

“For the Lord giveth wisdom:
out of his mouth *cometh*
knowledge and understanding”
(Proverbs 2:6).

He That Doeth The Will

I direct everyone’s attention to St. Mathew 7:21 which reads as follows: **“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”**

I want to emphasize that part of this Scripture which refers to the will of God “... **but he that doeth the will of my Father ...** .” That is the person that shall enter into heaven. That is the person whom God recognizes as being a child of God. That is the person who is saved. In a previous message, I referred to St. John 9:31 which reads: **“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”**

Let us now see what is the will of God? Read 1st Thessalonians 4:3-4 as follows: **“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”**

Sanctification means cleansing and setting apart for consecration to the service of the Lord and you should abstain from getting together with a woman to whom you are not married. The body of the woman and the body of the man are dishonored when they practice fornication.

Read 1st Corinthians 6:15, 16-20 as follows: **“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committed fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”**

Your body which was created by God, was created that it might be a member of the Body of Christ, that it might be the body which Christ might be joined to. Under the plan of salvation, Christ died that you might live, and now you lose your identity by dying that Christ might live in you. As Christ could never live in an unclean temple, your body which will contain the Spirit (or life) of Christ must be sanctified. In that respect, your body is the member of Christ.

God forbid that this sin of fornication, which is the chief sin from which many other sins are nourished, should enter to contaminate the temple of Christ. From this sin spring envy, lying, jealousy, murder, debate, etc. Everything else that is sin springs from this one sin. It is the sin that both men and women practice because of the enjoyment they get, but it is a sin that has great and terrible consequences. It is extreme pleasure of the flesh and can only be conquered by the Spirit which must have complete control of the flesh. When the flesh controls, you are said to be carnal minded; but when the Spirit controls, you have life and peace.

When you practice fornication, you become a harlot because fornication is the attire of a harlot. You don’t have to be in a house of prostitution, or in a neighborhood

(Continued on Page 2)



The best should be preserved for God.

Read your Bible—it may be that your church is endorsing something that God disapproves.

You don’t study the Bible to be able to quote it; you study it to obey it.

Everybody who has a clean body hasn’t a clean mind. You can clean your body with soap and water, but you clean your mind with the Word of God.

To be in the church and to be born again are two different things.

Some people think the way to bear one another’s burden is to bear down on them.

God knows His business; if you mind yours, you and He can do business together.

Be careful lest the hard things you have to press against in life harden you.

God can’t change His Word; you must change your mind.

Nothing strengthens the mind like confidence in God.

We must have so much faith in God that regardless of what He does, we will glorify Him.

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“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

He That Doeth The Will

(Continued from Page 1)

of prostitutes. You may be in Chevy Chase which is an exclusive neighborhood in the Washington area where people of means and background live. Or you may be in the slums. It makes no difference if you practice fornication.

God doesn't want you to join yourself to a harlot. He doesn't want you to be a whoremonger. I've got to speak plainly that you might see the evil of this practice and get a mind to forsake it. The great sin is the sin of fornication. "Girls and boys, men, and women, old and young have a mind to commit fornication". When you come together in fornication, often a child is conceived, and that child becomes a bastard. You two become one in that child. And when you destroy the child to hide the sin, you become a murderer. Do you see what you are getting into by committing fornication? God doesn't desire that you bring forth a child through a harlot. It is not the will of God that you be joined to a harlot.

God wants you joined to Him in one Spirit. So, He says flee fornication: run from a woman to whom you are not married when she wants to get with you in fornication. When you are joined to God, you have virtue, you have principle, and you have joy and peace of mind. God has fixed it so that you can be joined to Him and still enjoy life. God Himself established the marriage relation through which man may enjoy a woman and possess his vessel in sanctification and honor.

Glorify God in your body. You cannot do that walking after the flesh and committing fornication, bringing into the world offsprings that are illegitimate. God does not wish to deprive you of the pleasure that a male and female have by being together. He created you. He created you male and female that you might enjoy one another, but He has set up a way that this might be done in decency and in order. Read Hebrews 13:4 as follows: **"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."**

If you want a woman, marry her, and then stay with her. Your nature causes you to desire to be a companion of a woman, so arrangements have been made for you to have one. A man doesn't get any pleasure sitting around with a man all the time. He wants to sit around with a woman, but it is not safe to sit around with her unless she is yours in marriage. God fixed it so that you would have such a desire. But God doesn't want you to do anything in dishonor such as fornication. There is no difference in women. If you have



Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux,
founder, Church of God

a glass of water, why worry about my glass? All water is the same. The devil makes you think there is a difference. So, get yourself a wife. And when you go to bed with your wife, there is nothing dishonorable about it.

