"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Romans 13:11).

"And the gospel must first be published among all nations" (St. Mark 13:10).



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOSPEL SPREADING CHURCH OF GOD

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NOT FOR SALE

### **FAVOR WITH GOD**

Obedience to God's word will result in His favor towards you. If you want God's favor to continue, you must stay in obedience to His word. Jesus learned obedience by the things He suffered. When He was a youngster, He would accompany His parents to Jerusalem for the annual feast of the Passover. On one occasion while His parents were returning home to Nazareth, He lingered behind in the temple engaged in a dialogue with the doctors. When His parents realized He was not with them, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. When they found Him, His mother wanted to know why He had treated them that way. He responded that He must be about His Father's business. The Bible tells us in St. Luke 2:52 "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

So, I ask the question; Are we about our Father's business, or are we minding our business while neglecting His? Is the bulk of your time spent on things that are important to you, or that which brings glory to God?

If we want God's favor, we must be about doing His business: doing things that bring Him glory. We must always keep in mind that we are soldiers in His army, in constant warfare with His enemy and ours who is the devil.

II Timothy 2:4 "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

We have been chosen and strategically placed in the Lord's army. Don't let hardships, troubles, difficulties, and cares of this life cause you to surrender and abandon your position in the Lord's army. Don't desert the mission because of a fear of the unknown. Don't become a cowardly soldier. We have the necessary weapons to obtain victory. We have been given the authority to use the name of the victor which is Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."

Are we living in the light of God's divine favor? We have the capacity to live in the kingdom of God right now. Jesus said in St. Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

(Continued on Page 4)

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Ask Anything In My Name	Page 2
The Holy Bible Word Puzzle	Page 3
Jerusalem Suffers For Rejecting Christ	Page 5
GSC Worship Service Line Up	Page 6
Black History Month Celebration	Page 7
Calling All Youth.	Page 8
Sunday School Lessons	Page 10



This is a cold world, and it needs the spirit of the gospel to warm it—herein is our responsibility.

The gospel is not to be changed to suit you; you are to be changed to suit the gospel.

People are spending thousands of dollars seeking to be happy when there is one cheap way to be happy—and that is by obeying God.

Don't let the sun go down on your head with the wound unhealed in the heart of one you've hurt.

A thankful heart will offer praise.

The devil is not in hell waiting for you. He is in the earth waiting to take you to hell with him.

God does not help those who He helps help themselves. those who help others.

Nothing can make a man holy but the Spirit of God.

Every word that Jesus spoke gave us hope.

You must get to the point where you can boldly say to the devil, "I'm not interested, " when he comes to you.

Jealousy is a terrible thing. The devil uses it to keep you upset.

"Sparks from the Anvil" are now available in hard copy. If you desire a copy, write to the Happy New Publishing Company, 2030 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001-3027

Contributions are \$8.00.

## The "Happy Am I" Radio Preacher's Message

## **Ask Anything In My Name**

The Lord Will Hear All Petitions Made in The Name of Jesus by Those Who Keep The Commandments

My text is found tonight in St. John 14:14-15: "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. If ye love me, keep my commandments." These are the words of Jesus as He was talking to His disciples. I am going to make you to know that there are very few people who know how to pray.

My context will be found in the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> verses of the same chapter. "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Effect of Words Is to Create Spirits

There are three in the Godhead: The Father, who is called God; the Son, who is called Jesus; and the Holy Spirit, who is called the Comforter. These Three are One. Each has a different office, yet they all work together in one Spirit, under the influence of the Word of God. I stand here as Elder Michaux. My word can be sent into Europe. Those who receive my word over there will receive my spirit. If they believe what I say, they partake of my nature.

If you are sick and tell the physician where your pain is, and he says you have pneumonia, if you believe the words of the physician, you will have pneumonia whether you have it or not. You have the spirit of the physician because you received his word. And you'll tell everybody who visits you, that you have pneumonia.

