

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 and ask us about hosting services.

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, June 27, 2003
Friday, August 8, 2003
Friday, September 19, 2003

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 September/October 2003 Newsletter is August 15, 2003. 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 **+\$1252.00**. Expenses for 2003 are as follows: Postage **-\$641.66**, Telephone **-\$60.11**, Internet Services **-\$99.45**, Printing Charges **-\$702.48**, Local Services **-\$14.40** and Research Materials **-8.18**. Total balance for 2003 is: **-\$274.28**.

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 #17--September/October 2003 is August 15, 2003.

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.

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com (List ID is: prayer-requests-darwin-laura)

HOW DO I GET ON THE NEW "PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATE" LIST? (Instructions:)

We cannot go in and put you on the new list. You have to put yourself on the new list, and there are 2 ways you can do that. They are as follows:

#1--Use the invitation we sent you from Coollist. That Web Site link takes you right to the place where you can sign up/join the new list. The link on the invitation can be found under: "If you would like to participate in this mailing list, please visit the following web page on the web:" Then it gives you the link. This is the easiest way for you to sign up, so if you no longer have any of the invitations that we sent to you, let me know and I will send you another one, or if you never got an invitation but would like one, please e-mail us at **Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** and we will send you an invitation. The subject line on the invitation reads "Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura Registration". This E-mail Prayer line is open to the general public.

#2--You can go to our Web Site at: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> and go into the Prayer Requests & Updates section. There is a box there where you can subscribe to our new list. You put your e-mail address in the box and click on the subscribe button, which takes you into the Coollist web site, where you would click on the "Join" button and follow the instructions. This is a little harder way of doing it.

If you still have problems getting on the new list, let me know, and I will work with you. Thank You and I am looking forward to seeing you on the new list. Editor Laura Lee

Congregation of God Announcement

We are a small congregation of Sabbath-keeping Christians who are dedicated to keeping all of Gods laws that apply to the elect during the gospel age of salvation. We are engaged in a world wide ministry through the internet and publications. We hold worship services every other Sabbath in San Francisco Bay Area. If you would like to know more about our congregation, our work, or meeting dates, times and directions, contact us at info@biblesearch.org or call 925-798-1960.

FAMILY OF GOD FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

OPEN TO ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE WHO EVER & WHERE EVER THEY ARE

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IN: BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
ON THE WEEKEND OF: AUGUST 8-10, 2003**

PLANNED WEEKEND ACTIVITIES:

BIBLE STUDY

FRIDAY 8-8-2003--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE

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

SABBATH SERVICES

SATURDAY 8-9-2003--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE

12:00 NOON--OPEN FELLOWSHIP (DOOR OPEN, COME IN)

**1:00 PM--SABBATH SERVICES (IF SOMEONE WANTS TO VOLUNTEER TO SPEAK-
GREAT. IF NOT WE WILL HAVE A PHONE HOOK UP OR A TAPE.)**

3:00 PM--OPEN FELLOWSHIP

SABBATH MEAL & MORE FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY 8-9-2003--AT THE ROYAL FORK BUFFET RESTAURANT

**5:00 PM--ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED CAN JOIN US FOR A MEAL AND
FELLOWSHIP AT THE "ROYAL FORK BUFFET RESTAURANT" IN BISMARCK**

FAMILY OF GOD PICNIC

JOIN US SUNDAY 8-10-2003--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE

**10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM FOR A FAMILY PICNIC -- EVERYONE SHOULD BRING A
DISH TO PASS FOR A POT LUCK MEAL -- EACH FAMILY SHOULD BRING WHAT
THEY WANT TO DRINK, AS WELL AS THEIR OWN DISHES AND SILVER WARE.**

THERE IS A PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL ABOUT 4 BLOCKS FROM OUR HOME

NEED MORE INFORMATION OR DIRECTIONS:

PHONE (701) 258-7172 OR E-MAIL ANSWER-ME-DARWIN-LAURA@JUNO.COM

THE MIRACLE OF HOPE AND NADIA

Order this CD on page 24. Two files are in "Rich Text" and the other file you will need "Media Player" to open.

This CD tells the story from slightly before Hope Lindholm was admitted to the hospital up through her recovery. I just spoke to Tim Lindholm on the telephone the first week in June 2003 and he says Hope is doing great. This was truly a miracle from God. Laura Lee

TRACTS & REPRINTS

We are working to get more articles on our web site from back issues of our newsletter. Our first 4 issues were printed from a very old computer program, so in order to put them on our web site they all have to have major work done to them. Of course this does take time. All I can say at this point is we are working on it and once we get to the articles in Issue #5, it should go a little faster. We hope.

If you would like to get back issues of our newsletter, please request them and let us know which issues you want. We probably won't list the articles by issue any longer on page 23. Instead we are making shorter articles and submissions into "tracts" and longer articles we will offer as "reprinted articles" on page 23.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will receive a copy of one tract. Since these tracts are only meant to be reprints of our shorter newsletter articles and submissions, some will be more suited to general distribution than others will be. Laura Lee

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

A LOST KEY TO UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL TRUTH:

sent by Marisha Hileman

(1) Moses wrote the Torah in the Most ancient HEBREW language with the all consonant PICTURE LETTER alphabet and then he died 200 years BEFORE king Jeroboam, the Ephramite, led his ten NORTHERN HEBREW TRIBES away from the altar of YaHVaH in Yahrusalem to the altars of the Canaanite BAAL when he also joined the COMMERCIAL PHOENICIANS in the North. At that time, the Canaanites (Phoenicians) had no alphabet. They made MARKS to indicate their book keeping records in their trading. The Hebrews had the PICTURE LETTER alphabet so they shared it with the merchant whore (HEBREW/PHOENICIAN ALPHABET). It too is ANCIENT and PALEO (NO VOWEL "LETTERS"), but it is not the MOST ANCIENT and it resembles CHICKEN TRACKS. It was not a "PICTURE" LETTER alphabet!

(2) Moses NEVER mentioned BAAL to the day he died. You can discover this

truth in the concordance under BAAL or baal. Yes, the TRANSLATOR SCHOLARS did use the title LORD in 4 capital letters everywhere YHVH had recorded His Name. This was discovered in the HEBREW TETRAGRAMMATON. The SCHOLARS and MINISTERS OF THIS WORLD use this to prove their LORD GOD BECAUSE they only go back to the HEBREW/PHOENICIAN alphabet which you can check out as true. But to prove the MOST SACRED HEBREW NAME, we must go BACK 200 years BEFORE the Hebrew/Phoenician alphabet! The Bible speaks over and over and over of the SINS of EPHRAIM (or of his grandson, king Jeroboam). The whole book of Hosea was written for Ephraim (and Jeroboam), his sins, his LIES, and his BAAL and baal worship!

REFERENCE: Hebrew concordance WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA-each alphabet letter 1st Kings 12:25-33

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I do not believe the keeping of sacred names would be wrong, unless the keeping of a sacred name becomes more important than God himself. Darwin and I do not keep or promote the keeping of sacred names, because there is no command any place in the Bible, God's

word for us to do so, that we can find. If someone can find such a command in scripture we would certainly have to take a closer look at it.

Doctrines should always be based on what the Bible says and what can be proven from scripture. So far we have not seen any proof from scripture for the keeping of sacred names. Laura Lee

BibleStudy.org ACHIEVES MILESTONE IN PREACHING GOSPEL

sent by Alan Ruth

PRESS RELEASE - BibleStudy.org receives 1,000th Question.

The BibleStudy.org Web site has achieved a significant milestone in its efforts to preach the gospel to the world.

The ONE THOUSANDTH (1,000) Biblical question from visitors has been submitted to the site in LESS than 225 days!

Those answering questions submitted to the site, The Email Evangelists, deserve all the credit for

making this service a success. Their sacrifice and hard work have been outstanding. They are planting and watering the seeds of God's precious truth around the earth!

In the comfort of their homes The Email Evangelists are corresponding with people in the world, answering their Bible questions and helping them in their relationship with God. They are truly breaking NEW GROUND when it comes to serving others.

You may have read whiny articles and heard comments about how the church is not preaching the gospel as it used to. Many church people wonder what to do next, how to do it, with whom, etc. etc. When it comes to preaching the gospel, most folks just throw their hands up and say "I don't know!" Unfortunately, when these folks are presented with ideas/suggestions (which some have done personally), they REJECT them due to their biases and prejudices.

The fact is, ways and methods of effectively preaching the gospel ARE out there for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear! It is hoped that others will see the good fruits of The Email Evangelists and repeat, or even IMPROVE on such efforts themselves.

May God continue to bless all those who labor in His field.

Access the Q&A Section at:
<http://biblestudy.org/question/answers.html>

Interesting Statistics/Facts:

Questions sent in from Sept. 27th, 2002 to May 9th, 2003: 1,008

Percentage of questions submitted by NON-church of God folks: 95%

Number of Questions not reviewed/answered: ZERO. ALL questions have been reviewed and processed.

Average time to answer/send Biblical answer to requester: 4 Days.

Biblical answers from Email Evangelists on site: 232 answers.

Number of active, current Email Evangelists answering questions: 16

Average years an Email Evangelist has been a Christian: 25 years

Number of times direct link to question submittal form removed due to overwhelming number of questions sent in: 5+

Number of Days that visitors submitted 10 or more questions: 16

Date when ONE-MILLIONTH Web page for 2003 will be viewed on BibleStudy.org: May 17th.

Projected Web pages for 2003 to be viewed from site: 2,600,000, an 86% INCREASE from 2002.

The Email Evangelists who answered questions during this period are:

Rick/Eileen Beltz, Adriano Borean, Ken Browder, Pam Dewey, Tarcila Fox, Charlotte Grantham, Jack Lane, Calvin Lashway, Dave/Trish Manning, Art Mokarow, June Narber, Richard Nickels, Ed Oettel, Don Smith, Eric Snow, Wayne Stenhouse, Mike Summers, Allen Turner, Les Turvey, Tommy West, and Clay Willis.

Alan Ruth
Creator/Webmaster of BibleStudy.org

Barnabas Ministries
PO Box 3393
Farmington Hills, MI. 48333, USA

BibleStudy.org
You Have Questions. The Bible Has Answers!

