

THE NEW CREATION

A publication of the Christian Discipling Ministries International

A magazine published bimonthly and dedicated to the spiritual welfare of God's New Creation on earth.

CDMI Main Office

36 Chapel Lane, Somersworth, NH 03878

Website: **CDMI.org**

New Creation Editor

Bob Whittaker
356 Fairgreen Pl
Casselberry, FL 32707
bobwhittaker64@gmail.com

Printing & Distribution Center CDMI

36 Chapel Lane
Somersworth, NH 03878
Manager: Bruce Blake
bblake351@gmail.com

Donations CDMI

2462 E. Laurel Street
Mesa, AZ 85213
Laureen Shaw
bowenshaw@msn.com

Bible Correspondence Courses CDMI

P.O. Box 540
Warrenville, IL 60555
Manager: Allan Crawford
ahcrawford@ameritech.net

CDMI Website: <http://www.cdmi.org> **Phone:** 239-237-6319

2022 CDMI Board Members: Dan Anas, Bruce Blake, Jacinto Bowks, Andre Couceiro, Allan Crawford, John DiCesare, Henry Gmiterek, Dennis Gorham, Joe Knapp, Aaron Kuehmichel, Colin Larose, Bo Shaw, Steve Teunis, Gus Vassilopoulos, Bob Whittaker

Note:

1. All correspondence or requests in regard to **magazine subscriptions, booklets, and tracts** should be sent directly to the *CDMI Printing and Distribution Center* shown above.
2. All **donations** made to CDMI should be sent directly to the *Donation Address* shown above. **Donations are tax-deductible.**
3. All correspondence or requests in regard to **Bible Correspondence Courses** should be sent directly to the CDMI branch shown above.
4. All other correspondence should be sent to the **Main Office.**

Reminder: *If you move or change your address, be sure to send your new address to the CDMI Printing and Distribution Center as soon as possible. See the address above. Thank You!*

Contents

	Page
Contents.....	1
Editorial: Scriptures to Think on.....	2
The Hammer of God.....	3
The Faith and Compassion of a Young Slave Girl	6
Brothers.....	8
These Three Men.....	12
The Tune of God’s Heart (poem).....	17
Christ in You.....	18
Being a True Servant.....	19
For Christian Parents and Children.....	23
The Millennium.....	31
A Portrait of Jesus: <i>The Lost Sheep</i>	33
Prayer List.....	35
Grads/Websites.....	36
Conferences and Conventions	37

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 to 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.

The New Creation magazine and all of CDMI’s other publications are sent out *free of charge* to all who request them. This magazine and all other publications are totally supported by the voluntary and generous donations of those who wish to help us in this work for the Lord. Your support makes it possible for CDMI to provide this magazine and booklets and tracts to the poor around the world. All donations are tax exempt.

Scriptures to Think on

The following Scriptures relate to the themes developed in the articles of this issue and are listed in the same chronological order as the table of contents.



Heb.4:12 For the **word of God** is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Mat.9:36 Seeing the people, He felt **compassion** for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

Mat12:48, 49 But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My **brothers?**" And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold My mother and My **brothers!**"

Dan 6:5 Then these men said, "We will **not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel** unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God."

2Th.3:5 "May the Lord direct your hearts into **the love of God** and into the steadfastness of Christ."

Rom.8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to *become* **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

1Pe.5:6 Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

Luk 18:17 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God **like a child** will not enter it *at all*."

Joh 5:28, 29 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a **resurrection of judgment**.

Joh.10:11 "I am the good shepherd; the **good shepherd** lays down His life for the sheep."

R. Whittaker

The Hammer of God

“Is My word not like fire?” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?” Jeremiah 23:29

Those of us who stand on the Word of God have been swimming upstream down through the centuries and we have never been in the majority. Chances are good you are the only one in your neighborhood who believes the bible is inerrant. Chances are good you are the only one in your classroom who believes that the scriptures are to speak truth and everyone else considered a liar. If you are guiding your family by the principals of scripture you are going to be seen, at the very least, as politically incorrect in this culture we live in today.

God’s Word has certainly endured the test of time. Men, sects and even empires have down through the centuries, undertaken to destroy every jot and tittle of the enduring and everlasting Word of God.

The last 10 emperors of the Roman Empire, starting with Nero and ending with Diocletian, persecuted the Christian religion relentlessly and mercilessly, yet, the Christian faith continued to spread and grow across the then known world. Of those 10 Roman emperors, Diocletian was the most vindictive and cruelest of the Caesars. Not content to just arresting Christians and having them, in many cases, put to death unless they recanted their faith, Diocletian would burn any homesteads that were owned by Christ’s followers and sought to burn any of the sacred writings that his army would come across, (perhaps one reason why the original writings of scripture do not exist today.)

Nevertheless, 25 years after Diocletian’s reign of terror, a new emperor came to power and of all things, converted to the Christian religion. His name was Constantine and in 328 A.D., he commissioned Eusebius, a bishop of Caesarea Maritima, to prepare 50 copies of the scriptures, all at the expense of the Roman government, the same Roman government who had spent nearly 3 centuries trying to eradicate all signs and re-

membrances of Christianity and its book. *“Is My word not like fire?” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”*

And then there was Voltaire, a French philosopher, historian, and Deist. He was a free thinker who became a most influential and prolific writer during what had been called the “Age of Enlightenment”. Voltaire had a deep distain for Christianity and especially the Holy Bible. In 1764 he wrote, *“The Bible. That is what fools have written, what imbeciles commend, what rogues teach and young children are made to learn by heart”* (Voltaire, *Philosophical Dictionary*, 1764).

He even once so boldly wrote, *“We are living in the twilight of Christianity”* (*Philosophical Dictionary*). So engrossed in his disdain for Christianity, Voltaire ended every letter to friends with *“Ecrasez l’infame”* (crush the infamy — the Christian religion).

Voltaire, in his voluminous writings against Christianity and the Bible, predicted in 1776, ***“One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible on earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity-seeker.”***

Within fifty years after his death, in an ironic twist of Providence, the very house in which he once lived and wrote was bought by the French Bible Society. It was eventually used by the Evangelical Society of Geneva as a storehouse for Bibles and Gospel tracts and the very printing presses he used to print his volumes of irreverent works, were now used to print the Holy Scriptures.