St. John 1:1-2 will tell you how the Son was received into the Godhead. "IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

Words Build Empires, and Move Men to Act

Whenever you see a man, you'll find his word, which is the man himself. You can't accomplish anything today without some form of communication to make folks understand you. Men build big buildings, great bridges, and other wonderful things all through their word. God is known through His Word, for God backs His Word. A man is no more than his word. If he ceases to back it, then people don't care about him or his word. This world was created by the power that is found in the Word of God. And the



Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux, founder, Church of God

power of God is the truth, the veracity of His Word.

Read the 14<sup>th</sup> verse of the same chapter and see what God did with His Word after He created man and wanted man to know Him. Man could only know God through His Word, so He made His Word flesh that it might dwell among men so that they might see Him and know Him.

Moses wanted to know God. He had heard the voice of God, but had not seen God. God told him that no man could see His face and live, but He put Moses in the cleft of a rock and passed by so that Moses could behold Him from behind. Moses wrote, "God made man in His own image" (See Genesis 1:27a). In order for man to be able to talk with God in person, however, God took His Word and wrapped it in a human body and allowed it to dwell among men in the person of His only begotten Son.

Word of God Can Keep Sin Out of Man

By His own Word, God begot Jesus. He was not the product of man. God sent His Word by Gabriel to Mary who believed it and became the mother of Jesus. As she believed it, the Word of God took hold of Mary and changed the course of nature and in the proper period, she conceived, and brought forth Jesus. He never failed to tell the truth because He was the Word of God which is Truth.

For men to know that the Word of God in the flesh can keep men living above sin, God made a body like yours and mine in which His Son would live. Sin is against you. It makes you suffer. It makes you hate. It makes you covetous. It makes you deceive. It has caused this present

frustration and confusion throughout the world today. It affects not only the other person whom it causes you to work against, but it also affects you because the spirit you send to another person turns, after harming the other, and comes right back at you.

The things Jesus did represent the father Who performs the work. Jesus told His followers to believe Him for the work's sake, even if they didn't care to believe His Words. Jesus spoke the Words of His Father. He took no credit for Himself. He went to the cross and died because He was flesh. But the Word of God in Jesus shall never die. When we believe in Him, then His Words are in us, and whatever the Words say, we should do. When He believes in us, we are all one. Whatever we ask in Jesus' name, the Father will grant.

Prayers Offered According to God's Word Will Be Answered

Now, so many people pray and don't get an answer. As you are here to pray all night, I am going to make you understand how to get a prayer through that you might not pray in vain. Those who ask in accord with the Word of God will receive.

Your trouble has been that you are selfish. You just want God to bless you when I need the blessing more than you do. But it isn't which one needs the blessing more. God honors the benevolent spirit (which makes me pray for you and you for me).

Some folks ask God for a house and lot. Ask for your blessings in Jesus' Name. Since the blessing is from God, you will have to share it like He says.

The Lord will not withhold a blessing from you if you ask in His Name. He knows your heart. You cannot lie to Him. If you asked for a Cadillac so you could outdo your neighbor who has a Ford, God wouldn't answer your prayer, especially if you also have a Ford.

God's Spirit, Through His Word, Will Make Your Prayers Proper

Now you cannot always pray for yourself, I don't care how loudly you yell, or moan, or how far you went in college. You might say prayers to practice up. You have to be taught how to pray by the Spirit. You have to be led to pray by the Spirit of God. The Lord's Prayer was given to teach you how to pray that you might form

## The Holy Bible Word Puzzle Rules

- 1. Find the "Book" given at the top of the first column. Then find "Chapter" and indicated beside the "Book".
- 2. To find the "Word", begin at the first word in the "Verse" and count each succeeding word until you have counted the number indicated on the table.
- 3. Write the "Word" on the blank line in the "Answer" column.
- 4. Repeat this operation for each book listed in the puzzle.
- 5. Reading each word from the top to bottom in the Answer column, you will have a familiar Bible passage.
- 6. Then search the Scriptures to find the answer. The use of a

concordance is recommended. Quote where the passage is found. 7. Please use the King James

Version of the Holy Bible.