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. Please, if you want your letter to be printed, clearly say so and send it to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We do not print all letters that we receive. If you state you want your letter printed, then we do consider it for inclusion. If we receive a letter that we feel would be of interest to others, generally we ask the writer for permission to print it.

**Letter Received: April 8, 2003
Subject: PENTECOST**

**by Richard Kraft
Rugby, North Dakota**

This letter is referring to the article "Counting to Pentecost" by Arlan Weight, which can be found in Issue #10, starting on page 8. The first part of this letter may be a little confusing unless you look at the two charts (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2) which were included in the original article.

Richard:
Looking at your chart, Fig. 1, 2001, Sadducees start counting outside days of Unleavened Bread. Would this be right? Because we are not to count from out side the days of Unleavened Bread.

Editor's Note:
There is no command any where in the Bible to follow the Sadducees in anything. With that in mind, the way the Sadducees counted Pentecost would not be correct, however historical records do prove this is the way the Sadducees counted to Pentecost. Laura Lee

Richard:
It's my understanding that it would separate old testament Christians from the new.

Editor's Note:
The word "Christian" is only used two times in the King James Bible. It is found in the following verses: Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16. The word "Christians" is only used once in the King James Bible. It is found in Acts 11:26. Both words "Christian" and "Christians" is the same Strong's Number and reads as follows:

Strong's Greek Ref. # 5546

Romanized Christianos
Pronounced khris-tee-an-os'

from GSN5547; a Christian, i.e. follower of Christ:

KJV--Christian.

There were no followers of Christ in

old testament times, simply because Christ was not born until new testament times. Laura Lee

Richard:

I feel corporate churches would be right. The first weekly Sabbath isn't in the days of Unleavened Bread, but the day you start counting is.

The First Day of Unleavened Bread, the Wave Sheaf Offering, and the day you start counting are all the same day.

Editor's Note:

The Bible clearly shows that the day of Atonement is considered to be a Sabbath, see Lev. 16:29-34 and Lev. 23:27-32. The Feast of Trumpets is considered to be a Sabbath, Lev. 23:24. The first and last day of the Feast of Tabernacles are also considered to be Sabbaths, see Lev. 23:39. The first and last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread are also considered to be Sabbaths, see Mark 15:42-45, Luke 23:50-54, John 19:31 and Lev. 23:5-8.

The command to start counting to Pentecost reads as follows: Leviticus 23:15 And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths (weeks) shall be complete:

Since the command clearly says to start the count on the day after the Sabbath, you would not be able to start that count until the day after the First Day of Unleavened Bread, since it is considered a Sabbath. Laura Lee

Richard:

Fig. 2, 2002, the Pharisees are counting from the day after the first day of Unleavened Bread. They would be counting from a fixed day. From what I understand all of God's Holy Days are at a set time, except Pentecost, which we need to count to.

Editor's Note:

In Leviticus 23:15 it says: And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete:

Go up to Leviticus 23:4 where it says: These are the feasts of the Lord, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their "seasons" (Strong's

#4150).

Strong's Hebrew Ref. # 4150

Romanized mow`ed
Pronounced mo-ade'

or mo`ed {mo-ade'}; or (feminine) mow`adah (2Chr.8v13) {mo-aw-daw'}; from HSN3259; properly, an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; specifically, a festival; conventionally a year; by implication, an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose); technically the congregation; by extension, the place of meeting; also a signal (as appointed beforehand):

KJV--appointed (sign, time), (place of, solemn) assembly, congregation, (set, solemn) feast, (appointed, due) season, solemn(-ity), synogogue, (set) time (appointed).

Leviticus 23:4, is the start of the entire list of what God considers His Holy Days. The word "seasons" here means set time or appointed time. You will notice in verse 5, that the very first Feast Day (Holy Day) listed is Passover. If Passover is not a Feast Day (Holy Day) as many in the Church of God have been taught in years past, then why does God himself say it is a Feast Day (Holy Day) and list it with all the other Feast Days (Holy Days)? Does God lie?

Is Pentecost to be counted or is it a set time? According to Leviticus 23:4, Pentecost would be a set time right along with all the other Feast Days (Holy Days) and it can also be counted. For example, the Sabbath is the Seventh Day of the week. It is a set time and it can also be counted. Many times people refer to it as the 7th Day Sabbath. Laura Lee

Richard:

In this year (2002), I feel the Sadducees would be right because they start counting on the day after the weekly Sabbath.

Editor's Note:

So in 2001 you believe the corporation churches had the count to Pentecost correct and in 2002 you believe the Sadducees had the count to Pentecost correct. Again, where in the

Bible do you find these methods of counting to Pentecost? And why would the way a person is to count to Pentecost be different from year to year?

The Bible clearly shows that the count to Pentecost is to start the day after the Sabbath, however where does it say any place that it is the weekly Sabbath?

Most people within the Churches of God would agree that the Feast Days (Holy Days) are also considered Sabbath Days. Why wouldn't the count to Pentecost start the day after Passover/1st Day of Unleavened Bread? God is not the author of confusion and counting from the day after Passover/1st Day of Unleavened Bread would certainly cut down on the confusion of how to count to Pentecost. Laura Lee

Richard:

Taking a look at Joshua 5:10---When the children of Israel first came into the land they kept the Passover on the 14th day of the month at twilight Deut. 16:6. The next day, the day after the Passover they ate the produce of the land.

Editor's Note:

Joshua 5:10 says: And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even (ereb) in the plains of Jericho.

Deuteronomy 16:6 says: But at the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the Passover at even (ereb), at the going down of the sun, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

Leviticus 23:5 says: In the fourteenth day of the first month at even (ben ha arbayim) is the Lord's Passover.

In Joshua 5:11 it clearly shows they ate the produce of the land on the day after Passover. Laura Lee

Richard:

Before they ate of the produce of the land, they would first have to offer the wave sheaf offering, Leviticus 23:14.

Editor's Note:

Leviticus 23:14 says: And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it

shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. What offering are we talking about here? Leviticus 23:11 tells us: And he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, to be accepted for you: **on the morrow after the Sabbath** the priest shall wave it. Laura Lee

Richard:

In order for this to happen, Passover would have to fall on the same day as 2001. Passover on weekly Sabbath and First Day of Unleavened Bread on Sunday.

Editor's Note:

Again the command to do the wave sheaf is for **the morrow after the Sabbath**. So if you make Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread into two separate days as many have done, then you are going against the clear command given in Lev. 23:15 which clearly says to do the wave sheaf on the **"morrow after the Sabbath"**.

With Lev. 23:15 in mind, and knowing that the First Day of Unleavened Bread is also considered a Sabbath, the wave sheaf cannot be done on the First Day of Unleavened Bread.

There is no command any place in the Bible showing that the wave sheaf was only to be done on Sunday.

Since Joshua 5:10 shows clearly that they were eating the produce of the land and that it was clearly the day after Passover, we would have to conclude that Passover and the First Day of Unleavened Bread were the same day, or they would have been going against the command of God to do the wave sheaf on the day after the Sabbath.

Leviticus 23:4 clearly shows us that Passover is a Feast Day (Holy Day). Laura Lee

Richard:

They were to wave the sheaf on the day after the Sabbath, Lev. 23:11.

Editor's Note:

Again, unless you understand that God does consider the Passover/1st day of Unleavened Bread to be a Sabbath, you will make your count start from the day after a weekly Sabbath.

The biggest reason why most people who came out of the Worldwide Church of

God do not think Passover is a Holy Day is because Herbert W. Armstrong taught that it was not a Holy Day.

HWA said that the Jewish people had the wrong day. How do those of you who were taught by HWA know absolutely that HWA did not have it wrong?

Please study your Bible and see if you can find your methods of counting to Pentecost spoken of any place in the Bible as was taught to you by the WWCG. Laura Lee

Richard:

You shall count to Pentecost from the day after the Sabbath from the day the wave sheaf was offered, Lev. 23:15.

Editor's Note:

We have clear scripture in Joshua 5:11 which shows them eating the produce of the land on the day after Passover, which could not have been done unless they had first offered the wave sheaf. Laura Lee

Richard:

Does the wave sheaf offering represent Jesus Resurrection? To be accepted by the Father in Heaven?

Editor's Note:

I do not know of any scriptures which would prove either one of these. Laura Lee

Richard:

Jesus ascended to heaven to be accepted by the Father on the first day of the week, John 20:17-19, and Matthew 28:1.

Editor's Note:

John 20:17-19 says: 17. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. 18. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. 19. Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

In context there is nothing in these

verses showing that Jesus ascended to heaven to be accepted by the Father.

Generally in practice of the sacrifices offered morning and evening, they were offered up in the same time period the offerings were made.

Matthew 28:1 In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

This scripture clearly does not prove that Jesus ascended to heaven to be accepted by the Father. Laura Lee

Richard:

Was the wave sheaf to be offered at the same time that Christ was accepted by His Father in heaven as the first fruit?

Editor's Note:

Again, I know of no scriptures which would prove this point. Laura Lee

Richard:

Wave sheaf was not offered on Friday because Christ was still in grave. We are to count from the day the wave sheaf was offered. Lev. 23:15 on the day after the weekly Sabbath.

Editor's Note:

Where in the Bible does it say that the wave sheaf was offered on the day after the weekly Sabbath? Joshua 5:11 clearly shows it would have had to be offered on the day after the Passover, which could only be possible if Passover and the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread were the same day, because the wave sheaf is to be done on the morrow after the Sabbath, not on the Sabbath. Laura Lee

From Josephus

Antiquity Book 3--Chapter 10

5. In the month of Xanthicus, which is by us called Nisan, and is the beginning of our year, on the fourteenth day of the lunar month, when the sun is in Aries, (for in this month it was that we were delivered from bondage under the Egyptians,) the law ordained that we should every year slay that sacrifice which I before told you we slew when we came out of Egypt, and which was called the Passover; and so we do celebrate this Passover in companies, leaving nothing of what we sacrifice till the day following.

