in it— you will be just as dead as if you drank from the bottle clearly marked poison! All the nice nutrition will not help you a bit!

BUT— and here is the BIG POINT, You are much more likely to drink the juice with the poison in it— because you can be fooled to think it is good for you!

That is why we have the Bible— it is God's warning signal— showing us how to spot the parasite evil— and reject Satan's mixtures.

Here is a CHART comparing How God works and how Satan works. Remember- God NEVER, NEVER mixes good and evil. God does Good and GOOD only- he NEVER will use evil to gain a "good" result.

You can never GAIN GOOD by DOING EVIL— no matter how much you may believe you can! And two WRONGS never add up to one RIGHT!

SEE CHART ON PAGE #17
(next page)

HOPELESSLY LOST, OR SO IT SEEMED
by Wayne Schatzle
West Chester, Ohio

Life experiences often teach us valuable lessons that can guide us in paths we should go. Thinking back on my life, military service had a profound effect on me.

As a young man I was drafted and soon found myself in the middle of a war in Southeast Asia. I served in the infantry in the Mekong Delta area. Our duty was to search and destroy Vietcong insurgence, which usually meant many tiresome hours of trudging, through knee-deep mud. Our patrols of 12 men were three days out and two days in camp. Usually a helicopter would drop us off at a point and pick us up at a predetermined site three days later.

On one mission, after the second day we became hopelessly lost. We were in an area of dense growth over our heads, with no landmarks to guide us. After another day and a half of slogging through the mud, fearing booby traps, snipers, snakes and leeches, and out of food and water - it seemed all hope was lost. Eventually, we did make it to the landing zone, but that experience will forever define the meaning of the word "lost" for me. Many hours of prayer went up during that awful time and, just maybe, God in his mercy led us to safety.

The overall theme of the Bible actually deals with lost people and how to find the way back home. I spent some time describing being lost while in the Army, yet that experience is absolutely nothing compared to the situation mankind faces on Earth. The advantage I had back then was that I knew I was lost in a jungle swamp, half a world away from my loved ones. Nevertheless, folks today are just as lost, even though they may be in an easy chair watching TV, enjoying a round of golf or having dinner out with their family.

Get this - we are lost for all eternity if we do not get help!

The good news is help is just as close as a heartfelt prayer by one that knows the way. That individual is Jesus Christ. He not only can show us the way, but put it in writing for us to study.

I encourage everyone to be active in
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SATAN'S DARK SIDE	GOD OUR CREATOR
LIES; DECEPTION	STRAIGHT TRUTH
TRICKS; SECRECY; SNEAKY	HONESTY; OPENNESS
FORCE; MANIPULATION	FREEDOM TO CHOOSE
PRETENDS TO HAVE POWER	HAS REAL POWER
FEAR RULES	LOVE RULES
COMPLICATED AND CONFUSING	SIMPLE AND SENSIBLE
THE GROUP IS WHAT COUNTS	THE INDIVIDUAL IS WHAT COUNTS
TALKS ABOUT LOVE	SHOWS REAL CARING LOVE
FEELINGS RULE	PRINCIPLE RULES
BREAKS OWN 'RULES'	OBEYS HEAVENLY LAW
PROUD; BOASTFUL; HARD	HUMBLE; KINDLY; COURTEOUS
ALWAYS SEEKING POWER	HAS ALL POWER- BUT IS GENTLE
SELFISH (HIDES IT AT FIRST)	UNSELFISH; GENEROUS
DEMANDS WORSHIP	DESERVES WORSHIP
USES ANY MEANS (TO GET OWN WAY)	USES ONLY TRUTH AND RIGHT
DENIES LAW (BUT BOSSES EVERYONE)	UPHOLDS LAW (BUT HONORS FREE CHOICE)
PROMISES FREEDOM (BUT ENSLAVES)	HONORS LAW OF LIBERTY
ARE BULLIES -TAKE ADVANTAGE	GENTLE- SHOWS RESPECT
KILLS FOR FRIENDS	DIED FOR ENEMIES
DRAGS INTO DARKNESS, DESPAIR	LIFTS INTO LIGHT AND JOY
STRONGEST RULES BY FORCE	AUTHORITY OF HEAVENLY LAW
USES OTHERS TO CLIMB UP ON	SERVING THE WEAKER ONES
WEAK FORCED TO SERVE STRONG	STRONG CARE FOR THE WEAK
EXCITEMENT; LAUGHTER	TRUE HAPPINESS; PEACE AND JOY
ENSLAVES THE MIND	FREES THE MIND
AFRAID OF EVERYTHING	AFRAID OF NOTHING
POWER FROM OBJECTS	POWER FROM GOD
FORCES OWN IDEAS ON ALL	RESPECTS RIGHT OF OTHER IDEAS
CLAIMS EVIL CAN'T DIE	TRUTH TOLD- EVIL= DEATH
TALKS ABOUT GOD (WON'T OBEY HIM)	OBEYS GOD'S 10 COMMANDMENTS
ALWAYS SEEKING MORE	CONTENT AND HAPPY

