

Loaves & Fishes

Volume 6 • Issue 1 • 2008

Pilgrim's Progress

The Root of Bitterness

Prisoner Writings

*The power of God alone can multiply
these loaves and fishes in your hands
to more than you can contain.*

Awkward Silence?

Peter J. Halas
Mid-State Correctional Facility
Wrightstown, NJ

The awkward silence?
There is no such thing,
For it's within this quiet
The Lord speaks to me.
He massages my heart,
When all is still.
Of His love and grace
I can't get my fill.

Why are we scared
Of silence and peace?
The buzz of the world
Is a much scarier beast.
For it's in the noise
That we lose our way.
With our eyes off of God
We are such easy prey.

Don't fall for the tricks
That Satan has in store.
Get on your knees in prayer
And close the door.
Unlock your heart
And still your mind.
The Lord wants to speak;
Just give Him the time.



Loaves & Fishes

Volume 6 • Issue 1 • 2008

Loaves & Fishes is published by Lighthouse Publishing as the Lord provides. Our goal is to point those in prison to Jesus Christ and help them experience the life, hope, and freedom of a daily walk with Him.

Subscriptions are free. To subscribe, return the response form to us in the back of this booklet or contact us using the information below.



14377 Old St. Hwy. 28
Pikeville, TN 37367
423-447-3567

info@lighthousepublishing.org
www.lighthousepublishing.org

Editorial Staff:

Lavern Gingerich
J. Anthony Hertzler

Advisers:

Darold Gingerich • Philip Horst
Dan Mast • Tommy Clayton

Photography:

Jupiterimages.com
iStockphoto • Jared Cassidy

We need the prayers of our readers! If your life has been touched by *Loaves & Fishes*, please pray for the grace and resources we need to continue publishing this magazine.

You may reproduce any of the material in this magazine, unless we used it by permission or a copyright is indicated. Please include the following:

“Reprinted from *Loaves & Fishes* –
www.lighthousepublishing.org.”

In this issue...

Do You Possess Your Riches in Christ?.....	2
Bible Reading – Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–20.....	6
The Reward of Endurance.....	7
The Young Martyr.....	8
Putting off Anger	
The Root of Bitterness.....	10
The Puzzle Corner.....	20

Free on the Inside (22–36)

Testimony of David Robert Ewart.....	22
Lighthouse (Poem).....	25
Jesus to the Rescue (Poem).....	26
When God Speaks.....	27
The God of the Bible.....	29
The Imprisoned Christian’s Prayer.....	31
A Mansion Prepared for Me (Poem).....	32
Take a Moment (Poem).....	33
Morning Prayer (Poem).....	34
Crucified Love (Poem).....	35
Confined Freedom (Poem).....	36

Science in Creation

How Long Is a Day?.....	37
Word Search Puzzle	
Cain and Abel.....	41

The Spiritual War

A Climate of Rest.....	42
The Pursuit of Godly Seed	
More Pictures of Bible Promise.....	47
I Ask Myself (Poem).....	57
Pilgrim’s Progress (Part 14).....	58

Loaves & Fishes Response Form.....71

Inside Front Cover: Awkward Silence? (Poem)

Inside Back Cover: Evening Prayer (Poem)

From someone who cares...

Do You Possess Your Riches in Christ?

Lavern Gingerich



The Bible says, *“The day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head”* (Obadiah 15).

What a promise that is guaranteed to come to pass! Those who turn against God will have a reward: as they have done, it will be done to them. They will drink of God’s wrath and be destroyed until there is nothing left.

But the prophet continues with words of hope for God’s people. *“Upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions”* (v. 17). The people of God will be delivered from their enemies and possess their possessions!

The word *possess* used here means “to occupy by driving out previous tenants and possessing it in their place.” Obadiah was prophesying that Jacob would

go out to *their* possessions and drive out those people who are living there and possess it in their place!

The house of Jacob is a type of God’s people today, those who have been redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. God had promised to give Abraham (Jacob’s grandfather) all the land of Canaan and descendants as the stars of the sky and as the sand on the beach. By faith these possessions belonged to the people of God. But in reading Obadiah 17, it seems that the house of Jacob was not yet enjoying all the things God wanted to give them.

• • • • •

God has promised rich blessings to His children today. If you are a child of God, you have inherited great wealth in Jesus Christ. These riches are all freely available to you through Jesus Christ. Victory over sin, peace of mind, freedom from

depression, and joy in every situation are a few of the possessions you have access to in Christ. Brother or sister, these are your possessions! Do you possess them today?

Are you bound to smoking, alcohol, or drugs? Are you haunted with depression and fear? Is there sin in your life that you are not overcoming? Jesus Christ paid the price for you to be free from these things.

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 2:14, *"Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."* When we walk with the Lord, He causes us to triumph always in all things. He makes us more than conquerors *through Jesus Christ* (see Romans 8:37).

David in the Old Testament wrote of God as his Shepherd in Psalm 23. *"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over"* (v. 5). Here is the testimony of God's abundant grace and blessing in David's life.

Is this the experience of your life? If you are not experiencing abundant blessings in hard times and easy times, you are not possessing all your possessions in Christ. God made a way for your cup to overflow even when in prison. You may think this is impossible, but your mistakes do not have to steal your peace and joy. Even mistreatments and injustice toward you cannot keep your cup from overflowing unless you allow them to.



**Victory over sin,
peace of mind,
freedom from
depression, and joy
in every situation
are yours in Christ.**



God is saddened when you ignore His provisions and go on living in despair and frustration.

Every trial in your life is designed by God to be a blessing. This is where faith gets tested severely at times, but if you count these tests “all joy,” you will see your cup overflowing with blessings in the middle of deep trials, such as broken relationships and misunderstandings in court.

• • • • •

So you may ask, “How can I get victory over sin?” or “You told me I don’t need to feel depressed because of the mess I am in, but how can I have peace of mind when I am locked up and my family needs me at home?”

Remember Satan is your enemy, and He wants to steal your possessions. Jesus called him a thief because his goal is always to steal, kill, and destroy, but God longs for you to experience the riches of your inheritance in Christ.

In Deuteronomy 9, God commanded the children of Jacob to fight their enemies and drive them out of the land *quickly*. God promised to go with them and destroy their enemies as a consuming fire. To possess their possessions, Jacob had to get up and fight with God!

Are you content to let the enemy have a small corner of your inheritance? God made all the provisions necessary for His children to possess their possessions. He is sad when wicked enemies possess His children’s inheritance.

Here are some steps you can take to overcome sin and find purpose in your life even while you are in prison:

1. Agree With God – Did you ever stop to think of how God looks at defeat in your life? God has many spiritual riches for you to possess, and He is saddened

when you ignore His provisions and go on living in despair and frustration, thus allowing the enemy to occupy a portion of God's inheritance.

Look at your sin from God's perspective and recognize that God longs to deliver you. See the big picture—God is cheated and His glory is dimmed when the enemy has a foothold in your life.

2. Repent—When you recognize sin in your life, repent of that sin. In other words, stop doing it, turn around, and go the opposite way.

3. Live by Faith—A strong faith in Jesus Christ and in the promises of God is vital to your walk with God. It will take effort on your part to live above sin, but never trust in your own strength to overcome. Depend on the power of God's Holy Spirit to help you each day.

By exercising a vibrant faith in God, you can find the victory that overcomes Satan and his kingdom.

4. Find Godly Influences—Be very careful whom you associate with. Find other Christians who love each other and are serious about living for the Lord. Though there is much wickedness and compromise around you, and it may seem like you

are alone, there are other brothers and sisters who are seeking the Lord in prison.

If you are struggling with a certain sin in your life, it is important to take extra measures to separate yourself from things that drag you into that sin.

Satan is using ungodly influences to turn thousands of sincere Christians from the faith. Ask the Lord to give you discernment in this area and to help you be faithful.

.

We will need to wait until we get to heaven to fully experience our inheritance. God sent us the Holy Spirit as a partial payment of our inheritance (Ephesians 1:14) with the promise of more to come. If everything we have now is only a small down payment, how large the final payment in heaven must be!

We hope that this issue of *Loaves & Fishes* will encourage you to dig into the treasures of the Scriptures and pursue all that God has for you in Christ.

Perhaps you still have questions on how to possess your possessions in Christ. Seek the Lord with a fervent heart and you will find Him.

*In Christ's love,
Lavern*



Bible Reading

Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–20

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath **blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:** ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ** to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved....

¹¹In whom also **we have obtained an inheritance**, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ¹²That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with

that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴Which is **the earnest [down payment] of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession**, unto the praise of his glory.

¹⁵Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, ¹⁶Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the **riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints**, ¹⁹And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.





The Reward of Endurance

“The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

Imagine that I dump 10,000 plastic eggs in your back yard and convince you that inside one of those hollow eggs is a check for a million dollars with your name on it. Would you get discouraged if you opened the first 100 eggs without finding the check? How about the first 1,000 eggs? Of course not! You’d keep opening those eggs, just waiting for the moment when you’d find the check.

Paul knew the meaning of the word *suffering*. He had been beaten, stoned, imprisoned, shipwrecked, starved, and rejected. And yet Paul said that his sufferings were nothing compared to the glory that would come. In other words, Paul had opened a lot of empty eggs, but he never gave up or got discouraged. He believed that something great

was in his future—God’s glory revealed in him.

Perhaps it feels to you as if your life has been nothing but empty eggs. You’ve already opened 9,900 of them, and you’re not sure you’ve got the will to go on. Don’t give up. I don’t want to trivialize the challenges you are facing, but I do want to help you put them into perspective. They are only temporary, and God has something much greater in store for you. Compared to the glory that will be revealed to us one day, our suffering doesn’t merit discouragement.

Hang on. Don’t give up. Keep going. Let God replace your trials and suffering with incomparable glory!



The Young Martyr

One summer afternoon in August of 1853, a little Norwegian boy, named Kund Iverson, who lived in the city of Chicago, was leisurely walking to the pasture for his cow. He came to a stream of water, where was a gang of idle, ill-looking boys. When they saw Kund, they came up to him and said they wanted him to go into Mr. Elston's garden and steal some apples.

"No," said Kund firmly, "I cannot steal."

"Well, but you've got to!" they cried.

They threatened to duck him into the water, for these wicked big boys had often frightened little boys into robbing gardens for them. Little boys, they thought, were less likely to get found out.

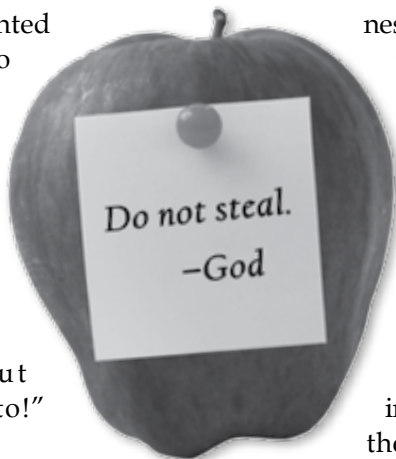
The threat did not frighten Kund, so, to make their words good, they seized him and dragged him into the river. In spite of his cries and struggles,

they plunged him in. But the heroic boy never flinched even with the water gurgling in his throat, for he had made God's law his law, and he knew that God had said, "Thou shalt not steal." No cursing, threats, or cruelty of the big boys would make him give up.

Provoked by his firmness, they determined to see if they could not conquer. They ducked him again, but yet the answer was, "No." Then they kept him under water. Was there no one near to hear his distressing cries, and rescue the poor child from their cruel grip?

Gradually the struggles of the drowning child diminished until the boy was drowned. He could die, but he would not steal.

A German boy, who had stood nearby, shocked by what he saw, ran home to tell the news. The agonized parents hastened to the spot, and all night they searched for the



lifeless body of their lost darling until it was found the next morning. Who shall describe their feelings as they clasped the little form to their bosoms?

Early piety had blossomed in his little life. He loved his Bible and his Savior. His seat was never vacant at Sunday School, and so intelligent, conscientious, and steadfast had he been, that he was expected to soon be received into the church of his parents.

Perhaps the little boy often thought how he would like to be a preacher or a missionary once he grows up and do something for his Lord. He did not know what post he might be called to occupy even as a little child, and as he left home that afternoon and looked into his mother's face for the last time, he thought he was only going after his cow.

No one knew that instead of going to the pasture, he was going to preach one of the most powerful sermons of Bible principles the country has ever heard. They did not know that he was going to give an example of steadfast purpose and unflinching integrity, such as should thrill the heart of this nation with wonder and admiration.



