

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 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.

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In Memory of Our Lord



In Egypt about 3500 years ago, the Israelites experienced a hard life when a Pharaoh who knew not Joseph ascended to the throne. He was a tyrant and put the Israelites under slavery and worked them harder and harder. Moses was raised up to deliver the people, and to accomplish this, the LORD brought 10 plagues upon the Egyptians. With the tenth plague, Pharaoh finally relented and let the Israelites go. Integral with their release was the first Passover. Passover refers to the **passing** of the death angel **over** any house with the slain blood of a lamb sprinkled on the doorpost and lintel of the home. The firstborn in that home would be spared and not put to death by the angel. Both the firstborn and the family stayed inside that fateful night. The Egyptians did not have the sprinkled blood, and so that night all the Egyptian firstborn, both man and beast perished.

That first Passover in Egypt has great meaning for us, as we read in 1 Corinthians 5:7, "...Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." So we of the New Creation take great interest in that event. We do not memorialize the Passover; we memorialize our savior's death on the cross - the true Passover lamb who died for the antitypical firstborns and the people of God. As the firstborns in Egypt had to be under the blood to escape the death angel's stroke of the tenth plague, so we gratefully accept the blood of Christ and remain in the house under that blood until our deliverance in the morning.

Once on our way out of Egypt (the world), we find that there is an implacable foe after us. The antitypical Pharaoh (Satan) and his army (evil angels and deluded men) pursue us to take us back into slavery of sin, or destroy us. But God gives us the victory by parting the Red Sea so we can go over dry shod following our antitypical Moses (Jesus). He then closes the sea over Pharaoh and his hosts, picturing the ultimate victory of the Christ over all opposition to righteousness.

This year the Memorial is on Tuesday, April 7th after sundown. The date corresponds to the anniversary of the Jewish day when Jesus gathered his apostles into that upper room for his last supper. After supper, he instituted a new thing to be remembered by them in place of the Passover meal, as he said. Luke 22:19, 20 - "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me. Likewise, he also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup *is* the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you."

You may recall remembering a date in which a loved one died; it is etched in your mind, and each year on that date you think back to the one who is no longer there. This is true of Jesus' followers and on the anniversary of his death they remember him in a special way, and gather together with others of like precious faith if at all possible. We celebrate together what Jesus did on our behalf. And so, we gather annually to remember or memorialize his death with great thanksgiving.

But this is not the end. We remember that three days later he was raised from the dead, as chief In the First Resurrection. This gives us great joy because we realize God is working through our Lord to accomplish great things in us for the world. In due time, all will be released, delivered from the bondage of sin and death into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Now is the day of salvation for us. Let us be faithful .After we are gathered together with the Lord, then the blessings can come to the world. The whole world is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, not knowingly, but the truth is that their blessing depends on the completion of the Christ, Head and Body. And so we look forward to the Memorial, and pray that our Lord would keep us and give us strength in fulfilling our life in honor to him. "...Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1Cor. 5:7,8)

R. Whittaker

Jesus, Savior of the World

Central to the significance of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Angel's statement to Joseph, *"Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21). The name of Jesus means *"the Lord is salvation"* or *"Savior."* All human beings are sinners by birth and therefore in need of a Savior. David aptly reminds us of this when he says, *"Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me"* (Psalms 51:5). This is the genetic heritage that each of us has received as a result of Adam and Eve's fall. We are not only sinners by inheritance, but by practice as well. Paul reminds us that *"There is none righteous, no not one"* (Romans 3:10); and again, *"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). There is *only one* way to be saved from our sinful natures, and that is through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

1. He saves us from the condemnation, guilt, and penalty of sin: *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). *"There is, therefore, now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"* (Romans 8:1).

2. He saves us from the pollution of sin. We are reminded by Scripture that the human heart is *"deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked"* (Jeremiah 17:9); and Jesus reminds us that *"Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies...these are the things which defile a man"* (Matthew 15:19, 20).

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness..." (Ezekiel 6:25)

"... Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her by the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus....let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Hebrews 10:19-22).

3. As our Savior, He saves us from the power of sin. Sin is too strong for us. We are absolutely powerless to do anything about sin in or of ourselves. As Paul so effectively reminds us, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places”* (Ephesians 6:12). Indeed it is only through His power that we overcome by putting on the *“whole armor of God that we might be able to withstand in this evil day.”*

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace” (Romans 6:14).

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”
(1 Corinthians 1:18).

“Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10).

What a Savior our Heavenly Father has given us! He is indeed the Savior of the world; ours (the Bride’s) now, but of the entire world in the age to come because *He “gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”* (1 Timothy 2:6). Indeed, a time is coming when *“at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and those under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:9-11). PRAISE GOD! *“Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”*

A. Polychronis

Resurrection Meditations

"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where they have laid Him." – Matthew 28:6

With the death of our Lord the hopes of his disciples perished. Filled with sorrow they failed to recall his words foretelling his resurrection. They were not comforted: they saw only the cross and their dead Lord! The future seemed dark, and their hopes now were at their lowest ebb. Sorrowfully, they went away. But, behold! At the appointed time, on the third day, a little group of women approached the tomb where their beloved Lord had been laid. "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary to see the sepulcher." Some of us can imagine their thoughts. To them it was but a little thing that they should visit his resting place, and perhaps recall precious memories. "And, behold, there was a great earthquake." "The keepers did shake and became as dead men." The angel of the Lord appeared, and the stone was rolled away! "Fear not: ... He is not here: for He is risen, as he said." Surely his words came to the minds of those dear witnesses: "I am the resurrection and the life." The love, the power, the grace, and the purpose of the Eternal God is revealed in this – the resurrection of Jesus Christ - the greatest thing, the most potential act of all time. "He is not here: for He is risen!" So speaks the angel to the women. Words fail to describe their joy as they ran to tell the glad news "to the disciples."

"Christ is risen." That is their message. "He lives." And because he lives, we too shall live. Soon those disciples, with hearts charged now with fears and doubts, were to know the power of the risen Christ, and in his name and strength, were to be used to the glory of the Father and Son, as with the spirit of Pentecost, they were to go forth with the message of saving grace - all made possible through and by a crucified and risen Savior.

How grand the message that comes to our ears: "He was delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our

justification!" Shortly after his resurrection, he manifested himself to his disciples. By this, they were reassured, and just before he left them for the last time, he gave to them his final instructions, as he enlarged their understanding about the things relative to himself (Luke 24:44-49). Amongst his last words, the "Go quickly and tell," and "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," are especially important to the believer.