“Is My word not like fire?” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”

Peter and Isaiah, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, put it perfectly. *“...for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God; for, “all flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like the flower of grass, the grass withers, and the*

*flower falls off **but the word of the Lord endures forever.**"*
1Peter 1:23-25, Isaiah 40:6-8

There is a deep concern today for how many believers truly understand the power and the blessings of God's Holy Word. Everything that pertains to life and eternity is contained within the covers of the Holy Bible. And when we embrace it, it makes a difference in our emotions. It makes a difference in our reactions, our responses to our fellow man. It makes a difference in how we view life, how we handle relationships, how we handle stress, and how we handle our worries concerning the future or of things which are past.

We do not worship the book or the print in that book. It is the truth of the Word that directs us to Christ, that drives us, motivates us, and fills us with hope. It confirms our trust and faith in an Almighty God, in His begotten Son, our Lord Jesus and gives us assurance that what He says, will come to fruition.

For as God spoke through Isaiah 55:11: "*So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty (void), but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*"

God's Word is indeed a fire and a hammer that shatters every rock of opposition and bastion of unbelief. It strengthens the heart of every person who puts their trust in His proclaimed word and fills their very being with hope. If you have yet to fully embrace the all-consuming Word of God and make it a staple of your everyday life, why not start today?

D. Gorham

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your **word** is truth," said Jesus.
John 17:17

"... If you continue in My **word**, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
John 8:31, 32

"...the **word** which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."
John 14:24

The Faith and Compassion of a Young Slave Girl

We read in 2 Kings 5:1-9, “Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. **Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. She said to her mistress, ‘if only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.’** Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ‘By all means, go,’ the king of Aram replied. ‘I will send a letter to the king of Israel.’ So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents^[b] of silver, six thousand shekels^[c] of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: ‘With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.’ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, ‘Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!’ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: ‘Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.’ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house.”

A young slave girl, *unnamed*, was a beautiful example of a very strong faith. Also notable was her compassionate attitude towards those who had taken her from her family in Israel and now she lived in servitude to them yet, seemingly without any hatred in her heart. Where did this kind of faith come from? We are not told, but I am quite sure it came from her upbringing by a loving father and mother who were faithful believers in the God of Israel. Again, *unnamed*, but godly parents worthy of recognition are so easy for us to just pass them by unnoticed!

What is amazing also about this young slave girl was her confidence that God’s prophet, Elisha, would be able to heal

Naaman of his leprosy, even though no one in Israel had ever been healed of leprosy by this prophet. How do we know this? We are told this in Luke 4:27, *“And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”*

You and I may also be used by the Lord as a source of blessing, not only to our children and grandchildren but to others that the Lord puts in our pathway as we walk through our time on earth. We, too, may pass into eternity *unnamed* as we laid hold of the opportunities given to us to show our God-given faith and compassion towards others along the way. Let us be assured that even though our deeds of kindness may remain unnoticed by men, the Lord sees and appreciates our faithfulness to Him. If our influence has blessed others, *all the praise belongs to our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus!*

Godly faith produces loving compassion. Here are some examples of Scriptures on compassion:

“But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Ps.86:15

“Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.” Matthew 20:34

“Then Jesus answered and said: ‘A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.’” Luke 10:30-33

“And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, ‘Do not weep.’” Luke 7:12-13

E. Weeks

Brothers

The two most recognized brothers in human history are Cain and Abel, the first two sons of Adam. Brotherly love ended with Cain killing Abel, and because of this GOD gave Adam another son - Seth. Noah came from the lineage of Seth and so all the children of our current world share this lineage. Satan has certainly made a mockery of brotherly love as we examine the world. However, GOD has a plan.

One of the lineages of Noah (through Noah's son Shem) was Abraham. GOD promised Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through him and his seed and that the nations that curse him will be cursed and those that bless him will be blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3, 22:18, 26:4) Abraham had eight sons. These eight sons produced offspring that hated each other with an incredible passion and still do, but they are all descendants of Abraham and these descendants live all over the world. Several nations are led by descendants of Abraham.

However, of these eight sons, the one chosen by GOD is Isaac. Isaac marries Rebecca and they remain faithful to each other unto death knowing the promises GOD made to Abraham. They give birth to the most recognized twins in human history – Jacob and Esau. Even though they are twins, there is an incredible rivalry between the two and a different devotion to the Heavenly Father. They are also different in appearance. Esau's descendants form the nation of Edom. GOD gives Jacob twelve sons and they become the tribes of the nation of Israel. Israel is the name GOD gives to the nation from Jacob, which is ultimately the nation from Abraham.

Jacob's sons are taught the promises of GOD made to their great grandfather and grandfather. Jacob is quite faithful in sharing the promises of GOD, his interactions with GOD, and that his nation is to be a nation unto the gentiles, a light unto the world and the path to knowing the CREATOR.

Jacob's sons have heated rivalries among themselves and against those who oppose the nation of Israel. Much of this brings grief to Jacob. Although the brothers do not kill each other, they do send one of their number (Joseph) into slavery. However, in GOD's plan this was to help Israel become a great enough nation that they could survive on their own in the land promised to Abraham.

This completes a synopsis of Genesis showing that Isaac and Rebecca represent the Son and His Bride and that the Son will come to the earth through the tribe of Judah. Please read Genesis 12- 48, 49:8 – 12.

The next two well-known brothers in human history are Moses and Aaron. Moses and Aaron were selected by GOD to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses and Aaron did have their confrontations, but these were mostly caused by Aaron disobeying GOD. One notable dispute between the brothers is about Moses' Ethiopian wife. As far as we know, she goes into the Promised Land.

However, in Numbers 20 we are told that Moses and Aaron jointly displeased GOD at the waters of Meribah and, as a result, GOD forbids them to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Aaron dies shortly after this displeasing of GOD but Moses continues to lead Israel on. This is noteworthy! Moses could have said, 'I have tried my best and all I get is grief. I am going to the Midianites. '

Instead Moses asks Edom if the Israelites can pass through Edom to get to the Promised Land. This is also noteworthy. Edom is the nation formed by Jacob's brother Esau. Moses must have been thinking – 'They know the promises made to Jacob and to Abraham; certainly they will let Jacob's descendants pass through their land to the Promised Land. This act of kindness will lead to an eternal reward of blessing to the nation of Edom.' However, Edom says NO! This could lead to a curse from GOD.

