

**INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,  
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER  
JULY/AUGUST 2004---Issue No. 22**

**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: (919) 640-1806

E-Mail: [Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto: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](mailto:Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

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

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

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

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

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

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

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

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

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

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, July 9, 2004  
Friday, August 20, 2004  
Friday, November 12, 2004

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

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

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

**INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES,  
BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP, PLUS THIS NEWSLETTER  
JULY/AUGUST 2004---Issue No. 22**

**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. From 2001 to 2003 our total balance left owing for expenses for services provided was **-\$5434.36**.

Donations for 2004 total **+\$980.00**. Expenses for 2004 are as follows: Postage **-\$528.38**, Telephone **-\$70.99**, Internet Services **-\$273.52**, Printing Charges **-\$188.75**, Local Services **-\$156.65** and Research Materials **-\$146.42**. Total balance for 2004 is: **-\$384.71**.

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Please make all checks out to Darwin or Laura Lee. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

**E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:**

[Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) For Prayer Requests & Updates and things in regard to them.

[Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) For items meant for print in our newsletter or on our web site.

[Questions-Section-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Questions-Section-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) For Biblical Questions Only (50 words or less).

[Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) For personal letters or letters with non specific biblical content.

[Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Darwin-Laura@juno.com) If you don't know where to send it, send it here and we will sort it.

**FAX**--Our Fax number is: (919) 640-1806

**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](mailto: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. We print ads and post them on our web site as a courtesy to others and not because we agree with everything said in them.

**PARTHIA: THE FORGOTTEN ANCIENT SUPERPOWER AND ITS ROLE IN BIBLICAL HISTORY----BY STEVEN M. COLLINS**

Although little-known to modern readers, the ancient kingdom of Parthia played a key role in historical and Biblical events. It boasted one of the greatest kingdoms of the ancient world, and was the one empire that Rome actually feared. Just decades before the birth of Christ, its armies drove the Romans completely out of Palestine, Syria and Asia Minor, forcing the reigning King Herod to flee for his life. Who were the Parthians? In this book, exciting new research is presented proving a Semitic-Israelite connection and even a link to King David within the Parthian royal family. Some of the events of Jesus Christ's life become more understandable when they are examined in light of the politics that prevailed between Rome and Parthia at that time. One group of Parthian elites that chose Parthia's emperors was called the "Magi" or "Wise Men." A delegation of these high Parthian officials worshipped the young Jesus.

This book recounts the intense battles between Rome and Parthia which were among the largest and most pivotal ever fought in the ancient world. The Roman Triumvir, Crassus, met an ignominious death fighting the Parthians and Mark Antony led a large army into Parthia, but was driven out and barely escaped with his life. This exciting story is told with the aid of over 100 maps, charts, and illustrations. Very well researched by historian and writer, Steven M. Collins, with over 20 pages of appendices. This is truly a book you will find hard to set down.

Ordering Information: Price: US\$20 each, plus postage & handling of \$4 economy or \$7 priority for up to two books. (Contact us for freight quote on quantity orders.) Website address: [www.bibleblessings.net](http://www.bibleblessings.net); Email: [staff@bibleblessings.net](mailto:staff@bibleblessings.net); Bible Blessings, Box 1778, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1778 USA

ARTICLES AND TRACTS are informative and challenging to serious and freethinking seekers of truth with sabbath keeping background. Sample packet is certain to contain something of interest, and will be sent free. Request it from: Truthseekers PO Box 100 Ludlow Falls, Oh 45339 Phone: 937-676-2387

**God requires Christians to do more than Pay, Pray, Stay and Obey at their church or fellowship!**

by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

## **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 20-22, 2004**

### **PLANNED WEEKEND ACTIVITIES:**

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

**FRIDAY 8-20-2004--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE**

**6:30PM--OPEN FELLOWSHIP (DOOR OPEN, COME IN)**

**7:00PM--POT LUCK MEAL (BRING FOOD)**

**8:00PM--BIBLE STUDY**

**9:00PM--OPEN FELLOWSHIP**

#### **SABBATH SERVICES**

**SATURDAY 8-21-2004--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE**

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

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

**3:00PM--OPEN FELLOWSHIP**

#### **SABBATH MEAL & MORE FELLOWSHIP**

**SATURDAY 8-21-2004--AT PERKINS FAMILY RESTAURANT (Expressway Ave.)**

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

#### **FAMILY OF GOD PICNIC**

**JOIN US SUNDAY 8-22-2004--AT THE HOME OF DARWIN & LAURA LEE**

**10:00AM TO 6:00PM 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](mailto:ANSWER-ME-DARWIN-LAURA@JUNO.COM)**

**SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA**

- June 12, 2004----Arlan Weight will be hosting. We will be seeing two David Barton videos as follows: "The Foundations of American Government" and "America's Godly Heritage"
- June 19, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #31--The Identity of the True Church (Part 5) "Kosher" laws; Casting away Hagar; Prophecy of Christ's sacrifice; Covenant with Issac/Jacob.  
Teaching the Law--Lesson #32--The Identity of the True Church (Part 6) Jacob changed to Israel-wrestled with God; Jacob's household "pre-Sinai" covenant; Birthright to Joseph in Egypt.
- June 26, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- July 3, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #33--The Identity of the True Church (Part 7) National name of "Israel"--whom does it belong?; Northern Kingdom's attitude toward Judah.  
Teaching the Law--Lesson #34--The Identity of the True Church (Part 8) End time blessings; Israel in slavery due to iniquities; Burning bush and Moses; The "name" of God; 7 stages of redemption; Israel-royal priesthood forever.
- July 10, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- July 17, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #35--The Identity of the True Church (Part 9) Physical/Spiritual concept of covenant; The ten words-Israel interrupts God's sermon on mount; Blessings, cursings, final redemption of Israel; Blessing of Israel through Babylonia prophet.  
Teaching the Law--Lesson #36--The Identity of the True Church (Part 10) Spiritual marriage; circumcision before entering land; Obedience to Torah to enter Kingdom; God's restoration of Israel after tribulation.
- July 24, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- July 31, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #37--The Identity of the True Church (Part 11) Second covenant; Israel--God's inheritance; Israel provokes God to jealousy, God provokes them with grafted individual Gentiles.  
Teaching the Law--Lesson #38--The Identity of the True Church (Part 12) End time blessing of "church" of God; Torah-heritage of Israel; God's holy city; Israel the true "church".
- August 7, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- August 14, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #39--The Identity of the True Church (Part 13) Psalms and rebirth of Israel/Judah; Eternal promise to David; False church; Victory of Israel over enemies.  
Teaching the Law--Lesson #40--The Identity of the True Church (Part 14) The "eyeglasses" of God; Torah-path to live in; Kingdom restored to Israel.
- August 21, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- August 28, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #41--The Identity of the True Church (Part 15) Restoration of "church" of God; Restoration of Israel & Kingdom of God/Christ  
Teaching the Law--Lesson #42--The Identity of the True Church (Part 16) God places "Holy Seed" on shelf for 2800 years; Coming of Christ to Israel; Israel chosen again, gentiles cleave to them.
- September 4, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- September 11, 2004----Teaching the Law--Lesson #43--The Identity of the True Church (Part 17) The false church: Regathering first fruits of Israel; Assyria becomes God's people; Destruction of Satan's system, Israel completes her commission.  
Teaching the Law--Lesson #44--The Identity of the True Church (Part 18) Redemption of Israel; Grace/Healing/Deliverance of Israel; Reign of Christ; God never cast Israel away.
- September 16, 2004----Feast of Trumpets (See ad in Issue #23)
- September 18, 2004----Open for Hosting--Please sign up
- September 25, 2004----Day of Atonement (See ad in Issue #23)
- September 30, 2004----Feast of Tabernacles--No Services Here

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

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

**NEW YEAR, OLD INJUSTICE**

**by Sandy Kile  
Palisade, Minnesota**

Imagine you're parched, but the very water you take into your mouth causes blisters because you are chemically sensitive to fluoridated water, the only water you have. This is happening in a California prison to a converted commandment-keeping (imagine trying to

keep the Sabbath in prison) inmate by the name of P.F. Lazor who has served 21 years for a crime he didn't commit.

His story reads like a movie script, beginning when John Alfred, who had attacked him twice before, and for whom Lazor had repeatedly requested police protection, broke into Lazor's bedroom, swinging a meat cleaver.

Lazor shot him in self-defense, and although, he called police and ambulance, Alfred died later. Despite having no criminal record, and doing everything he could for his attacker, Lazor was arrested,

and later charged with murder. Lazor's lawyer was either incompetent, corrupt, or both and only briefly mentioned self-defense as an option to a second degree murder conviction with a possible life sentence! No character witnesses were allowed. In addition, thirty-five pieces of evidence had either been altered, destroyed, or hidden. The meat cleaver was kept from trial, returned to the attacker's family; the "body of [the] attacker with critical bullet wound evidence [was] deliberately destroyed prematurely by cremation, by prosecution directive," and "autopsy photos, which indicated the bullet entered the attacker's front, not back (as the prosecutor alleged), were concealed for 16 years," states Lazor.

The coroner has been found recently to have falsified other autopsy reports and committed perjury to cover it up. With this new information, doors may possibly be opening to grant Lazor an appeal for a new trial. Lazor believes he knows the right legal approach and has a friend who will help pay the attorney's fees, but a new trial is easier said than done. "It is a rare attorney who will stand up for his client, and risk possible disbarment for going against the decisions of judges and other attorneys," states "Servants' News" (<http://www.servantsnews.com/sn0209/local0209.htm>) writer Norman Edwards.

"Finding an attorney who will take a difficult case and one who will do everything he can to win it are two completely different matters. This is especially true in criminal cases where there is no money to divide if the case is won," writes "The Journal" ([www.thejournal.org](http://www.thejournal.org)).

So while Lazor suffers, forced to drink water that causes boils, the criminal INjustice system sleeps. Reminds you that "No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity," (Isaiah 59:4).

It may be a new year, but P.F. Lazor needs "a Christian lawyer for post-conviction (habeas corpus) work." Have any leads? Anyone wishing to help can contact: Gayle Travis, 78 Lone Pine Court, San Ramon, CA, 94583, ph. 925-277-9665.

-----  
Copyright © 2004 Sandy Kile  
Appeared in slightly different form in the  
"Aitkin (MN) Independent Age,"

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
CRUCIFIXION?**

**by Doyle Carter  
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

There is a movie directed by Mel Gibson called "**Passion of the Christ**" which covers the last twelve hours of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in complete details. Some believe that this movie may cause many individuals to focus on the idea that the Jews were responsible. Were they really responsible? Many Christians hold to the idea that all mankind caused this event to happen due to our sins. What does the Word of God tell us?

In **Matthew 26:39**, Jesus Christ was at Gethsemane just before the priests and soldiers came to arrest him and this verse records, "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but thou wilt."

Again, in verse 42 of this chapter, it states, "...O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

The prayer appears to imply that it may have been possible that the crucifixion could have been aborted if Christ chose to, but Jesus Christ said that he would abide by His Father's will in the matter.

In verse 52-53 of this chapter, one of the disciples, Peter, pulls a sword out and struck a servant of the High Priest. But Jesus said to this disciple, "Put up again thy sword...think thou not that I can not now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" From this verse, it would be a logical assumption that it was possible to abort the event, if God desired to.

But why did not God the Father allow Jesus Christ to escape the horrible suffering that was about to occur to him?

In **Romans 3:23-25**, Paul states, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

In **Romans 6:23**, Paul wrote, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

In **Ephesians 1:7**, Paul states, "In whom [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."

Just from these verses alone, it can be understood that all mankind has

sinned and through the Blood of Christ, i.e. death by Crucifixion, we can have redemption of our sins.

It appears that Jesus Christ allowed himself to be Crucified for the sins of the world so that we can be forgiven of our sins.

