

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

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (Colossians 3:1).



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOSPEL SPREADING CHURCH OF GOD

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NOT FOR SALE

GOD WILL ABASE ALL WHO LIFT THEMSELVES IN PRIDE

Good morning, good morning, good morning, to you who have just tuned in. You should have heard the beginning of the broadcast. Don't ever miss the first part; please Ma'am and please Sir, set your clock to alarm at 6:00am sharp and be ready for the heavenly call. It may seem to you to be a small thing now, but in the day of judgment, you'll find out that this Broadcast from this place, sent to you over Station WTOP will be the top line on Heaven's Record. Believe it or not, it sounds big, doesn't it? But --- the Word of God is above all and nothing excels IT. We preach IT as IT is written and IT will judge you in that day. Jesus said IT and I am repeating it --- the Word of God will judge you in that day. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh and God's Word shall stand when worlds are on fire.

This morning I am trying to make you form a conclusion here which we endeavored to establish in your minds regarding the Supreme Court's decision against officially prescribed prayers in the schools of New York. Prayer is an utterance inspired by the Holy Spirit and God's Word declares that "... we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26b) Unless one's prayer honors God and petitions a blessing upon another or every creature as well as one's self the Holy Spirit has not dictated that prayer. Any prayer such as the one dictated by the Holy Spirit and suggested by the Regents in New York was not prescribed but dictated to them. Man in the natural cannot utter such a prayer which was, in part, "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee." Man doesn't talk that way. You'll find men here, there, and everywhere; they think they're doing something, but they don't even know that their breath in their nostrils comes from God. When it begins to get short, you'll hear them say, "Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy; uh, uh, uh, uh. It is then when they find out that the breath they're breathing is not their own but belongs to God. So, when God is honored and a blessing is asked for everyone, that prayer has been dictated by the Holy Spirit, not by any man. The Holy Spirit dictates all prayers that reach the throne of God.

It is sad in this day for such to have happened --- the forbidding of prayer in public schools on government-controlled property as decreed by the Supreme Court. It is prayer that blesses the mind and establishes the soul. In Daniel 4:37, you'll find these words: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase." Nebuchadnezzar is saying that he praises, extols and honors the King of Heaven. He says that "all of His works are truth and His ways judgment" Listen! He also says that "He is able to abase those who walk in pride."

You'll find the Context in Exodus 32, reading the 31st to the 33d verses inclusive. It reads: "And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin ---; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou has written." Moses told the Lord that the people whom He had sent him to lead had sinned a great sin and had made for themselves gods of gold. Moses asked the Lord if He would forgive

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If you call your child a little devil, don't think he does not know who the big devil is.

What the church needs today is a good burning out by the Holy Spirit.

Get rid of condemnation by confessing and forsaking your sins.

Whether you have heard a preacher preach the gospel or not, your conscience preaches and tells you when you go contrary to God.

I don't care to what crowd you belong; if you are not a saint, you are a sinner.

The kiss of Judas hurt Jesus more than the wound in His side.

If the devil looked like a mouse, more women would be saved.

Any doctor can circumcise the flesh, but only God can circumcise the heart.

Never feel inferior, but don't act superior.

You can't satisfy the flesh, you've got to control it.

The world pacifies but God satisfies.

God has no respect of persons, and neither does the devil.

God's "shalls" don't miss.

God is not only saying the same things that He said in olden times, but He means the same things today that He meant in olden times.

Don't get into anything into which you cannot bring God.

"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

GOD WILL ABASE ALL WHO LIFT THEMSELVES IN PRIDE

(Continued from Page 1)

their sin and if not, He wanted God to blot him out of His Book which He had written. Read! **"And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book."** God let Moses know at once what He would do. He as much said as we hear at times, "I'll run my business and you do the little job I gave you." He said, "I'll blot out him whosoever has sinned against me." (God knew that Moses had not transgressed against Him, yet he was telling God to blot his name out because of the others who had sinned against Him.) Read! **"Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them."** He said behold, my Angel is going with you, but nevertheless, when I get ready to punish them because of their sins, I will visit their sins upon them.

My precious ones, the first sin ever committed was committed against God in Heaven by an Angel named Lucifer who had become lifted up in pride and attempted to exalt his throne above the throne of God in heaven. In Isaiah 14 reading from the 12th to the 15th verses, you'll find this on record: **"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God..."** Notice! Lucifer has said in his heart that he will ascend into heaven and exalt his throne and those who follow him above the leaders that God has established. Read! **"I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:"** He said I'll sit and rule the congregation in the sides of the north. **"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."** Lucifer said he would ascend above the heights of the clouds --- "I'll be like God myself," he said. But what? (15) **"Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."** The penalty for the sin of angels was that they should be cast down to hell. The penalty for the sins of man is death. God ordained that the day that Adam sinned he should die; He ordained that the day the angels sinned, a place call hell should be prepared for them. When I say, 'the day' I mean this, **"one day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."** The beginning of time is with God and not with man. He makes a day as long as He pleases or as short as He pleases. He finishes whatever He has promised to do, and He calls that time a day. Though God planned that angels should be cast down to hell, they're not in hell yet, but they're on their way. Man has not completed his sentence which is unto death, but his time will come when God shall wipe man from the face of the earth, for **"the wages of sin is death: ..."** (Romans 6:23a) As long as one man lives,



Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux,
founder, Church of God

Adam still lives for there is only one man and that one is Adam; all of you are the offspring of Adam.