- 8. Mail answer to: Happy News Publishing Co., 2030 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001. If you do not wish to cut the paper, you may submit your answer on plain paper.
- 9. The answer to the puzzle should be postmarked by the fifteenth (15th) of the month for publication in our next issue.
- 10. Letters must be limited to forty (40) words and are published as space will allow.

Editors reserve the right to edit as needed.

		ARTHOGOGRAPH .			
No. 1017					
ВООК	CHAPTER	VERSE	WORD	ANSWER	
BOOK	CHAPTER	VERSE	WOKD	ADOVER	
1. Revelation	15	3	1		
2. Hosca	2	21	2		
3. Joel	1	15	21		
4. II Peter	1	8	5		
5. Esther	4	16	52		
6. Jonah	1	6	13		
7. Levitious	16	29	29		
8. Ezekiel	8	16	15		
9. Zechariah	14	17	12		
10. Isaiah	65	11	10		
11. Jude	1	4	21		
12. Psalm	23	1	2		
13. St. Luke	4	8	22		
14. I Corinthians	14	2.5	21		
15. Titus	1	4	12 7		
16. If John 17. Proverbs	1 20	6 7	12		
18. Jeremiah	7	9	19		
19. Nahum	1	14	24		
20. Psalm	78	7	9		
21. Jeremiah	13	10	24		
22. Zephaniah	2	ii	7		
23. Acts	26	20	8		
24. Philippians	3	3	7		
25. Numbers	16	33	7		
26. Psalm	50	22	9		
27. Micah	6	3	16		
28. Nahum	1	11	11		
29. II Thessalonians	3	6	4		
30. Revelation	11	15	17		
31. Joshua	14	9	6		
32. II Kings	23	3	46		
33. St. Mark	1	3	10		
34. ☐ Peter	1	11	5		
35. Genesis 36. Job	20 4	7 0	34 7		
30, 300 4 9 7					
OHOTE WHERE	QUOTE WHERE PASSAGE IS FOUND				
1 ~	QUOTE WHERE PASSAGE IS FOUND				
PRINT FULL NA	PRINT FULL NAME				
YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS					
Answers to Last Month's Puzzle					

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death" (Philippians 1:20).

### Moving?

If you are moving, please notify Happy News of your new address so that your subscription will not be interrupted. Fill in the subscription blank on Page 12. Check the **Moved** box and send the printed label from your current issue along with you new address to Happy News Publishing Co.

## Responses to the **Bible Word Puzzle**

The following persons found the correct answer:

Rudene K. Bonnette St. Matthews, SC \* \* \* \* \* Lucy Jones Brodnax, VA \* \* \* \* \* Nathaniel Jones Bronx, NY \* \* \* \* \* Harriet Roberts Kinston, NC \* \* \* \* \* Beatrice D. Russell Boydton, VA \* \* \* \* \* Sarah Johnson Kenbridge, VA \* \* \* \* \* Ola Montgomery East Orange, NJ \* \* \* \* \* Barbara Newby

South Hill, VA \* \* \* \* \*

LaFreda F. Ogburn South Hill, VA \* \* \* \* \*

> Rosa L. Stone Brodnax, VA



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#### ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY SERVICES

5:30 AM	Sumise Prayer Service
9:45 AM	Sunday School
11:45 AM	Morning Service
6:00 PM	

#### WEEKDAY SERVICES

#### PURITY CLUB

7:00 PM Tuesday..... Dallimore MD 8:00 PM, Thursday . . . . . Newport News, VA

#### RADIO BROADCASTS

Hampton and Newport News, VA Proise 92.5 FM, Proise 104.9 FM, WTZJ 1270 AM, WHICT 1650 AM Online: Google "Praise 104.9 Virginia"

Weshington, DC WFAY-1320 AM

3:00 PM - 3:30PM 9:00 PM - 9:30 PM 

## **FAVOR WITH GOD**

(Continued from Page 1)

It stands to reason that if the kingdom of God is within us, then we, as saints of God, have the capacity to live like kingdom children having received favor from our Father in heaven. The favor He has bestowed gives us power by way of the Holy Spirit to live, not sinless but sin-free if we choose to do so.