The feast of unleavened bread succeeds that of the Passover, and falls on the fifteenth day of the month, and **continues** seven days, wherein they feed on unleavened bread; on every one of which days two bulls are killed, and one ram, and seven lambs. Now these lambs are entirely burnt, besides the kid of the goats which is added to all the rest, for sins; for it is intended as a feast for the priest on every one of those days. **But on the second day of unleavened bread, which is the sixteenth day of the month, they first partake of the fruits of the earth, for before that day they do not touch them.** And while they suppose it proper to honor God, from whom they obtain this plentiful provision, in the first place, they offer the first-fruits of their barley, and that in the manner following: They take a handful of the ears, and dry them, then beat them small, and purge the barley from the bran; they then bring one tenth deal to the altar, to God; and, casting one handful of it upon the fire, they leave the rest for the use of the priest. And after this it is that they may publicly or privately reap their harvest. They also at this participation of the first-fruits of the earth, sacrifice a lamb, as a burnt-offering to God.

6. **When a week of weeks has passed over after this sacrifice, (which weeks contain forty and nine days,) on the fiftieth day, which is Pentecost,** but is called by the Hebrews Asartha, which signifies Pentecost, they bring to God a loaf, made of wheat flour, of two tenth deals, with leaven; and for sacrifices they bring two lambs; and when they have only presented them to God, they are made ready for supper for the priests; nor is it permitted to leave any thing of them till the day following. They also slay three bullocks for a burnt-offering, and two rams; and fourteen lambs, with two kids of the goats, for sins; nor is there anyone of the festivals but in it they offer burnt-offerings; they also allow themselves to rest on every one of them. Accordingly, the law prescribes in them all what kinds they are to sacrifice, and how they are to rest entirely, and must slay sacrifices, in order to feast upon them. Laura Lee

Letter Received: April 18, 2003
Subject: COMMANDMENT OR
COMMANDMENTS

by Phil Griffith
Delight, Arkansas

This letter is in regard to a letter Fred Brettell Jr. wrote which can be found in Issue #14 on page 7.

Phil:

I hope the common ground we have is a desire to be totally honest with the scriptures and the consideration of Christ as Lord.

In this context I would like to comment on your usage of John 14:15 in your dialogue with Fred Brettell Jr., #14 newsletter.

The context of John 14:15 is John 13:34 and I see no contextual justification for using the plural form "Commandments" as most translators do.

Editors Note:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

The Greek word used in John 14:15 is "entolas" and is the same word also used in the following verses:

⇒ Matthew 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the **commandments**.

⇒ Mark 10:19 Thou knowest the **commandments**, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

⇒ Luke 18:20 Thou knowest the **commandments**, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

⇒ John 11:57 Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a **commandment**, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

⇒ John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my **commandments**

⇒ John 14:21 He that hath my **commandments**, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

⇒ John 15:10 If ye keep my **commandments**, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's **commandments**, and abide in his love.

⇒ Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received **commandments**: if he come unto you, receive him;)

⇒ 1 John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his **commandments**.

⇒ 1 John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his **commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

⇒ 1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his **commandments**, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

⇒ 1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his **commandments** dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

⇒ 1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his **commandments**.

⇒ 1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his **commandments**: and his **commandments** are not grievous.

⇒ 2 John 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his **commandments**. This is the commandment (**Greek word here is entole**), That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

⇒ Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the **commandments** of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

⇒ Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the **commandments** of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The usage of "entolas" being translated as "commandments" in the King James Bible, looks pretty consistent to us. The only place "entolas" was

translated "commandment" was in John 11:57. Strongs Concordance generally dumps many different spellings of a Hebrew or Greek word under the same definition, leading the reader to believe it is always spelled the same. The Greek word "entolas" is generally translated as "commandments" and the Greek word "entole" is generally translated as "commandment". Both spellings of the word are lumped under the same Strong's definition. Laura Lee

Phil:

The WCG, as I understand them, said John 14:15 as well as I John 3:24 (the context of I John 3:24 is I John 3:23) referred to the 10 commandments, which I can't justify from the context of John's writing's of the Greek, in these cases.

Editors Note:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments (**Greek word used here "entolas"**).

1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments (**Greek word used here "entolas"**) dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment (**Greek word used here "entole"**), that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment (**Greek word used here "entole"**).

I am not sure what the WCG said about these scriptures, however in context of the Bible itself, God's perfect Law of Love includes the ten commandments and all the statutes, judgments and ordinances which further define the application of the ten commandments. Laura Lee

Phil:

On the other hand Mark 10:19 and Matthew 19:17-18 both give contextual justification for using the plural "Commandments" and make reference to what we call the 10 commandments, at least in part.

Editors Note:

Mark 10:19 Thou knowest the commandments (**Greek word used here "entolas"**), Do not commit adultery, Do

not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

Matthew 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments (**Greek word used here "entolas"**). **Matthew 19:18** He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

So again in conclusion: John 14:15 **If ye love me, keep my commandments (All of them, plural)**. Laura Lee

Letter Received: April 29, 2003
Subject: PENTECOST

by W. L. (Duke) Schneider
Gravois Mills, Missouri

This letter is referring to the article "Counting to Pentecost" by Arlan Weight, which can be found in Issue #10, starting on page 8. Again there were two charts (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2) which were included in the original article.

Duke:

I know I have missed your deadline for the newsletter and that it is ready to be printed and mailed. I had been meaning to comment on your last newsletter where the pro's and con's were printed for counting 50 days from the annual Sabbath (Abib/Nisan 15) (**Editors Note: Arlan's article showed the count to start on Abib/Nisan 16. Laura Lee**) or from the weekly Sabbath that falls during the days of Unleavened Bread. There is one simple statement that my late wife, "Dotte," often mentioned to me that settled the debate in my own mind, and which I offer now for your own edification:

"If you count from the annual high day you will always have Pentecost on Sivan 6; therefore there is no need whatsoever to count at all."

Editor's Note:

There are many methods that people use to count to Pentecost, however there

is only one method that is provable by scripture.

At the time of Christ there were the Sadducees, the Pharisees and the Samaritans, among others. In the Bible you will find no commands from Christ to follow any of these sects in anything except for the Pharisees. In Matthew 23: 3-4 Christ said, (v3) All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. (v4) For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Essentially, what is being said here is do as the Pharisees say as they sat in Moses seat and read the Law of God. What we are not to follow them in are things which they added to the law of God. Christ kept all the Holy Days as the Pharisees did in His life on earth.

Most of the methods of counting to Pentecost that people within the church of God use at this time are either methods which they make up or the most popular count to Pentecost is the one the Sadducees used. Again there is no command in scripture to follow the Sadducees in anything nor should we just be making things up without scriptural proof.

The Pharisees always counted from the wave sheaf, which was done on Nisan 16, and ended with Pentecost on Sivan 6. Leviticus 23 lists God's set times and Pentecost is listed as one of God's set times.

Duke:

I could "rest my case," right there, but humbly offer the following, hoping it will be helpful:

So why did God tell us to count? It only makes sense to count if the starting point for counting varies from year to year, as it does with the weekly Sabbath.

Editor's Note:

This would only be an assumption on your part. The Sabbath is a set time and you can also count that. It would be the seventh day of the week.

Duke:

God could have said, "Thou shall observe the Feast of Firstfruits on the sixth day of the third month," but He

didn't. He did in fact pinpoint specific calendar dates for all the other annual Feasts. But this one He requires us to count 50 days to get the correct date. Why?

Here is my answer: Since Christ is the firstfruit, the firstborn from the dead, why would you want to start counting on the day (Nisan 15) (**Editors Note: Arlan's article showed the count to start on Abib/Nisan 16. Laura Lee**) when Christ was still dead in the tomb? It makes more sense to start counting on the day of the wavesheaf offering when the living, risen Christ was offered to the Father as the very first of the Firstfruits.

Editors Note:

Leviticus 23:15-16, (v15) And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths (weeks) shall be complete: (v16) Even unto the morrow after the seventh sabbath (week) shall ye number fifty days; and ye shall offer a new meat offering unto the Lord.

Pentecost is known as the Feast of Weeks. Exodus 34:22 And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.

Now look at Deuteronomy 16:9-10 where it clearly shows you are to count weeks. (v9) Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn. (v10) And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the Lord thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the Lord thy God, according as the Lord thy God hath blessed thee: See also Deuteronomy 16:16, 2 Chronicles 8:13, Numbers 28:26 and other letters in this newsletter.

Then look at Joshua 5:10-11, which says, (v10) And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho. (v11) And they did eat of the old corn of the land on the morrow after the Passover, unleavened cakes, and parched corn in the selfsame day.

There is much Biblical evidence for a Sivan 6 Pentecost. I noticed that you did not give any scriptures to prove your point. We all need to be ready to give an

answer, from scripture. Our assumptions are just not good enough. Laura Lee

Duke:

(I assume that most of your readers probably agree that Christ rose from the dead late on the weekly Sabbath, i.e., Saturday.)

Editors Note:

I cannot speak for our readers on this point, only for Darwin and I, and there is scriptural proof that Christ rose late on the Sabbath. Laura Lee

**Letter Received: May 26, 2003
Subject: BETWEEN THE
EVENINGS

by Brian Convery
Kendall, New York**

This letter is referring to the article "What does 'Between the Evenings' Mean?" by Bryan T. Huie, which can be found in Issue #15, starting on page 6.

Brian:

We hope you and yours are in good health and that you are prospering in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It seems in many ways that the feast of Tabernacles was just yesterday. Time has gone by so fast for us, probably due to the work load we had taken on. There has been little time for anything else until just recently.

I need to thank you once again for the newsletter you painstakingly plan out and put together. It is a labor of love to the body and is appreciated by Linda and I.

Each of us has our part to play as we are placed in that body. I enjoy reading other brethren's thoughts on the way of life we are to be living. Some are very inspiring and provide pieces of the puzzle which help us grow a little more in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Some on the other hand I find uninspiring. That does not mean what was said has come across to me as being inaccurate. That just means to me personally it does not have the same effect as another's article.

However there are times when I read an article that is rife with error. I am not talking about my opinion of a specific doctrine, but pure Biblical error. These things should not go unchallenged by any of us when we see them and have an ability to respond.

Editors Note:

I agree. When we see Biblical error and have both the time and the ability to respond with scriptural proof that what is being said is in error, we should do so. Laura Lee

Brian:

The Bible commands us not to add to or take away from the word of God. Duet. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19, are just some of the many scriptures which command this. Duet. 12:32 states, "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it."

With that said I have a problem with Bryan T. Huie's article entitled, "What Does "Between the Evenings" Mean?" If this article were just an opportunity for him to express his opinion I would have no problem with it. But he categorically stated his information is correct and from the scriptures. It however is rife with error on a scale which I find hard to believe for one who envisions himself as a teacher of the Biblical scriptures.