Because of the sin of Lucifer and the angels who followed him in this rebellion against God, they were cast out of heaven down to hell, not into hell. In II Peter, the 2d Chapter and the 4th verse, it says, **"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into the chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"** God spared not the angels that sinned but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to prevent them from putting in their appearance. He placed them there to await judgment when God shall cast them into hell. They are now on the earth where hell shall be prepared after the righteous shall have been taken out to the planet called Heaven according to God's Word.

To have authority is a dangerous thing for some human beings. It was dangerous for some of the angels to the extent that they became lifted up in pride. God gives us this record in His Word to give you an idea of how dangerous authority is. Lucifer, the devil, was made the anointed cherub, the ruler of the planet called Heaven. Because he was made ruler, he began to 'feel' himself (as we say) and he began to say, "well, I don't see why God wants this thing or the other thing done." God knew his heart and spoke to him. Then he said, "I'll go on the north and set up my kingdom and let you have this side. He had under his command the whole host of angels in Heaven. But he didn't realize, nor did he understand that the authority he had was given to him by God. When he rose up and rebelled, then God, Who is Almighty, had him cast out. As the prayer said, "Almighty God --- there is no might above that of God Almighty. I don't care how much power you have, there is no power above the power of God. Again, I say, when the Regents suggested this prayer for the children beginning with the words, "Almighty God", the Holy Ghost dictated it. There is no man nor angel,

amen, who cannot rebel against God, but your rebelling will not get you anywhere.

In setting up orders to rule His church in the earth, the Lord commanded that a novice should not be put up **"lest being lifted up with pride he fall in the condemnation of the devil,"** I Timothy 3:6 like the angels and Lucifer. Listen to these words found in 1st Timothy, the 3rd Chapter, reading from the 1st to the 7th verses. **"THIS is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."** It says, if a man desires to be a bishop (a ruler of the church), he desireth a good work. (2) **"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach. Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;"** A bishop is no wine drinker or striker; he is not to love money, but he is to be patient and not a brawler nor is he to be covetous. (4) **"One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subject with all gravity;"** A bishop must rule his own house he must have his children under subjection with all gravity being able to say, "come here or go there" and they move accordingly. (5) **"(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God?)"** It is saying if a man doesn't know how to rule his own house, how can he take care of God's people? Here it is in the 6th verse: **"Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride, he fall into the condemnation of the devil."** The bishop must not be a novice lest he become lifted up because of the authority that is invested in him, and he falls into the same condemnation the devil fell into because of the power invested in him. He rose up and ceased to feel that he had to respect God.

The Supreme Court has risen up because of their authority and the power invested in them by this government and thereby, condemned prayer to Almighty God --- the Almighty God, prohibiting school children from petitioning to the God who owns heaven and earth. It's all right to separate Church and State for the Church is an organized body set up for the purpose of practicing the teachings of Christ and the State or government is an organized body that sets up laws to govern people who do not follow the teachings of Christ. Therefore, as Jesus taught men to pray, (for prayer is the lifeline between God and man), no authority in heaven or earth has the right to attempt to separate God and man as the Supreme Court attempts to do. Don't even attempt to separate God and man.

God tells man to ask Him for what they want. Then to have his desire granted, his heart must be pure and his hands clean. After that, the Holy Ghost will dictate the petition and God will answer it. That's

(Continued on Page 11)

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.

No. 1037

BOOK	CHAPTER	VERSE	WORD	ANSWER
1. St. Mark	9	31	1	_____
2. Habakkuk	2	9	26	_____
3. I Samuel	4	5	10	_____
4. Deuteronomy	3	2	23	_____
5. Romans	6	17	2	_____
6. Psalm	128	1	10	_____
7. Proverbs	11	6	14	_____
8. Galatians	1	4	19	_____
9. Revelation	7	17	8	_____
10. Nehemiah	9	27	8	_____
11. Ezekiel	3	19	29	_____
12. Joel	2	11	13	_____
13. I Timothy	1	20	18	_____
14. I Chronicles	14	10	17	_____
15. Psalm	7	1	6	_____
16. St. Matthew	12	43	18	_____
17. Ruth	3	3	17	_____
18. Romans	8	32	23	_____
19. Genesis	13	14	15	_____
20. Acts	2	27	14	_____
21. Isaiah	1	24	27	_____
22. St. Mark	13	9	27	_____
23. Job	5	19	4	_____
24. St. John	3	29	30	_____
25. Exodus	5	18	8	_____
26. Genesis	40	13	15	_____
27. Jeremiah	50	29	13	_____
28. Exodus	4	12	7	_____
29. Leviticus	11	44	17	_____
30. Revelation	2	1	14	_____
31. Philemon	1	15	3	_____
32. Ezekiel	13	23	4	_____
33. Titus	2	8	19	_____
34. Ephesians	5	5	9	_____
35. II Chronicles	23	19	22	_____
36. Daniel	3	29	28	_____
37. Proverbs	4	9	19	_____
38. Exodus	19	5	10	_____
39. Song of Solomon	2	17	10	_____
40. Ezra	10	3	13	_____
41. James	4	7	13	_____
42. Galatians	3	8	21	_____

QUOTE WHERE PASSAGE IS FOUND

.....

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Answers to Last Month's Puzzle

"Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion" (II Timothy 4:17).

Responses to the Bible Word Puzzle

The following persons found the correct answer:

Laverna Faulkner
Alexandria, VA

Michael Haynes
Upper Marlboro, MD

Laura B. Maddux
Kenbridge, VA

Rosa Stone
Brodnax, VA

Barbara Newby
South Hill, VA

Broken Pieces

If you are broken by life trials
and weary from life's defeats.