But whoremongers! Mr. Man, I don't care who you are, if you are running around with a lady (and I don't care who she is), and are not married to her, she is the harlot, and you become the whoremonger. What makes a whoremonger is a man running around with women who are harlots. A harlot is a woman who practices prostitution. You can't get into the kingdom of heaven unless you flee fornication. You flee fornication by marrying. After you marry, you've got to be contented and satisfied. Nourish and cherish your wife. Don't run around with or be looking at other women. That is lust, inordinate affection. It is ignorant! It is damnable! You can holler, "Lord, Lord!" all you want to, but you'll never enter into the kingdom of God unless you do the Will of God.

Fornication is the big sin. It is the sin that prevents men from walking after the Spirit, because it gives them pleasure walking after the flesh. I've never seen so many women left by men. Most women who come to me with problems have the complaint that the husband has gone. He is a lustful rat. Women are more loyal to their vows than men, and when they become disloyal it is because of the infidelity and neglect of the husband. A woman is born to be loving and lovely, but the abuse of a man whom she trusts will eventually drive her to do things she wouldn't think of doing before she met that man. The man's duty is to shelter and protect her, and when he fails in this duty, she becomes hardened by

the cruel realities of life.

I want to admonish you that to get into the kingdom of God, you must seek to do the Will of God, which is to know how to possess your vessel in sanctification and honor. Fornication will separate you from God. You've got to learn how to be careful in dealing with the opposite sex or you will be involved suddenly and lose the favor of God. Temptation is stronger for fornication than for any other sin, and the opportunity to commit it is greater. When people are assigned/brought together to do a job they cultivate a common interest and work toward the same end. This causes a closer walk and a blending of appetite, and it isn't long before they are serving each other's personal interests. At this point, lust is conceived.

You've got to be careful when you are thrown in contact with anyone of the opposite sex when you have something in common to do. There is generated a heat by closeness in body which can be controlled only by a separate mind stayed on the Lord - a mind that is drawn in close contact. May God bless you!

OH, CHURCH OF GOD

Founded in Newport News, Virginia in September 1919 By God, through Elder and Sister Lightfoot Solomon Michaux. God blessed; and souls were added under the Big Gospel Tent. God gave the WORD, Elder explained what it meant. The people were told they didn't have to continue in sin, Jesus died on the cross their souls to win. The people were obedient they did as they were told, the Lord did give grace and glory, no good thing did He withhold. The Holy Spirit would be given to those who would ask, they couldn't live without it, they needed the Comforter to be able to stand the test. The Saints were committed to the work of God, didn't complain, didn't think it too hard. They were a "peculiar people" set apart by God, having on the breastplate of righteousness and their feet shod. Let the CHURCH be STRONG! Let the STANDARD be held HIGH! Let us prepare ourselves to meet the Lord in the sky! Let the CHURCH preach THE WORD! Let the CHURCH walk in the SPIRIT! Let the Church reach out to others, spread the Word so sinners can hear it. The world has become the CHURCH, the CHURCH has become the World. People are more confused, the lifeline is no longer hurled. The CHURCH must stand for hope, the CHURCH must offer deliverance from sin, for the world is dying daily, in need of a haven to live in. God's arms are still outstretched, waiting for the world to reach out. How will they know He still loves them when the CHURCH is still in doubt? "Wash you; make you clean! Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes". Set your face like a flint! Keep your eyes on the prize (Jesus Christ). The CHURCH belongs to God, the people and all things therein. Let the CHURCH be the CHURCH to draw sinners in from sin.

INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
DORIS ELAM COATES, MARCH 6, 1993

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
* * * * *

Bessie Hooker
Kinston, NC
* * * * *

Barbara Newby
South Hill, VA
* * * * *

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Boydton, VA
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Annie Sally
Yonkers, NY
* * * * *

Dorothy Swinton
Yonkers, NY
* * * * *

Rose Taylor
South Hill, VA

No. 1028

BOOK	CHAPTER	VERSE	WORD	ANSWER
1. Romans	10	15	14	_____
2. Ecclesiastes	3	11	6	_____
3. Song of Solomon	2	8	10	_____
4. Joel	2	2	17	_____
5. Genesis	8	4	18	_____
6. Deuteronomy	33	3	9	_____
7. Jeremiah	13	16	4	_____
8. Nehemiah	9	21	23	_____
9. Proverbs	4	26	4	_____
10. St. Mark	5	22	19	_____
11. St. John	13	5	2	_____
12. Leviticus	11	45	7	_____
13. I Timothy	5	10	5	_____
14. Isaiah	61	1	19	_____
15. Hebrews	12	13	9	_____
16. Jeremiah	4	15	8	_____
17. Revelation	1	4	15	_____
18. Ezekiel	21	7	13	_____
19. Exodus	6	7	31	_____
20. St. Luke	2	10	14	_____
21. Romans	10	15	30	_____
22. Daniel	10	6	14	_____
23. I Thessalonians	3	6	13	_____
24. Job	19	29	15	_____
25. Nahum	1	15	14	_____
26. Titus	2	11	8	_____
27. Psalm	1	3	14	_____
28. Micah	3	5	2	_____
29. Acts	21	31	11	_____
30. Psalm	48	2	12	_____
31. St. Matthew	6	10	1	_____
32. St. Luke	1	19	17	_____
33. I Samuel	12	14	32	_____

QUOTE WHERE PASSAGE IS FOUND

.....

