

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



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOSPEL SPREADING CHURCH OF GOD

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things: and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Revelation 21: 7).

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WASHINGTON, DC

JANUARY 2022

NOT FOR SALE

What time is it? Not asking you..., but let's ask the Apostle Paul.
'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 (KJV)

THE TIME IS NOW!

One afternoon my grandson asked me to watch a movie with him. As we prepared the room with lighting, surround sound, and popcorn. We were ready to go and watch one of his favorite movies, Toy Story. (For him, his 100th viewing of it.)

As we nestled in and the movie began, I slipped into a cinema coma of sleep. When I came to, the credits were rolling, the song "You Have a Friend In Me" was playing, and the bowl of popcorn was empty. I missed the whole movie!

Have you ever slept through it? Ever dozed off during something important? A couple of you are nodding off right now! Ever slumbered through the alarm and missed it? Ever been in a drowsy daze?

We all have been there. I can remember a time when a certain member took a nap during a loud passionate message. The member had to be nudged awake as the minister walked down the aisle and continued the message standing next to the parishioner...it was my MOTHER. As a pastor, you see so much from the stage facing the audience. My prayer each time I have the opportunity to share a thought is two-fold, "(1) Lord, please use me with fever and to engage the hearer of the perfect law of liberty! (2) Let the message be concise, clear, and motivating that it will keep my mother awake!"

Paul says we are all doing that now. It's time to wake up! Covid shut down the world! The virus has put us all on our heels and has caused many people to ask, "Is this the end, my friend?" Paul would say, "The end is closer than it has ever been...so wake up!"

Jesus said, no one knows the date and time of the end. But there will be signs: There will be wars, we've had a bunch of them, haven't we? No reason to recall WWI, WWII, or Vietnam. Rumors of wars—that's the story of our times. Then 9/11 happened, and the Taliban was going to destroy us, and then Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Today, according to Aljazeera news sources, "US officials have in the last month pointed to unusual Russian troop movements near Ukraine and raised concerns over what they say is a possible Russian invasion, something Moscow has dismissed as fear-mongering." The World Population Review recently reported that as of September 2021, countries currently at war with over 10,000 casualties include Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mexico, and Yemen. Worldwide conflicts with 1,000 to 10,000 casualties include Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, and Tunisia. Wars and rumors of wars.

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom - that's civil war. That's going on now, right? There will be earthquakes, famines and pestilences. Pestilences are defined as plagues, epidemics, viruses and pandemics. (i.e., COVID) False prophets will arise teaching stupid stuff. Believers will be persecuted. An increase of wickedness. The gospel will be preached to all nations... Is this the end? Wake up and smell the coffee!

'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 (KJV)

In the year of 2022, we, the people of God, need not approach this new year with the same actions and expect a new outcome! Our Lord, as He has in previous milestones in history, is yet again, warning the Saint and the Sinner. The stage is set. Our salvation is not tomorrow, but is NOW! THE TIME IS NOW to wake up and act! This is an URGENT MATTER that requires an URGENT RESPONSE.

(Continued on Page 6)



When you give freely to God, you give more than the one who gives grudgingly, in spite of the amount.

If you need God, you can always get Him. He is never out of town.

The inspiration to do good comes from God.

We are no profit to God because we do right. We are the beneficiaries.

If you want God's attention, give Him yours when you don't need His.

Nothing fills the aching void in the breast of the human being like God.

No matter what your condition is, God can give you relief.

God is for us if we are right, and with us to correct us if we are wrong.

Regardless of what your problem is, or your station in life may be, you can talk to God.

To understand God, man must be born again.

Nothing can uproot that which is planted in God.

You may oppose it, friend, but the will of God must done on earth as it is in heaven.

'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.

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The "Happy Am I" Radio Preacher's Message

TWO BIRTHS, TWO LIVES, TWO DEATHS, TWO RESURRECTIONS

St. John 3:7-8, Romans 6:16-23
Revelation 20:6-14

GOD REVEALS MANY THINGS TO MAN ABOUT HIS LIFE THROUGH HIS WORD

"This morning I wish to bring you in brief a knowledge which you don't have possibly and it is my job to do it, for I am a teacher, sent from God. I didn't get what I know from the carnal mind — that is, a fleshly mind. I didn't learn what I'm imparting to you in some seminary or college, No! I learned it from the Word of God by the Spirit of God, the great teacher. You can't take it in without being blessed, and I say so because by my taking it in, I am blessed because God has no respect of persons. He doesn't need my favor and there's nothing I can do for Him but praise Him and I'm going to do that as long as I have breath.



Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux,
founder, Church of God

I want you to know this morning that according to the Word of God, there are two births, and there are two lives which we live while here on this earth. I also want to make you know that there are two deaths, one of which is the death of the body, and the other is the death of the soul. There are two resurrections, one of the righteous and one of the unrighteous. The righteous and the wicked shall not rise together.

In speaking of the first birth, God tells us how a man is born of flesh or of his mother. He tells you how you are born into this world so that you will not be deceived. The Lord tells you this in the 51st division of the Psalms, reading the 5th Verse, "**Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.**" He says, you were shaped in your mother's womb in iniquity; and *in sin* your mother conceived you. You were born a sinner when you were born into the world.