As we read the account of his death and resurrection, our thought is one of an increasing sense of reverence and appreciation as the unfolding of that supreme and unparalleled sacrifice comes to mind. As yet, we see not the grandeur or the magnitude of the love and grace, the wisdom and mercy, involved therein.

To some have been given the "exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature" - the highest possible reward, promised to those who are to be "joint-heirs with Christ" (2 Pet. 1: 2-4, Rom. 8:16-18), who is held up before us as a means to a larger, a fuller, and a more sanctified life. Such a life is the life which must be our goal: to follow the Master, as Peter says: "For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps." Only thus can we feel that our sanctification is progressive and producing results.

Whatever we may think of sanctification, the Apostles were united in their exhortations to that end. Let us not be deceived by the Adversary as to the limit of attainment - either to hope for perfection of the flesh, or to despair of full submission of the will. Let us be honest with ourselves, and live in that eighth chapter of Romans, not forgetting Jesus' words, "Sanctify them through your truth, your word is truth." "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." Only as we look to Christ as our example - in his life, and in his death - can we know the depth and potency of Paul's words, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me:

and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God."

Let us not be afraid of heeding the words, "Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith; prove your own selves." How shall we do this? The answer is found in Hebrews 12:1-3 and onward: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

"Consider him." Hence, the Resurrection holds for us much that can be to our gain. The risen Christ assures all who accept him as their Savior, of everlasting life. He declares, "Because I live, you shall live also." The Resurrection is the positive pledge that the risen and glorified Christ "shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body." All who fall asleep in him shall arise endowed with bodies perfect and glorious to be forever with their exalted Redeemer and King. There we shall have left behind the flesh and all that is as yet a means of testing. "It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that has this hope in Him, purifies himself, even as He is pure" (1 John 3:2-3).

W. Wainwright

Thanks be to You, my Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits You have given me,
For all the pains and insults
You have borne for me,
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Savior,
May I know You more clearly,
May I love You more dearly,
May I follow You more nearly.

12th Century Prayer

Origen of Easter

"EASTER, i.e., PASSOVER--Easter is a word of Saxon origin, and imports a goddess of the Saxons, or rather of the East, Estera, in honor of whom sacrifices being offered annually about the Passover time of year (Spring), the name began to be attached by association of ideas to the Christian festival of the resurrection, which happened at the time of the Passover: hence we say Easter-day, Easter Sunday, but very improperly, as this by no means refers to the festival then kept to the goddess of the ancient Saxons. So the present German word is used, Ostern, for Easter, and refers to the same goddess, Estera or Ostera. The occurrence of this word in the Authorized Version (Act 12:4)--'Intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people'--is chiefly noticeable as an example of the want of consistency in the translators. ...At the last revision 'Passover' was substituted in all passages but this....

"The Churches of Asia Minor celebrated the death of the Lord on the day corresponding to the 14th of the month Nisan, on which day, according to the opinion of the whole ancient Church, the crucifixion took place. The Western Churches (Rome), on the other hand were of opinion that the crucifixion should be annually commemorated on the particular **day of the week** on which it occurred, i.e., Friday.... The Western Churches viewed the death-day of Christ as a day of mourning, and they did not terminate the time of fasting until the day of the resurrection. The Churches of Asia Minor, on the other hand, looked upon the death of Christ wholly as for the redemption of mankind, and terminated the day of fasting at the hour of Christ's death, three o'clock in the afternoon, and immediately afterward celebrated the agape and the Lord's Supper. Both parties (orthodox Eastern and Western Churches) adhered to the name PASCHA (Passover), by which they understood sometimes the specially festive days of this week, and sometimes the whole week commemorating the Passover.

"The first serious dispute between the parties within the old Church broke out about 196 (A.D.), when Bishop Victor of Rome issued a circular to the leading bishops of the Church, requesting them to hold synods in their various provinces, and to introduce the western practice (the practice of celebrating on Friday and Sunday, instead of on the exact day, 14th and 16th of Nisan).

Some complied with the request, but the synod held by Bishop Polycrates, of Ephesus, emphatically refused, and approved the letter of Bishop Polycrates, who in the defense of the Asiatic practice referred Victor to the authority of the Apostles Philip and John, to Polycarp, and to seven of his relations who before him had been bishops of Ephesus....

"Thus far the controversy between the Asiatic and the Western (Roman) Churches had only concerned two points, viz., (1) whether the day of the week or the day of the month on which the death of Christ occurred should be commemorated; (2) whether the fasting ought to be terminated. Now a third point in dispute arose, as to the time when the 14th day of Nisan really occurred. Many of the Church Fathers are of the opinion that, according to the original calculation of the Jews up to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, the 14th of Nisan had always been after the Spring equinox, and that it was only in consequence of that miscalculation of the later Jews that the 14th of Nisan occasionally fell before the equinox. They therefore insisted that the 14th of Nisan, which for both parties within the Church determined the time of Easter, should always be after the equinox.

"As the year of the Jews is a lunar year and the 14th of Nisan always a **full-moon** day, the Christians who adopted the above astronomical view, whenever the 14th of Nisan fell before the equinox would celebrate the death of Christ one month later than the Jewish Passover. As the Christians could now no longer rely on the Jewish Calendar they had to make their own calculations of the time of Easter. These calculations frequently differed, partly from reasons already set forth, and partly because the date of the equinox was fixed by some at the 18th of March, by others at the 19th, by others at the 21st of March. The Council of Arles in 314 endeavored to establish uniformity, but its decrees do not appear to have had great effect. The subject was, therefore, again discussed and acted upon by the Ecumenical Council of Nice, which decreed that Easter should be celebrated throughout the Church after the equinox on the Friday following the 14th of Nisan. It was also provided that the Church of Alexandria, as being distinguished in astronomical science, should annually inform the Church of Rome on what day of the Calends the Ides of Easter should be celebrated, and the Church of Rome should notify all

the Churches of the world. But even these decrees of the Council of Nice did not put a stop to all difference, and it was reserved to the calculation of Dionysius Exiguus to gradually introduce uniformity of practice into the old Church. Some countries, like Great Britain, did not abandon their ancient practice until after a long resistance. At the time of Charlemagne **uniformity** [in observing Friday and in disregarding the Jewish reckoning of full moon day] seems to have been established, and [thereafter] **no trace is to be found** [of the observance] **of the Quarto decimani (the celebration according to the actual day--the 14th of Nisan, the full moon after the spring equinox)....**

"The revision of the Calendar by Pope Gregory XIII, on the whole retained the Dionysian era; but determined more accurately the Easter full moon, and made careful provision for avoiding any future deviation of the calendar from the astronomical time. By these minute calculations, however, the Christians' Easter sometimes, contrary to the decrees of the Nicean Council, coincides with the Jewish Passover."

