



Youth Messenger

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Editorial

The Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Philippians 3:8, 9).

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as the apostle Paul pondered the life, the character, and the cross of Christ, he saw that all else fades into oblivion when compared to knowing Christ, to possessing Christ, to having Him as his only personal Saviour, his Lord and his King. He also realized that the things he once valued very highly, in which he put confidence, thinking that they were gain to him, he now counted but loss. By studying the life and teaching of Paul, it becomes evident that his relationship with Christ was so deep and profound, so all-encompassing, that when standing alone before Nero, when it appeared that all had forsaken him, he was able to declare: "I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung,

that I may win Christ." He saw that Christ was the Lamb of God that takes away not only his sins, but the sins of the whole world.

What does it mean to "win Christ"? In Philippians 3:9 the apostle says, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." Paul realized that the very righteousness of Christ could be his by faith. This is the righteousness that transformed his life. He found that knowing Christ, he received not only the love to save souls, but power over sin. That realization was the driving force within him to take this knowledge of Christ to every person in the world.

Do we know what it is to count all things but loss for the knowledge of Christ? Do we know the voice of our Redeemer when conviction comes and the Holy Spirit says the time has come to speak and no longer remain silent? Only those who understand what it means to behold Christ and be transformed into the image of His glory, and receive His character, will be able to detach themselves from everything in this world and be secure in the "great day of the Lord" (Zephaniah 1:14).—*B. Jaksic.*



by J. J. Skorich— North Carolina, USA

A little speck. One of a kind. A beautiful blue planet, and yet it is the only cemetery in the whole universe. The planet Earth has been marred by sin, and since then Death rules mercilessly on its surface. None can escape it. Sooner or later he knocks at our doors. Why? The Bible tells us that "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. This isn't really bad. Imagine if we had to live forever in the misery and sickness that prevails all around us. The really good news is that God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to humanity so that we may live eternally (John 3:16).

But when it comes to talking about death, we really do not like the topic. It is something with which we do not feel comfortable. This is only natural. For Death is our enemy—and who likes talking about unpleasant things? However, we have developed many ideas and philosophies. All of

them basically reflect the lie that the devil spoke through the serpent to Eve, "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4, 5. The serpent was right in some things. Our eyes were opened in the knowledge of evil, something that God did not intend for humans to know. However, "Ye shall not surely die"—well, you be the judge. Personally I have not met anyone that has ever talked with Adam and Eve.

Out of this basic lie, humans have developed many interesting theories and philosophies. Greek philosophers believed that the soul and the body are separate entities. When a person dies, the soul is freed from the prison of the body and lives forever. Therefore, Greeks did not take death seriously. Early Church fathers accepted many Greek philosophies, especially from Plato, including the concept of the soul leaving the body and living eter-

nally as a separate entity. However, they added to it. If the soul lived forever, it had to go somewhere. If good, his/her soul would supposedly go to paradise, and if bad, he/she would go to ever-burning hell.

Hinduism and Buddhism advocate the law of karma. According to this law, a man dies and is born over and over again. He cannot escape this, but must suffer continually without any hope of relief. Buddhism offered escape from this kind of immortality. If a man achieve the state called nirvana, being perfectly serene, he could defeat the forces of karma and thus escape the continual cycle of being born again. The law of karma was not so bad if you were rich and lived in comfort. But if you were poor, living a miserable life, well—you can see a problem. This belief has attracted many followers in the West, especially in the United States.

Then we have spiritualists and psychics who would have us believe that since man really does not die when he dies, then we can communicate with the dead. And so it goes on and on. The devil continually comes up with new ideas in order to confuse us and try to make us leave the truth. So what does the Bible really teach about the immortality of the soul and the state of the dead? We should thank God that He has made these subjects so plain that even children can understand them. This

is one of the truths that is clearly defined in the Bible. Thus there need be no confusion.

The Soul

Let us go right back to the beginning of this world when God created man. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7. Therefore, according to this verse, God made man out of dust, gave him the breath of life, and he became a living person. When a man dies, God said, he will "return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:19. The writer of Ecclesiastes gives us a little more information. He says, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit

shall return unto God who gave it." Chapter 12:7. The breath of our life ceases at death and God preserves our moral characteristics for the hour of judgment. Thus each of us will come out of the grave with the same characteristics as when we died. So there it is. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:20. Since all of us are sinners, all of us must die.

