

# THE NEW CREATION

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*“Prove ALL things and hold fast to what is good.” – 1 Thess. 5:21.*

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## Born Again

All over the Earth, people are celebrating a New Year. We are told it is a rebirth, a time to look at your life and make resolutions. At this time of the year, we often hear the phrase 'born again'.



The phrase 'born again' occurs in the King James and New International versions of the Bible three times (John 3:3,7; 1 Peter 1:23). This expression occurs five times in the New Living translation (John 3:3,4,7; 1 Peter 1:3,23) It does not occur in the Revised Standard version. The terminology used in this translation is born anew (John 3:3,7; 1 Peter 1:3,23).

The five verses in the NLT are

John 3:3 - Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are *born again*, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

John 3:4 - "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be *born again*?"

John 3:7 - So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be *born again*.'

1 Peter 1:3 - All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been *born again*, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation.

1 Peter 1:23 - For you have been *born again*, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.

It is clear this phrase is important since Jesus emphatically states that one cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless he is 'born again'. Peter says it is by God's mercy that humans are 'born again' and that the life after being 'born again' lasts forever because of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God who is the eternal, living word of God.

What does it mean to be 'born again' or 'born anew'? In Proverbs 10:19, 12:28, 13:14, and 19:16 we have verses that can be paraphrased as those who pursue righteousness will live and those who pursue evil will die. We know that the Messiah always pursued righteousness so He could certainly have gone on living, but He gave up His life as a ransom sacrifice for **ALL** because He loves all God's children. To be 'born again' or to be 'born anew' means that one has chosen to pursue righteousness. Since the Messiah is the only example for us of this, being 'born again' means we have decided to give up the fleshly life to pursue the spiritual life of righteousness.

Ezekiel witnesses to us the 'new life' in 18:23-28 and again in 33:6-11:

"Do you think that I like to see wicked people die?" says the Sovereign Lord. "Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live. However, if righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things and act like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? No, of course not! All their righteous acts will be forgotten, and they will die for their sins. Yet you say, 'The Lord isn't doing what's right!' Listen to me, O people of Israel. Am I the one not doing what's right, or is it you? When righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds. *If wicked people turn from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives. They will live because they thought it over and decided to turn from their sins.*"

Proverbs 14:2 - Those who follow the right path fear the Lord; those who take the wrong path despise him.

Jonah was sent to the people of Nineveh because of their wickedness. He was to tell them to turn to God. The people of Nineveh were examples of the words recorded above by Ezekiel. The people of Nineveh decided to live by His commandments. They were 'born anew'.

Job had a blessed life because of his righteous deeds. His life then became filled with tribulation. He humbled himself and

focused on God's righteousness. During his tribulations, Job said, 'The righteous keep moving forward and those with clean hands become stronger and stronger.' (Job 17:9)

After Jesus departed Earth to be with His Father, some of the apostles and disciples, including Peter and Paul wrote about being 'born again' or starting a new life - a Spirit filled life. As you read the following verses and comments, think of what you need to do to be 'born again' so that you can live.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 7:10 - For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

Galatians 6:8 - Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

We see that God's Son died for all so that all can be 'born again' into a life of living in harmony with all of God's children.

Ephesians 2:14 – 18 - For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from Him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

We must let our 'old self' die so that our 'new self' can live. This is a common theme throughout the letters in the New Testament.

Philippians 3:10 – I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Colossians 3:3-5 - For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

James 1:15 – 18 - These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us His true word. And we, out of all creation, became His prized possession.

1 Thessalonians 5: 9 – 11 - For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

2 Timothy 2:11 - 13 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him. If we endure, we will also reign with Him. If we disown Him, He will also disown us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.

Romans 5:3 – 5 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

Romans 5:11 - So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Romans 6:4 - For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:11 – So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 7:4 – 6 – So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the One who was raised from the dead. *As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God.* When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

Romans 8:6 - 14 - So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its

dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

If you give your life to God through His Son then you are freed from the condemnation of sin. You are now ready to live a new life in Christ Jesus that is pleasing to your Heavenly Father and GOD's Holy Spirit will be given to you to direct you and to strengthen you.

Romans 8:34 – Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Romans 11:22 – Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in His kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.

Now here are instructions for the 'born again' life – the New Creature. If you are a New Creature then those around you will notice. Use words only when you must.

Romans 12:1 - 2 – And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:8 - 13 - If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and **keep on praying**. When God's people are in



need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Romans 12:18 - Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Romans 12:21 - Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Romans 14:8 - 9 - If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

The Messiah is doing much on your behalf if you have decided to be 'born again'.

Hebrews 9:15 - That is why He is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

If your 'old self dies', then after you die, your good deeds will give you an everlasting life.

Revelation 14:13 - And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this down: Blessed are those who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they are blessed indeed, for they will rest from their hard work; for their good deeds follow them!"