The same authority says respecting the word Passover:

PASSOVER --"It was the representative festival of the year, and in this unique position it stood in a certain relation to circumcision as the second sacrament of the Hebrew Church. (Exo 12:44) We may see this in what occurred at Gilgal, when Joshua, in reviewing the divine covenant, celebrated the Passover immediately after the circumcision of the people. But the nature of the relationship in which these two rites stood to each other did not become fully developed until its antitypes were fulfilled, and **the Lord's supper took its place** as the sacramental feast of the elect people of God."

from McClintock and Strong's Encyclopedia

The difficulties of life are intended to make us better, not bitter.

One reason that the school of Christ is so tough is that you get the test first and the lesson later.

Doing Good...Overcoming Self

Many years ago, a friend sent me a document with many wise sayings. One was "If we do not feel grateful for what we already have, what makes us think we'd be happy with more? This is worth pondering.... for it is God who gives us all things for which we should be always grateful.

In this short article I would like us to consider some of the Wisdom that God gave Solomon, found in Ecclesiastes 9 that will help us in our walk. Listed are 4 short readings that are related. Once read we uncover the great wisdom that Solomon presents, and hopefully take it to heart.

Reading #1 Eccl. 9:11-12 ¹¹I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. ¹²For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so *are* the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

Reading #2 Dan 2:20-21 ²⁰Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: ²¹And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: **he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:**

Reading #3 Mat 25: 28-29 ²⁸Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

These 3 readings point to the fact that God is in total control over the affairs of our lives and the World. He can cause providences to occur that will help to shape our lives and the course of worldly affairs that His will be done. Daniel proclaims

that he changes times and seasons, and blesses the wise with more wisdom, and gives more knowledge to those who have understanding.

Now let's progress to a fourth reading and the great wisdom Solomon sees.

Reading #4 Eccl 9:13-18 ¹³This **wisdom** have I seen also under the sun, and it *seemed great* unto me: ¹⁴*There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:* ¹⁵Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man. ¹⁶Then said I, *Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.* ¹⁷The words of wise *men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.* ¹⁸*Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.*

Clearly as Solomon expresses as we first read...riches were not to this man of understanding, nor favor to this man of skill. Too often merit or achievement is not recognized in this world, whether it be to men or God. **So what was the GREAT wisdom that Solomon saw in the incident he told?**

First:

We can deduce from the story that the poor man did not rebuke city leaders for his lowly status, nor tell them he was poor and had nothing to lose if the city was taken, and therefore cared not what became of the city; but instead did his best, and was blessed with success. This example shows us that private interests and personal resentments must always be sacrificed to do God's will...to do good, because we love our neighbor, and even our enemies as our self.

Second: Was the poor man lifted up and made a hero for his service? NO! Being poor, he was slighted by the city, though he was wise, and had been an instrument to save them all from ruin: Yet no man remembered this poor man; his good services were taken for granted. He received no reward or badge of

honor, for as it says, he continued to live in as much poverty and obscurity as before.

So what then is the great wisdom that Solomon saw in this example?

I think the GREAT wisdom Solomon observed (not original to me) that we need to take to heart, is that men of wisdom have a God they “trust and obey,” Who they know will be their bountiful Rewarder in due time. Remember, “Take the talent and give it to him that has ten.” So we should remember that obscurity is good, although not a fleshly desire.

Also, remember Mat 6:16-18 ¹⁶Moreover, when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ¹⁷But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; ¹⁸That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. **The wise have taken to heart and understand this important principle of obscurity given in Solomon’s story.**

J. DiCesare

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.

1Corinthians 1:21-29 KJV

The Day of the LORD

The Day of the Lord or Day of Jehovah has to be a significant time otherwise it would not have the heavenly Father's name. Consequently it must be considered seriously as a time when matters come to a head, a time of change to remove the old so that the new can emerge. It's much like working in a garden where weeds, like ground elder, have taken over and all you can do is dig up the whole bed and make a fresh start. This is a time in which God's interests come to the fore at His appointed time.

Peter uses this label in the third chapter of his second epistle, Zephaniah (1:14) calls it "the great day of the LORD", Ezekiel (7:19) goes even further to label it "the day of wrath of the LORD" and Isaiah (61:1-3) labels it "the day of vengeance of our God". What begins to emerge is a picture of destruction.

How this day is described in Biblical language: Zephaniah 1:15-18 gives this day a colourful but dark description by calling it a day of wrath, of trouble, of distress, darkness, gloominess, of clouds, of the trumpet and alarm. Isaiah uses the language of grapes being trampled decisively in a winepress from the old days when they were trodden down by the weight from human feet and similar language is used by John in Revelation. (Isa. 63:3-4; Rev. 19:15) Jesus described it as great tribulation. (Matt. 24:21-22)

Why should this be so? Zephaniah answers simply because they have sinned. (1:17) Malachi contains a similar thought because they have done "wickedly" and to Isaiah were given similar reasons (Mal. 4.1; Isa. 13:11). It's like Noah's day before the flood when God saw the wickedness of mankind and their thoughts were evil continually. (Gen. 6:5; Matt. 24:37) Therefore God saw this can only be permitted for so long before the decree comes 'enough' and those times have to be stopped in their tracks.

What happens in this day? • the heavens pass away with a great noise and be dissolved (2 Pet. 3:10) • the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up (Zeph. 3:8; 2 Pet. 3:10) • the kings will be shattered (Psalm 110:5; Dan. 2:44) • the chiefs or leaders will be shattered (Psalm 110:6) • money will become worthless and provide no protection (Ezek. 7:19; Zeph. 1:18) • the mountains (nations) shall melt (Psa. 97:5; Dan. 2:44; Rev. 19:15)

Some of this language is simpler to understand as some language is more literal than some of the other language being pictorial! The heavens usually represent the religious or ecclesiastical world in this imperfect world as these present religious orders will be superseded by a one world religion. The earth represents the civil systems of this world such as the imperfect laws and traditions that bring some sort of order, even if they do not work 100%.