If you have been badly battered
and have no joy or peace.

Give God your broken pieces
so He will mold them back in place.
He can make them better than before
with a touch of His sweet grace.

If your dreams have been shattered
after much struggle and pain.

Even if your life seems hopeless
God can restore you again.

God can take broken pieces
and He can make them whole.

It matters not how badly broken
God has the power to restore.

So we are never without hope
no matter the shape we are in.
God can take our fragmented lives
and put them together again.
So if you're broken beyond measure
and you don't know what to do.
God specializes in broken things
so His glory can shine through.

--Lenora McWhorter

THE FALL 2023 - SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

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Gospel Spreading Church

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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, October 6th through Sunday, October 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. 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

PURITY CLUB

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

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

Mrs. Michaux's Gospel Message to All

BE LIKE CHRIST

It is commonly thought by the average Christian of today and also by many who are endeavoring to teach the Word of the Lord, that it is impossible for a saved person to be like Christ. To be like Christ simply means to love everybody, even those who oppose you and try to discredit everything you say; to work diligently with the unsaved to return them away from sin and encourage them to accept salvation under the plan that God sent Jesus to set up among men; to pray to the Father day and night, and invoke His blessings upon the works of the Church of God; to invoke the blessings of the Lord upon little children, and work with them to build up the Sunday School and Purity Club; and to obey God unto death.

The Lord never asked people to do that which they could not do. Jesus always had a final word with people He blessed. It was: **"Go and sin no more!"** (See St. John 8:11b). Why would our dear Savior say such words if it were not intended that saved people should live like Christ? If you will note the beautiful words of Christ in His wonderful sermon on the Mount of Beatitudes (See St. Matthew Fifth Chapter), you may recall that He taught them that they were the salt of the earth, and if the salt have lost his savour, it is good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under the foot of men.

Jesus also taught on this occasion: **"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 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. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"** (St. Matthew 5:14-16). And then Jesus commanded, **"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"** (St. Matthew 5:48). This certainly does not sustain anyone who would say it is impossible to be like Christ.

Let us turn to Colossians Third Chapter and read verses one through seven. These instructions come directly from Christ through the Holy Spirit, which was in Paul, the Apostle: **"IF ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them"**, but not now.

If we are the people of God, the proper kind of parents, we want our children to be like us. God has the same concern for His children. He certainly



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

wants His children to be like Him. Frankly I should say, you are not a child of God unless you are like Him. When you are born of God, you take on the nature of God, and turn out to be like Him. This is the mystery of Godliness: — the power of God's working in the carnal nature of man to make it Christ-like.

When we speak of being like Christ, we simply mean that the things He would not practice, we should not practice. May God help ungodly, sin-peddling, lukewarm, so-called Christians to wake up, shake off their grave clothes, and rise and shine.

If gospel workers of today would only go to the fountain which is opened in the House of David for sin and uncleanness, and would get a real good bath, (glory to God!) they would be in the position to help others. They would be worthy to carry the gospel message where it can do the most good. God does not send any person to carry His Word who is unclean. If one is in the mire himself, he is not worthy or able to help others, who are also in the mire. As God has said, when we teach others not to steal or do things that are condemned by the gospel, the question is asked: Do we do those things?

When working for the Lord, we are simply instruments in God's hand, available for use wherever He might desire to place us. Therefore, we must be clean vessels, meet for the Master's use. God does not use men who exalt themselves so as to become gods. He uses those who go down into the valley of humiliation. Praise our God! To go up is to come down, and to go down is to come up.

May God help every knee-high preacher, every tempting card playing church worker who scoffs at a real child of God, to lay aside his choir books, give up his activities, leave off his food, and pray his way through to God. God will then make him a firebrand and soul winner. And his life will "tell for Jesus."

The wound of a friend is better than the kiss of an enemy. So, you had better take in what I am saying and let it do your soul good.

Let us read II Peter, First Chapter, verses three through twenty-one, as follows: **"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yes, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me."

"Moreover, I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but, were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

"For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

May God bless you is my prayer.

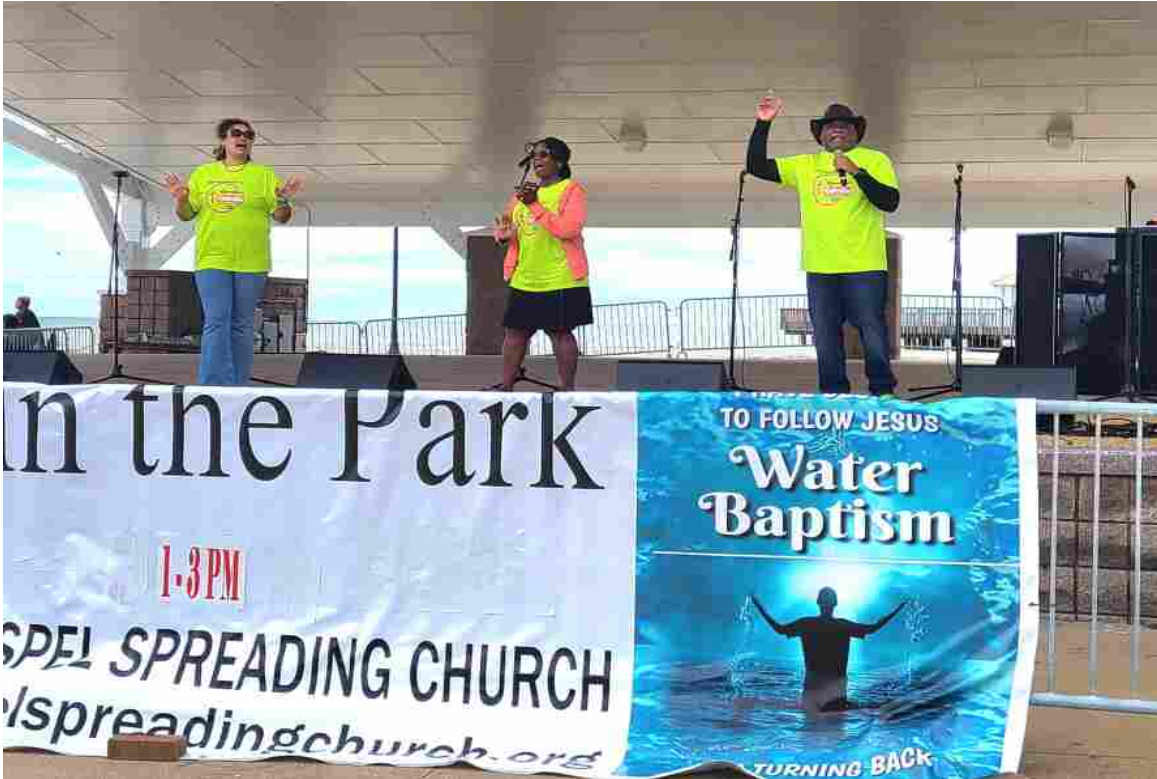
WATER BAPTIZING -- WHAT? WHY?