a church and become part of a spiritual family with believers. I only caution searching souls to the fact that there are deceivers that will hide the way to life from you. All too often churches will erect walls of tradition that block the true path to salvation. There is no substitute for much prayer and Bible study.

Bible teaching is plain that salvation is only through Jesus Christ and he made it clear that "wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many will go in by it, but narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and few will find it." (Matthew 7:14) Jesus' ministry is to save those who are lost. What folks need to do is realize they are in fact lost, and must seek the one who can save them.

In the months and years ahead, as prophesied, there will be a great deception and, if possible, it would deceive the very elect of God. In fact, the notable "four horsemen of Revelation," the first one is religious deception. Be warned that Satan is the god of this world, and his goal is to hide that path to life.

So if your life is going well - good job, plenty of money, (too) much to eat - attend a large church which you depend on to take care of the spiritual details, caution: Realize you could be just as lost as that young man in the jungle in Vietnam. You could be on a path that seems to be the right way, but is not. Why not leave nothing to risk and secure your eternity by asking Jesus to reveal the narrow path that leads to life, and set aside time in your life to study to show yourself approved unto God? "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalms 119:105)

God's laws) because of Christ's sacrifice, I have compiled a brief study surfing through the various scriptures from Genesis to Revelation that quite clearly document that God's law is 1) eternal 2) the promise of eternal life and escape from physical or spiritual death is only applicable to those who repent of their sins, change their life from sinning to a life of striving to obey every word as found in the Holy Bible and accepting Jesus Christ (of whom I often call by His Hebrew name, Yahshua) as their savior. 3) God still demands the death penalty in the case of those who continually break laws and that He himself, will kill people when he returns to the Earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to establish his eternal Kingdom ON the earth. How can a God who is about love and forgiveness still be the God who commanded death to anyone who disobeyed rather in times past or as I conclude, in times present? The reason is simple. First an individual must realize that God (Elohim in the Hebrew) is the creator of all life that exists. It is His to do with as He so chooses. Something separates imperfect, carnal, evil, selfish mankind from what God is, and that is Sin. God is perfect love. In such, there is a character that can only be "summarized" by the commandments we find in the Bible. The behavior God expects from human beings is no less than what He performs himself. In order to bring many sons and daughters into eternal life, a sacrifice for their sin had to be made. That sacrifice was Jesus Christ. But in order to receive the sacrifice and be atoned for one's sins, an individual MUST repent and choose to leave the life of sin behind. Sin is defined in scripture as the breaking of God's law? Which law? God's law is clearly defined throughout the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy. It is summarized in great detail in the books commonly called the New Testament. However, the law stands as an eternal law. It existed before the creation of the world and it will exist forever. To live forever, with God, a person must accept these codes of behavior and accept that God is composed of perfect character. Those who are converted and called out of this modern Babylon of sin realize that through Yahshua's sacrifice for our sins, we receive the gift of a power of God called the Holy Spirit. Through this power, sort of a lifeline between fleshly human and God divine, we actually are able to live life by the Word of God. We still sin

but not on purpose. We repent daily of our sins and strive to live as Jesus Christ did while He was on earth. Does that therefore make the law null and void? The law of God is ALIVE in those of whom he is building His character and of the same individuals of whom He will give rulership to in His coming Kingdom (on earth). Most churches today don't understand the most basic of biblical concepts of civil law and spiritual **law because they reject Yahshua as the divine lawgiver.**

Certain modern accepted modes of lifestyle, behavior, action and so forth are the direct opposite of what is found in scripture. They are justified even by certain self-proclaimed Christians because these individuals take one or two scriptures out of context to try to prove there is no law, so anything is game in the physical life. This is called lawlessness in the Word of God and is technically considered, by God, to be a form of sin. Anything that stands against the word of God is the commonly coined term "antichrist", so actually many who claim to be Christians are against the very words of God himself as contained in the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation.