PRINT FULL NAME.

YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS

.....

Answers to Last Month's Puzzle

"O LORD God of Israel, thou are righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this" (Ezra 9:15).

Gospel Spreading Church

+

Operation Restoration

Revelation 2:4-5/Hosea 6:1

2023

Respond

Restore

Renew

THE WINTER 2023 - 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 6th through Sunday, January 15, 2023, 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. 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 rereward”** (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 cried aloud and did not hold back. He declared unto us what is the acceptable fast unto the Lord”. .

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 that is unlike any that has existed in our nation’s history. 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 completely. **“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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ORDER OF WORSHIP
SUNDAY SERVICES

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

PURITY CLUB

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

RADIO BROADCASTS

Hampton and Newport News, VA
Praise 92.5 FM, Praise 104.9 FM,
WTJZ 1270 AM, WHKT 1650 AM
Online: Google “Praise 104.9 Virginia”

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

Mrs. Michaux's Gospel Message to All

AN EXHORTATION TO REPENTANCE, AND A SHARP REPROOF OF JERUSALEM FOR DIVERSE SINS

I think we all need to know the cause of all the trouble over the entire world, from an individual, to a group, to a nation, and also nations.

When a physician is called in to see a patient, if it is a serious case, he first diagnoses the case. Through that medium, he understands what the trouble is, and also how to treat the patient. May I say, I have taken a diagnosis of the case of the entire world, and the three-letter word, **S-I-N**, is to blame for all of it.

Now since we have told of the trouble, we shall be merciful to give the healing remedy, which will heal the entire case. May you take this from one who is interested in all people; and truly God has given me this interest.

This Is The Prescription!

Romans 6th Chapter, 1st to 14th Verse inclusive:

“WHAT shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

“Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

Also 23rd Verse of the Same Chapter

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

As Sayeth Zephaniah 2nd Chapter

“GATHER yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not



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

desired; Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD’s anger come upon you. Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’s anger.

“For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up. Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant. And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks. And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them and turn away their captivity.

“I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border. Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.

“This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts. The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen. Ye Ethiopians also, ye shall be slain by my sword. And he will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness. And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern

shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work.

“This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss and wag his hand.”

Zephaniah 3rd Chapter: First to Eighth Verse Inclusive:

“WOE to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God. Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

“Her prophets are light, and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law. The just LORD is in the midst thereof: he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

“I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate: I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is no inhabitant. I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so, their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, and corrupted all their doings.

“Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.”

May God bless each of you under the sound of my voice to not let sin reign in your mortal bodies.

PRAY FOR PEACE

Let love be your portion
Reach out to the lost.
The way for them seems dreary
And they are fighting to find the cost.

They may not understand life
As you would being saved,
The lost feel so closed in
Like an animal who’s in a cave.

No one can feel great peace
Tied down, bounded and not free
There is only the hurt traffic
That may come from others, you or me.
All people need great peace
But that will only come through God and Christ
If we pray daily for great peace
It will come like sparkling lights

Composed by Sister Arlethia Jones-Carter

Bishop’s Remarks – January 1, 2023

Good morning and God bless you!

How in the world are you today family of God? Happy New Years! The year 2022 has slipped into history and the Lord has blessed us to see the year 2023. The year 2023 has commenced with astounding events. In our country, many of us are greatly stunned and outraged as we hear about the contents of the January 6th Congressional Committee Report.

How were these alleged crimes committed against our democracy by high government officials? Our country is divided by hatred and mistrust, all due to continual spreading of the disinformation and misinformation of the “big lie”. As we read the newspapers and surf the Internet or look at the news on TV, we can see the prophecy of Jesus Christ about the end times being played out before our very eyes as written in St. Matthew 24. We can see wars and rumors of wars, pestilences and diseases, natural disasters happening with greater intensity and more frequently, and hunger and poverty due to these world conditions globally.

I watched one TV commercial which said that our global society is suffering from four things: COVID-19, Climate, Conflict and Inflation. I certainly agree that this is true. COVID-19 precautions are being relaxed all over the world as if it’s over. ***It isn’t!*** In the United States alone over 1 million people have died from COVID-19 and the number is still rising. They’re emphasizing the fact that we can live with COVID-19, but if no one is trying to keep safety precautions in place, and if people are not following basic precautions such as wearing a mask and getting necessary vaccinations, COVID-19 will continue to wreak havoc upon the world. In the United States we are going through a “triple-epidemic”: COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza. All three of these diseases can be deadly if not taken seriously by getting the proper medical care.

There is unrest all around our planet. However, as God’s people, we have hope. The Scriptures clearly prophesy that events like these would happen as the end times draws near. *The end is not here, but the end is near.* How should we be responding to events like these as God’s children?