Editors Note:

Most people who write articles and send them to us or other Biblically based newsletters or newspapers feel that their information is Biblically correct. I believe that you should have been more specific in what you are complaining about here. Laura Lee

Brian:

There is much I could address about this article but lets go to the big one. Bryan states, "Yet God also inspired another event to be recorded in the eighteenth chapter of 1 Kings to help His end time people to correctly understand when between the evenings occurs."

In his zeal to promote his opinion he has broken the commandment of God to not add to what God has given to us.

The word Ben ha arbayim, does not appear in any of the scriptures he quotes from 1 Kings 18. In fact it is not even suggested if we are to read the original

Hebrew and the context.

Editors Note:

No place in Bryan T. Huie's article did he ever say that the term "Ben ha arbayim" was used in 1 Kings, chapter 18. He even very clearly in the beginning of the article shows exactly which verses the term "Ben ha arbayim" is used in. If you check that list you will see that there is nothing from 1 Kings on that list at all. Laura Lee

Brian:

The NKJV adds "evening" to both verse 29 and 36. Verse 29 in the Hebrew reads, "And it was as past by noon that they prophesied maddly until the offering up of the offering, but no sound and none answering and none paying attention."

That has nothing to do with the evening offering. It is talking about the time allotted to them to call on Baal for they had gone first as v25 clearly states.

Editor's Note:

You are correct that the word "evening" was not in either verse 29 or 36 in the Hebrew in 1 Kings, chapter 18.

In the Old King James, 1 Kings 18:29 says: 1 Kings 18:29 And it came to pass, when midday (Strong's #6672--Means Noon or Noontide) was past, and they prophesied (The prophets of Baal) until the time (NIH) of the offering (Strong's #5927--To offer up, as to God.) of the evening (NIH) sacrifice (Strong's #4503--Animal offering, meat offering, burnt offering etc.), that there was (NIH) neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

Even though the word evening was not in the original Hebrew, the two words used for offering and sacrifice in the Hebrew are two different words and when read in context is talking about offering up a sacrifice. In verse 29 and 36 both of these words, offering and sacrifice are talking about the offering and sacrifice that Elijah is about to make to God.

The time allotted for the prophets of Baal to call on their gods is stated in verse 26, where it says "...and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon..."

It says in verse 29 that they (the prophets of Baal) "prophesied **until** the time of the offering of the sacrifice".

In verses 22-25, it clearly shows that

Elijah is setting this all up to show the people who the true God is. So if the prophets of Baal did not take the time of the morning sacrifice and Elijah did not get the time of the evening sacrifice, then what time of day did they get?

In Exodus 29:39 it clearly shows which sacrifice was first and which sacrifice was second. The morning sacrifice is first and the evening sacrifice is second. Exodus 29:39 The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other (Strong's #8145--means second) lamb thou shalt offer at even (ben ha arbayim):

Since these sacrifice times were commanded by God, see Exodus 29:35, why would a prophet of God, Elijah be making a sacrifice to God at a different time than he was commanded to? Laura Lee

Brian:

J.P. Greens translation of this verse into English is very accurate. "And it happened, as noon past by, they prophesied madly until the offering up of the offering and there was no sound and there was none answering and there was no one paying attention." No mention whatsoever of Ben ha arbayim. Their time had run out period! That time was just past noon hour as the scriptures clearly have told us.

It is a simple fact that midday was a time that the priests of Baal offered up sacrifices because of his association with the power of the sun at it's zenith.

Editor's Note:

Again, Bryan T. Huie did not say Ben ha arbayim was used in 1 Kings, chapter 18. Again the offering up of the offering in the verse you are quoting here is talking about Elijah's up coming offering up to God of the sacrifice. The key word used to show this is "until".

Even though you do not give any proof showing when the priests of Baal made sacrifices, I will not dispute the point with you, as these scriptures in 1 Kings, chapter 18 clearly show the sacrifice of the prophets of Baal was not set up by them, but by Elijah. The whole point Elijah was trying to make here, is to show the people who the true God is. Laura Lee

Brian:

When did Elijah start to prepare his sacrifice to God as he was to go second? Right after the priests of Baal failed at midday as verse 30 tells us. So shortly after midday it was his turn to prepare his sacrifice.

Bryan then goes on to include verse 36 as his further proof of his opinion. Once again the translators of the NKJ commit an egregious error by adding to the word of God and are supported in this by Bryan Huie.

Editors Note:

I guess I don't see this as an error. Bryan is entitled to give examples of what he is talking about, and you are entitled to disagree with his examples. Laura Lee

Brian:

The original Hebrew text reads as follows, "And it was at the offering of the offering that came near Elijah the people and said O Yahovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel, and I am your servant and by Your word I have done all things there."

Once again not one mention of the word Ben ha arbayim because it had nothing to do with what was taking place.

Elijah's time had come. "And it happened at the offering of the sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Jehovah the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that You (are) God in Israel, and I your servant, that by your word I have done all things."

Bryan Huie states, "The Bible specifies that this mighty miracle occurred at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice or between the evenings."

Editor's Note:

I believe we have covered this territory. Bryan T. Huie never said that Ben ha arbayim was used in 1 Kings, chapter 18, however if the evening sacrifice was between the two evenings and if the evening sacrifice was second after the morning sacrifice, then what time of the day was between the two evenings? If you do not know, I will tell you. If the morning sacrifice was done first and in the morning, it would have had to be completed by noon. If the evening sacrifice was second and had to be done

before a new day started, the only time you have left is between noon and sunset. Thus, between the two evenings would be between noon and sunset. Laura Lee

Brian:

That Darwin and Laura is a terrible error at best for one who prides himself on accurately presenting the scripture of God. He makes several conclusions at the end of the article with one being, "Should we follow the Samaritans in this matter or should we follow the example of the Jews who were entrusted with the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2)?"

Editors Note:

The key in your above statement is "oracles of God." These are not the oracles of the Jews being referred to in Romans 3:2. This scripture clearly says oracles of God.

Romans 3:2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them (The Jews) were committed the **oracles of God**. Laura Lee

Brian:

We are to follow no one but Jesus Christ. If I were to, "follow the example of the Jews who were entrusted with the oracles of God" I would be stuck in the mire of Judaism, regarding Christ.

Editors Note:

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

As Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 11:1, follow me as I follow Christ. So if the Jewish people are following Christ in certain things, then follow those things. If the Jewish people are not following Christ in some things, then do not follow them in those things. If HWA was following Christ in certain things, then follow those things. If HWA was not following Christ in certain things, then do not follow him in those things. If Brian Convery is following Christ in certain things, then follow those things. If Brian Convery is not following Christ in certain things, then don't follow those things. If Darwin and Laura Lee are following Christ in certain things, then follow those things. If Darwin and Laura Lee are not following Christ in certain things, then do not follow those things. If Paul is not following Christ in certain things, then don't follow him in those things. We only follow any one as they

follow Christ. Thus we will always be following Christ. Laura Lee

Brian:

If it were up to the Jews there would not be a copy of the NT scriptures on the face of the earth. They are now entrusted in the nations of Israel to publish throughout the whole world.

Editor's Note:

If it were not for the Jewish people a Pharisee no less, you would not even have about half of the New Testament today.

Paul states: Acts 23:6 But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, **I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee:** of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Please don't forget that Christ was also born a Jew. At the time Christ was here on earth there were some Jews that believed and some Jews that did not. You cannot lump all Jews into one thought pattern any more than you can lump all Christians into one thought pattern. Some Christians follow Christ and some Christians do not follow Christ. Some Jews follow Christ and some do not follow Christ. Laura Lee

Brian:

Mr. Huie has committed an error which needs to be acknowledged as such. I do not condemn his opinion but I certainly and outwardly address his breaking of the commandment of God to be careful to observe whatever God has commanded us to do and do not carelessly add to it or take away from it period.

Editors Note:

The bottom line here, is I don't believe that Bryan T. Huie is teaching us something in his article which is unscriptural. It is fine if you don't like the example that he used, but I also don't think his use of that example was unscriptural. Darwin and I have long believed that the term "between the two evenings" is a period of time between noon and sunset. Christ as our Passover Lamb was slain for our sins at that very time of the day. Do you think that Christ himself would have allowed his own

crucifixion at a time which was unlawful?

Take a very close look at: Deuteronomy 16:4 And there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee in all thy coast seven days; **neither shall there any thing of the flesh, which thou sacrificedst the first day at even, remain all night until the morning.**

This verse tells us some very important things. #1--There are only 7 days of Unleavened Bread, not eight. #2--The second part of the verse is clearly talking about the Passover sacrifice, which was sacrificed (eaten) on the **first** day of Unleavened Bread. #3--To prove it is talking about the Passover sacrifice see also: Exodus 12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. #4--Exodus 34:25 Thou shalt not offer the blood of my sacrifice with leaven; neither shall the sacrifice of the feast of the Passover be left unto the morning.

I checked to make sure the word "first" was in the original Hebrew and it is. So what first day do you believe is being talked about here? When the context is the Feast of Unleavened Bread as it is, it could only be talking about the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That would make Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread the same day. That is exactly as it is on the Hebrew Calendar.

Now look at: Deuteronomy 16:6 But at the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name in, there thou shalt sacrifice the passover at even, **at the going down of the sun**, at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt.

Notice that it says the Passover was to be sacrificed at even, at the going down of the sun. What time does the sun start to go down? If one is very honest in answering that last question, you would have to admit that the sun starts to go down at noon and continues to go down until sunset at which time it may still give light on the horizon but you will not see the actual sun again until it rises in the morning. Thus, between the evenings is between noon and sunset. It is the only time of the 24 hour day where you could say "at the going down of the sun."

The last part of the verse says "at the season that thou camest forth out of Egypt." It doesn't say to keep it a day earlier, it clearly says "at the season", and

of course we are talking here about that season (set time), being the Feast of Unleavened Bread. I do believe the Jewish people have this one right. Laura Lee

Brian:

This is the first time I have ever written to a publisher of a newsletter to point out an obvious error. The reason I have done so today is because of what I read on page 22 bottom right hand corner.

Keep up the good service you have been commissioned to do. It is obvious your hearts are with the brethren wherever they may be found.

Editors Note:

I am surprised that I am the first publisher of a newsletter that you have written to in regard to supposed Biblical error. I have seen other publications which seem to be riddled with it.