In Numbers 24, Balaam blesses Israel (Jacob) repeating some of the Heavenly Father's promises. He did this even though Balak asked him to curse Israel.

Now to top this off, the Midianites, who were also descendants of Abraham, who treated Moses kindly when he was exiled from Egypt and also helped him with his mission of leading the Israelites to the Promised Land, were ordered by Moses to be annihilated, in obedience to GOD. (Numbers 31) The Midianites great sin was that they led the Israelites to sin. They appear to have brought the curse dictated by GOD upon themselves. Certainly, the Midianites knew of the promise made to Abraham.

We now see (from Genesis and Numbers) that Ethiopians, Egyptians, Canaanites, the descendants of Lot (Abraham's nephew) and the descendants of Abraham are all living around the promised land and are impacting the Israelites, the descendants of Jacob, even before they arrive at the promised land. Jacob's descendants were to be the light unto all the nations, not just these.

Since Joshua and Caleb (descendants of Judah) were faithful to GOD and the promises made by GOD to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, they will lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Who is the thorn in Israel's side when they enter the Promised Land? In the book of Judges, we read that it is often the Midianites. Those who know the history and promises of GOD are the ones who appear to give the Israelites the most consternation. Isn't that still true today?

What is the hope? Isaiah 11:9 and Habakkuk 2:14 (both descendants of Jacob) are surprisingly similar. What is even more interesting is that Isaiah 11 and 12 describe GOD's glorious plan for the world of mankind while Habakkuk 2 is a description of GOD's vengeance upon evil, with the end result being Habakkuk 2:14 (Isaiah 11:9). It's amazing how the Bible fits so perfectly together like a fine puzzle.

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

However, before this we have the prophecy of Amos, another descendant of Jacob. *“Behold, the days are coming,”* says the Lord God, *“That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord.”* (Amos 8:11)

Do you not feel this way at times in today’s world?

Now think of the words of Malachi. “Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.” *‘On the day when I act,’* says the Lord Almighty, *‘they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.’* (Malachi 3:16-18)

We see the things that happened to brothers who were descendants of Abraham. Should we not be mindful of these things? Should we not follow the words of Micah?

“Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.” (Micah 6:8)

One of the Messiah’s earthly brothers was James. James wrote an incredible article about the Heavenly Father and the Heavenly Father’s Son. One should read it all but two inspiring verses are: *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”* James 3:17-18

James learned this from the Messiah. Should we not, also?

J. Sochacki

These Three Men

" *'Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,' says the Lord God.*" [Ezekiel 14:14-20]

This is an amazing text, wherein God is giving His personal judgment about certain imperfect humans and their level of integrity and righteousness. God says that if they were in Jerusalem at the time of its fall to Babylon, they would deliver only their own lives, but no one else [even if closely related].

There was a view held by some, based on Abraham's pleading with God about Sodom, that a certain number of righteous people in a city would serve to protect it, i.e., corporate salvation because of the righteousness of a few. God, through the prophet, instructs the inquirers that it is not true in the case of this passage. "Were there in it the most perfect of all men that have been or that are still living, they should avail nothing towards interceding for a land already doomed to destruction." [Calvin]

Noah, we do not know a lot about. His work building the ark must have been difficult. There may have been opposition by the populace, and certainly ridicule, and this over a considerable period of time. Noah was a "*preacher of righteousness*", yet he was not able to prevent the Flood, but was able to save only himself and, by God's grace, his immediate family. Where were his grandchildren? Apparently, they did not believe the old man, and thus perished with the rest of the "*world that was*".

For Job, we have a considerable record of his trials, integrity and faithfulness. Perhaps the account in the book of Job was written by Job himself, or at his dictation. Job's patient faithfulness was proverbial and is mentioned in the book of James [James 5:11]. Job was not able to save his immediate family, although he interceded for them daily.

The person that stands out, though, is Daniel. He was still living when Ezekiel wrote this text; in fact, yet a young man. Recognized by his contemporaries, such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Babylonian authorities, he was a living beacon of integrity and righteousness. That is amazing. "*So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. Then these men said, 'We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.'*" [Daniel 6:4-5]

Why these three? Noah was a representative of the "world that was" before the Flood. Job lived in the Patriarchal age; Daniel in the Jewish age. Perhaps these facts had some bearing on this selection of persons. But who really knows?

But equally amazing is who are missing from this brief list. What about the heroes of faith, such as those mentioned in Hebrews 11, and others?

Where is Abraham, the "*friend of God*" [James 2:23], and "*father*" of the faithful? How could he possibly be left out?

And what about Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egypt, mediated the Law Covenant, brought the people to the border of the Promised Land? This man, who spoke with God "*face to face*" [Exodus 33:11] as no other had done -- where is he in the above text?

And there are others. For example, Enoch who "*walked with God*" [Genesis 5:24] and "*was not, for God took him*".

But, there is another similar account, with different names.

"*Then the Lord said to me, 'Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth.'*" [Jeremiah 15:1]

Here, as seems proper, we finally have Moses mentioned; and there is also Samuel, the last [and greatest] of the Judges. But, because of one indiscretion, Moses was unable to enter the Promised Land. Samuel failed to raise his sons properly but, even so, made them "*judges over Israel*"; their bad conduct was one reason the people wanted a king [1 Samuel 8:1-9].

Why God gave the names of these five men, out of the many available, only He knows. Two [Noah, Job] were not even Israelites, but were from the far-distant past. Two [Moses, Samuel] were Israelites of the somewhat more-recent past. One [Daniel] was a living contemporary. But again, who really knows?

God's statements of Israel's sins are a generalization. Surely there were some good people in the nation, and some indifferent, but the bad [the idol worshippers] seemed to predominate. The idols were not always evident outwardly, but in their hearts, and this led them to stumble into iniquity. The punishment was destined to come on all -- good, bad, indifferent. No corporate salvation here!