The Jews were just agencies in this process that assisted in saving all mankind by doing this action. As Jesus stated to his disciple, he could have called for twelve legions of angels to rescue him at any time.

The fact is that all mankind have sinned and without the blood of Christ to cover our sins we would not have salvation.

As it says in **John 3:16**, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

We are responsible for the death of Jesus Christ by our sins that we have committed, but God is responsible for allowing this crucifixion to occur so that we would not perish, but have an opportunity for eternal life. This was because God loves us very much.

\*\*\*\*\*

**IT'S TIME FOR BAPTISMS TO  
BEGIN...**

**by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan**

The **BibleStudy.org** Web site has begun receiving BAPTISM REQUESTS from its newly debuted free service called the Baptism Referral Service (BRS). The first request was submitted only 12 hours after the BRS went online on February 15, 2004.

In the first 14 days EIGHT requests have been submitted for baptismal counseling, from U.S. cities such as Washington DC and Philadelphia, from Ontario, Canada and the city of Chennai, INDIA.

The BRS connects the general public hungry to discuss God and possible baptism with mature church of God brethren living near them. Those who wish to use this service fill out a simple online form that allows them to choose one of five contact levels. Once completed, they hit the "submit" button to send the request and that's it! It is sincerely hoped many of you, should a request be sent by someone living near you, would be willing and able to humbly serve these new folks and possibly perform a baptism. To review

how this service is offered, you can visit BRS's main Web page at: <http://BibleStudy.org/baptsrv/baptsrv.html>

The 21st century will no doubt prove to be one where the love of the average person grows colder (Matt. 24:12). As lawlessness builds, so will a person's distrust of the world around them. Even today people are becoming more concerned about their personal safety and privacy. In order to protect themselves humans will increasingly be more cautious and suspicious of one another and decreasingly willing to readily divulge any personal information about themselves.

The Internet not only provides a world audience with uncensored, anonymous access to the sum of human knowledge, but also the ability to communicate via private Email to anyone, all from the security of their homes. These advantages, coupled with worsening world conditions, will mean people will steadily move toward more fully integrating Email and the Web into their daily lives. The BRS desires to take full advantage of this mounting trend by offering a fairly safe and private way to learn about God, ask questions and build trust with a mature Christian even before face-to-face contact and baptism occurs. The Baptism Referral Service ultimately seeks to break truly NEW GROUND toward evangelizing an ever-changing world with the timeless message of the kingdom of God.

Your comments and suggestions are most appreciated. Thank you and may God help us all press forward on the road to our ultimate destiny in Jesus Christ.

B.R.S. Motto:

**"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."** (Daniel 12:3)

\*\*\*\*\*

**REPORT FROM ENID,  
OKLAHOMA ON 2-28-2004**

**by Doyle Carter  
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

On February 28 of 2004, the Fellowship Choir went to visit the church in Enid, OK with Pastor Art Hulet. It was a very enjoyable Sabbath day.

Choir arrived earlier to practice the eleven songs that were to be preformed that day and many of the Enid church

members came earlier to set up the potluck that was to be served that afternoon after services.

Church started at 2pm with 40 individuals attending, 25 people from the Enid church group and 15 from the choir.

The choir started off the service with 9 songs which were "*Hallelujah*", "*Majesty*", "*Awesome God*", "*How great are you lord*", "*We will Glorify*", "*In times like these*", "*I know who holds tomorrow*", "*How Majestic is your name*", and "*Let it be said of us*."

Then second half of the service began with prayer and hymns from the red book.

The sermon was presented by Mr. Ray Kurr entitled "**the Absolutes**" which discussed the idea that what God wills is an absolute fact whether it is written in the Law of God or a general principle such as faith and healing. He spoke of how this country's behaviors are as if there are no absolutes, not even from God's Word.

As part of the sermon, Mr. Ray Kurr ended with 2 songs that related to the topic of the sermon which were "*By this shall all men know*" and "*Let it be said of us*."

Just after the service, there was a potluck with plenty of food such as chili and stews and, of course, desserts. Every one stayed till after 6 pm.

Over all, this Sabbath at Enid, OK was very spiritually uplifting and had great fellowship.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **WORST PRESIDENT IN HISTORY?**

**Sent by David & Iva Klopfenstein  
Kendallville, Indiana**

The following appeared in the Durham, NC local paper as a letter to the editor. Please forward to all on your list as this will put things in perspective:

Liberals claim President Bush shouldn't have started this war. They complain about his prosecution of it. One liberal recently claimed Bush was the worst president in U.S. history. Let's clear up one point: We didn't start the war on terror. Try to remember, it was started by terrorists BEFORE 9/11. Let's look at the "worst" president and mismanagement claims.

FDR led us into World War II. Germany never attacked us: Japan did. From 1941-1945, 450,000 lives were lost, an average of 112,500 per year.

Truman finished that war and started one in Korea, North Korea never attacked

us. From 1950-1953, 36,940 lives were lost, an average of 12,313 per year.

John F. Kennedy started the Vietnam conflict in 1962. Vietnam never attacked us.

Johnson turned Vietnam into a quagmire. From 1965-1975, 58,000 lives were lost, an average of 5,800 per year.

Clinton went to war in Bosnia without UN or French consent, Bosnia never attacked us. He was offered Osama bin Laden's head on a platter three times by Sudan and did nothing. Osama has attacked us on multiple occasions.

In the two years since terrorists attacked us, President Bush has liberated two countries, crushed the Taliban, crippled al-Qaida, put nuclear inspectors in Lybia, Iran and North Korea without firing a shot, and captured a terrorist who slaughtered 300,000 of his own people. We lost 600 soldiers. Bush did all this abroad while not allowing another terrorist attack at home. Worst president in history? Come on!

The Democrats are complaining about how long the war is taking, but...

It took less time to take Iraq than it took Janet Reno to take the Branch Davidian compound. That was a 51 day operation.

We've been looking for evidence of chemical weapons in Iraq for less time than it took Hillary Clinton to find the Rose Law Firm billing records.

It took less time for the 3rd Infantry Division and the Marines to destroy the Medina Republican Guard than it took Teddy Kennedy to call the police after his Oldsmobile sank at Chappaquiddick.

It took less time to take Iraq than it took to count the votes in Florida!!!!

**Our military is GREAT! PASS IT ON.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WE HAVE LIMITED  
SPACE FOR PRINT,  
SO IF WHAT YOU  
SUBMITTED DID NOT  
MAKE THIS ISSUE,  
PLEASE LOOK FOR  
IT IN ISSUE #23 AND  
BEYOND.**

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

#### QUESTION #9

In Matthew 10:9, he said do not carry any gold, silver or copper money in your pocket, but in the next commission in Luke 10:1-12, it sounds the same, but not exactly the same, because in verse 3 he made mention of lambs among wolves, and in verse 6 he said if a peace loving man lives there let your greeting of peace remain on him and he said again don't move around in verse 7. Could you please give an insight on this "don't move around"?

The context of Matthew 10:9 must be understood in light of the subject matter covered in Matthew 10:1-20. In verses 5-6, Jesus tells his apostles; "**go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:**" "**But rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**" After giving his apostles the great commission, Jesus gave them some general guidelines to follow as to how to carry out the great commission in verses 7-20.

In verse 9, Jesus told his apostles "**provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses.**" Here, Jesus is telling his apostles that they must rely on Him for all their spiritual and physical needs. The twelve were commanded to focus on taking the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the lost ten Tribes of Israel. They were commanded to rely on God,

through faith, that their physical needs would be met by the brethren they ministered too.

In verse 16, Jesus told his apostles that he was sending them out into the world "**...midst wolves.**" Jesus told them they had to be "**wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.**"

Comment: The wolves spoken of here in verse 16 are a metaphor for false ministries, who would pervert the gospel of the Kingdom of God for personal gain or glorification.

Verse 17, clarifies the subject of verse 16, by telling us that "**they** (false ministers) **will deliver you up to the councils** (Church leaders), **and they will scourge you in their synagogues** (Churches)." True Christians will enter into the Kingdom of God, through much tribulation (Acts 14:22 and John 16:33).

In verse 19, Jesus tells his apostles not to worry about what to say when they are charged with a crime for preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Jesus told them, "**...when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.**"

Comment: Whether people accept the truth or not, is irrelevant. Condemned or not, Christ will guide our witness before those who would "**spitefully use us**" (Luke 18:32).

Luke 10:1-12 is the parallel account to Matthew's account as recorded in Matthew 10:1-20. The subtle differences recorded in the two accounts simply reflect the writing style of each author, as well, as the divinely inspired message driven by Christ himself.

This portion of my response will deal with the three verses in Luke 10:1-12, that gave you reason for pause.

In verse 3, Jesus said, "**Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs** (lambs are a symbol of innocence) **among wolves.**" In Matthew 10:16, Jesus also warned the apostles that they would be going out as "sheep" (symbol of innocence) midst wolves (false religious leaders who want to tare down and destroy).

The real focus of Matthew 10:16 and Luke 10:3 deals with the spiritually pure apostles going out into a world perverted by the "**god of this world**" (II Corinthians 4:2), Satan the Devil, and his false prophets who are ravenous wolves that have the power to "transform themselves into the apostles of Christ" (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

Luke 10:6 must be understood in the context of verses 7 and 8. In verse 6,

Jesus was telling his apostles that if their blessing was returned to them (received with joy) that they should "**remain eating and drinking**" (Luke 10:7)

Jesus went on to tell his apostles in that same verse 7, that they should remain there, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, providing an opportunity for all to come unto them to hear the gospel. They were not to go "**from house to house**" (Luke 10:7). This would only alienate those who would not receive the gospel with joy.

Notice, Jesus told his apostles that "**if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you**" (Matthew 10:13).

In Matthew 10:14, Jesus told the apostles not to stay in a house or community that would not receive them with godly love. In contrast, Jesus told his apostles in Luke 10:7-9, to dwell with those who received the gospel with joy.

It is my prayer for you that this brief analyses of Matthew 10:1-20 and Luke 10:1-12, assists you in your study of God's divine revelation, the Holy Bible.

**Answered by:**

**Larry Volk**

**Valley City, North Dakota**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### QUESTION #10

**When Jesus walked this earth, in everything he did, was it to set a perfect example for us?**

Well, yes, but there is more to it than that. Jesus certainly did set the perfect example for all, showing that it could be done. Had He sinned even once, He could not have been The (our) perfect sacrifice. However, this does not mean Jesus lived a sinless life, or kept the commandments in our stead so we don't have to, as many claim. He lead the way, showed us the way by His holy conduct in all things expecting us to follow Him in those same steps (ways) Luke 6:46. There has been much deception on this matter in the various churches due to largely, a total misunderstanding of a central issue and that of grace. That is a lengthy topic so we will not attempt to cover it here. However, a few things can be said about it at this time. Grace does not give us license to sin, Rom. 6:15. "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid". Grace (pardon)

is a wonderful thing to receive from God. A good example is that of a governor of a state pardoning a death row inmate from receiving the death penalty for say a murder he committed. However, is the governor saying Mr. (whatever his name may be), "you are free, you may go and kill again"? As Paul would say, "God forbid". No, the governor gave him grace (Pardon) from having to die for his crime. He is now free to go and live by the laws of the state. And so it is with us, God grants us grace from receiving the death penalty for our sins, but now expects us to go and live by all of His laws.

**Answered by:**  
**Darwin Lee**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**QUESTION #11**

**Are there any sins that are committed that are not covered under the 10 Commandments?**

The answer is no. All sin is covered under the ten commandments.

35. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

36. Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38. This is the first and great commandment.

39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:35-40)

Specifically, the law and the prophets refer to what is called the Old Testament. The prophets foretold of Christ, and the New Testament has much to say about Him. Jesus summarizes the ten commandments by the first four as to love to God and the last six as to love to our neighbor. So any thing that is not of love is sin. And "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:3). So, if we love God we will do whatever He says in His word (old and new testament). In reality, All sin is covered under the ten commandments.