A new year provides a perfect opportunity for us to do a spiritual inventory of our lives. A new year provides us with a time to make a fresh start. **Have** we made any progress in properly responding to the Scripture’s admonition in Romans 13:11 warning us that the time is now to wake up out of our “2022 spiritual sleep”? What can we learn from our experiences, accomplishments and failures in 2022 that we can use to move forward and build on these things to honor and glorify Jesus Christ in 2023?

Our GSC 2023 Theme is: Operation Restoration – Hosea 6:1(KJV)

**Come, and let us return unto the LORD:
for he hath torn, and he will heal us;
he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.**

This yearly theme will center around three words. They are three words that begin with the letter “R”: **Respond, Restore, and Renew.** **Respond** means: to me to look at our circumstances in the light of Who God is and what His Word has instructed us on how we ought to live. During the year 2022 all of us have gone through various experiences. Some were good, some were bad, some were confusing, some gave us clarity of direction, some were trials, and some were triumphs. We are still going through some of these experiences. How do we respond to these experiences in the light Who God is? Did you respond with faith or fear? Did you respond with joyful obedience or reluctant and passive acceptance? Did you respond with indifference or avoidance? ***Respond*** means to me for us to look back and ***remember*** God’s faithfulness toward us. Let’s look at Revelation 2:4-5: (KJV)

⁴**Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.** ⁵**Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**

In these verses, Jesus addresses the church at Ephesus. This is a gifted church whose members served the Lord faithfully and checked almost all of the right boxes on Biblical and doctrinally pure ministry. Jesus **commended** the church at Ephesus for this. However, what was most important to Christ, seemed not to be as important to them. As they ministered in diligent service to Christ in the work of the Lord, they forgot all about their relationship with Christ and began to take that relationship for granted. (e.g., Martha and Mary) They became “too familiar” in that relationship with Christ. Therefore, Jesus Christ sternly rebuked them.

What about us? Is our ministry for Christ driven by our passionate love for Him? Is He first or is He a faithful friend we can always fall back on and depend upon? Or are we physically serving him at all? Jesus is calling His church to come back to our first love for Him and to serve Him from the motivation of love. Think about it. Really, think about it!

Restore means to me, to repent and to do things that are important to Christ’s heart. ⁵**“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...”**

Besides returning to our “first love” for Jesus Christ, there are some other things that Jesus wants us to do. Now consider our third “R” word.

That word is ***Renew which*** means to me not only to obey the commands of Christ, but to do it in such a way that causes unbelievers to take notice that we belong to Jesus. Let’s look at St. Matthew 5:13-16.

¹³**“Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thence forth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under foot of men.** ¹⁴**Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.** ¹⁵**Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.** ¹⁶**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Jesus calls us to be salt. Salt preserves food and enhances its flavor. However, salt can lose its effectiveness. I do not want the Lord to say to me, I am good for nothing, therefore I can’t use you.

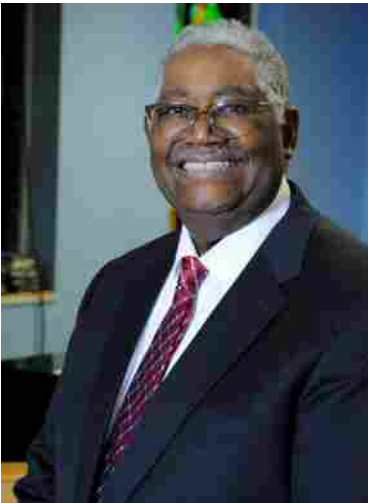
What sad words! As believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to be so salty, that when people are around us, they leave thirsty, thirsty for the water of life that flows in us and out of us, through the Holy Spirit. **Be salty, saints!**

Jesus called us to be the “light of the world” and the “city on a hill”. We are to shine so brightly that our godly lives testify so convincingly to the saving power of God, that it glorifies Him.

Not us! It’s not about us! It’s about Jesus shining through us. This way, people will be drawn to Jesus and desire to know Him. **Shine brightly, saints!**

Remember, the GSC theme for 2023 is **“Operation Restoration”**. Assistant Bishop Marshall Green, will be sharing some action steps that we need to commit to follow if we are going to make a positive difference for the Lord in the year 2023.

Let us face the year 2023 with spiritual optimism and excitement. Our hope is in the Lord. He is sovereign. He is with us. He will take us through the year 2023 with victory. **Hallelujah!**



Breach Repair

What is the purpose of fasting? Why do we do it? What can we hope to accomplish?
Have you ever gone through a fast?
Did you accomplish anything?
Did you break strong holds?
What were you really trying to do?
I ask, does fasting change God?
Can we manipulate Him into doing something for us?
Does God require us to fast?

“Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord? 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? 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. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in” (Isaiah 58: 5-12).