God's Word tells you that your second birth is not of the flesh but of the Spirit of God. He tells you how it happens in St. John, the 3rd Chapter, reading the 7th and 8th verses. "**Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again,**" said Jesus. (8) "**The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**" The wind blows wherever it pleases, and you hear the sound of it, but you cannot see it. You don't know where it comes from nor where it goes. You are first born of your mother in sin; secondly, you are born again, the second birth being of the Spirit of God. Your *first* life is one of sin because you were born in sin; your *second* life is one of righteousness because of your willingness to be born again by your acceptance of the invitation of Jesus to come unto Him and obey His teachings. When one obeys the teachings of Jesus, he lives a righteous life.

In Romans, the 6th Chapter, reading from the 16th to the 23^d verse, the Lord makes it plain to you that you might know what to do. "**Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey;...**" Don't you know this — that you are the servant of the one you work for and obey?

Read "**whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**" In the same like manner if you obey the principles that make you a sinner, you will at the end receive eternal death. But if you obey God by taking in the teachings of Jesus Christ, you'll not live as a sinner or have a sinful life and at the end you'll reap eternal life. You will have lived righteously.

Read! (17). "**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.**" God is to be thanked that though we were born in sin and shapened in iniquity, those who have obeyed from the heart the form of doctrine which was delivered to them, became new creatures. He tells you that you were born again by obeying from the heart the form of doctrine which God sent into the world to teach man how he might be saved from sin.

St. Matthew 1:21 says these words which I want you to take in; they are not from me; they're from God's Word! They say, "**And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**" It says, "for He shall save His people (those who believe in Him) from their sins." Now that's the way. You obey the teachings that Christ taught that you might not live in sin, but in righteousness. And He says in the 18th verse of Romans 6, "**Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**" If you obey the teachings of Jesus Christ, you'll be made free from sin and you'll become a servant of righteousness. Read! (19) "**I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity, even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.**" I speak this way that you might understand because you were born in sin. But as you have yielded your members (your hands, mouth, eyes, and feet) unto things that were not clean and from one sin

to another, now yield those same members unto the things that are right by obeying what God has commanded you to do unto holiness. What else? (20) "**For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.**" As long as you live contrary to the teachings of Christ, you are the servant of sin; then you are free from righteousness.

(21) "**What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?**" That life you lived didn't profit you anything — drinking liquor, chasing women, gambling, stealing, and lying. You are ashamed of that junk after you are born again. But all the while you're in sin you just can't see and understand. You've got to be born of the Spirit of God by the Word of God. The Word of God will guide you day in and day out and you'll be free from unrighteousness. Read! "**For the end of those things is death.**" The end of sin is eternal death. But what? (22) "**But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.**" God, through His giving you the new birth, enables you to be born again and your obeying the teachings of the Spirit of God, made you live free from sin, and you become a servant of God. Then you'll have your fruit *unto holiness* for the things you do will be pure, clean, and holy and at the end, you'll have everlasting life.

Now all of this is in your Book, The Bible: Take a look! It's in Romans, the 6th Chapter, beginning with the 15th verse and reading through the 23^d. It's there; it's God's Word! As I have said, you live two lives, the first one being a life of sin because you were born in sin, but if you will be born again, you can serve righteousness just as you served sin.

Now my brother, not only are there two births, two lives and two resurrections, but there are also *two* deaths. The first death is the death of the natural body which you are separated from your loved ones and friends. But the second death will not come until after the *second resurrection*. You'll find out about it. God has ordained through the death of Jesus Christ that every man be redeemed from death. You've got to live again whether you lived righteously or unrighteously on this earth. God's reason for delivering man from sin is because you are not responsible for your having been born a sinner. What have you got to do with what happened *before* you were born? Because Adam, the first man, became a sinner, all men who have been born into the world have been born in sin. If your parents are sinners and you are born of them, you have their nature. And God doesn't hold them responsible for being sinners, therefore He sent His only begotten Son Jesus, into the world that He might die for every one of us and redeem us from the curse that one man brought upon

(Continued on Page 5)

The Holy Bible Word Puzzle Rules

1. Find the "Book" given at the top of the first column. Then find the "Chapter" and "Verse" 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.

Responses to the Bible Word Puzzle

The following persons found the correct answer:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Lorie Bugre
Yonkers, NY
***** | Noah Myers
Bronx, NY
***** |
| Vickie S. Davis
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| Willie J. Masterson
New Castle, DE
***** | Mattie Walker
Snow Hill, NC |
| Ola M. Montgomery
East Orange, NJ
***** | |