Paul points out that what GOD wants is a New Creation that is an example of His Son. Colossians 3:12 describes this as: Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. We read in Galatians 6:13 - It doesn't matter whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been transformed into a **new creation**.

J. Sochacki

## What Kind of Memories Will You Leave?

A New Year seems a good time to resolve to create special memories that we will be able to leave behind us to bless others. If the past year has found us less than faithful in this regard, let us leave it with the Lord and press on as we lay hold of the God-given opportunities that lie before us. What kind of influence will we leave when our time on earth has ended? What will be our legacy? Will the memories our family and friends have of us encourage them to godly living and to press on in faithfulness?

This New Year, or even this new day, we may have the opportunity to right a wrong that we have committed. We surely have an opportunity to do something good for someone to cheer them on. We are urged in Galatians 6:10, *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”* Yes, today could be the day that we exercise some of the beautiful traits that the Apostle Paul lists in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 on Love in action. What a wonderful legacy we could leave in the memory of others, if when they read these words, they think of us?

*“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.”*

**Love** is patient. **Love** is kind. **Love** does not envy.  
**Love** does not boast. **Love** is not proud. **Love** is not rude.  
**Love** is not self-seeking. **Love** is not easily angered.  
**Love** keeps no record of wrongs.  
**Love** does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.  
**Love** always protects. **Love** always trusts. **Love** always hopes.  
**Love** always perseveres. **Love** never fails.

May 2019 be a year to resolve to express God’s **love** in such a way as to leave only precious memories behind us so that others will be encouraged to greater faithfulness.

E. Weeks

## The Cross Is Not a Religion

*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me (Matthew 16:24 NKJV).*

Writing this article to share it with all of you is a source of great joy, but also of great responsibility. Meditating on the words of the Lord Jesus Christ is extremely important.

We must recognize that there is no teaching of the Master that should leave us indifferent, but rather (it will) provoke us, because it moves our heart, shatters our fears and strengthens our spirit of service. We must be realistic: the Christian life is gall and honey together: gall, because we relate to a world blinded by the enemy of Christ, and who is hostile to every discourse on faith. But it is also honey because the Lord God provides us with circumstances to announce the value of Christ's sacrifice for everyone, as a demonstration of the perfect love of God.

Do we want to be spectators or disciples? The disciple is one who learns from Christ at the School of the Gospel, which is the life of faith, the life of the Church, the life of obedience. God wants obedience, not sacrifice, yet more people prefer sacrifice. They live the Christian message as a pretext for an "escape from the world", understood as a renunciation of our responsibility for consistent and concrete witness. This choice would only mortifies the discipleship.

Obedience is better because it helps us live in an effective and visible way our relationship with God in Christ. The people next to us will see that we are really the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Taking the Cross means much more than assimilating a religious symbol. It means recognizing that we must live as workers or disciples of Christ, renouncing every earthly privilege to foster the values of the Kingdom of Heaven. Yes, we should show that we already have Heaven within us, for we profess new values of eternal weight.

Jesus speaks of the Cross to the disciples. So the Cross - unlike religion - is not for everyone. Everyone can be religious (in their own way) but few can be disciples (as Christ teaches).

The Cross does not serve to make us better than others; it is the consequence because we are part of the Body of Christ, called not to serve, but to serve.

If you love Christ, you will take the Cross, (Matthew 16:25). You will not take it to make yourself noticed by Him. Jesus says to follow Him, therefore, true discipleship is not to contemplate the Cross, but to take it upon itself to follow the Master. The Cross brings us to action. We remember the sacrifice of Christ for all of humanity. Our cross reminds us how appropriate it is to prepare ourselves for service to the glory of Christ. Christ and the Cross are inseparable.

If a person exalts the Cross but does not practice the message of Jesus, what is extraordinary? It is typical of religion to exalt personal suffering as some "merit" before God. But Christ suffered for us leaving us an example (1 Peter 1:21), not an excuse to exalt us.

A Christian is a person who lives the Gospel all the time (Luke 9:32) that is, he wants to always take the Cross. The cost of discipleship is welcomed sweetly knowing that in Christ we can do everything, and without Him nothing: The Cross we take reminds us that we are always indebted to God for Christ, but not in the flesh (Romans 8:12) because religion is flesh. Whoever considers himself a creditor of God, will never be poor in spirit and will never be able to benefit from Christ in his life (Matthew 5:3; Philippians 4:3).

Humility shows that for us the Cross is not a religion. The Cross is a way of life that is derived from a relationship with Christ due to the revelation of God. If we live revelation, we will have a relationship. And if there is a relationship, our Christian journey will be effective.