One final note before we get into this study. The Bible may SEEM to be full of doom and gloom, death and killing. But this is only true because of the choices made by humans since the dawn of the creation. If mankind chose to LIVE by the Word of God, there would be great peace and joy in the world. The killing of flesh is necessary because of the existence of SIN-that is which is diametrically opposite to what God is all about. God is perfect. He CANNOT dwell in Sin. That is why God had to technically be born in the flesh to shorten/eliminate this void between spirit and flesh.

By being born into God through faith, repentance and baptism, the human puts on the NEW man, composed of a willingness and great desire to OBEY God's way of life.

❖ Rom 6:23 For the **wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God **is** eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Even though the popular idea abounds today that God nailed his law to the cross of Jesus Christ, scripture teaches that the wages of sin is death. Life and especially eternal life can only be found in conversion to God's way of life, accepting Jesus Christ (Yahshua) as one's personal savior and then
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**COUNTERING THE IDEA OF
LAWLESSNESS AND PENALTY
OF SIN**

**by June Narber
Raleigh, North Carolina**

In an age of increasingly liberal politics and even Christians who believe God is a God of love to the degree that He no longer institutes the death penalty, kills anyone or that there is no longer punishment for sin (breaking of any of

obeying EVERY word as found in scripture. Certain lifestyles will end in eternal death. God does not accept everyone just as they are. Repentance of a life of sin is necessary to come under the redeeming blood of the Messiah, and then a life spent living by EVERY WORD THAT proceeds out of the mouth of God. Certain behaviors simply are not acceptable to the God of the Holy Bible, no matter how popular they are today. Among these include the killing of fetuses as this is clearly murder; homosexuality and other forms of sexual sin (any sexual act committed outside of the marriage covenant between one man and one woman committed for a lifetime together). The God of the Old Covenant was none other than the messiah himself, Jesus Christ. We see this testimony in John 1.

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. He was in *the* beginning with God.
3. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one *thing* came into being that has come into being.
4. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-4)

Jesus Christ, before his human birth was the Word. Through him all things that exist were created, so he had to be the God found in the Garden of Eden.

In the following verses, we see that the cloud that led the Israelites through the desert was none other than Jesus Christ as well.

1. And, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.
2. And all were baptized to Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
3. and all ate the same spiritual food,
4. and all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of the spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

So the God of the Old Testament (as the books of Genesis through Malachi are often "called") was none other than the Word, the being that became Jesus Christ. What does this mean? This means that the God that ordered the death of those who BROKE HIS eternal law is the same being who later died for the sins of the world.

Can the Jesus of this current

"christianized world" who is wishy washy and lawless still be the same powerful being who thundered His eternal law over Mount Sinai? No, they are wrong. Their IDEAS about what comprises the New Covenant are tainted with human reasoning, casting the God of the old covenant as some bloodthirsty evil deity. The God of the Old Covenant and the God of the New Covenant are one and the same being. So, the laws that existed then, still exist now, only now there exists a sacrifice for human sin, a way by which the bridge between God and carnal humanity can be brought together once a person repents of their sins, puts away the "old man" and takes on the new man of obedience to all of God's word as found in both the old and new covenants. The division page as found in most Bibles between the books of Malachi and Matthew was put there by human hands. There is no division between the books, they are all part of the God inspired, eternally binding "words of God" that cannot be done away with or the laws therein erased by human reasoning or "wishful thinking". Of course modern man wants a lawless feel good God to worship because then mankind is NOT held accountable for any or all of his terrible deeds. God's word commands that those who truly seek after eternal life are to have his laws written on their foreheads and in their hearts. The New covenant if one desires to call it that, is not about eliminating the laws of God, but ADDING to them in the form of eternalizing them inside the man so a person is convicted of not only what he physically does or performs, but even by what he thinks. He or she must become like God in ALL ways: character, spiritually, mentally and emotionally.