According to our text, things were broken in Isaiah’s day! Rehoboam took over and messed up everything he touched. He favored the rich; taxed the poor; ignored his advisors’ plea to speak to people in a civil tongue; mistreated women; had a stunningly low approval rating but didn’t care because he played only to his inner base of supporters; polarized his nation; enjoyed conflict; did not welcome strangers and foreigners; and sought not what was best for the whole, but for his own self-interest. That could be out of today’s political struggles! There seemed to be no light at the end of the tunnel. The people, who once flourished in unity in the land of milk and honey, were no better off than their ancestors who were held in captive in Egypt. They want to know: What did we do wrong? Where is God? This situation makes no sense!. It feels like evil is winning!

“Isaiah’s task was to help people make sense of bad things that were happening and to call them back to faithfulness to God. Their repentance had to come first. Isaiah understood the character of God and knew that if Israel was faithful the Lord, then He would respond. Israel needed to care for the poor and the oppressed, as well as for the rejected. If they were faithful in taking care of their responsibilities, then God would fix whatever was broken in their lives and in society.

In Isaiah’s day, people engaged in various religious practices that included fasting; however, the reasons for fasting (or wanting to be closer to God) must be more compelling than such observances that may be driven by traditional or seasonal requirements.

Isaiah told them and speaks to us today, “...ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice heard on high” (Isaiah 58:4b). Something different was needed. So, what was needed? Isaiah put it in the form of a question: “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 58:7). That has a familiar ring to it, from Matthew: “For I was hungry and you gave me food...I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing... As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:35–40).

God asks a question; “Is it such a fast that I have chosen” (Isaiah 58:5a)? Then He answers, “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” (Isaiah 58:6)? In other words, Is God requiring hunger? Does self-abasement please God? That is not the final goal or purpose of this fast.

Why is God requiring this fast? God has a definite purpose in mind at the very start of it. It is not because He wants us to be hungry, but because He wants to restore us. We cannot help others if we are not restored ourselves. Can we? How does fasting accomplish this? Good question. Look back at Isaiah 58. God is asking the question: “Is this the kind of fast that I am requiring of you?” Our works do not impress Him. Faith impresses Him. Nothing else!!! We must go to Him on His terms. We cannot persuade God into something just because of our actions. We sometimes think well God if I do this then I want you to that. God cannot be coned into something. Without faith it is impossible to please Him.

If you are trying to please Him with works you will fail. It’s just not Scriptural.

We sometimes think there is some formula, and all we have to do is push the right buttons and then God moves. No, it doesn’t work that way. There are Godly principles here. Sowing and reaping, we can’t reap until we sow. This puts us in a place where we can be a receiver. You have to give first in order to be a receiver. We can’t harvest until we have planted. You see that God is requiring this. Why? So, He can get us in a place where we can receive from Him. If we are not receiving from Him, then it means we have to put ourselves into a place where we can receive from Him. That’s one of the purposes of fasting. When you deny the flesh, this allows your spiritual man to rise up. This is what God wants. He wants us to be able to receive from Him.

Our faithfulness to God leads to Him fixing things that are broken: broken spirits, broken hearts, broken lines of communication, broken people, broken systems, broken breaches and levees. Viewing our cities and neighborhoods today, the levees are breaking and covenants are breached. Before we begin the blame game, “the putting forth of the finger”, the Bible does not say blame. It says repair. Why should we expend energy in blame that we can expend repairing the breaches?

In 2023, our united focus is “Operation Restoration”. Proactively restoring the breaches of today utilizing 3~R’s RESPOND, RESTORE, RENEW! We will continue to implement tangible spiritual and practical individual and collective actions during the course of the year to be the ambassadors God has called us to be, beginning with a 100 Day Movement. From January 6 – April 16, we are asking you to join in this time of consecration. Commit to 100 minutes a week of prayer. Commit to reading the Bible 100 minutes a week. Commit to 100 days of fasting. Demonstrate God’s love by performing an act of kindness to someone for 100 days.

As in Isaiah’s day, God is calling the faithful to step forth. Are you up to the challenge? Let us exercise our faith. In our churches and small communities, we can accomplish far bigger things than our size suggests. We believe the Power behind us will enable us to accomplish the tasks ahead. If we are faithful to God, He will fix the things that are broken among us. Perhaps someday it will be said of us that we faithfully sought Him and that He repaired the breach.”




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)



Navayah, Age 7

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:
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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

“...forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3: 13b-14).”

Happy New Year!! God has brought us through 2022 and into 2023. Praise His Holy Name! This year may each of us continue to grow up in Him. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:1-2: **“I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but ye be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** 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

“REMEMBER now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them (Ecclesiastes 12:1);”

**Young People Respond to the Question:
“What would you ask God to help you to do better in 2023?”**

I would like God to help me to get my homework done next year. I especially want His help with math because that is my most challenging subject. God, please help me to learn division.

By Bella, Age 8
Laurel



I would ask God to help me cope with my stress and anxiety better. I would ask Him to help me to find ways to better deal with the pressures in my life in a healthier way.