But what terrible things had the Israelites done, that God was determined to destroy the nation, Jerusalem, the Temple, and exile the people? They had gone far from God's revealed Law, and many enthusiastically entered into idol worship -- not merely worshipping wood and stone, and performing various immoralities, but religious murder!

"They have built pagan shrines to Baal, and there they burn their sons as sacrifices to Baal. I have never commanded such a horrible deed; it never even crossed my mind to command such a thing!" [Jeremiah 19:5 NLT]

"And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart." [Jeremiah 7:31; 32:35]

"For when you offer your gifts and make your sons pass through the fire, you defile yourselves with all your idols, even to this day. So shall I be inquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, says the Lord God, I will not be inquired of by you. What you have in your mind shall never be, when you say, 'We will be like the Gentiles, like the families in other countries, serving wood and stone.'" [Ezekiel 20:31-32]

And then, after ritual murder of children, they had the brazen nerve to come into God's sanctuary and claim they were also worshipping Him!

"For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands. They have committed adultery with their idols, and even sacrificed their sons whom they bore to Me, passing them through the fire, to devour them. Moreover they have done this to Me: They have defiled My sanctuary on the same day and profaned My Sabbaths. For after they had slain their children for their idols, on the same day they came into My sanctuary to profane it; and indeed thus they have done in the midst of My house." [Ezekiel 23:37-39; see also Jeremiah 7:9-11]

And idolatry was nothing new with the Israelites; it was with them as they lived in Egypt and as they travelled through the Sinai desert. And it was always with the Israelites in the Promised Land until they were carried away to Babylon and finally cured of that gross idolatry.

"Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River [Euphrates], and in Egypt. Serve the Lord!" [Joshua 24:14]

"But they rebelled against Me and would not obey Me. They did not all cast away the abominations which were before their eyes, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt..." [Ezekiel 20:8]

"For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon." [1 Kings 11:5-7]

What is the lesson for us? The main problem of the Israelites was that they refused to listen to God and the rules of conduct, worship, and living that He had provided to them. Instead, they leaned on their own understanding and desires, and also followed the examples of their pagan neighbors. Let us, as Luther said, follow "Scripture Only".

We can look at these five persons of olden days, full of integrity and faith -- and we can draw encouragement from those records. *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..." [Hebrews 12:1-2]*

We can always rejoice in God's righteousness--His faithful love.