No. 1016

BOOK	CHAPTER	VERSE	WORD	ANSWER
1. St. Luke	1	9	1	
2. St. Matthew	9	29	8	
3. Malachi	2	9	20	
4. Romans	8	19	3	
5. Psalm	62	5	10	
6. Proverbs	24	14	22	
7. Zephaniah	3	11	46	
8. Hebrews	7	19	14	
9. II Thessalonians	3	14	13	
10. I John	2	28	6	
11. Isaiah	41	11	18	
12. Ezra	9	6	6	
13. Job	11	3	13	
14. Jeremiah	12	13	22	
15. II Kings	8	11	10	
16. Romans	8	24	7	
17. Hebrews	11	16	8	
18. Joel	2	26	23	
19. Micah	3	7	14	
20. Acts	4	13	6	
21. I Peter	4	16	6	
22. Deuteronomy	5	29	20	
23. Lamentations	3	29	9	
24. Genesis	2	23	6	
25. St. Mark	8	38	20	
26. St. Luke	2	11	17	
27. Psalm	43	5	21	
28. II Timothy	1	8	18	
29. Joshua	4	14	6	
30. Hosea	2	15	26	
31. I Corinthians	9	1	21	
32. Colossians	2	11	17	
33. Exodus	16	4	34	
34. Ezekiel	43	11	55	
35. Titus	2	8	5	
36. Galatians	2	20	29	
37. Revelation	13	8	20	
38. Leviticus	3	1	23	
39. Ephesians	2	13	15	
40. Revelation	1	18	25	

QUOTE WHERE PASSAGE IS FOUND

.....

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.....

Answers to Last Month's Puzzle

"And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (St. Matthew 12:32).

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THE WINTER 2022 - SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

Fasting is a vital aspect of true worship. It is not a time for feasting, fun, pious acting, or bowing to one's self to appear sanctimonious. The period of Prayer, Meditation, Worship and Fasting represents serious time spent with the Lord. During this time of consecration, the Believer afflicts the body while seeking to gain strength for the inner man.

From Friday, January 7th through Sunday, January 16, 2022, Gospel Spreading Church engages in a Solemn Assembly. COVID-19 guidelines suggest radical change in corporate worship. Modern technology such as webinars and smart phones replace regular church gatherings. Gospel Spreading Church members presently engage in the worship experience while sheltering in place.

Praise God for His faithfulness. Since in life we sometimes find ourselves in difficulties that help us recognize the fact that we need God to work out our situations. Problems are no strangers to us. Life's situations are not always understood, and may be very hard to unravel.

In Bible days, when people of God found themselves facing insurmountable odds they called on God. For example, Queen Esther called the people to prayer and fasting (See Esther 4:16). The city of Nineveh was called to fasting and prayer (See Jonah 3:5). When the disciples were unable to cast demons out of the child, Jesus informed them of the necessity of prayer and fasting. **"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting"** (St. Matthew 17:21).

The procedure for corporate prayer and fasting is outlined in Joel 2:15-17. In these worship services every detail is given. Everyone from the greatest to the least is to be accounted for. The people are gathered, the congregation is to be cleansed/sanctified. The elders, children, nursing babies, bride, bridegroom, priests, ministers of the Lord are to be assembled. No one is left out.

Just as the prophet Joel explains corporate prayer and fasting, the prophet Isaiah exhorts the church to fast individually. **"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh"** (Isaiah 58:6,7)?

Corporate and individual prayer and fasting are often major factors in true worship. We receive great things from the Lord when we obey His instructions regarding how to worship. **"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward"** (Isaiah 58:8).

Just as prayer and fasting were practices in the Old Testament, and the New Testament, they are important elements in worshiping God in this 21st century. Isaiah truly cried aloud and spared not. He declared unto us what is the acceptable fast unto the Lord. We should not withhold good when we have such an opportunity.

Jesus taught His followers how to conduct themselves when in prayer and fasting. He said, **"But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That 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"** (St. Matthew 6:17, 18).

We also follow the exhortation found in I Timothy 2:1-4: **"I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."** In this regard, during the solemn assembly, special prayers are offered for the President of the United States, his staff, members of the U.S. Congress, judges of the earth and the Armed Forces. Second Chronicles 7:14: **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."** As a nation, and as individuals, we need to turn from our wicked ways. If this is done, God will heal our land.

We are living in a time of trouble, such as never was since there has been a nation. However, we can always find comfort in the Scriptures. Psalm 84:11: **"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."** Regardless of the circumstances, God will honor His Word, if we will obey Him to the letter. **"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us"** (II Corinthians 1:20).

Readers of **HAPPY NEWS** are invited to join Gospel Spreading Church in this venture - praying and fasting. **"...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"** (James 5:16b). **"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth:** (St. John 4:24).

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5:30 AM..... Sunrise Prayer Service
 9:45 AM..... Sunday School
 11:45 AM..... Morning Service
 6:00 PM..... Young People's Union

WEEKDAY SERVICES

8:00 PM..... Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 Washington, DC..... Tuesday

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

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Sunday..... 5:30 PM-6:00 PM

Washington, DC
 WPAZ-1230 AM

Sunday..... 1:00 AM - 1:30 AM
 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM
 9:00 PM - 9:30 PM
 Monday..... 1:00 AM - 1:30 AM
 Saturday..... 11:00 AM-11:30 AM

Mrs. Michaux's Gospel Message to All

“CAN WE LIVE FREE FROM SIN IN THIS WORLD?”

