

THE NEW CREATION

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NOTE: The thoughts presented in the articles are those of the writer and are not necessarily totally endorsed by the New Creation Staff. “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” – 2 Timothy 2:15.
“Prove ALL things and hold fast to what is good.” – 1 Thess. 5:21.

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Our Hearts



Hello. For the last six months, I have had my feet go from a terrible burning feeling to an uncomfortable freezing feeling off and on. Today, I have decided when my feet are burning I will try and meditate on walking with Jesus in the cool ocean and talking with Him about how wonderful the Kingdom of God will be and when they are cold I will meditate that we are walking on the warm beach sand doing the same. If you are suffering, please try and meditate on how wonderful, loving and righteous the Kingdom of God will be. A place where there will be no suffering or death. We hope that you are rejoicing in the promises of GOD, especially of HIS coming kingdom that will begin when the Messiah – the Son of God returns. Hopefully – SOON!
Is your heart ready for this?

In his first epistle, the apostle John wrote (1 John 3:16-24):
By this we know love that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth. By this we shall know that we are of the truth, and reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for *God is greater than our hearts*, and He knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and we receive from Him whatever we ask, because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him. And this is His commandment that we should believe in the name of HIS Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He has commanded us. All who keep His commandments abide in Him, and He in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us.

Why out of all the men on the Earth did GOD choose Abram?

Nehemiah tells us the answer: You are the Lord God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham. You found **his heart** faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites and Girgashites. You have kept your promise because You are righteous. (9:7-8)

Micah wrote: O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (6:8) Isaac, we are told, looked to GOD and that GOD made promises to Isaac. Why was Jacob blessed by Isaac instead of Esau? We are told that only you and GOD know your heart. Jacob had a long journey from and to the promised land and went through many harrowing conditions, but he always looked to GOD and GOD made many promises to him. Jacob marked some of the places where the promises were made. Jacob certainly believed in the promises made to Abraham. Do you?

In 1 Samuel 9 is the account of how Samuel came to anointing Saul to be the first king of Israel. We are told that Saul was tall and handsome. God tells Samuel that He has chosen Saul to rule over His people. When Samuel anoints Saul, Saul responds that he is the least of the lowest tribe of Israel. Saul is quite humble. However, Saul does not have a heart toward God and even tries several times to kill the next king of Israel. God says to Samuel, 'I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.' (1 Samuel 15:11). Saul is not humble the times he disobeys God and does not show a repentant heart.

God then decides to make David, the son of Jesse, king of Israel. In the process of choosing David, God says to Samuel; "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, *but the Lord looks on the heart.* (1 Samuel 16:7) This had to be humbling to Samuel. Only God and you know your heart. However, your actions tell a lot about your heart.

David disobeyed God many times when he was king. However, he was repentant and asked for forgiveness and he accepted God's discipline. We are told several times that David had a heart for God. Because of David's heart God promised him that his children would be kings of Israel as long as they were obedient to God.

The first child of David that ruled over Israel was Solomon. At first Solomon was very humble to God and asked for wisdom to govern God's people. King Solomon built a temple for God and when the temple was finished he prayed before Israel. He prayed (1 Kings 8): *Now Lord, the God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father the promises you made to him when you said, 'You shall never fail to have a successor to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your*

descendants are careful in all they do to walk before me faithfully as you have done.’ And now, God of Israel, let your word that you promised your servant David my father come true. (25-26)...“As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name - for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm - when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel.” (41-43)

We know that Solomon was not totally faithful to God as David was. David served God alone with his heart. However, Solomon worshiped other gods. However, Solomon must have tried to return to the God of his father. Some of Solomon’s writings show his heart for God and others his battles with dealing with God and life.

There were many sons of David who became kings of only Judah because of Solomon’s disobedience. Some of these kings were obedient to God and others were not. Some of the obedient kings became king at a very young age because they had a mother who had a heart for obeying God. Manasseh was disobedient to God and suffered the consequences. He was repentant and God restored him to being king. Manasseh was then obedient unto death.

Jesus said: Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. (Matthew 6:21 , Luke 10:34) And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” (Matthew 10:42)

Jesus taught over and over again about the kingdom of God and storing your treasures there.

Joseph was an example of Jesus Christ. He went through many trials before he became second in command only to Pharaoh at the age of thirty. (Jesus Christ is second only to His Father and was authorized this at the age of thirty.) Joseph became savior to the family of Jacob (Israel). (Jesus is the savior of all.) Judah saved Joseph from murder by encouraging them to sell him as a slave instead of killing Joseph. After this act by Judah, we are given more details about Judah than any of the other brothers. Soon Joseph’s brothers come to him in Egypt. Joseph treats them harshly. The brothers seem repentant.

Joseph lets them return to Jacob. On the brothers' return to Egypt, Joseph tests his brothers' hearts. His brothers are repentant and regretful of the sin of selling their brother. Judah comes forward to speak to Joseph and show his repentance. He is willing to die for his brother. Part of the conversation between the two is; "What can we say to my lord?" Judah replied. "What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants' guilt. We are now my lord's slaves - we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup." But Joseph said, "Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace." Then Judah went up to him and said: "Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, *though you are equal to Pharaoh himself.*

Judah has humbled himself and recognizes who Joseph is. Certainly, there is a time when this will happen to the world of mankind in regards to the Messiah – the second to GOD, but it can happen to you now. Has that happened?