It is futile to think that our souls are immortal when the apostle Paul clearly tells us that God "only hath immortality." 1 Timothy 6:16. And why would Christ die for us if our souls were already immortal? In fact, He died that we can **become** immortal after the resurrec-



tion! "Our Saviour Jesus Christ, . . . hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." 2 Timothy 1:10. And why would the Bible talk so much about the resurrection of both faithful and wicked, if they were immortal already, living in eternal paradise or eternal hell? As you see, the theory of the immortality of the soul defies all logic and ignores the plain word of God. Yet, millions and millions believe these lies.

The apostle Paul gives us true hope when he talks about the translation of the living and the resurrection of the dead at the second coming of Christ. He says, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Corinthians 15:51-55.

How About Karma?

We mentioned that Hindus and Buddhists believe in karma, that is, that a person dies and is born over and over again. To this belief Buddhists added "nirvana" or a state of serenity that, if reached, breaks the cycle of karma. But the Bible is clear on this point. God says, "It is

appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV). We go through this life only once. This is our only chance to prepare for eternal life or death. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Corinthians 6:2. There will be no other life to redeem our lost time and lost opportunities that God gives us in our short lifetime.

After Death, What?

As we have discussed, all of us must die sooner or later. So, what happens after we die? First of all, where are the dead? The cemeteries



are full of them. We bury them in the grave or cremate them. That is exactly where they are. The patriarch Job put it nicely when he said: "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." Job 14:14. Where was he going to wait? In the grave, of course. He explains himself in chapter 17, verse 13: "If I wait, the grave is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness." Righteous or unrighteous, all dead go to the same place. "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." Psalm 115:17. So even

if you die in the hope of being saved, you still do not go to heaven when you die. You would agree with me that King David is counted among the righteous. Yet the apostle Peter clearly states, "For David is not ascended into the heavens." Acts 2:34. And if he is not in hell, then he must be in a grave somewhere in or around Jerusalem.

The Bible compares death to sleep. While going to the house of Lazarus, Jesus said to His disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." The disciples did not understand that He was alluding to his death, so Jesus plainly told them, "Lazarus is dead." John 11:11, 14. When a person is dead, he/she is not aware of anything that is going on. He does not know anything (Ecclesiastes 9:5); he cannot love or hate anyone (verse 6); he does not know anything about his own family (Job 14:21); he does not even remember God (Psalm 6:5).

Since there is nothing that can be done by a person after his/her death, all work must be done now. If you think that you may change afterwards, forget it. You must decide for or against the God of heaven now. You must be in peace with your Creator before you die or perish for eternity. There is no more change of character after death.

As we have discussed above, all of us will resurrect one day for eternal life or eternal death. "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." Acts 24:15. "All that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29. "For the Lord himself shall

descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and

The Bible compares death to sleep

with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. So if the righteous are raised first, when are the unrighteous raised? In the book of Revelation chapter 20, verses 4 and 5, we read that the righteous will reign with Christ for a thousand years but the rest of the dead were not resurrected until the thousand years were finished. After they are resurrected, the Bible tells us that they will be devoured by a fire that comes from God (verse 9). In this group we can find Satan and his angels and all of those who did not give their life to God. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers (sexually immoral), and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8. After all of these are destroyed, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15:26. Praise the Lord for that.