In answer to the question in my subject, I shall answer it according to the Bible, beginning in St. Matthew 1:21. **“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”**

I John, 3rd Chapter, 4th to 6th verse inclusive: **“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.”**

I John, 3rd Chapter, 7th – 10th verse inclusive: **“Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil.”**

Now we can readily see that Jesus died to save us from sin, according to St. Matthew's gospel. Also in Ist John's gospel, we find that whosoever is born of God does not commit sin. And **“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;...”**

We find also in St. John 17th Chapter, beginning at the 13th verse through to the 21st verse inclusive that He prayed for the Apostles before leaving them to ascend to the Father, which reads as follows:

“And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou has sent me.”

Now I think this is sufficient to prove to us that we are supposed to, and



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

can, live free from sin in this present world. Well, one may ask the question –

“Aren't we supposed to sin and confess, sin and confess, sin and confess?” Well, this question will be answered by reading St. John 8th Chapter, beginning at the 3rd verse to the 11th verse inclusive, which reads as follows:

“And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So, when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again, he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard

it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last; and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more.”

Now may each and every one seek God for a believing heart; for we must come at His command to Heaven or depart to hell!

As Jesus said to the woman that He was pleased to pardon, being so wonderfully merciful unto her – **“Go, and sin no more”** – He means just that for every one of us; for it is true that we cannot be Saints and sinners at the same time. If we sin at any time, don't let us deceive ourselves, then we are sinners, including the Ministry. And when the people who preach, sing, and talk about God and Jesus Christ, live the life of Jesus Christ, the world will not be in the condition it is now, which should have been done from the very time He went on the Cross on Calvary until this present time.

Now from preachers, teachers, and everyone else, **REPENT OF YOUR SINS:** for He has said, **“Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts...”** Surely, we must remember that we are not saved because we preach, sing, or pray. And according to St. John 9th Chapter, 31st verse, *God heareth not sinners :...”*

May God make this message effective in the heart of every reader that may read this article.

TWO BIRTHS, TWO LIVES, TWO DEATHS, TWO RESURRECTIONS

(Continued from Page 2)

us; that we might have the privilege as individuals to live a righteous life so that when we come forth, we might live with Him eternally.

To give you an understanding of the two resurrections. He says these words found in Revelation 20 and 6 that you might learn more about the *second* death. Read! **“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:...”** That will make you know that there are two resurrections, the first and the second. The person who gets up in the first resurrection will be the one who has obeyed the teachings of Christ. After having been born again, he shall be raised up into the kingdom of God to live with God, the Father and God, the Son throughout eternity.

As I've said, there's another resurrection because God doesn't allow the wicked to get up with the righteous. So, it says in the 5th Verse, **“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”** The righteous will get up first, but the wicked will get up *a thousand years later.*

The second resurrection is for the purpose of the wicked being judged according to the deeds done in their bodies. Remember, there are two births, two lives to be lived, two

(Continued on Page 12)

THE TIME IS NOW!

(Continued from Page 1)

There is no reason for Jesus not to return before you finish this article. If He does, have you completed the assignment given you?

Personally, although I have not completed my assignment; if He does return before we complete this article, I want to be FOUND, busy and abounding in the works of the Lord! I will be making no excuses about what others are, or are not doing, but actively and faithfully serving my LORD!

Our urgent plea to the body of Christ is to WAKE UP!

The Lord is calling us to WAKE UP and...

1. Put some urgency into your actions.

“This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up...”

2. Put some urgency into your day.

¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Romans 13:13 (KJV)

Wow, did you notice that Paul puts “strife” or “quarreling” on the same list as drunkenness and sexual promiscuity?

What is quarreling? A disagreement is an absence of consensus. A quarrel is a heated disagreement. It adds emotions to the disagreement, and quarrels are usually over trivial things. Ouch!

3. Put some urgency into your front row.

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:14-15 (KJV)

God has strategically placed people on our front row. They are watching us—even more closely in 2022. Wake up!

4. Put some urgency into your spiritual growth.

¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Romans 13:14 (KJV)

To “put on the Lord Jesus Christ”, is like Him being as near to you as the clothes you wear.

Most of us now have clothes that are a bit tighter due to sitting around for months in a lockdown. Let’s get that tight with Jesus!

The body of Christ is unknowingly plagued with a spiritual pandemic of idleness, indifference, and an apathetic attitude to Heaven screaming warnings that Jesus is ready to return!

As counties around the world pivot and react with a united aggressive response to the life stealing Coronavirus disease, the Church must take an aggressive response to the death grip our enemy has on the lost and the expansion of the Kingdom of God!

My heart is heavy, as I see the deterioration of the family structure, lawlessness in the streets, and lax and laziness of the very elect. There is more concern about Biblical debate and elite spiritual isolation than the much-needed guerilla warfare required to meet this generation of the “unchurched”. This “unchurched generation” is not just being born, but are parents and grandparents too.

The Time is Now! Do you feel the Kingdom urgency? Church, wake up! This is a 911 emergency! An urgent CALL TO ACTION to be a “Spiritual First Responder” for the Lord!

Where do we begin?

The 2022 theme focus is “The Time Is Now!” This theme underpins an urgency to the body of Christ and the fact that Jesus is ready to return. Now what is the church’s response to that fact? ... ACTION!

We can all agree that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. It always seems that there is a labor shortage in Kingdom work. Today is no different from when Jesus was on the earth.