What we say on page 22 is "If you find Biblical errors in any of these articles, please email us with the details. Or send us the details via snail mail. All contact information is on page #2."

We mean what we have written on page #22, however, your point must be proven through scripture.

We are a publication that does not print just anything that is submitted to us and we will not promote doctrines that we cannot prove via scripture. Laura Lee

From Darwin:

The "obvious error" of adding to scriptures that you claim Bryan T. Huie is guilty of, we believe is unfounded and that the example he used in 1 Kings is a collaboration of scripture on this particular subject. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Timothy 3:16.

The timing of the sacrifice is of utmost importance. The ongoing confusion in the Churches of God over the timing of the sacrifice of the lamb in Exodus 12 should be of absolute concern to all. We should all be asking, since the first sacrifice of the lamb and the yearly sacrifice there after was picturing the ultimate sacrifice of the lamb, Jesus, would it not be important to God that the sacrifice of the true lamb take place at the

same time as the sacrifice of the first lamb and the yearly sacrifice? Would God be content with the sacrifice of His son to be off by 21 hours? Should not Jesus have been crucified just after sunset?

Biblical evidence is quite clear that Jesus died on the stake at the 9th hour of the afternoon (our 3 PM). See Matthew 27:46-50, Mark 15:34-37 and Luke 23:44-46. Biblical evidence is also clear for those who have ears to hear, that the first lamb and the yearly Passover lamb sacrifice took place at the same time of the day that Jesus died.

Either the first lamb sacrifice and the yearly lamb sacrifice thereafter pictured the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus the true lamb or they did not. The timing of the two has everything to do with the truth on this subject. God is never late. He is always on time. Darwin Lee

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

**GOSPEL-THE MISSING PART
PART #2**

by Arlan Weight
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Message Preached

Then it happened. One day in the Mid 1960's I stumbled across a radio broadcast that seemed different than most religious programs. This program

even had a title that was intriguing. It was called, "**The World Tomorrow**".

As many know that time was a turbulent time. It was the time of the Vietnam War. There was carnage abroad and division at home. Each night we could watch our sons being slaughtered on the evening news in a war no one wanted, and it was sickening. When I first heard the title of the program, 'The World Tomorrow', I was hoping for a shot of good news, because the news I was hearing and seeing on my TV certainly wasn't good! One such program started out like this with the announcer saying, "'Herbert W. Armstrong brings you the plain truth about today's world news and the prophecies of the **World Tomorrow**" "Well greetings friends, this is Herbert W. Armstrong with the good news of the world tomorrow. Yes, it's a wonderful thing that the **news is going to be good... tomorrow**. There's a reason why it isn't good today. And it isn't good because we haven't made it good. It isn't good because **human beings don't know the way of peace**. We are reaping exactly what we've been sowing. Now there is a way that seems right to a man, the ends thereof are the ways of death. That's the way we've been living. We're living now in a world of chaos **growing up into world revolution**. We look out over this world and look at the suffering, the unhappiness and the heartache, the empty lives. There's a cause for it all. And we're not going to have a world of peace, a world of real happiness and abundant living, and prosperity for all, until we come to find the way into those things. And we are going to be forced to learn that way and **in our time and in our generation...**"

Has the world gotten more peaceful since these words were spoken forty years ago? Not so, if anything, the world has grown more dangerous than it was then. Listen to today's news. With the potential for the war in Iraq and the war on terrorism, with the mounting pressure for the United Nations to do something... or else. Indeed the words spoken then about our world growing toward **revolution** seem more applicable today than back in the mid-1960's.

Again, in the 1960's it seemed to me that the world had gone crazy with the Vietnam War. But think of it in light of the events happening today. Today it truly

does affect the entire globe. All nations, via the United Nations, are drawn into the dispute over 'weapons of mass destruction'.

This is potentially bigger than the Vietnam War. It's potentially bigger than any war we've ever seen or heard about, especially if those 'weapons of mass destruction' are unleashed. So these words of a **better world tomorrow** would be even more a welcome news item today than it was back then. Herbert Armstrong continues...

"Now my friends why is it that you have **not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ**, but a different gospel **about his person**? A gospel that teaches exactly the opposite of what Jesus Christ did. Why is it that you have been brought up to believe exactly the opposite of what the Bible says. Exactly the opposite of what Jesus Christ taught. Why is it that you have been brought up from childhood **practicing customs** that are exactly the **antithesis** of those that Jesus practiced, setting us an example that we should follow his steps, and do as he did. Exactly the opposite of what the apostle Paul taught to the Gentiles that had been converted Christians..."

Throughout the time period from 1934 till about 1991, that same message of the **kingdom of God** and the **wonderful world tomorrow**, was going out over the airwaves. It steadily began building in power and influence in the United States and then in 1953 it began to go worldwide, when the program began to air on the Radio Luxemburg station. By 1986 the 'World Tomorrow' program had one of the highest, if not the highest, rating for a religious broadcast.

The message was a worldwide one and the church sponsoring that message was also known by it's worldwide scope. The group supporting that message became known as the '**Worldwide Church of God**'. From the mid-1960's to the 1980's the church grew at a phenomenal rate. People were enthusiastic about what they were hearing. Once again the church was hearing the substance of what gave them hope. We, who were part of that group of people, began to see that promise of ongoing life, via the resurrection, as something real. Life was not going to end at the grave! What tremendous power

that message began to have!

We began to learn that God had a plan for the future. We began to learn that God's Holy Days gave us an outline of that plan. We began to keep the 'Feast of Tabernacles', which was the highlight of the year and pictured that wonderful peaceful 'World Tomorrow'. The Old Testament books, particularly Isaiah began to come alive. These were not old. These words were for the future... maybe even the near future.

However, seven years after Herbert Armstrong died in 1986, this message was changing. Just like what happened in the first century church, was happening again. Changes within the church began almost immediately after his death, how-be-it they were slow at first. But by January 1992 changes were coming quite fast. Each Sabbath there seemed to be new directives coming down from headquarters. It was troubling to some, but for others it seemed right. Like Paul said to the Galatians, it was troubling, not because it was a different gospel, but because it was changing, (perverted) even though ever so slightly at first.

Then in July of that year the bold statement showed up in a co-worker letter from headquarters. It read as follows... "It grieves me that someone can actually feel that the spiritual health of the Church is threatened **because we preach Jesus Christ!** Jesus says that if any will deny him before men, he will deny them before his Father in heaven. (Matt. 10:33). Jesus Christ, the Son of God who dwelt among us, died for our sins, and was raised from the dead, and sits on the right hand of God as our Intercessor and Ruler, is the focal point of all the Bible. **He is the Gospel. He is the kingdom of God.** He is the light of the world, the bread of life, and the prince of peace."

As stated above, the changes that were coming from headquarters began to affect everything we focused on, previously. The leadership at headquarters continued to focus more and more on the person of Christ instead of His message. Pressure was building in the ministerial ranks over this change. Hence the opening statement of the July 1992 co-worker letter saying some thought the spiritual health of the church was threatened. By saying it this way, it alleged that not enough attention had been given to his person previously. Was

this true? To this writer that assumption was false.

Yes, it was right to preach Jesus Christ, and that he paid the death penalty for all mankind's sins and he is a focal point of the Bible, but he is not the whole gospel, and he is not the kingdom of God. He is the King of that kingdom but the kingdom has co-rulers and it has people living in that realm. It also has territory, and that territory starts out as being this earth. Isaiah and other places make plain how that world will be someday. There will be no more wars, no more needless bloodshed. Human beings will then be taught how to have peace and become peacemakers.

There will be physical activity in tomorrow's world. People will no longer be making weapons of destruction, but tools to grow food for example. Today over one million people starve to death every year. In that future time there will be no starvation. Then there will be such abundance that the old storehouses will have to be emptied out to make room for the new. Amos 9:11-15 gives an overview of that time.

11. "In that day will I raise up the **tabernacle of David** that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will **raise up his ruins**, and I will build it as in the days of old:
12. That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the Lord that doeth this.
13. Behold, the days come saith the Lord, that the **plowman shall overtake the reaper** and the **treader of grapes him that soweth seed**; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.
14. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall **build the waste cities**, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also **make gardens**, and **eat the fruit of them**.
15. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God."

Wow! That's a lot in these few verses. Think about it. Think about the abundance. Think also about the construction that will take place. And as

you do, project your mind to think about design. Think about how you might want to design your house or how about a whole city. But think also there won't be the negative news today, the wars, the destruction, the misery. You won't have to witness the shuttle astronauts blown to bits or people burned in horrific fires. None of that. In that new world order even the wild animals will be tamed! See Isaiah 11:6-9.

6. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and young lion and fating together; and a **little child shall lead them.**
7. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.
9. **They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain:** for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

This symbol, this picture of tranquility, with a huge lion and a lamb together with a little child leading them became the church logo, the church emblem. Ambassador College adopted it for the cover of its Envoys, and it began showing up on every piece of church literature and podiums. This emblem, and caption under it symbolized and represented what the church was about... what the **message** was.

Wherever you saw this symbol, immediately you saw something portrayed that nowhere in this world fits. It's out of kilter, out of sink, for indeed it represented a different world... one of peace and not war. Coupled with the resurrection and viewing this symbol lifted peoples hearts and minds and caused them to greatly desire being part of it.

The gospel message and the message of a peaceful world tomorrow had a drawing effect. It gave joy to those who could hear and envision it. Believing it led to faith and action to follow after a way of life where that focus was the main overall goal. It also gave determination to put up with criticism from those who did not share in that same goal. Even though some family and friends did not understand the zealotry and new

found joy and understanding, they were certainly impacted. This joy in that future time, no doubt was the same joy that led Jesus to follow through with what he had to do. Notice Hebrews 12:2.

"Who for the **joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame. . ."

After that date in July of 1992 bolder changes began coming from the Worldwide Church of God headquarters. Until in the spring of 1995, the Sabbath, tithing, God's law, including the Holy Days were being challenged. When this happened many ministers had had it. Many of them resigned their post and the church split apart. People were torn apart, even families split over these issues. People who were once bonded together, not being family, were now bitterly divided. When once they had spent many hours of fellowship sharing that future hope, now no longer wanted anything to do with each other.