God's children will have no more fear of the old enemy, Death. "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

Photo News from



**Some of those attending the Youth Congress in Romania—
“A day out in nature”**



**Brn. Jaksic and Ludwig with some of the missionary school students in
Romania—1998**

Romania & Yugoslavia



Believers from 8 countries singing in Romania



Young musicians in Yugoslavia—1998

Our Trip to the "Holy Land USA"



From Friday, September 11, until Sunday, September 13, 1998, most of the members of the Roanoke Church in beautiful Roanoke, Virginia, had a wonderful experience. Let me tell you a little about what the "Holy Land USA" is. It is located about 30-45 minutes away from the church here in Roanoke. A man, after his son died, made a replica of the Holy Land—where Jesus lived, traveled, died and rose again. This man erected little sites to represent Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee and other places of interest. Some of our church members had visited there a month or so before, so someone suggested a camp outing there, since accommodations for sleeping in the "Ark" (a replica of Noah's ark with bunks and bathrooms, as well as a kitchen) are available. Here is a little journal of our trip:

Friday, September 11. We arrived about 7:30 p.m. for evening vespers. We had our meeting in a chapel made for visitors. Brother Silva presented the message for that evening. We reflected upon the judgment, death and resurrection of Jesus. After a nice meeting, we all went back to the ark and got a good night of rest.

Saturday, September 12. We began our day by having worship and breakfast. After breakfast, many more people arrived for the start of Sabbath School. The Sabbath worship service was presented by Brother Henry Brostovski, also of Roanoke. His message was about reflecting on the cross of Calvary. After the service, we enjoyed a good fellowship lunch, and talked a while, and then people began to be eager to walk around the area and see the biblical sights.

We got ready (making sure we got some water—this was supposed to be a two to three-hour walk), and went on our way!

Our first stop was at a replica of the stable where Jesus was born. There was a pony as well as sheep and donkeys around the stable. While we were there, a tour wagon came up, and the tour guide told us to step aside so he could call the sheep. He whistled and they all came running to him! He then fed them. What does this remind you of? Read John 10:27. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Like that man called the sheep, so our Shepherd calls us! Will you run to Him when He calls you?

After the stable, we saw replicas of other interesting sights such as Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Peter's House. Then after a while we reached Jerusalem. This was to be the highlight of the trip because of the three crosses—representing Jesus' death. We had a small song service in a tiny chapel there and then stopped by the crosses and the tomb where they laid Jesus. This made us reflect back on what we had been learning about Jesus's death.

Our next stops included Egypt and Emmaus. In a little while, we were back at the ark. After we relaxed a bit, Brother Sas had a study with us all about Jesus' resurrection. It was interesting how he told us about some people who believe that the Sabbath starts at dawn instead of being counted from evening to evening. It was strange how they took a verse from the Bible about Jesus' resurrection and twisted it all around. When the study was finished, we closed the Sabbath. And, as it usually happens, we had a light supper.

Sunday, September 13. Our day started out with worship and breakfast. Then we all hustled and bustled around, trying to get ready. By 10:00 a.m. we were all packed up to go. But before we left, we needed a picture! So we had several pictures taken and then we were off. But that's not the end! Some of us took the time out to hike up an almost 4,000 feet high mountain—one of the Peaks of Otter, known as Sharp Top. The trail was treacherous and steep but we made it in about 45 minutes or so. (The estimated time to reach the top was one and a half hours.) How glad we are that a vegetarian diet makes us all strong. The view is breathtaking, and we all enjoyed the fresh air and rest up there. It is amazing how majestic God made the mountains and hills, isn't it? And when you look from the top of a summit, you feel really small, and you realize how great our Creator is! But no matter how big God is, He still loves us. He even loves the little sparrows, for He says "one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. . . . Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10:29, 31. He loves us a whole lot more than even the sparrows!

When we were just about rested, we walked down the mountain. At the bottom, we determined what to do the rest of the day. We were invited for a nice meal and fellowship by Linda Kiker, one of the sisters from our church.

And that is the account of our short but very wonderful weekend at the "Holy Land USA." I'm sure that all of us who participated received a blessing, because I know I did! 🌿



Who Is Jesus?

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:13-16.

How can we be sure that Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of man?

Jesus Himself used this method of proof: "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:27.

The apostle Paul used the same method: "For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ." Acts 18:28.

FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

Prophecies written around 1,000 years before Christ's birth:

Psalm 41:9 — to be betrayed by a friend — John 13:18, 19, 26
 Psalm 35:11 — to be accused by false witnesses — Matthew 26:59, 60
 Psalm 22:18 — dividing His garments — John 19:23, 24
 Psalm 22:16 — nails in hands and feet — Luke 24:40
 Psalm 109:25 — people to shake their heads — Matthew 27:39
 Psalm 38:11 — friends to stand afar off — Luke 23:49
 Psalm 69:21 — kind of drink to be offered — John 19:28-30
 Psalm 34:20 — bones not to be broken — John 19:32-36
 Psalm 31:5 — to commit Himself to God — Luke 23:46
 Psalm 16:10 — resurrection foretold — Matthew 27:53; 28:5, 6

Prophecies written around 700 years before His birth:

Micah 5:2 — place of birth — Matthew 2:1
 Isaiah 7:14 — to be born of a virgin — Matthew 1:18-20
 Isaiah 50:6 — smitten and spat upon — Matthew 26:67
 Isaiah 53:7 — silent before His accusers — Matthew 27:12-14
 Isaiah 53:9 — numbered with sinners — Matthew 27:44
 Isaiah 53:12 — crucified with thieves — Mark 15:27
 Isaiah 53:12 — buried with rich — Matthew 27:57

Prophecies written around 500 years before His birth:

Daniel 9:25 — date of His Messiahship — Matthew 3:13-17
 Zechariah 11:12 — monetary payment for betrayal — Matthew 26:15
 Zechariah 11:13 — disposing of the money — Matthew 27:3-8
 Zechariah 13:7 — disciples forsaking Him — Matthew 26:56
 Zechariah 12:10 — pierced His side — John 19:34, 37

These are only a few of the hundreds of Old Testament prophecies concerning the first coming of Christ, verifying the Bible as God's Word and Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God.

"These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:31.



Why Methuselah May Have Been The Oldest Man On Earth

by Helen — Ontario, Canada

When Adam was 789 years old, his great, great, great, great grandson, Enoch, was blessed with his first son.

Enoch at this time was 65 years old, a man who walked with God, and talked with God, as we would talk to a friend.

Enoch's precious little boy was named Methuselah. It is revealed in the Bible, in the fifth chapter of Genesis, that this little boy grew up and lived to the age of 969 years, making him the oldest man that lived on this earth, of which we have record.

All of Methuselah's forefathers, with the exception of his father, Enoch, lived to an average age of 919 years, or 50 years less than Methuselah. He lived on this earth 7 years longer than any previous man.

According to the margin in my Bible, next to the verse in Genesis 5:21, the Hebrew meaning of the name "Methuselah" is "at his death the sending forth of waters." Matthew

Henry's *Commentary On The Holy Bible*, vol. I, has noted that the name in its entirety "signifies, 'he dies, there is a dart', or, 'a sending forth.'"

With his close fellowship with God, Enoch was given insight into the things to come, and prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed." Jude, 14, 15. He was one of the first prophets among mankind. Could it be that the significance of his son's name was prophetic? What happened at Methuselah's death?

Methuselah's grandson was Noah, who was born when Methuselah was 369 years old. In Methuselah's 969th year, or, Noah's 600th year, on the 2nd month of the year, the 17th day, "were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights." Genesis 7:11, 12. The simple conclusion is that the Flood occurred in the year of Methuselah's death, or, described in another way, "at his death, the sending forth of waters."

Was Methuselah the oldest man recorded to have lived on this earth because the Lord was extending His mercy to the souls in the world, not being willing that any should perish?

The Lord is "longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression." Numbers 14:18. He is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Psalm 103:8. His love for man is as strong and tender as it was before the Flood. "He is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.

He entreats us, "Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." Ezekiel 18:30-32.



Today the winds of strife are being held back—giving men opportunity to be saved, as in Noah's day the rains and floods were withheld. May we understand this precious opportunity. May the sense of God's eternal, deep love for each soul, for you, dear reader, and for me, make us draw close to Him, and make Him our best Friend, as He was Enoch's. Then our lives will span not 69 years, or even 969 years, but eternity, as in the words of the beautiful song,

*"My God and I will go for aye together.
We'll walk and talk as good friends should and do;
This earth will pass and with it common trifles,
But God and I will go unendingly."*