**Answered by:**  
**Darwin Lee**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**QUESTION #12**

**When Jesus forgives us our sins, is it for when we screw up and sin by accident or is it for when we deliberately sin on purpose with knowledge of it? (lets say you are a Christian and you continually commit adultery until the day you die or you are a serial killer and murder until the day you die, even though you are a Christian are you still going to heaven?)**

This is a study in itself with much to be said. What is accidental sin? What is deliberate sin? Sin by accident is assumed to be one when a person just slips up, does something wrong, and says "Oops". He realizes he made a mistake. Didn't he know it was a mistake before that? He must have or he wouldn't just automatically now have realized he "Oops'ed". Sounds like deliberate sin to me. So what is deliberate sin? This is the way I know how to explain it.

You know full well that a particular thing is sin. You decide you want to do what is on your mind. You willingly do it. It's now done. You feel good about it. You like it. You want to do it again. You do it again. Now this goes on 70 times 7. You decide it's enough. You say "I don't want to do this any more". You don't do it any more. You actually tell God you are very sorry you trampled all over His grace, and you ask His forgiveness. Will He forgive that person? I believe He will.

21. Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22. Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. (Matthew 18:21-22)

If Jesus expects us to forgive others that many times, will He not do the same for us? Caution, however a person may well decide not to ever repent of the example given above. If there is no repentance, there is no remission of sins and that person would not "enter into life".

Your example, last part of your question, is some what of an oxymoron. I don't believe a person can live a life as you gave in your example and be a "Christian" at the same time. Rom. 8:9. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell

in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Acts 5:32. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. A serial killer (murderer) or an adulterer is not a Christian.

**Answered by:**  
**Darwin Lee**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**QUESTION #13**

**In Gods eyes is there one sin that is greater then the next or in His eyes is a sin a sin no matter how great that sin? Is all sin equally as bad as the other?**

All "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). The penalty for sin is death. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." However, the short term result or effect of some sins are greater then for others. For example, if one were to murder his brother, a whole list of bad effects result, if one were to lie to his brother about something like say, he makes \$50,000 a year but he really only makes \$30,000 a year, the effect on his brother or others he lied to is much less than if he murdered his brother. Both sins carry the same penalty, death, that is if not repented of.

**Answered by:**  
**Darwin Lee**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**QUESTION #14**

**Do you feel that the Bible is 100% truth?**

Yes. John 17:17, Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

**Answered by:**  
**Darwin Lee**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota**  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Letter Received:  
February 6, 2004**

**Subject: STANDARDS**

**by Mary Speed  
Liberty, Tennessee**

Dear fellow strivers,

I like getting a newsletter from other Sabbath-keepers. Particularly I liked Ronald Barlow's description of creation (Issue #19), and I like his other parameter-type definitions. It seems that our society has lost such mature thinking--particularly those in authority!

Recently, I read in Jeremiah 51:20-23 showing that Israel (and nowadays the church of Revelation 12:17) has duties. The duties once confined to those worshipping in Jerusalem are now extended to all who keep the commandments and believe the Messiah has paid sin's demand. Jeremiah says that one of those duties is to destroy Babylon.

Destroying anything takes wisdom to discern evil, without being overly-critical to discourage those whom the Father is calling. Then we must be guided closely since we do not use physical swords now; the most effective way to destroy anything is to teach people enough about something better that they do not support the lesser or even evil alternative. Jeremiah 51:27 talks about having a standard. Our standard is the same, and includes what the Israelites were taught, with Christ fulfilling the ordinances

couched in particular localities with earthly priest-functions.

Revelation 3:15, 20 tells us to become involved in life, thereby helping us develop understanding--which is something even more emphasized than obedience ever is in the Bible itself: Proverbs 1:2-6, 7, 22-23; 3:13. I like the NRSV and NKJV Bibles for understanding Proverbs as well as most everything else in the Bible. Understanding helps us grow in gratitude toward the Godhead. Simple obedience could-have been obtained by denying humans the ability or opportunity to make decisions.

Another problem is discerning Babylon. I see it today in the selfish/blinded people believing in the ogre god--who plans to torture unendingly anyone not following the particular details of their group. These people support civil and criminal policies that mimmick this god. Then Satan worshippers look at the "Christians" who like such a god and see how it perverts their judgement and hearts and see how mean the "Christians" are to each other through civil and criminal policies and even interpersonally, and I think some misled Satan worshippers will be called by the Father to learn about the true Son before many "Christians" are. Christ guided His followers to look for the Kingdom in their hearts.

Learning about "between-the-evenings" has been very helpful. It explains why Christ died at the hour he did. Do we now know that the day Christ will return is on the 1st day of the 7th month? Is this reasonable to conclude? Christ did not say that nobody would ever know when He would return, and he said, through Paul I believe, in the New Testament, that the children of light would not find Him coming as a thief in the night.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Letter Received:  
February 21, 2004**

**Subject: FATHER FORGIVE  
THEM**

**by David Ben-Ariel  
Toledo, Ohio**

Shabbat Shalom brethren,

I've been very active on Pravda, the Russian forum that is filled with demonic anti-Semites and anti-Zionists, and it helps me to realize how Christ has His Work cut out for Him when He returns to clean up this political and spiritual mess

we've made of God's good Earth!

The Church used to teach that the reason Gog and Magog would go against Jerusalem and fight against Christ's return, is because they're atheistic communists. Now, I see and better understand it's also because they're ORTHODOX Catholics, violently opposed to the biblical Jesus Christ and Christianity, thoroughly indoctrinated by Satan in their hatred of Jews and anything remotely "Jewish" - biblical! They'll fight to the death to defend their error, and even when Christ returns and reigns, and they'll then know better, they'll still fight against God rather than admit error, because they hate the Jews that much! Christ will have to knock heads and nations, and even destroy some men and nations, truly ruling with a ROD OF IRON, forcing proud and stubborn folks to keep the "Jewish" festivals in the "Jewish" city of Jerusalem, and pray and learn about Jacob's God - not Esau or Ishmael's god - at the "Jewish" Temple. "A man (or nation) convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still." Some men and nations would rather die than repent! That's how serious the position of anti-Semitism is, because their brutal hatred blinds them to the fact that Jesus is a Jew, salvation is of the Jews, the Jews will lead in the world tomorrow, instructing the other tribes about Torah (Zech. 8:23), having the advantage of God's Word coupled with the Holy Spirit (they repent and welcome Messiah to Jerusalem and anticipate His arrival, heralded by the Two Witnesses who'll have prepared the way for the coming of our King - Matt. 23:39).

The passionate anti-Semites/anti-Zionists would do well to note Jesus' words of life and forgiveness: "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, for they know not what they do...". Who are puny men to continue a blood libel against every Jew for the actions of a relative few? The crucified and RESURRECTED Christ, spoke to those who cried out for His crucifixion and said to let His blood be upon them, that they were FULFILLING PROPHECY, saying neither they nor their leaders truly understood the GREAT SIGNIFICANCE of what was happening, and which is WHY Jesus refused help from men or God (Matt. 26:52-56), and said it had all now served it's DIVINE PURPOSE, according to PLAN - the Passover Lamb of God was slain and resurrected (Acts 2:22-24) - and that now it was necessary to repent and be saved and have CHRIST'S BLOOD UPON THEM - to COVER THEIR SINS! Some of those very people, some of those who were in that crowd stirred up by the religious leaders to cry out for Jesus'

death, were now being OFFERED LIFE, and some of them repented and were baptized and CHRIST'S BLOOD WAS UPON THEM FOR LIFE, saving them from eternal death! (Acts 2:36-41). Jesus, through Peter, had COMPASSION AND FORGIVENESS for His accusers, for those who were accomplices to His murder! (Acts 3:13-21). How moving! Like Joseph, "resurrected" from the otherwise sure death in the pit, RECEIVED AND FORGAVE HIS BRETHREN! Joseph's sell out and betrayal by his insanely jealous brethren, all worked out in the end! It was all part of the plan! God knows what He's doing. JESUS IS ALIVE! The founder and leader of Christianity has not been stopped or forever silenced: HE IS RISEN! So the anti-Semites need to accept and reflect Jesus' forgiveness for His own people, and quit using Him as an excuse to murderously hate Judah!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Letter Received:**  
**April 1, 2004**

**Subject: PASSOVER GREETINGS**

**by Rusty, Mary, Hunter, Carrie & Nathanael Ames Proctor, Texas**

Shalom Friends,

We want to take this time to tell each of you how important you have been to us in the past year. As we have been preparing for Passover and now it is upon us, we want to give you a quick testimony of how Yahweh has been working in our lives.

We have seen serpents (diamond back rattlers) refuse to bite our children, we have had total strangers give us large sums of money, we have been blessed with the free gift of a new truck, we have had two new families express interest in observing Feast Days and Sabbaths, we have had scripture open up to us in ways we did not think possible, we have enjoyed excellent health, and we have welcomed our first grandbaby to the world.

May Yahweh be praised for his many blessings. We hope and pray each of you has an even greater testimony of the mercy which endureth forever.

May Yahweh bless you and keep you and yours. We pray this Passover season is memorable for each of you.

Your friends in Yahshua Messiah,

\*\*\*\*\*

**Letter Received:**  
**April 10, 2004**

**Subject: Need 20 Bibles and Feast Assistance**

**by Name Withheld Kenya**

Dear Darwin,  
Thanks for the e-mail which I received well and am happy to jot to you this one even though it is still the days of unleavened bread. I hope you are well. Here we are in God's hands and we are enjoying unleavened bread well. I would like to tell you that you better send the newsletter by post office. I am not in a position to download them, I do not have a computer, I have to pay for them and I do not have money for that. Also I would like to request assistance from you. If you can do that we may be able to keep this years Feast of Tabernacles, and we can register the church here in Africa? Let me know if that can be possible and I will let you know how much is required to do that. Can you send us some Bibles? Around 20 KJV.

Hope to read from you. Yours in Him.

**EDITORS NOTE:** This gentleman's name has been withheld due to his fear for his safety. If someone would like to help this gentleman, send us your email address with your permission to give it to this gentleman so he might contact you and then you can exchange whatever information you need to in regard to helping him out. Laura Lee

\*\*\*\*\*

**Letter Received:**  
**April 21, 2004**

**Subject: Was Jesus God Too?**

**by Lee Pearce Australia**

**COMMENTS ON "WAS JESUS GOD TOO?" (article by Darwin Lee - March/April 2004 - Issue No. 20)**

**Lee Writes:**  
Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
I was struck by some comments in

the above article and wish to respond. The comments being:-  
>"That is, two separate God beings having lived together..."  
>"Christ was equal with the other God being... The God being (Christ)..."  
>"They, two, are one in purpose..."  
So what you are saying is that there are two God beings (even though one in purpose)!!

**Laura Writes:**  
Yes

**Lee Writes:**  
Gen 1:26 was quoted - "And God said, 'Let us make man in our own image...' However, why not go on to verse 27? "So God created man in HIS own image..."

Deut. 32:39 "Now see that I, even I, am HE and there is NO God besides me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from my hand."

1 Cor. 8:6 "yet for us there is ONE GOD, THE FATHER, of whom are all things and we for Him (i.e., from whom all things come and for whom we exist); and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we live."

God gave glory to Jesus. See John 5:26 where Christ claims that the Father GAVE him eternal life. "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in himself."

Psalms 45:6-7 - these verses show that because Christ loved righteousness (ie upholding God's law) over lawlessness (ie rebelling against God's law), he has been elevated to a position of eternal rulership over his companions, the angels and mankind. (Heb. 2:5-13).

I would like to end with a question:- Why have we assumed that because Christ died for our sins, he had to have been God in the flesh? When God sacrificed His only begotten Son (who was a willing participant), He did so because of how important Jesus was to God. The sacrifice of Jesus is sufficient payment because there was NOTHING GREATER for God to give as a sacrifice for the sins of the world than His only Son.