Kund Iverson was only a thirteen-year-old Norwegian boy, but his name was soon reckoned with martyrs and heroes. As the story of his moral heroism winged its way from state to state and city to city and village to village, many mothers cried with full hearts, "May his spirit rest upon my boy!" And strong men wept over it and exclaimed, "God be praised for the lad!" And rich men put their hands in their pockets, and said, "Let us build him a monument. Let his name be perpetuated, for his memory is blessed."

May there be a generation of Kund Iverson's, strong in their integrity, true to their Bibles, and ready to die rather than do wrong.

— the Cynosure

Taken from Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer.

Putting off Anger

John Coblenz



The Root of Bitterness

Around town, Bill was as jolly as sunshine. His face had so many smile crinkles that nobody thought about whether or not he was good-looking. He was just Bill, and people liked him. But most of Bill's children needed counseling to work through the emotional wounds received as Bill's children.

Bill was supersensitive. When he felt hurt or threatened, he lashed out verbally. Judgmental conclusions fell like sledge hammer blows. Events from the past were dredged up and flung like rotten tomatoes in people's faces. Bill was not a good communicator, but when he became upset, the home atmosphere was thick with dire predictions and emotionally charged accusations.

The roots of Bill's anger went back to his own childhood.

Other boys often made fun of him and took advantage of his small size. His parents were not close to him, and Bill learned to keep his hurts to himself. He covered them over with an exterior cheerfulness, but inwardly he felt inferior and often dressed his wounds with self-pity.

The Bible says, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"* (Hebrews 12:14, 15).

In these verses, bitterness is referred to as a root. It is an apt description because bitterness works underground, as it were. Bitterness typically has been growing for some time before anyone sees it "springing up."

But notice two effects of bitterness once it sprouts: First, it brings trouble to the bitter person. There are few human problems with more severe personal consequences. Bitterness eats at the soul, sours the spirit, and poisons the body. The second consequence of bitterness is that it defiles others. Bitterness wrecks friendships, divides families, and tears apart churches. In its wake are many hurting people. Some are bitter in their turn. Some are confused. Some, by the grace of God, may rise above their hurt. But the interpersonal consequences of bitterness are many and evil.

Bitterness begins with a bitter experience.

In the Bible numerous kinds of experiences are referred to as “bitter.” The Hebrew word

conveys the literal meaning of “sharp tasting, or extremely sour.” A bitter experience, then, is one that causes a natural reaction of distaste. If it were possible to spit out the experience, that is what we would do.

Notice the uses of the word *bitter* in the following verses:

1. *“And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father”* (Genesis 27:34). Esau was bitter because he felt cheated. And perhaps adding to this was the parental favoritism at work behind the scenes.

2. *“And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was*



Bitterness eats at the soul, sours the spirit, and poisons the body.

with rigour” (Exodus 1:13, 14). The Israelites tasted the bitter experience of oppression – powerful people taking advantage of them and keeping them in economic and material straits.

3. *“But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.... And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore”* (1 Samuel 1:5, 6, 10). Hannah faced the bitterness of being a barren woman, but her bitterness was heightened by feminine competition with her rival wife. The taunting of Peninah rubbed salt into an already festering sore.

4. *“Then Abner called to Joab, and said, Shall the sword devour for ever? knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end?”* (2 Samuel 2:26). A battle was raging between fellow Israelite armies. Abner, at whose urging the battle had begun, now had the foresight to see the bitter consequences if it continued. “Infighting” (quarreling within one’s own group) whether in a country, a community, a congregation, or a family, is a bitter experience. There are far too many Abners who form battle

lines, setting brother against brother, and far too few Abners who blow the trumpet and say, “Enough of this!”

5. *“My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.... Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul”* (Job 7:5, 11). Physical suffering, weakness, and chronic pain wear on emotional nerves as acutely as on physical nerves. Job took his terrible losses without a murmur against God, but unrelenting pain brought from him bitter complaint. Although Job never denied God, he certainly lost sight of Him behind the dark cloud of physical suffering.

6. *“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him”* (Proverbs 17:25). Only those Christian parents who have had a wayward child can know the anguish that gnaws at the heart, driving sleep from the eyes and joy from the spirit. Seeing a son or daughter walk away from all he has been taught is a bitter pill that refuses to go down.

7. *“And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands”* (Ecclesiastes 7:26). Solomon knew the bitterness of idol-worshipping women who



The reality is harsh but true: **nobody can go through life without pain.**

pulled at him to do their will. Having a manipulating, controlling companion, whether wife or husband, is a source of bitterness.

8. *“Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel [Rachel] weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not”* (Jeremiah 31:15). Death of a little one, death of a parent, death of a companion—death of anyone close to us—is a bitter experience. The finality of no more earthly relationship, the manner of dying, and sometimes the nature of the relationship mingle in this bitter cup of death and grief.

To the above bitter experiences, we might add the bitterness of rejection, the bitterness of abuse, the bitterness of betrayal, the bitterness of terminal illness, and the list could go on of bitter experiences life brings.

As we see in the above examples, however, people can and do respond differently to these bitter experiences. Furthermore, although nobody experiences all of these experiences, everyone can identify with some bitter experience. The reality is harsh but true: nobody can go through life without pain.

The stinging experience of pain, injustice, or death turns some people into cynics. Many are the poems, novels, and essays that smear life with blackness and gloom.

The Bible, as we noted above, does not ignore these dark realities. Nor does it promise that God’s children will be spared from them. In fact, Job’s suffering seems more poignant in its confusion because of his faith in God. What, then, are the answers? How do we cope with these bitter experiences?

Before we answer that, we need to look more deeply into

the response chosen by too many that is NOT the correct answer. The natural emotional response to a bitter experience is bitterness. It is so natural, so “logical,” and so subtle in its wrongness that we need to examine it in detail.

Bitterness grows out of anger.

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:26, 27). The immediate danger of anger is to sin. That is, we are apt on the spur of the moment to violate the ways of God. But there is another danger, equally real, and that is to hang on to our anger. The danger of hanging on to anger is that we may give a “place” (literally a foothold) for the devil to work.

Food left over from one day to the next (and the next and the next) changes form. It spoils, begins to stink, and draws flies which breed maggots; we call it garbage. Anger goes through a process no less nauseous when carried around in a person’s heart. It too changes form. Anger sours into resentment, internal murmuring, blame patterns, self-pity, frustration, and disengagement. Bitterness sets in.

Unfortunately, the spoilage and stink are far more apparent

and offensive to those around the embittered person than to the person himself. As with bad breath—everyone can smell it except the one who has it.

How does this process work?

1. Bitterness often begins with a bitter experience. It may be any one of the experiences we considered from the lives of Biblical characters, or it may be something different. But bitter people usually have some point of pain in their past.

2. The bitter experience stirs deep emotional responses. We feel deeply when we go through these bitter experiences—our feelings are reflecting our circumstances. We feel the bitterness of rejection, injustice, loss, grief, or abuse. The memories of a particularly bitter event may be burned into our minds, as it were, leaving a permanent mark. Or the injustice may not be a one-time event in the past, but an ongoing reality we face every day. In either case, to avoid letting “the sun go down” upon our anger may seem as impossible as making the sun stand still. The feelings are there because the situation is real.

How does one dismiss the frustration of regularly being called an idiot (or worse) by someone who is supposed to love you? Or how

does one dismiss the soul-sapping rage and revulsion of betrayal by a marriage partner?

3. Anger (in all its forms) urges verbal and behavioral responses. Spur-of-the-moment anger often urges an immediate lashing out. Anger carried over from one day to the next begins immediately to change form. It is turning into resentment. And although resentment does not feel exactly like the initial anger, it nonetheless provokes certain behavioral and verbal responses. Resentment urges us to mentally review the painful experience, roll the injustice of it around in our mind, and think of the “price” the offender ought to pay. This mental process expresses itself directly or indirectly in our speech and actions. Resentful people complain, criticize, or curse those who mistreat them. They plot revenge. Others avoid direct expression, but the inner resentment sours their attitude toward the offender.

4. The resentment settles into bitterness. Bitterness is essentially a pattern of blame. A bitter person inwardly (and often outwardly) points an accusing finger at others, holding them accountable for what the embittered one is facing. Unfortunately, others may have caused suffering.

Bitterness, however, makes the offender the continual mental companion of the bitter person. The offender is carried with him into his work, into his recreation, into his sleep, even into his worship. Everywhere the bitter one goes, he is accompanied by the offender and the offender’s ugly words and actions.

The most subtle aspect of the anger process is that the longer it is held onto, the more natural and reasonable and “right” it seems to be. But though it is seeming more right, it is becoming more deadly.

Bitterness has various stages.

We have already looked at how bitterness forms out of anger. We know bitterness is progressive. But let’s examine more closely the stages of bitterness itself.

1. The hurting stage. In one sense, this may not be a stage of bitterness, but inasmuch as all bitterness stems from hurt feelings, we will include it here. This is the stage where we feel pain. When we have been mistreated, or when we have had some other painful experience, we hurt. It is not necessarily wrong to hurt. In fact, it is no less normal to feel emotional pain from mistreatment than to feel physical pain.

Mental review doesn't allow healing to take place.

When the women of Israel came out of the cities praising David more than Saul, Saul was both hurt and angry. They sang, *"Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands"* (1 Samuel 18:7).

When Saul heard this, the saying "galled him" (NIV). Without justifying Saul's anger, we can say the women's public comparison of the two men was thoughtless and insensitive.

On the other hand, we must recognize sometimes we feel hurt when we ought not to. Once bitterness took over in Saul's life, he became hurt and angry even when others meant him well. He killed Ahimelech, for example, and the priests with him because Ahimelech had innocently given David food.

Emotional pain is a normal response to hurt, but some hurt is of our own making. All emotional pain is potential for bitterness, but that of our own making is inevitably so.

2. The festering stage. This is the stage of mental review. It is the time spent in the days, weeks,



and months following my hurt, mentally going over what happened, what was said, and who did what and where and when and why. In this stage, I continue to feel pain, but I am also feeding my resentment by continually pressing my mind's replay button. Often the hurt person gets weary of the mental process and tries to think of something else. Apart from God's grace, however, this is nearly impossible. Those who do manage to shut out the mental misery-go-round usually do so by using conscious or subconscious strategies of denial or repression. These strategies may seem to arrest the bitterness process, but in actuality only bury it and eventually cause other problems.

To an emotional hurt, mental review is the equivalent of a wounded person unceasingly

unwrapping the bandage on a physical wound, looking at the wound, and replacing the bandage. It doesn't allow healing to take place.

3. The collecting stage. As resentment is fed through mentally reviewing the hurt, an unconscious desire develops for more hurt. No bitter person would admit it, but there is something gratifying about learning that an offender has "done it again." The dangers of this stage of bitterness are several. The bitter person actually begins looking for hurts and secretly finding gratification in receiving them. This sets up the bitter person for interpersonal trouble, not only with the one(s) whom he blames, but also with his friends. As he learns to accumulate grievances, he unknowingly accumulates social habits and attitudes that affect all his relationships.

4. The self-pity stage. This stage proceeds naturally from the former one. As people become bitter, they view themselves more and more as victims. In their conversations with others, this victim mentality comes to dominate everything they do and everything done to them. All humans struggle with accepting personal responsibility for certain kinds of behavior. We all

at times want to point the finger and shift the blame. With a bitter person, however, this problem is amplified. All of life comes to be viewed through the darkened lenses labeled, "Not my fault," or "Look what he did," or "People treat me terribly." Sympathy is soaked up like water.

Ironically, the more pity a bitter person seeks, the less he finds. The slightest injury sends the self-pitying person into the "poor me" mode—sighs, tears, silent suffering, and whining. The tendency of those observing this pity party is at best to politely ignore the person, and at worst, to react in disgust. We will look later at how to respond to a bitter person, but both sympathy and disgust are harmful responses.

5. The stubborn stage. The further bitterness progresses, the more entrenched it becomes. Bitter people come to the place where they refuse to let go of their anger, their blame patterns, and their self-pity. It has become their security. They guard their sore spots jealously. Wounds are their way of life, trials are their way of thinking, pouting and shifting the blame are their way of relating to others.

A bitter person holds tenaciously to his bitter feelings and



Bitter people are not happy unless they are miserable about something.

his bitter outlook. He falls into that ironic emotional bondage where he is not happy unless he is miserable about something. Those around him may wish to help him out of his misery. But the more they try, the more offended he becomes. A bitter person will become so bound in blame patterns that the most loving words and actions of those around him are turned into wounds.