Baptism is immersion in water which expresses repentance from sinful lifestyles and saving faith in Jesus Christ. Baptizing is to becoming a Christian what the wedding ceremony is to becoming married.

John did baptize ... and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. St. Mark 1:4. Jesus said, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; St. Mark 16:16. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:27.

The Church of God has honored the sacrament of water baptizing since around 1930 when baptizing candidates were immersed in the Potomac River in Washington, DC. Since that time the COG annual baptizing has occurred in Griffith Stadium, National Guard Armory, Uline Ice Arena, Carter Baron Amphitheater, and Showplace Arena, and Washington DC Church of God. On Sunday, September 24, 2023, baptizing candidates were immersed in the waters of Chesapeake Bay – Buckroe Beach in Hampton, Virginia.

The Buckroe Beach activities are pictured herewith. The photographer was Sister Tanya Smith.



Emcees: Faith Green, Kismith Macey and Deacon Erik Smith



Prayer Response Team (PRT) - Assistant Pastor Tommy Smith (Leader), Brenda Morgan, Michael Morgan, Deacon Charles Cooke, Tracey Tibbs, Juanita Woods, Pastor Alphonso Holt, Elder Thomas Davis, Lotena Carter, Marcus Carter, Matilda Jenkins, Petheria Turner, Elder Anthony Hurst, Sr., Barbara Hurst and Rhonda Holt



GSC Praise & Worship Team: Sherri Sapp, Diane Clayton II, Petheria Turner, Michael Smith, Deacon Erik Smith, Diane Clayton, Seanne White and Tanya Smith



Harmonicist - Kyle Love (Hampton, VA)

WATER BAPTIZING -- WHAT? WHY?

(Continued from Page 6)



Testimony - Juanita Woods (GSC Washington, DC)



Soloist: Audrey White (Hampton, VA)



Testimony - Marcus Carter (GSC Hampton, VA)



Ryan Edwards - Baritone Instrumental (GSC Hampton, VA)



Skit: Darlene Whitley, John Johnson, Charles Corbin, Pastor Alphonso Holt
*Not pictured: Myra Corbin, Marci Cruz, Deacon Charles Cooke



Hospitality Committee (GSC Hampton, VA) - Janelle Brooks, Debra Perry, Minerva McNair, Mahlon Tibbs, Sr., Barbara Brown, Mario Brown, Jr., Donna Boone, John Johnson, Rhonda Johnson, and Al Perry
*Not pictured: Deacon Donald Harris, Angela Smith and Tracey Tibbs



Sermon by Assistant Pastor Tommy Smith (GSC Hampton, VA)



Baptizers - Pastor Marshall (Jamie) Green, Jr. and Assistant Pastor Tommy Smith



Prayer with Candidates



Sharon Payne (GSC Washington, DC) w/Assistants Deacon Frances Smith and Mahlon Tibbs



Diane Davis (GSC Newport News, VA)



Toneka Ross (GSC Washington, DC)



Navayah Williams-Mack (GSC Baltimore, MD) received Baptizing Certificate and Attire

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)



Darrious, Jr., Age 9

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.
2006 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 VERSE

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

Possibly the best-known verse in the Bible is St. John 3:16. This verse demonstrates God's great love for mankind in that He would willingly offer up His son for us. God's uniquely conceived Son became the perfect sacrifice for our sin. So now everyone who believes in Him will never perish, but experience everlasting life. It is through the death and resurrection of Jesus that we are saved, redeemed, and set free from sin and death. We are promised the gift of eternal life. What a gift! Thank you, Jesus!

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

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, and the Father by him (Colossians 3:17)."

Young People Respond to the Questions:

Do you have concerns about this school year? If so, how may we pray about them for you?

Sometimes when the teacher is talking and what she is talking about is just kind of boring, I might drift off and think about something else to pass the time. So please pray that I can stay focused.

By Elijah, Age 13
Laurel



Please pray that I can be on time every day. Thank you very much!!

By James, Jr., Age 8
Laurel



I am concerned about safety at the "express [school bus] stop," especially because no teachers are outside with us. Please pray that there will be not any fighting there or in school. Please pray that I will get good grades; that I will stay healthy; and that I will not get COVID.