My brothers and sisters if you don't believe you can live a certain way, then why even try? It would be an exercise in futility. Don't let any man deceive you regardless of who he may be or from what school of theology he may have graduated.

The scriptures tell us very plainly in I Corinthians 6:9-11 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall notinherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, norrevilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

To inherit of course is to come into possession of, receive as one's portion. Don't let stiffness, meanness, arrogance, or obstinance cause you to fall out of favor with God. Don't turn your back onGod's favor.

Isaiah 55:7 "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

God has blessed us in the Church of God to hear and know the truth. When you have received the power to live the truth, don't let anyone tell you it can't be done. You simply practice living right. Wewere all born in sin because of the sin of the first man, Adam. We were born of a sinful nature, but because of the gift of grace by one man, Jesus Christ, grace overflows to many who truly believe in His saving and keeping power.

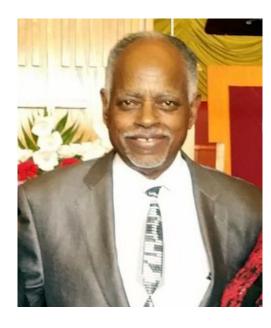
Romans 6:17, 18 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

St. John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Thank God for this understanding. Proverbs 13:15 "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of the transgressor is hard." Job 10:12 "Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit."

Thank God for divine favor. Because of the life and sacrifice of God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, we are able to enjoy His favor.

In His Service,

Pastor James S. Woods, Sr. Church of God Hampton, VA



## Mrs. Michaux's Gospel Message to All

# JERUSALEM SUFFERS FOR REJECTING CHRIST

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how oft would I have gathered thee, even as a hen her chicks and ye would not —— (See St. Luke 13:34). Jerusalem was the religious capital of the Jews. It was at Jerusalem that all the great religious festivals were conducted. At twelve years old, Jesus was taken to Jerusalem by his mother, Mary, and there in the Temple He confounded the doctors of the law by answering all questions they asked and asking questions that they could not answer.

At 30 years of age Jesus, after being baptized by John in the River of Jordan, also being introduced by John to the multitude as the Lamb of God, began to choose His disciples. He went to Jerusalem to the Feast of the Passover and began His gospel ministry. He drove out those who bought and sold in the Temple. He cried out, "...It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves" (St. Matthew 21:13).

"THEN spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,

Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer



Mrs. Mary E. Michaux, co-founder, Church of God

ye them that are entering to go in.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves" (St. Matthew 23:1-15).

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." (St. Matthew 23:37-39).

"Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side.

And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation" (St. Luke 19:42-44).

"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE Lord" (St. Luke 13:35).

"For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the

dry" (St. Luke 23:31)?

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

Then let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (St. Luke 21:20-24).

Not only did Jerusalem have to suffer by rejecting Jesus Christ, because they did not understand Him, but every nation and kindred that will not accept and will reject the teachings of Jesus Christ, their country, town or house will in like manner be left desolate. Christ sent out His Apostles to preach.

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

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give" (St. Matthew 10:5-8).

"And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

And when ye come into an house, salute it.

And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city" (St. Matthew 10:11-15).

Jesus came to save. May each of us be ready when He returns.

## GSC Worship Service Lineup

We invite you to join us for one and/or all of the Worship Services listed below....and don't forget to virtually invite a friend.

## Union Bridge, MD/ New York, NY Elder Anthony Hurst @ 8:30 AM

Join us from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/547927941

> You can also dial in using your phone. United States: <u>+1 (646) 749-3122</u> Access Code: 547-927-941

### Philadelphia, PA - Bishop Michael Clayton @ 10:30 AM

You can dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (631) 992-3221
Access Code: 611-742-308

#### Washington, DC - Pastor Walter Roman @ 11:30 AM

Please join us from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/752475701

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: <u>+1 (224) 501-3412</u>
Access Code: 752-475-701