The subtlety of bitterness is that the stubbornness is two-

way. The more a bitter person hangs onto his bitterness, the more bitterness sinks its claws into the bitter person. The bitter person increasingly comes under the control of bitterness, so that he cannot shake it off even if he wants to.

We might note here that the Apostle Paul warned against day-old anger. If anger carried over to the next day is spiritually dangerous, offering the devil a foothold, what about week-old anger? Or month-old? Or year-old? Some people have patterns of blame associated with specific people that go back 20, 30, or 40 years. With such bitterness, the devil's foothold becomes a fortress, complete with a dungeon and a torture chamber.

This is not saying there is no hope for a bitter person. It is saying bitterness can lead to a demonic bondage from which the only deliverance is in the Lord Jesus, who was "*manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*" (1 John 3:8). Paul tells Timothy to be gentle, patient, and meek in approaching those who have fallen under the "*snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will*" (2 Timothy 2:26).

continued on next page



Study Questions

1. Make a list of the bitter experiences referred to in the first section of this article (including the ones mentioned at the end of the list). Then pick out two or three that would seem most difficult to you. Why do you think they would be difficult?

2. Which of the bitter experiences have you personally experienced? What have you experienced that was not listed?

3. Some people experience more pain and difficulty in life than others do. How does this fact test our faith?

4. This article has a section showing how bitterness grows out of anger. The Bible says Esau became bitter. Trace the progression from anger to bitterness in Esau's life, beginning with the account at the end of Genesis 25 and continuing through the next chapters.

5. What might Esau have done to avoid becoming bitter?

6. What are some evidences of bitterness in a person's life?

7. How does bitterness damage the bitter person?

8. List the stages of bitterness given in this chapter and give a one-sentence description of each stage.

9. In "The Emotion of Anger" (volume 5, issue 2), we looked at anger as an involuntary emotional response. Bitterness sets in after there has been more time to think. List some of the mental processes associated with the stages of bitterness.

10. To what extent might the difference between anger and bitterness (an emotional response vs. mental processes) explain why bitter people often do not believe they are bitter?

11. What is our typical response to a person seeking pity?

12. How can our relationship to the pity-seekers affect our response to them?

13. List a number of reasons people become "stubbornly bitter."

14. What are the dangers of hanging onto bitterness?

Copyright © Christian Light Publications.
Used with permission.

If this study has opened your eyes to bitterness in your life, bring it before the Lord in prayer and ask Him to forgive you and help you to live free of bitterness.

In future lessons, we plan to study the deceitfulness of anger and the proper responses to it.



The Puzzle Corner

by Terrie Lake

Find the answers for each line, and then find the answers in the word search puzzle to the right. Unscramble all the remaining letters to form a popular Scripture verse.

Answers will be in next issue.

1. The old and the new ____.
2. In the beginning God made ____ and ____.
3. The town where Jesus was born.
4. The name of Mary's husband.
5. The ten different names in Matthew 10:2-4 (2 are listed twice).
6. The ____, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
7. The name of God's anointed one.
8. A brief story with a lesson.
9. To grieve or sorrow.
10. A public festival observed by Jews.
11. Do not ____ any gods besides the true God.
12. Where Jesus was baptized.
13. Caretakers of sheep.
14. The Father, the Son, and the Holy ____.
15. Your rod and your ____.
16. God be merciful to me a ____ (Luke 18:13).
17. Some of these fell on a foot path (Mark 4:4).
18. Swallow your ____ (Proverbs 6:3).
19. Never enter the land of ____ (Deuteronomy 1:37).
20. You will ____ what you sow (Galatians 6:7).
21. He was ____ enough (2 Corinthians 2:6).
22. ____ of sinning against the body (1 Corinthians 11:27).
23. The devil and his ____ (Matthew 25:41).
24. Noah built this.
25. You ____ my head with oil (Psalm 23:5).

26. Why should we shed his ____? (Genesis 37:21).
 27. Yet he did not ____ (Hebrews 4:15).
 28. Stay alert and be ____ (1 Thessalonians 5:6).
 29. And she will have a ____ (Matthew 1:21).



Unscramble the unused letters here:

Bible Riddle

Why did the soldiers react by falling to the ground when Jesus answered them in John 18:5, 6? *Answer on page 69.*

by Glenn Raines, Bullock Correctional Facility, Union Springs, Alabama



Free on the Inside!

***A place where prisoners can proclaim Jesus,
the Deliverer Who sets the captives free.***

Testimony of David Robert Ewart

CTF - Central > Soledad, California

My incarceration is the direct result of my sin—not one huge sin, but a change in my behavior. It took time for Satan to destroy my value system and my strong beliefs. My temptation, subsequently my fall from grace, was like a frog that is placed in cool water with a very low flame under the container. As time goes by, the water heats up and the frog is cooked, never knowing what happened to it.

I am incarcerated in a California prison, with a sentence of 34 years to life. The first time I will be eligible to go before the parole board will be in the year 2015. I will be 71 years old at that time. I am a first time offender.

My heart feels concern for the individuals reading this testimony. I hope that you will stop

playing with sin. Remember, God will *never* be mocked. There will always be a consequence for your sin; you will reap what you sow (Galatians 6:7). I do not care how smart you are, for He is much smarter. I do not care how clever you are; He is much cleverer. I do not care what your IQ is; He created your IQ.

My crime of murder was committed in 1993, seventeen years after I had given my heart to Jesus Christ. After my conversion, I sold my clothing business in southern California, and went to Bible College. I felt I had been called into the ministry. I grew in human knowledge of the word of God and the vocabulary that goes with being a Christian. There were times that I could hear His voice and great signs

and wonders happened around me. My family and I would pray and doors would open. People called us the “perfect” family. After my graduation from Bible college, I became a schoolteacher and lay minister. For years I followed that path.

Then I let Satan rob my joy. Through some circumstances that are not important now, I became bitter toward “church.” I had taken my eyes off of Jesus and became very proud in my accomplishments. I felt I could do it on my own. Why couldn’t I? I was an educated teacher and minister. I even made it to the ranks of college professor and was teaching in a graduate school.

My two beautiful children were both grown and married. My wife and I had just celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary. I had been faithful for all those years. Then while I was at a conference, the oldest story in the world happened to me—older man meets younger woman. It was infatuation from the first moment we laid eyes on each other. It seemed we had everything in common. We talked and talked for the duration of the conference, which was one week long.



God will never be mocked.

You will reap what you sow.

Galatians 6:7

We were both married and not happy in our relationships with our spouses. My mind ran with the emotional and fulfilling attention that she poured out on me. I had, in my mind, made myself like a sponge for any type of attention. I had changed my beliefs! I told myself that I owed myself a new relationship. What deception!

I never committed physical adultery with her, but in my mind I certainly did. We lived about 800 miles apart, so we only saw each other three times face to face in the next eight months. However, we did communicate almost every day via the phone or fax.

My thought patterns were being readjusted as time went on. Every time I considered divorce, my Christian values would kick in. This was a time of extreme anguish, and I thought I had

lost my mind! I physically diminished; I lost over 80 pounds in 8 months. I even had a slight heart attack. I was under siege. I was truly the double-minded man that James talks about in his letter. I had such an inner battle going on. I was afraid I was going to explode at any time.

As time continued I became more and more confused about who I was, the whole time thinking I was on top of things. Talk about deception! Remember, I knew what the Bible says about marriage, temptation, sin, and adultery. Even though I never committed the physical act of adultery with this woman, it still has me taking my wife's life.

Through the Holy Spirit working in me, I finally came to a point of decision. For the first time in months, I prayed. I was moved to confess my sin to my wife and repent of my behavior. I did, we argued, and now she is dead!

I know my thought patterns controlled my behavior. I left myself wide open for Satanic attack. I did not resist. There is no one to blame except myself. I am not looking for sympathy. I want to express how important it is to keep your eyes on the Lord. We are under attack all the time. Our society has become obsessed

with sexual pleasure. It seems no matter where you turn you are bombarded with individuals selling sexual pleasure.

Yes, I have lost everything that was dear to me. My two grown children do not communicate with me. I have never seen or touched any of my four granddaughters. I robbed my children of ever being kissed or hugged by their mother. I have robbed my granddaughters of ever knowing their grandmother. I have lost all of my material wealth. I have lost almost every friend that I had. I have lost contact with almost all of my family.

But I now know Who Jesus Christ is! He came into my cell and forgave me of my sins. He set me free inside! He has called me again to preach and teach His mighty message. I now have a captive audience here in prison. He has called me twice; He will not have to call me again. I have received the invitation into my heart.

I pray that my testimony will keep at least one person from making the same mistake that I did – thinking that my sin would not be found out. Remember, God will not be mocked! If you do not believe me, read the Bible; it is full of God's judgment on disobedient people all through history.

□



Lighthouse

Keith Love > Sierra Conservation Center
Jamestown, California

L et God's love forever be your guide.
I n it is meekness, not selfish pride.
G od is the Giver and Author of life.
H e gives us peace to put away strife.
T he gift He gave us is beyond compare.
H eed His call and His word please share.
O ur hope should be in obeying His voice.
U nhindered by the secular choice.
S ending His message so all may hear.
E nter His presence with childlike fear.

P raise the Lord for His work is great.
U nited with Christ is the best decision to make.
B e among the chosen who with Him will eternally reside.
L et not the enemy find you on the flip-side.
I n all your endeavors let His light reflect.
S o when the call comes, you are among the elect.
H is love is beyond what man can comprehend.
I nherit the likeness of One closer than a friend.
N ow let the truth in the "Lighthouse" also be a guide,
G oing to the multitudes for His glory, not pride.

Jesus to the Rescue

Fredrick Whitfield

G. Beto Unit > Tennessee Colony, Texas

Lord, Lord,
Is that you that I see?
Please come, Lord Jesus;
Please come and rescue me.
I'm desperate and hurt, Lord,
So very sick and in pain;
I look in my mirror, Lord,
And I'm very deeply ashamed.
I've committed acts, dear Lord;
I thought they were fun;
Now I'm locked up, Lord,
And outcast and shunned.
I'm so sorry, dear God;
Please forgive me for my sins;
The door to my heart is wide open;
Please, Lord Jesus, come in.
Without you, Lord,
I'm so lost and all alone;
My sins are too heavy, dear God;
In their depths I will drown.
Save me, precious Lord;
I don't know what else to do;
I'm trusting in your word, Lord;
Dear God, I'm counting on you.
Jesus, my sweet Savior,
I know You died for me;
Thank You, Lord Jesus,
You've set this sinner free.
Still I am alone,
Though no longer lost;
Thank you, Lord Jesus,
For paying the cost.

When God Speaks

Tedd Hubble > Southeast Tennessee State Regional
Correctional Facility > Pikeville, TN

In the past, God spoke to the fathers by the prophets (Hebrews 1:1). He spoke directly to Noah in Genesis 5 and 7. He spoke directly to Abram in Genesis 12:1–3. He spoke to Moses from a burning bush in Exodus 3 and 4.

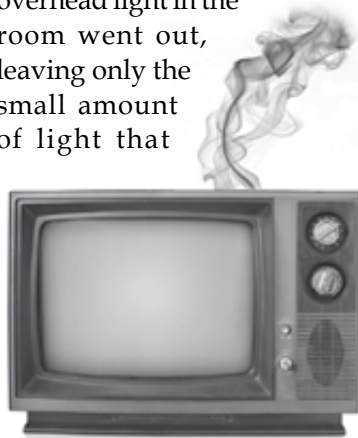
God has “in these last days spoken unto us by his Son” (Hebrews 1:2). He also speaks by His Holy Spirit. *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams”* (Acts 2:17; cf. Joel 2:28).

By these verses we find that there will be prophets, and that we will also hear from God through dreams and visions—things that we can see. The problem is that many people have neither trained their spiritual ears to hear nor their spiritual eyes to see.

Two examples of God speaking to man happened recently to my friend who is also my cell-partner. One Saturday while he was shaving, the light over the sink and mirror went

out. I put in a work order to have the bulb replaced. Monday afternoon at count time the work had not been done yet.

During lock-down for count we were discussing the situation when my friend said, “For many years I wandered in the darkness of sin. Since I have been a Christian and now study my Bible every day, I have determined that I never want to be in the dark again.” With that, the overhead light in the room went out, leaving only the small amount of light that



***Are we getting the
messages that God
wants us to hear
and see?***

could come in through the window that we cannot see out of.

"The devil did that because of what I said," my friend remarked.

"It may not have been the devil," I replied. "God may be trying to tell you something."