M. Soranno

### **True Religion**

James 1:27

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

## Sharing

The story is told of a man who, as he began his noonday meal one day, was approached by a poorly dressed man who said to him, "*Will you share your lunch with me? I'm very hungry.*" The man looked up at him and felt great compassion for this poor man and said, "*Here, take my lunch. I can find something in the cafeteria.*"

It was a noble and generous gesture for the man to give away his lunch. We are sure that he was very blessed for his kindness. This reminds us of the story in John 6:1-15, when Jesus and His disciples were followed by a great multitude of people. Many were sick with various diseases and hoped for a miraculous healing, having heard of Jesus' fame that had spread all around the country of Galilee.

After preaching to them, Jesus turned to Philip and asked him where they could buy some bread to feed the people, since they had brought none with them. Andrew was puzzled with this question but answered that there was a boy with five loaves and two small fishes.

Because this young boy was willing to share his small meal with Jesus, it resulted in a great miracle as Jesus multiplied these five loaves and two fish so that 5,000 men, plus a great number of women and children, could all eat and be filled and still have twelve baskets of food left over!

What lesson can we learn from this miracle? How much of our busy time do we give to the Lord in Bible study, meditation, prayer, worship, witnessing to the Lord's goodness and the Gospel, being good stewards of all the Lord has put in our possession, and being obedient to opportunities the Lord opens up to us? How willing are we to share our blessings with others?

Sometimes we are too concerned with our own needs and are reluctant to share with others the things with which the Lord has blessed us. *We hold our blessings in clenched fists.* This is truly a grave mistake. Freely we have received, and freely we should desire to give and share with others. The Lord has promised to provide for our every need, so if we truly believe Him, our concern should not be for ourselves but for the needs of others.

There have been times that the Lord has asked us *to give away our lunch*. Giving away our *figurative* lunch can cover a wide scope of sharing. It can include our time, our money, our labor, and our talents. It will surprise you what the Lord can do if He controls a generous and caring heart. He can multiply your *small lunch* to that which *will yield a rich banquet of blessings to others*. Think of it!

This has been my own experience and indeed that of this Christian fellowship. Many born, with practically nothing, but with a lot of faith and love, have been blessed of the Lord, and have touched thousands of people in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, South America, and India with the wonderful knowledge of God's Plan of the Ages. Its message has reached people who had never heard of Jesus and the salvation that comes from belief in Him as the only Savior from the penalty of sin and death. He laid down His life as a ransom for all to be testified in due time (1 Timothy 2:5, 6)). The wonderful message of Jesus' soon return to establish His kingdom on earth and fulfill all the grand promises for blessing all the families of the earth (Genesis 22:15-18) is being shared worldwide.

We ask -- Would you be surprised, if you felt the Lord tap you on the shoulder today and ask you if you would be willing to "share your lunch" with someone who needs it more than you do? Would your answer be that you couldn't because you only have enough for yourself? Or would you respond as did the boy on the hillside, and willingly hand it all over? If you are one of those who would hold back, you would be robbing yourself of a great blessing that could possibly lead to a hardness of heart, affecting your spiritual growth.

Let us remember, we have nothing we can call our own. This is a truth that some Christians do not seem to fully grasp. Everything we have is only that which we have received from the Lord. 1 Cor. 4:7 asks these questions, "*For who makes you to differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*"

We came into this world with nothing and we will take nothing with us when we die (1 Timothy 6:7). Therefore, should we not be asking ourselves, "*Am I prepared to give away what my Master has given so freely to me to use in His service?*" When the opportunity presents itself for us to share, will we recognize this as an overruling of the Lord, who in this way is asking us to *share our lunch* with others less fortunate? Our meager five loaves and two fish may

meet just the particular need others have. We all have received much at the Hand of our generous Lord. Let us be very sure that we do not receive the grace of God in vain (2 Corinthians 6:1).

Boccaccio

### **Sharing Is Commanded**

Isaiah 58: 6 – 12

No, this is the kind of fasting I want:  
Free those who are wrongly imprisoned;  
    lighten the burden of those who work for you.  
Let the oppressed go free,  
    and remove the chains that bind people.  
Share your food with the hungry,  
    and give shelter to the homeless.  
Give clothes to those who need them,  
    and do not hide from relatives who need your help.  
Then your salvation will come like the dawn,  
    and your wounds will quickly heal.  
Your righteousness will lead you forward,  
    and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind.  
Then when you call, the LORD will answer.  
    ‘Yes, I am here,’ he will quickly reply.  
Remove the heavy yoke of oppression.  
    Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors!  
Feed the hungry,  
    and help those in trouble.  
Then your light will shine out from the darkness,  
    and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.  
The LORD will guide you continually,  
    giving you water when you are dry  
    and restoring your strength.  
You will be like a well-watered garden,  
    like an ever-flowing spring.  
Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.  
    Then you will be known as a builder of walls  
    and a restorer of homes.

## **Remember. . .Remember. . .Remember. . .**

Dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, I will always remind you about these things—even though you already know them and are standing firm in the truth you have been taught. It is only right that I should keep on reminding you as long as I live. For our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me that I must soon leave this earthly life, so I will work hard to make sure you always remember these things after I am gone. (2 Peter 1:12-15)

*Modern science* tells us that if we want to remember a piece of information, repeat it three times. Apparently, the Apostle Peter already knew this at the time he penned a final letter to his fellow saints, for he uses this method in the scripture quoted above. Truly, as Solomon said, “There is no new thing under the sun.”