- ❖ Num 14:35 I Jehovah have spoken; I will surely do it to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. They shall be destroyed in this wilderness, and there they shall die.
- ❖ Deu 17:5 then you shall bring forth that man or that woman who has committed that evil thing, to your gates, even that man or that woman, and shall stone them with stones until they die.
- ❖ Deu 17:12 And the man that acts

proudly and will not listen to the priest who stands to minister there before Jehovah your God, or to the judge, even that man shall die. And you shall put away the evil from Israel.

- ❖ Deu 19:12 then the elders of his city shall send and bring him away from there and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood so that he may die.
- ❖ Deu 22:25 But if a man finds an engaged girl in the field, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man that lay with her shall die.
- ❖ Deu 24:7 If a man is found stealing a person of his brothers, the sons of Israel, and makes a slave of him, or sells him, then that thief shall die. And you shall put evil away from among you.
- ❖ Pro 19:16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his own soul; he who despises His ways shall die.
- ❖ Jer 28:16 Therefore so says Jehovah, Behold, I will drive you from off the face of the earth. You shall die this year, because you have taught rebellion against Jehovah.
- ❖ Exo 22:19 Anyone lying with an animal shall surely be put to death.
- ❖ Exo 31:14 You shall keep the Sabbath therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone that defiles it shall surely be put to death. For whoever does any work in it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.
- ❖ Exo 31:15 Six days may work be done, but on the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to Jehovah. Whoever does any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death
- ❖ Exo 35:2 Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day there shall be to you a holy day, a sabbath of rest to Jehovah. Whoever does work in it shall be put to death.
- ❖ Lev 20:10 And a man who commits adultery with a man's wife, who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.
- ❖ Lev 20:13 If a man also lies with mankind, as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be on them.
- ❖ Lev 20:15 And if a man lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death. And you shall kill the animal.
- ❖ Lev 24:16 And he that blasphemes the Name of Jehovah shall surely be put to death

death. All the congregation shall surely stone him. And the stranger as well, even as he that is born in the land; when he blasphemes the Name, he shall be put to **death**.

- ❖ Num 15:35 And Jehovah said to Moses, The man shall surely be put to **death**. All the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.

Only those redeemed in Christ will not be condemned to death.

- ❖ Joh 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My Word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from **death** to life.

Testimony of "committed anything worthy of death", meaning some acts are still as worthy of death as they were in the time before Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Act 25:11 For if I am an offender or have committed anything worthy of **death**, I do not refuse to die. But if there is nothing of which these accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar.

Through obedience to all the Laws of God individuals are made righteous, "action AND belief" are required for salvation.

- ❖ Rom 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you yield yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves to him whom you obey; whether it is of sin to **death**, or of obedience to righteousness.
- ❖ Jam 5:20 know that he who turns back the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from **death**, and shall hide a multitude of sins.
- ❖ Rev 2:23 And I will kill her children with **death**. And all the churches will know that I am He who searches the reins and hearts, and I will give to every one of you according to your works.

In the end time, God gives authority to the powers that be to bring death and destruction on the earth and to mankind for his/her unrepented sins.

- ❖ Rev 6:8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him sitting on it was **Death**, and Hell followed with him. **And authority was given to them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with the sword and with hunger and with death and by the beasts of the earth.**

In the end of time, those who refuse to repent and LEAVE their life of sin behind (stop doing the things that God says are wrong/abominations, sin against his law, will face ETERNAL

death.

- ❖ Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and the unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, will have their part in the Lake burning with fire and brimstone, which is the second **death**.

Prophecy tells us that in the end time, the followers of the true God of the Bible will be those who OBEY his commandments.

- ❖ Rev 12:17 And the dragon was enraged over the woman, and went to **make war** with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

At the second coming of Christ, the nations gather to make war with Christ and he overcomes them. In other words, he fights them and defeats them. He will KILL those who oppose him.

- ❖ Rev 17:14 These will **make war** with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them. For He is Lord of lords and King of kings. And those with Him *are* the called and elect and faithful ones.