L. Schneider

(Scripture reference from NKJV unless otherwise specified.)

~~~~~

There is no right way to do a wrong thing.

To be right with God, has often meant to be in trouble with men.

A recognized fault is well on its way to correction.

Sin keeps us from the Bible; the Bible keeps us from sin.

## The Tune of God's Heart

*What you have done at rest and at run,  
Has given new life to what so many had begun.  
Press on with God's will until you are done,  
And rejoice in the victory you've so bravely won.*

*Many aspire to do God's good deeds,  
But few put them in practice in other's needs.  
But you've chosen the best way from other's apart,  
And do all that you do to the tune of His heart.*

*The tune of God's heart is all based on love,  
And overflowing with it in every direction.  
This fills His heart and all heaven above,  
And if it fills us too there's no other speculation.*

*But sadly some people on earth chase  
more of what they wish,  
And fill up their lives with what pleases them more.  
Yet they'll find in the future a full judgment not to miss,  
That will make them choose life or be dead to the core.*

*Now is the time to be filled with God's love,  
And be more certain of a place in heaven above.  
For to deny the choice now in this grievous place,  
And wait for the future to see what comes of the race.*

J. Knapp

Love sees like a wide angle lens, not like a microscope.

Unless we run on love, we don't run well at all!

Love can never be wasted; it always brings a big return, if not in this life then in the next.

Love is the communicated caring about the happiness of others.

## **Christ in You**

*"... God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col 1:27 NIV*

What an offer! Jesus is saying he will dwell with us. And this was not a onetime invitation. In John 14:23 Jesus said: *"If anyone loves me he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."* And in Matt. 18:20 Jesus said: *"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

Part of his final instructions to the disciples are found in Matt. 28:19, 20, which reads: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Have we accepted His wonderful offer? If not, why not? And hopefully we have accepted it by our faith and hope and love for Jesus and our Father. God Bless!

D. Anas

## **Christ Within**

*A living Christ our spirits need,  
A loving Christ our souls to feed;  
A dying Christ, our ransom He,  
A risen Christ to set us free.*

*This, too, our need--a Christ within,  
A life with God, afar from sin,  
A Christ whose love our hearts shall fill,  
And quite subdue our wayward will.*

Poems of Dawn (in part)

## Being a True Servant

### *The Importance of Humility*

They say, “a picture is worth a thousand words.” When Jesus, whose greatness is beyond our comprehension stated in Matt. 11:29, “*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; **for I am meek and lowly in heart:** and ye shall find rest unto your souls,*” he was expressing the significant fact that He was humble, which enabled him to be a servant, which in itself greatly contributed to His greatness, being pleasing to His Father.(Mat. 3:17)

He gave us a picture of this humility when he washed his disciple’s feet, which was no small matter. (John 13:5) Jesus was a servant, a servant of “The Most High,” who came to do His Father’s will, which included suffering, and giving up His own life (John 3:16) to save and reconcile mankind to His Father, and our Father, who we must also obey.

Humility requires an understanding of one’s **position in life**, understanding who we actually and ultimately must serve. Yet, what can we give to the Lord, the creator of all things, except our love, demonstrated by keeping His commandments, (John 14:15) and loving our neighbor as ourself. (Matt. 22:39).

This is what Jesus did and said in John 15:13 “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*”

Albert Einstein, familiar to almost everybody, is best known for his genius, and scientific and mathematical discoveries. Yet, I was surprised to read that he wrote, “**Only a life lived for others, is a life worthwhile.**” This is what our Heavenly Father wants from us when He tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

A picture that to me expressed the greatness of our Master and our insignificance **if not for our relationship with Him**, was a picture Voyager took of the earth while it was leaving our solar system, billions of miles from earth. That picture showed the earth as just a “speck of light” in the vastness of

surrounding space, that in itself would be less than a speck in the limitless expansion of the universe, created and inhabited by God.

This image gave real meaning to Isaiah 55:9, *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* These are not just words, but reflect the Truth that we must humbly accept, and be submissive to our Lord, Master, and Creator.

With this understanding we must heed the admonition of Proverbs 3:5-7, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding.** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. **Be not wise in thine own eyes** (be humble), fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”*

Let us never forget that source of all evil, (Satan), whose pride and lack of humility led to his downfall, which will ultimately lead to his destruction. We read of his pride and downfall in Isa 14:14-15, *“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”*

Our significance on that “speck of light” is only established by our relationship with God, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is only the Lord that gives us significance, not anything of ourselves. We gain our stature by being a servant of the Most High, which begins with our total submission to humility do His will as a faithful servant. If we truly give this point thought, we will understand and appreciate how great it is to be a servant of the Most High.

We would also humbly understand that we are not alone in this great honor, as Jesus did when he told Mary Magdalene *“go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”* (John 20:17).

Jesus loved them and loves us, even as He tells us to “love our neighbor” as instructed by His Father. We are not alone

as that speck in the heavens would indicate but are made significant by our love of the Father and His plans for us, demonstrated by our doing His will and becoming a son.

A servant serves a master, and as a true and honorable servant, does all things in his master's interest and will. A servant must be humble and understand his place, otherwise he will surely fall. Let us never lose sight of the fact that all we have, and life itself, is of our Heavenly Father.

It was the prodigal son who came to greatly appreciate the love of his father after suffering the loss of his father's kindness and care, through riotous living. The inheritance he squandered meant nothing to the father, for it was not even a small price for gaining a son who through suffering and spiritual growth, was willing to humble himself as his father's servant -- even while his father gladly embraced him as his son. (Luke 15:24)

Lest we become discouraged, remember the encouragement God gives to the **repentant** sinner in Ezekiel 33:16 *"None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live."* Let us therefore follow the admonition of Paul in Philippians 3:13-14, *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*

In reality, even in this evil world, a servant can become "son like" when that servant is faithful. That servant can find favor equal to a biological son through faithful service. Is it any different with our Heavenly Father? Remember what Jesus said in Matt. 7:11, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*

In reality, one does not even need to ask, for as Jesus tells us in Mat.6:8, God knows our needs even before we ask. The important thing is being a faithful servant, serving the Lord by

-serving others, "loving our neighbor as ourselves." Remember, 1Jn 4:20-21, "*If a man say I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.*"

A good servant knows his place, and always strives to do his best for his master/employer. Humility enables us to know our place, and take to heart the strong message Jesus provided in **Luke 17:10**. "*So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*"

This attitude/understanding is derived from humility, and never forgetting our place, which will enable the Lord to exalt us, (Luke 18:14) for He and only He is the source of every blessing.

J. DiCesare

### **The Time Is Short**

*UP, up, my soul, the long-spent time redeeming;  
Sow thou the seeds of better deed and thought;  
Light other lamps, while yet the light is beaming;  
The time, the time is short.*

*Think of the eyes that often weep in sadness,  
Seeing not the truth that God to thee hath taught;  
O bear to them this light and joy and gladness;  
The time, the time is short.*

*Think of the feet that stray from misdirection,  
And into snares of error's doctrine brought:  
Bear then to them these tidings of salvation;  