### Baltimore, MD - Pastor Jamie Green @ 12:30 PM

Join us from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/161764941

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: <u>+1 (872) 240-3412</u>
Access Code: 161-764-941

## Hampton/Newport News, VA Pastor James Woods/Pastor Alphonso Holt @ 1:30 PM

Join us from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/991172509

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (224) 501-3412
Access Code: 991-172-509

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION**

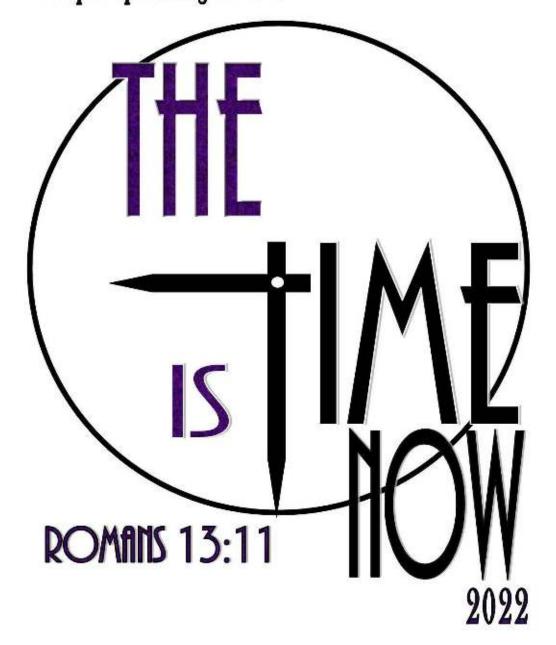
FEBRUARY 11, 18 and 26, 2022

THURSDAY at 7:30PM

- Join Us -



Gospel Spreading Church



### Gospel News and Views

## Calling All Youth

"And all they children shall be taught of the LORD. and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear and from terror; for it shall not come near thee."

(Isiah 54: 13,14)



Noah, Age 3

CALLING ALL YOUTH is featured each month to encourage our youth of all ages to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We solicit your comments, questions and answers on any topic listed on our Youth Page. Your response may be printed the following month provided space is available and it is received before the next publication goes to press. It is our desire "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace" (Psalm 144:12).

Please mail your letters to: Happy News Publishing Co. 2030 Georgia Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20001-3087

All letters should be postmarked by the tenth of the month. Thank you and may God bless you always.

#### **MEMORY VERSES**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (St. John 3:16)."



#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

"...Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" (St. Matthew 6:9-13).

#### LET US PRAY THIS PRAYER AT NOON

"...Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God" (Joel 2:17b)?

#### **COMMANDMENT SECTION**

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (St. John 13: 34-35)."

## Children Explain What They Mean When They Say: *I love You!*

"I love you?" It's special! My mommy and daddy say "I love you" to me when I go to bed. And I say, "I love you!" back to them.

By Noah Age 3 Upper Marlboro

"I love you" means that I care about you a lot! It also means that I would do special things for you!

By Joshua Age 11 Chesterfield



"I love you" means that I put a lot of special feelings into that person.

By Noah Age 9 Chesterfield



"I love you" means that I care for you.

By N'Dea Age 9 Baltimore



When I say, "I love you," I mean that I appreciate you and that I care for you

By Tsehai Age 12 Baltimore



When I say "I love you" I mean that I love you so so much! I mean that I care about you sooooo much!

By Imani Age 5 Baltimore



When I say, "I love you," I mean that I genuinely care for you and hold you close to me. I mean that you are important to me!

By Nya Age 16 Greenbelt



When I say "I love you" to someone, I mean that I have respect for that person and that they are unlike anyone else. I mean that I care for that person and would do anything for that person.

By N'Kyron Age 17 Greenbelt



When I say "I love you" to someone, I mean that I care about them. I mean that I support them one hundred percent no matter what happens!