When Jacob blesses his twelve sons, he gives Judah the greatest blessing. (Genesis 49) Is this because Judah was the one who came forward to Jacob and said, "Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die. I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life." (Genesis 43:7-9)? Did Jacob give Joseph's younger son the greater blessing because God knew Ephraim's heart?

Peter reminds us in 2 Peter 1:19; Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place - until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.

J. Sochacki

The Paralysis of Analysis

Have you ever hesitated doing something or responding to an opportunity to help because you had to weigh the consequences before you acted? Many “*what ifs*” come quickly to mind!

The parable of the Good Samaritan told by Jesus is a good case in point. *“And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How do you read it?’ And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.’ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a Priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise”* (Luke 10:25-37 (ESV).

This is a parable on compassion versus analysis. It should be noted that both the Priest and the Levite saw the injured man, evaluated the situation and crossed the road before they passed him by. We are left to wonder what passed through their minds as they made their decision. Could it have been that they were on the way to the Synagogue and didn't want to take the risk of becoming “*unclean*” if they should touch the man and he was dead? This would make them unable to perform their religious duties for seven days. Perhaps, they worried that the robbers might still be around and so they hurried off not wanting to become victims themselves. Or, it might have been that they just didn't want to get involved and take on any responsibility for his care. But one thing we do know for sure is that they ruled out any compassion they might have felt towards the poor victim.

But now there comes along a foreigner, a Samaritan, who was immediately touched with compassion for this poor man lying in a ditch. He didn't stop to consider or analyze the consequences of stopping to help. By the way, the injured man no doubt was Jewish, and Jews hate Samaritans, and the Samaritans hate Jews. Prejudice was not even a consideration in his decision. What he saw was someone in great need of help and he was quick to do what he could to clean, bandage his wounds and as the account above shows make provisions for any care he might still need.

What was the difference between this Samaritan and the other two men? It is possible that the Priest and the Levite might have felt sympathy for the victim but that was all. It didn't motivate them to help him. The Samaritan, on the other hand, felt empathy and was moved thereby to have compassion. Sympathy alone is passive. But empathy is active and is moved to help.

We might be quick to condemn the actions of the Priest and the Levite, but haven't we all, at some time or other, been guilty of acting out similarly in some situations where we could have been of help to someone? Have we ever driven by a disabled vehicle with the driver standing by the car looking forlorn, waiting for someone to help? You pass him by, rationalizing that someone else will help him, besides if you stopped you will be late for church, or an appointment. Or perhaps, the person looks scruffy and unkempt, and a little suspicion arises that it wouldn't be wise to stop. Whatever the rational may be, we may have missed an opportunity to be a blessing and glorify God.

If you are a city dweller, you, no doubt, have encountered someone who had become homeless sleeping in an alley of some building. What is your reaction when you encounter such a scene? Are you filled with compassion for the person and offer him a little cash for whatever his need may be? Or do you just feel sorry for him and pass by?

May we, as followers of Jesus, show His compassion at every turn, and be known for following His example as we extend our love and compassion whenever we have the opportunity to be a blessing to one in need.

E. Weeks

Isaiah and the Apostle John **(Contributed by A. Jones)**

Isaiah

41:4 - This is what the Lord says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord of Heaven's Armies: "I am the First and the Last; there is no other God.

44:6 - Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And His Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; Besides me there is no God.

48:12 - Listen to me, O family of Jacob, Israel my chosen one! I alone am God, the First and the Last.

Revelation

1:17 - When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last.

22:12-13 - And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, To give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.

Isaiah

22:22 - I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Revelation

3:7 - Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens no one can close and what he closes no one can open.

5:5 - But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.

Isaiah

24:23 - The moon will be dismayed, the sun ashamed; for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders - with great glory.

Revelation

21:23 - The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Isaiah

55:1 - Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Revelation

3:18 - I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

22:17 - The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

Isaiah

6:1-3 - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory. At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Revelation

4:2 - At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

4:8 - Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

4:10-11 - The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Isaiah

3:10 - Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.

61:6 And you will be called priests of the Lord, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

Revelation

20:6 - Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Isaiah

53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Revelation

5:12 - In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Isaiah

4:5-6 - Then the Lord will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

Revelation

7:9 - After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

7:15 - Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

Isaiah

49:10 - They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water.

Revelation

7:16 - Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat.

Isaiah

26:17 - As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pain, so were we in your presence, Lord.

66:6-9 - Hear that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the Lord repaying His enemies all they deserve. "Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?" says the Lord. "Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?" says your God.

Revelation

12:2 - She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

Isaiah

34:3 - Their slain will be thrown out, their dead bodies will stink; the mountains will be soaked with their blood.

34:8-10 - For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause. Edom's streams will be turned into pitch, her dust into burning sulfur; her land will become blazing pitch! It will not be quenched night or day; its smoke will rise forever.