By Nya, Age 17
Baltimore



I will ask God to help me to do my schoolwork the way that it is supposed to be done instead of doing it the way that I want to do it. I will also ask God to continue helping me to control my anger and to make good choices.

By Noah R., Age 10
Midlothian



I will ask God to help me to read better.

By Isaiah, Age 8
Denver



I want God to help me focus on getting my schoolwork done more effectively. I want Him to help me become a better person.

By Nathaniel, Age 14
Baltimore



I want God to help me with math and reading. I want Him to help me to be nicer to my friends, my teacher, and my dog.

By Navayah, Age 7
Harford County

I will ask God to help me have less of an attitude at home and school and to talk less in school.

By Joshua, Age 12
Midlothian



I would ask God to give me more knowledge about martial arts and God’s Word because I want to be a master of both. If I master both, I believe that I can be more disciplined and stronger mentally, physical, and spiritually. I will know how and when to use the Word and martial arts.

By Markari, Age 14
Washington, D.C.



I am asking God to help me to be more respectful and to get my chores done in a timely manner so that my mom and God will be pleased with me!

By Malayah, Age 11
Washington, D.C.



I would ask God to help me with my homework!

By James, Jr., Age 7
Laurel



I would ask God to help me get better grades!

By Elijah, Age 12
Laurel



Dear God, I am hoping that the year 2023 is going to be a better year for me. Please help me to keep my life on track and keep my grades up.

By Jayden, Age 13
Williamsburg



I would ask God to help me to do better on my tests; spend more time reading the Bible, and to keep me organized every day.

By Noah M., Age 11
Upper Marlboro



I would like God to help me to be better in school, both academically and athletically.

By Joel III, Age 17
Williamsburg



A Message to the Youth from a Young Man

I hope that everyone is blessed and safe for the holidays. God has a plan for you. Do not try to force it. Let Him guide you to your goals. Let God live within you. Spread His love to others and to the whole world!

From N’Kyron
A high school senior



A New Year’s Plan
By Mary Fairchild

I tried to think of a clever new phrase—
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.
And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, “Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey.”
“Don’t look back, caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don’t stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I Am here.”
“I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give Me this one thing—your all in all.
Into my grace, let yourself fall.”
So, at last, I’m ready; I see the way.
It’s to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give Him my everything—all that I am.

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

1. How did the shepherds initially respond to the angel’s appearance?
(They were afraid of the angel’s appearance - **St. Luke 2:9**).
2. What were the angel’s first words to the shepherds?
(“Fear not” - **St. Luke 2:10**).
3. What titles did the angel use to describe the newborn Messiah?
(“Saviour”, “Christ”, and “Lord” - **St. Luke 2:11**).
4. What did the shepherds do as soon as the angels departed?
(The shepherds went to Bethlehem in search of the newborn Messiah - **St. Luke 2:15**).

5. How did people respond to the shepherds’ testimony?
(The people wondered; they were amazed at what they were being told - **St. Luke 2:18**).
6. How did Mary respond?
 (“... **Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart**” - **St. Luke 2:19**).
7. After spreading the good news of Jesus’ birth, how did the shepherds return to their duties?
 (“**And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God...**” - **St. Luke 2:20**).

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER FILL IN THE BLANKS

The events of Christmas point to the most important of all truths and this is a life-changing reality. Thank Him for His coming, for His gospel, for His salvation, for His love, and for His soon return, when we shall meet Him face-to-face.

1. Therefore the **LORD** himself shall give you a **sign**; Behold, a **virgin** shall **conceive**, and bear a **son**, and shall call his name **Immanuel** (**Isaiah 7:14**).
2. **Butter** and **honey** shall he eat, that he may know to **refuse** the **evil**, and **choose** the **good** (**Isaiah 7:15**).
3. For unto us a **child** is born, unto us a **son** is given: and the **government** shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called **Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace** (**Isaiah 9:6**).
4. Thou wilt **keep** him in perfect **peace**, whose **mind** is stayed on thee: because he **trusteth** in thee (**Isaiah 26:3**).
5. I am he that **liveth**, and was **dead**; and, behold, I am **alive** for evermore, Amen; and have the **keys** of **hell** and of **death** (**Revelation 1:18**).
6. I am **Alpha** and **Omega**, the **beginning** and the **end**, the **first** and the **last** (**Revelation 22:13**).
7. I **Jesus** have sent mine **angel** to **testify** unto you these things in the churches. I am the **root** and the **offspring** of David, and the **bright** and **morning star** (**Revelation 22:16**).

JANUARY HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

1. How did Solomon show his love for the LORD?
2. Why did Solomon go to Gibeon to offer sacrifices?
3. How did God communicate with Solomon in Gibeon?
4. What offer did the LORD make to Solomon in Gibeon?
5. What request did Solomon make of the LORD?
6. How great was the wisdom God gave to Solomon?
7. What did Solomon do after he awoke from his dream?

