

Are You Expected to do the Work?

by Doyle Carter (Oklahoma)

Are lay members of a church expected to be active in the church or is this reserved to only the elders and ministers? Many churches and their members act as if only the leadership of the church is allowed to perform the duties of preaching the Gospel to the world and local area. The Bible does not support this concept and presents many examples of membership being active in the Work of God. Let's see what our Bible tells us.

Paul speaking to the Corinthians wrote, "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:9) You will note that the term "we" is followed by "you" in the second part of this verse. This implies that the individuals in this church are being addressed as "Labourers" of God.

One example of members in action is found in Acts 8:1-4. Paul before conversion was persecuting the church in Jerusalem and the Christians were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. In verse 4, it is stated that "...they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word."

You will note from this passage that the scattered were not

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You are Labourers of God

by Doyle Carter (Oklahoma)

Are we as Christians to be involved in the Work of God or just to sit on the side lines and observe the leadership of the church in action? Some Christians believe that their efforts as individuals are insufficient in preaching the Gospel. What is the Biblical point of view on this topic? It is worth our efforts to study it.

In **Matthew 9:36-38**, Jesus looked upon the multitude that followed from the villages and cities that he taught and was moved because they were as sheep scattered and having no shepherd. Then he said to the disciples, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." The disciples were told that they should pray for more labourers to assist in the Work.

In **Matthew 25**, Jesus presents a parable about the Kingdom of God and judgment.

In **verses 34-36**, the king in the parable says to the people on his right hand side, "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungered, and you gave me meat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in: naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came unto me."

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God and the Gays -- Chapter #1

by David Ben-Ariel (Ohio)

Introduction:

Regardless of whether you're gay or straight (or undecided) – the hot topics discussed within these pages are sure to be provocative! Who hasn't wondered what's going on? Even the Church leaders are confused and the laity divided. Is sex all there is? Find out what life's all about - read on! Dedicated to my understanding mother who said: "No matter who you are or what you do, you're still my son and I love you."

David Ben-Ariel

Chapter One

TO BE OR NOT TO BE...

Homosexuality.... Is it a matter of choice? Are some born that way? And if so, then how could God condemn it? Or does He? Does it make a difference? Who offered it as an "alternative lifestyle?" Are same-sex drives due to conditioning? Are gays and lesbians a quirk of nature? Something queer to jeer? Would it have been better to have never been born? All of these questions and more are only a few of the many that

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God Prophesied STUPIDITY!

by Nathaniel Burson (Texas)

Over 2700 Years ago God prophesied that the world today would be stupid - incompetent! He prophesied that you would be double-billed by the phone company. That you would be sent the wrong product in the mail. That your mechanic would not know how to fix your car – but would act like he could. That you couldn't hire someone to do the simplest task without finding it botched up and have to do it right yourself. God prophesied this because *HE* was going to **MAKE IT HAPPEN. HOW??**

Isaiah 3:1-5 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, **The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the**

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Joy

by Arlan Weight (North Dakota)

Recently a friend of mine told me one thing was bothering him and it was that he had lost his sense of **joy**. He claimed he used to have it, but now he no longer seemed to experience it within him. This caused me to think about it and ponder this subject some more. Just what do we mean when we use the word Joy. Is it joy or is it happiness? What's the difference? Is there a difference and, if so, how can we tell what that difference is?

So, what is joy? It's a word we don't hear much of any more. With all the troubling issues in the world how can one experience much joy? With the conflict going on in Iraq and Afghanistan, with our sons and daughters in harm's way how can we be anything but anxious. We're worried every day, if not for them then for others.

Consider the terrible conditions in Africa at this time. Millions of people are afflicted with AIDS and the numbers are growing. What's

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LETTERS SECTION

("Disclaimer..." continued from Issue #33)

Disclaimer of Arlan Weight's Article: Go To Your Brother... -- Part #3 (January 2006)

Arlan Weight's article:

With that understanding one can also see the frame of mind we should be in when going to our brother. Have we always gone with the frame of mind of Galatians 6:1-3? **Have we always approached our brother by admitting our faults to him as well?** How strongly have we desired him to be back in good terms with us? Let's be honest, and I think if we're really honest about it, we would have to admit many times we went to him in a grudging manner, where we say to ourselves "it says tell him his fault" and so here I am, I told him his fault and now it's up to him. Well now... really... did we really live up to the intent of the instruction?... hardly.

Darwin & Laura write:

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

In this set of scriptures we need to zero in on Galatians 6:1. When we approach our brother to tell him of his fault, we need to be truthful in telling him. In approaching him in meekness, it should be done in humility (without pride or arrogance), but certainly there will be emotion shown according to the infraction and the humbleness or lack of humbleness shown by the perpetrator of the crime. If the perpetrator of the crime is going to sit there with a smirk on his face and tell you he has a totally clear conscience because he has done nothing to you, then the emotions of the injured party will humanly run any where from anger to humiliation to hurt or deep concern for the other person. The perpetrator also has a responsibility to accept rebuke from a brother or sister.

In Proverbs 9:8, reprove and rebuke are the same, Strong's #3198. A scorner is an arrogant person, he is the one who sits there telling you that he has done nothing wrong to you when in fact you caught him doing the very act. He is the one that judges that you are guilty because you are judging him or accusing him of a sin which he is clearly guilty of. In other words he tries to turn the infraction onto you and make you look like the guilty party when in fact he is the guilty party. In Matthew 23, Christ himself rebuked the Pharisees in a display of anger and the

Pharisees in question here did not heed Christ's rebuke because they were so arrogant and not open to any instruction from Christ. Anyone who held to this attitude of arrogance later on participated also in the actual crucifixion death of Christ as an arrogant person will not accept instruction or rebuke and will carry a grudge to the point of murder sometimes. You will not get anywhere in the reconciliation process with such a person, so rebuke does no good. Only a humble or wise person (one with morals, a person following Christ) will accept a rebuke and deal with it according to scripture. Proverbs 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

We should always use the Matthew 18:15-17 instruction in going to our brother, no matter what the attitude is of the one we are about to rebuke, but Proverbs 9:8 shows us which person will accept the rebuke and work towards reconciliation with us and which one will not work with us. The arrogant hypocritical one that sat there at our Matthew 18:15-17 meeting and told us we were the problem for even daring to judge our brother as having sinned is the one that you will get no place with in the process of reconciliation because he is sitting there with a smirk on his face telling you that he has a clear conscience and has done nothing at all wrong to you. He is the one that is telling you that you must first confess your faults to him before he will even consider looking at his own faults or sins which he has committed against you. An arrogant person is a very unrepentant person who cares nothing for the physical well being of others nor can he even see the injured parties pain which he has caused. He is totally void of love for others.

When it says in Galatians 6:1 that you who are spiritual should restore such a one considering yourself, what is it talking about? What is being said here is that you need to examine yourself to see if you are doing the same thing which you are about to rebuke another person for. If you are, you are a hypocrite. If you are not then it also goes on to say that in rebuking another person, you need to also consider whether you will injure or harm yourself by getting involved in the doing of the same sin that you are about to rebuke in another person. In other words, if you once had a problem with being drunk all the time but repented of that sin a long time ago, are you now strong enough spiritually in being away from that sin for a period of time to rebuke a brother or sister caught in the same sin as you once had and be able to not once again be caught up in this sin as you once were before you repented?

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Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333,
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Publisher: Darwin & Laura Lee

Editor: Laura Lee

Assistant Editor: Darwin Lee

Contributors: Ronald Barlow, David Ben-Ariel, Bill Bratt, Lloyd Brumbaugh, Nathaniel Burson, Doyle Carter, Clifford Catton, Congregation of God, Rich Daniels, Wily Elder, Martha Escalante, Robert Goldman, Larry Graff, Richard Heath, Darwin Lee, Laura Lee, Dawn Lego, Myra McQueen, Alan Ruth, Joseph Selvaraj, Larry Volk, Arlan Weight

Web Site: Laura Lee,
<http://www.darwinlauralee.com>

Arlan Weight's article:

I think we can safely say, unless we recognize the 'beam in our own eye' ...when speaking with our brother, the chances are slim on our reconciliation progress. **But if we do go... acknowledging our own faults, we**
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We Are Still in Captivity

by Lloyd Brumbaugh (Ohio)

The purpose of this article is to show that if you are an Israelite, you are still in captivity. And if you are not an Israelite, you are experiencing the same captivity as one who is an Israelite. But you may say, "I am free in the Messiah" or, "I live in America, the land of the free; I am not in captivity." Let me explain: By captivity, I mean you are under the control and jurisdiction of a Gentile government; and you are subject to the enforcement of Gentile laws, court decisions and judgments. By Gentile, I mean, any country, government, jurisdiction or legal system other than Yahweh's government.

When Yahweh freed the Israelites from Egypt, He led them away and apart from any other country or government, so that He could establish His own government. He gave them commandments, laws and statutes along with judges and a court system so as to be a completely sovereign and functioning civil government. One unique and most valuable feature of this legal system was that Yahweh Himself was available to communicate for the purpose of military strategy (Nu 27:21) and to serve as supreme court judge and lie detector (Deut 17:8-15 & 19:16-19) providing the citizens a just and righteous civil government. (Deut 4:7-5) Such a government, with access to receive communication from the Creator is so vastly different from anything we have ever seen or experienced that you may find it difficult to believe that it ever really existed, or that such a thing could even be possible, but clearly that is what the Book reveals.

The Bible also tells us that failure to appreciate and correctly utilize this system caused them to divide into two separate kingdoms, and that both kingdoms were eventually taken over by foreign powers so that the citizens came into captivity to Gentile kings, governments, laws and courts. While in captivity, the Israelites did not forever remain physical prisoners. If they were "good" prisoners, they were given their freedom,

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The Passion of the Christ --- Part #1

by Bill Bratt (Ohio)

CNN reported from Rome, Italy: "Pope John II has seen the controversial Mel Gibson movie, "The Passion of Christ," and he liked it, Vatican sources said."

WorldNetDaily.com reported the following: "Renowned evangelist Billy Graham has screened Mel Gibson's new film "The Passion of the Christ" and says the movie moved him "to tears."

"I have often wondered what it must have been like to be a bystander during those last hours before Jesus' death," Graham said in a statement released from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. "After watching 'The Passion of the Christ,' I feel as if I have actually been there. I was moved to tears. I doubt if there has ever been a more graphic and moving presentation of Jesus' death and resurrection – which Christians believe are the most important events in human history.

"The film is faithful to the Bible's teaching that we are all responsible for Jesus' death, because we have all sinned," Graham continued. "It is our sins that caused His death, not any particular group. No one who views this film's compelling imagery will ever be the same."

The Chicago Sun-Times Film critic Roger Ebert made the following comments: "The movie is 126 minutes long, and I would guess that at least 100 of those minutes, maybe more, are concerned specifically and graphically with the details of the torture and death of Jesus. This is the most violent film I have ever seen." ... "I prefer to evaluate a film on the basis of what it intends to do, not on what I think it should have done. It is clear that Mel Gibson wanted to make graphic and inescapable the price that Jesus paid (as Christians believe) when he died for our sins. Anyone raised as a Catholic will be familiar with the stops along the way; the screenplay is inspired not so much by the Gospels as by the

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The Great Commission -- Matthew 28:19-20 -- Part #2

by Larry Volk (North Dakota)

Historical summary of the events leading up to the "Great Commission" Matthew 28:19-20

- United Hebrew Monarchy (1000-924 B.C.)
- Divided Monarchies
 1. Northern Kingdom of Israel (924-721 B.C.)
 2. Southern Kingdom of Judah (924-586 B.C.)
- Assyrian captivity of the kingdom of Israel 721 B.C., leading into the Diaspora and eventual loss of national identity by the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- The Babylonian Captivity of the Southern Kingdom of Judah (586 B.C.)
- The lawless nature of both Hebrew kingdoms and their unwillingness to keep the Law of God, led to their national captivities.
- Jesus the Christ's ministry, Matthew 15:24, "**It was only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel that I was sent.**" The call to repentance began with the Houses of Judah and Israel and was later extended to the Gentile nations of the world, through the ministry of Paul the Apostle.

Note: Paul's ministry did not exclude the 12 tribes of Israel from salvation; it simply extended salvation to the Gentile (Gentile means without God) nations. After all, it was a Jew, who took the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the Gentiles, not another Gentile!

The great end time in-gathering, at the second coming of Christ will begin with the Church of God, spiritual Israel, and will be extended to

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divided into elders or lay members, but it implies everyone from least in rank to the elders and ministers, except the apostles, were scattered and preaching.

Another example is found in **Acts 9** where "a certain disciple at Damascus" named Ananias was called to lay hands on Paul. This command came from God and not a leader of the church and this man was a disciple.

Another example of a person who had a Work is found in **Acts 9:36-43**. Peter is summoned to assist a woman named Tabitha who was very sick.

In Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary, 1967, on page 824, on the topic of Tabitha comments, "the name of a Christian woman DISCIPLE who lived in Joppa and made clothing to give to the widows..." You will note from the commentary that she was a disciple and her part of the Work was providing clothing for the widows...

Again, in 3rd John, the apostle John addressed a man named Gaius who was a convert that was commended for his love and hospitality to traveling preachers of the Gospel.

These are just a few examples that are listed in the Bible of common every day Christians doing their part of the work by providing for the needs of the people around them and teaching others as well.

It is our duty as Christians to be a witness in any way that we can whether by good deeds or by preaching directly to people through Bible studies and discussions.

I encourage you to discover your part of the Work so that you can be a witness to others of the faith that you have been taught. You can do anything from sending cards of encouragement or assisting your church in projects or even just listening to a neighbor with problems.