Time was short. What message would the LORD give us through Peter? So much was about to occur. What would best comfort his brethren in the days ahead? How could he best prepare them spiritually, to carry on and to be faithful to the end? We find the answers in verses 2 Peter 1:2-11:

Vs. 2. Favor with and peace from God and Jesus come from the knowledge of them. Not simply the knowledge that they exist and bits and pieces of historical trivia, but knowing them in a most spiritually intimate relational sense as we would know our closest family members or best friends, but on a much higher and deeper level. Such acquaintance deepens over the years with effort and requires time spent in personal study, meditation, worship, praise, and prayer.

Vss. 3-4. This favor and peace is given to those of like precious faith (vs.1) by the same power that provides all things necessary for the development of the new life in Christ and proper reverence. How does the LORD provide this? Once again Peter states, through an intimate knowledge of Yahweh and a relationship with Yahweh, as He fortifies those faithful ones even further with “great and precious promises” of being awarded the divine nature. But Peter adds a proviso – this occurs only if one has fled the corruption that is in the



world through lust. And therein lies another deep topic for self-examination.

Vss. 5-7. These verses provide Peter's famous stepping-stones to glory and immortality upon which pages could be written, but for now, we simply list them. Give all diligence, he says, to develop faith, virtue (fortitude), knowledge, temperance (self-control), patience (cheerful endurance), godliness (reverence), brotherly kindness and charity (agape love).

Vs. 8. The faithful will possess these "fruits," in abundance, for these lead to that intimate relationship with Christ.

Vss. 9-11. And now a warning – those that lack these things lack adequate spiritual insight into both their calling and election to the high calling in Christ Jesus; once again pointing to the stepping-stones of verses 5-7 as the way; "for if you do these things, you shall never fall and an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ shall be yours."

So, brethren, "remember, remember, remember." The essence of our precious brother Peter's words - "those who have attained like precious faith through the righteousness of God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" is to cultivate the intimacy with God and Christ Jesus via the eight stepping-stones. By so doing, one reaps a personal reward beyond human comprehension; one that is designed to be an external blessing to all those in the ages to come. Peter's closing exhortation? "Grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen"

M. Schultz

### **Jeremiah 31:33**

But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put My instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.

## Question and Answer

### What is death?

Ecclesiastes 7:4 is translated many ways. The New Living Translation gives this verse as follows:

*A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time.*

This is a paraphrase of the verse in other translations, but the meaning is still accurate. Mourning with those who have lost a loved one is what Our Heavenly Father wants us to do rather than spending our time celebrating in a fleshly fashion. Also, having a good understanding of death is a noble desire for those following in the footsteps of the Messiah.

In Genesis 2:17 are recorded the words from God to Adam: "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Apparently, Adam knew what 'die' meant. He must have felt as we do, even though he had not experienced it - that death was the opposite of life; living and dying are not in agreement. Adam certainly wanted to live.

In Exodus through Deuteronomy, the penalty for breaking the commandments of God was often death. In these cases, death was a penalty for sin. Many Jews believed in the resurrection from the dead. Therefore to them, this penalty was not eternal.

There are many verses in the Bible that talk about living. Leviticus 18:5 outlines a guarantee for one to have life.

*If you obey my decrees and my regulations, you will find life through them. I am the LORD Almighty.*

There are two thoughts in this verse – one is that you will have a full life if you obey GOD's commandments – the other is that you will continue to live if you follow all the commandments. Solomon reminds the Israelites (and all those who read his writings) that GOD says, "Obey My commands and live! Guard My instructions as you guard your own eyes." (Proverbs 7:2) You will live if you obey GOD's commands so it is important to know them and follow them.

The Messiah obeyed GOD's commands and guarded them. He could have gone on living, but He decided to lay down His life for the world of mankind. This is given to us in John 10:17-18:

“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

The Son of God is telling us that He is going to lay down His earthly life of His own free will and will be given life again as He had it before with His Heavenly Father. His earthly life (life of flesh and blood) will end and He will be given life again (a spiritual life with the Heavenly Father).

Most of the recordings of the Messiah's discussion on death are vague and/or obscure. However, if all these accounts are put together; one gains a deeper understanding of death. One account that points this out well is that involving the raising of Lazarus from death.

We read:

John 11: 11 – 15 - Then Jesus said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.” The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!” They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. So He told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him.”

In this account, Jesus equates Lazarus death with sleeping and the disciples are confused, but later after Lazarus is raised from the dead, the disciples realize that to Jesus sleep and death are similar. People wake from sleep and GOD will wake them from death.