Peter indicates three events of the day of the Lord. The middle event of the day of the Lord indicated by Peter describes the elements melting with fervent heat. What elements are these? Stoicheia is the Greek word translated by the A.V. as 'elements'. It is Strong's word 4747 which can be a row of letters and by extension the elements of knowledge. This is a word closely related to the stoic philosophers that Paul encountered in Athens in Acts 17:18. "Stoic philosophy concentrated upon logic, physics, and ethics."* Such people were without God and used their own mental powers to try to understand the people in the world around them and how they interact. *Fascinating Bible Facts (Howard & Burge)

The kings are easily discerned especially in former days when many nations were ruled by monarchs who were head of state and head of the governments. If they were not ruled by hereditary kings or queens often it was a dictator or similar like Oliver Cromwell from 1649 to 1658. These kings will not be needed once they are replaced by 'the kingdom of His Christ'. (Rev. 11:15) Likewise the kingdoms or nations and the divisions of land marking the border of one country to another and the

people living there will be under pressure with division and conflict where the stronger one exerts control over another because it can and so does. This brings war between nations and civil war leading to the dividing one country into two or more.

A mountain is oft thought to represent a nation. War between nations is destructive and expensive in terms of lives lost as well as in financial resources. These mountains or nations shall be brought low (Isaiah 2:12,14). Presently most countries are ruled by presidents in charge of capitalist economies and this feature of the current civil governments will have to end in order to come under the direct influence of Christ's government.

The financial systems will pass away so one will not work and another profit and those elements of selfishness that create resentment in this present world will cease. This could be applied to the stock market, paper money, credit and debt, trade and other such financial matters. Isa. 2:16 talks about the ships of Tarshish being brought low. Tarshish is the geographical area commonly connected with the coastlands and therefore trade by sea was the principal method of transporting goods around the Mediterranean and beyond in Greco-Roman times. This indicated trade will be problematic and the balance where strong and large countries and trading blocks will no longer be able to profit from their present advantage once Christ's government is finally established here.

Another feature of this process will be the spasmodic nature of the Day of the Lord. It could be described as birth pangs or birth pains. These are Jesus' words in Matt 24:8 (TLV) speaking about the Gospel age (Christian era) when looking towards the consummation of the age.

Do we see anything similar today? In the U.K. society has become increasingly secular since 1914 with most people either agnostic or atheist. According to the Church of England the worshipping community was 2.0% of the population with the average for October 2018 being 1.5% and in total 1.1m adults

and children. Gallup International says Christian church attendance was 11% in the UK, about 75% in Africa and 35% in Ireland (2016). About a hundred years ago in 1918 Church of England membership was 2.3m and including all Christian groups 8m. This is in the context that the UK population including Ireland was 45m in the 1911 census compared to 63m including Northern Ireland in 2011. This indicates a gradual decline in religious observance over the course of 100 years.

In everyday life the civil government continues and although the connection between church and state continues to decline those countries have continued to exist. However 26 Lords Spiritual of the Church of England still sit in the House of Lords. The Empires of Britain, France and other West European countries have reduced. Britain ruled large areas of Africa, India and the Caribbean and has seen nearly all those countries obtain independence primarily between 1946 and 1969. In 1914 there were about 60 countries in the world whereas now there are 195. Civil governments have led their citizens into two world wars, a so-called cold war and other conflicts in and around the Middle East. The 'Arab spring' has led to ongoing conflict especially now in Syria. Politics has supplied a succession of left and right-wing governments as well as centre left and centre right administrations. In recent years politics has become increasingly polarised as a significant percentage of the populace remain dissatisfied with their present situation and look to new solutions and administrations to try and make a better life.

The day of the ruling king has come to an end. Russia, Germany, Italy, Greece, Romania, Serbia, Austria, and Hungary were ruled by kings although some were only constitutional monarchs. These are no longer ruled by kings or queens. There are only a handful of constitutional monarchs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Spain. They have no real power like the Tsar did in Russia and the Kaiser in Germany and King Charles I in England. The principle of the 'divine right of the kings' has been banished. Their day has passed away but the traditions

and those that survive have had to adapt and find another way to serve their people and preserve the institution.

Outside Europe there were monarchs in 1950 in the following countries: Egypt (King Farouk I), Iraq (King Faisal II), Persia (now Iran, Shah Mohammed) as well as ones that still continue to this day—Saudi Arabia and Jordan in the Middle East. Japan and Thailand are other Far eastern countries which have just constitutional monarchs. Most countries have presidents instead.

Economic ups and downs continue to affect the economies of the world, especially the Great Depression of the 1930s. Rampant inflation has plagued countries such as Germany after WW1. Emerging countries like Zimbabwe have seen their economies collapse with at present no evidence of any real recovery. However the progress has not always been downward. World Vision reports the following, “The world is making huge strides in overcoming global poverty. Since 1990, a quarter of the world has risen out of extreme poverty. Now, less than 10 percent of the world lives in extreme poverty, surviving on \$1.90 a day or less. When families move out of poverty, children’s health and well-being improve. Since 1990, the number of children dying—mostly from preventable causes such as poverty, hunger, and disease—is less than half of what it was, dropping from more than 35,000 a day to under 15,000. While progress continues, fragile contexts and countries affected by conflict, poor governance, and natural disasters, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have seen an increase in people living in poverty.” So some lives are really improving. Progress is not all downward and this is what Daniel was told to predict that knowledge and wisdom would increase and people would run back and forth, while the problems in the world were getting worse. (Dan. 12:4) In 1969 two men even walked on the moon because of the discoveries made. In aviation, it’s expected that 2019 will set a new record in terms of the number of scheduled passengers with almost 4.6 billion, around 130 percent higher than in 2004 according to E. Mazareanu. Labour-saving devices like washing machines have made life

easier and central heating systems make life comfortable and lengthened life where the climate is cold in winter.

People are becoming healthier and living longer. According to the UN's populations division in 1950 there were about 23,000 centenarians in the world and this grew to 316,000 in 2012. However in the U.K. the current generation is not forecast to live as long as its parents for the first-time and it is suggested obesity and poor diet choices are some of the primary causes.

Economies continue to grow and the average person in the world is 4.4 times richer than in 1950 according to Core-Econ. Nevertheless there is often talk of a coming recession, or growth flattening out, market volatility and wealth inequality.