So often we miss the little messages, subtle warnings, and instructions God gives us because our spiritual ears and eyes are closed to His voice and His visions. Sure, we may read and study our Bible daily, but are we getting the messages that God wants us to hear and see? It may be that we are only reading words and stories without meaning. We must train our spiritual ears to hear and our spiritual eyes to see.

A week following the incident with the lights, there was a three evening revival preaching service at the prison. My friend went to the service on Monday evening; however, on Tuesday he elected to remain in the cell to watch television and not go to the church services. Since it was my TV he was watching, I cautioned him not to let it become an idol to him, keeping him from the worship of the Lord.

"Oh, that can never happen," he assured me.

That evening during the opening prayer by the chaplain, I prayed silently about the TV problem saying, "Lord, if there is any way, please don't let my TV come between my friend and You. I'm leaving it in your hands, Lord." (When you pray, never tell God how to work things out in your will, and always be prepared to accept how God works it out in His will.)

With that, I had peace of mind. I never watched the TV much except for some news and weather and whatever my friend had on when we were locked down. I refused to let the TV get control of my life.

Tuesday evening after lockdown, I told my friend about my prayer. "That's odd," he said. "I prayed the same thing myself after you left for church tonight. Then zap! Sparks began to fly, smoke rolled out of the TV, and it died right there."

I thought to myself, "Thank you, Lord, for answered prayer."

"That's scary," said my friend. "I think that the Lord may be trying to tell me something. I'll be in church tomorrow night for sure."

And he was.



The God of the Bible

Corey Lamont Mosley

The day came when I wanted to die. I was saturated in the gloom of deception, existing in darkness, and heavily burdened with guilt, shame, and sin. An enemy of society, an enemy of the State, and an enemy of God, at the age of 19, the time came for me to start reaping the results of my sinful labor.

I found myself locked up in the Marion County Jail awaiting trial for a capital offense. There I stood, not knowing what to do. What do you do, when you are *deeply sorrowful* and *truly repentant* for the things you have done? What do you do, when you have cried, and cried, and *cannot* cry any more?

In the midst of my brokenness, I opened up the Bible seeking God. He was angry with me; at least that is how I understood it. The Bible just fell open to Isaiah 59. I read four verses and I had

to close that Book because those words were living. They were speaking directly to me. My heart melted, and I was scared. The words of that Book read:

“Don’t think that the LORD is too weak to save you or too deaf to hear your call for help! It is because of your sins that He doesn’t hear you. It is your sins that separate you from your God when you try to worship [pray to] Him. You are guilty of lying, violence, and murder. You go to court, but you do not have justice on your side. You depend on lies to win your case. You carry out your plans to hurt others.”

Isaiah 59:1-4
(Today’s English Version)

This was the first time that the God of the Bible spoke to me. To make a long story short, grace found me. I discovered that God is a gracious and compassionate Father, He is slow to anger, and



***I discovered that
God is a gracious
and compassionate
Father.***

He abounds in love and faithfulness. Even while I was an enemy of society, an enemy of the State, and an enemy of God, He illustrated His great love toward me in Christ Jesus. Jesus bore the punishment for my wrongdoings before I ever did anything wrong. He also transferred His righteousness to me and *all* who will believe it. I learned that at Calvary's cross the grand transaction took place for all ages; God's grace was applied to all of humanity including me, by not counting our sins against us. Grace found me. In spite of my immediate circumstances and problems, Jesus Christ has officially made it possible for me to call upon the God of grace and mercy for help. In light of this, life now takes on an entirely

new dimension. For the first time, I no longer feel alone in this world.

Although I am still in prison, God is here with me. The day came when I died spiritually. I am now able to say that it is *no longer I*, Corey Lamont Mosley, who lives; rather it is Jesus Christ Who is now living in me. The life that I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Never again, will I frustrate the grace of

God. He met me in my brokenness; at the darkest moments of my life, His grace found me. I learned that without God, I was not ready to live *or* die. Besides, suicide is a permanent answer to a temporary problem.

□



***For the first time, I
no longer feel alone
in this world.***

We Want to Hear From You!

If God has done a great work in your heart, share it with others! Send us your poems, testimonies, articles, and stories, etc., and we will consider them for publication in "Free on the Inside." Any material sent to us will be used at our discretion. (Please be patient. We have received a large number of writings.) Any material sent to us becomes the property of Lighthouse Publishing.

The Imprisoned Christian's Prayer

Anthony "Rico" Rodriguez
Avenal State Prison > Avenal, California

Father, I'm sitting in this prison cell, and I can't do anything to get myself out. I've made a mess of my life. I thank You that You found me here. And I praise You that You did not need a key to my cell to come to me and minister to me eternal life through Your precious Son Jesus. I am so glad that You have issued to me a full pardon from Your holy throne in heaven.

"Oh Lord, if it were not for Your holy presence here in this tiny, choking space of a cell, I know that I could not keep my sanity and have any hope at all for the future. Thank You that Jeremiah 29:11 is a direct promise to me – You do have wonderful plans for my life. You have plans to give me a future and a hope in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"One thing that I ask of You is that you will give me the grace to

live out my life and my sentence one day at a time. I will awaken each morning and praise You with the words, 'This is the day that the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.'

"I declare through the love and power of the Lord Jesus that it is no longer all about me! My life does not belong to me any longer, but I fully and gladly surrender myself into Your powerful and loving hands. I expect to meet you each day of my life both here in prison and when I am released. I will counter the

thought 'you will never get out of here' with the thought 'I will not remain here one day longer or shorter than that which is ordained and appointed by Almighty God.'

"Lord, I pray for my fellow prisoners. I pray that you will uncover in each one of us the deceitfulness that has been a



"I praise You that You did not need a key to come to me..."

natural part of our lives for so long. Truly come to this prison and give us a powerful revival by the visitations of Your Holy Spirit. Let the convicting power of Your Spirit come over our lives and give us the true understanding of both our sin and the need to confess it fully and repent of it sincerely through the strong name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Finally, Father, I pray that I could spend the rest of my time here seeking Your holy will for my life. Help me to be empowered by the grace and strength of Your Holy Spirit and cover me with the blood of Jesus so that

Satan will steal no more from me than he has already stolen. Help me to see this incarceration as a call to ministry. I pray that you will replace my loneliness with divine fellowship and intimacy with You, oh Lord. I will study the Bible and other good works. I will develop a powerful and life-changing devotional life that will allow me to build up myself in my most holy faith.

“For the answers to all these requests, I submit my will and life to you in the great name of the Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior.”

Amen.



A Mansion Prepared for Me

Steven M. Zerbe

Santa Rosa Correctional Institution > Milton, Florida

There is a mansion being prepared for me;
How big it is I'll have to wait and see.

I want my family to live next door,
So we can praise and worship the Lord.

There will be no more time and no more clocks;
Life will go on and never stop.

I long and wait for that glorious day;
To move to the heavenly home that awaits my stay.

I didn't receive a place there for my good deeds;
I'm only welcome because Jesus Christ set me free.

Take a Moment

Lorena Lee Hacker > Northampton County Prison > Easton, Pennsylvania

Take a moment to be still,
A moment to discover God's will.

Take a moment to enjoy simple things,
Such as the joy a child brings.

Take a moment to sit in the sun;
Realize that life isn't about who has lost or won.

Take a moment to listen to the birds,
Feel God's presence, and meditate on His words.

Take a moment to stand in the rain;
Let it wash away all your pain.

Take a moment to smell a flower
And be overwhelmed with the Holy Spirit's power.

Take a moment to hear your Father's voice—
Eternal life or death, it's your choice.



Morning Prayer

Corbett Littrell
Fresno County Jail > Fresno, California

Lord, I need your forgiveness today
As I have not put you first;
I have neglected to think of you
As I woke with undeniable thirst.

With all these worldly troubles inside,
The important little things I forget;
Like being grateful for what I do have,
And for the small goals I've already met.

Forgive me for this time of my absence
And my wants to engage in my desires;
For missing my chance to become a better man
And toying with the lust and the fires.

Help me this day to first remember you
And begin on the wing of a prayer;
Help me to better understand you, Lord,
And to remember how truly you really care.

Amen.



Crucified Love

Art Mayse
Southeast Tennessee State
Regional Correctional Facility
Pikeville, Tennessee

We drive the nails into the hands
That hung the stars in space,
And mock the virgin baby's birth
That gave us love and grace.

We weave an ugly crown of thorns
To place on Jesus' head,
Then watch the wreath of emerald green
Turn to crimson red.

Each time we judge a child of God
While our own sins we hide,
Caring not the pain we cause,
We pierce Him in the side.

We crucify each other
While denying that sin is SIN;
By forsaking love, we crucify,
The Son of God again.

Confined Freedom

Rodney Kutzli

Falkenburg Road Jail > Tampa, Florida



Sitting here in a quiet, open pod,
Just the Holy Spirit, me, and God,
Confined to a lonely space you see.

As I give thanks to the One above,
My heart cries out for His love.

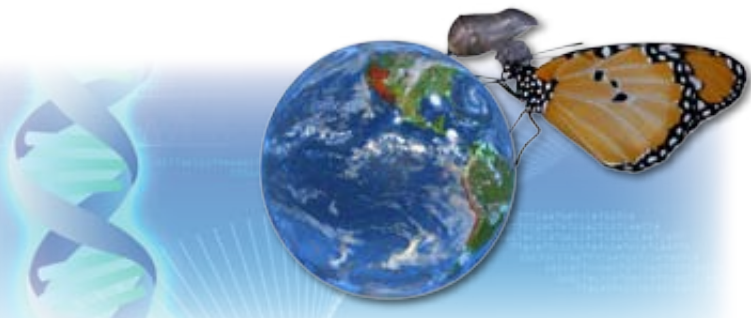
You can't be locked up in this life you see,
For as you give to others you will always be free.

So as I kneel down and say a prayer,
I thank my God for always being there.

My mind imagines that holy place;
It will be a blessing to finally see God's face.

So as my eyes get tired and close with a smile,
I thank God in heaven Whom I'll walk with a while.





Science in Creation

How Long Is a Day?

Andrew Zimmerman

Today is the longest day of the year. The time between sunrise and sunset in our area is more than fifteen hours. That means lots of time to work, enjoy creation, and spend time with my family. Time is a gift, a priceless resource, from God. Each of us has a finite amount of time—years, days, hours, minutes, and seconds, to spend in our lifetime.

Have you ever had a day when you left for work before anyone else in your household was awake? Maybe you returned home after everyone else was asleep. Was that a long day? Can you remember a day of hard work; a day when you felt like you had actually worked two days? Perhaps you said, “That was a long day.” What did you mean? Was the day longer than 24 hours?

What is a *day*? Aren't all days twenty-four hours long? Is it the length of time it takes for the earth to make one rotation on its axis?

In Genesis 1, the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, we read the account of God creating

continued on next page...

- Brother Andrew has had an avid
- interest in science since he
- started studying it in his early
- years of school. More recently,
- he has been blessed by studying
- the work of creation scientists
- such as Henry Morris and Ken
- Ham. Because of his interest in
- science and his belief in a literal
- six-day creation, he enjoys
- telling others about creation
- science. He lives in Central
- Pennsylvania with his wife and
- ten children.

the heavens and the earth. Some Christians try to fit the evolutionary theory of origins into the Genesis 1 account by saying that each day was actually a long “age.” They want to make room in Genesis 1 for billions of years of evolution.

Read the chapter for yourself. Doesn’t it say that God created everything in only six days? In fact, it explains what was created on each day. How could you stretch six days into billions of years?

Let’s look first at *semantics*, or word meanings. The Hebrew word *yom*, translated into the English word *day*, is used over two thousand times in the Old Testament.

Sometimes it can mean an indeterminate amount of time as “in the days of Solomon” in 1 Kings 10:21. But when used with a numeral, as in “the third day at even,” in 1 Samuel 20:5, it always means an ordinary day. Genesis is the only book in the Bible where the definition of “day” with a numeral is questioned.

When the word *yom* is used in conjunction with “evening” or “morning” it always means an ordinary day. In Genesis 1 it is used with both a numeral and the words “evening and morning.” Can this be any clearer?

Think about the historical significance of the Genesis creation account. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, several books were written explaining how rock layers could have been successive deposits of sediment, and that fossils were the result of sediment deposited by Noah’s Flood. Ussher’s *Annals of the World*, written in the 1600’s, provides October 23, 4004 BC as the date of the first day. Bishop Ussher was a great historian who devoted a large portion of his life to correlating Biblical and secular sources to calculate the timing of historical events.

Jump forward about two hundred years. Toward the end of the eighteenth century, books began to appear that proposed the idea of millions of years.



Some Christians try to fit the evolutionary theory of origins into the Genesis 1 account.