By Nylah, Age 12
Houston



I am concerned about safety and school violence. Please pray that I can go to a new school and do well. Please pray that I will make good friends.

By Nevaeh, Age 10
Houston



I want to improve in math. Please pray. Thank you.

By Bryson, Age 11
Newport News



I would like God to help me with my math and reading skills. I pray for protection at school: no guns, no violence, and no fights.

By Darrious, Jr., Age 9
Newport News

Please pray that I do well in science. It is a difficult subject for me.

By Joshua, Age 13
Midlothian



Please pray that I make friends at my new school. I am working on being more social and friendly this year.

By Noah, Age 11
Midlothian



Please pray that I will play my clarinet well and get good grades.

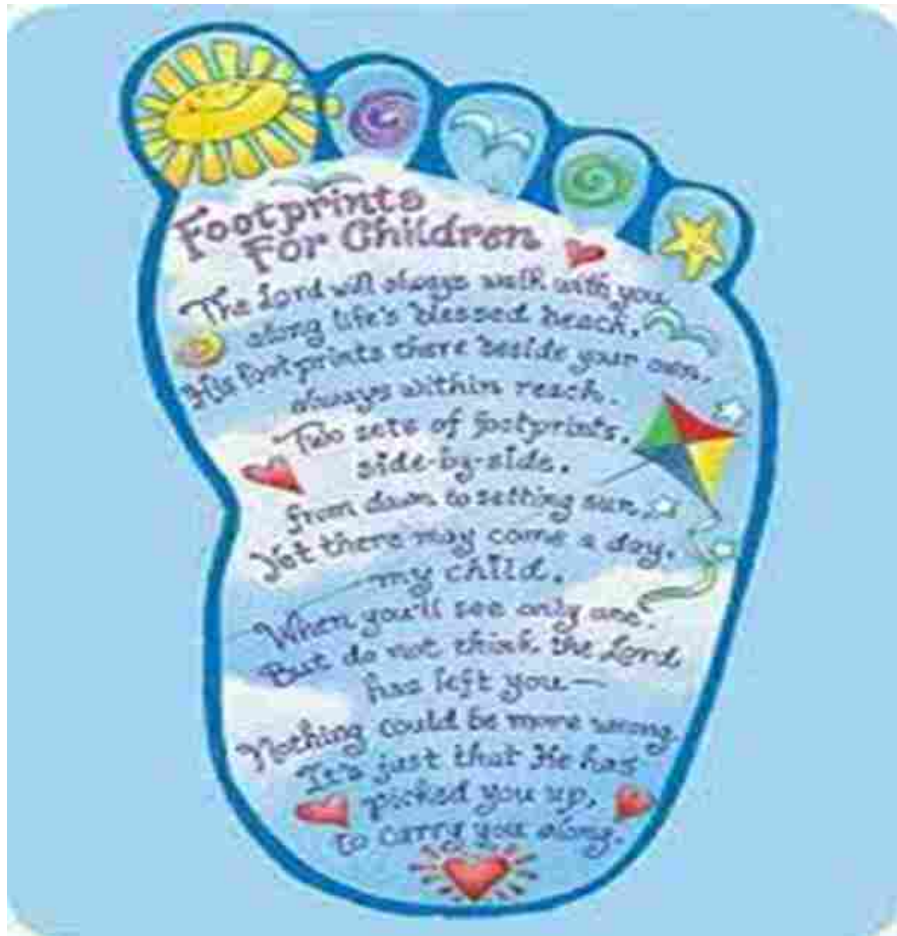
By Reese, Age 10
Hampton



Please pray that I get good grades.

By Ravonne, Age 6
Hampton





ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

1. When was Darius appointed to rule over Babylon?
(Darius began to rule after the death of Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans - **Daniel 5:30-31**).
2. What position did Darius give to Daniel and why?
(He was appointed the highest of the country's three presidents; "an excellent spirit was in him" - **Daniel 6:1-3**).
3. Who became angry because of this appointment?
(The other presidents and princes of the kingdom - **Daniel 6:4-5**).
4. What did they do?
(They got the king to sign a decree that whoever asked a petition of any God or man (except the king) for thirty days would be cast into the den of lions - **Daniel 6:7,8,9**).
5. Did knowing this cause Daniel to disobey God or stop praying to Him?
(NO. Daniel knelt three times a day, prayed and gave thanks to God - **Daniel 6:10-21**).
6. What happened when Daniel was cast into the lions' den?
(God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions so that they could not harm Daniel - **Daniel 6:21-22**).
7. How did the king feel toward God after God had cared for Daniel?
(The king commanded that anyone who said anything against Daniel's God should be killed - **Daniel 6:24-27**).

ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER FILL-IN THE BLANKS

1. For the **earth** shall be filled with the **knowledge** of the **glory** of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (**Habakkuk 2:14**).
2. And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole **earth** is full of his **glory** (**Isaiah 6:3**).
3. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy **name** in all the **earth**! who hast set thy **glory** above the **heavens** (**Psalms 8:1**).
4. Whether therefore ye **eat**, or **drink**, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the **glory** of God (**I Corinthians 10:31**).
5. 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** (**Psalms 84:11**).
6. 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**).
7. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive **glory** and **honour** and **power**: for thou hast **created** all things, and for thy **pleasure** they are and were **created** (**Revelation 4:11**).

OCTOBER HOLY BIBLE QUIZ

1. As believers in Christ, what do we need to put on daily and

why?