A person CANNOT continue to sin if they truly follow Jesus Christ. If they sin willfully, there is no more sacrifice for their sins. In other words, if they don't continually repent and overcome, they will die, they will NOT inherit eternal life.

- ❖ Heb 10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins,

GOD DEVOURS HIS ADVERSARIES.

- ❖ Heb 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.
- ❖ Heb 10:28 He who despised Moses' Law died without mercy on *the word of* two or three witnesses.

- ❖ Heb 10:29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy of punishment, the *one* who has trampled the Son of God, and who has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

God says vengeance belongs to HIM. He says HE WILL REPAY. HE JUDGES AND EXECUTES JUDGEMENTS.

- ❖ Heb 10:30 For we know Him who has said, "Vengeance *belongs* to Me, I will repay, says *the Lord*." And again, "The

Lord shall judge His people."

- ❖ **Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

- ❖ Rev 20:9 And they went up over the breadth of the earth and circled around the camp of the saints, and the beloved city. And **fire** came down from God out of Heaven and devoured them.

In Revelation, we see the second coming of Yahshua to the earth to establish his everlasting kingdom. In this, He is coming with an army (of angels and saints) assembled to fight humans at the battle of Armageddon and He will triumph (that means he has to kill a lot of people to accomplish this. But He is God, the day will come the same people will be resurrected back to physical life for judgment).

- ❖ Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth and their armies, being gathered to **make war** against Him who sat on the horse, and against His army.

In the following scriptures, we see an outline of what God considers being unclean, wrong, against his way of life. Among these is homosexuality, clearly documented in verses 24-28.

- ❖ Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is *the* power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- ❖ Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

- ❖ **Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

- ❖ Rom 1:19 because the thing which may be known of God is clearly revealed within them, for God revealed *it* to them.

(GOD DOES NOT ACCEPT THESE BEHAVIORS. HIS WRATH WILL BE Poured OUT IN THE END TIME AGAINST ALL SUCH SINS IF NOT REPENTED OF. NOTICE GOD CALLS THESE THINGS UNGODLY AND UNRIGHTEOUS. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, THEY ARE ALSO CALLED ABOMINATIONS.)

DENYING THAT GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS:

- ❖ Rom 1:20 For the unseen things of Him from *the* creation of *the* world are clearly seen, being realized by the things that are made, *even* His eternal
- PAGE #20-----**

power and Godhead, for them to be without excuse.

- ❖ Rom 1:21 Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But *they* became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- ❖ Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

ANY FORM OF IDOLATRY: INCLUDING IMAGES OF "GOD" AS HUMANS THINK HE LOOKS; THE WORSHIP OF OTHER GODS/DEITIES; AND ANY THING THAT IS PUT UP ON AN ALTAR AND BOWED DOWN TO IS AN IDOL.

- ❖ Rom 1:23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed animals, and creeping things.

HOMOSEXUALITY, LESBIANISM, ANY FORM OF SAME GENDER SEX IS WRONG IN THE EYES OF AND BY THE LAW OF the ETERNAL GOD.

- ❖ **Rom 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of *their* hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves.
- ❖ Rom 1:25 For they changed the truth of God into a lie, and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- ❖ Rom 1:26 For this cause, God gave them up to dishonorable affections. For even their women changed the natural use into that which **is against nature**.
- ❖ Rom 1:27 **And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another; males with males working out shamefulness, and receiving in themselves the recompense which was fitting for their error.**
- ❖ Rom 1:28 And even as they did not think fit to have God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do the things not right,**

OTHER FORMS OF SIN GOD LABELS AS "WRONG", INCLUDING ALL FORMS OF LUST, SEXUAL SIN, MURDER (KILLING OTHERS FOR NO JUST CAUSE); EVIL BEHAVIORS, LIARS ETC.

- ❖ Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; *being* full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, evil habits, *becoming* whisperers,

INVENTORS OF "EVIL THINGS"- THE PROUD, THE DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS.

- ❖ Rom 1:30 backbiters, haters of God, insolent, proud, braggarts, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
- ❖ Rom 1:31 undiscerning, perfidious, without *natural* affection, unforgiving, unmerciful;

THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURE IS THE "KEY" SCRIPTURE THAT SETTLES THE ARGUMENT, DOES GOD STILL BELIEVE IN THE DEATH PENALTY?