Signs of Christ's Return

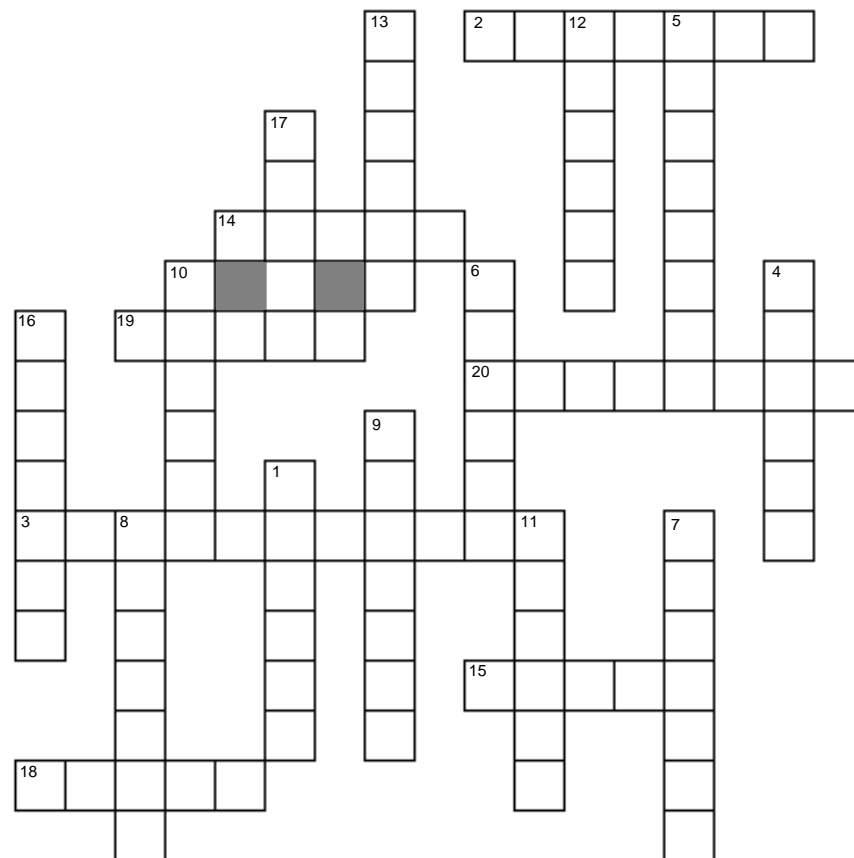
This puzzle is based on Matthew 24 (King James Version), revealing to us many signs of the times. The clues are numbered in the order in which they appear in the chapter.

Down:

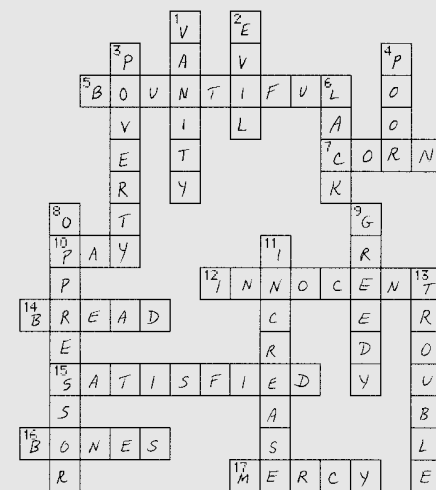
1. As Christ sat upon the mount of _____, the disciples asked Him about the signs of His second coming.
4. Many shall _____ one another, and shall hate one another.
5. Because _____ shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.
6. But he that shall _____ unto the end shall be saved.
7. When it is time to flee, he that is in the field should not return back to take his _____.
8. We should pray that our flight be not in the winter, neither on the _____.
9. False Christs and false prophets shall arise, showing great signs and _____.
10. If people say Christ is in the _____, believe it not.
11. If they say He is in the _____ chambers, believe it not.
12. As the lightning comes out of the east, and shines even unto the west; so shall also the _____ of the Son of man be.
13. After the tribulation (experienced during the dark ages), the sun was darkened, the moon did not give her light, and the powers of heaven were _____.
16. Christ shall send His angels with a great sound of a _____.
17. In the days of Noe (Noah), they were eating and drinking, and marrying and giving in marriage and knew not until the _____ came.
19. We must be _____, for in such an hour as we think not, the Son of man will come.