By Nathaniel Age 13 Greenbelt





### ANSWERS TO JANUARY HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

- What did the angel of the Lord tell Philip to do?
   (Philip was told to arise and go from Jerusalem unto Gaza Acts 8:26).
- 2. Who was the man from Ethiopia and why did he go to Jerusalem? (A eunuch under Candace queen of the Ethiopians; he went to worship Acts 8:27).
- 3. What was the Ethiopian reading on his return trip to Ethiopia? (He was reading Esaias the prophet Acts 8:28).
- 4. What question did Philip ask the Ethiopian? ("Understandest thou what thou readest" Acts 8:30)?
- 5. What question did the Ethiopian ask Philip? ("How can I, except some man should guide me Acts 8:31)?
- 6. What did Philip preach about to the Ethiopian? (He preached about Jesus **Acts 8:35**).

Did the Ethiopian confess his faith in Jesus?
(The Ethiopian willingly confessed his faith in a simple declaration: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" - Acts 8:37).

#### ANSWERS TO JANUARY FILL IN THE BLANKS

- 1. Whosoever <u>believeth</u> that <u>Jesus</u> is the <u>Christ</u> is born of God: and every one that <u>loveth</u> him that begat <u>loveth</u> him also that is begotten of him (I John 5:1).
- 2. By this we know that we <u>love</u> the children of God, when we <u>love</u> God, and keep his <u>commandments</u> (I John 5:2).
- 3. For this is the <u>love</u> of God, that we keep his <u>commandments</u>: and his <u>commandments</u> are not grievous (I John 5:3).
- 4. For whatsoever is **born** of God overcometh the **world**: and this is the **victory** that overcometh the **world**, even our **faith** (**I John** 5:4).
- 5. For there are <u>three</u> that bear record in heaven, the <u>Father</u>, the <u>Word</u>, and the <u>Holy Ghos</u>t: and these <u>three</u> are one (I John 5:7).
- 6. And there are <u>three</u> that bear witness in earth, the <u>spirit</u>, and the <u>water</u>, and the <u>blood</u>: and these <u>three</u> agree in one (I John 5:8).
- 7. And this is the <u>record</u>, that God hath given to us <u>eternal life</u>, and this <u>life</u> is in his Son (I John 5:11).

#### FEBRUARY HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

- 1. Due to a famine in their homeland, in what foreign country did Naomi and her family abide?
- 2. What was Naomi's family tragedy?

1.

- 3. After traveling some ways toward Judah, what did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, they should do?
- 4. What were the two blessings Naomi invoked on Orpah and Ruth?
- 5. How did Naomi reveal her affection for the women?
- 6. Upon Naomi's return to Bethlehem, what was her response to "Is this Naomi"?
- 7. What did the women say unto Naomi after the birth of Ruth's son, Obed?

### FEBRUARY FILL IN THE BLANKS

For God so the world, that he gave his only begotten

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## Sunday School Lessons for the Month of February

The lessons for this month were reviewed by Sister Audrey Morris. She serves as the Washington, DC Church of God Sunday School teacher of Women's Class.



LESSON 6 – February 6, 2022 SUBJECT: Trials and Denials

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." (St. Mark 14:62).

PRINTED TEXT: St. John 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. 16 But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.

17 Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not.

18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.

20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

21 Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.

22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?

24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said. I am not.

26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? 27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

#### **LESSON DISCUSSION**

According to Jewish law, an accused person could not be interrogated. Guilt must be established by witnesses.

Nevertheless, Jesus was seized, with no witnesses, and no valid charge. It was also a Jewish tradition that one must teach the law openly, but false prophets would often teach in secret. Jesus had not taught in secret and requested His accusers to ask others what He had said. Another reason this trial was not legal is that it was held at night. Proceedings involving the death penalty were not permitted to be conducted on a single day.

Peter stood by the coal fire with the officers. He had said he would die for Jesus but denies any association with Him even as Jesus was being mistreated. This was totally out of character for Peter, but this was perhaps the greatest challenge he and John had faced to this point.

We should be careful not to blend in with sinners because we can find ourselves doing what is wrong. When we are put in a position to stand up for Christ, we should be bold. Peter appears to be an absolute coward, standing by the coal fire denying that he knew Christ, and blending in with the very ones who had arrested Jesus.