Further, in this John 11 account, we have:

21 – 27 - Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give You whatever You ask.” Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.” “Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life.

Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."

Martha points out that Jesus could have called on His Father to keep Lazarus from dying. She also points out a fundamental truth – We will all be resurrected on the last day. Jesus then points out that there is a life after death on this earth and this next life is because of Jesus. Since Lazarus has died and he believed in Jesus, the 'never ever die' must refer to the next life after the last (resurrection) day. In this conversation, Jesus and Martha point out GOD's plan – we will all die, but we will all be resurrected. Those who believe in Jesus will not die again. AMEN!

Jesus understood death because He was a fleshly being while on Earth. For instance, He wept over Lazarus' death. Another example are His words as recorded in Matthew 26:38 and Mark 14:34 - Then He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me." Clearly, Jesus was feeling His coming death and it bothered Him.

In the book of Psalms we read:

Psalm 49:7 - Yet they cannot redeem themselves from death by paying a ransom to God.

Psalm 89:48 - No one can live forever; all will die. No one can escape the power of the grave.

Psalm 103:4 - He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies.

In Ecclesiastes 8:8, "Solomon writes: None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death. There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle. And in the face of death, wickedness will certainly not rescue the wicked."

These verses verify that all will die, but that some will be redeemed from death.

Isaiah has many verses on the resurrection from death on this Earth and what the new life in GOD's kingdom will be like. We note:

Isaiah 25:6-9 - In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven's Armies will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat. There He will remove the cloud of gloom - **the shadow of death that hangs over the earth**. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against His land and people. The LORD has spoken! In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God! We trusted in Him, and He saved us! This is the Lord, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation He brings!"

What a beautiful promise and hope. It should inspire us to obey the commands of GOD and walk in the footsteps of the Messiah. GOD will save people from their sins and offer them eternal life through the acceptance of His Son as the Lord of their lives.

Isaiah 26:19 - But those who die in the Lord will live; their bodies will rise again. Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy! For your life-giving light will fall like dew on your people in the place of the dead!

Isaiah 51:14 - Soon all you captives will be released! Imprisonment, starvation, and death will not be your fate!

Isaiah notes that death on this earth is not our final fate. The life-giving light, Jesus Christ, will overwhelm us. Isaiah also points out that death has its blessings and promises.

Isaiah 57:1-2 - Good people pass away; the righteous often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that **God is protecting them from the evil to come**. For those who follow GOD's commands will **rest in peace when they die**.

Job who experienced both the wonderfulness and horribleness in life, including the deaths of his loved ones, said "One person dies in prosperity, completely comfortable and secure, the picture of good health - vigorous and fit. Another person dies in bitter poverty, never having tasted the good life. But both are buried in the same dust, both eaten by the same maggots."

Death takes us all, no matter what our life is like. Hosea points this out, “But the people of Israel have bitterly provoked the Lord, so their Lord will now sentence them to death in payment for their sins.” (12:14)

Paul writes in Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” There is hope after death!

The Messiah was GOD’s gift to the world of mankind:

Matt. 4:12 – 17 - When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He left Judea and returned to Galilee. He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah, “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.”

From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Matthew 16:21-28 – From then on Jesus began to tell His disciples plainly that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem, and that He would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be **raised from the dead.**

But Peter took Him aside and began to reprimand Him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? For the Son of Man will come with His angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. And I tell you the

truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom.”

Here Jesus tells us why He came and what is required of us. We know that all these people died, but that some of them saw the glory that came from the Heavenly Father to His Son before that happened.

We close with words of Jesus, promising eternal life to those who die believing in Jesus and living a life that shows they believe in Jesus. Jesus points out that He is the source of eternal life and He brings in a new hope for the dying.

Luke 20:35 – 38 - But in the age to come, those **worthy** of being raised from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. And they **will never die again**. In this respect, they will be like angels. They are children of God and children of the resurrection. “But now, as to whether the dead will be raised—even Moses proved this when he wrote about the burning bush. Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, he referred to the LORD as ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So He is the God of the living, not the dead, for they are all alive to Him.”

John 5:24 - “I tell you the truth, those who listen to My message and believe in God who sent Me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already **passed from death into life**.

John 6:58 - I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna), but will live forever.”

In Romans 7 Paul outlines the battle he is in regarding the flesh versus the Spirit. This is a battle that everyone who decides to follow in the footsteps of the Master and let the Messiah be the Lord of their life fights. At any point in his life, Paul could turn back to a fleshly life. Paul’s conversion is an amazing conversion, but Paul knows that at some point in everyone’s life they have some type of epiphany with their Creator. They can choose to follow this epiphany or not. Paul chose to follow this epiphany.