Jesus said in St. Luke 10:2, **“Therefore said he unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”**

Jesus’ strategy for solving this problem in St. Luke 10:2 doesn’t begin with recruiting. Jesus says our strategy should start with prayer, asking the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers.

If Jesus tells us to pray something, we must believe He is open to answering that prayer. Could our labor shortage be related to our prayer shortage?

What if we were committed to pausing and praying for one minute every day at a set time for the Lord to move on the hearts of His people to become laborers for the harvest? We are not unique to this labor shortage; it is a universal church problem that our enemy has strategically used to attempt to stunt the effectiveness of the church’s mission.

I am asking you and every believer in Jesus Christ to join me in a prayer movement for the year of 2022! Set an alarm for 10:02 AM and 10:02 PM and pray for the harvest based upon St. Luke 10:2. 10,080 participants joining this prayer movement represents 24/7 prayer happening every day! #WePrayUPray2!

Today is the day. The Body of Christ...The Church...is called to action!
Tomorrow is not promised! Today is all we have! THE TIME IS NOW!

Elder Jamie Green, Pastor
Baltimore Church of God,
Assistant Bishop Gospel Spreading Church



Gospel Spreading Church of God – Baltimore, MD Monthly Food Distribution

“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother hath need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (I John 3:17).

On December 18, 2021, the Baltimore Church of God continued to provide food and supplies to the surrounding community. They also gave away Christmas stockings filled with goodies for children 18 and under. Several families stated that they were not able to purchase gifts for their children this year, and what a blessing the Christmas stockings were to them.

The next food distribution will be March 19, 2022, however we still want to serve our community with our annual coat giveaway which will be January 2022.

This outreach is based on LOVE. “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God. He that loveth not knoweth not God: for God is love” (I John 4:7,8). “Beloveth, if God so loved us, we ought to love one another” (I John 4:11).



Gospel News and Views

Calling All Youth

*"And all thy 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."*

(Isaiah 54:13,14)



Imani, 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

"THE earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas and established it upon the floods (Psalm 24:1-2)".

Our God is an awesome God! He spoke the world into existence. Psalm 33: 6 declares that: **"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth."** Genesis 1:27 declares: **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."** Additionally, Psalm 19:1 declares: **"THE heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork."**

God is omniscient. He already knows everything; so, we can pray confidently.

He is omnipotent or all-powerful, so nothing is impossible for Him. He can stop viruses or whatever seems to be plaguing mankind. Hebrews 13: 5b states "... **he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**" He can turn, reverse anything; for Romans 8: 28 declares: **"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

Perhaps we can join together and pray as follows: LORD, You are our Jehovah Rapha, the Healer of all our diseases. Our bodies are the temple of Your Spirit, so we pray for protection from that which could harm us physically. Please relieve us of the stresses that would steal our emotional strength and lower our immunity. Please heal us of past traumas that may affect our present or future health. When challenges arise, please remind us that You gave us a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. Lord, our times and lives are in Your hands. and our trust and faith are in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7)."

Children's Prayers for their Families, Friends, and Schools

Dear Lord,

I am praying for my friends and my family. Bless me and my friends not to have bad dreams. Keep us safe when we are in the car and in the park on the Merry-Go-Round.

By Noah
Age 3
Upper Marlboro



Dear Lord,

I pray for my school's safety and that nothing bad happens—like a shoot-out or a fight. I pray that everyone in my school—my peers, the teachers—is safe, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Joshua
Age 11
Chesterfield



Dear Heavenly Father,

Please make sure that my school's safety is in check. Also, please make sure that my teachers, my classmates, and I stay safe. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

By Noah
Age 9
Chesterfield



God,

Please protect my friends and family, mommy, daddy, Poohpie [Granny Diane], grandpop, Uncle Brandon, Aunt Evy, Gigi, Uncle Ant, Aunt Desi, Aunt Sis Mikhi, Imani, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Price and our house. And please protect me. Amen.

By Aaron, Jr.
Age 6
Baltimore



Please protect me, Jesus. Please protect mommy, daddy, grandpop, Gigi Mommy, Aunt Evy, Mekhi, A.J., and Uncle Brandon. Amen.

By Imani
Age 3
Baltimore

Lord God,

I pray that everyone in my school is safe and well-protected because we are in a tight situation with the coronavirus. I just want everybody in my school to be safe. Amen.

By Elijah
Age 11
Hyattsville



Dear Lord,

Please help me to stay focused at school. I pray for my teachers. Amen.

By N'Dea
Age 9
Baltimore



Dear Lord,
Please help me improve my grades. Help me to focus and allow me to have a better year in school. Amen.

By Tsehai
Age 12
Baltimore



Dear Lord,
I pray for all of my teachers and my school. I pray that my friends will have a good day at school. Amen.

By Imani Miriam
Age 4
Baltimore



Dear Lord,
I pray that You keep everyone safe and sound as we walk through the halls of our school. Please keep Your Hands on us. I pray that You keep the school staff safe, as well. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

By Trinity
Age 7
Newport News



In the precious name of Jesus, I thank You, LORD, for all that you have done for me and my family during this hard time. Thank You for Your protection and blessings. I ask that You continue to be with me and those around me during this time. I ask that You keep us healthy and safe. I thank You for all that You do. Amen.