So what happened? Can we not see. To this writer it's obvious. It's plain to see the divisions and splits within the church, up to this very day are over the **perversion** of the gospel. Primarily it's due to the suppression and removal of that '**missing part**', the message of God's kingdom and the world tomorrow. Taking that away took the heart out of it. It took peoples hopes and dreams away.

So where are we today? Could it be we are in a time like what is spoken of in Amos 8:11-12?

11. "Behold the days come saith the Lord God that **I will send a famine** in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water but of **hearing the words of the Lord.**
12. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east. They shall run to and fro to seek the **word of the Lord** and shall not find it."

What are the **words of the Lord**? What did Jesus' message consist of? (Mark 1:14) In teaching his disciples to pray what was the first thing he told them to request of God? "**thy kingdom come**".

In the sermon on the mount, what one thing did he teach his followers to seek? "Seek ye first the **kingdom of God.**" In his last parting words to his disciples, what did he command them to do... "Go ye into all the world and **preach**

the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

This is that missing part removed. These are the '**words of the Lord**'.

Of course Jesus' words consisted of more than just the 'kingdom of God' but this was the main focus of his mission to earth (John 10:10). Jesus message included repentance and is a necessary part to being in that kingdom (Luke 13:5). However, the carrot, the goal of mankind, life unending, a life filled with interesting activity and potential beyond our dreams, this is what Jesus was sent to preach. If there is a famine of God's words, these must be the ones that have been removed.

Notice also who it is that is sending this 'famine of the word'? Has this famine happened before? Quite possibly. What shall we make of it? To this writer it also is plain to see God is in charge of what is happening. He is the one who selects who he will to send out to preach his message and in his time. No one can just decide to do it on their own. God must send them.

Many claim to be spokesmen and women for God, but are they? We ought to carefully consider the words... the message. Notice what it says in Jeremiah 23:20-21.

20. "The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: **in the latter days** ye shall consider it perfectly.
21. **I have not sent these prophets,** yet they ran: **I have not spoken to them,** yet they prophesied."

Who are these false prophets? What church or group do they represent? Notice also what Jesus says in Matthew 24:5 & 11.

5. "For many shall come in my name **saying I am Christ:** and shall deceive many.
11. For many false prophets shall rise and deceive many"

What it seems to be saying here is that these self appointed prophets talk **about Christ** but leave out the message he spoke about. By doing so deception is taking place because the goal of mankind is not focused on. What's our purpose for being? Why do we exist? Notice though, just before the end comes that the same gospel Christ preached will be preached again. (Matthew 24:14)

"And this **gospel of the kingdom** shall

be preached in all the world for a **witness unto all nations**; and then the end shall come"

"My Two Witnesses"

As stated above the gospel message of God's kingdom will be preached in all the world for a **"witness unto all nations"**... Who will provide that witnessing? During the fifty year period from the mid-1930's to the mid-1980's this gospel message was preached and became a worldwide work, but did it meet the test of Matthew 24:14? Did it fully satisfy as a **witness to all nations** to the extent God intends or is that time yet future? Notice what it says in Revelation 11:3.

"And I will give power unto **my two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

From the 1930's to the 1980's technology had vastly improved to where sound and video signals could be transmitted to any part of the earth. This happened, but in order to receive these signals you had to have the receivers to get the message. Since that time the computer, cell phones, and a host of other inventions are making it possible to be in the remotest part of the earth and still be able to know what's going on.

If God intends the gospel of the kingdom to go to these most remote places, it surely is more possible today than it was 25 years ago. The two witnesses mentioned in Revelation are a reference to Zechariah 4:14.

"Then said he, 'These are the two **anointed ones**, that stand by the Lord of the **whole earth**."

These two witnesses will have a door open to them of the **whole earth**, having a voice to preach once more that message of the kingdom of God. With all the new technological advances, it will be possible to saturate this earth with that message, there will be no human being alive that will not know, that God's messengers have spoken.

That message, no doubt will be very similar to what was preached in the period from the 1930's to the 1980's, very similar to what Christ and the apostles preached. Furthermore, the miracles the witnesses are able to perform will back up who it is that sent them. There will be no

doubt about that. But the world in general will not receive it. Just as they rejected Christ and his message, so also will reject the two witnesses.

The reason it will be rejected is because we live in a world dominated by that unseen diabolical force suppressing this good news for mankind. Satan is the real ruler of this society, this world in which mankind is a willing captive. This is part of the deception mankind is not even aware of, and doesn't even think of. He is the one who is responsible for omitting this vital good news of a resurrection and living on in a world that can actually be a peaceful one.

The power that these two witnesses will have will astound the world. They will be able to do things very much like Moses was able to decree when he was on the earth. (Rev 11:5-6) The witnesses testimony is going to be quite complete and it will stir this satanic force to want to silence it. Notice what happens after the witnesses' work is completed (Rev. 11:7-10).

7. "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them and kill them.
8. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.
9. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.
10. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented (test or try) them that dwelt on the earth."

Here it is evident who hates this 'missing part' of the gospel. The reason is also quite obvious. It's a message that leaves him (Satan) out. The saints are in but he is out. This is the message he has sought to suppress from the beginning.

But during the time of the two witnesses all people will hear the complete gospel. There will be no missing parts. They will be told that man's governments are incapable of bringing peace. They will be told that this society has been a world held captive. It's been a

world deceived. But they will also hear the most wonderful news as well, and that is that this world is about to be freed from that and that the **vail** suppressing that good news is about to be lifted. Notice some of the words they will hear, words spoken a long time ago but never understood. (Isaiah 25:6-8)

6. "And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.
7. And he will **destroy** in this mountain the face of the covering cast over **all people**, and the **vail** that is **spread over all nations**.
8. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away **tears from off all faces**; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away **from off all the earth**: For the Lord hath spoken it"

Conclusion

The **missing part** of the gospel, the part about God's kingdom and the bright future and the 'Incredible Human Potential' has basically been untaught for all these centuries. Except for short spans of time and except for the relative few God has chosen to reveal it to, (Amos 3:7 & Eph. 4:5-6) that message of substance, which people can relate to, has been withheld. Even when it has been taught it has not survived for very long, because the god of this world would not have it so. He continually twists and perverts, or blinds people to it. (Rev. 12:9) & (2 Cor. 4:3-4) Consequently it's as it says in Isaiah 25:7-8 there is now a **vail that is spread over all nations**.

This is why the ministers, mentioned in the beginning of this writing, could not give that eight year old boy a straight answer. They couldn't. They themselves appear to be blinded to that '**missing part**' of the gospel. But even if all the world does not know of God's great plan for all mankind, it doesn't make any difference because it's still going to happen. After Christ returns to this earth, He will strip away the blindness (Isa. 25:7) and there will be no need for anyone to teach his neighbor, as everyone will have the knowledge of what he is doing. (Jer. 31:34)

"And they shall teach no more every

man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord:' for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord:..."

Then will he establish his new world order and more than likely reunite those who lost loved ones, such as the terrible disaster of the space shuttle Columbia. It doesn't matter if the whole world rejects this message now, it's still going to happen because God says so. (Isaiah 9:7) "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be **no end**, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even **for ever**. The **zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.**"

**WHAT IS FORNICATION?
PART #3**

by Laura Lee
Bismarck, North Dakota

New Testament

Strong's Ref. # 1608

Romanized ekporneuo
Pronounced ek-porn-yoo'-o

from GSN1537 and GSN4203; to be utterly unchaste:

KJV--give self over to fornication.

Jude 1:4-8

4. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, **ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**
5. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward **destroyed them that believed not.**
6. And the angels which **kept not their first estate**, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in

everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

7. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them **in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh**, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.
8. Likewise also these filthy dreamers **defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.**

From Jude 1:4-8, we can glean many things which would be considered fornication.

- ⊗ Turning God's Grace into filthiness.
- ⊗ Denying God and Jesus Christ.
- ⊗ Lack of belief in God.
- ⊗ Those who turn from God's way.
- ⊗ Those who practice homosexuality and beastality.
- ⊗ Those who have no morals.
- ⊗ Those who despise God's dominion.
- ⊗ Those who speak evil of God.

Strong's Ref. # 4203

Romanized porneuo
Pronounced porn-yoo'-o

from GSN4204; to act the harlot, i.e. (literally) indulge unlawful lust (of either sex), or (figuratively) practice idolatry:

KJV--commit (fornication).

I Corinthians 6:15-18

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

These scriptures show us a couple of things in regard to fornication.

- ⊗ God does not join us to fornicators.
- ⊗ We are to flee fornication.
- ⊗ When we commit fornication we destroy our own body and/or the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:8

Neither let us **commit fornication**, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

My suggestion here is to read the entire chapter of I Corinthians 10, because much can be gleaned from it in regard to fornication. Some of the things would include the following:

- ⊗ Just because you are partaking of God's spiritual meat does not necessarily mean you are not committing fornication.
- ⊗ We are not to lust after evil things.
- ⊗ We are not to be idolaters. (See verse 7 where it includes play or things for our own pleasure. We are not just talking about the worship of a stone or wood figure here.)
- ⊗ We are not to tempt God.
- ⊗ We are not to speak against God.
- ⊗ We are to flee from idolatry.
- ⊗ We are not to have fellowship with devils or to partake of their altar.

Revelation 2:12-17

12. And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;
13. I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.
14. But I have a few things against thee, **because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**
15. **So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.**
16. Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
17. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

What was Balaam's Doctrine?

- ⊗ Numbers 22:7--He collected rewards for divination.
- ⊗ Numbers 31:16, he caused Israel to commit trespass against God.
- ⊗ Joshua 13:22, he was a soothsayer.
- ⊗ 2 Peter 2:15, he loved the wages of unrighteousness.

What is the Doctrine of the Nicolaitans? (The following is an excerpt from a book on Gnosticism.)