Which Came First?



Evolutionary science and the Genesis 1 creation story cannot be reconciled.

James Hutton's *Theory of the Earth* proposed a cyclical earth history, with continents eroding into oceans, the sediment hardening, and then being pushed up to form new continents. He said he could find no beginning in the rock layers. Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* also promoted the idea of millions of years, but with a theory of uniform, gradual processes. Lyell believed that geological evidence, such as rock layers and fossils, should be interpreted only according to geological processes that can be observed today. He insisted that these processes had to occur in the past with the same intensity and magnitude we can see today. He left no room for a catastrophic flood as in the days of Noah.

Christians began to accept these new theories, and the ac-

count of the six day creation was largely ignored or explained away. Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* provided an explanation for the plethora of life on earth without the need for a Creator.

Aside from semantics and historical interpretation, there are other problems with the Day-Age theory. Evolutionary science holds that life appeared in the seas long before vegetation was established on land. However, from Genesis chapter 1 we know that plants were created on the third day and fish on the fifth. The sun was created on the fourth day, but secular science would have us believe the sun is much older than the earth. There can be no reconciliation between the opposing views. They are radically different.



How are you using the days that God has given you?

We must never reinterpret the Bible to match current “science.” Science has changed the supposed age of the earth quite a few times. Why would we expect the current answer to be the correct one?

Perhaps you’re thinking of the verse in 2 Peter 3:8 that refers to a thousand years as one day. This doesn’t say that a thousand years is one day, but that to the Lord it is as one day. The meaning of this verse is clear – time doesn’t matter to God. He can look into any millennium, any century, any year, any day that He wants to. It doesn’t mean that creation took six thousand years. Even six thousand years wouldn’t

be nearly enough time to allow evolution to take place.

There is an account in the Old Testament of a day that really was longer than twenty-four hours. Read Joshua chapter ten, the story about Joshua fighting the Amorites. The end of verse 13 says, *“The sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hastened not to go down about a whole day.”*

Do we really believe the Bible? How accurate is it? If we can’t believe the first chapter, what can we believe? We don’t need to update our interpretation of the Bible as often as science updates the age of the earth. The Bible is correct and accurate from the very first verse.

Here’s a verse that uses the word “day” as an indeterminate length of time. *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”* (2 Peter 3:10).

Be sure that you’re ready for the day of the Lord. Believe what God tells you in His word. Trust that He is able to save those who come to Him in faith.

How are you using the days that God has given you?



WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4



Find these words in the puzzle below:

Abel	Earth	Greater	Offering	Slew
Blood	Field	Ground	Punishment	Son
Brother	Flock	Keeper	Respect	Tiller
Cain	Fruit	Lord	Sheep	Vagabond
Crieth	Fugitive	Mark	Sin	Yield

R E T A E R G A T I L L E R L M
C E L K A J G S H P R T O S O N
S U R B W L E V I T I G U F P K
K R E A R T H W Z N O I G H J F
U L T S O M V A G A B O N D L I
V A P U N S H H T E I R C L S E
E K C O L F G D P C O E B A H L
P D O M R K C S H E E P B E E D
J K G E L P A G R O D X R Y P S
V S R K E E P E R Z H L O R D I
G A O S I E V H J K O L T S L E
L N U M O L S H S I F S H E E D
H M N O I E L A Z L F R E D I O
O K D J O I Q E A R E P R X Y O
T H E S T H K D D L R W A R B L
D C P D Q Y G H K J I L M A C B
Z H P U N I S H M E N T L A S R
F R U I T Z O O L D G O R D R X
C I T A S L P V A G B C E U R K
D N J Z M K Q T C E P S E R O S
A I N C P F G C A I N O R D L T

© Rod and Staff Publishers, Inc. Used by permission.

"The Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" Genesis 4:9



The Spiritual War

Nathan Stillely



A Climate of Rest

Would you rather spend 20 years in prison and find rest from inner turmoil *or* start your life over in another part of the world continually battling with the same inner struggles? This question leads to some serious thoughts, and also to the subject of this article which deals with changes and “a climate of rest.”

Although success can be measured in many different ways, this article considers how to achieve a “climate of rest” by becoming a useful part of society. Life is worthwhile and meaningful when we are fulfilling a duty that contributes to society as a whole. The contributions of some people, such as preachers, presidents of nations, or soldiers, are not tangible, but everyone benefits by the work they do. We depend on each other; a farmer needs a house, which can

be built by a carpenter, and the carpenter needs food, which the farmer produces. Useful living separates those who really find success from those who do not.

Relating to Change

A hundred years ago when the carriage business was declining from its glory days, change was taking place. Mr. Ford began selling cars in 1903 and Chevrolet began just 9 years after Ford. Automobiles quickly began to replace the horse-drawn carriage. Many efficient carriage makers had to change and find employment elsewhere. While the trusty carriage manufacturing business was declining, the auto industry was growing. The only logical thing to do was to change from carriage making to auto making.

So it is in life. The whole is changing from day to day.

Things that worked one day may not work today.

No one wants to leave the things that they have long worked for, even when change is necessary to reach a climate of rest; however, those who refuse to change when it is necessary will fail to be a useful part of the whole and cease to fit into society. This leads to destructive actions and attitudes which destroy everything within their evil reach.

The Source of Rest

When the conflict we face is too great, we cannot obtain rest. So how can we achieve a peaceful environment when all we see or hear is trouble?

Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, *“Come unto me all ye that labor... and I will give you rest.”* If everyone would apply this spiritual teaching, we would soon find

this climate of rest in the whole of society.

We may often feel defeated by temptation, but the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that God will with the temptation also make a way of escape. This escape does not mean escape from the presence of the outward conflict that we face, but victory over our inner struggles. We must escape the conflict within us through faith in God before any outward conflict can be resolved.

Seeking Rest

People who try to escape their inner struggles by moving to a new place only drag their problems with them. Have you imagined escaping from prison? How would you do it? Would you try to take your cell along? How about one of your favorite guards? No, you would be glad to get away with your own skin.



Useful living separates those who really find success from those who do not.

In the same way, we cannot escape from damaging conflicts if we carry too much baggage.

One part of finding rest in troubled times and places is giving more than we take. Taking more than we give causes conflict. This happens when we ask for a raise in wages without increasing our production or when we raise prices without increasing the value of the goods we sell. Taking more than we give shows that we think we are more important than we really are.

As a young man, I once asked someone if she was talking about me. “No,” she said, “you are not that important.” When my world rotates around me, I am taking more than I am giving. When I am more concerned about others than about myself, I am giving more than I am taking.

Physical and spiritual rest are related to each other. “It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late... for so he giveth his beloved sleep” (Psalm 127:2). All of our efforts are useless in the pursuit of earthly pleasures if we live in inner fear and turmoil. There is no rest for the wicked. The Bible tells us that God sets up kings and puts down kings. Rest is only found when we are the beloved of God.

Many people think that if they had a little more money or possessions, they could be at rest. If that were true, why do rich men sometimes commit suicide? It always seems we need just a little more, but riches never satisfy. Possessions make wonderful servants, but hideous masters. Possessions become our master when they control our life. But God gives us the power to get wealth, and possessions can be wonderful servants when they are used to expand the kingdom of God.

Because a climate of rest comes from fulfilling God’s plan for our lives, we should use our possessions to accomplish His purpose. My house is a place of rest for my family. It also is a place of rest for the seeker of truth and travelers to the heavenly City. I am privileged to enjoy this haven of rest and share God’s possessions with His children. I and everything I have belongs to God. As His caretaker, I find rest in allowing Him to use His things the way He wants to.

Unending Rest

Nothing in this world can take away the peace that is found in Christ Jesus unless we allow it to. When my security is



Hope in Jesus Christ causes earthly things to have dramatically less effect on us.

in the blood of Jesus Christ and my goal is heaven, no earthly trouble can destroy my peace. Hope in what is eternal brings stability to an uncertain earthly future. Failing health, instead of being a disaster, brings me closer to heaven. Failed business may wreck my plans for a new house and vehicles, but has no effect on my heavenly assets. Hope in Jesus Christ causes all these earthly things to have dramatically less effect on us.

Sin is the only thing that can have a dramatic effect on our future. I can choose the gods of this world and spend my life fighting for a bigger piece of this earth, or I can seek a home in heaven. Sin will remove the possibility of a future in heaven. God has a purpose for each one of His children. His purpose for us will never cause us to sin, for sin is the rejection of God's purpose. Our hope in heaven can be rest-

ful only when we are fulfilling the purpose of God.

What about failure? All of us have failed to completely fulfill God's perfect plan for our lives. You may think, "If that is so, God's plan is broken and God's whole plan cannot be achieved." We humans cannot complete a project where one mistake has been made without replacing that part. But God is not limited as we are, and His plan is not affected by our failure. God has a plan for failure. He wants to redeem all who have sinned. Through Jesus Christ, God wants to restore to us the gift of eternal life.

• • • • •

My promised reward is heaven. Being a part of the kingdom of God is the only way to truly find rest. Does God have full control of your life today? Are you at rest?

□

The Pursuit of Godly Seed

Denny Kenaston

Used with permission. Copyright © 2003 by Denny Kenaston.
All rights reserved. • Web site: www.homefirespub.com.

Denny and Jackie Kenaston were saved in 1972 out of the “hippie culture.” The Lord Jesus delivered them from drugs, drinking, and many other things that go along with that life-style. They have raised their eight children in the rural setting of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania for the last 24 years. In this setting, they find many opportunities to extend their home school far beyond the classroom.

They were first called to this location to help start Charity Christian Fellowship where Brother Denny serves as an elder. He also travels extensively in a church planting and preaching ministry. God has placed an anointing upon him to call the church back to a burden for the family, and through this, many families have fallen on their faces in repentance and received a new vision for a godly home. Our prayer is that your heart and home will be challenged and changed by this section taken from his book *The Pursuit of Godly Seed*.



I never cease to be in awe as I gaze into the face of an innocent child. When God gives them to us, they come as a blank sheet of paper – clean, pure, and waiting to be inscribed upon. They trust us, open themselves up to us, and receive whatever we give them, whether it be good or bad. Lord, teach us how to guide and train them!

More Pictures of Bible Promise

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them.” Psalm 127:3–5

Before we move into another chapter on Old Testament pictures of the home, let us consider some of God’s possible design in giving these illustrations. There is very little instruction in them unless one meditates deeply on the picture. So, what is the purpose?

God’s purpose is to give vision, that is, Spirit-inspired pictures of His will for our families. Also, God uses these illustrations to motivate us to move toward that goal. We see something, and a desire is created in our hearts. With that desire, our heart is opened up to receive instruction and correction.

Sometimes the instruction can be painful, but our new desire helps us to move beyond the pain and gain new insights. This is precisely the intent of the first portion of this book. There will be much detailed direction given in the chapters that follow. Some of it may overwhelm you

at times, so I am preparing you for that. If the teaching gets too heavy, maybe you can come back to some of these chapters and rekindle the vision and the desires.

Carefully Prepared Arrows

God has placed some powerful, motivating comparisons in the verses at the beginning of this chapter. I encourage you to read these verses out loud, slowly and with meaning. My desire is to implant in your hearts the many verses on the home so they will change you. If you plant the seeds of truth on the home deep into your heart, they will grow into life-changing results.

In the first verse, the Lord places His divine stamp of value and approval on each one of our children. Children of the womb are His special gifts to us. From these lofty statements, the Lord moves into several analogies worthy of our meditation. Allow me to make the spiritual

comparisons as I draw our focus to these powerful pictures.

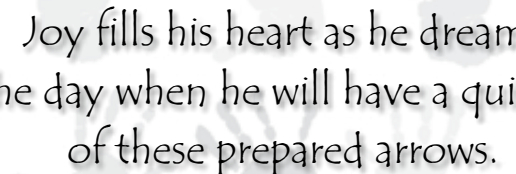
- A physical war – a spiritual war
- An enemy in war – our spiritual enemies
- A man of war – a spiritual father
- A weapon of war – spiritual youth

To understand what this picture meant to the men of Israel when they meditated upon these verses, we must consider the historical context. War was a very normal part of life. Every man was expected to train and prepare for battle. Every able man was expected to go forth to battle for the nation of Israel.

In the New Testament context, spiritual war should be a normal part of life. Therefore, these comparisons take on even more significance.