2. What do we have to fight against?
3. What should we wear around the waist?
4. What should we wear on the chest?
5. What is worn on the feet?
6. What is used as the shield and what does it enable believers to do?
7. What is worn on the head and what is the sword of the Spirit?

OCTOBER FILL-IN THE BLANKS

1. It is of the LORD'S _____ that we are not _____, because his _____.
2. For thy _____ is great above the _____: and thy _____ reacheth unto the _____.
3. PRAISE ye the LORD. O give _____ unto the _____; for he is _____: for his _____ endureth for _____.
4. The _____, O LORD, is full of thy _____: _____ me thy _____.
5. Let not _____ and _____ forsake thee: _____ them about thy _____; _____ them upon the _____ of thine _____.
6. O _____ us early with thy _____; that we may _____ and be _____ all our days.
7. Let thy _____, O LORD, be upon us, according as we _____ in _____.

GOD WILL ABASE ALL WHO LIFT THEMSELVES IN PRIDE

(Continued from Page 2)

how prayer is maneuvered. The Holy Ghost dictated that prayer to the Regents in New York, which they suggested the children pray each morning. God tells man, "**Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.**" He says If you delight yourself in Me, I, because I know the desire of your heart, will grant it through the petition of the Holy Spirit within you. There was no law which forces the children to say that prayer at all because God doesn't have you do anything you do by force --- only love. They didn't even have to remain in the room while it was being prayed. But that God might be honored, that prayer was suggested by the Holy Ghost, also, --- that the children might learn that God is the Almighty God and that they depend upon Him for everything they get --- not their parents, sisters, or brothers, but upon God! Then they petitioned for a blessing upon themselves, their parents, their teachers the country in which they live. What a prayer! What a prayer! What a prayer! --- Honoring God above everybody!

God is the Ruler of heaven and earth and is to be recognized and respected above earthly governments and churches organized by man who do not practice the teachings of Christ. Whether the Church or the State obeys the teachings of Christ or not, man as an individual can become a part of the government of God through the medium of prayer, as Jesus was a part of the government of God and was exalted by God over all men to the extent that He became the mediator between God and man.

The Supreme Court because of their authority became lifted up in pride and condemned a prayer dictated by the Holy Spirit which honored God. They are separating God and man. The child now will be the man of tomorrow and if he doesn't know God, it will be to his sorrow.

In the beginning of this Sermon, I had read to you the words of Nebuchadnezzar found in Daniel 4:37. He spoke the words written there because he had experienced being lifted up in pride. I'll have it read again. "**Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to**

(Continued on Page 12)

Sunday School Lessons for the Month of October

The lessons for this month were reviewed by Sister Audrey Morris. She is a teacher of one of the adult Sunday school classes in the Washington, D.C. church.



LESSON 39 – October 1, 2023
SUBJECT: God Confirms Gideon's Mission

GOLDEN TEXT: “And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian” (Judges 7:15).

PRINTED TEXT: Judges 7:2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

3 Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

4 And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

13 And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.

14 And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.

15 And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshipped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.

8:22 Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.

23 And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you.

24 And Gideon said unto them, I would desire a request of you, that ye would give me every man the earrings of his prey. (For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

25 And they answered, We will willingly give them. And they spread a garment, and did cast therein every man the earrings of his prey.

LESSON DISCUSSION

In this lesson, the Scriptures talk about the key events of the life of Gideon, a judge chosen by God to lead Israel against the Midianites. The themes of this lesson are faith, obedience, and God's divine intervention.

Gideon starts with a sizeable army of 32,000 men. God instructs him to reduce the ranks to just 300. This reduction underscores God's desire to demonstrate that the victory will come not through human physical strength, but through divine intervention. This miracle emphasizes the importance of faith and obedience as Gideon follows God's plan.

Verses 13 through 15 explain how Gideon overhears a Midianite soldier interpreting a dream where he foretells their defeat by a barley loaf. This reaffirms God's plan and boosts Gideon's confidence.

The Israelites offered Gideon the position of king. But he wisely rejected it. By refusing, he acknowledged that God was their true ruler. Gideon requests gold from his spoils which he uses to create an ephod, an apron worn by the Jewish high priest. This act initially appears to be a positive symbol of God's presence. Later on the ephod becomes a source of idolatry.

In summary, these passages teach us about the importance of faith, obedience, and humility in our relationship with God. We must recognize His sovereignty in our lives. This lesson also teaches us to be careful not to turn the blessings that God has bestowed upon us into idols.

LESSON 40 – October 8, 2023
SUBJECT: The Sin of Achan

GOLDEN TEXT: “And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done” (Joshua 7:20).

PRINTED TEXT: Joshua 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

10 And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

11 Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

12 Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

22 So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it.

23 And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

24 And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor.

25 And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

26 And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.

LESSON DISCUSSION

The Israelites have just experienced a miraculous victory in Jericho. But faced defeat at the small city Ai. This defeat perplexes Joshua, leading him to seek God's counsel. God reveals the presence of sin within the camp (Joshua 7:10-12). God said that His people had broken the covenant and had taken forbidden spoils from Jericho.

Achan confessed and was punished. He acknowledged his sin, lusting after things he saw in Jericho. He admitted to taking a beautiful Babylonian garment, silver coins and gold, burying it all in his tent. This violation of God's command had far-reaching consequences. His actions affected the entire community. Achan and his family were stoned to death and burned with all their belongings.

This passage underscores the seriousness of disobedience and the consequences of sin within a people. It also stresses the importance of collective responsibility. Achan's sin had repercussions for the entire nation. The necessity of confession and repentance when one's actions are contrary to God's command is also emphasized.