Despite economic growth, labour-saving devices, more leisure time, people living longer and so on there have also been the invention of many efficient and worrying ways to kill each other like the deadly gas in WW1 and the holocaust. Poor management has led to problems with nuclear power like at Chernobyl and industrialisation has led to breathing issues and probably global warming and the current climate emergency.

This needs to be set in the background that God's four attributes are wisdom, justice, love and power. Is it wise, is it just, is it loving and does God have the power to do it? The answer is yes. Its wise to give people the opportunity to experience the consequences of sin and disobedience, just as the penalty was death not punishment. He has the power to do it as we see daily all around us from creation and its properties, and see his love because he sent His son Jesus to die as a ransom for all and by His power raised him from the grave.

Afterwards

After any war there is peace and that should not be forgotten. The same here: after the Day of the LORD there is peace for 1,000 years. The picture language of the wolf dwelling with the lamb (Isa. 11:6) speaks of peaceful times, as does the still small voice of 1 Kings 19:12 and the stillness of Psalm 46:10.

Daniel (2:44) tells us the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom. Therefore having removed all that is unholy, the prince of this world, Satan, will be replaced by Christ's kingdom (Rev. 11:15). Peter in 2 Pet. 3:13 expresses it as "a new heaven and earth wherein dwells righteousness".

The resurrection of the dead will be one of the greatest and most exciting features after the day of the LORD when everything will be restored. The philosophers in Athens thought it impossible that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and that therefore there was a resurrection of the dead. (Acts 17:31,32; 26:8)

A massive campaign of education will begin bringing all to a knowledge of God (Isa. 11:9; Hab. 2:14) Malachi uses the expression of "healing in his wings". Christ will heal all the problems of ignorance and prejudice that have blinded the minds of so many people. Small boys will not be taught to slaughter their enemies. Satan being bound will remove his influence on men, women and children. In the stillness people will get to know God and His attributes (Psalm 46:10)

NAC

(from Bible Study Monthly, England)

Dawn (Millennial)

Foretold light, prophetic ray Indicate Millennial Day,
Indicate the Kingdom sway Now is due and due to stay.

But the forces of the night Sin and darkness and their might,
Satan's cohorts fighting right, Fight to hinder dawn of light.

But "The Sun of Righteousness" Shall dispel the frightfulness.
Heal and light earth's blightedness. Arise, O sun of
righteousness!

Poems of the Way

For Forty Days

“For forty days ... [Jesus was] tempted by the devil.”

Luke 4:2

Temptation will come. This is an accepted fact of life. No stage of the Christian life, no degree of spiritual maturity, can exempt one from temptation in one form or another. There is a certain universality, a certain inescapableness, about temptation. Since life is as it is, since God has made us as He has, and since the world is what it is, temptation is bound to come sometime or other. Regardless of age, class, or position, all are subject to the onslaughts of the Evil One. You cannot build walls high enough; you cannot find a place of isolation lonely enough to keep out the devil. He is ready to meet you under any sky in all the world.

If the Son of God Himself was tempted, how can we human beings expect to escape temptation? Yes, temptation will come, *but temptation may be overcome.* How? In the same way that Jesus overcame it *by the power of the written Word and the power of the Holy Spirit.* After each temptation Jesus responded with the words, *“It is written,”* and then He quoted a verse from the Old Testament Scriptures. The authority of God's Word can silence the voice of the tempter. No wonder the psalmist writes, *“I have laid up Thy word in my heart, that I might not sin against thee”* (Psalm 119: 11).

Then again, Jesus overcame temptation with the power of the Holy Spirit. This passage of Scripture begins with the two statements that Jesus was *“full of the Holy Spirit”* and was *“led by the Spirit ... into the wilderness.”* The passage closes with the statement that *“Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit”* If Jesus Himself needed the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to face onslaughts of the enemy, how much more do we?

The Word of God gives authority to answer the devil; *the Spirit* of God gives us power to rout him.

J.T. Seamands

Temptation will come, but temptation overcome leads to a glorious outcome. P.S. Rees

The Master's Simple, Yet Complete Plan



In the beginning God was, and with Him, the Logos (the Word), God's Only Begotten Son. Together, Father and Son, they designed and created all things. In Prov. 8:30 (NKJ) the Logos is called God's "master craftsman," the one *by whom* all things were made. We read this in Col. 1:12-17: "Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created:* things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, powers, rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (See also 1 Cor. 8:6; Gen. 1:26.)

In all the universe, earth was specially chosen as the place for man to dwell. Everything man would ever need to sustain life forever in complete happiness was created. The Garden of Eden had in it all that anyone could imagine or ever hope for as far as beauty and life-sustaining nourishment. Since God knows the beginning as well as the end of all things, He knew beforehand that Adam would fail the test of obedience that He set before him, bringing sin and death to Adam and all his descendants. But, in His foreknowledge, God also had a plan in mind so that man, in his fall from perfection, could learn by experience the "exceeding sinfulness of sin" (Rom. 7:13) and yet be made right again through a Redeemer, whom God would send in due time, to ransom man back from death. In Rev. 13:8 we read of the "Lamb that was slain *from the foundation of the world.*" See also 1 Pet. 1:19, 20. This verse tells us that God in His wisdom and foreknowledge planned an atoning sacrifice that would redeem man back even before he had sinned. This sacrificial Lamb was identified by John the Baptist when Jesus came to the River Jordan to be baptized of him. John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, *who takes away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29).

Jesus, in obedience to His Father's will, came to die for the sins of the world (John 3:16, 17). Just prior to dying on Calvary's cross, He uttered these words of victory -- "It is finished!" With that, he bowed his head and gave up His spirit" (John 19:30). By His death, Jesus

opened up a new and living way by which God is now calling out a people for His Name (Heb. 10:19, 20; Acts 15:14). The Apostle Paul mentions this calling in Phil. 3:14: "I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which *God has called me heavenward* in Christ Jesus." Salvation is assured to all those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. But there is another step that must be taken to answer this heavenly calling. Jesus said in Mat. 16:24, "**If** anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." There are many precious promises extended to those who take this step of discipleship and are faithful until death. (See Rev. 2:7, 10, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21.) Those who overcome, *in the strength of the Lord*, will be raised up and changed into the likeness of our Lord at His Second coming. (Rom. 8:17; Phil. 4:13; 1 Jn. 3:2; Rev. 20:6). Soon thereafter they will return to earth to establish God's earthly Kingdom.