Arrows in the hand of a mighty man were very effective weapons against the enemy. In those days they didn't have factories in which arrows were made. If you were a man of war and skillful with the bow and the arrow, you made your own arrows. In the days of David and Solomon, the men were prepared for war. They had practiced from their early youth with many weapons of war. When they shot an arrow, it went where they wanted it to go. They didn't have a problem with missing when they pulled that bow back and shot the arrow. So the greatest need for the mighty man was to have an arrow that would go straight and hit the mark.

Arrow-making was a very serious craft for the mighty man of war. It was done with precision and care. He knew that if he had a straight arrow with a sharp point and feathers placed just right, it



Joy fills his heart as he dreams
of the day when he will have a quiver full
of these prepared arrows.

would hit the mark when he sent it forth. What was the vision in his mind while he carved away on those arrows? Where do you think his mind was? Yes, he was out on the battlefield, standing before the enemy. As he was carving away by the side of his house, his mind was elsewhere. He would shave off a little more here and a little more there, holding up the straight stick with a discerning eye. He was preparing an arrow so that when he pulled that arrow out of the quiver and put it in his bow, it would hit the mark. He had a vision of how that arrow was going to go when he sent it forth.

Can we see the patterns in these Old Testament pictures of a godly home? Every one of them is packed full of insights and motivating promises. Making arrows is very active work, and so is raising children. Remember the four comparisons that we listed earlier. Let me apply them with a bit more detail. I see a godly father who walks with God. He sees into the eternal, a spiritual war for righteousness and precious souls. To him it is a real war with very high stakes. There is an enemy and a wicked kingdom that are active in this war. Finally, he sees his children. They are to be weapons in his hands,

sent forth by God toward a mark in the enemy's territory. These weapons are spiritual youth, prepared with care for the battle that lies before them. Joy fills his heart as he dreams of the day when he will have a quiver full of these prepared arrows.

With all of this in his heart, the father sets to work, his wife joining him, and together they shape a quiver full of godly children to the glory of God. This is no small endeavor. This is a task that will take them forty years to complete. They will take special care that each one of the children will hit the mark that God has planned for them.

Is there anything more valuable than an arrow that will hit the mark? Oh, happy is the man that has his quiver full of them!

I don't know about you, but I am making arrows. And by God's grace, I plan to shoot them. And I plan for them to hit the mark. I'm holding the stick up, and I'm shaving it off, holding the stick up and shaving it off. It gets painful at times during the process, but I'm making arrows, and I want my arrows to count. *"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth."* Happy is the man that has his quiver full of "arrows that have been made to hit the

mark.” Brethren, let’s make them count.

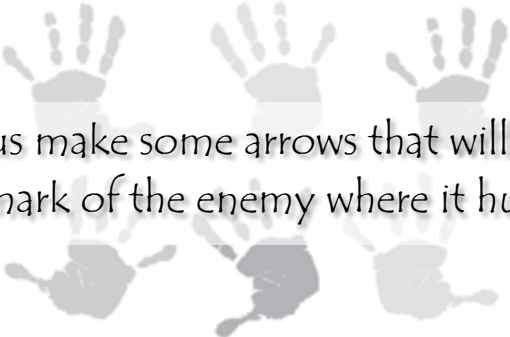
I often hear people make a statement that grieves my heart. They say, “Well, I think my children will turn out all right.” I know what they mean when they say that, but it is a statement that lacks purpose. I’m sorry, but I’ve got my sights set higher than “all right.” Jesus said, “*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers [arrows] into his harvest*” (Matthew 9:37, 38). Let us make some arrows that will hit the mark of the enemy where it hurts. It is in our hands to do it, and God will help us.

A Many-Generation Foundation

In Isaiah 58 we have an Old Testament example of a New Testament Spirit-filled life. In this passage, the Lord also de-

fines what a Biblical fast is. We see God’s purpose for fasting: to draw near to Him with a broken, repentant heart. There are several conditional promises in this chapter that beautifully describe a life of overflowing grace. You can identify these conditional promises by the words “if” and “then” in the verses. I have put them in bold letters so you can see them easily. The Lord is a covenant-keeping God. He is Jehovah, the God Who keeps His promises.

*If thou take away the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; **if** thou draw out thy soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul; **then** shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: **then** the Lord shall guide thee continually and satisfy thy soul in drought; **then** the Lord shall make thy bones*



Let us make some arrows that will hit the mark of the enemy where it hurts.

fat; then thou shalt be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. Then they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations.

Isaiah 58:9-12, adapted

I want to focus on three major truths from these verses. The first is our relationship to God. We must be clear with the Lord. Sins of commission and sins of omission must be repented of. This is one purpose of the fast. James 4:8 says, “*Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.*” The upward look must be right.

Second, as we come with an open face to the Lord and seek Him, grace begins to flow from God to our hearts. This experience is described in clear words in our text: God’s light shining forth in our lives, God’s voice leading us, health in our bodies, and water, overflowing spiritual water. Glory! Let’s go for it with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The next thing that happens is an outflow of the grace flowing into our lives. This is where ministry comes in. We actually have no ministry if we do not have this dual flow of God’s grace. Verse twelve describes

this outflow of the inflow of the grace of God in our lives. One of the fruits of this powerful, Spirit-filled life is a many-generation foundation in our homes.

This brings us to our next Old Testament portrait of a godly home. Earlier, we were building a house. Now we are building a foundation. Everybody knows that the foundation is the true strength of the house. If you want the building to last a long time and stand tall, you must begin with a strong foundation.

Some of the skyscrapers in the big cities are a good example of this. The builders go way down into the ground when they lay the foundation, so they can build that skyscraper way up into the sky. The men of Israel knew this principle. They had to dig down past the sand and lay the foundation of their house on solid rock. It took a lot of time and effort to build a house with a good foundation under it, but it was worth the investment. Also, if you look at the context of this chapter in Isaiah, you will see that it was a time when the houses of Israel were falling down because of apostasy. This makes the analogy even more meaningful.

We can learn several lessons from this comparison. First of



Have you ever considered that you are the foundation of the next generation?

all, what kind of house do you want, and second, what kind of foundation are you laying for that house? If you are going to make a one-story slab house, all you need to do is pour a few inches of concrete on the ground and up you can go with your little house.

But the foundation referred to in this analogy is one that will hold a godly household extending into many generations. My question to you is this: how many generations do you want your foundation to hold?

Dear parents, have you ever considered that you are the foundation of the next generation? Your household is growing up on you, who you really are personally in the Lord. Each generation is the foundation for the next generations. What kind of foundation are you laying with the life you are living? It is in your hands.

When Israel was in her glory, when Israel lived in power, when Israel lived in strength, she laid the foundation of many generations. Remember the examples cited earlier in “A Godly Heritage Today.” These saints laid a far-reaching foundation by the love they had for God and the way they lived for Him. Do you see the picture? How strong, how sure, how deep is your foundation?

Let me give a little of our testimony to illustrate my point. It is time to stop and examine the foundation we are laying. Twenty some years ago, it began to dawn on Jackie and me that something was wrong in many of the Christian homes in our land. We noticed that the best evangelical churches were losing a lot of their children to the world. This evaluation covered several different denominations: Baptist, Christian Missionary Alliance,

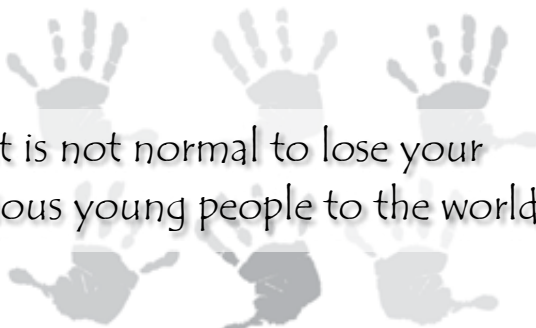
Charismatic, and Bible churches. These were the ones with which we had some experience. They were losing their children. By that I mean the children were not rising up to serve the Lord with all of their hearts. Many of them stayed in the church, but they were full of the world and complacent about spiritual things. Many others simply went out into the world and lived lives like other heathen do. The young ladies wore sensual attire, and the dating game was in full swing in most places. The result of these dangerous practices was fornication, not in all, but enough to alert any discerning father.

We began to realize that the foundation wasn't very deep. This was obvious. It could not hold even one generation. At first, one might bemoan, saying, "O well, this is just the way it is today." But after careful study of the many Bible texts on the

family, we came to the conviction that God had something better. We began to see that this loss in the family is not normal. According to the Bible, normal is a generation of young people who rise up in purity and dedicate themselves and their future to the Lord.

Dear parents, it is not normal to lose your precious young people to the world. Something is drastically wrong with the foundation of the home when this happens. Let's get honest. Most of these parents who loose their children to the world are half-hearted Christians at best. The chickens do come home to roost. This half-hearted foundation produces the same kind of youth.

Way back then, Jackie and I said in our hearts, "Wait a minute. We are not going to lose our children to the world. No way!" It was with this cry on our hearts that we began to seek God for



It is not normal to lose your
precious young people to the world.

answers and for examples to follow. This probably is why I was so captivated by the family in Canada. There I found a whole house full of children on fire for God. Believe me, I was ready to take notes.


Dear fathers and mothers, the standard is high. Nothing short of a powerful Spirit-filled life will do. God is calling us to deep commitments today. Let us be honest with ourselves. What kind of foundation have we laid? How many generations do we want to have follow the Lord with all their hearts: no generations, one generation, or many generations? We are the foundation for the next generation. If we will live a consistent Spirit-filled life at home, this is a solid foundation. The Lord says, "If you will love Me with all your heart, and walk in My ways, I will pour out My Spirit upon you," and "they shall raise

up the foundations of many generations!"

America 200 Years Ago

Many years ago, I read an article in a homeschool paper about the goals and dreams of education in our land 200 years ago. It was very revealing to my modern mind. Oh, how far we have fallen! I am sure that most of us have no idea how far. Let us consider some of the main points in that article in the light of laying foundations that support many godly generations. Two hundred years ago in America –

- Children began to learn Greek and Hebrew at the age of six years, so they could study the Bible when they were older.
- By age ten, the children had put off silly-mindedness and were preparing for real life.
- Young men entered the Bible colleges of Yale and others



American education has changed drastically.

to study and prepare for ministry at the age of twelve.

- These young men had to be able to diagram a paragraph (e.g., noun, verb, adverb, adjective, preposition) in Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. This was part of the entrance examination for these colleges.

- It was normal for a twelve-year-old boy to be able to operate his father's business while he slipped away for a day.

- Our land was full of young ladies who could guide the home in every area while Mom was away for the day.

- America had three books to read: the *Bible*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, and *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*.

It would be very easy to exclaim how far American education has fallen after reading this list. And it truly has changed drastically. But we don't need to look just at the educational system to find fault. What about our own ideals of training? We Christian parents have fallen into the same trap. It may not be to the degree that the world has fallen, but nevertheless, we are far away from these kinds of dreams and visions. Do we believe it is right for the children to shake off the silly-mindedness of the fun life by the time they are ten years old? I know that our society has changed, and most people

now live in the city where there is very little for youth to do. The serious things of life were very natural on the family farm. All had to help. I wonder though if we realize what we have thrown away.

What about some of the mental disciplines of those days? Greek, Hebrew, and Latin are not mastered without rigor, and many hours of hard work in memorization. Are we open to such discipline? What about all those twelve-year-old boys and girls who could handle the home and the business when their parents were away? Do we feel it would be cruel to train them like that? I see these realities all the time in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where I live. The children grow up with responsibilities, and because of that, they can take over for Mom or Dad when needed.

Have we given in to the philosophies of the world concerning our children? I tremble when I think of the silly reading material that the children of America are feeding on instead of the Bible. We think that childhood is a time of fun and play, and want to extend it as long as we can for them.

This was not so with our forefathers. They produced serious-minded children, filled with maturity by the age of twelve.

The goal is adulthood, mature young adults. I'm raising adults, not children. I agree with Eve's statement when she bore Cain: "I have gotten a man from the Lord" (Genesis 4:1b). What did she mean by these words? She was saying, "I have gotten a child who will become a man."

Again, I think we have lost our vision. The goal is responsible adults when the task is finished. We have enough children in our land, who are 21 years old, but still filled with play and frolic and jokes and silly-mindedness. I was a good example of this. I never decided to grow up until I was 23 years old. When I got converted, all of a sudden it dawned on me, "There's a real life to live." Many times, I feel as though I'm about ten years behind. We have set our hearts on higher goals for our children. The Lord is work-

ing with us. We shall have these goals although many will probably think we are extreme.