Paul points out that if one obeys the commandments of God, they will **live**. Jesus could have gone on living, but He decided to make the

ultimate sacrifice because He wanted to be obedient to His Father and because He wanted to give each human the opportunity to live forever after their fleshly body dies. What great LOVE He has for you. Even though you will die, you have the opportunity to live forever if you accept that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the **Life**.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul points out how wonderful GOD's gift is, what it does for humans and what Jesus' sacrificial death means: Romans 5: 6 – 10 - When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. **But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.** Since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, *we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son.*

Romans 5:12 - When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:14 – 21 - Everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. **Even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.** The result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. **But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.** Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for **everyone**. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. **God's law was given so that all people could see how**



sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, **giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Romans 6:5 – 10 - Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him. When He died, He died once to break the power of sin. But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God.

Paul points this out also to the Corinthians because it is so wonderful:

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26 - In fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. **He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.** So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. However, there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. **After that the end will come, when He will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. For Christ must reign until He humbles all His enemies beneath His feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.** For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under His authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under His authority," that does not include God Himself, who gave Christ His authority.) **Then, when all things are under His authority, the Son will put Himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave His Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.**

1 Corinthians 15:42 - It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever.

1 Corinthians 15:51 – 57 - But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. **For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:** “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power, but thank God! **He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 Corinthians 1:9 - In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead.

Paul is emphatic in telling us that Jesus destroyed the work of the devil, which was the creation of death. He also boldly points out that Jesus gives victory over death and the order that He gives it. This is the good news – the Gospel Message.

1 Th. 4:13-16 - And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet Him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.

2 Tim. 1:9 – 11 - For God saved us from death and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time — to show us His grace through Christ Jesus. And now He has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. Jesus broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Gospel Message of God.

The writer(s) of Hebrews clearly tell us who Jesus was and what He accomplished for us – GOD’s plan for the world of mankind:

Hebrews 2:9 - 14 - What we do see is Jesus, who for a little while was given a position “a little lower than the angels”; and because He suffered death for us, He is now “crowned with glory and honor.” Yes, by God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. **It was only right that He should make Jesus, through His suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.** So now Jesus and the ones He makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters. For He said to God, “I will proclaim your name to My brothers and sisters. I will praise you among your assembled people.” He also said, “I will put my trust in Him,” that is, “I and the children God has given me.” Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

Hebrews 9:15 - That is why He is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.

Peter who was with Jesus and denied Jesus, also knew who Jesus was and wrote:

1 Peter 3:18 - Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but He died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit of GOD.

1 Peter 4:6 - That is why the **Good News** was preached to those who are now dead—so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.

The apostle John was given revelations about the two deaths. The one everyone will be resurrected from and the one to come:

Revelations 1:18 – I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.

Revelations 2:11 – Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches. Whoever is victorious will not be harmed by the second death.

Revelations 20:6, 14 - Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him a thousand years. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.

Rev 12:11 - And they have defeated him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.

This last verse points out who will be given the crown of life.

J. Sochacki

### **Questioning**

As long as the group you are meeting with allows

**As**King  
**See**King  
**Knoc**King

in order to get answers about the King of Kings from GOD's Holy Spirit, then the Messiah will be among you. When you are getting your answers from someone else, then the troubles begin.

## A Portrait of Jesus – Love Not a Sword

*“When the other disciples saw what was about to happen, they exclaimed, ‘Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!’ And one of them struck at the high priest’s slave, slashing off his right ear. But Jesus said, ‘No more of this.’ And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.” Luke 22:49-51*



Jesus entire ministry was one of servanthood. He was the creator of the Universe and could have demanded respect and honor, but instead He earned respect and honor through his actions of serving others. Jesus’ ministry was filled with humility, grace, and service to others. Just hours before His death, this passage tells us of His final act of healing before being led to the cross. He has been in the garden of Gethsemane with His disciples preparing for what is to come. He has poured out His heart to His Father and been ministered to by angels. He is ready to do His Father’s will. He has awakened His sleeping disciples. The Pharisees and temple guard have caught up to Him, led by Judas who betrays Him with a kiss. His disciples are ready to fight, to defend Him, they have come prepared, they have swords! Peter wields his sword and cuts off the ear of Malchus, the high priest’s servant. Obviously, fishermen should not be brandishing swords...this was not a life blow, but it was a deforming one. Jesus instantly steps in and says, “Enough of this!” He touches the man’s ear and heals him. Instead of using violence against His enemy to overcome them, Jesus uses love in order to redeem them. Instead of protecting Himself, He puts Himself in the place of sinners and heals one who has come to arrest Him. Jesus wanted to reconcile mankind to God, that was His mission and He would not rest until He had yielded in death on the cross for the very ones who had come to arrest and kill Him.

I wonder what Malchus thought of Jesus after that incident. He must have marveled not just at the miracle, but wondered why would Jesus do that for him. These are questions that each of us can ask ourselves. Why would Jesus heal us? Why would Jesus save us? The answer is simple, His role given to Him by the Father was to redeem, and the best way to win your enemy over is with love, not with a sword.