What will it be like during that 1,000 years? "The god of this world" (Satan) will be restrained and no longer able to deceive people (2 Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:1, 2). There will be no more sickness, tears, sufferings, death, sorrows, wars or violence (Rev. 21:4; Isa. 2:4, Isa. 11:9). Mankind will then have the unhindered opportunity to learn righteousness and the knowledge of the Lord will be universally available to all (Isa. 26:9; Hab. 2:14). The following well describes this wonderful period: "*Close your eyes for a moment to the scenes of misery and woe, degradation and sorrow that yet prevail on account of sin, and picture before your mental vision the glory of the perfect earth. Not a stain of sin mars the harmony and peace of a perfect society; not a bitter thought, not an unkind look or word; love, welling up from every heart, meets a kindred response in every other heart, and benevolence marks every act. There sickness shall be no more; not an ache nor a pain, nor any evidence of decay -- not even the fear of such things. Think of all the pictures of comparative health and beauty of human form and feature that you have ever seen, and know that perfect humanity will be of still surpassing loveliness. The inward purity and mental and moral perfection will stamp and glorify every radiant countenance. Such will earth's society be -- and weeping bereaved ones will have their tears all wiped away, when thus they realize the resurrection work complete.*"

Selected

The Lamb of God

Of all the domestic animals, which one does the Bible speak of most often? It is the **lamb**, mentioned 98 times according to the King James Version. Why is this? We note that of all domestic animals, the lamb is the most *docile, inoffensive, harmless, and lovable*.

Abel – In the Bible the lamb is mentioned from Genesis to Revelation. In almost all instances they point to our Lord Jesus who John the Baptist called “*the Lamb of God...*” (John 1:29). We do not have space to list each place mentioned, so we have selected the most important, all pointing to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We find the first mention of a lamb in Genesis 4:3-11. Here we learn of the first two brothers in the world, Cain and Abel: one a farmer, the other a shepherd. They each brought offerings to the LORD. Cain brought the fruit of the ground and Abel, the firstling of the flock. The Most High accepted Abel’s offering but refused Cain’s. We must be careful not to make the mistake of assuming that God would only accept a lamb and not the fruit of the earth or that Cain didn’t offer the best fruit. We think these are not the true reasons.

Cain’s offering was not accepted by God because *his heart was not right with God*. Sin lay at his door and he was permitting it to rule over him. This sin was sufficient to lead God to refuse Cain’s offering. See Genesis 4:7, 1 John 3:12, and Jude 11. Envy, jealousy and hatred led Cain to kill his brother. For this terrible sin, Cain was banished and became a wanderer for the rest of his life. His descendants eventually were all destroyed in the Great Flood.

The offering of blood sacrifice was the first acceptable sacrifice mentioned in the Bible, pointing to the sacrifice of our Lord at Calvary.

Abraham – Let us skip now to Genesis 22 where we note that God instructed Abraham to travel to Mt. Moriah for the very purpose of offering his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. See Genesis 22:1-13.

We must remember that Abraham had waited 25 years for Isaac to be born to his barren wife, Sarah. We can appreciate his agonizing feelings as he proceeded to climb the Mount carrying the fire while Isaac carried the wood for the sacrifice, just as Jesus would do when He carried His own cross up Calvary's hill.

When they reached the top of the mount, Abraham built an altar and bound Isaac who offered no resistance. Just as he was to slay his son, an angel of the Lord called out to him. God had accepted the will for the deed. When Isaac was released, they saw a ram caught in the thicket. Abraham offered it to God as a sacrifice of worship and thanksgiving in place of Isaac. This ram was a *full grown lamb* (see vs. 7-8). Abraham here pictured God who would offer His Only Begotten Son many years later.

The Passover Lamb – The 3rd instance in which a lamb stands out prominently is when the children of Israel were about to be delivered from Egyptian bondage (Ex.12: 1-13). Here we note the Israelites were instructed by God through Moses to select a male lamb of the first year, slay it on the night of Passover, roast it whole by fire, and eat it while being fully clothed and ready to travel. The blood of the lamb was to be put on the lintel and the door posts of their dwellings and they were to remain inside. At midnight the destroying angel of the Lord passed by all the houses protected by the blood, but in all the houses of the Egyptians the first born of man and beast died. Those who were under the blood were spared. Likewise, all who come under the blood of the Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, will be spared from eternal death.

The Sacrifices Of The Law – We find the lamb equally prominent in the institution of the Law Covenant.. In Ex. 29:38-

42 we see the lamb referred to in a very special way. We often emphasize the offering of the bullock and the goat on Atonement Day but forget that those animals were offered only once a year, while the 2 lambs were offered *every day of the year*, evening and morning. Thus, *the Lamb of Sacrifice* was kept prominently before the eyes of Israel as a constant reminder of what it pictured. Sadly, Israel did not appreciate this continual burnt offering and looked upon it as mere ritual.

The Prophets -Throughout the prophecies of the Old Testament, we find many references to a lamb, each pointing to the precious Lamb of God. Specifically, in Isaiah 53 we see that the lamb refers to the Man who would be led to the slaughter (vs. 7). That chapter gives a detailed account of how Jesus would be received and treated by the Jews. They failed to appreciate that their Messiah must first come as a Redeemer to atone for their sin and those of the whole world. John the Baptist, the last of the prophets, gave public testimony to the Jews that Jesus Christ was indeed the *LAMB OF GOD* who takes away *the sin* of the world. Through the prophet John, God spelled out for them plainly what was represented by ALL the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament types. They should have understood that Jesus was the one true, anti-typical, Lamb of God.

Revelation – In Rev. 5:6-14 we read of the honor and glory that is bestowed on that Lamb of God before all the Holy angels. The vision in Rev. 7:9-14 tells how important the blood of the Lamb is as a redeeming and cleansing agent to remove sin. In chapter 14, we see how eventually the Church will be with the Lamb in Glory and in 19:6-7, we read of the coming marriage of the Lamb to His Bride.

Thus, from Genesis to Revelation the *Lamb of God* is revealed in all His humility, meekness, sacrifice, and honor to the Everlasting Glory of God, the Father.

G. Boccaccio

A Portrait of Jesus

Childlike Humility



“Then He said; ‘I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.’” Matthew 18:3, 4

Jesus disciples were all taken up in the belief that Jesus would take over power and set up His kingdom here on earth. They wanted to know what the pecking order might be, who would the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven be. They struggled with pride and wanting prominence. James and John’s mother even asked that her sons be on the right and left hand of Jesus when he came to power. His disciples were just as fascinated by prominence, position and power as the Pharisees...but their hearts were still pliable and He would not leave them there.