Revelation

12:15 - Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

14:11 - And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.

14:20 - They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

Isaiah

49:26 - I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine. Then all mankind will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

51:17 - Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes people stagger.

Revelation

16:6 - for they have shed the blood of Your holy people and Your prophets, and You have given them blood to drink as they deserve.

16:19 - The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath.

Isaiah

14:22-23 – “I will rise up against them”, declares the Lord Almighty. “I will wipe out Babylon’s name and survivors, her offspring and descendants,” declares the Lord. “I will turn her into a place for owls and into swampland; I will sweep her with the broom of destruction,” declares the Lord Almighty.

23:14 - Wail, you ships of Tarshish; your fortress is destroyed!

24:17 - Terror and pit and snare await you, people of the earth.

47:13-15 - All the counsel you have received has only worn you out! Let your astrologers come forward, those stargazers who make predictions month by month, let them save you from what is coming upon you. Surely they are like stubble; the fire will burn them up. They cannot even save themselves from the power of the flame. These are not coals for warmth; this is not a fire to sit by. That is all they are to you - these you have dealt with and labored with since childhood. All of them go on in their error; there is not one that can save you.

48:20 - Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to the ends of the earth; say, “The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob.”

Revelation

18:2-4 - With a mighty voice he shouted: “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive

luxuries.” Then I heard another voice from heaven say: ‘Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.’

18:17 - In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin! Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.

Isaiah

11:1-6 - A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD - and He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness, He will judge the needy, with justice, He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist.

63:2-5 - Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. It was for me the day of vengeance; the year for me to redeem had come. I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm achieved salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me.

Revelation

19:11 - I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.

19:13 - He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

19:15 - Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Isaiah

9:7 - Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

25:6-9 - On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine - the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove His people's disgrace from all the Earth. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us."

52:1 - Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength! Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.

59:19 - From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere His glory. For it will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the LORD drives along.

60:20 - Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

66: 10-14 - Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice greatly with her, all you who mourn over her. For you will nurse and be satisfied at her comforting breasts; you will drink deeply and delight in her overflowing abundance." For this is what the Lord says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will nurse and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." When you see this, your heart will rejoice and you will flourish like grass; the hand of the Lord will be made known to His servants, but His fury will be shown to His foes.

Revelation

21:2 - I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

21:4 - He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

21:25 - On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

J. Sochacki

Paying It Forward

Something called “Paying It Forward” has become quite popular in recent times. As you all probably know, this is done when a “Good Samaritan” does some kind and benevolent act for a stranger, usually without their knowledge.

It is hoped that the recipient will in turn do something similar to another stranger. While this has not become a big movement as of now, it is really refreshing in our troubling times.

More and more our society lives by the standard of “What’s in it for me?” or “Take care of #1 first.” Fortunately, this society is on its way out. Along with its god and his demons. And what a change that will be when Jesus comes and begins the establishing of GOD’s Kingdom. Hopefully, that will happen soon.

Meanwhile, we who would be Jesus’ disciples have work to do. We have been invited to copy His example and to bear witness to the TRUTH about our Father – The Almighty One and His Son – our Great Redeemer. (See John 18:36-37.) It is our privilege to show how Satan, the god of this world has lied about them and their love for mankind. GOD does have a glorious plan for the world of mankind. Satan has done and is doing all he can to deceive people from believing this and having others teach that this is not the case.

We must point our listeners to the only source of TRUTH regarding the Father and His Son, namely the Holy Bible. We have been given the same commission that was given to Jesus that we read in Luke 4:18-19: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”

The world needs this message. It is the only hope for its citizens. The Gospel (Good News) of GOD’s coming Kingdom is the only remedy for the worst of all times which we are now in. Jesus forewarned of these day in Matthew 24:21-22: “For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones.”

So let's give comfort to all whose hearts are failing, for each time we do, we ourselves are comforted. In Galatians 6:9-10 Paul admonishes: "So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to anyone, but especially to those in the family of faith."

When we do good to any and all, we are hearing the two great commandments that Jesus gave us in Matthew 22:37-40: Jesus replied, "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.* This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

The best way to show our love for the Father is to love HIS children. Perhaps, a phone call, maybe an email or a snail mail can make a big difference in someone's life. *As we have opportunity should become as we make opportunity.*

James 1:22 tells us: But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says, and in 4:17 he writes: Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

D. Anas

A Repentant Heart 2 Chronicles 33:10-13

The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they ignored all his warnings. So the Lord sent the commanders of the Assyrian armies, and they took Manasseh prisoner. They put a ring through his nose, bound him in bronze chains, and led him away to Babylon. But while in deep distress, Manasseh sought the Lord his God and sincerely humbled himself before the God of his ancestors. And when he prayed, the Lord listened to him and was moved by his request. So the Lord brought Manasseh back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh finally realized that the Lord alone is God!

The Magi

The Magi who left the east to follow a star to the west were experts in astronomy and most possibly had received a special revelation from God where they should go and whom they were to seek, for how could they know where to find the new born King of the Jews? Today we still have the same revelation from God through the Scriptures, and His Holy Spirit, all pointing to the same person – JESUS.