By Nya
Age 16
Greenbelt



Heavenly Father, I ask that You keep us safe as we travel to and from school every day. LORD, I pray that You keep us safe while we are in school. I ask that You bring down the cases of covid. In Yeshua's name, Amen.

By N'Kyron
Age 17
Greenbelt



I pray for my family's being there when I have problems. I also pray for my friends because they are as supportive of me as my family. I pray for my teachers who provide the education that I need because this education will give me the chance to do something important in my life.

By Nathaniel
Age 13
Greenbelt



Safe in His Arms
By Darius Brooks
Lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc.

Because the Lord is my Shepherd
I have **everything** I need
He lets me rest in the meadow's grass
He leads me beside the quiet streams
He restore my failing health
And He helps me to do what honors Him the most

That's why I'm safe
That's why I'm safe
That's why I'm safe
Safe in His arms

When the storms of life are raging
And the billows roll
So glad He shall hide me safe in His arms
So glad He shall hide me
Safe in His arms



ANSWERS TO DECEMBER HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

1. For the purpose of taxation, who did God use to call for a census?
(**Caesar Augustus – St. Luke 2:1-3**).
2. Who traveled to their city to be taxed?
(**Joseph and Mary – St. Luke 2:3-5**).
3. Where was Jesus born?
(**Bethlehem, in a stable for animals – St. Luke 2:4-7**).
4. How did the shepherds initially respond to the angel's appearance?
(**They were afraid – St. Luke 2:9-10**).
5. What titles did the angel use to describe the newborn Jesus?
(**“Saviour”, “Christ”, and “Lord” – St. Luke 2:11**).
6. What sign did the angel give the shepherds?
(**“Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger - St. Luke 2:12**).
7. What were the words of praise by the angel and heavenly host?
(**“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” - St. Luke 2:13-14**).

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God (St. John 1:1).
2. The **same** was in the **beginning** with God (St. John 1:2).
3. All **things** were made by **him**; and without **him** was not any thing **made** that was **made** (St. John 1:3).
4. In him was **life**; and the **life** was the **light** of men (St. John 1:4).
5. And the **light** shineth in **darkness**; and the **darkness** comprehended it not (St. John 1:5).
6. He was in the **world**, and the **world** was made by him, and the **world** knew him not (St. John 1:10).
7. And the **Word** was made **flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his **glory**, the **glory** as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of **grace** and **truth** (St. John 1:14).

JANUARY HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did the angel of the Lord tell Philip to do?
2. Who was the man from Ethiopia and why did he go to Jerusalem?
3. What was the Ethiopian reading on his return trip to Ethiopia?
4. What question did Philip ask the Ethiopian?

(Continued on Page 11)

Sunday School Lessons for the Month of January

Elder Tommy Smith is currently the Assistant Pastor of the Hampton and Newport News Gospel Spreading Churches of God. He served as the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent for the Hampton Church. He teaches Bible Study for both churches, as well as the youth ministries leader.



LESSON 1 – January 2, 2022

SUBJECT: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

GOLDEN TEXT: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (St. John 14:6).

PRINTED TEXT: St. John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake.

LESSON DISCUSSION

In this lesson, Jesus was preparing the disciples for their mission on earth. He echoes words of encouragement similar to the Old Testament (Deuteronomy. 1:21, 29 and Joshua. 1:9). Knowing their concerns, Jesus addresses three things humanity searches for: Some direction (the Way), something that is real (the Truth), and something that is never ending (Life).

First, whenever we go on a trip, we can travel different ways, such as: by plane, bus, car, train, etc., to get to our destination. When it comes to reaching God, there is only one way and that is by Jesus Christ. Any other way will lead to disappointment and destruction (See Proverbs 14:12).

Secondly, Jesus is the Truth. This truth is a person, not a concept. Many times, people let circumstances, what they hear or see convince them of what is truth, when it is false. He is life’s reality.

Thirdly, Jesus is Life. In their mission, the disciples were going to face life and death situations; however, they were not to fear death nor circumstances, because in Jesus there is abundant and eternal life (See St. John. 10:10, 3:16). Likewise, we should not let danger cause our hearts to fail. Let’s not look to the world for answers, but unto Jesus, who will guide us into all truth and understanding.

LESSON 2 – January 9, 2022

SUBJECT: Abide in the True Vine

GOLDEN TEXT: “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (St. John 15:5).

PRINTED TEXT: St. John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the

same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

LESSON DISCUSSION

In the previous lesson, Jesus described Himself as the “The Way, the Truth, and the Life.” Now, He is relating Himself as the Vine and the disciples as the branches. Jesus is saying He is the source of a fruitful believer’s life.

When God said to Moses in Exodus 3:14, “I AM THAT I AM,” He was assuring Moses that He would be his source and would prosper him in all that He would have him to do. Likewise, Jesus, who has the qualities of the Father, is the vine from which all power flows for the life of His children, the branches. The branch will bear much fruit only if it abides or remains connected to the Vine.

Fruitfulness totally depends on our staying connected to the True Vine, Jesus Christ. A branch by itself cannot produce fruit. It will die. May we always abide in the Source that we may live and bear much fruit.