Peter was certain he would not deny Christ.

When you think you will stand firm, you may fall. We need integrity to always do the right things. We must rely on the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us to give us, power to do right.

LESSON 7 – February 13, 2022 SUBJECT: Pilate: What is Truth?

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence" (St. John 18:36).

**PRINTED TEXT:** St. John 18:28-40 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?

30 They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

32 That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.

33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

#### **LESSON DISCUSSION**

The Jews had not eaten Passover and sought to avoid ritual uncleanness by remaining outside of the headquarters. Before Pilate could hear the case, an official charge was necessary. Pilate discovered there was no official charge or proof requiring him to take legal action against Jesus. It was unlawful for Jews to put anyone to death without Roman sanction and Pilate was reluctant to get involved.

To fulfill prophecy, crucifixion was necessary for Jesus' death. If the Jews had been allowed to carry out the death penalty, they would have stoned Him.

Pilate's question, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" (St. John 18:33b) was crucial in determining if Jesus sought a rebellion or was planning to set up His own government. Jesus' response, "My kingdom is not of this world: ...." (St. John 18:36) went against the kingship which was in charge implicating treason.

Jesus said, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should wear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (St. John 18:37). This answer to Pilate's question was a

profound statement of pre-existence. The answer Jesus gave made it clear that His kingdom was a spiritual kingdom and that He came into the world to bear witness to the truth.

In asking, "What is truth?" Pilate appears to be brushing aside Jesus' statement and the whole trial, not recognizing that Christ's very Word was truth. Pilate then went outside and told the Jews, "I find in him no fault..." (St. John 18:38b) and asked if they wanted Jesus to be released. The Jews replied, "Not this man, but Barabbas." (St. John 18:40b).

LESSON 8 – February 20, 2022 SUBJECT: Crucifixion and Death

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost" (St. John 19:30).

**PRINTED TEXT:** St. John 19:16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

- 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.
- 19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews.
- 20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.
- 21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.
- 22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.
- 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.
- 24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.
- 25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.
- 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!
- 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.
- 28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.
- 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

### **LESSON DISCUSSION**

It was common practice of the Romans to post the name of the criminal along with his crime. It was Pilate who inscribed the words, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," written in the three common languages of the day: Greek, Latin and Hebrew. By doing so, it proclaimed to the whole world the fact that Jesus is the King of Israel.

When the chief priests saw what Pilate had written they protested, demanding he alter the text. Pilate refused to change a word.

It was a common practice for soldiers to divide the victim's garments among themselves at the time of a crucifixion, apparently ripping the garments up into equal shares. But when they came to Jesus' undershirt, being woven from top to bottom in one piece, they decided not to rip it up, but rather to cast lots for it. It is a form of sortition in which an outcome is determined by means that are considered random or intended to reveal the will of God.

Jesus' mother, His mother's sister, and Mary Magdalene were present at the foot of the cross. Jesus consciously cared for His mother. John and Mary each obeyed Jesus' command from the

cross that John should care for her. We can take a lesson from this directive in making sure our parents are cared for. Having died for our sins, Christ's work was finished.

Without this sacrifice, we would not have eternal life. He fulfilled scripture by saying "I thirst" (St. John 19:28b), received vinegar, and "gracefully gave up his spirit" (See St. John 19:30b)