The Magi were not Jewish scholars; in fact, they were Gentiles of some status in their own country, but their hearts had been prepared by God to seek and find the new King, bring Him gifts and to worship Him because He was the Son of God.

It may seem strange to some that the star led the Magi to Jerusalem and hence to King Herod. Why didn't it lead them directly to the new King? But prophecies had to be fulfilled (Matthew 2:5,6,13-15,16-18) and they were as the result of the Magi's visit to Herod, after which the star led them to the newborn King.

People who today have been converted to the Lord Jesus, and who through repenting of their sins have been forgiven, like the Magi of old, should follow the Star, which in this case is JESUS Himself; the "bright and Morning Star" (Rev. 22:16), and let nothing lure them away from such a lofty purpose. We all, who are God's children, should be willing to trust implicitly His leading above all other pressures and distractions in life. Whom are you following in your quest for eternal life?

The only motive the Magi had for searching for Jesus was to worship Him and offer Him their gifts. Surely, Jesus deserved to be worshiped. Is that also our goal in seeking Him? When we are in a spiritually healthy state of mind, worship erupts from our hearts with a minimum of effort; it becomes a natural thing for us to do.

The offering of gifts is a natural inclination of man. Followers of Christ and worshippers of heathen gods alike tend to want to give gifts as a sign of appreciation, to acknowledge another's worth in their eyes. In a way, the Grace of God allows us to participate in worship in a tangible way. It is a privilege to be able to offer gifts of love, time, labor and talent to the "Giver of every good and perfect gift" (James 1:17).

The tragedy of Christmas in our age is that there is little worship, having been corrupted by commercialism with Santa getting all the publicity and honor, as if it were a celebration of his birthday. Most

children know more about Santa than they know about Jesus. Today the emphasis is more on getting than in giving. Some men worship themselves because they have been led to believe they are gods and are in need of nothing; being deceived by New Age theology.

This reminds us of the Lord's rebuke to Laodicea, *"Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind and naked. I counsel you to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich, and that you may be clothed in white raiment, and that the shame of your nakedness does not show; and anoint your eyes with salve, that you may see"* (Rev. 3:16-18).

Let us, as the Magi of old, worship and give gifts to the glory of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G. Boccaccio

King Hezekiah 2 Chronicles 30:4-9

This plan for keeping the Passover seemed right to King Hezekiah and all the people. So they sent a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba in the south to Dan in the north, inviting everyone to come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover of the Lord, the God of Israel. The people had not been celebrating it in great numbers as required in the Law. At the king's command, runners were sent throughout Israel and Judah. They carried letters that said:

"O people of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so that he will return to the few of us who have survived the conquest of the Assyrian kings. Do not be like your ancestors and relatives who abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, and became an object of derision, as you yourselves can see. Do not be stubborn, as they were, but submit yourselves to the Lord. Come to his Temple, which he has set apart as holy forever. Worship the Lord your God so that his fierce anger will turn away from you.

"For if you return to the Lord, your relatives and your children will be treated mercifully by their captors, and they will be able to return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful. If you return to him, he will not continue to turn his face from you."

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

Question and Answer

Do I need to know Hebrew and Greek to understand the Holy Bible (God's Plan)?

Certainly, most of the Holy Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, but Aramean and other languages were also used in recording the books in the Bible. We must also remember that the Bible was written over a long period of time by many people and only recently, in terms of human history, put together in the form it is today. To add to this, there are myriads of versions of the Bible in English, not to mention hundreds of other languages. Christians use many versions of the Bible to get a better understanding of a statement by Jesus, an Old Testament prophecy or a letter by Paul.

The most important point to remember is that the Holy Bible came together because many Israelites believed the promises given to Abraham that all the nations of the Earth would be blessed through Abraham's children. This started with Isaac and ended with the coming of the Messiah, but the blessings for all the nations of the Earth as pointed out in Revelations is still to come. This is what Christians hope for.

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. *Therefore, GOD has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name*, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that *Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" (Phillipians 2:5-11)

In fact, Jews today hold this belief and throughout human history Jews have had this belief. Christians believe that Jesus Christ, who came to Earth around two thousand years ago, is the son of God, has been highly exalted, and is now sitting on the right hand of God. We have this in the vision of Stephen (Acts 7:55-56):

"But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens

opened and *the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!*"

The Holy Bible is a miracle from GOD. If you read the Bible as a book from beginning to end with an open heart and a seeking mind, you will find GOD's plan for the world of mankind. This will change your heart and your attitude. You will want to be with those of like precious faith. You will want to bless those who know GOD's plan and be kind to those who do not and hope that eventually they will have the treasure that you have. You will want to tell others about what you know and hope it brings joy to them like it brings joy to you.

We certainly live in an evil world. Both believers and non-believers talk about the evil in the world. The difference is that believers should know why and where it will all end. How will they learn this? By searching the scriptures daily for GOD's plan for them and for the world of mankind. What a glorious plan it is.