Across:

2. Christ warns, Take heed that no man _____ you.
3. There shall be _____ in divers places.
14. All on the earth shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with _____.
15. He will come with _____ glory.
18. We must _____, for we know not what hour our Lord will come.
20. The evil servant says in his heart, My lord _____ His coming.



Answers to last issue's puzzle entitled, "Generosity vs. Greed."




Turning Toward Tidiness

by W. S. Sadler (adapted)

God is a God of order, not the author of confusion; and if we would develop characters after the divine likeness, we shall carefully avoid habits and practices that will lead to untidiness, confusion, and disorder. The unerring accuracy with which the astronomer tells the time of the stars' appearance, the uniformity with which the earth keeps up its march around the sun, as well as the great law of cause and effect, sowing and reaping, whose operations may be daily observed in both the physical and the spiritual world, teach us that regularity, punctuality, faithfulness, and reliability are attributes of the divine character. The infinite care with which God arranges all things in nature, the carefulness with which each little particle of starch in a kernel of wheat is wrapped in a separate envelope, and each little globule of fat in milk is surrounded with its covering of casein—all these

things are evidences of the painstaking care with which the Creator attends to even the smallest details of His great work.

That boy or girl, young man or young woman, who comes into the house, and throws off his/her coat and shoes anywhere; whose room is ever in a state of disorder and confusion; who, instead of having a place for everything, has no place for anything, may be sure that the character he/she is building will be but reflections of these habits of confusion and disorder. Such persons will think in a disconnected manner. Their conversation will be lacking in soundness and sobriety. Their Christian experience is likely to be fitful and unsatisfactory—one day extremely hopeful and buoyant, the next disheartened and discouraged. Carefulness all along the line, even in the smallest matters in our experience, is required, to insure having it in more important events. 

Money and Morals

It seems a strange combination! Is there any connection between money and morals? If there is, it is the connection that exists between the neck of the criminal and the ax of the executioner—a connection that is, as a rule, hopelessly and absolutely fatal. The reckless greed of gain has driven more men away from Jesus Christ than any other passion. "Very sorrowful, . . . for he was very rich." That is a miniature portrait of a young man who once came to Christ, and it tells the story of many a prosperous but dissatisfied man today. Have you ever known any man who received the slightest benefit of a high and noble kind from money? Has it ever made a man good? Has it ever increased his generosity, broadened his sympathies, or aroused in him a longing for righteousness?—Never! It adds to your creature comforts, ministers to your merely sensuous enjoyment. If you possess brains, it enables you to encourage art and science; and if you are a practical Christian, it places in your hand the wherewithal to succor the suffering and relieve the distressed. But in itself money has never made any man happy or healthy or holy. On the contrary, it has dimmed the love, wrecked the peace, and spoiled the characters of countless thousands.

Don't you think it is a very impressive and significant fact that the most heartless and contemptible act of treachery ever committed—an act which has excited the horror and disgust of all ages—should have been due to the selfish desire of a miserable and covetous man to secure thirty pieces of silver? Judas Iscariot was not a degraded profligate—he was a disciple, with a character, no doubt, of the utmost decency and respectability. He may have been alluded to, for all we know, as a shrewd, practical, hardheaded man of business. But it was that little bag of money which led to his sin, his suicide, and his destruction. His love of gain was greater than his love for his Lord.

And this is just where the danger exists. Young men will exclaim, "Surely it is not wrong to wish to make money!" Certainly not, if you are careful that when you have *made* the money it does not *mar* you. Riches are like a rose in a man's hand; if he holds it gently, it will preserve its beauty of shape and fragrance of smell; but if he holds it tightly, he will crush and destroy it. Hold the riches lightly—let them flow out freely in wise benevolence, use them liberally for the highest ends, and you will have done well. But hug your wealth, set your heart on it, let the miserly and covetous spirit paralyze your very soul, and life will become a hideous nightmare, a foul sepulcher, a long spell of hopeless servitude. —Atkins.