Here are some examples of the spirit of lawlessness, found in varying degrees in most modern Nicolaitan systems:

- ⊗ We are free to utilize any custom or practice we wish in worshipping God, as long as we christianize it. Worship God in any way you feel appropriate. Listen to your heart. Spirituality is from the inner man.
- ⊗ All Old Testament practices and customs must be rejected in worshipping God. Spirituality must spring spontaneously from within, not imposed from the outside.
- ⊗ True spirituality cannot be found in obedience to biblical law. On the other hand, the institutions and rules we substitute for it, being "spontaneous" and spiritual, can be enforced and held as binding on Christians, even to the point of executing offenders.
- ⊗ Disobedience to moral standards is acceptable, within limits, if one finds obedience very difficult. Just do what comes naturally to you. Listen to your heart. Spirituality is from the inner, not the outer man.
- ⊗ There is no hard and fast definition of morality. Every man should judge for himself. Listen to your heart. Spirituality is from the inner man.
- ⊗ God is pure love. All you have to do is be kind and positive towards others. Other than that, specific conduct is not significant. Listen to your heart. Spirituality is from the inner man.
- ⊗ We should lead a moral life as regards our fellow man. On the other hand, why would God, who lives in heaven and is so far above us, impose any specific standards on how we worship him?

If I were to summarize it under one idea, it would be: "Listen to your heart. Spirituality is from the inner man. Be spontaneous. Do your own thing. There is no fixed standard. Liberation, liberation,

liberation."

The New Testament does teach that obedience must be from the heart, but it is obedience to Jesus himself and based on the biblical definition of righteousness. For many Nicolaitan Christians today, obedience from the heart means turning inward to the spirituality within and a private revelation that springs spontaneously from one's own immortal soul, inspired ultimately, they believe, by God. This is the same concept pioneered in the early church by Gnostic Christianity.

Again, remember that the great apostasy as described in the New Testament is both an attitude and a mystery--a religious system. What is the essence of the mystery? It is the theological expression and justification for that same human self-will and stubbornness, under the guise of liberation, revolving around a new and extreme form of the doctrine of grace. It often includes the following ideas:

- ⊗ The total self-sufficiency and total exclusivity of grace. Grace excludes the possibility of law and sin having any effect on salvation.
- ⊗ Eternal security. Once-saved, always-saved, even if one turns back willfully into sin.
- ⊗ Jesus not only forgives the penalty of sin, but abolished the law itself.
- ⊗ Church officials have the authority, not only to explain and apply biblical principles, but also to overturn and change the teachings of the Bible, including teachings of the New Testament.
- ⊗ The work of the Holy Spirit includes not only inspiring and guiding Christians to understand and apply biblical principles correctly, but also how and when to overturn and change biblical scripture, including the teachings of the New Testament.

From "Primitive Christianity in Crisis" by Alan Knight.

What we are seeing here in regard to fornication is clearly lawlessness, or a turning away from God, which can also be done under the guise of religion. I see many of these traits being displayed even among those in the Church of God. Are we studying our Bibles? Do we know what is against the law of God? Are we still tolerating sin?

Revelation 2:18-29

18. And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;
19. I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.
20. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou **sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**
21. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.
22. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.
23. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.
24. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.
25. But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.
26. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:
27. And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.
28. And I will give him the morning star.
29. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

In regard to fornication here we can see the following:

- ⊗ People allowed another person to lead them into sin.
- ⊗ Even those who just followed someone into sin are clearly responsible for partaking in the sin.

I also suggest that you read about Jezebel. She was a woman who lived her entire life to lead people away from God and teach them the ways of Satan.

Revelation 17:2

2. With whom the kings of the earth have **committed fornication**, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication (Strong's #4202).

Revelation 18:3

3. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have **committed fornication** with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies..

Revelation 18:9

9. And the kings of the earth, who have **committed fornication** and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

Symbolically in the above 3 scriptures we are talking about governmentile systems that are corrupt and drunken with the blood of the people. These are systems that worked at getting all the money and luxury and power that they could at all costs. That cost being in the shedding of blood, whether it be through war, murder or neglect of their own subjects through exposure or starvation. These systems for the most part loved the evil and practiced it until the smoke of her burning and then they mourned for the loss of their beautiful evil system. Can one even imagine mourning for a system of evil that was so loved?

If you ask most people you meet, what their definition of fornication is, they will say something to this effect: "It's sex before marriage". These scriptures in Revelation 17:2, 18:3 and 18:9 hardly leave room for such a narrow definition.

DISCOVER GOD'S WORD IN THE BIBLE

by **Wayne Schatzle**
West Chester, Ohio

History shows an interesting relationship between man and the Bible.

Several times it was decreed, by religious and governmental powers, that the common individual was forbidden to read the Bible. God's word was to be disseminated by the powers that be in the church. Ignorance of God's word was encouraged.

I know of churches even today that forbid Bible study without a minister present. In many countries Bible study is not only forbidden but the word of God must be hidden and read in secret for fear of severe persecution.

This country possesses the most freedom of all nations when it comes to religion. Radio and television time is available for purchase to anyone wishing to preach the Bible. The pity is the great freedom we enjoy is also, wasted and not appreciated by most Americans. Sadly, ignorance of God's holy word is common. There are folks who know baseball batting averages for the players in the National League, yet cannot name the four gospels.

The Bible is an absolute miracle. The very fact that it has survived the ages proves it has God's protection. History records many attempts to stamp it out. Its detractors have constantly degraded it as folklore, yet it stands alone as the story of how our very Creator made us, what he expects of us and what happens to us when this physical life is over.

Mainstream theology seems to be contrary to what the Bible actually teaches. That is why it is so very important to study the Bible regularly and with prayer that God will lead you in all truth. As Paul said to Timothy, "from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine..." (2 Timothy 3: 15-16).

A very important point to add is that these scriptures Paul is referring to is what we know as the Old Testament, possibly the Septuigent versions, which was the Greek translation of the "old testament." When considering Bible study --- God inspired all the Bible for our study.

The Bible can be difficult and confusing if one is new to the practice of studying, has preconceived ideas and does not know the background of the history of the Bible. There was a time when a man from Ethiopia was reading

the writings of Isaiah. Philip approached him and asked if he knew what he was reading. The man replied, "How can I understand unless a man shows me?" And how "very" true it is. Of course, God realized it would be like this and men and women would need help.

For those wishing to study God's Word, Freedom Info produces a catalog of many studies, tapes and booklets by ministries across the nation. The catalog and most material listed are all free of any cost or obligation. Contact: Wayne Schatzle, Freedom Biblical Information Center, PO Box 1806, West Chester, Ohio 45071

HEALTH

by **Jeffrey Caldwell**
Cupertino, California

According to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, third edition, definitions of "health" are as follows:

1. The overall condition of an organism at a given time.
2. Soundness, especially of body or mind; freedom from disease or abnormality.
3. A condition of optimal well-being: concerned about the ecological health of the area.
4. A wish for someone's good health often expressed as a toast. [Middle English helthe, from Old English haelth. See kailo- in Appendix.]

kailo- is the Indo-European root for "health" and other words. I find it extremely edifying to look into the roots of words. God, originally, gave language, and I find insights in considering their roots. This is what the Appendix tells us about .

kailo-. Important derivatives are whole, wholesome, health, heal, holy, and hallow. [These are the important words from the same root - look at the "company" that "health" keeps!] kailo-. Whole, uninjured, of good omen.

1. a. HALE, WHOLE, from Old English hal, hale, whole; b. WHOLESOME, from Old English *halsum (>Middle English holsum), wholesome; c.

- (HAIL); WASSAIL, from Old Norse heill, healthy; a, b, and c all from Germanic *hailaz.
2. HEALTH, from Old English haelth, from Germanic *hailitho.
 3. HEAL, from Old English haelan, to heal, from Germanic *hailjan.
 4. a. HOLY, from Old English halig, holy, sacred b. HALLOW, from Old English halgian, to consecrate, bless, from Germanic derivative verb *hailagon. Both a and b from Germanic *hailagaz. [Pokorny kai-lo 520].

[Julius Pokorny is the author of a standard reference in the Indo-European field.]

As you can see, holiness, wholesomeness and health are very closely related words. They all have to do with being perfectly – optimally – sound and whole! “Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” (3 John 2, NIV).

This little study lends credence to the teaching that one should eat “whole” foods for health – rather than fractionated foods, such as white sugar and white flour and partially hydrogenated fats.

Recent scientific research confirms that whole natural foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts, olive oil and wine have many health-enhancing and protecting qualities that industrially “refined” foods lack. “If everyone ate at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, that alone would reduce cancer incidence by as much as 20 percent,” says Melanie Polk, director of nutrition education at the American Institute for Cancer Research. (Newsweek, Winter 2001, Special Edition, “Health for Life”, page 45).

Newsweek also summarizes the findings of a 25-year study of 120,000 nurses by Harvard Medical School researchers. Following is a paragraph from the Newsweek article “What the Nurses Know” [my comments in brackets]:

“Eat Right. This one is trickier than it sounds. “The type of fat is more important than the quantity of fat,” says Manson [one of the four main co-authors of Healthy Women, Healthy Lives, the book the researchers wrote]. “There are good fats and there are bad fats.” Many “low fat” processed snacks (and most brands of margarine) are oozing with artery-

clogging transsaturated fats, also known as “partially hydrogenated vegetable oils.” The nurse’s study exposed their previously unsuspected role as the deadliest form of dietary fat. [In other words, dear brothers, worse than lard! Partially hydrogenated fats, produced by industrial processing, are not found in nature, and unlike whole “natural” fats, have no nutritional value other than calories. Their “shelf life” is very long, which explains their popularity with food processors.] Stick with natural snacks such as nuts and fruits. And remember that overdosing on sugar can be as bad as too much fat.”

Macular degeneration “is the leading cause of blindness in those over 65. It’s devastating and irreversible. But you can help prevent it by packing your diet with a compound called lutein, which is found in dark leafy greens, such as kale, spinach and collard greens. Lutein works in two ways. As an antioxidant, it absorbs the free radicals that damage the rods and cones in the macula, the supersensitive center of the retina. As a yellow pigment, it also absorbs energetic blue light before it can injure the rods and cones. “Lutein functions as internal sunglasses,” says Billy Hammond, professor of vision science at the University of Georgia.

Lutein also helps reduce the incidence of cataracts, which arise from a lifetime of free-radical damage to the lens of the eye. The Nurses’ Health Study from Harvard found that those who dined regularly on two especially lutein-rich foods – spinach and kale – had up to 40 percent fewer cataract surgeries. Those who eat the most foods rich in vitamin C also reduce their risks, according to a new study from Tufts.” (Newsweek, page 46).

Your parents really have your best interests at heart when they enjoin you to “eat your spinach”!