Psalms 11:3 says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" We live in a land where the foundations of many homes have been destroyed. What can we do? One thing we can do to right this desolation is to turn our sights back to our homes. I don't know how to turn a nation back to its foundations. Only a revival will accomplish that. But in the meantime, I am not going to lose my children to its fallen influences. Again, let us so love God, and so live for Him, that our children will see and sense a better way. We parents are one of the foundations that have been destroyed, and there is something we can do about this one.



Prayer ~

Dear Father God, we cry out to You again in Jesus' name. Send revival to this our land before it is too late. Open our own eyes, Lord, for we have been infected without knowing it. Send a revival, Lord, and let it start

with each one of us personally. We are the foundation for the next generation. Our children are going to be just like us. Have mercy, and wake us up from our apathy. Let us see the war that really is there. Pull back the veil and shake us before it is too late for this next generation. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen.



I Ask Myself

John Baker, Correctional Officer
Southeast Tennessee State Regional Correctional Facility
Pikeville, Tennessee

I ask myself, "O how could He
Love a poor soul, such as me?
What did He do to truly show
More love than I can ever know?"

A crown of thorns upon His head
And righteous blood of crimson red;
Nails in both feet and hands for me
Upon a cross of humility.

He suffered shame with dignity;
Cried not for Himself, but for me.
While suffering pain, they say He cried,
"Father, forgive them," and then He died.

Is this the love I've been searching for?
Or will I continue as before
To drink and lie, to cheat and steal,
Forsaking love I know is real?

I ask myself, "How can this be
That the Son of God would die for me?"

Pilgrim's Progress

Part 14

Welcome to John Bunyan's classic story of Christian's journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City!

Pilgrim's Progress was written over 300 years ago by a faithful street preacher, who was confined 12 years in a loathsome British prison for preaching without a license. As you read this allegory, remember who wrote it – a man who was free on the inside. God could use him in a great way even while he was in prison!

What Happened So Far...

In the last issue, one foolish mistake nearly cost Christian and Hopeful their lives at the hands of the fearsome Giant Despair and his cruel wife. After their narrow escape, they proceed with renewed caution and humility on their long journey to the Celestial City. Travel with them now as they camp with the wise and gracious shepherds, meet a troubling new traveler, and glean valuable lessons from the sad journey of the pilgrim Little-Faith.

The Delectable Mountains

The pilgrims continued until they came to the Delectable Mountains, which belong to the Lord of the Hill. Arriving among the mountains, they gazed at the beauty all around them, drinking freely and washing themselves in the fountains, and eating from the vineyards and orchards.

In the high meadows, shepherds were feeding their flocks next to the road. Pausing and leaning on their staves, the pilgrims spoke to them.

"Who owns these mountains and the sheep?" they asked the shepherds.

"These mountains are Immanuel's land," they answered. "You can see the city from them. The sheep are His also, for He laid down His life for them [John 10:11]."

"Is this the path to the Celestial City?" asked Christian.

"You're on the right path," the shepherds answered.

"How far is it yet to the city?"

"Too far for anyone but those who actually get there."

"Is the path ahead safe?"

"For those who should be safe it is safe, but transgressors will fall there [Hosea 14:9]."

Next Christian asked, "Is there a place near here where weakened and weary travelers can rest?"

"The Lord of these mountains has made us responsible to care for strangers [Hebrews 13:1,2]; whatever we can offer is yours."

In my dream I saw also that after the shepherds learned that the men were travelers, they asked them questions. "Where are you from?" they asked. "How did you get on this path, and how have you stayed with it so long? Few who start on this journey ever show their faces in these mountains." The two men gave the shepherds the same answers they always gave.

Well pleased with the words of Christian and Hopeful, the

shepherds, whose names were Knowledge, Experience, Watchful, and Sincere, welcomed them to the Delectable Mountains. Taking their hands, the shepherds led them to their tents, where they ate together. "You should stay awhile," they said, "to get acquainted with us and to rest and enjoy the good things here in the mountains."

They gazed at the beauty all around them, drinking freely and washing themselves in the fountains, and eating from the vineyards and orchards.

Christian and Hopeful told the shepherds they would stay, and everyone went to bed, since it had now grown late.

Then I saw in my dream that the next morning the shepherds invited Christian and Hopeful to hike with them in the mountains. They all went out together, admiring the wonderful view in all directions. Soon some of the shepherds began saying to the others, "What do you think? Shall we show them some real wonders?" They quickly agreed that the pilgrims should see whatever it was they were dis-



Blind men wandering and stumbling among tombs, trying to find their way out.

cussing, and before long they had led them to the top of a hill called Error.

Error Hill was very steep on the far side, and the shepherds asked the pilgrims to look over the cliff at the ground below. Christian and Hopeful went forward and looked down. At the bottom of the cliff lay the shattered bodies of several men who had fallen from the cliff.

“What does this mean?” asked Christian.

The shepherds answered, “Haven’t you heard of the people whom Hymenaeus and Philetus led astray concerning the faith of the resurrection of the body?”

“Yes, we have,” Christian and Hopeful answered.

“Well,” said the shepherds, “those are the men whose bodies you see at the foot of the mountain. They have ever since lain there unburied, to warn others not to climb too high or creep too near the cliffs of this mountain.”

Next I saw that the shep-

herds led them to the summit of another mountain called Caution, where they told them to look into the distance. In the distance the pilgrims thought they could see several blind men wandering and stumbling among tombs, trying to find their way out.

“What does this mean?” asked Christian.

The shepherds answered, “Did you see, just below these mountains, a little stile leading into a meadow on the left-hand side? A path leads from that stile directly to Doubting Castle, ruled by the Giant Despair. Those men among the tombs came on pilgrimage just as you did, until they reached that

stile. Then, because the path was rough there, they decided to cross the fence and walk in the meadow. Giant Despair caught them, of course, and after keeping them awhile in the dungeon of Doubting Castle, he gouged out their eyes and left them among the tombs to wander to this day. They are living proof of the words of the wise man who said, ‘The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.’” (Proverbs 21:16).

As Christian and Hopeful listened, they looked at one another while the tears rose in their eyes, but they said nothing to the shepherds.

Then I saw in my dream that the shepherds took them to a hollow, where a door was set into the side of the hill. Opening the door, they invited Christian and Hopeful to look. When the two looked in, they saw darkness and smoke and thought they heard

fire and the cries of tormented people. The scent of burning sulphur bit their noses. “What does this mean?” asked Christian.

The shepherds answered, “This is a shortcut to hell, used by hypocrites – people who sell their birthright, like Esau, people who sell their master, like Judas, people who blaspheme the gospel, like Alexander, and people who lie and sneak, like Ananias and his wife Sapphira.”



A shortcut to hell, used by hypocrites... people who lie and sneak, like Ananias and his wife Sapphira.

At this, Hopeful said to the shepherds, “All the people you named appeared to be pilgrims as we are, didn’t they?”

“Yes,” said the shepherds, “and they kept up the appearance for a long time, too.”

“How far did these people travel, only to be lost and destroyed in the end?”

“Some made it beyond these mountains, but others didn’t even come this far.”

The pilgrims said to each other, “We have need to call out to the Strong for strength.”

“And you will need to use it once you have it,” said the shepherds.

By now the pilgrims were ready to continue their journey, and the shepherds agreed that it was time, so they all walked together toward the end of the mountain range. Then the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s show the pilgrims the gates of the Celestial City.” The pilgrims were eager to see, so the shepherds took them to the top of a high hill called Clear, where they gave them a telescope and let them look at the Celestial City. Christian and Hopeful were still trembling from the terror of what they had seen through the door in the hillside, and they had trouble holding the telescope steady, but they thought they could see something that looked like a gate, and a little of the awesome glory of the Celestial City.

As they returned from the overlook, they sang,

“Thus by the shepherds secrets are revealed,

Which from all other men are kept concealed.

Come to the shepherds then, if you would see

Things deep and hidden; things of mystery.”

As the two men prepared to leave, one of the shepherds gave them a map of the path; another warned them to beware of the Flatterer; a third told them to take care not to sleep on the Enchanted Ground, and a fourth bade them Godspeed.

Then I awoke from my dream.

Ignorance From Conceit

Once again, I slept, and again I dreamed; in my dream I saw the same two pilgrims descending the mountains on the highway toward the Celestial City. Just below the mountains on the left lies the country of Conceit, and from Conceit a little crooked lane joins the path on which Christian and Hopeful were traveling. There they met a brisk young man named Ignorance just entering their road.

“Where are you from, and where are you going?” Christian asked him.

"Well, sir," Ignorance replied, "I was born in the country on the left there, and I'm on my way to the Celestial City."

"How do you plan to get in at the city gate?" asked Christian. "I suspect you will have trouble there."

"I'll get in as other good people do."

"But what do you have to show at the gate that will convince them to let you in?"

"I know my Lord's will. I lead a good life; I pay my bills on time, I pray, I fast, I pay tithes, and I give to charity. I've even left my homeland to travel to the Celestial City."

"But you didn't come in by the wicket gate at the head of this path; you came up that crooked lane. I'm afraid you'll find, no matter how highly you think of yourself, that on the day of accounting you'll be charged as a thief instead of gaining entrance to the city."

"Look, men, you're total strangers to me. I suggest you follow the religion of your country, let me follow the religion of mine, and hope for the best. Everybody knows the gate you're talking about is a long way from my homeland; I doubt there's anyone in the region who even knows the way to it, and it

doesn't matter since we have a very nice green lane that cuts right across to this path."

Seeing the self-confidence of Ignorance, Christian whispered to Hopeful, "'There is more hope of a fool than of him' [Proverbs 26:12]. 'When he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to everyone that he is a fool' [Ecclesiastes 10:3]. What do you think? Shall we keep trying to talk with him? Maybe it would be best to leave him behind for awhile to think about what we've told him, then let him catch up, and see if we can help him a little at a time."

Hopeful replied,

"Give Ignorance a little time to muse

On what we said, and let him not refuse

To heed our good advice, lest he remain

Still ignorant of what is the greatest gain.

God says, 'Those who no understanding have,

[Although he made them] them I will not save.'"

"I agree it's better not to say everything at once; let's pass him now, and talk to him again when he seems ready."

So they both went on, and soon left Ignorance a little way

behind. Soon after passing him, they entered a dark alley, where they met seven demons carrying a man, bound with seven strong cords. The demons were hurrying with their captive to the door the pilgrims had seen in the side of the hill [Matthew 12:45; Proverbs 5:22]. Christian and Hopeful trembled as they passed, but Christian looked to see if he could recognize him. He thought it might be Turnaway, who had lived in the town of Apostasy, but it was hard to see his face, for he hung his head like a thief who has just been caught. Looking after the man as he was dragged away, Hopeful saw on his back a paper bearing these words: "Wanton Professor and Damnable Apostate."

The Story of Little-Faith

Then Christian said to Hopeful, "I remember hearing about an incident that happened to a man near here. His name was Little-Faith, but he was a good man. He lived in the town of Sincere. Here's what happened:

"At the entrance to this alley, there is a lane that comes down from Broadway Gate. It's known as Dead Man's Lane because murders are so common there. This Little-Faith was on a

pilgrimage as we are now. He happened to sit down at that very spot, and fell asleep there. While he slept, down from Broadway Gate came three tough brothers named Faint-heart, Mistrust, and Guilt. Little-Faith had just awakened from his nap and was preparing to start on his journey again when the three gangsters rushed up and told him to stay where he was. He turned as white as a sheet, powerless to run or fight.

"'Give us your wallet!' yelled Faint-heart, but Little-Faith hated to lose his money and was in no hurry to obey, so Mistrust ran up to him, put his hand in his pocket, and yanked out a bag of silver.

"'Thieves, thieves!' shouted Little-Faith. Guilt swung a heavy club and hit him on the head, knocking him to the ground. Little-Faith lay where he fell, blood gushing from his head, while the thieves stood watching. Soon, however, they heard someone coming up the road, and fearing that it might be Great Grace, who lives in the town of Good Confidence, they took to their heels and disappeared, leaving Little-Faith alone. After awhile, Little-Faith came to himself, got up, and started slowly on his way again."

“They took everything he had, I suppose?” asked Hopeful.

“No,” said Christian. “They never went through the bag where he kept his jewels, so he still had those, but I was told that he took the loss terribly hard anyway. The thieves did get most of his

spending money; he had barely enough odd change to make it to the end of his journey [1 Peter 4:18]. In fact, if I have the story right, he was forced to beg as he traveled just to stay alive, for he wouldn’t sell his jewels. In spite of begging and earning cash in any way he could, he often went hungry during the rest of his journey.”

“Isn’t it amazing that they didn’t get his certificate for admittance at the gate?” said Hopeful.