Remember Jesus did say, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (**Mathew 5:16**)

THE END**

("You are Labourers..." continued from page 1)

The righteous ones were confused on this matter and asked when they had performed these deeds to him.

The King's reply was, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."

Note that these deeds mentioned in this parable were not what many individuals would call great deeds, but the King, which represents Jesus Christ in the parable,

considered them as great deeds.

In **Galatians 6:9**, Paul states, "and let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

In 2 **Thessalonians 3:13**, Paul states, "**Brethren**, be not weary [faint not] in well doing."

We can be witness by what we do instead of what we say. Our actions do speak louder than words which could cause someone to inquire of our beliefs. This is one way to open the door to others.

In **James 2:18-19**, James states, "Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." You will note that James would show his faith by his works or actions.

We can conclude from just these few verses that we are to do something. Our actions can include writing a friend who is sick or visiting the elderly or just sending cards of encouragement to those that are discouraged or even inviting someone to church. These seemingly small deeds are not small to God as stated in the parable in Mathew 25.

And, yes, some individuals may conduct Bible studies with friends and family as their way to spread the Gospel as well.

Whatever way you choose to be a labourer of God whether it is in simple deeds of kindness to others or conducting Bible studies or just assisting your church in special programs, God will honor your efforts and He will be pleased with you in doing them.

THE END**

("God and the..." continued from page 1)

race through people's minds; causing controversy, heated arguments and emotional wounds, as words fly back and forth carelessly.

It could be safe to say that homosexuality is the result of many factors. But who's to blame? Must we even lay a guilt-trip at anyone's door? Maybe mother, then again there's the father who didn't figure for too much. Society? Genes? The stars? Most people know their sexual orientation by their teens. They don't just suddenly discover they're "straight" and "come out" about it. Let's get real.

Who's to accept the responsibility for our actions? Some have felt "gay" ever since they were very young and therefore imagine that they were born gay. Others seem to pick up, adopt or assimilate homosexual tendencies through association. They must have already had an inclination towards it. It

rubbed off on them. Then there are those who were bored and needed a change. They wanted to try it and see if they liked it. Sometimes, due to "force" of circumstances, men in prison, boy's homes and/or monasteries, might resort to homosexual activities. Later, as soon as possible, some of them revert to heterosexual ways, while others continue to enjoy the "best of both world" as a bisexual. Are "bestiality is best" fans born that way? Or are incestuous relationships something innate? Do we have a predisposition chemically for incest? Are we set up for such a fall from birth? Would that justify or excuse us? Is promiscuity merely a part of man's "animal instincts?" Is the challenge of the chase a primeval hang-over from the "days of the hunt?" Actually, ALL of the above are simply DISTRACTIONS! It's not a question of who or what we're most comfortable with, prefer, like or are attracted to; those are only attempts to sidestep the real issue!

God isn't only the Creator, but the Sustainer of the entire universe. As such, his Majesty's Government - headquartered in the highest heaven - has issued (at Mt. Sinai) various health rules and regulations (Malachi 4:4). The Creator-King has predetermined, in His infinite wisdom, which "food and drugs" are safe and sound for our consumption.

If we keep uppermost in mind the reason for our mortal existence, the SUPREME PURPOSE for our human-being; to establish contact with our Superior-Being and develop a relationship with Him - then we'll know and understand that everything God does is for our benefit. God wants to help us, not hinder us. He enjoys encouraging us to attain our goals and fulfill our potential (Lk. 12:31-32). Father does know what's best: what He has in store for us is beyond our wildest dreams (Ephes. 3:20; 1 Cor. 2:9)!

The High Cost of Living

Whoever chooses to be a card-carrying member of the homosexual community is entitled to all of it's privileges and persecutions; but you should first COUNT THE COST to see if it's too high of a price for you to pay, like Christians are told to do (Lk. 14:28).

If anyone decides to engage in illicit sex or become entangled in "foreign affairs," they're living a lie if they think that God could possibly approve of their improper conduct, and they're compounding their problems if they lead others astray by attempts to endorse such flagrant sin (Rom. 1:32). Do what you want, but don't misrepresent God and His clear-cut Biblical teachings! Don't try and put words in His mouth or censor what He's actually said (Rev. 22:18-19).

Yes, GOD IS LOVE! That's why He hates certain practices with a passion. He

frowns upon a dishonest life of stealing, an unfaithful habit of "cheating" on our spouse, a disrespectful attitude towards our parents or persons in authority, religious holidays that are hollow and don't hallow His name, senseless killings and character assassination, idolatrous distractions that come between God and us, an endless trivial pursuit and preoccupation with ourselves and others, instead of putting God first! God loves us and wants us to love Him too, but He considers love more than a four-letter word: love is an attitude exemplified by actions, words that are backed up with deeds (Jas. 2:26). That's why Jesus said that if we really loved Him, we'd show it and not just say it (Jn. 14:15).

Safe-Sex

Since God is love, and Father knows best, He wants us to practice safe-sex. A safe-sex that's good and wholesome, clean and pure, and only available within a marriage where both partners keep their vows and honor their commitments (Heb. 13:4). Sexual intimacy, cuddling and coitus, belongs in the bedroom (of the Biblically-bonded), and it's to involve the union of both minds and bodies (Gen. 2:24). Married couples are challenged to become compatible in every sense of the word. A marriage certificate doesn't have to be "just a piece of paper" or become another broken record! God does recognize the fact that marriage isn't for everyone (Mat. 19:11), but expresses His will that singles remain celibate (1 Thes. 4:3).

God only promises to bless those foods (or relationships) that are sanctioned by His Word (1 Tim. 4:4-5). He's not unsure of Himself or His ways, He's not fickle or foolish, and His Word is reliable, dependable, and not subject to change. This hasn't caused the scriptures to be too popular at times, but they refuse to succumb to peer pressure and remain true to themselves. They're not what needs to change anyway. We do! God hasn't lowered His moral standards or compromised with His food laws, but offers to help raise us to His God-Plane. Christ can cleanse us of our unclean lives (Acts 10:15, 28), because God hasn't called us to remain in Egypt but to head for the Promised Land. Don't just stand there, get a move on it! And leave your excess baggage (sin) behind.

Kosher Food

Although God created us with a hunger drive, an appetite, He doesn't want us to become gluttonous pigs. Neither does He want us to act like horny dogs (1 Cor. 6:13). God's also shown us that just because various food items have been mislabeled "delicacies," we don't have to shove them into our mouths (Lev. 11). We're expected to

be mature, not act childish. God warns us to guard the doors of our mind, don't set ourselves up for a fall, and discern what we digest (Ephes. 4:27; Heb. 5:14). We're instructed to scrutinize our food for thought and remember "we are what we eat" and "we become what we think" (Prov. 23:7). God doesn't only want us to watch what we put into our mouths, but what we allow into our minds (Philip. 4:8). For a free list of "government approved" food for thought; what's clean and unclean, pure and impure, kosher and non-kosher - check out Ga. 5:19-23; Ephes. 5:11 and Philip. 1:11.

We're not supposed to remain raw material. God's given us a brain to become refined and keep our baser "instincts" in line (2 Pet. 2:12). The Holy Spirit offers us the help we need to accomplish this job (Jn. 1:12). We should refuse to be reduced to an animal level, simply sensual creatures, choosing a higher standard of living instead. The "if it feels good do it" and "if it looks good eat it" lack of mentality ought to be regarded as an insult to those striving for God's higher intelligence.

Regardless of why you're gay, bisexual or "trysexual" (you'll try anything once), whether or not you've had any choice in the matter - you do have a choice to exercise proper self-control. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SLAVE TO YOUR SENSES (Jn. 8:34), or allow sexual temptations to dictate mindless reactions (Gen. 19:4-11). You're not forced to act upon every thought that enters your mind. You can resist suggestions and reject impulses (2 Cor. 10:5). Every fleeting thought, random idea or stray notion doesn't have to take root and grow if you don't give it fertile ground (Jas. 1:13-15). You can consider its source and nip it in the bud. A "NO TRESPASSING!" frame of mind can be developed to defend you against intruders. Protection is possible. You can say NO! You can curb your appetite! YOU CAN CHANGE!
(to be continued in Issue #35)

("God Prophesied..." continued from page 1)

counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

Why?

Isaiah 3:8 For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are AGAINST the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory. The shew of their countenance doth witness against them;

and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Because America is PROUD of it's tolerance - of it's "Human Rights"- at the same time having one of the highest Murder, Rape, Divorce, and Theft rates of any country on earth! Yet they think they're alright - Oh sure, they're not perfect, they'll admit that. But they're not so bad. And BECAUSE OF THIS ATTITUDE, God is sending the curses of Isaiah 3 on them!

The cunning artificer is your mechanic. The person who is good at his craft. Who can take pride in his work, and loves his job. God said He would remove him from the country. He has. He's almost completely gone today.

The mighty man - the hero. The person who values another life more than his own. How many strangers are there do you suppose who would take a bullet for you? Without knowing you?

The prophet - the man who speaks for God. Look around the world today - there are over 33,000 different groups of churches - and that's JUST "Christianity"! And yet all disagree. They can't all be right! The prophet is all but gone, he has been replaced by a veritable religious BABYLON of confusion and lies!

The wise man. How many elderly do you know who actually KNOW something - whose advice and counsel you can seek? A hundred years ago, you could have gone to a hundred aged men and women - and they would have an answer for any problem you had. They're Gone now.

GOD FULFILLED THE CURSES, AS HE SAID! But HOW? God prophesied it would happen - but HOW did he bring it about?

In order to have any of these things mentioned in Isaiah 3, you must have LAW. You must have an ABSOLUTE TRUTH. If your mechanic thinks your carburetor is a fuel pump, he can't do his job, can he? He needs law - absolute rules - and TRUTH in order to UNDERSTAND why the car will not run! Without LAW, he cannot understand!

If the wise man can only say "well, there is no way of knowing what the right course is", then he's not a whole lot of help! So, to destroy all of the wisdom in the land, all that needs be destroyed was the *faith of the people in LAW*—In CAUSE AND EFFECT. In the inexorable CONSEQUENCES OF SIN - everywhere! Remember, sin is the breaking of the law (1 John 3:4). Using our poor mechanic as an example again, if he connects the gas line to the radiator hose, that is a sin - the breaking of the LAW that says that the gas line MUST go to the Carburetor. So, in order to take a society that has Mighty men, Wise men, Prophets, and the rest - you have to destroy the belief in Law. And that's exactly what happened!

Lawlessness In Science

It was first noticed in science, because it is the most *obviously* LAW-BASED field of study.

For thousands of years, man believed that if you dropped an egg and a chair at the same time, that the chair would hit the ground first because it was heavier. Then Galileo decided to actually test the theory. As we all know, both objects hit the ground at roughly the same time. And for thousands of years, the best Scientists believed that something that was a regular shape floated. Something that was irregular would sink. Again, Galileo proved that it didn't matter what SHAPE it was, but only how much it weighed.

He proved that there were LAWS that controlled what floated and what fell. Isaac Newton, who grew up a generation later, proved that these principles and laws applied to all fields of science – that the universe could not function without LAWS that told it how to move!

And so, what became known as “Newtonian” physics - a LAW-BASED science - was born. This concept of physics was rigidly law based. It believed that there had to be a REASON that the Moon didn't float off towards Jupiter. Because of this belief, Newton proved the existence of gravity. It said there had to be a REASON, a LAW, governing every phenomenon ever witnessed or ever to be witnessed. It was under this school of thought that essentially every major discovery has been made. The Radio, Magnetism, Electricity, the Periodic Chart, the Airplane, all the way up to the Atom Bomb.

Did you realize that if it wasn't for law, you couldn't exist? Your cells, the atoms in them, and the protons and electrons that make up those atoms would simply cease to hold to each other and float off into space. Newton believed that if you could know the exact properties of EVERYTHING in the universe at this very moment – you could, theoretically, calculate to the tiniest part of an atom the EXACT state of the universe tomorrow, last week, or 10,000 years from now.

Knowledge grew over the centuries – as God promised it would – yet still, by the 1920's, scientists knew that there were still a great many things they did not know about the universe. For example – the smallest unit of light, that (supposedly) cannot be divided, is called a Photon. When you look out your window at night, you will see out of the window, but often you will also see a faint reflection of your room. This is the result of a small percentage of the Photons bouncing off the glass, and being reflected back to you. The question is – what makes MOST of the Photons go through the glass, but a few

reflect?

The Newtonian, Law-based answer was “There must be something we don't know about the Photon – something hidden inside the Photon that makes it different from the others. Or perhaps some properties of spin, or velocity, or SOMETHING”. In other words, some LAW we just hadn't discovered yet. But “Science” found a different answer in Quantum Physics – and the Uncertainty Principle.

The Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, as it's called, said that there is nothing different about the Photon. If 100 Photons hit the glass, and 95 go through, 5 will be bounced back. There is no reason why! Simply because it can. It said “You can't know what a particular Photon will do – you can know, in a large, broad way what will happen to 100 of them, but YOU CAN'T KNOW about each one because THERE IS NO LAW!”

Scientists freely admit they don't understand the uncertainty principle – in fact, they're PROUD of it!

Einstein, who was arguably the greatest scientific leader during the time this theory was developed, NEVER accepted it. He fought it until the day he died. He is often quoted as saying “I cannot accept that God plays dice with the universe!” He believed that things don't just “happen”, but that they worked within LAWS. Many of his generation never accepted the Uncertainty Principle – but the principle outlived those who objected to it.

The Uncertainty Principle is an incredibly destructive “doctrine” of Science! But God couldn't take the Wise, Mighty, and Cunning man out of the country without allowing it to be introduced – As long as there was faith in law, there would be wisdom – so that had to be destroyed... and it was!