What Jesus tried over and over to impress upon his disciples was that unless they would become as innocent and humble as a child, they would never have a part in His heavenly kingdom. They needed to have childlike humility, childlike trust and a servant’s heart or they would end up just like the Pharisees, spiritually dead.

Spending time with Jesus will mean that just like His disciples we will be called out when He sees pride, arrogance and sin that will keep us out of the kingdom of heaven. He loves us too much to leave us in our sin. Jesus will continue to teach us, just as He did His disciples that humility and a childlike reliance on God is what it takes to become like Jesus.

We need to imitate that childlike trust that doesn’t give it a second thought but always relies on a parent for all their needs. We need to be like a child desiring to soak up all the wisdom and guidance that our heavenly Father has to teach us, putting our total trust in our Heavenly Father. Only then can we bring glory to the Kingdom of Heaven.

D. Mathewson

Children's Story Corner

Is It God's Fault?

Dear Ones,

Have you ever been the target of hurtful gossip? I have, so I know how it feels. It hurts so much that we may even think that it is God's fault people are telling lies about us, that He shouldn't allow them to be so mean.



God doesn't control people. He lets all of us choose whether to believe in Jesus and serve God, or to reject God and His love. Some people have never even heard of Jesus and it is our responsibility to tell everyone the good news, that we can all get right with God by having faith in Jesus and living as Jesus lived. We tell everyone about Jesus and they either decide to believe or not. It is their choice. If they have chosen not to believe, then the Devil blinds their minds. (2 Corinthians 4:4) Unbelievers can't think straight because their minds are blinded. In 2 Thessalonians 2:11 Paul says, "God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie." Those who did not receive the love of the truth about Jesus believe lies and tell lies.

Paul says that especially in the last days people will be malicious gossips. (2 Timothy 3:1) Jesus told us the terrible things unbelievers would do. "Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise up against parents to put them to death. And you will be hated by all on account of my name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved." (Matthew 10:21, 22)

It was a member of his own church who delivered up Jesus to death. Jesus warned us that there would be people who say they are Christians but really aren't. He said they look so much like real Christians it is hard to tell true Christians from false ones. Jesus used two illustrations, sheep and goats, and wheat and tares. to explain this. To look at them, the only difference between a sheep and a goat is that only the goats have beards, or "goatees". It is very difficult to tell wheat from tares, a weed, because they look so much alike. So there may be false Christians at our own church. who only appear to love God. They can say and do very hurtful things to us. We can tell

true Christians by the love they have for others. (John 13:35) Love is what makes "sheep" and "wheat" different from "goats" and "tares".

"God is love." (1 John 4:8) He causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him, even when people gossip about us and hurt our feelings. If we keep on Loving God He will reward us. "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12)

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

Aunt Nancy Shobe

Another Year Is Dawning

A brother told me (editor) that in our last issue (see Jan/Feb 2020) after reading the hymn story on **Another Year Is Dawning** he was expecting to see the words of the hymn. We agree, so here are the words of this beautiful hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879.

Another year is dawning, Dear Father let it be
In working or in waiting , another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face,
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above.
Another year is dawning, Dear Father, let it be
On earth or else in heaven, another year for Thee.

The Family Corner

Do Your Children Have a Safe Haven?



There are many ways we can make our children feel secure in our homes. We can tell them often that we love them -- give them frequent hugs and kisses and little unexpected gifts. We can play games with them on their level -- spend premium time with them while we affirm and encourage them at every opportunity. We can lovingly discipline them and set boundaries for their safety and *walk* the way we *talk*. We can pray with them.

We could rank the ways mentioned above in their order of effectiveness. Each is important, but there is one missing element that is essential and often overlooked. Children are extremely observant. If parents spontaneously demonstrate their affection and love for one another, children will take this to their hearts. It will greatly influence them in many ways, both in the present and future, but it will specially bring them a sense of safety and security from the very first moments of their life.

We are living in a world in which divorce continues to take a high toll on families. Many of the friends of our children are living with only one of their parents. They see the other parent on weekends when they come for their court allotted time. No one can adequately describe how torn up inside a small child must feel when they have to go with the other parent while silently yearning they could all be together, having fun as a family like some of their other friends.

This uncertainty in marriage is prevalent in our society and sadly has also found its way into the church. It is so common that children often wonder if this might happen to their family. This is one reason they need constant reassuring that all is well between their parents and there is no better way than to hear their parents say *"I love you"* to one another, and see them express their feelings with a hug or kiss. As the saying goes, *"Actions speak louder than words,"* especially to children and even they would prefer to *"see a sermon than hear one any day!"*

If we want a healthy and secure home environment, a safe haven for ourselves and our children, then love, must be the focus. The love we are speaking of is the biblical love...God's own love known as *agape*. This love is sacrificial and recognizes that godly marriages are designed by God and built on personal responsibilities - not on

personal rights. If *rights* are expected, then you will have a very rocky relationship. There are four areas of personal responsibility which have a direct influence and bearing on our marriage and family relationships.

Our Thoughts

The thoughts we have towards our partner will ultimately influence our words, attitudes and actions. Proverbs 23:7 says, *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”* Jesus said these words in Matt. 12:34: *“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”* If we have the *mind of Christ*, we will not be concerned with our rights, but we will be concerned for and thinking about the welfare of our partner and our children.

Our Words

Harsh or abusive words can cut into the fabric of our family relationships often leaving deep wounds and scars. Once words go out of our mouths, be they good or bad, they cannot be retrieved. Col. 4:6 tells us, *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer every man.”* Salt brings out the flavor or the best in others. Salt is also known for its preserving effect. May our desire always be expressed in the words of Psalm 19:14 *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

Our Attitudes

Often the spirit of a marriage relationship is communicated more in terms of attitudes than it is by words or deeds. In fact, the right words spoken with a wrong attitude and tone are capable of creating strong animosities in a family relationship. Contension towards our partner is but the expression of a hidden attitude of pride. Impatience is the fruit of a self-centered attitude. Phil. 2:5 states: *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus”* And we are clearly told what that attitude was...one of meekness and lowliness of heart. What a difference it would make if a husband were to truly live the words of Eph. 5:25: *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”* What wife wouldn't gladly submit in love to such a husband?