**Laura Writes:**  
Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. \*\*\*\*\*

**Letter Received:  
January 11, 2004**

**Subject: PASSOVER &  
PENTECOST**

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

**This letter is continued from Issue  
#21, pages 11 & 12.**

**Carol Writes:**

Inconsistency #3: You say: that Christ died about 3:00 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Also that Passover should be kept from sunset to sunset. Correctly so. Yet you keep Passover for 1 second of the 14<sup>th</sup> at its end going into the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Laura Writes:**

Here is a direct quote from Issue #19, page #7, of what I actually said:

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

It looks clear to me, but I guess you didn't understand. We keep Passover for 24 hours on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Carol Writes:**

God says: Ex. 12:14, "So this day (the 14<sup>th</sup>, a 24 hour period) shall be to you a memorial;" But you remembered it for one second.

**Laura Writes:**

Remember Exodus 12:6 tells us exactly when the Passover is. The word for even in that verse is in Hebrew "ben ha arbayim" and is a time period from 12:00 Noon until sunset which occurs on the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup>. So the Passover meal is to be eaten on the 15<sup>th</sup> which begins at sunset at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Passover is the First Day of Unleavened Bread and is kept as a Holy Day for 24 hours.

**Carol Writes:**

Inconsistency #4: You say: the lambs died that same time as Christ on the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup>. [Is the "latter part" really at noon to sunset?? What men's writings did you get that from?]

**Laura Writes:**

Actually I get that from an indepth study of the Bible itself and a study of the Hebrew language.

As I said there are several scriptures

where the term "ben ha arbayim" appears in the Hebrew. Those scriptures are as follows: Ex. 12:6, 16:12, 29:39, 29:41, 30:8, Lev. 23:5, Num. 9:3, 9:5, 9:11, 28:4, and 28:8.

In Hebrew it literally means "between the evenings". The first evening is noon and the second evening is sunset. In between that would be approximately 3:00PM. Thus the Passover sacrifice was to be at approximately 3:00PM on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

In scripture you can find many other verses which back this up, some of them are as follows: Lev. 23:32 and Joshua 5:10, in regard to the timing of Atonement. Deuteronomy 16:6, at even at the going down of the sun.

For a more indepth understanding of the above scriptures and more, in regard to Passover see newsletter Issues #19, #20, and #21 in the letters section, letter by Carol Bennes in all.

**Carol Writes:**

God says: Ex. 12:6 "you shall keep it **UNTIL** the 14<sup>th</sup>". Very plainly implies as to when the lambs were to be killed - at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> - **UNTIL** the 14<sup>th</sup> - God says. And in verse 12, "for I will pass through the land of Egypt **on that night...**" Again "that night" God is speaking in the context of the 14<sup>th</sup>. They were to have killed the lambs, and put the blood on their door posts, BEFORE He says He will pass through the land of Egypt ON THAT NIGHT. If they did that on the 15<sup>th</sup> as you say, then God would not have passed over their homes on the 14<sup>th</sup>, many would have died.

**Laura Writes:**

We covered the use of the word until in Issue #21, so I won't go over it again here, except to say that the lambs were kept until the 14<sup>th</sup> and then sacrificed at approximately 3:00PM on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Since the lambs weren't killed until the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup> there wouldn't have been any blood to daub on the door posts until the latter part of the 14<sup>th</sup>. So the night spoken of for the death angel to pass over was always meant to be the 15<sup>th</sup>, not the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Carol Writes:**

Men have made the simple discernment of the time of the death of the physical lambs to become so full of man-made reasonings that they end up keeping the Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup> instead of the 14<sup>th</sup> - who do you think is behind that as the author of confusion?? It's like they strain at the gnat and swallow the

camel. They reason so much that they 'reason' themselves into keeping the Passover too late.

**Laura Writes:**

Or perhaps you have reasoned yourself into keeping the Passover too early because you were influenced by men who taught that the Jews had it wrong, when there is no evidence either scriptural or historical to prove such a teaching.

**Carol Writes:**

Perhaps that is why its called the Jews' Passover-it wasn't kept on the 14<sup>th</sup>. In Lev. 23:1, God says, "...the feasts of the Lord" - - the New Testament says it the Jews' Passover (John 2:13), in other words, they weren't keeping the "Lord's Feasts".

**Laura Writes:**

The word Passover is used 29 times in the New Testament. The only book in the New Testament where it is called the "Jews' Passover", is the book of John. Only 3 scriptures in the book of John speak of the "Jews' Passover", they are John 2:13, John 6:4, and John 11:55. The very verse you speak of, John 2:13, shows Jesus going to Jerusalem for the Passover.

\* John 2:13 And the Jews' **passover** was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Read the rest of John 2, until you get to verse 23. Looks to me like Jesus was keeping the "Jews' Passover".

\* John 2:23 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the **passover**, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did.

If the "Jews' Passover was not on the correct day, why would Christ be keeping it? Christ would not be found breaking the Law of God.

**Carol Writes:**

Some main events of the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover Of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib:

Lambs killed at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup>, at twilight.

**Laura Writes:**

The Lambs were killed at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Abib at approximately 3:00PM.

\* Exodus 12:6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening (ben ha arbayim=between the evenings).

**Carol Writes:**

Put blood on their door posts.

**Laura Writes:**

- \* Exodus 12:7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

**Carol Writes:**

Roasted the lambs, so that none remained.

**Laura Writes:**

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

They were to roast the lambs and then eat them. If there were any leftovers they were to burn them up before morning.

**Carol Writes:**

Death angel passed over at midnight.

**Laura Writes:**

- \* Exodus 12:12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt **this night**, (*see verse 12:11 which shows "this night" is the same night they ate the Passover Meal, the 15<sup>th</sup> of Abib*) and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.
- \* Exodus 12:29 And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.

**Carol Writes:**

None were to go out of their homes until morning.

**Laura Writes:**

- \* Exodus 12:22 And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

**Carol Writes:**

Egyptians pleaded with them to leave

and allowed them to plunder their goods during the day of the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Laura Writes:**

This is part of the first message from God relayed to Moses which was to be relayed to the Elders of Israel. Notice the emboldened words. All that is said here is speaking about a yet future time or situation.

- \* Exodus 3:21 And **I will give** this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and **it shall come to pass**, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty.
- \* Exodus 3:22 But every woman **shall borrow** of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and **ye shall** put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and **ye shall spoil** the Egyptians.

This next message is a command for the present from God to Moses and it is before the last plague. All of the emboldened words show present tense, until you get to Exodus 11:3 where it now turns into past tense. In other words the spoiling of the Egyptians was already done before the last plague took place.

- \* Exodus 11:2 **Speak now** in the ears of the people, and **let every man borrow** of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver and jewels of gold.
- \* Exodus 11:3 And **the Lord gave the people favour** in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people.

This third account is given after the last plague has taken place. Notice that all the emboldened words are past tense. The spoiling of the Egyptians was already done before the last plague happened. The Israelites had to leave in haste, so they had no time to wait around an extra day and spoil the Egyptians. Once that last plague took place the Egyptians wanted them out now. Read Exodus 12:33.

- \* Exodus 12:35 And the children of Israel **did** according to the word of Moses; and they **borrowed** of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:
- \* Exodus 12:36 And **the Lord gave the people favour** in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they **spoiled** the Egyptians.

**Carol Writes:**

After sunset of the 14<sup>th</sup>, in the night of the 15<sup>th</sup>, they were leaving Egypt.

**Laura Writes:**

The Israelites departed from Rameses the morning after the death angel passed over, which was the morrow after the Passover which took place at sunset the night before. They left Rameses which is in Egypt on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> in haste.

Departing from Rameses is different than crossing the Egyptian border and now being in a completely different country than Egypt.

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

**Carol Writes:**

(Ex. 12:42; Deut. 16:1) Commemorates the "Night to be much observed"

**Laura Writes:**

- \* Exodus 12:42 It is a night to be much observed unto the Lord for **bringing** them out from the land of Egypt: **this is that night** of the Lord to be observed of all the children of Israel in their generations.
- \* Deuteronomy 16:1 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the passover unto the Lord thy God: for in the month of Abib the Lord thy God **brought thee forth out of Egypt by night**.

Exodus 12:42 is present tense and is referring to the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> or Passover night. Deuteronomy 16:1 is speaking in past tense and again is referring to Passover. Look at Deuteronomy 16:6.

- \* 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**.

Season in verse 6 is speaking of the whole week of Passover where we are to eat unleavened bread for 7 days. It took the Israelites 7 days to get out of Egypt and when they left Egypt by crossing the Red Sea, they crossed by night.

The night to be much observed is Passover/1<sup>st</sup> Day of Unleavened Bread, because it is the night that they were freed and began their journey out of Egypt. See the typology. Christ died so we could be free to live eternal life on repentance.

**TO BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #23\*\*\*\*\***

**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](mailto:Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

### **BROKEN HEARTS LEAD TO BETTER DREAMS**

by June Narber  
Raleigh, North Carolina

We all face such a moment, when our heart is breaking over something we lost that is precious to our human existence. It could be a broken love relationship; a long time marriage; a death of a close family member; the loss of the best friend you ever had; a lost golden career opportunity; a tragic illness or physical problem, or a long loved pet dying.

Whatever it is, all you know at that moment is that it hurts. I mean, it REALLY HURTS.

In moments like these, seems like the former close friends have scattered to the four winds. In the darkest hours of our lives, we often have to stand-alone. Totally alone, that is, in the mortal world. However, there is an entire nation of angels and heavenly host that cry with you; that sigh with every breath you let out that you are in pain. There is one greater than you can even imagine that does feel such anguish along with you. In these dark moments, we often will lash out against this gentle, loving, magnificent, being. As the Great Creator of all that is, and all that ever will be, you reason, how could He have allowed this tragic nightmare to touch your life? How DARE He cause you to suffer or even allow you to suffer! Thinking like this is a normal reaction, but not one we should indulge in for long if we can help it, as it can lead to

a bitter root growing within us. Just know that whatever is happening, it will pass. Even if God did allow it, we may not understand right now why. Just accept it, work through the pain, and reach within and find that peace that can only come from acceptance of the situation and belief that a better day will soon come.

Maybe you have felt like me sometimes, with a lifetime of many disappointments: no family really; few friends that REALLY understand your ambitions, your dreams, and cares and concerns. Maybe you sometimes have to just take it a day at a time to just make it through one more week, one more weekend until the next resting place. Have you had those incredible experiences where you feel like you are flying as high as the sky, and the next moment, you are ten feet under water? Hey, at least we know we are LIVING our lives, compared to those who do not feel or take any chances. That is what my human side says. My spiritual side agrees with this, but tries to look beyond to find that resting place to heal, to regroup, to refocus and get on with the next objective in life.

Does it ever feel like that resting place never comes to you? Do you grow tired of judgmental friends rather 1) in the faith that have no pain in their lives that is evident or 2) people that judge everything you say, do, or even believe, just looking for a mistake so they can further cause you more pain? Sounds rather sadistic doesn't it?

He hates you. I mean, HE really despises you. He would do anything to get to you; he'd take your most loved pet or most loved friend away from you. If God allowed, that old dragon would take the very last hair from your head.

No matter how bleak, how desolate, or how much pain you are in at this moment in time. Stop for one minute and think about this. This moment, is just ONE MOMENT in an eon of moments yet to come. Those around you are going to say anything they think they should say to you in such a time as this. But the thing to remember is that the GREAT ONE, the one beyond our wildest dreams and hopes and fantasy, LOVES you more than you could imagine any being loving another. He dreams about you, He fantasizes about the future time when He can hold you in His arms, FOREVER. To tell you how much He cares; all the times He watched you growing up, sharing your tears and joys, and your whispered secrets to friends throughout your life. He was always your invisible friend, even when you did not fully realize He was even there, or even knew that He was

Real.