D. Mathewson

## Children's Story Corner: Lying



Dear Ones,

Thank you for asking questions that many of us are wondering about. Lately we have been hearing a lot about lying. Have you ever asked yourself what is so bad about lying?

Satan the Devil told the very first lie to Eve in the Garden of Eden. God told Adam not to touch one tree in the garden or eat its fruit. God said if they did, Adam and Eve would die. Satan said God was lying. He said that instead of dying, by eating the forbidden fruit Adam and Eve would become wise like God. Jesus said the Devil is "...a liar and the father of lies." (John 8:44) So when we tell a lie, we are being like Satan the Devil.

If we start lying often, it doesn't take long before no one believes what we say. There is an old story about a shepherd boy who guarded the sheep that belonged to his family and to his neighbors. If he saw any wolves, he was told to call out, "Wolf!" so everyone would come running to help protect the sheep. One quiet day he yelled, "Wolf!" just to see what would happen. Everyone burst out of their houses and barns with shovels and pitchforks ready to fight off the wolves. But there were no wolves. The boy said he wanted to make sure they would come. A few days later on another long afternoon, he yelled, "Wolf!" again. Sure enough, the whole village came running with anything they could use as a weapon to defend the sheep. Again, there were no wolves. The boy said he thought he saw one. The next day was so peaceful the boy was close to falling asleep when he heard wolves attacking the sheep. He yelled, "Wolf!" until he was hoarse, but no one came before several sheep were killed. Everyone thought the boy was lying again. So, if we tell lies then when we are telling the truth and need for people to believe us, they will not.

Liars start believing their own lies. Pretty soon they don't know what is true and what is false. They tell themselves that everyone tells lies, so they don't feel so guilty. Because they think everyone lies, liars pick and choose what they want to believe. They choose to believe the nice things people say, but not what they don't want to hear. So, when they are told that they have sinned and need to get

right with God through Jesus, they choose not to believe it. This is the most dangerous thing about lying. We could get so used to telling lies and hearing lies that we won't recognize the truth when we hear it, the truth about Jesus. Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but through (him)." John 14:6)

Thank you again for your questions. Send them to the editor of this magazine. Remember, always tell the truth.

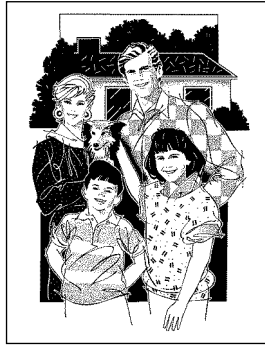
Your Aunt Nancy

**Avoid These**  
Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things the Lord hates – seven things he detests:

- haughty eyes
- a lying tongue
- hands that kill the innocent
- a heart that plots evil
- feet that race to do wrong
- a false witness who pours out lies
- a person who sows discord in a family.

## The Family Corner: Being a Difference Maker



One thing that stands out to me about the Apostle Paul was his thoughtful consideration to make a difference rather than making a point. Paul obviously had a rich background in Jewish religion and, no doubt, there were many beliefs and viewpoints that he felt very strongly about. If you've ever read the Old Testament, you KNOW that an Israelite would shudder at that thought of idols. "Thou shall not have any graven idols..." With this background, Paul does something that not many Jewish Christians would have done. Paul decided rather than making a point, he would make a difference!

Luke records a wonderful scenario of Paul in Athens in Acts 17:16-34. In this passage Luke notes, "*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city.*" Paul makes an important decision at this point. He decides *not* to make a point about all the idols he sees. Instead, *he uses the idols as an opportunity to bring Christ to the Athenians.* He ponders and thinks about the common ground that he has with his audience. And eventually he gets a great opportunity to address a large audience before the Athens high council.

Paul builds three bridges to connect his audience with himself:

1. Commends them for being religious.
2. Speaks of the Unknown God.
3. Points to their Poets - "We are His offspring."

So, here's what you and I need to think about. Are we apt to judge when we see people doing ungodly things, or will we take the time to find some common ground and use it as an opportunity to bring Jesus to them?

When you see the homeless, do you want to make a point or make a difference in their lives? When you see someone who is infrequent in their church attendance, do you 'write them off' or do you try to make a difference in their life? When someone is



struggling with some sin, do you judge or do you make a difference in their life?

Making a difference is hard; it takes time; and it takes investment in people's lives. I'm fairly sure that is how Paul lived his life. I'm positive it's how our Lord Jesus lived with the people who came across His path. The question for you and me to ask is, "*Will I take the easy way out and make a point or will I take the time to make a difference?*"

A. Weeks

**Be Wise**  
Matthew 10: 5 – 22

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town. **Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.** Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues. You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. **For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.** Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

## A New Year with the Lord

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A new year is about to unfold  
With new opportunities to explore,  
Doors will open for new experiences,  
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,  
The things of this past year,  
The Lord will do new things in us,  
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us  
As we put our trust in Him,  
And He will guide our every step  
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts  
We find we'll be able to do,  
If we look for the opportunities  
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back  
But rise up and take our place,  
And be all that God wants us to be  
With a fresh touch of His grace.