LESSON 3 – January 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Peace and Trouble

GOLDEN TEXT: “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (St. John 16:33).

PRINTED TEXT: St. John 16:19 Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye enquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me?

20 Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.

21 A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.

22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

29 His disciples said unto him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb.

30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

LESSON DISCUSSION

Jesus told His disciples news they did not want to hear. He mentioned leaving them for a little while and the grave troubles that were coming, such as persecution for their faith (See St. John. 16:19-20). Jesus sensing their fears, gave them comfort when He said, “**Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world**” (St. John. 16:33c).

One thing is for sure, this world is full of trouble. We avert one crisis to only encounter another. In these moments, we yearn for peace. Many look to resources such as: Government, therapies, self-help programs, etc. This list can go on and on. Jesus made it clear, “**In this world you shall you have tribulation.**” (St. John 16:33b). There is no way around or out of it. The

good news is, He overcame the world, so that we can be of good cheer and receive His peace which surpasses all understanding (See Philippians 4:6).

I end quoting the hymnal words of Charles Wesley, known for writing over 6,500 hymns,

“I rest beneath the Almighty’s shade, my griefs expire, my troubles cease.

Thou, Lord, on whom my soul is stayed, **Wilt keep me still in perfect peace.”**

LESSON 4 – January 23, 2022

SUBJECT: Jesus’ Prayer for His Disciples

GOLDEN TEXT: “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” (St. John 17:16).

PRINTED TEXT: St. John 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

LESSON DISCUSSION

Jesus was approaching His final hour to complete His earthly ministry given by the Father. He prays on behalf of the disciples to God for their protection (See St. John 11-16) and consecration for services (See St. John.16-19).

Satan is always prowling around like a roaring lion, seeking to devour the people of God (See I Peter 5:8). He wants to thwart God’s plan and suppress the Truth. He does this through discouragement, persecution, and disunity. There are no illusions. The disciples will not be able to avoid any of this because Jesus did not ask that they be taken out of the world (See St. John 17:15); instead, they will be protected from the evil one that seeks to tear down or undermine their ministry. Jesus also extended this prayer for the future believers (See St. John 17:20).

He then prayed that we would be sanctified or made holy (See St. John 17:16-19). Where evil is promoted through error and deception, Jesus prays we be kept unspotted from the world (See St. John 17:15).

The church must of be a powerful force in the world to win souls for the kingdom of God and not entangle ourselves with the cares of the world. May we be the beacon of hope that the world needs to discover the redemptive love of Christ.

LESSON 5 – January 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Jesus’ Arrest

GOLDEN TEXT: “That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none” (St. John 18:9).

PRINTED TEXT: St. John 18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

2 And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief

priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:

9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him,

13 And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

LESSON DISCUSSION

Jesus, in the previous lesson, mentioned in His prayer that He had not lost any of those given to Him by God the Father (See St. John 17:12). The religious leaders thought Jesus’ arrest would dismantle the works of Christ and discredited Jesus’ claim of not losing the disciples; instead, it just proved Jesus will always stand between His followers and harm.

To maintain His protection, Jesus has made it clear to His enemies that He, not the disciples, are to suffer what needs to happen (See St. Matthew 20:18; See St. John 12:32–33; 13:26–27). Man thinks he controls what happens, but Jesus proves all things are for His purpose (See Proverbs 16:4). Judas and his men thought to take them all down, but Jesus spoke one word and they all fell to the ground (See St. John 18:6-7) and none of the disciples were arrested or killed that night (See St. John 17:12, 18:9).

Today, Jesus still preserves His people. Though the kingdom of darkness rages, we will not be plucked out of His hand. It is a wonder why Paul was confident in saying, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (See Romans 8:38-39)