The time, the time is short.*

*The time is short. Then be thy heart a brother's  
To every heart that needs thy help in aught.  
How much they need the sympathy of others!  
The time, the time is short.*

Poems of Dawn

## **For Christian Parents and Children**

It is surely evident that God intended, through creation of earth and man, to reveal in the human realm the marvelous features of His own character, power, and glory. Made in the image and likeness of his Creator (Gen.1:26), man was given dominion over the earth, thereby reflecting the power of God as King and Ruler of the universe. Through his moral abilities, man mirrored the righteousness and holiness of God. And an even greater aspect of God's likeness was instilled within our first parents--the attribute of love. Scripture says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). As infinite love, God lives not for Himself alone but imparts life and shares it with others.

Sin has marred the love intended to exist in the earthly home between husband and wife and between parent and child. It has brought a fearful ruin to a continuance of peaceful family life in harmony with God. Through their human parents, every child on earth has become partaker of sin and dying. And fathers, often discouraged by the prevailing sins of their own flesh, feel themselves incapable of instructing and blessing their children--incapable of setting an adequate example of holiness and obedience.

The result is inglorious. Instead of being a place where children may learn the ways of God, to prepare them for the glories of the life to come, the home often becomes a place of confusion and disillusionment. This frequently leads to misery and destruction.

### **How Sin Has Come Down to Us**

As God brought forth Adam in His own likeness, man, as in the case of disobedient Adam, brings forth sons and daughters in his own likeness. By one act of disobedience (Rom. 5:19) sin conquered Adam and the whole human race still unborn within him. Adam ate the proverbial "sour grape" and his children's teeth were set on edge.

The results of sin were soon manifested. Cain rose up in a fit of jealous rage and slew his brother, yet Cain was only one step outside of perfection--the paradise of Eden! In much



the same way, parents can trace the sins and evil tempers of their children to their own shortcomings and willfulness. How important is the good example set by Christian parents!

### **Hope amidst Present Privilege**

But what sin has destroyed, grace can restore. The Bible declares not only the sin of our first parents, but also the obedience of God's Son, Jesus Christ. By Adam, sin passed unto all. By Jesus Christ, all have opportunity for life and full deliverance from sin and its penalty. So, godly parents may take heart. The Creator of the first human pair has provided redemption for them and for all their offspring. Let all thank God for this gracious assurance!

In the distant past God made an important promise to Abraham: "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 22:18). The Christian home into which children are born is a natural environment for the teaching of that promise. God watches over these homes with tender interest. He knows our weaknesses, and does not leave us alone to accomplish the marvelous task of spiritual instruction of our children. He adds His love and lends His power to every parent who desires to be the minister of His holy purpose.

### **All in the Ark Saved**

By faith Noah prepared an ark and saved his household from destruction (Heb. 11:7). This is witness to future generations that the faith of a believing parent obtains a blessing both for himself and his children. Not only did Noah's deliverance from the flood introduce a new epoch, but also it was the first clear revelation of the principle of faith as a means of human deliverance.

God assured Noah that the ark in which he was to be delivered from death was intended for his children also; "Come thou and thy house into the ark" (Gen. 7:1). That told him that the ark in which he would be carried over into a new world would also protect his children. Noah and his family built the ark, believing that its strength would be sufficient to preserve all therein. While Scripture does not say that Noah's children

had faith, apparently they voluntarily assisted their believing father in the construction.

How does a parent bring salvation to his house? A father may be assured that God's power will work on his behalf when he relies on the providences of God in faith, and prays for, and with, his children.

How may parents get their children into the ark? The answer is simple: go into the ark and live there yourself. Your children will grow up with the assurance that living with you is living under the special providence of God (1 Cor. 7:14). Raise your little ones in the knowledge of their Creator. Train them to remain separate from the seductive influences of the world. Abide in Christ, and your children will realize that being near you is like being near our Master Himself.

### **Abraham's Faith**

The Lord had told Abraham that he would become a mighty nation and through him and his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:2,3; 13:16; 15:5; 17:4-8). That testimony instructs present-day Christians that God blesses the children of those who are taught to know and worship Him. Later God said of Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him" (Gen 18:19). This shows the importance God placed not only on Abraham's faith, especially demonstrated by his willingness to offer up Isaac in sacrifice, but also on Abraham's commitment to command his children to keep the ways of the Lord. Abraham's parental determination was part of the faith that finally secured from God that great covenant (Gen. 22:15-18). Afterward Abraham is spoken of as "...the father of the faithful."

### **Our Work Today**

How wonderful it would be if today all parents made conscious effort not only to achieve family harmony, but also to become reconciled to God. It is good that you, as a Christian parent, teach your children that you and they are different from

others in this world (1 Cor. 7:14). God approved of and blessed Abraham because he commanded his household after him to keep the way of the Lord.

Some parents mistakenly feel that the "healthy" development of a child's mental and moral abilities would be suppressed if they were to insist that their children obey them. But according to the Scriptures, true liberty of mind and character in the making of decisions is attained only as one learns to submit--to God, and to godly parents. "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee" (Exod. 20:12). The child who is taught to honor and accept the understanding and wisdom of godly parents will learn valuable lessons which will serve him well in later life. These lessons may never be learned if the child is permitted to pursue his own way, independent of such parental counsel.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Eph. 6:1,4). The necessity that children obey godly parents is often not fully appreciated by either. Scripture illustrates the spiritual harmony between authority and love, between obedience and liberty. Parents must be more than friends and advisors. They have been endowed by God with a holy authority to be exercised in leading their children in the way of the Lord. Parental rule should be loving and affectionate, and with an authority not to be despised. At the same time, parental authority must not be exercised in a harsh, unreasonable, vindictive or autocratic manner.--Col. 3:20,21

An important consideration regarding Christian parents and their children is in our Master's words in Matt. 19:14: "...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." There is deep significance in that command. Those mothers who brought their children to Jesus had undoubtedly heard the earlier words recorded in that chapter (vss. 1-6), and they brought their little ones to be blessed by this wonderful teacher. Our Lord understood that these children required counsel and direction, and He knew the importance of a godly example. But Jesus saw

His disciples rebuking these women. Perhaps the disciples wondered just how much benefit the children could receive by hearing the words of Jesus. After all, even they sometimes found Jesus' words hard to understand. How could these children understand Him? What benefit could these little children receive from Him?

### **"Allow Them to Come"**

But Jesus hears their concern and says, "Forbid them not, allow them to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Children are precious in the sight of God. Jesus realized that in their own way, children were able to understand His love for them, even if not always His words. The wise parent understands that such is also true in their relationship with their own children.

Certain qualities of character in little children are especially fitting for disciples of our Master. Parents should not adopt the rebuking attitude of the disciples. Furthermore, father and mother must not quench the youthful grace of children.