Philippians 1:9-11

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation - the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ - for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

But love will last forever! Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

1 Corinthians 15:21-28

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he

delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. "For God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection under him," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to everyone.

J. Sochacki

Isaiah 61

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.

To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.

In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory. They will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago. They will revive them, though they have been deserted for many generations.

Foreigners will be your servants. They will feed your flocks, plow your fields, and tend your vineyards.

You will be called priests of the Lord, ministers of our God. You will feed on the treasures of the nations and boast in their riches. Instead of shame and dishonor, you will enjoy a double share of honor. You will possess a double portion of prosperity in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.

For I, the Lord, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. I will faithfully reward my people for their suffering and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be recognized and honored among the nations. Everyone will realize that they are a people the Lord has blessed.

I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels.

The Sovereign Lord will show his justice to the nations of the world. Everyone will praise him! His righteousness will be like a garden in early spring, with plants springing up everywhere.

Grace and Peace

Grace means unmerited favor. Peace means calmness and freedom from concern. When we receive grace from anyone, and have peace with them too, (spouse, family, brethren, friends, co-workers) we are content, and even as we enjoy it we wish it could continue forever, knowing full well it won't. Everything we view in our relationships seems to have a limited life. Paul didn't see it that way!

Paul opens each of his epistles from Romans through Philemon by using the title phrase of "*grace and peace unto you*". (Only in Hebrews do we not find such a greeting, and while many believe he wrote that epistle, this is one evidence against it).

It is amazing to see the consistency with which Paul opens his epistles by using this phrase. In fact it is more than just this phrase, he uses the sentence, "*Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" And to Timothy and Titus (but not Philemon) he expands it to, "*Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" We need understand these words had an appreciation to Paul that is not as readily apparent to us. Paul praised the fact that this grace and peace, (and this mercy to the Elders on a mission) came from "*God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*" These were not from men that they would fade away, but from God and Christ with a guarantee of permanence.

Grace in all these cases is from the Greek word "Charis". It means good will, loving-kindness, and favor, and when perfectly attained it is a condition which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm and loveliness. It is the free gift of God to us, unmerited by anything we have done or can do. By it, we have access to Christ, to justification, to every blessing, and to sanctification. There is **nothing** we receive from God that is not by grace. And if we receive all which grace offers to us, we have perfectly attained it. What a phenomenal gift grace itself is, and what rich gifts it brings to us!

Peace in all these cases is from the Greek word "Eirene". It means harmony and concord between persons or groups, and a condition of security, safety, prosperity, felicity, and tranquillity. When perfectly achieved it is a state of such assurance and of such contentment, that nothing else would be sought or desired. It excludes every concern and includes every right desire.

May we be as impressed in heart with this as was Paul, and pray this for our brethren. And may we all advantage ourselves of these to receive in full and permanent measure all that they offer and assure. Let them not become common. Hear this prayer, not only when you read the opening of Paul's epistles, but hear it from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ every time you converse with them, or with the brethren. Take not the grace of God in vain, and miss not the peace that passes all understanding. Receive all the blessings they offer.

Let us always greet each other in thought, if not in word, *with "Grace and peace unto you from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ"*, that it might have the same impact in our hearts and lives as it did for Paul.

J. Knapp

A Nobel Physicist Werner Heisenberg

Some consider Werner Heisenberg a founder of quantum physics. He has been recognized as saying:

"The first thing we could say was simply: 'I believe in God, the Father, the almighty creator of heaven and earth.' The next step — at least for our contemporary consciousness — was doubt. There is no god; there is only an impersonal law that directs the fate of the world according to cause and effect... And yet, we may with full confidence place ourselves into the hands of the higher power who, during our lifetime and in the course of the centuries, determines our faith and therewith our world and our fate."

Do you think there is no honest way back into a naive belief? According to an old phrase, the first sip from the cup of knowledge separates us from God, but at the bottom of the cup God is waiting for the one who seeks him. If so, then there is a way of thinking that leads to religious truths, and to seek only that way is rewarding.

1 Chronicles 28:9

And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve Him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you.

Under His Wings You Shall Trust

If we begin each day by first surrendering ourselves to Christ, this enthronement of Christ within will carry with it, if it be a real thing, the dethronement of self. Full surrender to Him implies His full mastery over us; and until that is both acknowledged as a thing that ought to be, and experienced as a thing that is, there can be nothing in us of that joy, and freedom, and power that belongs to the truly consecrated heart.

What joy it gives, and strength too, to begin each day by feeling-- on this day once again, I am to live simply as a servant of Jesus Christ -- His will and not my own will is to sway me every hour! *A servant of Jesus Christ!* Then I cannot be the servant of sin, I must aim to be holy as my Master is holy. *A servant of Jesus Christ!* Then I will not be the servant of men -- the maxims of the world will not rule me -- I am under orders only to my Master in heaven. *A servant of Jesus Christ!* Then, if I want to *know* Him, I must walk even as He walked, seeking always to plant my feet in His footsteps. As the eyes of a servant look to the hand of their master, to see how their work should be done, so my eyes must wait upon the Lord. If His service is sometimes difficult, I must not complain -- He may use me as He will. And at the end of all I will be more than satisfied if I only hear His "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord."