“It is,” answered Christian. “Though it wasn’t any cleverness of his that kept them from finding it; he was too flustered to hide anything from them. They missed it by good provi-



Guilt swung a heavy club and hit him on the head, knocking him to the ground.

dence alone [2 Timothy 1:14; 2 Peter 2:9].”

“But it must have been a comfort to him that they didn’t get his jewels.”

“It could have been a great comfort,” said Christian, “if he had thought about it more, but they told me that he was so distressed over losing his money that he forgot all about his jewels for most of the journey. Whenever he did think of his jewels and begin to feel better, he would be reminded of his loss, and his sorrow would swallow up everything else again.”

“Poor man! How much grief it must have caused him!”

“A great grief indeed! It would have been hard on any

of us to be treated as he was, robbed and wounded, and in a foreign country, too. I was told that he scattered the rest of his journey with nothing but gloomy and bitter complaints. Everyone he encountered on the path had to hear from him the whole story – where he was robbed, how it was done, who did it, how much he lost, how he was hurt, and how he hardly escaped alive.”



“It’s strange, isn’t it,” said Hopeful, “that he didn’t sell or pawn some of his jewels to buy travel supplies.”

Christian replied, “You talk like a hatchling who still has the shell on his head. What would he pawn them for? Who would buy them? In the region where

he was robbed, nobody values those jewels, and besides, selling them wouldn’t have cured his real problem. Most of all, he knew that if his jewels were missing when he arrived at the city gate, he would have lost his inheritance there; and that would have been far worse than being attacked by ten thousand thieves.”

“Why are you so sharp, brother?” said Hopeful. “Esau sold his birthright for a mere pot of stew. That birthright was Esau’s greatest jewel [Hebrews 12:16]; if he did it, why not Little-Faith?”

“Esau did sell his birthright,” said Christian, “and so have many others, and just like Esau, they lose the most important blessing of all. But you need to see the difference between Esau and Little-Faith: For one thing, Esau’s birthright was a type, but Little-Faith’s jewels were not. Esau’s belly was his god; Little-Faith’s belly was not [Genesis 25:32]. Esau was lacking only food for his physical hunger; Little-Faith was not. Besides, Esau could see nothing beyond the cravings of his body. ‘I’m about to die,’ he said, ‘and what good will this birthright do me?’ Although Little-Faith had only a little faith, it was enough to keep him from that kind of extrava-

Puzzle Answers for Last Issue

"Verses on Forgiveness" on page 36:

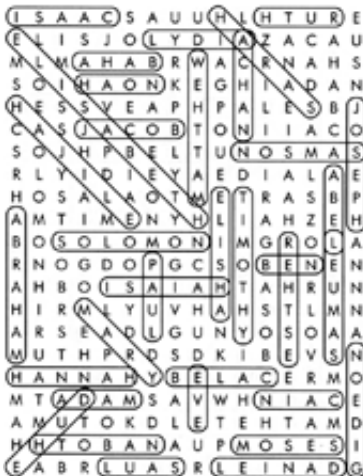
1. Forgiven 2. Christ
3. Transgressions 4. Confess
5. Ready 6. Trespasses 7. Forgive
8. Jesus 9. Humble 10. Tenderhearted
11. Praying 12. Compassion

Sudoku Puzzle on page 37:

3	4	2	7	8	6	1	5	9
7	9	1	5	2	4	8	6	3
6	8	5	3	1	9	2	4	7
8	1	9	6	3	7	5	2	4
2	7	3	4	5	8	6	9	1
5	6	4	2	9	1	7	3	8
1	2	8	9	6	3	4	7	5
9	5	7	8	4	2	3	1	6
4	3	6	1	7	5	9	8	2

Bible Men and Women Word Search

Puzzle on page 58:



gance—enough to make him prize his jewels far too much to sell them. You do not read anywhere that Esau had faith, even a little of it, and in a man like that, with no faith to resist, the flesh will be in complete control. So it should not surprise us if *he* sells his birthright, his soul, and everything else to the devil of hell. People who think only of their lusts will pay anything to get what they want, but Little-Faith was different; his mind was on divine things, and he lived by spiritual things, things which come from above. Why would such a person sell his jewels, to fill his mind with empty things instead? Does a man offer money for the chance to eat hay? Or can you convince a turtledove to eat carrion like a crow? So, although faithless ones, to satisfy their cravings, will pawn, mortgage, or sell all they have, even their own bodies and souls, yet those who have even a little saving faith can never do that. There, brother, is where you made your mistake."

"I see that," said Hopeful, "but your harsh response nearly made me angry."

"Oh," laughed Christian, "I merely compared you to some birds of a lively variety, who run up and down their worn trails with the eggshell still on their heads. Forget my comparison if it bothers you, and stick to the subject we're talking about."

"Well then, Christian, what about these thieves, Faintheart, Mistrust, and Guilt? I'm convinced they must be a pack of cowards, or they wouldn't have run from the mere noise of an approaching traveler. Why didn't Little-Faith show a little more courage? It seems to me he could have at least resisted for awhile and surrendered only when he had no other choice."

"Many people have called these fellows cowards," said Christian, "but few have found them so in the time of testing, and as for showing courage, Little-Faith had none to show. You say, brother, that if it had been you, you would want to resist a little, and then give in; if that's all the pluck you have now, when they are far away, I suspect that if you met them face to face, as Little-Faith did, you, too, might have second thoughts.

"Think of this also: these men are working for the king of the bottomless pit, who will come to

assist them himself if they need it, and his voice is like the roaring of a lion [1 Peter 5:8]. I once faced the same fight as Little-Faith did, and I found it a terrible thing. When the three villains attacked me, I began to resist like a Christian, but they gave a call, and along came their master himself. As the saying goes, 'I would have given my life for a penny,' but as God would have it, I was wearing a solid suit of armor. In spite of that, I had a hard time holding my ground like a man; no one can know what such a fight is like unless he has been in the battle himself."

"But you said they ran away merely from the fear that Great Grace was on the path."

"True, both they and their master have often fled from the mere sight of Great Grace, and that's no wonder, since he's the King's champion; but I'm sure you can see the difference between Little-Faith and the King's champion. Not all the King's subjects are his champions, and not all of them can fight as he can. Does it make sense to expect a little child to handle Goliath the way David did? Do we expect to find the strength of an ox in a wren? Some are strong, some are weak; some have great strength, some have little. This

man was one of the weak, so he got the worst of it.”

“For the sake of those scoundrels I wish Great Grace had come along,” said Hopeful.

“If it had been Great Grace, he might have had his hands full,” said Christian. “Although he is skilled with his weapons, and although he can do quite well against those villains as long as he keeps them at the end of his sword, yet if any one of the three gets inside him, he has a terrible struggle to keep from being thrown down. Anyone who looks closely at Great Grace’s face will see scars and cuts to prove what I’m saying. In fact, I heard that he once said during a fight, ‘We despaired even of life.’ How do you think these fighters made David moan, groan, and roar? Heman and Hezekiah, too, both champions of their day, had to exert themselves when these three attacked them, and in spite of their valor they came out of the battle soundly shaken up. Peter once fought those gangsters, but although people call him the prince of the apostles, those three roughed him up until he was afraid of a servant girl.

“Besides, their king is never out of hearing, and if they are in trouble, they need only whistle, and he hurries to help them if he

can. It is said of him, ‘The sword of him that lays at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. He esteems iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble. Darts are counted as stubble: he laughs at the shaking of a spear’ [Job 41:26–29]. What can a man do then? True, if a man could always have Job’s horse under him, along with the skill and courage to ride it, he might do some notable deeds. His neck is clothed with thunder; he will not be afraid as the grasshopper; the glory of his nostrils is terrible. He paws in the valley, rejoices in his strength, and goes out to meet the armed men. He mocks at fear, and is not affrighted, neither turns back from the sword. The quiver rattles against him; the glittering spear, and the shield. He swallows the ground with fierceness and rage; nor does he believe that it is the sound of the trumpet. He says among the trumpets, ‘Ha, ha!’ He smells the battle afar off, the thundering of

Answer to Bible Riddle on page 21:
The soldiers were temple guards and well versed in the Mosaic Law. It appears logical that when Jesus said, “I am” (he is imputed), they reacted to in the law.

the captains, and the shouting [Job 39:19–25].

“But footmen such as you and I had better never hope to meet an enemy, nor boast of being able to do better than others who failed, nor flatter ourselves with opinions of our own manliness, for such people usually get the worst of it when they are tested. Look at Peter, whom I mentioned before; how he swagged! He promised to be more faithful and to stand stronger for his Master than anyone else, but who ever suffered a worse defeat and humiliation by those villains as Peter?

“When we hear of such robberies on the King’s highway, we should do two things: First, we must go out well armed, and be sure to take a shield with us. Remember that it was because of the lack of a shield that the man who attacked Leviathan so bravely could not make him yield. If we are missing a shield, the enemy doesn’t fear us at all. That’s why a skillful one has said, ‘Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked’ [Ephesians 6:16].

“It’s also wise to ask the King for a bodyguard – in fact, to ask him to go with us himself. That’s what made David rejoice

in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and Moses would rather have died where he stood than go one step without his God [Exodus 33:15]. Oh, my brother, if only He goes with us, why should we fear if ten thousand attack us? Yet without Him, the proud helpers fall beneath the slain [Psalm 3:5–8; 27:1–3; Isaiah 10:4].

“For my part, I have been in the fight before, and although through God’s goodness I am still alive, I can’t boast of my manliness. I’ll be glad if I meet no more fighting, although I fear we are not out of danger yet. However, since the lion and the bear have not devoured me yet, I trust God to deliver us from the next uncircumcised Philistine.”

Then Christian sang this song:

“Poor Little-Faith! Have you been among the thieves?

And robbed? Remember this: he who believes

And gains more faith will have the victory

Over ten thousand. Else, scarce over three.”

– to be continued

Drawings taken from
Pilgrim’s Progress eBook available at
KrohneFamilyMedia.com.

Revised by Lighthouse Publishing.

Loaves & Fishes Response Form

Our vision is to send *Loaves & Fishes* to prisoners free of charge as the Lord provides. To subscribe, fill out this form and mail it to us for a free subscription. If you no longer wish to receive *Loaves & Fishes*, please help us reduce costs by unsubscribing. Simply put your name and address on this form and check the delete box.

Lighthouse Publishing • 14377 Old St. Hwy. 28 • Pikeville, TN 37367
Phone: 423-447-3567 • E-mail: info@lighthousepublishing.org
Web site: www.lighthousepublishing.org

Questions / Prayer Requests / Comments

Your Name

.....

.....

.....

.....

Help us save thousands of dollars in return postage costs!

1. Print each name and address clearly.
2. Include the jail or prison name and ID number (unless the prisoner is in an institution that doesn't use numbers).
3. Please let us know when your address changes. You are welcome to continue receiving *Loaves & Fishes* free of charge after you are released, but you must send us your new address.
4. You are welcome to subscribe your friends, even those outside of prison, if you are confident they would be interested in receiving *Loaves & Fishes*. Also, make sure you give us a *complete* and *accurate* address.
5. Do not submit your name more than once. If you already receive *Loaves & Fishes* in the mail with your name printed on the back, this means you are already subscribed and will get new issues as the Lord provides.

Enter new subscriptions on reverse side. →



Before you fill out this form, you must first read the instructions on the other side.

Print clearly and provide only **complete addresses** with all the information specified on the other side of this form.

Check here if this is an address change.

Add • Delete • New Address ID # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Housing _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

Add • Delete • New Address ID # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Housing _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

Add • Delete ID # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Housing _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

Add • Delete ID # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Housing _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

You may also subscribe online at www.lighthousepublishing.org.

Evening Prayer

As I kneel by my bed
At the close of a weary day,
I bury my face in trembling hands
And tears fall as I pray.

“Oh, God, as unworthy as I am,
I beg one thing of Thee—
Lest at times I stumble and fall,
Please hold on tight to me.

“You know my many questions
About things I don’t understand;
So guide me, Lord, and teach me
As you take hold of me again.

“And through this night in prison,
I beg with pleading heart—
Keep me in your mighty grasp
And never let me part.

“And while yet for many days,
I may be in this world of man,
Please, dear heavenly Father,
Keep me in your mighty hand.”

Tim Troutman

Kirkland Correctional Reception and Evaluation Center
Columbia, SC

“Thanks be unto God,
which always causeth us
to triumph in Christ.”

2 Corinthians 2:14

Prsrt. Std.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Pikeville, TN
Permit #24

Loaves & Fishes

14377 Old St. Hwy. 28 • Pikeville, TN 37367

Change Service Requested.