- ❖ **Rom 1:32 who, knowing the righteous order of God, that those practicing such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but have pleasure in those practicing them.**

Some additional scriptures that speak about spirituality, the law, etc.

- ❖ Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and **them** that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst **destroy them** which **destroy** the earth.
- ❖ Mat 10:28 And fear not **them** which **kill** the body, but are not able to **kill** the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell
- ❖ Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *[that]* I have set before you life and death, **blessing** and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
- ❖ Rom 8:1 *[There is]* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- ❖ Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- ❖ Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
- ❖ Rom 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- ❖ Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- ❖ Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *[is]* death; but to be spiritually minded *[is]* life and peace.
- ❖ **Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *[is]* enemy against God: for it is not**

subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

- ❖ Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
- ❖ Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
- ❖ Rom 8:10 And if Christ *[be]* in you, the body *[is]* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *[is]* life because of righteousness.
- ❖ Rom 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

(Living in the flesh, carnality, sin etc. leads to eternal death, not life).

- ❖ Rom 10:21 But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

(If God calls a people disobedient, there still has to be a law in order for them to be "disobedient" to anything.)

- ❖ Eph 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *[is]* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)
- ❖ Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
- ❖ Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *[them]*.
- ❖ Eph 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

(What are these things that are done in "secret"? Things that are considered to be abominations/sin in the eyes of God, based upon His law).



Besides the commandments, ordinances, statutes, and judgments that God provides Christians to live by, He also gives examples, principles and values, that all serve us with positive concepts that will help to enhance human living at its best.

The book of Proverbs provides many of the incidental ways for living, that can
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bring a human being into harmony with the way of life God would have us all live.

Chapter One sets the stage for this book by providing seven basic keys that will help us keep on a spiritual track if followed. A human could, by following these seven keys, avoid all the pitfalls that satan sets in our way that cause us to stumble and fall.

Prov 1:7 The first key: the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge. The word for fear actually means to have deep reverence for. If every Christian could develop that kind of attitude toward God, they would never have to worry about falling away.

Its very easy for humans to develop a reverence toward physical things. Most of us, over the years, came to reverence the leaders of the church who ruled over us. If we had directed that reverence toward God, who is invisible, we as a church would now be in a good strong spiritual condition. We are supposed to attend the feasts in order to learn how to fear God, but how much genuine reverence do we show Him by the way we conduct our spiritual lives?

Point two Prov 1:8 Hear and heed the instruction of our Father and mother. Each one of us that has gone thru the process of conversion, has received instructions for living from the word of God by our own study from the bible, and from the instruction we received from those who taught us in the church.

We, with God's Spirit, can discern truth from lies if we have been staying on the right track. We are considered liars, by God, if we don't keep the commandments.

Point three Prov 1:10 Don't yield to peer pressure. When someone or a group are committing sin, they will do what they can to entice others to join them. God says, don't let others influence you to commit sin. Its more important to obey God than to yield to the wishes of others.

Point 4 Prov 1:15 Don't follow the world's system. The world and the things that go on in this world are generally negative. Strive to develop a positive mindset. Being positive in mindset will automatically separate you from most of the world, because the world is negative and follows the works of satan the devil. Being positively minded is one way we can overcome the works of satan the devil and his devices. The world will shy away from people who exhibit a positive mindset.

Point 5 Prov 1:23 When you slipup

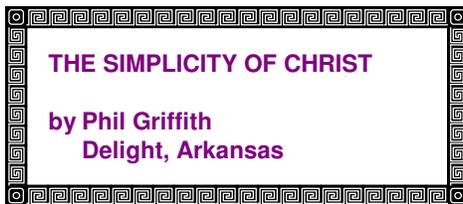
and sin, be quick to repent when its shown to you what you have done. Our natural mind will always try to rationalize and justify itself when it comes to sinning, but God is telling us to repent and clear the air. Once we repent, our sin will be blotted out of remembrance, and we will be back on the right track once again. Acts 3:19 speaks about this same principle.

God tells us in Matt 5:48 to strive for the perfection that was lost at creation in the garden, by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God's mind and the mind of Christ are perfect and totally positive. God is telling us to strive for that same goal ourselves. This requires point 6 Prov 1:24-28.