To be a true and faithful servant such as this, I must put myself daily into Almighty hands, and say, "*Into Your hands I commit my spirit*" for this day and for every day. These words Jesus Himself used when, on the Cross, He was looking out on death; but they had been, before that, the words of one who was looking out, not on death, but on the difficulties and trials of life. (See Psalm 31:5.) If they were enough for my Master to die upon, they are more than enough for me to live upon, and so I say --

Into *Your tender hands* I commit my spirit for the comforting of it. The sorrows of my life may be many, the waters deep, the furnace hot; I may have thick darkness over me in which I could lose all my joy, but if He whispers--"I am with you still," I will fear no evil.

Into *Your correcting Hands* I commit my spirit for the sanctifying of it. I am willing to be chastened if only it makes me purer than before. Take what way You will with me, I will bless the Hand that smites.

Into Your *moulding Hands* I commit my spirit for the consecrating of it. Use me to Your glory. I would not live to myself. Let self be killed that Christ may be all in me. Turn me as the clay is turned in the Potter's hands. I would be a vessel for the Master's use, filled with the Master's grace, and You can make me so.

And then if death should come even suddenly, I will hear You calling, and reply, "Into *Your redeeming Hand* I commit my spirit for the glorifying of it. *Your creating Hands* fashioned me, *Your preserving Hands* have kept me, *Your guiding Hands* have led me, *Your appealing Hands* have beckoned to me, *Your smiting Hands* have chastened me, but they were always *saving Hands* that delivered me, and *sheltering Hands* that covered me. I always found them to be *loving Hands*. I have proved them to be strong, and so I trust myself entirely and forever to You; *Into Your hands I commit my spirit, for You have redeemed me, O Lord God of TRUTH.*"

J. Blackburn

**1 Chronicles 16: 8 – 27:
King David's Inauguration Speech to Israel – Part I**

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced, you His servants, the descendants of Israel, His chosen ones, the children of Jacob. He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the world. He remembers His covenant forever, the promise He made, for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham, the oath He swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit." When they were but few in number, few indeed, and strangers in it, they wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. He allowed no one to oppress them; for their sake He rebuked kings: "Do not touch My anointed ones; do My prophets no harm." Sing to the Lord, all the world; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and joy are in His dwelling place.

A Portrait of Jesus:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Hebrews 13:8



The gospels spell out for us who Jesus was while He was on earth. Paul tells us that heaven has not changed who Jesus is; *He is the same yesterday today and forever*. Let's take a few moments to look at who Jesus was and is and remember how blessed we are to have Him as our Friend, Savior, Bridegroom and King.

When Jesus walked this earth, we saw His humility, His concern for others, especially the hurting, His peaceful demeanor despite the chaos that surrounded Him and how He always gave the glory to His Father. We witnessed His patience with His disciples, His kindness to others, His goodness and self-sacrifice, His dependability, His faithfulness, His self-control, His forgiving spirit, His fairness and courage when faced with the unthinkable. He was a true friend, He was honest and always spoke the truth. He was thankful for all His Father had given Him and continually showed His appreciation and thanks to Him. He was content with the lot that He was given, He was pure and holy. Paul tells us in Hebrews 7:26 that Jesus was *“holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners”*, yet we saw how sensitive, compassionate, caring and loving He was in dealing with those same sinners. He was available to all who needed Him and He encouraged the downtrodden, always pointing them to His Father. He was attentive to those who came to Him and listened to their complaints and needs. He was wise in how He dealt with all who crossed His path. He was compassionate to the pain and plight of those who came to Him and asked for healing and was thoughtful in how He responded to them, meeting them right where they were and speaking to their emotional and spiritual needs as well as the physical ones. He often took the initiative to get done what needed doing and was diligent in completing the work set before Him. He was obedient, submissive and showed reverence to His Father, always fully committed and determined that His will be done. He endured what no other could endure and came out triumphant, the victor over death! He was a true servant and yet a King of all kings! He was, is, and always will be our Savior and Lord; the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever! *Hallelujah, what a Savior!*

D. Mathewson

Children's Story Corner: Living in a Violent World



Dear Ones,

Have you ever wondered, with so much violence in the world, should I be afraid? You may be thinking about the many reports in the news of murders, suicides, and school shootings. Perhaps you have active shooter drills at your own school. In the Bible, the apostle Paul told his young friend Timothy that evil people would be living in our world. These people are "...lovers of themselves...proud...unloving,...unforgiving...without self-control, brutal...headstrong...And from such people, turn away!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5) The people Paul is describing are capable of doing terrible things, but does that mean we should live in fear?

Jesus is our perfect example of how we should live. He lived in dangerous times, too. Jesus was Jewish, so He and His family lived by the Ten Commandments. As a boy, Jesus honored and obeyed His father and His mother. When He grew up, Jesus was not afraid, but He was aware of what was going on around Him. When brutal people were nearby, Jesus left the area. He did not carry a weapon because He said, "He who lives by the sword will die by the sword," Jesus did not want a life of violence for Himself or for His followers. He was a kind person, feeding the hungry and healing the sick. Jesus prayed to His Father often. He taught His followers to pray that God would deliver them from evil. Obviously, Jesus did not live in fear; He traveled the country on foot or riding on a donkey. Jesus did not stay at home where it was "safe."