But Science wasn't the only place where this Uncertainty Principle appeared. Actually, in one form or another, this principle showed up **at the SAME time** – that is, the early part of the 20th century - in “every” business, and in “every” field... it can be found in all of man's so-called “Wisdom” today!

Uncertainty In Economics:

God intended for man to use Gold, Silver, and Copper as money. Through the ages, man has basically always done this. The precious metal system is a simple one – God's system always is. If you have an ounce of silver, it's worth a dollar. You can't make that ounce of silver into two dollars without working. Then you'll have two ounces of silver, but they'll still each be worth one dollar. Simple, right? A 5-year-old could understand it.

Well, in 1917 the Federal Reserve Bank was established. Economics was set up in a way that was so confusing, so insidious, so

complicated, that no one understands it. In short – they made it Uncertain. Let me outline briefly an extremely simplified version of what it does. Actually, we'll have to step in the old Wayback Machine and go back in time about 75 years for it to make sense at all. If you take a silver dollar into the bank, and deposit it, the bank will give you a piece of paper (A dollar bill) that says you have a dollar sitting there if you need it.

Now, lets say a farmer comes to the bank to borrow a dollar. They know you aren't likely to come and claim your silver dollar right away. So instead of loaning their own money, they give him a note for YOUR dollar saying he has a dollar there whenever he wants it! But there is more – they know that neither one of you are likely to claim your dollar anytime soon... after all, paper is easier to carry... So if someone else comes in, they can give him a note **for the SAME DOLLAR**.

So now, they have created money that DOESN'T EXIST, gambling that you won't all want the same dollar at the same time! (Incidentally, they also get 5 cents back from the borrower when he returns the bill to the Bank – for lending money that **they created out of nothing!**) And they repeat this again, and again, with the same piece of silver.

So you see, your dollar has now been made into perhaps as many as ten “Pseudo-dollars”, that exist only on paper. Or today, often only in the form of a digit in a computer. It doesn't really exist at all– it's not REAL money – it's not REALLY understandable – it's just plain UNCERTAIN!

This is a vast simplification of economics – barely scratching the surface really. But it doesn't stop there.

Uncertainty In Agriculture:

Over millenia men discovered, through trial and error, the ways to grow a healthy, vibrant crop. Only 100 years ago, four-fifths of the world lived outside the city limits, and were agriculturally dependent! Yet, beginning with fervor in the industrial age of the early 1900's, man moved OFF the farm, and into the city – and instead of properly BUILDING the land, DRESSING AND KEEPING the earth, large, corporate farms began to systematically rape the land!

Man took a concept that was no more complicated than “If you take something out of the soil, you have to put something back”, and complicated and confused it – made it UNCERTAIN! Now they say “well, yes, you have to put SOMETHING back, but we can calculate just what elements are needed with chemical fertilizer – there is no need to use the methods man has been using for thousands of years”. But in reality, they don't KNOW what to put back – sure, they can add back a few basic elements, but they have no

idea the immense complexities of the earth God placed them on – so they analyze it until it's so complicated, that NO ONE understands it, and it is UNKNOWABLE!

They missed the entire point of how God designed the earth! But this was far from the worst area that was corrupted.

Uncertainty In Medicine:

Through generations upon generations, man discovered a basic, simple truth about his body - "You are what you eat". This basic, simple truth explains all the illness that man suffers – both today, and through all history. Moreover, it is a truth that ANYONE can understand – it's not complicated! Man also discovered that the body is a UNIT. That if the Appendix is causing problems, the solution isn't to CUT IT OUT, but rather to find the SOURCE of the problem! Using the principle that "You are what you eat", if you eat the typical American diet of heavy meats, fats and starches (Or any foods that are difficult to digest) anyone can see that THAT is the cause of the Appendix's problem – As always, it's not complicated! If you build a body out of French Fries, it will be made out of French Fries! That is inescapable logic!

But in the 1920's, that approach changed. The American Medical Association decided that that principle wasn't good enough – it was too simple – and instead, we should treat EACH ORGAN as a SINGLE unit. If it breaks, cut it out! They made a simple, understandable, GODLY principle into a complex, confusing set of UNKNOWABLE rules... where each organ works along different principles, which in many cases they freely admit – they don't understand!

This, together with the Uncertainty Principle in farming, is responsible for the DRASTIC INCREASE in cancer, heart disease, and all other sickness in this country in the last 100 years!

Uncertainty In Education:

Education is an art that has been discovered, perfected, lost, and rediscovered in history. Archeology has shown that Assyria had a very fine schooling system. Then it was lost. Egypt, Greece, Rome, all great empires have had a way of training the next generation. The decline in this art was always parallel with the decline in the empire!

Until the 1920's, while many did not have an education beyond the 6th grade, that sixth grader knew more of REAL VALUE than a college graduate today! A hundred years ago, a sixth grader could do complex math – could read very well – could write – knew history, both American and World – Geometry – the list goes on. Today, many college students are unsure when the Declaration of Independence was signed!

The difference is, that 80 years ago, something was EXPECTED of children. A measure of behavior, discipline and honesty, was not only expected, but DEMANDED. But then - slowly at first, but with increasing speed - modern psychology crept into the system – a psychology that says you couldn't discipline children – that you had to let them come to it at their own speed – that you couldn't enforce RULES, and expect RESULTS from students, but you had to let them learn what they wanted at their own pace – that YOU COULDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS RIGHT FOR THEM!

This change, more than any other, is responsible for the Wal-Mart checker who doesn't know that one Lemon at ten for a dollar costs a dime. It is responsible for the Mechanic who spends \$400 in parts for your car – yet hasn't got a clue what is wrong with it. The general incompetence of many in the world today, and the lack of pride in a job well done, is the direct result of this UNGODLY UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE!

Uncertainty In Religion

In order to fulfill the curses threatened in Isaiah 3, the LAW-BASED philosophies that existed at the turn of the century first had to be destroyed! So that the mechanic, the philosopher, the scientist, the hero, wouldn't have a LAW to govern his life by – but would instead be UNCERTAIN, in a world WITHOUT ABSOLUTES, without TRUTH!

If education is the reason many people are incompetent, the psychological and religious versions of the uncertainty principle are the *reason* people today are MORALLY BANKRUPT. So evil are they that the blood from one horrendous crime in our cities practically spills over and runs into the blood from another crime! (Hosea 4:2).

The Preachers will say "Well, yes, Adultery is wrong MOST of the time – but there are cases where it might SAVE a marriage – and anyway, who are you to JUDGE, you CAN'T KNOW their situation!"

The Psychologists say "Well, yes, you did wrong, but it wasn't your fault! Anyone might have done the same in your case – it's just not KNOWABLE what the right answer is. There isn't ONE right answer, it's just a matter of circumstances!"

There IS NO LINE!

God says there IS one right answer! His way! But Satan doesn't believe that – he wants FREEDOM to sin. And he wants HIS followers to be able to do things THEIR WAY – the way that SEEMS right to a man! This UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE, in any of its hideous shapes and forms, has no place in the universe – It's a concoction straight from the mind of Satan the Devil! There is ONE lawgiver. ONE truth. ONE RIGHT WAY – and

THOUSANDS of wrong ones!

Often people – Even in the Church of God – when you tell them they are doing something—anything, wrong, will say "I know it's not perfect, but if I do it YOUR way I'll wind up living out under a tree - I'll have to give up everything – to stop doing ALL of this stuff I love! WHERE do you DRAW THE LINE??"

THERE IS NO LINE! There is RIGHT, and there are thousands of ALMOST right answers, MIXED with SIN – but not RIGHT. There is ONE TRUE, RIGHT answer in EVERY case. Where do you draw the line between this Demon movie, and this one that only has "Good" witches? You don't DRAW a line – THERE IS NO LINE! There is RIGHT or WRONG! And there is NO Gray area!!!

One Law Giver!

There is ONE Law-Giver. He tells you what the line is – and if YOU draw a line in a different, easier place, you're setting YOURSELF up as a law-giver! You put yourself in the place God has RESERVED FOR HIMSELF!

The Uncertainty Principle has crept into every walk of life in the world around us – In it's many forms it has created the wretched, miserable, utterly lost world in which you and I live... But you are commanded to come out of the world, leaving behind all of it's LIES and DECEIT – So take heed, and DON'T LET the Uncertainty Principle ROB YOU OF YOUR SALVATION!

THE END**

("Joy..." continued from page 1)

going to happen?

In this country, it seems there is no end to problems. If it isn't the economy, it's the health care issues. Again, is it any wonder there is very little **Joy** in the world, much less in us when we have to listen and experience all these dismal things.

So what is the definition of Joy? Nave's Topical Bible explains it this way.

"Joy, emotion excited by expectation or acquisition of good; attribute of God; one of the fruits of the spirit; **not the same as happiness**, which depends largely on happenings, as it may be experienced **even in affliction**"

Here it says happiness is something different. Happiness is how you feel because of something that **happens to you**. Maybe you've just won a contest or maybe you were just promoted on the job. Maybe you've just become a father or mother for the first time. We attribute that as a most joyous event in our lives. All these things, because they are positive uplifting events, cause us to become **happy**. They contribute to our **happiness**.

They are events that **happen** to us.

But Joy is different. It doesn't depend on a good event happening to us. In fact joy is something we can have even when everything around us is falling apart. Even if our lives can be in great danger or traumatic events are at our doorstep, we can still have joy. Notice again the difference in Nave's definition.

Joy is emotion **excited by expectation or acquisition of good**, whereas, happiness depends **largely on happenings**. Happenings is the root word for happiness, and can be remembered that way.

The definition of joy tells us that it can be experienced even during a time of affliction. Jesus was able to know what that was like. Think about the joy that kept him focused on his mission. His mind was continually set on some expectation so great and good that nothing would detour him. Notice Hebrews 2:12

12."who for the **joy** that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Notice too, this joy was something that was set before him. It was '**emotion excited by expectation of good**'. What was that excitement? What was that expectation of good? What was this joy? No doubt it was about the great future plans He and the Father shared. These plans related directly to the purpose the Father sent him to this earth to announce to mankind.

The Father sent his son, Jesus, to this earth to announce the 'kingdom of God', which would replace all the earthly kingdoms of man. In doing so, this earth would begin to experience a time of peace and prosperity, not known before since the first man, Adam was created.

This message included the awesome potential of mankind being born into the God family and sharing life as God has life, eternally! In other words God the Father decided to add many more members to his family (presently Father and Son) and a process was set in motion to accomplish that feat. (John 3:16)

Jesus knew he had to go through the great trial of his life in order to make that goal possible, but the prospect created such joy in him, that he was able to look beyond the immediate dire circumstances coming his way. Notice what Jesus told his disciples the very night before he knew he would be killed in such a horrific way. (John 16:20-24)

20."Verily, verily, I say unto you, that ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall **rejoice**: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into **joy**."

21.A woman when she is in travail has sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child,

she remembers no more the anguish, for **joy** that a man (baby) is born into the world.

22.And you now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your **joy** no man takes from you.

23.And in that day you shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

24.Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name: ask, and you shall receive, that your **joy** may be full.

Try to get the sense of how Jesus looked beyond the terrible things that were about to happen to him, the terrible beating he was about to face, the rejection, and all the severity of that moment and yet. . .and yet he was able to say he was giving his **joy** that he had at that moment to them. (John 15:11)

Furthermore He says no person can take joy from you. If you have it in you, they cannot rob you of it. (John 15:11)

11."These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you**, and that your **joy** might be full"

Here again Jesus' hope is that the same joy he had will be something we too can have within us, and that it would remain in us no matter what happens to us.

So from these examples we can see that joy is some thing that we must receive and it is something that we must have within us. It is not based on what happens to us, although it could include it, if it is something good. But at this dire moment of Jesus life he could still say he had **joy**, even though within a matter of hours he knew he would be in the grave.

The True Gospel Brings Joy

Notice the account where Jesus sends out seventy disciples to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. (Matthew 10:5-8)

5. "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying,...

7. ...as you go, preach, saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils...

When they returned, they were so excited! Try to imagine their exhilaration! (Luke 10:17)

17.And the seventy returned again with **joy**, saying, 'Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through your name.

18.And he said unto them, 'I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19.Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

One can certainly see how the disciples must have felt when this happened to them.

But think about Nave's Topical Bible definition of **joy**. The definition is that these events that **happened to them**. Were they joyful as it indicates in verse 17? Maybe, but maybe they were experiencing things which had never happened to them before like this, and it certainly gave them that emotion of exhilaration, as it says they had **joy**. (v. 17)

When they returned, later he asked them if they lacked anything. Notice this account in Luke 22:35.

35."And he said unto them, when I sent you without purse and scrip, and shoes, lacked you anything? And they said **nothing**."

Imagine going on an all-expense paid trip, with all your housing, food and clothing taken care of ... everything. Not only that, but everything you were told to do worked out. Whatever you set your hand to do, within the job you were given, was successful. Just think how that might make you feel. You'd most certainly feel elation. But would it be joy?

Read again Nave's definition. It says, 'Joy, emotion excited by **expectation or acquisition of good**; one of the fruits of the Spirit; ... This gives you the impression of something one yet hopes for, something of good that will come to you. Now read the next verse in that section. (Luke 10:20) Jesus is still speaking.

20."Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, **because your names are written in heaven**"

There you have it! That is why they were to have **joy**, because their names are written in heaven Here Jesus is telling them, "look, don't be filled with joy because these spirits are in your power, but have the inner most **joy of expectation** for the future. Think about the fact that your lives are not going to end. God has plans for you. You are going to live again." It's this assurance of the future that will be the joy to keep us looking beyond the immediate troubles we find ourselves in.

True Gospel - A Message of Substance - A Message of Joy!