Victories of Birds

by E. G. White

you to exercise earnest faith in Him, and learn to trust Him in the shadow as well as in the sunshine.

Living Faith

The follower of Christ must have faith abiding in the heart; for without this it is impossible to please God. Faith is the hand that takes hold of infinite help; it is the medium by which the renewed heart is made to beat in unison with the heart of Christ.

In her endeavors to reach her home, the eagle is often beaten down by the tempest to the narrow defiles of the mountains. The clouds, in black, angry masses sweep between her and the sunny heights where she secures her nest. For a while she seems bewildered, and dashes this way and that, beating her strong wings as if to sweep back the dense clouds. She awakens the doves of the mountains with her wild cry in her vain endeavors to find a way out of her prison. At last she dashes upward into the blackness, and gives a shrill scream of triumph as she emerges, a moment later, in the calm sunshine above. The darkness and tempest are all below her, and the light of heaven is shining

about her. She reaches her loved home in the lofty crag, and is satisfied. It was through darkness that she reached the light. It cost her an effort to do this, but she is rewarded in gaining the object which she sought.

This is the only course we can pursue as followers of Christ. We must exercise that living faith, which will penetrate the clouds that, like a thick wall, separate us from heaven's light. We have heights of faith to reach, where all is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

A Lifelong Conflict

Have you ever watched a hawk in pursuit of a timid dove? Instinct has taught the dove that in order for the hawk to seize his prey, he must gain a loftier flight than his victim. So she rises higher and still higher in the blue dome of heaven, ever pursued by the hawk, which is seeking to obtain the advantage. But in vain. The dove is safe as long as she allows nothing to stop her in her flight, or draw her earthward; but let her once falter, and take a lower flight, and her watchful enemy will swoop down upon his victim. Again and again have we watched this scene with almost breathless interest, all our sympathies with the little dove. How sad we should have felt to see it fall a victim to the cruel hawk!

We have before us a warfare—a lifelong conflict with Satan and his seductive temptations. The enemy will use every argument, every deception, to entangle the soul; and in order to win the crown of life, we

must put forth earnest, persevering effort. We must not lay off the armor or leave the battlefield until we have gained the victory, and can triumph in our Redeemer. As long as we con-

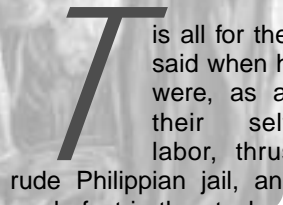
tinue to keep our eyes fixed upon the Author and Finisher of our faith, we shall be safe. But our affections must be placed upon things above, not on things of the earth. By faith we must rise higher and still higher in the attainment of the graces of Christ. By daily contemplating His matchless charms, we must grow more and more into His glorious image. While we thus live in communion with Heaven, Satan will lay his nets for us in vain.—*Messages to Young People*, pp. 102–104.

Many of the youth have not a fixed principle to serve God. They sink under every cloud, and have no power of endurance. They do not grow in grace. They appear to keep the commandments of God, but they are not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. Their carnal hearts must be changed. They must see beauty in holiness: then they will pant after it as the hart panteth after the water-brooks; then they will love God and His law; then the yoke of Christ will be easy, and His burden light.

If your steps are ordered by the Lord, dear youth, you must not expect that your path will always be one of outward peace and prosperity. The path that leads to eternal day is not the easiest to travel, and at times it will seem dark and thorny. But you have the assurance that God's everlasting arms encircle you, to protect you from evil. He wants

'Tis All for the BEST

W. C. Wales



Tis all for the best," Paul said when he and Silas were, as a reward of their self-sacrificing labor, thrust into the rude Philippian jail, and their feet made fast in the stocks. Their backs were bleeding from the lash, their bodies were weary, their limbs were cramped and aching. Could this too, be all for the best? "We glory in tribulations," were the words of the undaunted hero. God knew whom He could trust with His message in that uninviting dungeon. The sun went down on a family in the darkness of heathenism; it rose the next morning on a family of regenerated, baptized Christians.

Quick work. What did it cost?

"'Tis all for the best," Joseph said to his brethren, who had cruelly sold him into Egyptian bondage. "God did send me before you to preserve life." Ten men repentant and forgiven, nations saved from famine. Glorious results, but think of the sacrifice to Joseph.