## Prayer List

*"Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you."* (1 Samuel 12:23)



### Let us be Prayer Warriors for our Brethren!

Anas, Julie – FL	Karavas, Anna - CA
Allen, Peggy & Russell – VT	Knapp, Jamie – NH
Anderson, Family– WI (d)	Knapp, Joseph & Pat – IL
Andrada, Delores & Family – CA	Ketko, Marion – MI
Bews, Sandra and Family TX (d)	Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME
Boswell, Arlene – IL	Lepitre Family - IL
Buxton, Jean & Family - UK	Howes, Paul & Carla - UK
Carpenter, Gloria – KY	Kingsmith, Beresford - UK
Caudle, James – WA	Mathewson, Gregg – IL
Cline, Ruth – MO	Mazzotta, Eva – FL
Cooper, Carmela – NJ	Miller, Alain – Canada
Couture, Denis - MI	Mitchell, Mitch - France
Csutor, Judith – CT	Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA
Day, Ronald – PA	Munoz, Sue - NY
Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA	Newling, Roseanna – NH
Dobbins, Esther - NH	Niewiemiński, Elaine – NY
Donnarummo, Joan & Dan – OH	Parker, Geraldine – CA
Duhaime, George & Martha – CT	Penton, Jim – Canada
Dunn, Kim - IL	Phillips, Stella – OK
Fantuzzo, Sharon - NY	Riggio, Fran – NH
Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI	Rowe, Bryan - UK
Foster, Jean – IL	Schultz, Dan – MN
Gary, Inez – VA	Schwartz, Ruth – TX
Hauslein, Karen – MD	Seminoff, Brenda - CA
Hawk, Barbara – PA	Tuscia, Priscilla – FL
Hawk, Debbie - PA	Trent, Frank & Thelma - FL
Hildebrandt, Lois - FL	Teunis, Doris – IL
Hogrebe, Joan – MO	Weaver, Eddie - NY
Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – VA (d)	White, Ken & Joan - NY
Iannaccone, Bob & Marie – IL	Wineroth, Barry – CA
Ibasfalean, George – FL	Wisdom Hezekiah Ikpo - Nigeria
Jones, Arlene - VA	Zychal, Ruth & Craig– NJ

(d) = death in the family

**Entered into rest:** No notices

**Important:** If you know anyone in the names listed above whom no longer need special prayers, please advise us so we may remove their names. Thank you.

## **Bible Correspondence Course New Graduates & Notices**

*Congratulations* to the following students who have completed their course and have been awarded a Certificate.



### **BASIC COURSE**

1. Evans T. Koduah, Ghana
2. Jason Smallwood, Alabama
3. Frank Kelso, Georgia
4. Blanche Kostal, Illinois
5. Jeff Adams, Illinois
6. Brian Drake, Texas

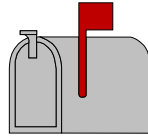
### **Ransom Course**

Rev. Dr. Aniefiork Peter, Nigeria

#### **You are invited to view the following websites:**

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)  
<http://www.cbchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fell. in NH)  
<http://www.biblefellowshipunion.co.uk> (Bible Fellowship in UK)  
<http://www.bbschurch.org> (Lombard, IL)  
<https://sites.google.com/site/quietwatersdevotions/home>  
<http://www.cartyorkshire.co.uk> (CART)  
<http://www.campblessing.com> (Camp Blessing)  
<http://www.homechristians.net> (Fraser Valley, B.C.)  
<http://www.christianrespondent.com> (R. Frye)  
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.at> (Free Bible Students, Austria)  
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.org> (Mission Work Bible Students, Austria)  
<http://www.kronline.at/bibelstudien> (Free Bible Students, Germany (English))  
<http://www.softgrafic.com/bibbia> (Italian Bible Students)  
<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News- Australia)

## Letters from Our Fellowship and Readers



### From Our Mail Box

We thank you for your correspondence. Please send us your comments, questions, and article:

## Conferences & Conventions

**Note:** If you would like to have your Convention, Conference, Camp, or Seminar published in The New Creation Magazine, send information or a program **at least three months in advance of the issue month of the magazine.**

**Send to:** Jim Sochacki, 475 Green St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802;

**or email to:** [wyojimmy@yahoo.com](mailto:wyojimmy@yahoo.com)

Special thanks to E&J Weeks for maintaining the Prayer List.

### Donations

Many people around the world appreciate the New Creation magazine. For many, it is their only source of Christian communication. Also, for many, they only have it through the generous contributions of others. If you feel moved to help them in continuing to get the New Creation, please consider a donation to CDMI.

### Article Contributions

Please send articles for possible publication to Dennis Gorham - [dennisgorham@comcast.net](mailto:dennisgorham@comcast.net) or 4 Alicia Street Somersworth, NH 03878