Today this word gospel is used quite loosely. There is 'gospel music, gospel this and gospel that, but what does the word really mean? The word comes from the Greek word 'euaggelion', which means 'good news tidings, word' (Young's Concordance)

The gospel of Jesus Christ is a good news message. Yes, it is a message about Jesus as our Saviour. Yes, it includes the fact that he paid our death penalty for us. That truly is good news, but the message Jesus preached primarily was the message of God's kingdom coming to this earth. A message that says one day, yet future, God is going to intervene in the affairs of mankind

and put a stop to all the carnage of war and misrule. . . on this earth. **That is a message of substance - a message of Joy.**

First of all let's try to keep our focus that this was Jesus' message. Actually it was the Father's which he sent by Jesus to announce to mankind. (Luke 4:17-19)

17."And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias, And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18.The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because **he hath anointed me** to preach the gospel to the poor; **he hath sent me** to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19.To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Notice it was a message he was sent to proclaim. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ. Not primarily a message about him, the messenger. The above quote is taken from Isaiah 61:1-11. When Jesus was on the earth the first time he fulfilled, in part what is spoken of in Isaiah. Yes, he performed healings and he did preach good tidings, but this was only a foretaste. Notice what is spoken of to happen as a much grander fulfillment. (Isa. 61:4)

4."And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations."

Think about what is spoken of here. Was that accomplished the first time Christ was on the earth? No. Absolutely not! In fact Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. From that time on wars and destruction have continued right up to the present time. There has been no repairing of waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

Now think about the substance of that message. When Jesus returns to this earth there is going to be a rebuilding program. There will be lot's of construction programs to rebuild old cities, maybe some that are not existing even to this day. There will be no such thing as unemployment. Everyone will be excited and involved in creative and challenging jobs that bring satisfying results.

But before all this can begin, there is going to be war. Earth's citizens are not going to want him back. They are going to reject him the second time similar to the first time. The first time he came as a humble meek baby and they didn't receive him because they expected a king to liberate them from the Romans. They treated him as an imposter and killed him. But the second time, he will come with mighty power. All nations will think he's an alien from outer space and they will fight against him. But he will overcome them because he is "King of

Kings and Lord of Lords." (Rev. 19:16)

Of course this is not going to be much of a match, and He will put down man's governments and usher in his government. Once he has put down all misrule, he will begin to restore all nations and his kingdom will rule. Read the entire chapter but notice what it says in verse 11.

11."For as the earth brings forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the **Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."**

Has that happened yet? Obviously not. But imagine what God and Christ must be thinking even now as the count down continues. Do you suppose they have joy, knowing all the misrule, guided by Satan, is one day going to end. Do you have this joy in you knowing it is coming? Do you think on it continually when you hear of the bombs killing many innocents in Iraq. Do you also see yourself as part of that reconstruction program? Are you preparing for it?

Read the entire chapter of Isaiah 11 and ponder the things written there. Can you but imagine the awesome most wonderful world it's going to be when even the wild animals are tamed and are docile as pets. These are promises yet future. How awesome a world it's going to be. How can we not have joy in us when we think on it, especially when we're promised that we can be there.

Gospel Preached

Most mainstream 'Christian' religions preach a message primarily about the person of Christ and his mission to redeem mankind. They often say little or nothing about what he preached. Jesus' message, sent from the Father, was the good news of the kingdom of God. (Mat. 4:23, Mark 1:14) Down through the ages this gospel of the kingdom of God has, for the most part, been replaced with a message about the messenger. It's been a subtle change, but by diverting attention away from this future restoration of the earth and resurrection, that hope and joy is also removed.

It's not to say that the gospel has not been preached. It's logical to believe that down through the ages that message has been preached at various times. God's true church of called out individuals has continued to exist.

During the latter half of the 20th Century the gospel of the kingdom of God was preached in amplified power. This message went out over the airwaves and enlightened many to the things God sent 2000 years earlier by Jesus. This time it was the same gospel. It was called the 'World Tomorrow', presented by Herbert Armstrong, pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God.

The message he proclaimed was the message about a future time of peace and prosperity coming to this earth. It would be ushered in not because of the efforts of mankind but rather to save him from self destruction.

Herbert Armstrong often spoke and wrote that mankind, apart from God, is incapable of governing himself. Left to himself, he will succumb to another diabolical force, who will deceive him and lead him to this self destruction. But the message preached was that of hope, in that, before man will come to that fateful end, God will send Jesus back to rescue him and bring peace at last.

As stated above, this good news message of the kingdom of God was the same as what Jesus preached 2000 years ago. That message was rejected then and they killed the messenger, however, killing the messenger only sealed the enemy's fate, and made the fulfillment of that message possible. The futuristic world of peace and prosperity will not be thwarted. God's plan for mankind will happen. It's a sure thing. Take a look at what it says in Isaiah 9:7

7."of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. **The zeal of the lord of hosts will perform this."**

This is a literal government that is going to replace man's governments. It's going to be a government that will convert all weapons of destruction to implements for peaceful purposes. It promises to be a time when all people will be taught to live in a way that produces the desired results man has always wanted and bring true happiness and joy.

Conclusion

The subject of this article is **Joy**. Can we have it within us and can it remain? Furthermore let's now consider the purpose of it and why we need it now more than ever. As we see worsening conditions in this world, think what it can mean for us. It can sustain us through the most difficult of times even if it means giving up our own lives or that of our loved ones, because we can have that hope that this is not the end.

Mankind seeks happiness in various ways. He strives to satisfy his yearnings by seeking fame and fortune in the things that he thinks will provide it. But Jesus admonishes us that if we seek his kingdom first in our lives, meaning that if we go about having that joy of anticipation and working at overcoming the world and those things that detract, we can have it all. He says, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his

righteousness; and **all these things shall be added unto you.**" This is what brings true joy and is something that no one can take from you.

This joy is the knowledge of God's kingdom coming to this earth to restore right government and bring mankind true happiness that will last. God's kingdom is a world ruling kingdom that will include those who overcome and have become part of that ruling family. God's rule is a benevolent rule and will usher in a time of peace and prosperity for all.

Beyond this it also includes the knowledge of man's future resurrection. All people who have ever lived and died will have their opportunity to learn of the true gospel. It will be a time when God will remove all pain and sorrow from their lives. Eventually these things will be remembered no more and they will also have that potential to live on in a **life unending** in interesting and exciting things far beyond their wildest dreams.

What greater hope can we have than this? Ponder the awesome potential God has planned for mankind. This truly is the meaning of **Joy**.

THE END**

("We Are Still..." continued from page 3)

but they still remain in captivity, under the jurisdiction of Gentile governments, and that is where we find ourselves today.

A voluntary desire and commitment to obey our Creator is very good, but it does not negate the fact that we remain in captivity, and have been cut off from receiving governmental communiques from Yahweh.

But hopefully, this is not the end of the story. Prophecies also tell of a latter day gathering of the scattered sheep (Israelites), not just Judah, but all of the tribes, and even non-Israelites who also desire to be recovered and have access to real communication with their Creator. It was through descendants of Abraham that divine communication came, and by restoration of this divine contact, everyone on earth will eventually be blessed.

THE END**

("The Passion..." continued from page 3)

14 Stations of the Cross. As an altar boy, serving during the Stations on Friday nights in Lent, I was encouraged to meditate on Christ's suffering, and I remember the chants as the priest led the way from one station to another."

This controversial movie has gotten all kinds of "good and bad" reviews. The one thing that sticks in my mind when watching a

"religious" movie is how accurate is it in regards to the Holy Scriptures. Jesus said: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. {24} "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24). Truth is very important to God and Jesus Christ. This movie is dynamic but it has "truth" mixed with error. When movie writers, producers and directors do a Bible story, they take a lot of liberty in adding to the events recorded in the Bible. The danger in this is that the "truth of God" can be distorted. Many people who see Biblical movies do not read their Bibles and are illiterate to what the "truth" is and many will accept what they see in the movie as being correct when in fact it is mixed with error.

The following are some glaring errors of the Passion movie: When Christ was on His way to Pilate the Pharisees threw Him off of a bridge. Children turned wicked and threw stones at Judas Iscariot. The Temple collapsed as a result of the earthquake that accompanied Jesus' death.

My wife and I went to see this controversial movie and found it very powerful and moving. I would say there is a possibility that you also have seen this film.

There is an old saying: "If you have seen the movie, now read the book."

The book in this case is the Bible, especially the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Let's lay some ground work as we begin this subject. The definition of the word: "passion" that we are looking for in Webster's Dictionary defines the word as: "the sufferings of Christ between the night of the Last Supper and his death."

Notice in this definition, the term "the Last Supper," which is referring to the apostle Paul's comment of calling the Passover by the term "the Lord's Supper": "Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper" (1 Corinthians 11:20). The term "the Lord's Supper" is only found once in the Holy Scriptures in the above quoted verse. The term "the Last Supper" is not found in the Bible.

In Strong's Concordance #5547 the Greek word for Christ is: "Christos", and is defined as: "khris-tos"; from G5548; anointed, i.e. the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus:--Christ."

It is interesting to note that the word "Christ" is used 555 times in 522 verses of the King James Version of the New Testament and the word "Messiah" only occurs four times in the Bible, twice in the Old Testament (Daniel 9:24-26) and twice in the New Testament (John 1:40-41 and 4:25.)

Let's look at the passage in John 1: "One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him (Jesus), was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. {41} He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ)" (John 1:40-41).

The Apostle John wanted to make sure that we understood that Jesus is the Messiah, because he spelled it out very clearly to us.

This expression "Messiah ... the Christ" is an expression that these two words mean the same thing. "Messiah" is the Hebrew word for "God's Anointed One" and "Christ" is the equivalent word in Greek .

The Opening Scene

The movie opens with Jesus praying in the garden named Gethsemane and through parts of the movie there are flashbacks to "the Lord's Supper" or perhaps more properly rendered the "Passover" by the gospel writers. We will pick up our story flow of events by starting in Luke 22 : "Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover." {3} Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. {4} So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. {5} And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. {6} So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude." {7} Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. {8} And He (Jesus) sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." {12} "Then he (the master of the house) will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." {13} "they prepared the Passover. {14} When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. {15} Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; {16} "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." {17} Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; {18} "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." {19} And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." {20} Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you." {33} But he (Simon Peter) said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." {34} Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

The apostle John relates the following recorded in John 13:2 "And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, {3} Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, {4} rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. {5} After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. {6} Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" {7} Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." {8} Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." {9} Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" {10} Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." {11} For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean." {12} So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? {13} "You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. {14} "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. {15} "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. {16} "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. {17} "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." {21} When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." {22} Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. {23} Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. {24} Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. {25} Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" {26} Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. {27} Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." {30} Having received the piece of bread, he (Judas) then went out immediately. And it was night."

Jesus continues addressing His disciples in His farewell discourse in the upper room as recorded in John 14. Before they leave the upper room they sang a hymn: "And when they had sung a hymn, they went

out to the Mount of Olives" (Matthew 26:30). After the hymn Jesus said: "..... Arise, let us go from here" (John 14:31).

Jesus continues His discourse to His disciples in John chapters 15 and 16. John 17 records Christ's intercessory prayer. This is the real "Lord's Prayer." In Jesus' prayer He praised God and He prayed for His disciples that they would be sanctified in the truth (Verse 17).

The Garden of Gethsemane

"Coming out, He (Jesus) went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him" (Luke 22:39).

John records that this was a garden: "When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered" (John 18:1).

"Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray"" (Mark 14:32).

"And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James and John), and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. {38} Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me" (Matthew 26:37-38). "Pray that you may not enter into temptation" {41} And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed" (Luke 22:40-41).

Jesus "prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. {36} And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will"" (Mark 14:35-36).

"Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. {44} And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. {45} When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow" (Luke 22:43-45).

"Then He (Jesus) came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? {41} "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." {42} Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done" (Matthew 26:40-42). "And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him" (Mark 14:40).

"So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. {45} Then He came to His disciples

and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. {46} "Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand"" (Matthew 26:44-46).

Let's notice a few things in this passage: When Jesus first prayed, He was hoping that God could work out another solution for the salvation of man besides the horrible way for Him to die through the crucifixion, but He realized that it had to be done God's way. Jesus said "Your will be done" in Matthew 26:42.

In the movie, when Jesus was praying, Satan was shown there tempting Him. This is an error. We can see from Luke 22:43 that "an *angel* appeared to Him from heaven, *strengthening Him*." This was a good angel from God not Satan the devil.

One other point to notice in this passage is that Jesus was praying intensely and was sweating immensely like great drops of blood (Luke 22:24).

The Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion

Let's continue with the events recorded in John 18:2-9: "And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. {3} Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. {4} Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" {5} They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. {6} Now when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground. {7} Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." {8} Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am *He*. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," {9} that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

Let's ponder a few points in this passage. Notice the phrases "I am *He*" and that the word *HE* is italicized in verses 5, 6 and 8. This means that the word was added by the translators. Jesus was saying that He was the "I AM" who was the God that appeared to Moses: "And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14).

Another important point to ponder is in Verse 6 where it says: "they drew back and fell to the ground." I have never seen this in any of the movies about Jesus. Why did they fall to the ground? This was to show them that Jesus had power and that they could not take Him against His will.

The apostle Paul said: "that at the name

of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth" (Philippians 2:10). See also Romans 14:10-11 and Isaiah 45:23.

Jesus gave up His life voluntarily. He was "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Mark records the following: "Now His betrayer had given them a signal (sign or token), saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely" (Mark 14:44).

Notice the word "safely." Surely Judas knew that the Jewish religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus. The N.I.V. and N.A.S.B. translations translate this as: "lead Him away under guard." This would be a better translation of this phrase.

"And while He (Jesus) was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus" (Luke 22:47).

"Immediately he (Judas) went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. {50} But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" (Matthew 26:49-50). "Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48).

"Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him" (Matthew 26:50).

"Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus." (John 18:10). "And Jesus touched his ear and healed him (Luke 22:51).

"Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" (John 18:11). "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. {53} "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? {54} "How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" {55} In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes (Matthew 26:52-55), the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs?" (Luke 22:52). "I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me." (Mark 14:49). "But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled" (Matthew 26:56).

"Now a certain young man followed Him (Jesus), having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, {52} and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked" (Mark 14:51-52).

Jesus Examined by Annas

"Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested

Jesus and bound Him. {13} And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. {14} Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people" (John 18:12-14).

"The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. {20} Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. {21} "Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." {22} And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" {23} Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" (John 18:19-23).

Jesus Tried and Condemned by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin

"Having arrested Him (Jesus)" (Luke 22:54) "Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest" (John 18:24) "...and with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes" (Mark 14:53).

"Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, {60} but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward" (Matthew 26:59-61).

"For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. {57} Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, {58} "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'" {59} But not even then did their testimony agree. {60} And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, saying, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" (Mark 14:56-60).

"But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" {64} Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." {65} Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! {66} "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." {67} Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, {68} saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who

struck You?" (Matthew 26:63-68).

Peter Follows Them into the Courtyard

"And Simon Peter followed Jesus (at a distance), and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. {16} But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in" (John 18:15-16). "Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them" (Luke 22:55). "with the servants to see the end" (Matthew 26:58) "and warmed himself at the fire" (Mark 14:54).

Peter Denies Christ Three Times

"And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him." {57} But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him." {58} And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" {59} Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." {60} But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. {61} And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times" {62} "So Peter went out and wept bitterly." (Luke 22:56-62).

Christ Mocked and Beaten

"Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. {64} And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" {65} And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him" (Luke 22:63-65).

Sanhedrin Condemns Jesus

"As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, {67} "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe. {68} "And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. {69} "Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." {70} Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." {71} And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth" (Luke 22:66-71).

"All the chief priests and elders of the

people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death" (Matthew 27:1).

"Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate" (Luke 23:1).

Judas Repents and Hangs Himself

"Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, {4} saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" {5} Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. {6} But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." {7} And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. {8} Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. {9} Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, {10} "and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me" (Matthew 27:3-10).

"(Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. {19} And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)" (Acts 1:18-19).

Jesus is Condemned Before Pilate

"Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. {29} Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" {30} They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you" (John 18:28-30).

"And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King"" (Luke 23:2).

"And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. {13} Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" {14} But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly" (Matthew 27:12-14).

Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod

"But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this

place." {6} When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. {7} And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. {8} Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. {9} Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. {10} And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. {11} Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. {12} That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other" (Luke 23:5-12).

(to be continued in Issue #35)

("The Great..." continued from page 3)

include physical Israel and Judah, along with the Gentile nations of the world, upon their repentance, baptism and entrance into the eternal Kingdom of God on earth.

The glorified Christ gave the apostle Paul his commission personally. Read Acts 9:1-15, it describes Paul's spiritual conversion. Notice verse 15. "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the *Gentiles*, and *kings*, and the *children of Israel*."

Notice Jesus said Paul was to bear his name before the *Gentiles*, and *kings*, and the *children of Israel*. The apostle Paul was far more than the apostle to the Gentiles. He was an apostle to the Gentiles, Kings, and the children of Israel. He did not come bearing a new gospel. Jesus sent him bearing his name and the gospel "once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3)." Paul warns us in Galatians 1:6-7 not to embrace "another gospel" that would "pervert the gospel of Christ." Paul warns us to beware of those who "have the zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Romans 10:2-3 Compare Romans 10:2-3 with Job 40:8.

In the book of Hebrews, the apostle Paul reminds us that "Jesus Christ (is) the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8)." God is unchanging, yet the "grace branch of the Roman Catholic Church," and Protestantism in its various forms would have you believe that Paul changed the grace of God into "lasciviousness." (See Chart)

Note: Paul taught that keeping the Ten Commandments in the letter of the law as well as spiritually was an outward manifestation of our faith. We keep the Commandments out of love, and responsibility (Luke 17:10), not out of fear of condemnation. True Christians don't keep the Ten Commandments out of fear of condemnation, they keep them because even "when ye shall have *done all those things which are commanded you*, say, We are unprofitable servants: *we have done* that which was our *duty to do*" (Luke 17:10).

Comment: As Luke tells us, keeping the Commandments is our "DUTY." As undeserving servants, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16. Keep in mind that belief unto salvation must be according to scripture (John 7:38).

James 2:18, "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works" (Commandment keeping).

James 2:19, "Thou believeth that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." Belief in the existence of God is the kind of faith that leads to eternal death.

James 2:20, "but wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" Professions of faith devoid of works (Commandment keeping) is dead!

James 2:25, "Ye see that how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." Works (Commandment keeping) and the belief in Christ are examples of "living faith" the kind that leads to eternal life.

James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

The twelve apostles, as well as, Paul taught their followers to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3)" by Jesus the Christ, himself. Jesus made it very clear that faith is not enough when he said that we must "believe on him (how?)," as the scripture hath said (John 7:38)," and not based on any feeling of the heart, which according to scripture is "desperately wicked and deceitful above all things" (Jeremiah 17:9).

6. "He answered and said to them, 'Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me,
7. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'
8. For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the traditions of men...." (Mark 7:6-8)

The Teaching of Paul Compared to those of Traditional Christianity

Paul Taught

1. Kept the Sabbath and taught others to keep it
Acts 13:42, 44 Acts 15:20
Acts 16:13, Acts 17:2, Mark 2:27
2. Kept the Passover
Acts 12:4
3. Kept feast of Unleavened Bread
4. Kept feast of Pentecost
5. Kept feast of Trumpets

6. Kept feast of Atonement

7. Kept feast of Tabernacles

8. Kept the Last Great Day
9. Kept the Law and taught it's observance
Romans 3:20, 31
Romans 6:15
Romans 7:12, 13, 22
10. Taught the Family of God composed of the Father and son
11. Taught only God has immortality I Tim. 6:16
12. Taught we must seek immortality we do not presently have it. I Cor. 15:53 and Romans 2:7

Protestantism Teaches

1. Break the Sabbath Command
No biblical authority for the Sabbath to Sunday change.
2. Keeps pagan Easter celebration
3. Keeps Christmas
4. Keeps Halloween
5. Keeps various man-made religious non-biblical holidays
6. Teach the Ten Commandments were nailed to the cross. We do not have to keep them.
7. Rome did not nail the commandments to the cross, however, it corrupted them by re-writing them in the fourth century A.D.
8. Pagan concept of the Trinity
9. Immortality of the Soul

II Peter 3:16, tells us "...untaught (false ministers) and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures."

Untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20), as well as the rest of the Scriptures. The Apostles were given the command to carry the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15) to the "lost ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom of Israel" (Matthew 10:5-6), while Paul was given the authority to take that very same "Great Commission" to the Gentiles. **Paul did not change the gospel of Christ, as some would have you believe.** As a minister of the gospel of Christ, Paul preached the same gospel message to the house of Israel, kings, and Gentiles alike. Paul preached the importance of believing in Christ "as the scripture hath said" (John 7:38).

The true Church of God must continue to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3) by Jesus the Christ, himself. To those taking comfort in the lascivious grace (Jude 4) of "Traditional Christianity," Jesus gives them

one last warning in Revelation 18:4, "...Come out of her (Mystery Babylon, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth [Revelation 17:5]), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The Assyrian Empire conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 721 B.C., where they remained as slaves until the combined army of Medo-Persia and the Chaldeans (Babylonians) defeated the Assyrian Empire in 612 B.C. The Assyrian Empire was shattered and fled to the northern most parts of the world. As they fled, the remnant of the Northern Kingdom of Israel fled with their former masters.

Those Israelites, who were not carried away into Assyrian captivity, gathered together on the ships of Dan where the remnant of the Northern Kingdom of Israel was carried away on the wings of an eagle (Revelation 12:14) to "**the isles afar off.**"

"Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the **isles afar off**, and say, He that **scattered Israel** will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd doth his flock" (**Jeremiah 31:10**).

Other verses that deal with the Northern Kingdom's great Diaspora:

"Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the **isles of the sea**" (**Isaiah 24:15**)

"LISTEN, **O isles**, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far: the LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me:

3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, **O Israel**, in whom I will be glorified" (**Isaiah 49:1-3**).

Notice Isaiah 49:1-3. Isaiah is speaking to those who have been dispersed throughout "**the isles afar off.**" Notice Isaiah 49:3 clearly identifies those who occupy "**the isles afar off**" as "**O Israel.**"

• Notice in verse 1, Isaiah says, "Listen, **O isles**, unto me; and Harken, ye people from far."

• Notice in verse 3, Isaiah identifies those "**afar off**" (Jeremiah 31:10) as "**O Israel.**"

"Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the

people.

5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; **the isles** shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust" (**Isaiah 51:4-5**).

"Surely **the isles** shall wait for me, and the ships of Tar-shish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee" (**Isaiah 60:9**).

"And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tar-shish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the **isles afar off**, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles" (**Isaiah 66:19**).

Note: Those of the House of Israel (Northern Kingdom) that were not taken captive into Assyria, escaped "to the isles afar off" and dwelt among the Gentiles.

"I lifted up mine hand unto them also in the wilderness, that I would **SCATTER** them among the **heathen** (gentiles), and **disperse**

them through the countries" (Ezekiel 20:23).

Note: Upon further investigation, the historical context of the scattering spoken of in verse 23; is that of the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, at the hands of Assyria. Those that were not taken captive to Assyria were dispersed among the heathen nations.

"And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste" (Leviticus 26:33).

Consider the words of Christ himself:

"And other sheep (Lost Ten Tribes of Israel) I have, which are not of this fold (The House of Judah): and I lay down my life for the sheep" (John 10:16).

How do we know the sheep spoken of in John 10:16 are the "Lost Ten Tribes of Israel?" Because Jesus told us in Matthew 10:5-6, of whom he spoke of in John 10:16.

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

But go rather to the "LOST SHEEP OF THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL" (Matthew 10:5-6).

I Kings 14:15, "For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of the good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their groves (false worship), provoking the LORD to anger."

Once the historical fact is understood that the Northern Kingdom of Israel fled the region of Palestine with the conquest of Assyria all that is left to do is search for regional markers that prove the "Lost Ten Tribes" of the Northern Kingdom of Israel migrated through or settled in a particular region.

In the ancient world, it is important to keep in mind the fact that names identified tribal peoples. Find tribal names, and you will locate the so-called "lost ten" tribes of Israel.

Waymarks of Ancient Israel's Northwestern Migrations

In Hebrew berith or b'rih means "covenant."

In Hebrew ish means "man."

When you put the two Hebrew words berith or b'rih and ish together you get the English word British which means "covenant man."

Waymarks

- Mace-don-ia, Dar-dan-ells
• Dan-ube River, Dnieper, Dnister, and Don Rivers
• Scan-dan-navians

In the annals of Irish history there is a legend that speaks of a man whose description sounds very similar to the prophet

Jeremiah and his companion Baruch. What this man brought to Ireland has been used in the coronation ceremonies of everyone who has ever worn the crown of England including Queen Elizabeth.

Ancient Irish history records that early settlers of Ireland, were the "Tuatha de Danaans," which means, translated, "Tribe of Dan." In Ireland the Dons left their name at "Danslaugh," "Dansower," "Dundalke," "Dundrum," "Donegal," "Donegal City," "Dunglow," "Londonderry," "Dingle," and "Dunmore" (meaning "more Dons").

Another interesting coincidence is that Dan was a judge of Israel. "Dan shall judge his people" (Genesis 49:16). The name "Dunn" in the Irish language means the same as "Dan" in the Hebrew: "Judge!"

"Dan abode in ships." (Judges 5:17) After Assyria captured Israel, the Danites fled in their ships and sailed west through the Mediterranean, and north to Ireland. Moses prophesied of Dan: "Dan is a lion's whelp; he shall leap from Bashan" (Deut. 33:22). And David said of Dan, "He breaketh the ships of Tarshish with an East Wind." An East wind travels west. Along the Mediterranean Sea, history records "Dens," "Don," and "Din." In the Peninsula of Spain their name, "Medinasidonia" can still be found.

Geographic markers in British-Isles

- Dan-au, Dun-kirk, Dun-bar, and Dun-raven
• E-din-burgh - Scotland

Danmark or Denmark in the Hebrew means "The Mark of Dan." Danube is Latin for "The River of Dan." And the Russian word Crimea is believed to be a corruption of Cimmeria or Sameria.

Here are a couple of other examples the tribal name of Dan can be seen throughout the British Isles, E-din-burgh, Lon-don.

In the Greek language the word "Dan" is written as "Danaoi," in the Latin language the word "Dan" is written as "Danaus," in the English Language it is written "Dan," and in the Hebrew language it is written in the following manner without the use of vowels-"DN."

Note: Keep in mind the Hebrew language does not use vowels therefore any use of the placement of various vowels in Hebrew words in order to clarify their usage in English is strictly arbitrary.

Jacob's pillar-stone (Genesis 28:18) is also called the "stone of destiny. Every king in the history of Ireland, Scotland, and England has been coronated sitting over this stone-including the present king.

While the Southern Kingdom of Judah identified very strongly with the patriarch Jacob, the Northern Kingdom of Israel identified equally as strongly with the patriarch Isaac.

The following European names are

derived from the Hebrew patriarch "Isaac:" Saxon, Saxony, Saac, Saxae. The name Saxon means "Our Race."

The Northern Kingdom of Israel was also known as the "House of Omri." As the "House of Omri" migrated through the regions of the north, the various people they came into contact with called them by the following names: Khumree, Kumri, Kimry, Cumbre, Cimbri, or Camrians, all of which mean "wonderers." The "House of Omri" or "House of Israel" continued their so-journ until they reached the "isles afar."