We must be willing to change from the ways we have been following, and that requires us to change the way we think. We are told in II Cor 10:5 to bring every negative thought into captivity. This is an ongoing process, that requires the strength of God's Spirit working in our human mind. The more positive our mind becomes, the closer we will be getting to that perfection. That's a worthy goal to be working toward for all Christians.

The last point, point 7 is the last verse of the chapter: Prov 1: 33 God tells us if we will hearken to Him, we will dwell safely, no matter what the conditions are around us. He will also give us quiet from the fear of evil.

In conclusion, our lives today can be safe and peaceful in spite of war and terrorism that has permeated this world. In spite of all the evil that is around us, we will be protected from that as well. These seven points focus on how to achieve peace and harmony in a world that is full of chaos. These principles are ongoing and lifesaving that will direct our mind to the real power of the universe.



I am thinking that if I wrote a book and sold it for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling and sold a million copies, I would have money to get a big car, maybe a chauffeur, Michelin Tires, and all luxuries I may desire.

If I could get a thousand or more people to send me at least \$50.00 a

week, I would live in a manner that would make every one envious of me. I could build or rent a building and the people could come once or twice a week to worship at my feet.

You are probably wondering what this has to do with the simplicity of Christ? Well, after forty years of research on this subject, I am forced to admit that the subject is so simple that I am having trouble filling this page.

In Lev. 19:18 we read; Thou shalt love our neighbor as thy self. This is repeated in the New Testament more times, by far, than there are authors in the N. T.

In Gal. 5:14 we read; for all the law is fulfilled in one word, in this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

In 1st John 4:12 we read; No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us. I will admit that some can do evil and call it love, but they do this to their own destruction.

Some will say we must love God with all our strength. I have yet to find a scripture that even implies that we can love God and not love our neighbors. In fact our love for our neighbor is presented as proof of our love for God. The Hebrew, Greek, and English grammar cannot be stretched to say otherwise, no matter how we try.

Yes, we need our sins of mistreating others and ourselves forgiven, and yes, we need help to treat others properly and to treat ourselves properly. Whatever we say, the bottom line on judgment day will be, "how did we treat our neighbors?"

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I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES VIA SNAIL MAIL.

Darwin & Laura Lee Name _____
320 N. Griffin St. Address _____
Bismarck, ND 58501 _____
(701) 258-7172 Phone _____

THESE TAPES ARE FROM THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM IN MINNESOTA. FOR INFORMATION ON THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM YOU MAY CONTACT DALE & DONA FEHR AT DLFehr@compuserve.com TAPES MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH US.

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|--|--|
| _____ 1. Dennis Moulant 3-10-01 (2 Tapes) | _____ 2. Ron Dart 4-28-01 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 3. Ron Smith 5-26&27-01 (3 Tapes) | _____ 4. David Antion 7-28-01 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 5. Dean & Susan Wheelock 9-15-01 (2 Tapes) | _____ 6. Leon Sexton 11-17-01 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 7. Marv Davis 2-9-02 (2 Tapes) | _____ 8. Mark Kaplan 6-29-02 |
| _____ 9. Ion Hufton 9-7-02 | _____ 10. Arnold Mendez 11-9-02 (3 Tapes & Study Papers) |
| _____ 11. Ray Wooten 4-19-03 | _____ 12. C. Wayne Cole 6-7&8-03 (2 Tapes) |
| _____ 13. Jarvis Windom 11-8-03 | |

CD'S

- _____ 1. The Miracle of Hope and Nadia---2 Rich Text Files & 1 Media Player File

LITERATURE [Snail Mail Only]

- _____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association? by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages
- _____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages
- _____ 3. The Garnet Hill Story (Another Case of Abuse) 28 pages

TRACTS (Article Reprints)

- _____ 1. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions & About a Shepherd--From Servant's News--Issue #1
- _____ 2. Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God--by Laura Lee--Issue #1
- _____ 3. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries--Issue #3
- _____ 4. What is Anger?--by Scott Hoefker & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 5. What is Heart?--by Don & Petra Esposito & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 6. What is Division?--by Dave Baldauf & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 7. What is Individual Responsibility?--by Tawanda Ray & Laura Lee--Issue #3
- _____ 8. The Titanic--Then and Now--by Myra McQueen--Issue #4