Just hearing about the "love of Jesus" is NOT enough. Use your brain. Realize that this race we are in is REAL. It is about life and death; it is about ETERNITY, it is about royalty; it is about your CROWN. Remember the warning in Revelation, "Let no man take your crown." Many would like to do this; what better time than such a time as this moment when you feel your heart is broken into a million pieces and just can't ever come together again?

I'm here to witness to you today, based upon my own broken dreams, and pain from the past that such things do heal. It will get better. It HAS to get better. God leads, but we have to do the work.

Remember that old saying? "Through every broken heart springs forth a lesson". A lesson that is not easily seen and comprehended at that moment in time. But each such experience builds a layer of Character around us that will last forever. Each lesson helps us to refocus not only our spiritual life, but also our physical orientation and what it is we need to be doing right now, and also to reevaluate our approaches to obtaining our goals RIGHT NOW.

All in all, a broken heart leads to new dreams. It is full cycle when this happens. You'll know it. You'll feel that little twinge of excitement, a new idea; a new opportunity is JUST around the corner. Just remember that Great ONE that is on your side, rooting for you, but also WATCHING YOU, every minute, every second of every day. How are you reacting? How are you coping? How are you learning? How are you hurting, but also, how are you healing? Are you maturing? How are others reacting to your pain? Are they sympathetic or are they as cruel as that old dragon (you know who I mean-its name is not even worth MENTIONING).

The Creator is holding you right now; the angels are standing at the four corners of your house; watching and protecting. So, what are you going to do now?

Just remember, broken hearts spring forth new direction: with such, better dreams will surely follow.

May you heal quickly from your pain; and remember, to have empathy for those around you who are hurting right now. Judgment is NOW UPON the House of the Eternal.

How are YOU fairing??

\*\*\*\*\*

**PAUL AT TROAS**

by Wily Elder  
North Miami, Florida

"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight" (Acts 20:7, King James Version).

Weeks ago I came across an article that encouraged Sunday worship. It claimed that Paul at Troas had started a tradition of Sunday worship. I found it at the following address:

<http://biz.ukonline.co.uk/trinitarian.bible.society/contents.htm>

The article inspired me to write a rebuttal, which I sent to the contact person for the web page. I have received no reply. However, I see the web page is apparently no longer available to the public.

There are seven types of people:

- ☒ One: The Sabbath obeyer. This is a person who has learned about the Sabbath and is complying with the fourth commandment as a Sabbath keeper, keeping the Sabbath holy the best way they know how.
- ☒ Two: The Sabbath disobeyer. This is a person who has learned about the Sabbath and is not obedient to the fourth commandment. He knows he is supposed to rest on the Sabbath. However, because of peer pressure he either keeps Sunday as a day of rest or keeps no day as a day of rest. He resists obeying the Sabbath command because he does not want to appear as Jewish, or weird, or strange in the eyes of his friends, relatives, or associates. Being acceptable to the world is more important to this person than being acceptable to God.
- ☒ Three: The uninformed. This is a person who has never investigated the question of which day is the Sabbath. This person may or may not be aware of the fact that the Sabbath command is a part of the Ten Commandments.
- ☒ Four: The influenced. This person believes Sunday is the Sabbath - or - believes that Sunday is the "Lord's day", having been convinced by a person who seems to know what he is talking about or having been convinced by reading an article claiming a Biblical basis for Sunday worship.
- ☒ Five: The influencer. This is a person who influences others to believe that the

Sabbath command is abolished - or - that the Sabbath was changed to Sunday - or - that Sunday is the "Lord's day", thereby trashing the seventh day Sabbath. Many of these people are religious leaders. A few of them believe what they teach, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:13). But most of them know better. Most of them continue the traditional teaching to protect their income. If they began to teach the truth about the Sabbath, they know they would lose their income and most of their congregation.

- ☒ Six: The confused. This is a person who wants to find out the truth about the Sabbath but, thanks to articles promoting Sunday worship, remains confused on the issue.
- ☒ Seven: The searching. This is a person who is investigating the Sabbath, searching for the answer to the question of what day of the week to rest.

Most knowledgeable religious leaders know that organized Sunday worship in commercial Christianity began with the Emperor Constantine in the 320's AD after the original apostles of Christ had been dead for two centuries. Most Protestant leaders are aware of the fact that Sunday worship is borrowed from the Roman religion. So the problem exists of how to promote Sunday worship without acknowledging its Pagan origins. An additional problem exists of how to promote the Ten Commandments without claiming one commandment has been abolished.

So religious leaders have a problem of being stuck with promoting Sunday worship but needing to hide the history of Sunday worship. One technique is, of course, to re-write history, claiming that Paul was establishing Sunday worship by breaking bread on the first day of the week.

First of all, breaking bread is simply an expression that means "eating" - nothing more, nothing less. Therefore, even if it were the first day of the week it would have been no big deal. People eat every day of the week if they are not fasting. And Elders who are prone to giving long messages may very well extend their speech into what is technically called "the first day of the week", continuing to speak past sundown Saturday.

Before explaining this passage, it is important to note: A person honestly investigating the Sabbath question would likely be profoundly influenced by a "scholarly" argument claiming that Paul was establishing Sunday worship. He might very well take this article to be a

foundation for accepting or continuing in Sunday worship.

First let's look at the main subterfuge, using the words "day" and "week". Even reading the King James, the uninformed reader can know that the word "day", written in italics, is not in the original Greek. That is what italics means in the King James. Words written in italics are not in the original Greek. The word "week" is used without noting that it can only be keyed to a thought-for-thought expression. For example, one might say "four Sabbaths from now" which would mean the same as "four weeks from now". However, what is the original word? The original word is "Sabbath(s)!"

⇒ "en de th mia tw n sabbaton...." Greek.  
⇒ "In yet the one of the Sabbath(s)."

Concordant.  
⇒ "In the first of the Sabbath." Wilson.  
⇒ (Acts 20:7)

We live in a corrupt world. It is understandable that Sunday keepers would like to provide their fellow worshippers with an excuse to participate in Sunday worship rather than admit to its true origin. Protestant translators, commentators, and lexicographers are also subject to corruption based on their particular bias. Even the Aland 27, which had the Greek text correct, was unwilling to break with Protestant tradition when translating into English.

I think most of us can remember the time when the truth about the Sabbath was new to us and was like a bolt of electricity to the mind. This truth, which is 100 percent proven by scripture, can be the same dynamic when relayed to people who are hungry and thirsty for what is real.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT IS A CHURCH?**

by Doyle Carter  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Recently, several individuals had left a certain church group for personal reasons and started to attend every Sabbath at one person's home. The former pastor made a comment that they should meet at a "real church" instead of a home such as a home fellowship. This event made me realize that many Christians only think of churches as a large congregation that meets in church buildings. But would this be the definition of the "real church" in the NT? Let's see what the NT calls a real church.

To help us understand the answer to this question, I plan to use various Bible

references from my private library on the NT church as well as the Bible. The question will involve history of the church in the NT and various commentaries on several verses.

First, we need to define the word "church" as it is used in the Greek; for this will provide us a foundation on which to begin our study on this topic.

The Greek word for church is "Ekklesia" which means "assembly or popular meeting". This word does not note a place or number, but just that it is a meeting. But the Bible does show us a few examples of where first century Christians met for church services.

In Romans 16:3-5, Paul states in his personal greeting in this letter, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: likewise greet the church that is in their house".

The Ryrie Study Bible has the following comments: "earlier congregations met in homes (1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2). The several house churches in one city constitute the church in that city".

In the Abingdon Bible Commentary, 1929, page 1167, on verses 3-16 of Roman 16, it states, "The mention of "the church in their house" reminds us that not before the end of the second century do we find clear evidence of buildings specially set apart for Christian worship. Doubtless they came into use before we have evidence of their existence; but there was a long period during which Christians were dependent upon the hospitality of those of their number who had houses large enough to accommodate them".

From these commentaries alone, we can see that the early church met in homes or at least many did at the time.

Several other commentaries in my library do cover the topic of where the churches met in the first century. It would be worth our time to look at these commentaries to improve our understanding on this topic.

In Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, 1967, page 170, on church, it states, "This twofold usage [individual assembly and world wide community] is also seen in Paul. He addresses his epistles to specific churches, e.g. Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2) or Thessalonica (1 Thess. 1:1). Indeed, he seems sometimes to localize further by referring to specific groups within the local community as churches, as though sending greetings to congregations within the one city (Rom. 16:5)".

In "the Companion to the Bible" by H.H. Rowley and J.J. Von Allmen, 1958, Page 53, under the article "church", it

states, "Like the book of Acts, Pauline epistles use church both as for the whole people of God and also for the concrete manifestations of this people in a particular place Paul used the plural "the churches" or "churches of God" (1 Thess. 2:14; Gal. 1:22; 1 Cor. 16:1; 2 Cor. 8:1), which does not appear in Acts. He speaks of the churches in particular places or provinces and even of "house-churches" (1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2)".

In Philemon 2, Paul writes, "And to our beloved Apphia and Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the CHURCH IN YOUR HOUSE".

In the Abingdon Bible Commentary on this verse, it states, "With Philemon as recipient are associated Apphia, whom we may confidently assume to have been his wife, and Archippus, possibly a brother or son, but in any case doubtless a leading member of the church in his house. That phrase probably meant originally the Christian members of the familia (the family, slaves, and dependents); but at a very early date Christian brothers who met for worship and fellowship at the house of a wealthy fellow-Christians were regarded as members of his household and so of the ecclesia (church or congregation)".

In "A History of the Christian Church" by Mr. Walker, written in 1928, on page 23, he writes, "The early Jerusalem Company were faithful in attendance at the temple but, in addition, they had their own special services among themselves, with prayer, mutual exhortation, and "breaking of bread" daily in private houses".

In the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, 1956, page 1438, under "household", it comments, "the household [in NT times] became the nuclei for the earlier life of the church, e.g. the house of Pricilla and Aquila at Rome (Rom. 16:5), of Stephanas (1 Cor. 16:15), of Onesiphorus (2 Tim. 1:16), etc. No wonder that the earlier church made so much of the family life".

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

Also in John 4:21-23, Jesus did say to a Samaritan woman, "Woman, believe me, the hour comes, when you neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeks such to worship Him." The key is to worship in spirit and in truth.

So we see that many of the first Christians did meet in homes or houses for services. This was an acceptable

practice of the time.

I am not saying that it is wrong for a church to meet in a building such as a church or whatever, but, if we use the NT example as a guide, we should also be willing to accept those who meet at houses as members of the church as well as those who meet in a major church building.

If you do meet with a group who has meetings at a church building and it is a good church group to attend, I encourage you to stay there. This type of church has its positives as well.

But some individuals may be isolated or even in areas where few individuals are Sabbath keeper or in the church. In these cases, it is acceptable to meet at a person's home or public library or whatever is available.

Another case is that there may be a small group of individuals who may live in an area where there are many large groups but they do not follow what these churches practice or whatever the case. They can meet too at a home or any place available to them. It would be acceptable.

I hope this article has helped you understand what the first century Christian would have called a church and a few places that they would have met. I encourage you to continue to study this topic in more depth.

\*\*\*\*\*



## **WHY WE DIFFER ON PASSOVER & PENTECOST**

**by David Ben-Ariel  
Toledo, Ohio**

Why do we differ on Passover and Pentecost? Is it because God our Father left us in the dark? Has the God of law and order left us in chaos and confusion? Are we unable to "prove all things" from the Scriptures - as we're commanded - because we're unable to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the correct dates to observe God's holy days? DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

Since there are many questions on this holy subject, we must start from the premise that God's Word is true, consistent and does not contradict itself (Jn. 10:35) We must look for those basic Scriptures that are black and white and build our Biblical case upon them. Such supportive Scriptures are actually abundantly available and the BIBLICAL EVIDENCE is overwhelming! Let us shine the Light of God's Word on our prayerful study with open minds, hearts and Bibles

(Isa. 8:20; Jn. 3:19-21; Acts 17:11).