The "Great Commission" as repeated in Matthew 28:19-20, commanded the twelve apostles to go out to the "isles afar off" and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God, the Law of God, and the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ. The Apostle Paul was far more than the apostle to the Gentiles. He was, as Acts 9:15, tells us, an apostle to the Gentiles, Kings, and the Children of Israel. Remember the admonition of Jesus Christ in John 7:38, to "believe on Me, as the scripture hath said." When we deny the truths written in scripture so that we may keep our own traditions (Mark 7:6-9), we make God a liar, that we may make ourselves just in our own eyes (Job 40:8).

THE END

("Question #58..." continued from page 20)

don't live on farms generally work some place else, thus exchanging their labor for money. Few people barter in our day.

Tithes were to be paid on a persons increase and matters little whether that increase be farm crops, farm animals or some form of money given for a persons labor. When you receive money for your labor it is an increase. Tithe means a tenth and God has always given people a free will to offer those tithes to those who were to receive them or those in need, thus making it a free will offering.

Some people have made merchandise of people (2 Peter 2:3) and many of us have seen this in actual practice, which in turn then causes many people not to give at all. The ditch of not paying tithes (free will offerings) is just as wrong as the ditch of being made into human merchandise as regards tithing which should be a free will offering.

Answer by: Laura Lee (North Dakota)

THE END

("Letters Section" continued from page 2)

will be successful 99% of the time. If we do it right, there won't be a need to take one or two others with you. You will have gained your brother the very first time you go.

Darwin & Laura write:

Arlan claims here that when we go to our brother or sister according to Matthew 18:15-17 that we need to go there acknowledging our own faults (sins) to the perpetrator. After having dealt with him in regard to a matter of sin which he was committing against us, we can tell you that he clearly holds the injured party to this **commandment of Arlan**. No where in Matthew 18:15-17 does it say that the injured party is to come to the perpetrator of the crime confessing their faults (sins) to him (the perpetrator).

Suppose that you are a victim of rape and you want to confront your rapist for your own healing process. So what do you do, go to the rapist and say I am sorry, I am at fault for being in my own bed when you broke my triple locked door and came into my bedroom in the middle of the night and held me at gun point as you raped me and this will make the perpetrator more willing to confess or acknowledge his sin? Think about it.

Arlan Weight's article:

"Take One Or Two More"...

If you're not successful when you privately go to your brother, then tell it to the minister and take him with you. Is this what Jesus says? Let's read it again.

"But if he will not hear you then take with you one or two more." What? One or two more... no mention of a minister, not even a deacon? But most often isn't this the way it happens? If at first you didn't succeed, the idea is to let the minister know and he then, if he wants to, can bring a deacon along? Isn't this the way it usually is done. Isn't this the way you remember it? Maybe you've personally experienced this scenario.

This is just another area where we fail to follow explicitly the instruction. If it doesn't say take the minister, it means just that. Sometimes the Bible speaks as eloquently in what it doesn't say, as well as what it does say. We must not read into it something that isn't there! It says "one or two more", not necessarily the minister. But why not? Why not take the minister? Why not take a deacon?

Let's ponder this question for a moment by putting ourselves in the shoes of the person who committed the 'trespass' ...the person with whom we are trying to reconcile with. How does he or she view your coming to him? Does he view it with disdain in that your coming to him is to simply point out his mistakes or shortcomings? How did you present your case to him when you went to him privately? Did you do it with 'meekness, considering your faults' also?

As was mentioned above, most often if it's done this way, your success to reconcile is most often guaranteed. But because you went to him merely to point out his faults you

were not well received. And now you're coming with someone who is viewed as having authority... the ministry. It can be intimidating.

Darwin & Laura write:

The whole intent of Matthew 18:15-17 is to go to your brother or sister and tell them their fault (sin), first privately, then with one or two witnesses and then to the church if need be. It all is being done for the intent of reconciliation and if that doesn't work, for the intent of letting others know for their own safety in dealing with the perpetrator. An unrepentant perpetrator is a threat to other people, this is why we do not hide the crime or keep it secret.

Arlan Weight's article:

Again, try to think of it in this way, by taking the other side. How would you want to be entreated? With a show of force? Or gently? By taking the ministry are we coming to him gently? Think about it... If we take the minister, deacon, or someone viewed by everyone to be an authority... are we coming with meekness? Hardly!

So this is the first thing. How are we approaching our brother, with meekness or with force? The second thing is this. What is the purpose of taking one or two others? Is it to make sure you have enough fire power? Is it an effort to make sure the one who trespassed is firmly convinced of his trespass? Let's look at the instruction again.

"Take one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established". Read it again. It's simply to witness... to record the words being said. As far as we can tell here the witnesses are not even needed to help out in the dispute. They are meant to be objective bystanders... to make sure "every word is established". Maybe some of the fault is with the one going to the brother. Maybe they can see some of the 'beam' in his own eye.

So let's say, up to this point you've done every thing explicitly the way the instruction says. You've gone to your brother privately first. As far as you know, no one even knows there's a trespass. And you considered your own faults and you really want to be on good terms again, but the person simply rejected you. So you persisted and took one or two others, maybe even friends of the person who committed the trespass, and still he or she is not hearing you. So what then?

Darwin & Laura write:

If you have no physical witness that you can take with you to fulfill step two here, then take a tape recorder and record the meeting. In most states it is perfectly legal to record a conversation which you yourself are a part of. What it is illegal to do is to take the tape after

you have recorded it and publicly play it in order to discredit or harm the character of another person in a malicious way. In other words, even though you now have a tape recording you should only keep it to prove what happened in that meeting and if needed at some point in time to show the perpetrator how he and you both acted during your Matthew 18:15-17 meeting according to step #3. Courts use such tapes as evidence in trials all the time. This is what the tape is meant for in the first place, is to be a witness. If someone wants to see your proof in regard to what happened in this meeting, it is perfectly okay to privately play the tape for someone, but you need to always keep the tape in your control and possession lest another person take it and make it for public use which it was not meant for.

Recording conversations of people you are not in a conversation with or recording conversations across state lines even if they are your own are illegal in some areas. Call your state attorney generals office before making tape recordings. They can tell you for free in most states what the law in your state says in regard to tape recordings of conversations or private meetings.

Arlan Weight's article:

Tell It To The Church"...

"And if he neglect to hear them, tell it to the church"... The word 'church' comes from the Greek word 'ekklesia' meaning 'that which is called out'.

Over the years we have all been taught that this is the time when you bring in the ministry. This is the time when you turn it over to him. But is it really? Look closely. The word 'ekklesia' is used 115 times in the New Testament. Three times it is translated 'assembly' and 112 times 'church'. It is the same word as 'church' in Acts 2:47 "The Lord added to the church"... Acts 5:11, "great fear came upon all the church"... Acts 7:38, "This was he that was in the church in the wilderness"...

In every case the word 'church', from it's context, cannot be viewed in any other way but by that of an assembly of people 'ekklesia', the called out ones. Could it be... could it really be that we have had a bit of misunderstanding here? All these years we thought, or so we've been taught that the 'church' was to be the ministry. Could it really be that we have been wrong about this? Could it really mean tell it to the congregation of believers?

Telling it to the minister alone is like seeing him as representing the church. But does he? What is the church anyway? Is it not the body of Christ, (Eph. 1:23) having many members? (1 Cor. 12:12) Again let's not try to read into it something that is not there.

So in revealing the problem to the church how should it be done? Let's try to envision it this way as to an assembled group and as an effort to reconcile, not to establish your own position. What could be the advantage of this? First of all everyone hears the same word spoken. Secondly you have now harnessed the entire assembly in this effort, other friends and acquaintances, who are as interested as you are, to see the person back in the fellowship. Everyone knows the whole story, not bits and pieces and not done behind anyone's back.

Darwin & Laura write:

There is another reason why we are to take certain matters to the church and we need to be able to discern as to when we will and will not do this. If the infraction is small, such as a dispute over grammar or something which is not considered to be a sin, you may want to stop at step #1 or step #2 of Matthew 18:15-17. If it is a sin such as lying, rape, incest, driving while drunk, murder or any number of other crimes which are clearly sin, you will want to carry it all the way through to step #3 if both parties are in the church. If the perpetrator is not a part of the body of Christ and has not committed a crime, then you may have to drop it after step #1 or step #2 as taking it to the church for them will carry no weight anyway. If the perpetrator has committed an illegal act whether in the church or not, you need to report it to the proper authorities and they will take care of pointing out the person and his crime to web sites and newspapers taking it to society rather than the church which is the same principle when it applies to warning people about a person who can harm others in some way. A word of caution is to make sure that a person is absolutely guilty of a crime before you report him or her to the authorities for any crime, as once in the system an innocent person loses just as much as a guilty person does in the way of reputation and trust of others.

Arlan Weight's article:

Take a look at Galatians 6:1-2. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ".

Yes, indeed it makes good sense to tell it to the 'ekklesia'... the called out ones. There may indeed be someone in the entire group who is more qualified to go to him or her. Someone least expected who may be more spiritual who can make all the difference, maybe a more personal friend, not to mention now you've opened it up **so everyone can pray for the reconciliation.** So now what? What if all the effort is to no

avail, the trespasser still remains cold? What then?

"Let Him Be To You As An Heathen Man And A Publican"...

The key word here is Let. Cut him some slack. Let him have his own life. Don't force him into trying to be or do something he just doesn't want to do. Let him live his life in freedom to choose. This is God's way.

So then what should be our relationship to the person? How should we relate? Should we shun or avoid him or her? Think long and hard about this issue. What kind of thoughts does it engender in the other person?

Years ago I can remember it being said, if we avoid contact with persons disfellowshipped, it would make them feel ashamed or put them in a repentant mood and they will want to return. Think again!... Instead of pointing them in the direction of apology, it only hardened their resolve to stay away. **Shunning or avoiding people sends a clear message to them. It says "Don't come too close, you'll defile me! For I am holier than you!" (Isa. 65:5) What does God think of it? "They stifle me. Day in and day out they infuriate me."**

Darwin & Laura write:

Arlan has pretty much been shunning and avoiding us since mid-summer. When a brother does not want to reconcile with another brother or sister, this is what they do. They refuse to meet with the injured party and they avoid coming anywhere near to them if at all possible.

(to be continued in Issue #35)

("Works/Grace..." continued from Issue #33)

Works/Grace? (01-13-04)

EDITORS NOTE: In Issue #33 it was stated that "Robert Barlow" sent this letter. We were in error, and we apologize to all of our Readers and especially to Mr. Barlow. The correct name is "Ronald Barlow" and though we are unable to change what was printed in Issue #33, it has been changed in our Web Site copy to reflect the correct name. We are sorry for this error. Laura Lee

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

I appreciate your concern for my salvation which prompted your response in which you stated...

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

However, you give weight to your position, by quoting from the Book of James, Chapter 2, verses 18-24, which states a case for faith, justified (rendered or shown [Strong's #1344]) by works; a showing of our faith...

"Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works. Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well. **The devils also believe, and tremble.** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (Underline mine, boldface yours)

There are many who seek salvation through their good works who use this Scriptural admonishment as an affirmative statement from James, (the brother of Jesus, and Leader of the first century Church body in Jerusalem) as a basis for declaring salvation by works. No where in these verses does James affirm that salvation is justified by works of the law or good deeds that a man should do. James merely states here that our "Faith" is justified by the works that we do. The salvation of God has no part in the deeds of the law of Moses.

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

And I'm really sorry to disappoint you, but Moses did not invent or make any law. The law which many refer to as being Moses law is actually God's Law.

12. Moreover thou leddest them in the day by a cloudy pillar; and in the night by a pillar of fire, to give them light in the way wherein they should go.
13. Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:
14. And madest known unto them thy holy Sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, **by the hand of Moses thy servant:** (Nehemiah 9:12-14)

Faith, grace and works all go together in order for us to receive eternal salvation. You seem to be saying that you are saved by grace through faith, but do not have to keep the law of God. What the Bible says is that we are saved by grace through faith, but we must also keep the law of God in order to receive eternal salvation.

The law of God is based on two commandments of God, love for God and love for neighbor. This expands to the 10 commandments, of which the first 4 show love for God and the last 6 show love for neighbor. These 10 commandments then expand into more details as precepts, statutes, judgments and laws. There is no law of Moses, only the law of God which God gave to Moses to teach to God's people. Unfortunately the Israelites were unable to keep God's law of themselves because they did not have God's Holy Spirit at that time to help them. The only difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant was that God sent his Holy Spirit to His people to enable them to keep His law. Again, as I said, anything you do, from brushing your teeth to robbing the local bank are all works. The bottom line is that you can do good works which show love to God and humanity or you can do bad works which hurt God and humanity. If you have faith and believe in God and yet you murder people or steal from people, you will not receive eternal salvation. If you have faith and believe in God and keep the whole law of God you will be granted eternal salvation by Grace.

Ronald Barlow (Texas) writes:

To get a clear understanding of what James is saying in these verses (James 2), we need only to look to the other letter James wrote to the gentile churches in Asia on behalf of the Jerusalem Counsel for Paul and Barnabas. The question of salvation by works or grace was resolved by the first century church counsel and recorded in Acts 15. The occasion was prompted when some Jews came from Judea and taught the brethren that they must follow Moses to be saved. (see Acts 15: 1, 5) However, speaking for the Counsel of Apostles and elders, James clearly denies this teaching...

"Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law", to whom we gave no such commandments."