JANUARY FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The _____ of the LORD is the _____ of _____: a good _____ have all they that _____ his _____: his _____ for ever.
2. No mention shall be made of _____, or of _____: for the _____ of _____ is above _____.
3. I have _____ thee in the _____ of _____; I have _____ thee in _____.
4. For _____ is a _____, and _____ is a _____: but the _____ of _____ is, that _____ giveth _____ to them that have it.
5. He hath _____ the _____ by his _____, he hath _____ the _____ by his _____, and hath _____ out the _____

(Continued on Page 12)

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 is the Bible Study teacher and the youth ministries leader for both churches.”



LESSON 1 – January 1, 2023
SUBJECT: Blessing of Reconciliation

GOLDEN TEXT: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

PRINTED TEXT: II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

13 For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

LESSON DISCUSSION

The blessedness of reconciliation is that God sought us first. We were alienated from His presence and goodness and have now been brought back into a relationship with Him. Reconciliation comes with an awesome benefit package which includes forgiveness of sins, healing, eternal life, unconditional love, joy, and peace that surpasses all understanding (See Philippians 4:7).

Almighty God could have destroyed humanity when man rebelled against Him. Instead, He made peace through Jesus Christ. Jeremiah said it best in Lamentation 3:22, **“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.”** We who were once enemies, have now become friends by being reconciled to God. Paul said, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: ...”** (II Corinthians 5:17). The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

We have been transformed into His marvelous light. May the love of Christ, which constrains us to live for Him, be transparent before God and all men.

LESSON 2 – January 8, 2023
SUBJECT: Blessing of Forgiveness and New Life

GOLDEN TEXT: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (I John 1:9).

PRINTED TEXT: I John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked

upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

LESSON DISCUSSION

The greatest blessing God gave us is deliverance from the grip of sin through Jesus Christ. When the angel of the Lord said to Joseph, **“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”** (See St. Matthew 1:20-21), it was good news. This message gave hope to fallen humanity who needed to be rescued from the wrath of God.

Paul reminds us in Romans 7:14-25 that as long we are in these fleshly bodies, we will never reach total freedom from sin. Nevertheless, John gives us hope that forgiveness and mercy can be found. (See I John 1:8-9). Confession brings forgiveness and blessings that will bring further blessings and new life restoring joy and affirming love toward one another.

This statement is a witness to unbelievers (See St. John 13:35). Moreover, it thwarts Satan’s plan to paralyze the church from going forward in God’s goodness and fellowship with one another.

The blessing of forgiveness and new life is acknowledgement and confession of our sins. According to Psalm 32:1-2, we then should receive God’s blessings and rest for our souls.

LESSON 3 – January 15, 2023
SUBJECT: Blessing of Intercession

GOLDEN TEXT: “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession” (Hebrews 4:14).

PRINTED TEXT: Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out

of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

LESSON DISCUSSION

How comforting it is to know that we have a great High Priest, Jesus Christ, Who can identify with our infirmities (See Hebrews 4.15). He was made like his, “... brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.” (Hebrews 2:17-18).

Jesus is the bridge which allows us to enter confidently to the throne of grace, to obtain mercy and grace in a time of need (See Hebrews 4:16). To know that our High Priest stands in the gap interceding for us, gives us hope to bring all our supplications before Him. Through Christ we are made a royal priesthood (See I Peter 2:9). Now we can have the privilege of interceding for others through power of the Holy Spirit (See Romans 8:26-27).

We must intercede for our family members and friends who are far from the Lord. We must pray for them just as Jesus intercedes for us and has given us that authority to do the same.

LESSON 4 – January 22, 2023
SUBJECT: Blessing of Liberty in Christ

GOLDEN TEXT: “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

PRINTED TEXT: Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

LESSON DISCUSSION

The lesson, “Blessing of Reconciliation,” mentioned how we

were alienated from God’s goodness and freedom. He sought and brought us from captivity; therefore, we must stand fast in the blessing of liberty in Christ.

The true blessing of liberty flows from Christ’s atoning death: Justification and the gift of the Holy Spirit (See Acts 2:38). We are brought into a right standing with God. We now have spiritual power to overcome sin and to obey God.

The greatest threat to the liberty of the believers in the church of Galatia was going back to the teachings from which they had been set free. Paul reminds them to stand fast and not be entangled again (See Galatians 5:1). Likewise, we must not let anyone rob us of our liberty in Christ.

Well said by Kenneth Sponsler, Editor-in-Chief of the Union Gospel Press (UGP). In the Adult Bible School lesson (p. 42, paragraph 4), UGP indicates “No one has the power unless we cede it to them ourselves. We only have to remain undeceived and look soley to Jesus to keep us walking in freedom with him.”

LESSON 5 – January 29, 2023
SUBJECT: Blessing of Belonging in Christ

GOLDEN TEXT: “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” (I Corinthians 12:27).