The apostle Paul was inspired to write for the record that "the oracles of God" were COMMITTED TO THE JEWS. The sacred calendar is clearly a part of "the oracles of God" (Ex. 12:2; Lev. 23:4). The purpose of the sacred calendar is for the Jews to determine and declare when the holy days of God are to be observed. Jesus clearly revealed which Jews were responsible for these holy matters. Jesus declared that "the scribes and the PHARISEES sit in Moses' seat" of AUTHORITY (Matt. 23:2). God has ordained that the Jews preserve His Word on the Law, Prophets and Writings - despite themselves (Rom. 3:2-3). God will not renege on giving Judah this special calling and precious gift (Rom. 11:29). God has also ordained that Church officials can make binding decisions based upon Biblical legal precedents, affecting CHURCH issues (such as discussed in Acts 15 at the Jerusalem council of elders), that do not undermine the foundation of the Church - the Law and the Prophets (Rom. 11:18; Eph 2:20). God has not given Church leaders a license to "kill" the brethren by destroying them doctrinally, uprooting and overturning foundational truths, or "playing God" by stealing divine prerogatives (Matt. 5:17, 19; 2 Thess. 2:3-4)! The correct dates to observe God's holy days should not be a Church issue, having been settled by God thousands of years ago and preserved throughout the ages by faithful Jews!

So why do we differ on Passover and Pentecost? Because some have refused, rejected, denied and attempted to dismiss the BIBLICAL TESTIMONY! (Rom. 1:18; 3 Jn. 9-10). We don't differ because God's forgotten or neglected to properly instruct His children in His ways! (Deut. 6:7). We don't differ because we're unable to prove from the Scriptures, beyond a reasonable doubt, what's right and what's wrong! "Come now and let us reason together, saith the LORD"(Isa. 1:18), "for the LORD has a controversy with His people, and He will plead with Israel"(Micah 6:2).

We differ because some have questioned God's right to choose the Jews to preserve the Bible and doubt God's ability to see that they fulfill their serious responsibility! (Ex. 4:11; Isa. 45:9). We differ because some won't submit to the BIBLICAL FACT that Jesus clearly decreed that the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat and attempt to usurp that authority by forcibly installing the Sadducees in that position instead! God destroyed the power-base of the Sadducees when the Temple was destroyed but preserved the

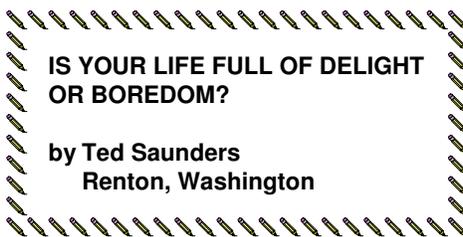
Pharisees! The Sadducees are history! We must make sure that we support God's chosen and not find ourselves in the enemy camp! (1 Kgs. 2:27, 35; Acts 5:39).

God's Church, as a general rule, has stubbornly followed the blind Sadducean dates for Passover and Pentecost. That is to our shame! We must reject the rebellious traditions of men for the commandments of God, otherwise God will reject us as His Priest-King (Mk. 7:7-9; 1 Sam. 15:23). It's that serious! Some, knowing better, continue to enjoy bitter strife and envying, getting caught up in proud personality clashes rather than humbling themselves before the Word of God ( 2 Tim. 2:23-26; Jas. 3:13-18). [Truth is truth. It shouldn't be a matter of "I'm right and you're wrong," but what does God's Word say? God is truth. None of us owns the truth, only God does. Any truth that we might have God has revealed it to us (1 Cor. 4:6-7). We're not to take credit for it - all credit goes to God (2 Cor. 4:7)]. But thankfully, a growing number of the brethren are beginning to see that the Bible does prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, which holy day dates God would have us to observe. Therefore, may we celebrate God's holy days as He would have us to - "in Spirit and in Truth." Chag Sameach!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

From David Ben-Ariel: Chag is holy day/festival and sameach is happy/joy, so it roughly means Happy festival/holiday. Laura Lee

\*\*\*\*\*



**IS YOUR LIFE FULL OF DELIGHT  
OR BOREDOM?**

**by Ted Saunders  
Renton, Washington**

A post I saw on the Internet, embraces some ideas I have been contemplating lately:

**"This is my observation of two types of people going through hard times. Some folks tend to be more negative because that is who they are. A positive person can go through the same hardships or far worse than the negative person and the positive person will walk away with lessons learned (why NOT me, Lord?), let go of the negative, keep the positive, and even thank God for the experience to boot!"**

Let me back step a little. When we are baptized and accept the blood of Jesus to cover our sins it is said we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit from God. Among the things that gift does for us is to lead us into all truth and when Christ returns at the last trump it is a critical part of making us immortal. For this reason I believe that as long as we have God's Holy Spirit dwelling in us then we have assurance of salvation. We must be careful not to grieve God's Holy Spirit and lose it. Yes we sin but if we keep attitudes of repentance from what we understand is wrong like David of the OT then I believe the Holy Spirit will stay with us.

There is an OT verse that indicates God works with us as our Master Potter like an earthly potter works with clay. Don't you suppose God is shaping us spiritually with his Holy Spirit and daily life experiences as part of his tools? Then when we are made immortal at the last trump we are fired into our final configuration. I suspect the jewels God makes up at the resurrection will each shine as stars with different beauty and brightness.

If I have not gone off the deep end then it makes sense to me that the things we experience both good and bad along with our struggles against sin with the help of God's Holy Spirit are part of the tools our Creator is using in the process of shaping our spiritual growth. Even people without God's Holy Spirit learn things about what works and what does not work to their benefit throughout all their lives. In fact, God says the Sabbath is his and Jesus said the Sabbath was made for man, is especially valuable to us if we use the time to grow closer to God in study, meditation, prayer, and fellowship with one another. Sabbaths observed with active love towards God and fellow mankind tend to become a time looked forward to with delight instead of idle boredom. Did not Christ show love on the sabbath by healing the sick thus freeing them from their sufferings?

The Two Great Commandments to Love God with all our minds hearts and being and to Love one another tell me we must be doing something that is more than mindless robot obedience. In 1 Corinthians 13, the Greek word for "charity" is exactly the same word that appears in the Two Great Commandments given by Jesus as "Love". If love were something that just automatically happens out of Christians then it does not make sense to me that Jesus would need to make such an action part of his commandments.

Another area most of us grow in is learning to get along with each other in Caring Love and Mercy. Those who appear to have the most compassion are those who have lived through similar extremely trying troubles. Is not Jesus able to speak for us with God the Father because he too experienced human life? In fact there is a verse in the NT that says Jesus learned "obedience" in that he suffered. If the things we suffer are being used to shape us into the final product God has in mind for us then of course it hurts now but we can look forward to our transformation into a unique jewel of God with joy.

Ever notice those who live lives with positive attitudes seem to have more friends, less troubles and more happiness? If I had learned this when young instead of the negative attitudes I grew up with then I think life could have turned out much better for me. On the other hand, if I had not learned the hard way then how could I have compassion for those who suffer? If everything always went right for me and the way I want it to go, then that seems like the ticket to happiness. On the other hand, that could cause me to become like a bored rich person and not grow spiritually. I believe since our baptisms, God has been taking the raw material (each of us) and creating us each into something unique, different and wonderful to endure forever immortal shining brightly.....

\*\*\*\*\*

## **HOW CAN WE WALK WITH GOD?**

**by Royce Mitchell, Jr.  
Manvel, Texas**

Have we ever wondered just what it means to walk with God? We know that the Bible says in Genesis 5:22 that Enoch walked with God for at least 300 years. Hebrews 11:5 says of Enoch that he had "this testimony, that he pleased God."(KJV). We also know from Genesis 6:9 that Noah walked with God, and that he found favor with God (Genesis 6:8). David was called a man after God's heart. David said that God's Law was a lamp for his feet (Psalm 119:105). It is clear that if we are walking with God, we have found favor with Him and we please Him. Perhaps now would be a good time to examine exactly what it means to walk with God.

In order to walk with God we have to understand some basic principles. God does not abide in uncleanness. When the

Israelites wandered in the desert, the One, who later became Jesus Christ, who dwelt with them, ordered that anyone who became unclean for any reason would have to remain outside the camp of the Israelites. They had to remain there until the uncleanness was removed or for a predetermined period of time, depending upon the situation. God was making the point that He wanted them, and wants us, to make a distinction between the clean and unclean. Leviticus 10:10-11 states, "and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses."(NAS, throughout unless noted). Note that this process of distinguishing clean and unclean is coupled with distinguishing holy and profane. The lesson for us in this is that God will not dwell in us if we are unclean or profane. We must be washed in the blood of the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us. We need that washing daily during prayer. If we want to walk with God, we must be clean.

In order to walk with God, we must be in agreement with Him. In Amos 3:3 the Bible states, "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?" (NIV). We must agree with God, not Him with us. What does it mean to be in agreement with God? It means we are to be like-minded with God. We are to think as He does. We are to be seeking what His will is with the attitude that, whatever it is we find, that is what we will do.

Finally, if we are to walk with God, it must be done in humility. This is the hardest requirement for most of us. It requires some understanding of ourselves. Unfortunately, we are all too prone to seeing ourselves in the best light possible. But what we should be doing is seeing ourselves as God sees us. In order to do this, we need to remember that, prior to baptism, we were dead due to our sins. In Col. 2:13 the Bible states, "And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions." We were dead, worthy of nothing but burning. None of us were outside that death sentence, because "all have sinned."

We were all made alive again by acceptance of the conditions laid down by God through Christ. That is, we repented of sin, and accepted the sacrifice of Christ in payment for those sins. Acts 2:38 shows us, "And Peter {said} to them, 'Repent, and let each of you be baptized

in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" If we were made alive, given new life, we must recognize that the life we live is no longer ours but it belongs to God. This is demonstrated for us in 1 Cor 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." We were bought from the dead! A terrible price was paid for us! We are not our own, but we belong to God Almighty. As such, we must be using His Word to judge our actions.

What does this mean to us? It means that we are to be actively seeking what it is that He desires in our lives. Is there a way to find it? The purpose of this article is not to answer that question, but to stir the reader to do so for him or herself. If we are to walk with Him, we need to be serious about wanting what He wants.

Do we know that Sabbaths are Holy convocations? What is a convocation anyway? What are we commanded to do with God's Sabbath? Is there something we are supposed to be doing on the Sabbath? Or not doing? Must we attend with a certain congregation of people, or can we stay at home and keep it by ourself? Why did God give us the Sabbath? God gives us the answers to these questions, and many others, in His Word. Do we care enough about our walk with Him to find those answers?

A more important question than these which have been posed is this. Will we read, study and believe the Word of God, and on belief, will we do what we are told to do? Do we have the humility that is needed to let the Law of God guide our feet, as it did David? This then is the final point, that we must have humility, and that only comes from throwing aside our own ideas and desires and looking to the desires of the One who bought us back. The Bible shows us in Isaiah 55:6-9, "Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For {as} the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

Can we glean the seriousness of putting away our own ideas to God? It is

only what He says that should be important to us. What the neighbors say, or what we think is right, is not important. Such is referred to as doing what is right in our own eyes, in scripture. David's attitude was one that God uses to demonstrate this to us. I King 15:4-5 states, "But for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, to raise up his son after him and to establish Jerusalem; because David did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite." Again in I King 14:8, "and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you-- yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight." Finally, God makes it plain to us in Proverbs 12:15, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel."