In summary, these scriptures serve to remind us of the importance of obedience, honesty, and the ramifications of one person sinning which can bring about dire consequences for an entire community.

LESSON 41 – October 15, 2023
SUBJECT: A Backsliding People

GOLDEN TEXT: “Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them” (Judges 2:16).

PRINTED TEXT: Judges 2:16 Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

17 And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so.

18 And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

19 And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way.

20 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;

21 I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died:

22 That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.

23 Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

LESSON DISCUSSION

This lesson is an account in the book of Judges, which serves as an overview of the period after Joshua’s leadership ended. The Israelites had a pattern of disobedience followed by divine judgment. This passage emphasizes the consequences of disobedience and God’s enduring compassion.

Verse 16 describes how the Israelites engaged in sinful practices, abandoned the Lord, and followed other Gods and idols. In this lesson, it is evident that after Joshua’s generation passed away, the Israelites abandoned their covenant with God. They turned to idols and engaged in sinful practices.

God allowed neighboring nations to oppress Israel as a form of punishment. When the people cried out for help, God, in His compassion, raised up judges to deliver them from their oppressors.

This cycle of disobedience, oppression, repentance, and deliverance is repeated throughout the book of Judges. The Israelites time and time again were rebellious and unfaithful. God rebuked them for breaking their covenant. His enduring love and faithfulness shine through in this passage. He does not completely abandon His people, but remains responsive to their cries for help thereby demonstrating His willingness to forgive and to offer them another chance.

This lesson teaches us the consequences of disobedience, the importance of repentance, and God’s unwavering commitment to His people. We are encouraged to reflect on our own obedience and the importance of remaining faithful to God’s covenant.

LESSON 42 – October 22, 2023

SUBJECT: Israel Rejects God as King

GOLDEN TEXT: “And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him, Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands” (1 Samuel 10:19).

PRINTED TEXT: 1 Samuel 9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

10:17 And Samuel called the people together unto the LORD to Mizpeh;

18 And said unto the children of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all kingdoms, and of them that oppressed you:

19 And ye have this day rejected your God, who himself saved you out of all your adversities and your tribulations; and ye have said unto him,

Nay, but set a king over us. Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes, and by your thousands.

20 And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was taken.

21 When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken: and when they sought him, he could not be found.

22 Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold he hath hid himself among the stuff.

23 And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward.

24 And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king.

25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD. And Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

26 And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched.

LESSON DISCUSSION

First Samuel 9:1-2 introduces us to Saul, the first king of Israel. Saul is described as a tall and handsome young man. He was chosen by God to be anointed king. Saul looked the part; however, his heart was not right for the job. God looks beyond outward appearance. He focuses on the heart and leadership ability.

In First Samuel 10:17-26, we see Saul officially being anointed by the prophet Samuel. The people rejected Samuel because they wanted a king. This repudiation of the prophet was more a rejection of God. Samuel presented Saul as the chosen king of Israel. When Saul initially hid himself, this action may have indicated that he thought himself unworthy or it could have indicated a sign of his reluctance to accept his role as king.

Despite his impressive appearance, Saul struggled with leadership and obedience to God’s commands. Outward appearances can be deceptive. True leadership requires more than favorable physical attributes. Saul’s hesitance to embrace his destiny may reflect the tension between divine sovereignty and human free will. Saul’s reluctance contrasted with God’s choice is a reminder that God’s call may not align with our initial desires.

In summary, this lesson provides insight into the character of Saul and the complexities of leadership and divine calling. When God calls you to lead, just serve your purpose.

LESSON 43 – October 29, 2023

SUBJECT: Joshua’s Final Exhortation

GOLDEN TEXT: “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

PRINTED TEXT: Joshua 24:1 And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