PRINTED TEXT: I Corinthians 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Becau Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular se I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

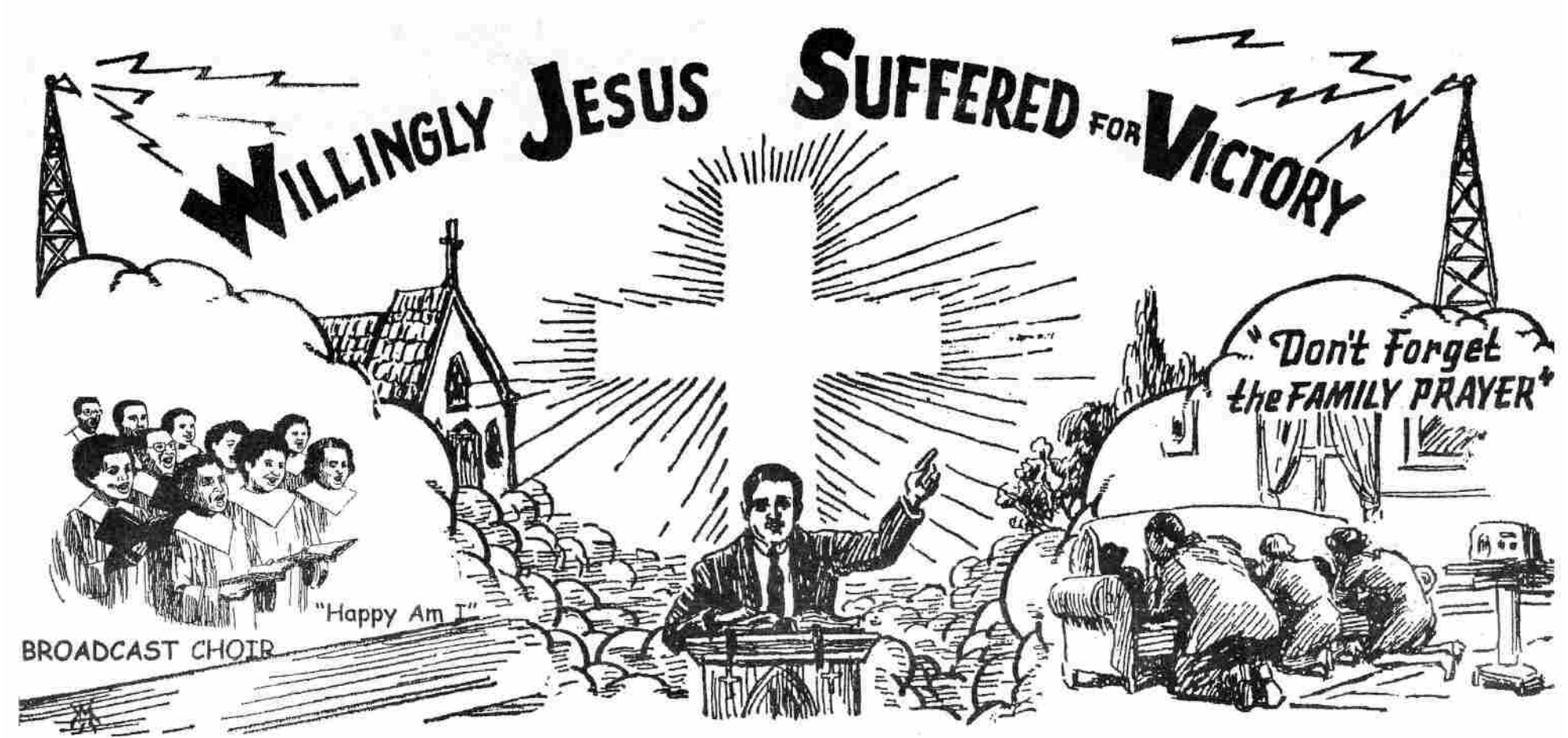
31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

LESSON DISCUSSION

In the secular world, membership in an organization brings many benefits and honor. To help the organization grow, each member is assigned a particular role. Likewise, each member of the body of Christ has his own place in it. The church is more than an organization. It is a living organism, revealing Christ to the world (See I Corinthians 12:12-31).

We are not made members by joining, but through fellowship we are members of the church, the body of Christ (See Ephesians 1:22-23), by identifying with Christ and His people through forgiveness of sins (justification), reconciliation (brought in right standing with God), and baptism of the Holy Spirit. Not only are we part of the Body, but we are members individually in the body (See I Corinthians 12:27). We have a part in helping to grow this body, regardless of our gifts.

(Continued on Page 12)



Prayer Answered

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

CALLING ALL YOUTH (Continued rom Page 11)

- by his _____.
6. The _____ of the LORD is the _____ of _____; and the _____ of the _____ is _____.
7. Saying, Amen: _____, and _____, and _____, and _____, and _____, and _____, and _____ be unto our _____ for ever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS (Continued from Page 11)

We're all dependent on the strength
We draw from one another,
For we're connected by the love
That comes from God our Father
Sper, **Our Daily Bread** (Grand Rapids: Our Daily Bread Ministries)

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