Laura Lee (North Dakota) writes:

In the Old Testament physical circumcision was used as a forerunner to circumcision of the heart. It was an analogy (which was carried out physically under the

Old Covenant). Under the New Covenant, the hearts of God's people are circumcised by the Holy Spirit which then allows God's people to keep His law. There was no command to be physically circumcised in order to keep God's law under the New Covenant. The argument in your above stated scriptures was whether people had to be physically circumcised or not. The argument in the above scriptures was not salvation by works or grace.

(to be continued in Issue #35)

Noah's Ark (12-23-05)

by Clifford Catton (Kingston, New York)

Clifford writes:

YOU are NOT priests, prophets nor elders. YOU don't know what you are publishing.

Laura writes:

We do know what we are publishing, that being various articles and items written or sent by people from all over the world who are a part of or somehow connected to the Church of God.

Clifford writes:

I think while you were under Armstrong & UCG, you observed EIGHT high Sabbaths. So, now you are keeping only seven??! Why did it take you so long??!!

Laura writes:

WCG and UCG only kept 7 high Sabbaths. Passover was not and still is not considered to be a high Sabbath by either group. We have kept Passover/1st Day of Unleavened Bread as a high day for several years now and still only keep 7 high Sabbaths in one year.

Clifford writes:

Now you want to teach about Noah's Ark?

Laura writes:

We are showing a video by Wyatt Archaeology about Noah's Ark on December 31, 2005 as part of a building bridges Sabbath.

Clifford writes:

It did NOT land on Mt. Ararat! It probably landed on Mt. Judi further south from where Wyatt sees his bow shaped ark.

Laura writes:

Gen. 8:4 And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. Scripture clearly says that the ark landed in the mountains of Ararat and not on a mountain named Ararat. Mt. Judi is part of the mountains of Ararat and is also the site of

the ark remains which are promoted by Wyatt archaeology.

Clifford writes:

Wyatt is DEAD & so is his conceptions. (I do admit he did a wonderful job of creating his model ark, but it is WRONG!) The Ark was the shape of a necklace box, without the curves.

Laura writes:

The following web site clearly explains that the site of the ark remains promoted by Wyatt Archaeology are not only found on Mt. Judi, but it also explains how a ship is measured, which explains your theory of a box ship versus what was actually discovered on Mt. Judi. Go to: <http://www.noahsark-naxuan.com/PR20000611.htm>

Clifford writes:

I command you to STOP printing your errors on your net pages.

Laura writes:

It seems according to this short note from you that you appear to be in error so please tell me who you are that you should command me to stop printing. If you find errors in what we print you have a responsibility to tell us and provide proof that there is error. So far I have found you to be in error from what you have sent to me here.

Clifford writes:

Perhaps you should try printing stories about people whom are seeking GOD obtaining their ideas of His truths & what their religions taught them.

Laura writes:

The majority of what we print is from those who are seeking God. Many people all around the world contribute articles and items for us to print.

Clifford writes:

Repentance is the ONLY way to life. There is NO second chance in the resurrection!!

Laura writes:

We have never promoted the idea of a 2nd chance during the resurrection. All people only get one chance to go God's way, it is a matter of at what time they will get that chance. It may be now or it may be during the resurrection or any time in between. See: <http://darwinlauralee.com/q2004-021-02.htm>

THE END**

Web Site (3-25-06)

by Martha Escalante (Chicago, Illinois)

Martha writes:

I love your website. It's great!

THE END**

Needs (11-20-05)

by Robert Goldman (Ione, California)

Robert writes:

Hello!

My name is Robert Joseph Goldman, and I am writing to reach out to the Body of Our MESSIAH for Help, not out of greed, but out of need. In the process, opening a Big Door of Opportunity for those in the Body to be blessed with a Harvest from their seed of Generosity in giving according to the Word of God.

Also to draw back the attention of those who serve our Farther in Heaven as believers to those Brothers and Sisters, like myself, that have been forgotten. Those that work hard everyday learning, living, bringing the Truth of the Word of Our Savior into places where many can't come or won't come. Yes, a lot of believer's behind these walls, bars, and steel-gates that have been left out in this area of God's word in giving. The oxes are being muzzled!

See the other day I wanted to give to a sister and a Prayer Ministry, but I couldn't because I had not! I noticed in the word in 2 Corin. 8:14 that there is to be a balance, because your surplus at this time may fill their deficit, and another time their surplus may fill your deficit.

So with all this said, I would encourage you and others in the Church to ask around, those who would like to give and be Blessed in remembering those Brothers and Sisters in prison as though you were here and put that faith you have into action in this area. An watch for a Harvest to follow so you can continue giving generously as your Father has done unto you.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. If you would like to correspond or send money (Money Orders) or just write to see what is needed at this time:

Write to:

Robert Goldman K64289
PO Box 409020, A1-236
Ione, CA 95640-9020

May Yahweh Overwhelm you with His protection, Love, and Blessings! Shalom

In Yahshua's Name

"The Word of Yahweh",

Robert Joseph Goldman

THE END**

Web Site (2-26-06)

by Larry Graff (House Springs, Missouri)

Larry writes:

Dear Laura and Darwin,

I got your new internet. This is Larry Graff. I am at my sister Sharon's house. Your internet is full of beauty. I like the music. It is like your site and music is full of the Holy Spirit. Like, "Our God is an Awesome God". Your net was so beautiful. It made me feel so close to God. I'll go to your other e-mail, but you can respond to this one too. I felt so good listening to it and seeing all the beautiful colors and the jewelry on the internet. I may not be able to respond to all your e-mails on this site. Or can I? This is beautiful. God believes in beauty and quality. But some do not believe in that because they must of been listening to Satan. Satan is the author of ugliness, darkness and competition.

Love,

Larry

THE END**

Early Sabbath Keepers (8-1-05)

by Richard Heath (Vero Beach, Florida)

Richard writes:

Dear Darwin & Laura Lee,

I am writing per your suggestion to share persecution articles with your readership. I hope that you find this noteworthy:

I met a lady in the old Worldwide CoG over 25 years ago. Her name is Carolyn. One day I showed her an article that I'd been reading about early Sabbatharians in America, and she was flabbergasted to hear some of the names and other details. My friend went to her room, and returned with a little book. It turned out that a relative of her's had compiled a 'Family Tree', and had sent Carolyn a copy years before. She told me that she was certain that some of those names sounded familiar.

Upon looking into the 'Family Tree,' we confirmed that no less than THREE of the original Sabbath-keepers in the first Sabbatarian assembly were direct ancestors of her's...including the first convert to Sabbatarianism in America! I'll tell a bit of this story, as related in some material from old literature of Worldwide, and Giving & Sharing... noting Carolyn's relatives along the way.

In 1664, Stephen Mumford migrated to America from England, With his wife. It appears that they were already 7th Day Sabbathkeepers; coming from the Bell Lane (London) congregation. They settled in or around Newport, Rhode Island, and began

attending the Baptist Church in town. Mumford apparently voiced his belief in the 7th Day Sabbath, and was joined in 1665 by first Tacy Hubbard, and shortly afterward by her husband, Samuel ...BOTH being cited as relatives of my friend, Carolyn!

Not too long after this, others began fellowshiping with this new religious group; including the married daughter of the Hubbards: Rachel Langworthy (another ancestor of Carolyn's). It would appear that the group still met with the Baptist congregation on Sundays, but kept Sabbath by themselves as well, for (in 1667) they petitioned the Baptist Church to change market day from Saturday to Thursday. A compromise was arrived at by allowing BOTH days.

Towards the end of the 1660's, several of the 'converts' either changed their minds, or were induced to eschew the Sabbath Day. The small group of believers appealed for advise to Stephen Mumford's English assembly. Dr. Edward Stennett wrote back that a separation needed to be made... primarily because of the backsliders. Accordingly; a new assembly was formed in December of 1671. Of the original seven members listed on their rolls, three happen to be direct relatives of my friend. They are: Samuel & Tacy Hubbard, and their daughter, Rachel Langworthy! Stephen Mumford and his wife were also among this first Sabbath congregation.

I always enjoy telling this story. I hope that you and your readers enjoy it also. More in-depth information can be obtained from "[Six Papers On The History Of The CoG](#)", from Giving & Sharing. YHWH bless you all.

In Yahoshua's Service,
Richard Heath

THE END**

Visit Our Web Site at:

<http://darwinlauralee.com>

2 New Sections for Your Bible Study

God's Holy Days

and

Study Your Bible (Interactive)

QUESTIONS SECTION

newsletter-only-darwin-laura@earthlink.net

QUESTION #58

After reading through the Bible about money and it's role, I'm beginning to ask who created money and where was money created in heaven or in the world and for what purpose?----These are some of the questions about money in the Bible.----(1) This is the first money transaction I saw in the Bible, (Gen. 23 v 7-20 it is all about burial ground). (2) The second transaction is all about hatred (Gen. 37 v 26-28), this is where the power of money came into play (Gen. 42 v 25-38). No wonder Ecc. 7 v 12 calls it defense, but wisdom is better so where does it (money) come from?

Where does money come from? Money is currency. Some of the oldest currency was gold storage receipts. These were created by the owners of the storage places. These receipts were looked upon as having the same value as the gold. And as long as the "banker" was honest that was the case because there was a true balance between the amount of gold stored and the value indicated on the receipt. However, a false balance is not good (Proverbs 20:23). And extreme false balances occur when a central bank takes over the currency of a country and issues it's money as a fiat currency. Fiat currencies are those currencies (monies) that are not backed up by gold or silver. United States money is one such currency. For this reason the next great depression will be very devastating to everyone, but especially to the poor person. In the depression of the 1930's United States money was at least backed up by gold. However, that is no longer the case. The next depression will be a double punch causing low incomes or no incomes to huge populations (remember the US economy is linked to every economy on the face of the earth) and a currency collapse would add to the misery by removing the systematic exchange that would have otherwise been in existence. This is the natural consequence of a society that squeezes its consumers into a Christmas and credit cycle of spending.

On the subject of money there is often a propensity to slide into one of two extremes. On the one hand there are people who take vows of poverty and believe there is something "holy" about being poor. The other extreme is evangelists who preach a gospel of prosperity, teaching that their earthly riches are proof that they are doing the work of God. Many television evangelists take this approach even when they are, in essence, devouring widows' houses.

There is no money in heaven because there are no physical needs to be taken care of. Money came into existence on earth when

humans first learned that there could be a symbolic substitution for something of value (stones in a river bed, salt, precious stones, gold receipts, etc.). Money is a convenient accounting system to replace (or co-exist with) the barter system (trading items of similar values).

The example of money you mentioned in chapter 23 of Genesis was the Hebrew "keceph", meaning silver, money, shekels or talents. Even that early in history there was a type of currency. You mentioned chapter 37 of Genesis. This is the event in which Joseph's brothers sell Joseph into slavery, the profit motive being suggested by Judah (verse 26).

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you" (James 5:1).

Many point to the above scripture to indicate that being rich is unacceptable. But James is addressing people who are both rich and corrupt. It is addressed to rich people who: defraud their employees (verse 4), live selfishly (verse 5), and condemn the just (verse 6).

Jacob was rich. Joseph became a major ruler of Egypt. Job was rich, then poor, then rich again as a reward from God. Abraham was rich. Many men of God were rich.

What about the fact that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God? (Matthew 19:24). There are scholars who believe "eye of the needle" to be a Greek construct (similar to an idiom) that refers to a passenger gate that is oval shaped (like the eye of a needle). I agree with this rendering because: 1. A camel cannot go through the eye of a literal needle (this would mean no rich men who ever lived would be in the kingdom -- this would be absurd). 2. The symbolism fits perfectly. When the main gate to a walled city was locked at night, there was often the passenger gate (the eye of the needle) still open. It was big enough for a man to easily walk through. But a camel would only go through with great difficulty. All the baggage would have to be removed. Then the camel would have to get on its knees and inch its way through the small gate. By the same token a rich man who is accustomed to privilege must get rid of his baggage (those problems that prevent him from going forward spiritually) and he has to humble himself before God. This is a difficult task for most rich men but not impossible.

On the one hand Christ shows we must count the cost (Luke 14:28). On the other hand Christ sent his primary disciples out without wealth to preach, and heal, and cast out demons and raise the dead (Matthew 10:1-10). This is in contrast to organizations

whose primary job is fund-raising and building religious empires complete with chain-of-command imperatives.

"For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom gives life to them that have it" (Ecclesiastes 7:11). Wisdom and money are a defense. The King James defense is the Hebrew "tsel", meaning shadow or shade (symbolic of the transitoriness of life). Both wisdom and money (as something of value) are left behind when we die. The knowledge (Hebrew "daath", perception, discernment, understanding) will also be left behind when we die but ultimately may insure our new life. Finally Solomon tells the reader to fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Ironically Solomon (richest man on earth) appears not to have taken his own advice.

Answer by: Wily Elder (Florida)

True money or some form of currency has been around since the beginning when according to some histories, the ancient tribesmen used stone pebbles or specially hewn stones for the purpose of money or commercial exchange. But interestingly it was never commanded as a tithe. The only titheable items are listed in Deut. 12:17, and none are money.

Christ refers to money in Luke 16:11 as "unrighteous mammon," and so I would think that faith in God to provide for the needs of His church through free will offerings is more Scriptural under the New Covenant. Why would God want us to use something that He refers to as "unrighteous" to do a work for Him?

Paul indicates that the lust for money leads us back into sin (I Tim. 6:10). And Peter calls money "filthy lucre" in I Pet. 5:2, and pronounces a curse on Simon Magus for offering to pay for "the gift of God" in Acts 8:20.