14 Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

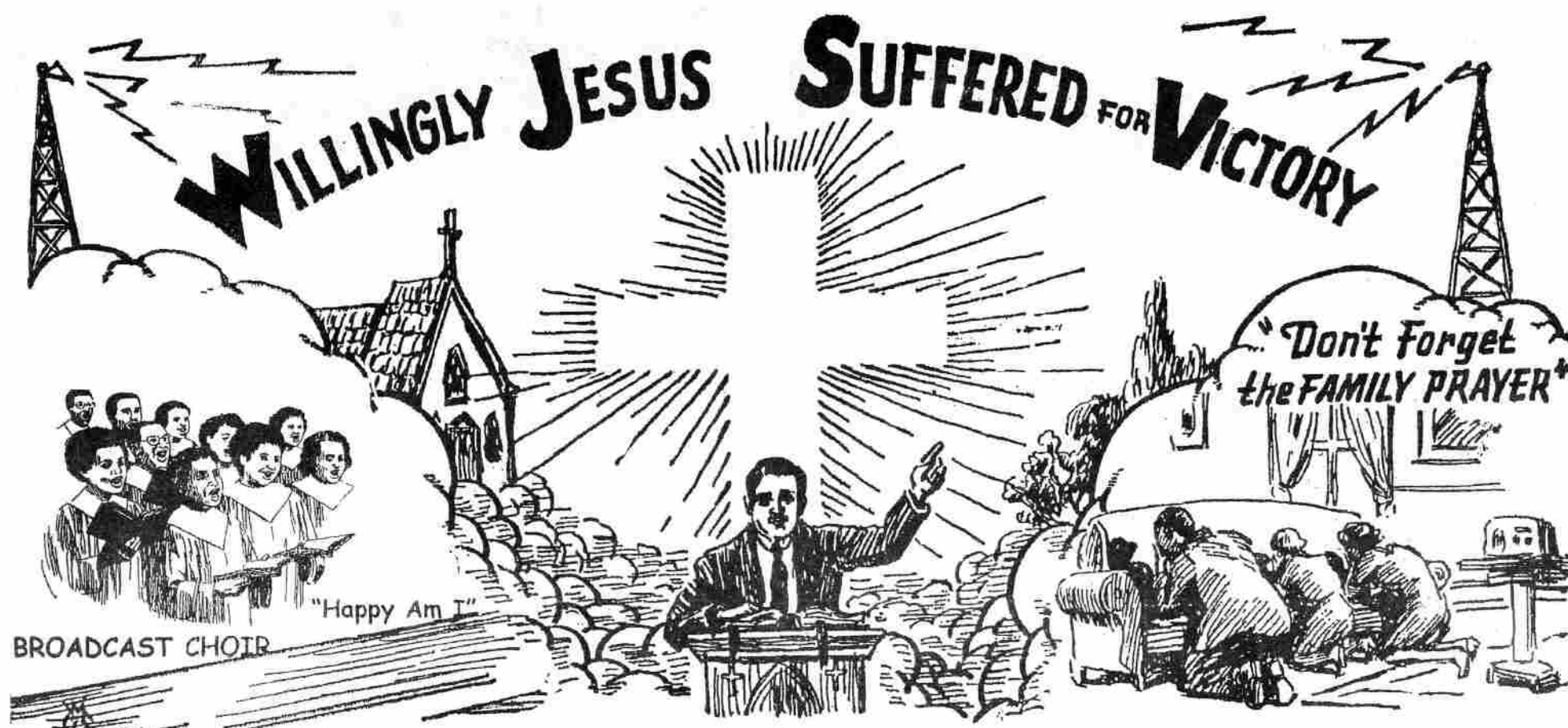
16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;

17 For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

18 And the LORD drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

19 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is

(Continued on Page 12)



Prayer Answered

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

GOD WILL ABASE ALL WHO LIFT THEMSELVES IN PRIDE

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abase.” Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon, the greatest ruler in his day and after his experience he began to praise and extol God. He tells you that God is able to abase anybody who exalts himself against God’s Commandments --- He is able to bring them down.

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and it was to the end that he saw a great tree, the top of which reached toward the heavens and its branches to the far ends of the earth. Birds lodged in them and beneath it were beasts of every kind. They lived off the fruit of the tree. He saw a watcher (an angel) come down from Heaven who commanded that the tree be cut down and everything under it and the birds were to leave its branches. The dream troubled him, and he sent for Daniel. He had named Daniel after his god, Belteshazzar who was a different man from all the rulers of Babylon. He said, “I had a dream which troubles me, and I can’t find anyone among my wise men who can give me the interpretation of it. But you have the Spirit of the Holy God in you, and I know you can make it plain to me. After Daniel had studied a while he said to the King, Oh King, may I tell you that the dream is to you. You are the great tree. You have been made ruler over the nations and God has planned to bring you down because of your great pride; He planned that you be cut down as the dream revealed. You shall be as wet as the dew passed seven times over and you shall eat grass like an ox. One day about a year later the proud King walked out on the terrace of his great palace and as he looked over Babylon, he said, “is not this great Babylon that I have built?” Brother, anything that you see that has been done with any wisdom, - God has given the wisdom to man for his benefit because He commanded man to rule and have dominion, but he is not to lift himself up. I’d rather be an ant in God’s Kingdom than to be a lion if I’m going to lift myself up. I want to stay down and be humble.

When Nebuchadnezzar spoke those words, a voice from Heaven said, “Nebuchadnezzar, you shall be driven from men; you shall eat grass like an ox and seven times shall pass over you.” He lost his mind and left the palace bellowing like a bull. He ran to the forest and his guards ran with him and watched over him. They couldn’t touch him because he was the King; he had to have his way. His hair grew out like feathers and his fingernails were like birds’ claws. After seven years his mind was restored, and he ate grass no longer.

When His mind returned, God set him back upon his throne and his counsellors bestowed honor upon him as it was before. Then he uttered these words which were read in Daniel 4:37. Listen again to what He said, “**Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of Heaven...**”

The Supreme Court in their attempt to exalt the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the earth has shown that their judgment has become warped because of the authority invested in them. They too, are lifted up in pride and have fallen into the same condemnation of the devil as did the angel of Heaven. “**and those that walk in pride, he is able to abase**” says God’s Word. May God bless you. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

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an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

20 If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

21 And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

22 And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses.

23 Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.

24 And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

LESSON DISCUSSION

This lesson begins with Joshua gathering all the tribes of Israel at Shechem before his death. This site is filled with rich historical significance for the Israelites. He then presents them with a choice, the central theme of the passage. Joshua 7: 14-15 present the essence of Joshua’s message, “**Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”

These words constituted an appeal to Israel to make a conscientious and unwavering choice to serve God. The peoples’ response in Joshua 24:16-18 was a commitment to serve the Lord, to recognize His faithfulness and the miracles He performed. He warned the Israelites about the consequences of forsaking God. The passage culminates with a covenant ceremony where Joshua sets up a stone as a witness to their commitment. This stone serves as a lasting reminder of their choice and God’s expectations.

Joshua 24:1, 14-24, challenges us to consider our loyalty and commitment to God. It teaches the significance of making deliberate choices in matters of faith. This passage also emphasizes the fact that allegiance to God requires continuous engagement and conscious decisions.