Only what God says is important, because His thoughts are far above ours in every way. If one thinks this is easy, try it the next time your own instinct tells you that you should do something that the Word of God clearly states is wrong! We are all too carnal still, as we sometimes find out when we are cut off during rush hour on the way home after a hard day. The natural instinct is not to pray for God to help that rude individual! Yet, from scripture, we find that we are to bless them that curse us, do good to them that hate us and pray for them that spitefully use us or persecute us. That is God's perspective. Can we come to ache for that attitude?

Walking with God is not just a Sabbath exercise. It is a daily regimen that requires specific actions and attitudes on our parts. We must be washed and cleansed from our sins. This can only come from daily repentance and a sincere desire for God to remove our carnality. We must be in agreement with Him. Acknowledging that His way is the only right way and sincerely desiring to live that way is the only way we can come into agreement with Him. Finally, we must desire with all of our heart to seek what His will is, knowing that our will leads only to sin. That will only happen by sincere, open-minded Bible study coupled with the heartfelt desire to put down the pride that prevents our living His way. The walk with God is a daily, life-long walk. It is one that will bring us great joy and strength in trials. That joy and strength was best described in a poem that your author read years ago. The poem is entitled

"Footprints":

### FOOTPRINTS

**One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD.**

**When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.**

**This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."**

**The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."**

This poem, whose author is unknown to this author, has always been an inspiring picture. It leads to another important question that we must answer individually, "If we are not walking with God, how can He carry us?"

The daily walk with God is one that is of extreme importance. God tells us that He desires us to walk with Him and gives us His Word to show us how. With that insight, and the help of His Holy Spirit, we can make that walk be a daily joy, for the rest of our lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We perform the greatest act of worship when we reflect God's character back to Him.**

**by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan**

### KEEPING GOD AT A DISTANCE

**by Wayne Schatzle  
West Chester, Ohio**

It must be a quirk of human nature, but we want to keep out of view of authority. Beginning with the mischievous child hiding from his parents - to an adult ducking a traffic cop.

Israel of old had the opportunity to actually have God deal with them on a personal basis but insisted that Moses talk with God and relay information to them (Exodus 20:19). God honored their wishes and let Moses be the mediator for them. Later, after God had appointed a system of judges with God being the king over them, they insisted on having a human king reign over them like the nations around them (1 Samuel 8). And so it was until the Word was made flesh, when Jesus became the one mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).

Once again access is available directly to God through Jesus Christ. What an opportunity. Sadly the concept of going directly to God is somehow blocked in the minds of many. Tens of thousands of folks believe they should go through a human to be heard by God. I was shocked to hear recently that some pray to Mary, the human mother of Jesus as a mediatrix between God and man. According to their literature, "she occupies a middle position in the hierarchy of beings between the Creator and his creatures" and because she suffered as her son was killed, "We may rightly say that she redeemed the human race together with Christ" (Catholic encyclopedia, Mary, blessed Virgin pg. 360).

Many other churches unthinkingly grant the titles reserved for God on their human leaders. In spite of clear instruction not to call any man "father" some do it anyway (Matthew 23). Some even use the term, vicar, meaning they are in place of God. Another often used term is reverend, which we find occurring just once in the entire bible, "holy and reverend is his name" (Psalm 111:9). Some even abuse the title further by adding right or most reverend. Occasionally I will see a sign advertising some church and the pastor's name will actually be in larger letters than the rest of the information. In larger churches, a minister's salary will be more than anyone in the congregation, and he will wield the most power and control all teaching.

Okay, why the big deal over going through a human, possibly a very good

and dedicated person to Christ and salvation? Just this, when you set a human over you and see him as the door to God and the source of truth, the fertile ground for deception has been prepared. Remember, God said he will lead you into all truth the Bible (Psalm 119:105). The scriptures make one wise for salvation (2 Timothy 3:15). Putting faith in a man in these times can be a disaster. Consider that there are thousands of religions and sects today, each believing they are the correct way - proof deception is the norm rather than the exception.

Jesus said "beware of men." Beware. Do not trust anyone to lead you to the kingdom. Work out your own salvation. Broad is the way that leads to destruction and many will go that way. Listen, sincere Christians today are very in tune to the world events, looking for wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes and signs in the heavens, yet drop their guard on the single most often warning the scriptures give us - deception.

The reasons man put a man between himself and God are manifold: fear, lack of faith, providing an easier way, or maybe it is just plain laziness that they do not want to do the study to find the will of God. Whatever the reason, we should realize the stakes are very high for failure to be on the right path.

\*\*\*\*\*

With a mind of free choice, Adam and Eve could have taken at any time of the tree of life by free choice, and remained in a state of perfection from creation. Instead, however, they allowed satan to influence their sub-conscious mind to take of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was at this precise point that sin entered the created world. Mankind from that time forward have been under the influence of Satan.

Satan controls human minds by influencing our sub-conscious mind. Its by the sub-conscious mind that we are controlled in our thought processes. Prov. 23:7 we are what we think. When satan has control of our thought processes we sin. Prov. 1:23 God tells us to be quick to repent when we sin. Human beings are sinful, and much of our sin is not even acknowledged. However, there are times when God makes us aware of some sins. This is the time when we either ignore the commission of that sin or we can repent, especially when we see what we have done. What God wants us to do, is to turn away from sin and go the other way. Its called making a change in your life.

The tree of life would have afforded eternal life to humanity if our parents Adam and Eve had taken of that tree freely. They would have received the Holy Spirit and lived forever, but they responded to the coaxing of Satan instead.

Having the mind of free choice carries with it a big responsibility, taking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil carries a much bigger one as well. We can still choose good according to God's law, however our sub-conscious mind and our natural human emotions have a big influence on the choices we make for ourselves.

Human nature influenced by satan, makes it difficult for us to always choose things that are good. God sets before us life and death, blessing and cursing, and he says choose life that both you and your seed may live. It all boils down to the making of choices, good and bad. No one (including satan) forces you to make wrong choices, its still up to you personally.

As mentioned at the beginning, man was created with a mind of free choice, that was God's doing, as He wanted to see if man would take of the tree of life and live forever. Had man made that choice the world today would be an entirely different place.

Taking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil did not thwart God's plan for mankind or the human race, but it did change a number of things. It required

that a sacrifice for sin was going to be necessary to be made for all mankind. This was to be a one time sacrifice given by Yahshua the Messiah once for all sin. By His shed blood, we have been purchased, once we have accepted that sacrifice for our sins. We are saved by His blood.

In Matt 5:48 God tells each one of us to seek the perfection of God in our lives, which was lost when mankind took of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. By being part of the world of satan, we are naturally motivated to have a negative mind. Negativity is destructive to a human in many different ways, because it falls in line with the mind of satan the devil. His mind is exactly opposite God's mind and the mind of Christ by 180 degrees. If mankind had taken of the tree of life, we would all be operating with minds like God has. Because man rejected that tree for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, we now have to deal with a mind that is naturally motivated toward satan's mind and wave length. (Eph. 2:2)

With the power of God's Spirit working within our mind, we can overcome satan and begin the pathway that leads back toward perfection (Matt. 5:48). By using the keys in Phil. 4:8 we can acquire a positive frame of mind that will overcome the effects of satan's world around us.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TREE OF LIFE VERSUS TREE OF  
THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND  
EVIL**

**by Ed Oettel  
Blaine, Washington  
Died December 2, 2003**

After reading the latest Servants News I saw a question by someone concerning the tree of life versus the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This prompted a study about this subject.

In Gen 1:26 man was created in God's image, and after their likeness. In Gen. 1:31 God stated that everything He had just created was very good, in other words it was perfect. Man along with the entire creation, was created perfect without blemish.

One aspect, however, of the creation of man is that he was given a mind of free choice. This is where the two trees in the garden come into play. Up to that point Satan had no opportunity to destroy anything while the creation was being accomplished, but when it was complete, that is when he came on the scene.

**WHAT DOES THE PARABLE OF  
TARES TEACH ABOUT JUDGING?**

**by Gregory Diaz  
Wayne, New Jersey**

Judging is an interesting and important subject. Like any other doctrine it should be studied to see what the bible says about it.

Judging has more than one meaning. It can mean either (1) pass sentence; punish; condemn or 2) discern; form an opinion. These definitions are relevant with respect to how the word is used in the bible.

Caution must be used not to reason around the bible's clear intended meaning. All verses on a subject should be considered.

Christians are supposed to judge in the sense of discerning (1 Cor 2:15). Can they judge based on the righteous word of God in the sense of punishing, sentencing or condemning? No, unless its done by supernatural means. If we understand that God is both our teacher and avenger then

we can trust Him to teach people their sins and to punish our enemies. There are many examples of God's supernatural protection or vengeance.

While in the Worldwide Church of God I often heard and read that Matt 7:1 meant do not condemn. Condemnation implies that there are no lesser punishments. However verse 2 shows there are degrees of judgment being spoken of. Jesus teaches not only do not condemn but also do not sentence or punish. This is plain and nothing in the bible contradicts it. Some things may SEEM to.

It is God's job to punish as a father (Heb 12:6). Consider that even Jesus did not judge (John 8:15). He goes on to say **"And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me"** (verse 16). Jesus was, and is, AT ONE with the Father. Unless you are AT ONE with the Father your judgment is unrighteous.

There is no question that there will be tares in the church (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43). That is a GUARANTEE. We shouldn't be surprised when something Jesus said comes to pass. Jesus clearly states **"let both grow TOGETHER"**. As an example of this Jesus said concerning Judas; **"Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"** (John 6:70).

Since there SHALL be tares within the church it is logical that these same tares will be the ones disobeying the ESSENTIAL command of Jesus NOT to remove the **"things that offend, and them which do iniquity"** (Matt 13:41). Jesus said they are the children of the wicked one. It is the devil that **"as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"** (1 Pet 5:8). These are wolves in sheeps clothing (Matt 7:15). They go forth **"conquering, and to conquer"** (Matt 24:5, Rev 6:2) and are therefore called Nicolaitanes meaning conquerers of the laity (Rev 2:6,15).

The following verses also explain the idea behind the tares parable...

- That they SHALL be WITHIN the church:
- ✓ **Beware of false prophets, which COME TO YOU in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.** (Matt 7:15) Comment: Jesus DOES NOT say to prevent them from coming to you.
- ✓ **For I know this, that after my departing SHALL grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves SHALL men arise, speaking**

- perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.** (Acts 20:29-30)
- ✓ **But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there SHALL BE false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.** (2 Pet 2:1)
- That they SHALL be WITHIN the church and CANNOT BE DISTINGUISHED from the wheat:
- ✓ **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.** (Jude 4)
- ✓ **And that because of false brethren UNAWARES BROUGHT IN, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:** (Gal 2:4)
- That both should grow TOGETHER until the harvest and therefore separating from them is unbiblical:
- ✓ **Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of EVERY kind: So shall it be at the end of the world: the ANGELS shall come forth, and SEVER the wicked from among the just,** (Matt 13:47 & 49)
- ✓ **Now I beseech you, brethren, mark (or observe) them which cause DIVISIONS (separate "righteous" from "unrighteous") and offences contrary to the doctrine (the doctrine commanded in the parable of tares) which ye have learned; and avoid them.** (Rom 16:17) Comment: This verse does NOT say remove them.
- ✓ **Therefore judge NOTHING before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.** (1 Cor 4:5)
- ✓ **For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he WITHDREW and SEPARATED HIMSELF, fearing them which were of the circumcision.** (Gal 2:12) Comment: Peter separated himself from gentile sinners contrary **"to the truth of the gospel"** (verse 14 & 15).
- ✓ **They zealously affect you, but not**

- well; yea, THEY WOULD EXCLUDE YOU, that ye might affect them.** (Gal 4:17) Comment: This is describing the teachers of the false gospel. Exclude means disfellowship.
- ✓ **How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who SEPARATE THEMSELVES, sensual, having not the Spirit.** (Jude 18-19)
- ✓ **I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, RECEIVETH US NOT. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, NEITHER DOTHE HE HIMSELF RECEIVE THE BRETHREN, and FORBIDDETH THEM THAT WOULD, and CASTETH THEM OUT OF THE CHURCH.** (3 John 9-10)

Conclusion: SINCE YOU CANNOT KEEP THE WOLVES OUT, THE ONLY LOGICAL WAY TO PREVENT THEM FROM PREYING ON THE SHEEP IS TO LET EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE WOLVES, IN! THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT JESUS COMMANDED!