If Jesus were a child now, He would listen to and obey people in authority. He would do what His parents and teachers say to do. If His parents said He should come right home from school, that is what Jesus would do. God tells us to "...be strong and very courageous." Don't be afraid, but do be aware, like Jesus was. If you know of someone who seems dangerous, tell your parents and teachers. Instead of carrying a weapon, the apostle Paul said, "...the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh...we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ..." (2 Corinthians 10:4,5) Show love to everyone you meet. Jesus lived by the Jewish law "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Lev. 19:18)

Even though Jesus told us to "not fear those who kill the body..." (Matthew 10:28), sometimes we might be afraid. That's when we should pray, asking God for courage. We should "not be anxious over anything but...let (our) requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)

Please send your questions to the editor of this magazine. God be with you all.

Your Aunt Nancy

The Sermon on the Mount - The Beatitudes

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them.

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they will be satisfied.

God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.

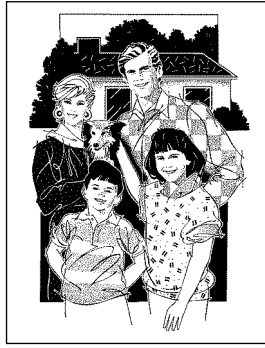
God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.

God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.

Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. Remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

The Family Corner: Being Part of a Family



Being part of a family gives us the chance to learn to serve others early in life. Serving is not our natural inclination. If children are not taught to think of the needs of others, they will usually think only of their own needs and wants. There is a part in all of us—the part Jesus and Paul call “the “flesh”—that would rather be served than to serve (Matthew 26:41; Romans 8:7).

There are areas in the world where, tragically, children are burdened with a heavy load of work from a young age, or even sold into slavery. That is not God's will. The patriarch Jacob revealed his goodness of character by showing kindness to his young children—even the young ones of his flocks and herds (Genesis 33:13).

However, in western societies, it is more often the case that children are taught little, if anything, about serving others. It takes time and energy to teach children how to do basic chores such as folding clothes, raking leaves, doing dishes, changing the inner tube in a bicycle tire, or just making their beds in the morning. Parents often feel too tired or distracted to take the time to teach their children such things. In many cases it is easier to simply do the tasks themselves. If the children can be kept busy playing or using technology, the adults can finish the chores quickly and go on with their own pursuits. This attitude is understandable, and most parents have succumbed to it at one time or another, but it is shortsighted.

We see around us the consequences of merely keeping children *out of the way*. Watch carefully when a large group of people are picnicking or having a potluck supper. Too often, it is not the young and strong teenagers who are helping set out the food or clean up dishes and tables afterward. Sometimes the teens and young adults are content to eat and then go off to pursue their own activities, leaving the clean-up work to adults, even those who are old and infirm. Of course, this is not the case with all young people, but it is a noticeable trend. And the young people themselves are not entirely to blame, because they were never taught as children about the privilege and joy of serving others.

“It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth,” says Lamentations 3:27. The point is not that children should be subject to drudgery, but that they can gradually learn how to use their vitality to relieve and assist those in need.

When Abraham's servant, traveled to Aram (Syria) to obtain a bride for Isaac, he prayed that God would reveal the young woman to him by her offer of water. When Rebecca came to the well where the servant waited, she did indeed offer to draw water for him and for his camels. This required hard work drawing up many gallons from the well. Rebecca actually volunteered to draw water *until the camels finished drinking* (Genesis 24:19). After a long journey, each of the camels could drink a large quantity if permitted to do so. The servant watched her diligent labor in amazement, then immediately adorned her with jewelry as his master's bride (Genesis 24:21-22). Rebecca would have been unlikely to have such an attitude of self-sacrifice and hospitality unless she had been taught the value of those qualities early in her life.

The same servant's heart can be seen in Ruth. You might remember that as a young widow herself, she chose to accompany her poor, widowed mother-in-law on a journey from Moab back to the land of Judah to an uncertain future. Ruth vowed to stand by Naomi no matter what, and to make the God of Israel her own God.

When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Judah, Ruth supported her aging mother-in-law by going into the fields to glean behind the reapers. This was hard physical work, stooping again and again to gather dusty stalks of wheat left behind by the men who were bringing in the harvest. It also required humility, since a gleaner was advertising to everyone that he or she was among the poorest in the land. The man Boaz, a relative who owned the fields where Ruth worked, praised her spirit of service. *“The LORD recompense you for what you have done,”* he tells her, *“and a full reward be given you by the LORD!”* (Ruth 2:12).

Did Jesus labor for others even in His youth? Well, the people in the area where He grew up referred to Him both as *“the carpenter’s son”* and *“the carpenter”* (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3). As an obedient Jewish son (Luke 2:51) Jesus must have worked alongside His legal father, Joseph, mastering the trade of carpentry. This meant gradually learning to do hard work and take responsibility for doing a job well. In this Jesus was imitating His heavenly Father also.