Our Actions

Harsh words are spoken by the Apostle Paul in Titus 1:16, *“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good”* (NIV).

Instead of that, may the words of Eph. 5:28 speak to us, *"Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."* If we were always to treat our partner and our children exactly as we would treat Jesus, what a fantastic and precious relationship we would have!

Commitment

If we have truly committed our family relationship to God, and we are allowing God to accomplish the work that He has begun in us (Phil. 1:6), then the Holy Spirit will lead us to the point where we will bring our thoughts and conduct into accord with God's plan for our lives. 2 Cor. 10:5 tells us, *"Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* If our thoughts are right, then our words, our attitudes, and our actions will be right and well-pleasing, not only to God but to our partner and our children.

Once again, we ask, *do your children feel secure?* Is your home a safe haven for your family? Even if all the marriages of your friends and neighbors were to fall apart, would your children still have no feelings of insecurity about the strength of their family? How wonderful if this is a reality in your family. Praise God that He has given you the wisdom that comes from above (James 3:17), for the wisdom of this world (James 3:15) would have taken you on a much different journey through life. If this is the case, it's never too late to ask the Lord's forgiveness and help.

Spend time with your children; talk with them; pray with them; play with them; show loving affection to them; affirm them when they do right; gently and lovingly discipline them when they do wrong; train them in the way of the Lord; and above all, *show them* your love and dedication for one another. The greatest thing you can do for your children is to truly love the Lord and the partner the Lord has given you! If you do this, you will have a joyous home, a safe haven which will not be affected by outside circumstances.

E. Weeks

"Trust in the LORD with ALL your heart; do not depend on your own understanding; Seek His will in ALL you do and He WILL direct your path."

Prov. 3:5, 6 - NLT

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, Peggy & Russell – VT	Jones, Arlene - VA
Anderson, Family– WI (d)	Karavas, Anna - CA
Andrada, Delores & Family – CA	Knapp, Jamie – NH
Bews, Sandra and Family TX (d)	Knapp, Joseph – IL (d)
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	Kingsmith, Beresford - UK
Collins, Bert - NJ	Mazzotta, Eva – FL
Cooper, Carmela – NJ	Miller, Alain – Canada
Csutor, Judith – CT	Mitchell, Mitch - France
Day, Ronald – PA	Moore, Ralph & Maryellen – CA
DiCenso, Sabatino - AZ	Munoz, Sue - NY
Dickson, Roberta Jo – CA	Newling, Roseanna – NH
Dobbins, Esther - NH	Niewiemiński, Elaine – NY
Donnarummo, Dan – OH (d)	Parker, Geraldine – CA
Duhaime, George & Martha – CT	Penton, Jim – Canada
Dunn, Kim - IL	Phillips, Stella – OK
Fantuzzo, Tony – NY (d)	Riggio, Fran – NH
Feliciano, Carmen - NY	Rowe, Bryan - UK
Fischer, Mike & Liz – WI	Schultz, Dan – MN
Foster, Jean – IL	Schwartz, Ruth – TX
Gary, Inez – VA	Seminoff, Brenda – CA
Gmiterek Family (d)	Thomassen, Sandi – NM (d)
Hauslein, Karen – MD	Tuscia, Priscilla – FL
Hawk, Barbara – PA	Trent, Frank & Thelma - FL
Hildebrandt, Lois - FL	Weaver, Eddie - NY
Hogrebe, Joan – MO	White, Ken & Joan - NY
Hopkins, Linda & Andrew – VA (d)	Wisdom Hezekiah Ikpo - Nigeria
Iannaccone, Bob & Marie – IL	Zychal, Ruth & Craig– NJ

(d) = death in the family

Entered into rest: John Shepherd, England, November 2019
Don Holliday, England, January 2020
Sharon Fantuzzo, New York, January 2020

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.

Bible Correspondence Course New Graduates & Websites

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



USA

Basic Course

1. Emmie Stanley, NC
2. Clifton Vance, WV

Republic of Cameroon

Basic Course

1. Nanje Gaston Disue
2. Nganda Eugen Ngingi

United Kingdom

Ransom Course

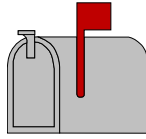
1. David Owens

You are invited to view the following websites:

<http://www.cdmi.org> (Christian Discipling Ministries International)
<http://www.cbfchurch.com> (Christian Believers Fellowship 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.bibelgemeinde.at> (Free Bible Students, Austria)
<http://www.bibelgemeinde.org> (Mission Work Bible Students, Austria)
<http://bibelforscher.heimat.eu/> (Free Bible Students, Germany (English))
<http://www.softgrafic.com/bibbia> (Italian Bible Students)
<http://www.newcovenantfellowship.org.au> (New Covenant News- Australia)
<http://www.ebbereanos.org> (Berean Bible Students, Brazil—Portuguese/Spanish)

If you have been unable to access any of these websites, we would appreciate knowing of the same to remove or correct our postings.

Letters from Our Fellowship and Readers



The wisdom from our Father through our beloved Jesus' name, we can receive "I will not fear". It does not matter what evil or wrong may be in the way. He has said, "I will never leave you," "I will in no wise fail you."

May this coming New Year bring all of "His" closer than ever before, especially as we watch Jesus expose more and its wrongs. Wisdom says....James 4:8 "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

I pray that "His" always remembers...there is only one relationship that matters, and that is your deep personal relationship to your personal Redeemer and Lord, Jesus!

*Jesus loves you and so do I,
"His" Servant*

Also, from "His" Servant,

In Jesus' Name I greet you with a very special prayer for your peace and continued reliance upon our blessed Jesus for ALL things.

*As I look at this world – my heart longs for the day when "His" truth is fully in the minds of man. What a glorious day that will be
for "all of Adams children".*

"His" Servant

From Waipahu, Hawaii –

Please continue my subscription on this attractive and interesting magazine.

From Ghana, Africa –

The New Creation magazines are very educative and helpful to enlighten about life as a Christian. (asked to be signed up for the Bible Correspondence Course)

From Australia –

Valiant and valuable work.

Conferences & Conventions

112th Christian Believers Conference

Gordon College, Wenham, MA

July 29 - August 2, 2020

Theme: "Accepting God's Call"

Contact: Bruce & Cheri Blake bblake351@gmail.com

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.

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

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. We strive for accuracy but do not have full knowledge.

Happiness often depends on the quality of our thoughts.

If you see someone without a smile today, give them one of yours.