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES

1. January/February 2001--Issue No. 1

- A. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions (From Servant's News)
- B. John 21:15-17 & Acts 20:28 (About a Shepherd-From Servant's News)
- C. Ending the Cycle of Abuse in the Church of God--by Laura Lee

2. March/April 2001--Issue No.2

- A. Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice?--by Arlan Weight
- B. Just Judgment Important for Local Congregations--by Darwin Lee & Norman Edwards
- C. Letter of Appeal--by Ned Dancuo
- D. Go To Your Brother....--by Arlan Weight

3. May/June 2001--Issue No. 3

- A. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries
- B. Letters Section--What is Anger? What is a Heart? What is Division? What is Individual Responsibility?
- C. Passover--by Arlan Weight
- D. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage--by Laura Lee

4. July/August 2001--Issue No. 4

- A. The Titanic--Then and Now--by Myra McQueen
- B. Woe...--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
- C. Testimony of Abuse Within the Church of God--by Tawanda Ray
- D. Bear Witness--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
- E. God's Government--by Arlan Weight
- F. Gifts of the Spirit--by Laura Lee

5. September/October 2001--Issue No. 5

- A. Where Are God's People?--by Laura Lee
- B. They Sang As It Were A New Song Before The Throne--by Author Unknown
- C. Fat Cats, Fat Cats--by Tawanda Ray (Poem)
- D. First Love--by Arlan Weight
- E. Why Do You Observe Saturday?--by John Currier
- F. A Church Without Women--by Dianne D. McDonnell

6. November/December 2001--Issue No. 6

- A. "Unless You Change..."--by Royce Mitchell, Jr.
- B. Paul and Women Teachers--by Dianne D. McDonnell
- C. Delight in the Sabbath--by James McBride
- D. Physical Illness and Demon Possession--by Don Esposito
- E. Demon Possession and How it Comes About--by Don Esposito
- F. Truth--by Arlan Weight
- G. 3 Letters & 1 Feast Report

NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES

7. January/February 2002--Issue No. 7

- A. Junia, A Woman Apostle--by Dianne D. McDonnell
- B. The Christian Sabbath Part #1--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- C. Be Strong and of Good Courage--by Tommy S. West
- D. "They Shall Not Hurt Nor Destroy..."--Arlan Weight
- E. Take Heed That No Man Deceive You--by Garry D. Pifer
- F. 4 Letters & 1 Feast Report

8. March/April 2002--Issue No. 8

- A. 3 Letters & 1 Feast Report
- B. "Things I've Learned From Treasure"--by Vanessa Lorentzen
- C. The Christian Sabbath Part #2--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- D. Leadership in the Church of God--by James McBride
- E. Fellowship? With Whom?--by Royce Mitchell, Jr.
- F. Can You Be Deceived?--by Wayne Schatzle
- G. Mary, Mother of Jesus--by Bill Bratt
- H. To Cover or Not to Cover--by Rhoda Foust

9. May/June 2002--Issue No. 9

- A. The Christian Sabbath Part #3--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- B. The Commandment Considered 'Optional'--by Wayne Schatzle
- C. "She Is Not Dead But Sleeps..."--by Arlan Weight
- D. Resurrections-How Many?--by Rhoda Foust
- E. 4 Letters

10. July/August 2002--Issue No. 10

- A. 4 Letters
- B. The Christian Sabbath Part #4--by Catholic Mirror 1893
- C. Counting To Pentecost--by Arlan Weight
- D. The Spirit of Reconciliation--by Wayne Schatzle
- E. "Ezekiel's Prophecy and Revelation 20"--by Rhoda Foust
- F. The Cancer Answer--by Alex Nicholson
- G. Warning to Teachers--by Doyle J. Carter
- H. Intentional Deceptive Practices and Lying--by Laura Lee
- I. Afflictions--by Michael Porter

**DUE TO COMPUTER AND WEB SITE PROBLEMS
WE GOT WAY BEHIND IN ANSWERING LETTERS
AND SENDING OUT ORDERED ITEMS. WE WILL
TRY TO CATCH UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THANK YOU**