During his ministry Jesus said, “*My Father is working still, and I am working*” (John 5:17). And, as Jesus said, His motive was to benefit others. He came to serve rather than be served (Mark 10:45).

Parents, you can teach your children to have a servant's heart. The best way to do that is *to set the example in serving others yourself*. Children are born imitators, according to God's design (Ephesians 5:1). This is especially true of young children. Wherever you are, look for opportunities to help out others and invite your children to join you in ways that are appropriate to the situation. Discuss with them in advance how important it is to be of service, especially to fellow believers (Galatians 6:10).

Is an older person struggling with a door or laboring to carry a heavy parcel? If you have been to a Bible study or a potluck dinner, are there chairs to be put away, garbage to be taken out, or other work needing to be done afterward?

Youths, do you look around yourself, in any situation, to see if there are ways you can help others? Don't wait to be asked, take the initiative and ask how you can help.

Helping others brings family members together. Just as important, as others see our spirit of loving service, they will take more seriously our profession of faith in Christ and perhaps even be moved to learn about the God who, through His Son, has ministered to us all things we need for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).

D. Barefoot

1 Chronicles 16:28-36 – King David's Speech Part II

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name bring an offering and come before Him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Tremble before Him, all the world! The Earth is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!” Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them! Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the Lord, for He comes to judge the world. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Cry out, “Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations that we may give thanks to Your holy name, and glory in Your praise.” Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.
Then all the people said “Amen” and “Praise the Lord.”

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

Entered into rest: None

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

USA

1. Scott Forney, Ellwood City, PA
2. Sherrie Brock, Summerville, PA
3. Kayla Zizelman, New Knoxville, Ohio

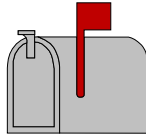
Italy

1. Marco Soranno

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 articles.

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I continue to be thankful for your dedicated service to spreading the happy Gospel Message of salvation in Jesus Christ, and everlasting life in our Heavenly Father's coming Kingdom.

What peace, comfort and joy is ours, to know in our hearts that soon this present order of thing will be done away with and replaced with health, love, righteousness and peace everlasting! All to God's glory!

May we serve our King faithfully as we draw daily closer to that vision of beauty and light that brings happiness, hope and LIFE to all mankind. I can hardly wait! May we start the Kingdom principles now...by practicing love, patience, forgiveness, and compassion. Every effort in that direction makes a difference. The "ripple effect" is real and each of us can help uplift our fellow man in kindness as we walk towards that glorious future that awaits us all.

God's love is real and true (in spite of how things may look at the present.) Believe and be blessed! Let Jesus be your constant companion and strength. He is our Light in a dark world.

With love and prayers in Christ,
Sr. Carlene Isaiah 35

A thought on Serenity:

Calmness of mind is one of the beautiful jewels of wisdom. It is the result of a long and patient effort in self-control. It is also good to remember that calmness of thought is the best attitude to be found when problems come. Jesus said, "I will not leave nor forsake you." "Trust me." Watch, listen, be still, wait. Surrender your all and everything to His care. Calmness and peace will come beyond compare.

"His" Servant

Dear Br. Elmer,

Loving greetings in Jesus' Precious Name.

A few days ago I came across a report from Br. Ron Taylor on his visit to Ghana around 1990. He had gone there to witness the arrival and distribution of the relief supplies which had been sent by us at C.A.R.T. The report gave distressing news about the poverty that existed, but also about the joy that the Bible Correspondence Courses brought to these poor people. The report caused me to remember the wonderful financial support given to us by the C.M.F. which enabled us to send the large quantity of goods that were sent during the 1990s about twenty 20 foot container loads each year.

I look back on those years as the best part of my Christian life. It was hard work, raising all the goods, packing and dispatching them, but I knew God's hand of blessing was upon us. On looking through the records of the financial support we received from you all, Elmer Weeks, Robert Webber and His Servant (name unknown) featured prominently and I have, on record, my sincere thanks to you all.

As a token of my appreciation, I am sending the enclosed CD by the Princethorpe Golden Band. I enjoy many happy hours listening to and singing the hymns which I have copied from the Methodist Hymn book. Choosing the words of the verses which speak to me most spiritually. I hope you enjoy it. It amazes me that men working in such an underground environment can play so beautifully. I have not been able to find words to hymns 11, 12 and 25, although the words of hymn 28 can be sung to number 25.

I have enjoyed reading the C.M.F. New Creation magazine over the last 20 or so years and those that you wrote were particularly helpful. I use some of the small poems from the magazines in my daily prayers.

I am now turning 91 and consequently, I am not involved in the work of C.A.R.T. as much as previously, but I am still a trustee. Please accept my grateful thanks for all your past support.

God Bless,
Guildford Tompkins

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

Christian Believers Conference 110th Annual

Tuesday, August 7 – Saturday, August 11, 2018

Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts

Theme: The Ransomed of the Lord, (Isaiah 35:10)

Donation

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 making a donation to CDML.