"'Tis all for the best," John the Baptist said from behind the bars of his Roman cell, and then, with unclouded faith and fearless heart, he submitted his neck to the executioner's axe. Fifty millions of martyrs were afterward strengthened and sustained by John's fortitude.

"'Tis all for the best," Moses said when they were thirsting and starving in a desolate wilderness; it is "to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments or no."

"'Tis all for the best," James says, when temptations assail you. "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations."

"'Tis all for the best," Jesus said, when Lazarus was taken sick. "This sickness is . . . for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."

"'Tis all for the best," Tom Scott the miner was always preaching to his skeptical comrades in the coal pit. One day when they had come up to the mouth of the shaft to eat their dinner, a hungry dog grabbed up Scott's lunch basket and ran away with it. Scott was derisively asked if this was "all for the best." Without waiting to notice their jeers, he took hard after the dog to recover his midday meal. But the chase was a long one, and before it was over, the men had returned to their work. As he was about to descend the shaft, a loud report told him that there had been a terrible explosion. All his unbelieving comrades were found dead.

"'Tis all for the best," Mrs. Simpson said, as an angry landlord drove her and her invalid husband from the little cottage he owned because of Mrs. Simpson's refusal to assist him in straightening some

accounts on the Sabbath. They begged him to allow them to remain one more night, promising to vacate the next day. But he was unfeeling, angry, and determined. So they hastily gathered their few things, and removed to a near-by hut. "'Tis all for the best," Mrs. Simpson repeated; but her husband was less cheerful. That very night the vacated cottage was struck by lightning, and burned to the ground.

"'Tis all for the best," said a poor widow, who, having once lived in affluence, was finally compelled to accept a room in an almshouse.

"Well," said a friend, who had known her in better days, and who seemed shocked to see her living in an almshouse, "surely you can not say all is for the best now. I am surprised to see *you* here—you who used to be so charitable yourself, that you never suffered any distress in the neighborhood that you could prevent. Why, you were born and bred a lady."

"Ah, dear friend," the widow said, "I was born and bred a sinner, undeserving of the mercies I have received. Here my cares are at an end, but not my duties. I have here a great deal of leisure; a good part of this I devote to the wants of those who are more distressed than myself. I work a little for the old, and I instruct the young. My eyes are good; this enables me to read the Bible and other good books to those who have

lost their eyesight, or who were never taught to read. I have tolerable health; so that I am able occasionally to sit up with the sick and pray with them. In my younger days I often sat up late for my pleasure; shall I not willingly now and then sit up by a dying bed? My Saviour walked, and watched, and suffered for me in the garden, and shall I not gladly do what I can for His suffering members? It is only by keeping His sufferings in view that we can willingly sacrifice for others or practice self-denial ourselves. Yes, bless God, I know all things work together for good to those that love Him."

O yes, "'Tis all for the best." ♣



What My Saviour Did For Me

*When life with all of its troubles and cares,
Seems to be almost more than I can bear,
I think about what my dear Saviour did for me;
Dying alone upon the cross of Calvary.*

*I can't begin to imagine the pain and agony
He suffered as they nailed Him to that tree
And placed that crown of thorns upon His dear head,
It should have been me, but He died in my stead.*

*Yes, my Saviour bore all man's sin,
A truer friend there has never been.
All this He did that I might live,
What more could anyone ever give?*

*He died that we need not forever part.
He suffered and died from a broken heart.
Another day of life there would not be,
If my dear Saviour had not died for me.*

*All the heartaches and trials that come my way,
Are to teach me as I journey on each day.
My Saviour knows what needs to be,
To develop His perfect character in me.*

*When I'm tempted to murmur and complain,
I think of Heaven where there'll be no pain.
Someday I'll trade all the burdens I bear,
For a crown of glory and a mansion there!*

*He gives me the strength I need each day to live,
His patience and endurance He will freely give.
So, when I am feeling weary from life's well-doing,
God reminds me, I'm His precious stone He is hewing!*

—Martha Franks, Virginia, USA

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