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING
POSITIVELY MINDED**

by Ed Oettel
Blaine, Washington

The only two beings that are totally

positive are God the Father and Jesus Christ. Both display totally positive thoughts in their thinking. It was His will for humans to have that same mental condition, but humans were created with a mind of free choice. Humans can be positively oriented or negatively oriented, its all a matter of choice.

When Satan came on the scene, it was thru his encouraging, that mankind chose to become negatively minded. If we were as perfect as God is, our minds would be positively oriented all the time. Mankind could have received that by taking of the tree of life, but instead they chose the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Because mankind chose the latter, we all have been generally negative in our thinking.

As Prov 23:6 states: As a man thinks in his heart, so he is. We are the product of what our sub conscious mind produces, and it is thru our subconscious mind that Satan seeks to influence and keep us in bondage. God created DNA which are the foundational building blocks of our very being. Everything we know has been carefully filed and catalogued in the recesses of our mind. This includes the period that we were carried in our mothers womb. We also inherit many characteristics thru the DNA we received from our parents and ancestors. The proclivity for doing special things are passed along to us from our parents.

In Romans 12:6-8 is a list of spiritual gifts that God bestows on individuals from birth. These gifts can be used or they can lie dormant within a person. These gifts, when applied, allow an individual to fulfill good in their lives. Sometimes the gifts surface and the individual begins to show the signs of his or her gifts.

In Matt. 5:48 It is God’s will for us to become perfect as He is. Once a person has been called thru the process of repentance and baptism, we are commanded to begin that process that will endure for the rest of that persons physical life. As mentioned in the beginning, becoming perfect requires becoming positively minded in our thinking. That’s the perfection that mankind gave up when they took of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Being positively minded takes a real effort that God’s Spirit provides, as long as we seek that end in our lives.

We have the free choice to chose

good or evil. We can even influence our own health by the way we think. The emotions are the base that determines the outcomes that eventually become fulfilled.

Whether we realize it or not WE ARE WHAT WE THINK. The forces of negativity are evil, the forces of positive thinking are for good. Ask yourself what are the nature of the thoughts that come into my mind? Chances are, far too many are negative.

When we make negative comments about any subject, we are reinforcing the negative energy that will make them come to pass. Most of the news we watch or listen to is negative, TV, politics, government, and many others. The world is generally negative also.

In Phil 4:8-9 God gives us the key to changing the way we think, and it does require an effort to follow this admonition. If followed, it will change our lives from the way of this world to the way God wants us to follow and become. As Phil. 4:10-11 states the apostle Paul was able to incorporate that change in his life, by so doing, He became a powerful instrument that God used to spread the gospel to many parts of the world.

Another interesting point is this, when your mind is prefocused on something that is very positive, an aura radiates from the mind that will ward off the negative influences around us. Negative energy is repulsed by positive energy. People who are negative can't stand to be around anyone that is positive, they are repulsed by it.

As Phil. 3:20-21 states we should be looking to Christ who shall change our vile negative body into a glorious, positively oriented body like Himself. As it states, this condition is not something that happens by fiat. Rom. 12:1-2 sums it all up stating it is the renewing of our mind from the naturally negative focus to a very positive focus. This is the transformation that the apostle Paul is talking about.

In the world ahead, that change will occur after Satan is removed from the scene. Today, however, that change is only taking place thru the process of conversion, which then begins to transform a negative mind to a positive one.

VISION
by Wily Elder
North Miami, Florida

"Where [there is] no vision, the people perish...." (Proverbs 29:18).

The King James word "perish" is from the Hebrew word "para", which means "let loose" or "go wild" in the negative sense. Where there is no vision the people cast off restraint.

Where there is no vision there is no standard for conduct. When there is no standard for conduct, the natural propensity is to "go wild" or put off restraints.

There was a man Christ encountered who became, in a sense, a metaphor for vision. The man had been blind from birth (John chapter 9). Christ said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" (verse 5). Christ drew an analogy between the spiritual vision available through him and the physical vision also available through him by healing the man (verses 6-7). What happened to the man afterward is a comedy to say the least. The neighbors found it hard to believe, that the man, blind from birth was now seeing (verse 8). Some doubted, thinking he might be a different man who looks like him; he had to announce to them: "I am [he]" (verse 9). Then he came in contact with the religious leaders (the Pharisees). He told them what happened. They too thought he could not have been healed. After all, they reasoned, Jesus could not have healed him because Jesus is a sinner who broke the Sabbath by healing the man on the Sabbath (verse 16). In their book of rules it was a sin to heal someone on the Sabbath. However there is no such rule in the entirety of the Bible. Healing can take place any day of the week. The Sabbath is not profaned by healing a man. Ironically, these religious leaders had an anti-supernaturalistic bias, as do many today. They didn't believe miracles really happened. They called the parents to confirm the story (verses 18-20). The parents, knowing the religious leaders were spoiling for a fight, say of their son, "...He is of age; ask him" (verse 23). So the religious leaders began arguing with the man, not wanting to believe him. They

asked him again how his eyes were opened (verse 26). His reply is interesting: "...I have told you already and you did not hear. Wherefore would you hear it again? Will you also be his disciples?" At the end of the argument, the religious leaders throw the man out (verse 34). Jesus finds the man and gives him some spiritual sight (and insight) as well (verses 35-39).

"...For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind" (verse 39). The religious leaders heard him and asked, "...Are we blind also?" (verse 40). Christ replied: "...If you were blind, you should have no sin: but now you say, We see; therefore your sin remains" (verse 41).

The reason the man was blind was that the works of God should be made manifest in him (John 9:3). Notice the sequence of events. The man is healed. He is able to see for the first time in his life. Isn't the same true of a person who truly accepts Christ and begins to see (spiritually) for the first time? By the same token, some will not even recognize the new person. They think it must be someone else. New Christians are excited by the new vision they have received. Ironically, it is the religious leaders who will try to throw a wet blanket on the idea that the person has received sight, insight, or healing. Their attitude is: "You didn't get it from us. So it must be of no value." This is exactly what the Pharisees projected, although many of them knew better. And like the religious leaders of that day, many of the religious leaders of this day will gladly throw you out of their assembly if you appear to have obtained vision.

"Where [there is] no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy [is] he" (Proverbs 29:18).

"The people, which sat in darkness saw great light...." (Matthew 4:16).

BE A BARNABAS!
by Michael Porter
West Africa

His name was Joses, but the apostles renamed him Barnabas, which

means "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36). Full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, he encouraged all the new believers in Antioch to continue with the Lord (Acts 11:23-24). In plain English we are most in need of this special gift of Barnabas in our assemblies today. We need encouragement for new adventures in missions and ministries, encouragement to stand out for Christ and to finish the good fight of faith.

How many of us can say we are victorious Christians? We all need encouragement. You know how it feels when a friend says just what you need to hear during your hard times, or when you are at a crossroad and a fellow believer encourages you to go in God's direction. His word helps you strengthen your grip because it is a "word spoken in due season" Prov. 15:23; 25:11). Second Corinthians 5:18 tells us that "God... has given us the ministry of reconciliation." But it is a pity that we so often practice the opposite, the ministry of condemnation, by discouraging our brothers who are wounded in the battle, or bruised in their spirit. Perhaps we make an excuse by saying that if God wanted another Barnabas he would have created him. But note, Jesus was his original name. So what ever your name, you can still become a Barnabas and be a part of this ministry.

The Lord uses Barnabas in the early development of the Body of Christ or the Church, when he introduced Paul to the apostles and convinced them of his genuine conversion (Acts 9:27). He was a representative of the apostles to the Church at Antioch (Acts 11:22-24). He and Paul were sent by the Spirit on the first missionary journey (Acts 13:2). He encouraged a young disciple named John Mark, who dropped out of the first trip, to join them in their second. And even though Paul, considering him a failure, refused to take him (Acts 15:38), Mark was able to help Paul at the end of his career (2 Tim. 4:11) and even wrote one of the gospels. No doubt, his spiritual development resulted from Barnabas' encouragement. Strange as it may seem, there is no book of Barnabas in the bible. He encouraged others to ascertain their gifts and determine where those gifts and talents might best be put to use. His encouragement affected many lives.

Are we motivating, supporting and

uplifting others in their gifts and talents? We have power to ignite the fire of encouragement in others or to douse it with pessimism. After people have been with you, are they encouraged to do more for God or are they put down, confused and depressed? Also be careful never to encourage others in the wrong direction. It is said of the wicked, that "they encouraged each other in evil plans" (Ps. 64:5). Let your encouragement always be toward right and productive Christian living. Encouragement can come in words of appreciation and prayers for the needs of others. It can also be expressed by visiting the sick, the elderly, the prisoners, the despondent, orphans and many other secluded people. We can also be an encouragement by giving our time, talents and substance to meet the needs of others. In fact, any gift or talent that God has given us can be used to enhance the ministry of encouragement.

God is our utmost encourager through the Holy Spirit, and He has also given us the encouraging ministry of reconciliation. We can tap into the healing balm of His love to reconcile people back to God and heal their wounds through encouragement.

GLORY HONOR AND PRAISE
by Phil Griffith
Delight, Arkansas

The Christian writers treat Glory, Honor, and Praise as something they seek no part in. In fact, they go to great lengths in their writings to make themselves not look important. The word "apostle" seems to mean, "sent". Peter and Paul may be using the word "apostle", at times, to imply that they aren't important. We have come to think of "apostle" as a title of importance, where did we get this idea? John doesn't use the word "apostle" in referring to him self, as though, just using the word might make him look to important. This idea of avoiding Glory, Honor, and Praise is so universally done by Biblical characters that it may have a message for us? John quotes Jesus as saying, John 14:10 "Believest thou not that I am in the

Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." (KJV) It seems that Jesus was not seeking Glory, Honor, and Praise. The Angels that spoke to John, Rev. 19:10 and Rev. 22:9 refer to themselves as "fellow servants" (fellow slaves) as though it is important to them that they are not looked at as more important than others.

Maybe we need to rethink this seemingly "worldly" idea of trying to be someone important? Do you realize that, our idea of how important John, Peter, and Paul are, comes mostly from the book of Acts and not from them. A stranger, Luke, a person apparently of no importance in the Biblical narrative, writes this book of Acts. It seems that our Heavenly Father also is passing Glory, Honor, and Praise on to others.

Maybe we would be better off if we didn't pursue Glory, Honor, and Praise?

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