The willingness of children to come to Jesus is the quality necessary for the first step of entrance into God's kingdom. The simple gospel is just what a child needs. Childlike faith was ready to trust and believe One so kind and loving. Similarly will children trust and believe kind and loving parents. The young personality has no difficulty in confessing need of help. And nothing appears more simple and natural than to follow and obey those who display true love. But above all, children grasp at once what older people may fail to apprehend: faith and salvation center in the living Jesus.

The Master often taught of 'the kingdom.' Thus the disciples posed to Him a question: "...who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matt. 18:1) Before the disciples were enlightened through the holy spirit, the word 'kingdom' suggested to them only the idea of power and glory. The response of Jesus to their question may have seemed strange and incomprehensible. "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my

name receives me." He called for and set a little child in their midst. He said that as long as they were thinking of who would be the greatest they could not even enter the kingdom. They must first become as little children. In God's kingdom the most childlike would be the greatest.

### **Becoming Like a Child**

Parents may function more wisely and successfully in their responsibilities and privileges by becoming, in a figurative sense, "as little children." The deeper our admiration and emulation of the humble aspect of children, the closer may be our understanding of Jesus. He humbled Himself (Phil 2:7-9). This is wonderfully instructive to parents. In the very processes of family life, God may set a little child in its midst, and through that child open vital aspects of the kingdom of heaven to the understanding of the parents. One wholesome aspect of children is their selflessness. True childlikeness loses itself in everything around it. But the curse of sin makes every man his own center. Even when he is seeking the kingdom of heaven, an earnest disciple may still think of being the greatest in that kingdom.

The child nature loves, and rejoices in being loved. Jesus said this naturalness and simplicity is worthy of emulation by true Christians. The spirit of the world is the very opposite. Its crushing competitiveness and arrogant ambition seek only excitement, possessions and power. It tends to destroy the child's natural beauty and sensitivity while nurturing stubborn pride and self-centeredness. Christian parents who have the means to gratify the tastes and pleasures of their children are especially in danger of destroying the simplicity and tenderness of the child life by permitting and stimulating worldly desires. Even in the midst of consistent Bible teaching, the essence of true religion may vanish if the caustic spirit of the world enters the home.

Christian parents should clearly understand what Jesus meant when he spoke so strongly of being childlike. Value the childlikeness and simplicity of your little ones. Realize that in their tender susceptibility to impressions they are all alive to

what surrounds them--both to the fostering influence of the heavenly life, or the withering effects of worldliness. Acknowledge the wonderful affinity which exists between God's spirit and childlikeness.

### **Right Moral Training**

The role of parents is a principal factor in raising a child. In the formative years, parents function as a conscience to their children. The specific goal in their moral training is to enable the child to refuse the evil and choose the good, even when no parent is near to help. The conscience, when informed by the sweet influence of God's word, instructs the will to the making of proper, important decisions.

However, conscience, though it always urges what is right, may not always know what is right. That is why it is essential that children be trained to seek an understanding of God's will in all things. And it is to be remembered that children may be trained to turn to God when important decisions need to be made. The child must know that, even when his parents are absent, he has a heavenly friend who is closer than any earthly friend, an advisor who knows him better than he knows himself. If the mind is wrong in its views of good and evil, faithfulness to conscience may lead to choosing the evil and refusing the good. It is therefore of first importance that the child be educated in the right ways.--1 Tim. 3:4,12

The inner light of conscience is generally reliable, but only the light from above is always reliable. Let Christian parents and children depend on God and His word to lead them in right paths. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psa. 119:105). Important to a child's Christian education is an exposure to all that the Bible contains. Equally important is the child's heartfelt acceptance of God's Word as the final authority in all of life's choices.

### **Summary**

The influence of the parent, the child's conscience, and God's Word: these form a threefold cord that cannot easily be broken. It is a cord that will bind the child to the throne and will of God, teaching him to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Let an affectionate love for God and Christ become your children's foundation, because within that love is formed the desire for truth. Christian parents are urged to fully trust God to be the author and power of your family life. God's rich blessings await those who faithfully work with Him to create today a home in which godly principles direct family life and its decisions.

G.L. Rice

### THE ROSE.

*WITHIN my hand I gently hold the Garden's Queen, a rose,--  
The softly-sighing summer wind about it faintly blows,  
And wafts its wondrous fragrance out upon the evening air.  
And as I gaze upon the rose, so perfect and so fair,  
In memory's halls there wakes, the while, a legend, quaint and  
old,  
How once upon a time, one day, a sage picked up, we're told,  
A lump of common clay, so redolent with perfume rare,  
He marveled, and the question wondering asked, "Whence  
dost thou bear  
Such fragrance, O, thou lump of clay?" In tones of deep re-  
pose  
There came the sweet reply, "I have been dwelling with **the  
rose.**"*

*The while the legend stirs my soul, within my hand still lie  
The petals of the rose, and from my heart of hearts I cry,  
"Thou lovely **Rose of Sharon**, may I ever dwell with Thee,  
So closely that the fragrance of Thy love shall cling to me!  
Oh, fill me with the spirit of Thy sweet humility,  
Then all shall see and know, dear Lord, that I have learned of  
Thee;  
And let mine earthly pilgrimage, until its blessed close,  
Each day and hour bear witness, **I've been dwelling with the  
Rose!**"*

Poems of Dawn

## The Millennium

Many thoughtful people wonder if there will be sufficient room on this earth to accommodate well over five billion [eight billion now] people living today, plus the billions that will be resurrected from the dead in the Millennium. *Not to worry!* Our God does not make mistakes. He has planned for many thousands of years for the Millennial Age and everything is going according to His plan.

The commission given to Adam after he was created was “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ....” (Gen. 1:28). Man was commissioned to do this and has been doing it since the beginning.

Will all the dead be restored to life at once? We don't think so. Food, clothing, and homes must be made ready to welcome all the dead as they come back to life. Considering all the famines that have occurred and are still occurring, the question arises, “Where will all the required food to feed so many people come from?” *Not to worry!*

Believe it or not, even today there is available land for growing all the food that so vast a host will require. The Scriptures say that on that blessed day, streams shall break out in the deserts and the wilderness will become fertile land. Just think, this is talking about the Sahara desert in Africa and many others in Asia and the Americas. In fact the Sahara is said to be as large as the United States and it will be turned into gardens that will blossom like the rose, producing food to feed millions. In Israel today, crops are growing where none have grown for thousands of years. Israel is even now an exporter of her produce and fruit to many countries of the world. This is taking place while the curse is still on the ground (Gen. 3:17, 18). This curse that God pronounced on the ground that produced thorns and thistles will one day be removed (Rev. 22:3). In every respect nature will then respond to the willing labor of men and there will be abundance of food for all. At that time the profit motive, rooted in selfishness, will no longer exist. Yes, in that day “The land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruits” (Ezek. 34:27).