\*\*\*\*\*  
~~~~~  
**WHAT IS BEHIND THE  
'IRRESISTIBLENESS' OF THE  
HARRY POTTER BOOKS:**  
~~~~~  
by Name Withheld  
Canada

This testimony expresses my experience in the same kind of power that is affecting people through the H/P thing. It can be resisted ONLY through God's protection - Satan can put the rosy glasses on anyone and make you feel soooo good!! That's why every body is raving about these 'wonderful books'.

During the time I was studying eastern philosophies, I was a postulant and later a novice in an order called the \_\_\_ knights, studying to become a leader in the group. There were books that we were encouraged to read which put forward the theories we were practicing.

One book, and I won't give you the name of it in case someone would be curious and go looking for it or something, I don't want to promote it, but it was putting forth the spiritual side of martial arts. It went the round of those of us who

were studying for the leadership of the \_\_\_\_\_ knights.

My immediate teacher over me, my Sifu, read it and was greatly impressed with it and passed it to me and said, "Here, read this book!" So I read it, it was a medium-sized book, and I read it from cover to cover and I have to tell you it was the most fascinating book I ever read! It was amazing! I thought it was a wonderful book! I said, "This is so enlightening, this is so wonderful. I really love this book!"

Later I returned it to my teacher and I said, "I read this book right through and this is really a good book, it's a wonderful book!" Well for some reason or other, he didn't know why, but I know why now; God had His hand in something there. My teacher turned around and he handed me back the book and he said, "Well, if it is that good, don't just read it once, read it again!"

So I took it and I said, "I will, I'll read it again." I'll tell you how I know it was God who interposed there, because afterwards my teacher seemed so annoyed both with me and with himself, he said, "Do you have to do everything I tell you? Can't you think for yourself?" or something like this, but I said, "No, I will read it again." You know, we have no idea the spiritual battle that rages around us! Satan knew God was going to interpose and he was mad.

I didn't ask for God's blessing, I didn't ask Him to show me if this thing was true or not; I didn't take it to the Word of God and test it to see if it was truth; at that time, it didn't cross my mind. But our Lord is merciful beyond anything we can imagine, really! And He was gracious and merciful to me, who was deliberately seeking after things that I knew better than to seek! God sent His Spirit and angels to be with me the second time I read that book. I didn't ask for this help, but I am so grateful to Him for this and I have thanked Him many times. He stopped the hypnotic spell of Satan and when I read it again, I never read such a pack of rubbish in my life! It was the same book! I had only read it two days before and thought it so wonderful.

**It was just a bunch of fabricated rubbish from cover to cover.** There was no good in it - just stupidity. Disgusting! Why didn't I see it the first time? Satan was influencing me and God stopped him and let me see the truth!

When I read it the first time, one of the things it talked about was this experience of 'enlightenment'; Now if you hang around 'New Age' people very much, you will hear a lot about enlightenment. It is supposed to be that all of a sudden when you are meditating or practicing, you

get this experience where everything seems more real to you and more plain and clear and it's like light flooding into your mind.

I will tell you that this kind of 'enlightenment' comes from Lucifer, the fallen light-bearer, he specializes in that kind of experience. You can hear or read something and feel that it is so wonderful, something that you feel has opened a whole new world to you and opened up your understanding like never before, and it is nothing but a feeling, it has no basis in reality at all! It is a hypnosis kind of a thing he uses and you can feel nothing has ever been so precious in your whole life!

I have experienced this trick. I can still remember experiencing this after I first read that book. As I left my apartment that day to go to work, how everything seemed so bright, and so wonderfully new and beautiful, so different, so much more real, and I had this feeling of enlightenment.

It was all so incredible, but it doesn't last, friends, it doesn't last. In fact when it fades, you usually end up in discouragement and darkness afterwards because Satan and his bunch have more things to do than to sit around and make you feel good all day; because he really hates you with a passion, because you belong to Jesus. It's nothing personal, he just hates you and delights to destroy you so as to hurt Jesus.

But he gives people these sweet experiences to lead them to seek more as they think there must be real truth in this because of what they saw or felt. The 'Master' of the order based all his confidence in a hallucination he had in meditation where he saw supernatural beings he thought were angels (they were fallen angels), who told him to start this order.

Many people are given an experience when they first come into occult territory. They may visit a psychic type therapist and receive a treatment and find it makes them feel sooo good! Then they really believe in it and come back again and again. Seldom is there any lasting health benefit, but the good feeling keeps them returning and spending their money.

Often they choose to take classes and begin to practice the therapy they have chosen. They also accept the spiritualistic explanation of the therapy as true. Many times when a person first visits a psychic, he is told, "You don't realize it, but you have a rare gift, special powers, and with training you could really be good at this and help many people."

The person thinks "What? Me? Special powers? I never knew that!" It

really makes him feel important. The person is made to feel he is under obligation to develop this hidden 'gift' for the blessing of others. In reality, it really boosts your pride to think that you have a 'special gift' that others don't have. Once pride gets in there, you are led like a beast to the slaughter. Satan will give you just enough success to keep you coming back for more.

I am sad to tell you that some of the "New Theology" and "Cheap Grace" being preached in our pulpits today has the same effect, the person feels a wonderful exhilaration; he thinks he has never heard any thing quite so wonderful. He is sure he has received a real blessing from the Lord, but in reality it fades away and leaves him more spiritually dead than ever before.

Whole audiences experience this 'false sense of revival' together, and when it wears off, they have to look for some new excitement to keep them going. The hypnotic power of demons is involved in these false doctrines. Don't ever underestimate the hold it can take on your mind!

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAKING PEACE WITH BELL-RINGERS**

by Sandy Kile  
Palisade, Minnesota

I used to really dread seeing the Salvation Army bell-ringers outside department stores at holiday time. Why? Because I felt like I should be giving something, even if it was just the change from my pocket. But I had been made to believe that ANYTHING associated with Christmas was... How should I say this? PAGAN. PAGAN. PAGAN! So I tried to pass by them without feeling guilty, politely saying, "No, thank you," and scurrying through the door.

I've grown up. I now figure it's OK to give to them, and not because I have turned back to keeping Christmas. I don't keep Christmas, but I do try to give in this one instance, and this is why: It's one way I can help someone who has less than I do.

Once you give a gift, it is no longer your responsibility. You cannot make sure it is used the way you wanted it to be used. So what if it's used to buy a child's toy? Maybe that child has no toys, period, and the money I give will help buy him one. Or maybe my donation will buy a pair of gloves for a child who has none. I see



**SEND ORDERS TO:**

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

**SEND ORDER TO:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

To receive Prayer Requests & Updates via email please go to: [http://darwinlauralee.150m.com/forms\\_002.htm](http://darwinlauralee.150m.com/forms_002.htm) and follow the instructions or e-mail us at: [Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

Please send your prayer request by snail mail to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502  
By E-mail to: [Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) By Fax to: (775) 239-2119.

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

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

## Need Articles in regard to Persecution

On request of a reader, we will be running a series of articles on the subject of: "Persecution".

If you have written articles in regard to this topic, please send them to: [Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com) We will accept articles written on any aspect of "Persecution" from a biblical perspective.

Please write in the subject line "Persecution" or clearly label it if it is sent via snail mail.

All articles sent in regard to the topic of "Persecution" will be given a top priority status as far as us going over them for consideration of print. These articles will also, if accepted for print, be published quickly (and of course this depends on how many we receive).

**CD'S**

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

**LITERATURE [Snail Mail Only]**

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

**TRACTS (Article Reprints)**

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

**NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES**

**19. January/February 2004--Issue No. 19**

- A. 2003 Feast of Tabernacles San Antonio, Texas--  
by Rosemary Halley
- B. The Testimony of God--by Jeffrey Caldwell
- C. Letter--Brethren Working Together--by Michael  
Porter
- D. Letter--Fornication--by Ronald Barlow
- E. Letter--Passover Date--by Carol Bennes
- F. Question #1--Answered by Laura Lee
- G. Question #2--Answered by Laura Lee
- H. Question #3--Answered by Larry Volk
- I. The Size of the Ark--by Arnold C. Mendez, Sr.
- J. Scattering of the Brethren--by Ed Oettel
- K. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath--by Bill Bratt
- L. Small Meetings--by Al Van Dyk
- M. Good and Evil--by Name Withheld
- N. Hopelessly Lost, or So it Seems--by Wayne  
Schatzle
- O. Countering the Idea of Lawlessness and Penalty  
of Sin--by June Narber
- P. Seven Keys for Our Spiritual Lives--by Ed Oettel
- Q. The Simplicity of Christ--by Phil Griffith

**20. March/April 2004--Issue No. 20**

- A. 2003 Feast of Tabernacles Ouidah--by Michael  
Porter
- B. Question #4--Answered by Larry Volk
- C. Question #5--Answered by Larry Volk
- D. Letter--Abuse in the Church of God--by Warren  
L. Mann
- E. Letter--Christ is Not a Pharisee--by Jeffrey A.  
Caldwell
- F. Letter--Abortion--by Howard F. Bruce
- G. Letter--Passover & Pentecost--by Carol Bennes
- H. "Let's Roll!"--by Jeffrey A. Caldwell
- I. Looking at the Covenants--by Rhoda L. Foust
- J. Was Jesus God Too?--by Darwin Lee
- K. Biblical Evidence in Support of a Sivan 6  
Pentecost--by Laura Lee
- L. "On this Rock I Will Build My Church"--by Paul  
Wong
- M. "Two or Three in My Name" Meetings--by Al Van  
Dyk
- N. City Water Tower "Interrupts" Sabbath Services--  
by Sandy Kile

**NEWSLETTER--BACK ISSUES**

**21. May/June 2004--Issue No. 21**

- A. Internet Fast Replacing TV, Radio and Print--  
by Alan Ruth
- B. Need Bibles & Literature--by Aden Johnson
- C. Need 5 New or Used Giant Print Bibles--by  
Rosemary Adebas
- D. Ray George Kurr Died--by Doyle Carter
- E. Question #6--Answered by Laura Lee
- F. Question #7--Answered by Laura Lee
- G. Question #8--Answered by Darwin Lee
- H. Letter--Thank You for Your Newsletter--by  
Michael Royal
- I. Letter--1 Corinthians 10--by Darwin Lee
- J. Letter--Accountability--by Larry Graff
- K. Letter--Need 2 Bibles--by Peter Kibicho
- L. Letter--Received 2 Bibles--by Peter Kibicho
- M. Letter--Passover & Pentecost--by Carol Bennes
- N. Blessed are the Peacemakers--by Arlan Weight
- O. What is the Condition of Your Marriage?--by  
Laura Lee

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

**WORKS & PDF FILES**

WE ARE NOW ABLE TO SEND NEWSLETTER BACK  
ISSUES AS WELL AS CURRENT ISSUES VIA E-MAIL AS  
"WORKS FILES" WHICH CAN BE OPENED WITH  
MICROSOFT WORKS OR AS "PDF FILES" WHICH CAN  
BE OPENED WITH ADOBE ACROBAT READER.

THESE FILES WOULD COME AS ATTACHMENTS TO E-  
MAIL.

WE CAN ALSO SEND SOME OF OUR OTHER  
LITERATURE THAT WAY--SO IF YOU HAVE ORDERED  
SOMETHING YOU HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED, PERHAPS  
YOU CAN HELP US OUT AND REQUEST IT VIA E-MAIL.