Isn't that what the ministry claims to be "giving"? (Matt. 10:8-Christ tells His ministry, ".....freely you have received, freely give")

Answer by: Myra McQueen (Texas)

There is a wrong use of money and a right use of money, just like there is a right use of a telephone and a wrong use of a telephone or anything else for that matter. In the past most people lived on farms and grew their own food so many times farm animals and crops were used for money or trade (barter). In our day, few people live on farms and bills require money to be paid so those who live on farms exchange farm animals and crops for money and those who

Continued on page 15

The Church of God Messenger

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

July/August 2006---Issue No. 34

THE MESSAGE BOARD (ADS & INFO) --

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SABBATH SCHEDULE--BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

June 17, 2006----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
June 24, 2006----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #128 & Lesson #129
June 30, 2006----Bible Study--Video "A Woman Rides the Beast"
July 1, 2006----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
July 8, 2006----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #130 & Lesson #131
July 15, 2006----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
July 22, 2006----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #132 & Lesson #133
July 29, 2006----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
August 5, 2006----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #134 & Lesson #135
August 11, 2006----Bible Study
August 12, 2006----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
August 19, 2006----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #136 & Lesson #137
August 26, 2006----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up
September 2, 2006----Teaching the Law-- Lesson #138 & Lesson #139
September 9, 2006----Open for Hosting--Please Sign Up

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, 2006. 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.

SABBATH SERVICES

Every Saturday at 2:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Gate Open at 1:00 PM for Fellowship

BIBLE STUDY

Every 6 weeks on Friday at 8:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota (701) 258-7172
Gate Open at 6:30 PM Fellowship and Pot Luck Meal (Bring Food)

Richard Nickels, Founder of Giving & Sharing, Dies

www.thejournal.org/issues/issue108/rnickels-death.html

GILLETTE, Wyoming -- Richard Nickels, 58, founder of the popular **Giving & Sharing** non-profit bookstore, died peacefully on June 4, 2006 with his wife Shirley by his side. Richard was diagnosed with adrenal cancer in March of this year.

Richard was born on June 10, 1947 in Portland, Oregon and was a graduate of Linfield College (B.A., 1969, Summa Cum Laude). He became a *World Tomorrow* broadcast listener in 1961, was baptized in 1969, and was employed by the Worldwide Church of God from 1971-1973 in festival site construction and Church Administration. At the time of his passing, Richard worked for a major coal mining company as an accountant and computer consultant.

Richard wrote numerous articles and books after starting Giving & Sharing in 1978. These included *History of the Seventh Day Church of God*, *Six Papers on the History of the Church of God*, *Biblical Holy Days*, *Biblical Law*, *Biblical Health and Healing*, *Biblical Marriage and Family* and many more. He served as President of the **Bible Sabbath Association** from 1996-1999 and 2004-2006.

Funeral and Condolences

A memorial service for Richard will be held on Wednesday, June 7 at 11:30 AM in Gillette. Rich's funeral service will be held at 12:30 PM local time on Sunday, June 11th at:

Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Funeral Chapel
1101 Northeast 112th Avenue
Vancouver, Washington 98684
Phone: 360-892-6060

Condolences can be sent to: **Shirley Nickels, 3316 Alberta Drive, Gillette, WY 82718, USA**

Richard is survived by his wife Shirley of Gillette, Wyoming, and daughters Barbara Parada of Houston, Texas, Rachel Nickels of Everett, Washington, and Amanda Byrd of Eugene, Oregon.

Your prayers for the family would be most appreciated.

Compiled from various sources by Journal Webmaster Alan Ruth.

**PRAYER
REQUESTS &
UPDATES ---**

**PrayerRequestsAndUpdates
@darwinlauralee.com**

April 2006

May 2006

Delaney, Phillip--Cracked Spine
Kloss, Gerald--Mother Died
Laureta, Herbert--Livelihood & Headache
Siefert, Sharon--Not Feeling Well

June 2006

Jessica--Gall Bladder
Johnson, Anna--Meningitis
Lopez, Josue--Needs Prayer
Kloss, Gerald--Mother Died
Nickels, Richard--Died 06-04-06

Need Visitation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Darwin and Laura:

Please pray for me and share this request. I just lost my dear mother, Frances Kloss, age 84- who died on May 9, 2006. I am so devastated by this because she was my best friend in the world and I am struggling so much with this. This is the worse thing that has ever happened to me and I am feeling so bad- so bad- never felt this bad in my life. I don't know if I can make it without her. I miss her so much. Please help me.

Is there anyone who can visit and minister and pray with me? Please help me-please.

Gerald KLoss
120 East Mentor Street
Philadelphia, PA 19120

215-455-1740
215-620-8129
215-602-2037

gkloss@earthlink.net

Invitation for Sabbath Services

The group of people that bring you [Bible Research.org](http://BibleResearch.org) and Bible-Prophecy.net would like to invite you to Sabbath worship services, teaching sessions, and bible studies in Santa Clara, California.

Email 1967@bibleresearch.org or phone 925-798-1960 for information, meeting times, and location.

**Story of a Cab Ride (Author
Unknown)
Sent by Rich Daniels
(Wisconsin)**

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. When I arrived at 2:30 a.m., the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But, I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door.

This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a

cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness.

"It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated".

"Oh, you're such a good boy", she said.

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?"

"It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.

"Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice".

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

"What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture

warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse.

"Nothing," I said.

"You have to make a living," she answered.

"There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that

shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought.

For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware--beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

Some things that God won't ask in the end:

God won't ask what kind of car you drove; He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask how many people you forwarded this to, He'll ask if you took the time to pass it on.

THE END**

Stop AIDS

PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR STOP AIDS IMMEDIATELY FROM TRICHIRAPALLI, KARU AND NAMAKKAL DISTRICT IN TAMIL NADU STATE IN INDIA

1. Title of the Project: PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR STOP AIDS IMMEDIATELY FROM TRICHIRAPALLI DISTRICT, KARUR AND NAMAKKAL IN TAMIL NADU STATE IN INDIA

2. Person Responsible for the Project: Mrs. A. STELLA JAYANTHI, PRESIDENT, GRACE Foundation, 6/93, Teachers Colony, South Eachampatti, Enam Kalpalayam Post, Mannachanallur Taluk, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India 621 005.

3. Implementing Organization: Grace Foundation, 6/93, Teachers Colony, South Eachampatti, Enam Kalpalayam Post,

Mannachanallur Taluk, Tiruchirapalli, District, Tamil Nadu, India 621 005. Telephone: 0091-431-2671114, Mobile: 094431 42086 and E-mail: grace_foundation@yahoo.com

Grace Foundation was registered in 1996 as a Not for profit NGO (Non Governmental Organization) Voluntary Charitable Organization under the Societies Registration Act. The Registration Number is 54 of 1996. GRACE Foundation is also registered by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The FCRA Number is 076040258. Funds are received in the Savings Bank Account Number 10864 at the Indian Overseas Bank (with 0252 as code), Samayapuram Post, Tiruchirapalli District, State of Tamil Nadu, India 621 112 in favor of Grace Foundation. Grace Foundation has performed various services to the poor and the downtrodden in urban slums and rural areas irrespective of caste, creed, language, religion or race. The activities report enclosed as annexure will explain all about the good works carried out by Grace Foundation for the betterment of the discarded and disadvantaged people especially those discarded and displaced.

4. Need of the Project: As you are aware India stands second in the spreading of AIDS after South Africa. In India Tamil Nadu Stands First in the number of HIV/AIDS cases. In Tamil Nadu Karur District stands First, Namakal Stands second and Trichirapalli District stands third because of the Transport operators and drivers, Gem Cutting business youngsters both male and female and construction workers are more numbers in Three Districts. Our PROJECT OFFICE SITUATED in the National Highways of Trichirapalli and Chennai from Trichirapalli it is 12 KM. There are lots of high group of risk people like truck operators and Commercial sex workers and construction workers like masons, daily wages coolies to carry bricks, sand and mixtures of cement water and sand.

5. Project Description: Our Grace Foundation is planning to create awareness and promote condoms. We cannot stop from them their sexual pleasures from illegal contacts. But we can prevent spreading of HIV/AIDS through Promotion of Condoms. Condom is acting dual play one is family planning and stop spreading of HIV/AIDS. We need your financial support to create awareness about usage of condoms and

Slow Dance (Author Unknown) Sent by Dawn Lego (Illinois)

Have you ever watched kids On a merry-go-round? Or listened to the rain Slapping on the ground? Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight? Or gazed at the sun into the fading night? You better slow down. Don't dance so fast. Time is short. The music won't last.

Do you run through each day On the fly? When you ask How are you? Do you hear the reply? When the day is done! Do you lie in your bed With the next hundred chores Running through your head? You'd better slow down Don't dance so fast. Time is short. The music won't last.

Ever told your child, We'll do it tomorrow? And in your haste, Not see his sorrow? Ever lost touch, Let a good friendship die Cause you never had time To call and say, "Hi" You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast. Time is short. The music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere You miss half the fun of getting there. When you worry and hurry through your day, It is like an unopened gift.... Thrown away. Life is not a race. Do take it slower Hear the music Before the song is over.

"What Does God Want For You?"

Just wanted to mention the availability of my latest booklet: "What Does God Want For You?"

Simply send your address to 8v@8v.com and the booklet will be sent to you by overland mail.

Book of Acts CD

FARMINGTON HILLS, Michigan - An upcoming Book of Acts study CD distributed by the Assemblies of God will contain several Bible study materials taken from BibleStudy.org, reported Webmaster Alan Ruth.

The denomination's National Youth Ministries Emailed the Web site in March requesting permission to include some of its Apostle Paul-related Web pages on their CD. BibleStudy.org had just added a new section dedicated to Apostle Paul's life and ministry located at www.biblestudy.org/apostlepaul/main.html.

According to Mr. Ruth, the church wrote they were "excited about the depth of information" the site housed regarding Paul and that this information was the best they've been able to find. Referrals to visit BibleStudy.org will be included on the CDs.

The BibleStudy.org Web site attracts 2.1 million visitors a year and since its 1995 debut it has averaged a 250% yearly increase in the volume of study materials requested by the public.

distributed condoms to their door steps to the commercial sex workers, truck drivers in the hotels, motels and petrol bunks and the construction workers at their construction spot itself.

BUDGET

- 1. Peer educators 10 Nos. 2500x10x12 =Rs. 3,00,000
2. Project Coordinator Rs. 8000x1x12 =Rs. 96,000
3. Cost of Condoms =Rs. 1,50,000
4. Conveyance expenses Rs. 500x12x10 =Rs. 60,000
5. Printing of Pamphlets Rs. 5000x12 =Rs. 60,000
6. Administrative expenses Rs. 4000x12 =Rs. 48,000
7. Motor Cycle to Project Coordinator =Rs. 60,000
TOTAL =Rs. 7,74,000

Grant requested from your organization is € 14,603 Euros or \$17,590 USD.

Monitor and Evaluation: Monitoring will be done by the General secretary and other board of directors. Evaluation will be done both internally and externally by the evaluators. Reports and records will be sent to you along with the photographs with the statement of Audited reports. In every Quarter.

Thanking You
Yours sincerely,
S. N. Joseph Selvaraj,
General Secretary

THE END

Gush Katif - Like You've Never Seen it Before!

The following photos and words are shared with us from Israeli Yuval Zaliouk (who is from Haifa but also has a home near Toledo, Ohio). See for yourself how the Israelis, by the grace of God, have made the desert blossom as a rose, and how Sharon and Bush coldheartedly intend on uprooting such productive Israeli citizens and turning

their labors of love, their blood, sweat and tears over to their sworn enemies! It's an outrage that must be stopped, so help us God!

Imagine - God forbid - Bush blathering we can no longer prevent illegal aliens from taking over the Southwest, so in order to have "peace" with Mexico, we must expel the law-abiding and productive Americans living there and surrender their homes and property and businesses to Mexicans before they start terrorizing the rest of the United States to create their new homeland called Atzlan. After all, we seized those territories with superior force and must now return them to right an alleged wrong. Don't be surprised if the madness goes that far, as part of the curse we're suffering for disobedience to our Great Creator God (Deut. 28:43, Dan. 9:11).

DBA (David Ben-Ariel)

Dear friends,

The biggest outrage of all is the flippant arrogance of all those in Israel who support the eviction and deportation of 8000 fellow citizens from Gush Katif, without ever having set foot in Gush Katif to see for themselves the haven that has been created there.

Visit Our Web Site at: http://darwinlauralee.com

Sitting in Israel's center, such as Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv, or in the comfort of other countries, they have the audacity, chutzpa, nay, malice, to determine the fate of the most dedicated modern-time vanguards Israel has produced in recent times.

I had the greatest privilege of visiting Gush Katif last month. I was honored to meet the diligent, tenacious, dedicated, ingenious and courageous people who live there. Every Israeli, every Jew, and all those who seek justice, Jewish or not, must be deeply proud and grateful for what these incredible people have created.

For all of you, my readers, I posted the photos I took during my visit. You will find them in:

http://yz.smugmug.com/gallery/551885

What you will see is the wonderful hospitable family of Nissim and Nurit in Ganei Tal where I stayed. Their children Stav and Nadav. Their unbelievable greenhouses in which they produce the best tomatoes ever, which they pack and ship to markets in Europe.

Pay attention to the paradise these people created in what used to be nothing but Saharan sand dunes. You will see the prosperous communities, the lawns, flowers and the trees miraculously grown by these industrious people.

You will also see the Memorial Day ceremony and exhibition in memory of those family members who were murdered by terrorist villains. Pay attention to the concrete blocks erected to protect the people from Arab snipers.

There are 5 folders with total of 68 photos to flip through.

I hope my photos will add a dimension to your considerations. The eviction of these excellent people must be opposed with all legitimate means. Their fate is our fate and their fall is a victory for terror. If you love Israel, if you believe in Zionism, raise your voice. Help stop the injustice...

THE END