As mentioned above, we don't think all the dead will be raised to life at one time. There must be an orderly return such as will allow for the needs of all to be met. How many years will the resurrection take before all will be brought back to life? We don't know the answer since the Scriptures do not reveal this to us. We think that it will occur in the reverse order of their going down into death; that is, the last to die will be the first restored back to life. Abel being the first to die would be the last to be resurrected. To us, this seems to make sense because the last ones to die, when resurrected, will be reunited with their living families and friends. Thus, in this reverse order those brought back will not be total strangers to an unfamiliar environment.

The resurrection of the dead is promised throughout the Bible. Daniel, in the sixth century B. C., was told that he would "stand in his lot at the end of days" (Dan. 12:13). Job, in the seventeenth century B. C. spoke of his faith in a resurrection, and asked the Lord to "appoint a set time, and remember me. If a man dies will he live again? All the appointed time will I wait, until my change comes. Thou shalt call and I will answer thee ..." (Job 14:13-15). Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:23: "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

Yes, do not worry, God has all in His control. Note the words of Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Gaetano Boccaccio

Soon shall restitution glory bring to earth a blessed rest;  
And the poor, and faint, and weary shall be lifted up and blest.

Just beyond the coming trouble see the reigning Prince of Peace!  
Lo! God's Kingdom is approaching when oppression all shall cease.

## A Portrait of Jesus: The Lost Sheep



Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! So, Jesus told them this story, *‘If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away.’*” Luke 15:1-2

Jesus was often the conversation of gossip and character assassination when it came to the Pharisees. They saw everything he did as not only wrong but going against God. The fact that he not only spoke with notorious sinners but sat down and shared a meal with them was scandalous! To the Pharisees they were the scum of the earth, how that must have broken his heart. Here they were the spiritual leaders of the nation and they had placed themselves so far above these sinners that they felt any interaction with them would tarnish them. What were they missing?

They were missing the reality that all humans are precious to God! That God didn’t care so much about performance by works but about repentance and redemption. He was more interested in going after the lost sheep than those sitting in his fold. Jesus had the heart of his Father and He knew why He was sent to earth, not to pat the religious leaders on the back, but to go after the lost and offer them salvation. There is nothing on this earth that brings more joy to heaven, than the repentance of one of His lost sheep. *“...there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”* Luke 5:17. Jesus, one day would suffer the cross for the “joy set before him,” Hebrews 12 tells us. That joy included lost sheep repenting and being reunited with His Father.

Jesus' love for his sheep is real. He will go to any length to save anyone of his sheep. What does this parable mean to you and me. Let's not give up on anyone who is not currently in the fold. Let's pray for them, search for them and love them as Jesus did. No sinner is too far gone for salvation. Let's find those lost sheep and share the gospel of God's great love for them and set off a great celebration in heaven.

D. Mathewson

### Why Dost Thou Wait?

POOR, trembling sheep! Ah! who outside the fold  
Hath bid thee stand, all weary as thou art,  
Dangers around thee, and the bitter cold  
Creeping and growing into thine inmost heart?  
Who bids thee wait till some mysterious feeling,  
Thou knowest not what--perchance mayst never know--  
Shall find thee, when in darkness thou art kneeling,  
And fill thee with a rich and wondrous glow  
Of love and faith; and change to warmth and light  
The chill and darkness of thy spirit's night!

For miracles like this who bids thee wait?  
Behold, God's precious word to thee is, "Come!"  
The tender Shepherd opens wide the gate,  
And in His love would gently lead thee home.  
Why shouldst thou wait? Long centuries ago,  
O timid sheep, the Shepherd paid for thee!  
Thou art His own. Wouldst thou His beauty know,  
Nor trust the love which yet thou canst not see?  
Thou hast not learned this lesson to receive:  
More blest are they who see not, yet believe.

Still dost thou wait for feeling? Dost thou say,  
"Fain would I love and trust, but hope is dead;  
I have no faith, and without faith, who may  
Rest in the blessing which is only shed  
Upon the faithful? I must stand and wait."  
Not so. **The Shepherd doth not ask of thee  
Faith in thy faith, but only faith in Him;**  
And this He meant in saying, "Come to Me."  
In light or darkness, seek to do His will,  
And leave the work of faith to Jesus still.

Poems of Dawn

## 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!

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Allen Family – VT (d)                | Jones, Arlene - VA               |
| Ammerman, Shirley & Family – NJ (d)  | Karavas, Anna - CA               |
| Anderson, Family– WI (d)             | Knapp, Jamie – NH                |
| Bews, Sandra and Family TX (d)       | Knapp, Joseph – IL               |
| Boswell, Arlene – IL                 | Leavitt, Denise & Richard – ME   |
| Buxton, Jean & Family - UK           | Lepitre Family - IL              |
| Carpenter, Gloria – KY               | Mazzotta, Eva – VA               |
| Casell, Agnes & Family –VT (d)       | Miller, Alain – Canada           |
| Cooper, Carmela – NJ                 | Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA    |
| Csutor, Judith – CT                  | Orsburn, Judi – CA (d)           |
| Day, Ronald – PA                     | Ostwald, Dick - WI               |
| Dewys, Mary & Family – MI (d)        | Parker, Geraldine – CA           |
| DiCenso, Shirley Anne & Family - (d) | Penton, Jim – Canada             |
| Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA             | Phillips, Stella – OK            |
| Duhaime, George & Family – CT (d)    | Rice, Michelle – NY (d)          |
| Dunn, Kim - IL                       | Rowe, Bryan - UK                 |
| Fantuzzo, Tony – NY (d)              | Shobe, Nancy - CA                |
| Feliciano, Carmen - NY               | Schultz, Becky & Family – MN (d) |
| Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI             | Schwartz, Ruth – TX              |
| Foster, Jean – IL                    | Seminoff, Brenda – CA            |
| Hauslein, Karen – MD                 | Thomassen, Sandi – NM (d)        |
| Hawk, Barbara – PA                   | Tuscia, Priscilla – FL           |
| Hildebrandt, Lois - FL               | White, Ken & Joan - NY           |
| Hogrebe, Joan – MO                   | (d) = death in the family        |
| Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – TX (d)     |                                  |
| Howes, Paul & Carla - UK             |                                  |
| Iannaccone, Marie & Family – IL (d)  |                                  |

### Entered into rest:

**Important:** If you know anyone in the names listed above whom no longer needs special prayers, please advise us so we may remove their names. Also, if any of the information is incorrect, please let the editor know. Thank you.

*People do not care what you think until you care what they feel.*

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

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



**James Onyango Owuor of Nairobi, Kenya** completed the Basic Course on 10/7/22 and the Ransom Course on 10/29/22.

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

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)  
(Current/past NC magazine issues are available on our website)

<https://www.christianbelieversconference.com/>

<http://www.cbfchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fellowship in New Hampshire)

<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.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News, Australia)

<https://e-biblia.org/> (Os Estudantes da Bíblia, The Bible Students, Brazil - Portuguese/Span) email: [contact@e-biblia.org](mailto:contact@e-biblia.org)

## 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 to the editor, Bob Whittaker.

**Notice:** If you know of Christian friends who would benefit from receiving the bimonthly New Creation Magazine via mail, send their names and addresses to the CDMI main office, care of Bruce Blake. The address is inside the front cover.

### 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,  
4 Alicia Street Somersworth, NH 03878  
email: [dennisgorham@comcast.net](mailto:dennisgorham@comcast.net)

*Any information published in this magazine that you know is incorrect should be brought to the attention of the editor at his email address: [bobwhittaker64@gmail.com](mailto:bobwhittaker64@gmail.com). We strive for accuracy but do not have full knowledge.*