LESSON 9 – February 27, 2022 SUBJECT: Jesus by the Sea of Tiberias

**GOLDEN TEXT:** "This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead" (St John 21:14).

**PRINTED TEXT:** St. John 21:1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.

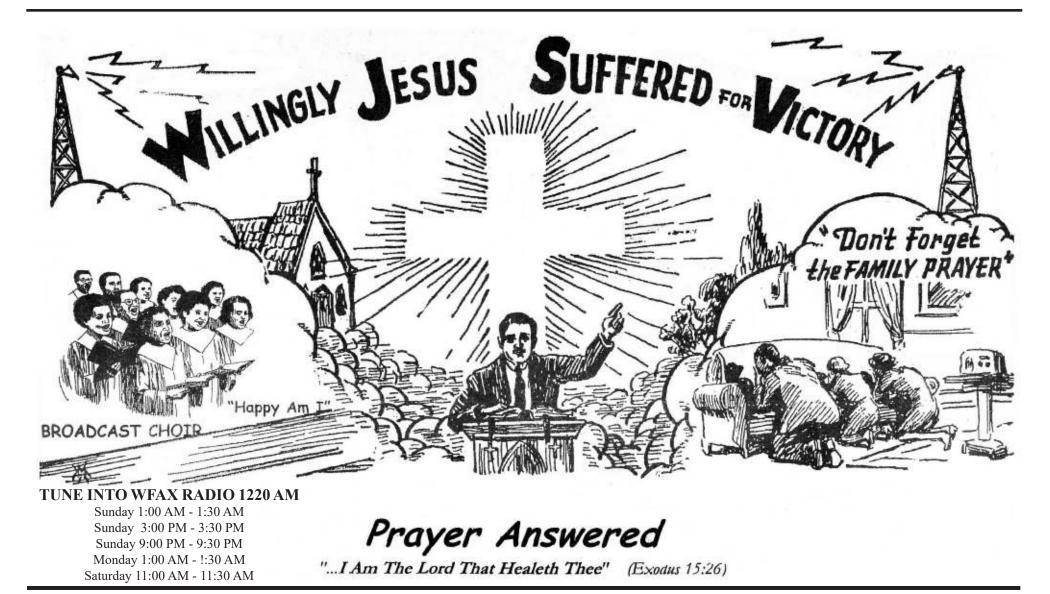
- 2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.
- 3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.
- 4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.
- 5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.
- 6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.
- 7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea
- 8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.
- 9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.
- 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.
- 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.
- 12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.
- 13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.
- 14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

#### LESSON DISCUSSION

John recorded another appearance of the resurrected, Jesus to His disciples, this time in Galilee at the Sea of Tiberias. Peter and the others decided to go fishing, their former occupation. They fished through the night and caught nothing. The following morning a stranger appeared, instructing them to throw their fishing nets to the right. They did as they were told and caught so many fish, they weren't able to pull in the net. John then instantly recognized the stranger as Jesus.

Peter threw himself into the water to reach Jesus as quickly as possible because the boat wasn't fast enough. The other disciples followed, doing the hard work of dragging the net full of fish. Jesus already had a coal fire going, fish cooking, and bread. He instructed them to bring the fish they had just caught. Peter then dragged the large catch of 153 fish and surprisingly the weight of the catch didn't break the net. Jesus then invited them to come and eat with Him. None of the disciples asked Who the stranger was because they all knew it was Christ. This was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after His crucifixion.

We should follow their example in being obedient. Likewise, we should heed Jesus' example in providing service to others.



## Ask Anything In My Name

The Lord Will Hear All Petitions Made in The Name of Jesus by Those Who Keep The Commandments

(Continued from Page 2)

the habit. Some folks think they can read a prayer out of a book, but God doesn't always hear such prayers. It is the Holy Ghost that prays, making utterances and groans within you which the Lord interprets into a language. Romans 8:26-27: "...but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Unless someone who has the Holy Spirit prays for you, you have no help, because your prayers don't go through. It is the prayers of some Saint that causes the Spirit of the Lord to move on the heart of a sinner or trouble it until he is saved. It is the prayer of a good old godly mother that brings the wayward boy down on a bed of affliction that he might stop and listen to God and be saved. When the Lord brings him down, don't you cry and carry on. God is answering your prayers. You just say to that boy, son, I've been praying for you and God has heard me. If you will give your heart to God and turn from your wicked ways, God will heal you.

God doesn't want anything done in the earth except that which will glorify His Son. If your prayer is directed to God that you might be able to accomplish something to the glory of God and not your own glory, then God will hear you. If you keep His commandments, and He abides in you, and you in Him, then you may ask what you will in His Name. If you pray in His Name, to His Glory, then you'll get what you ask for.

May God bless you.

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