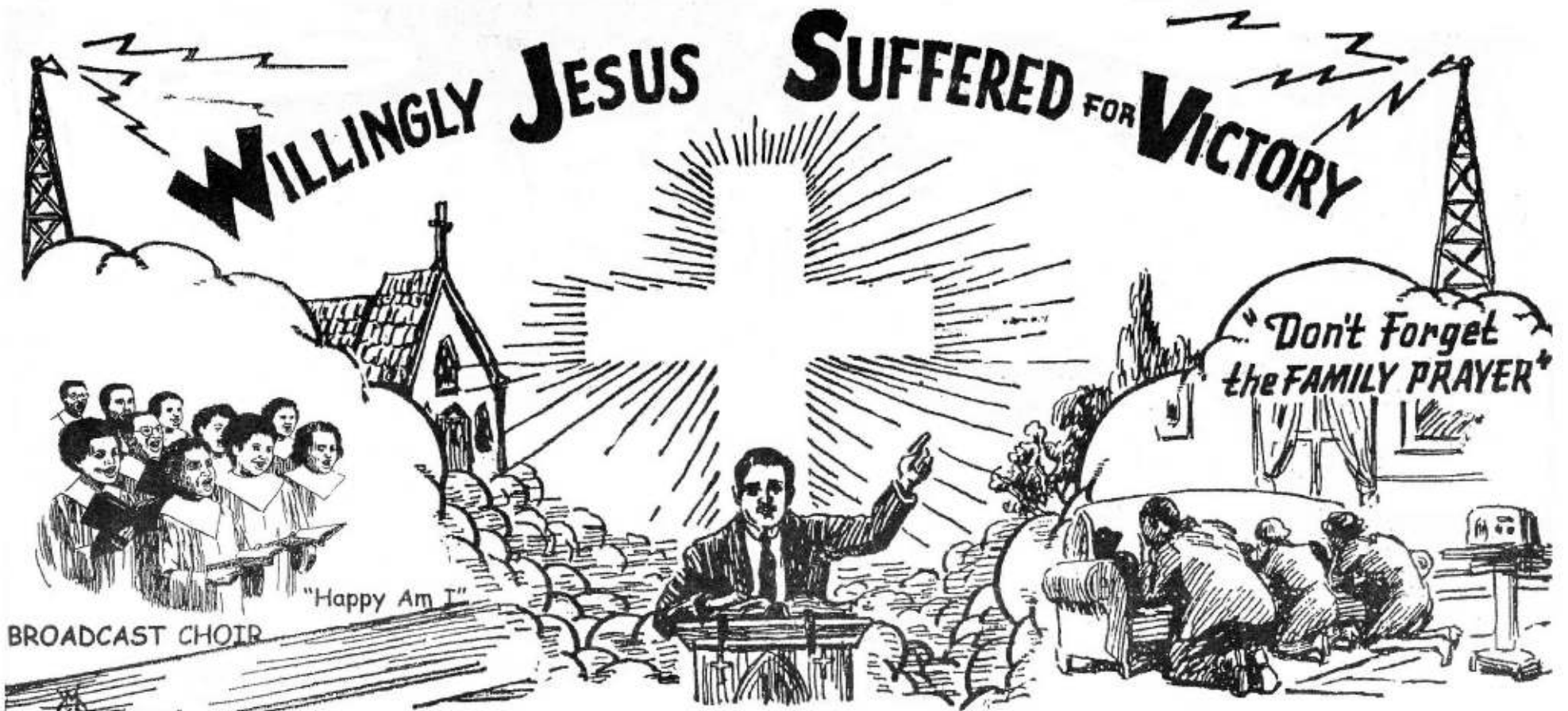
CALLING ALL YOUTH

(Continued from 9)

5. What question did the Ethiopian ask Philip?
6. What did Philip preach about to the Ethiopian?
7. Did the Ethiopian confess his faith in Jesus?

JANUARY FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Whosoever _____ that _____ is the _____ is born of God: and every one that _____ him that begat _____ him also that is begotten of him.
2. By this we know that we _____ the children of God, when we _____ God, and keep his _____.
3. For this is the _____ of God, that we keep his _____: and his _____ are not grievous.
4. For whatsoever is _____ of God overcometh the _____: and this is the _____ that overcometh the _____, even our _____.
5. For there are _____ that bear record in heaven, the _____, the _____, and the _____: and these _____ are one.
6. And there are _____ that bear witness in earth, the _____, and the _____, and the _____: and these _____ agree in one.
7. And this is the _____, that God hath given to us _____, and this _____ is in his Son.



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Prayer Answered

"...I Am The Lord That Healeth Thee" (Exodus 15:26)

TWO BIRTHS, TWO LIVES, TWO DEATHS, TWO RESURRECTIONS

(Continued from Page 5)

deaths and two resurrections. In Revelation 20, beginning with the 11th verse and reading through the 15th, you'll find out how the second resurrection will take place. Read! **"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."** Remember, this will happen a thousand years after the first resurrection. God shall set the judgment. The whole world shall vanish from the presence of God, and you'll stand naked before His throne. Listen! (12) **"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God;..."** No matter how big or small men might have been, the great and the small will stand before God. Read! **"And the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life:"** There are two books. One has in it the deeds of the wicked; the other carries the names of those who were born again, who heard the Word of God and were born of the Spirit of God. They lived righteously without sin until their death. Wherein they, at one time, used their members as instruments of unrighteousness, they changed their ways and began to use the members of their bodies as instruments of righteousness. God has declared that the *end of those who do that is*: They shall have everlasting life.

Reading further, it says, **"And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."** God has a record of you according to what you do while you're in sin and if you're not born again, it stays on the record. But — if you are born again, it is erased from the record and your name is put on the Book of Life. (13) **"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."** The sea gave up its dead and death and hell (the grave is termed 'hell') gave up their dead. (Death is the jailer which holds one in the grave, but it will not hold the righteous for they will get up in the first resurrection). Every man was judged according to their works.

(14) **"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire."** Death and the grave are going to be destroyed. What else! **This is the second death.** And what! (15) **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** If your name is not found written in the Book of Life, you'll be cast into the lake of fire. That's the second death!

You can believe that if you want to, but you don't have to. You are the individual and God created you independent with the freedom of your will to obey and believe that if you can live in sin, you can live righteously. God says, if you live righteously, you shall never die! What a promise! What a God! I'm talking about God who made this world; I'm talking about what God said, I'm talking about the One who made you; I'm talking about the One who keeps you alive! Don't forget it! I'm satisfied because God satisfies. May God bless you. Amen.

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