



"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

VOLUME 08 ISSUE 02

FEBRUARY 2005

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I Am Married Unto You (Jeremiah 3:14)



Are you married to God?

The wedding ceremony

A marriage ceremony usually includes promises.

Do you promise to

love, honor, and cherish your spouse, to be true in good times and in bad, sickness and health all the days of your life? And for those that have joined in a God ordained ceremony for the godly, the answer is yes. Unfortunately over fifty percent of all marriages end in divorce, in and out of the church. Of the good marriages, very few are taken to the test on each of these categories. But those that do endure to the end are held as the example couple.

But what of yourself? Hopefully you have been married twice. "Twice?" you may ask.

The first marriage

The first marriage is to an old man according to Romans 6:6. What is the old man? It is "the body of sin" (Romans 6:6). Seeing that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), very early in our life we are wedded to the old man.

Christ does not permit adultery

"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9). So as long as we are married to the old man of sin, we cannot be dating or trying to get married to Christ. Christ will not marry anyone that is divorced either. Divorce for fornication

reasons is permitted, but nowhere does the Bible permit remarriage.

So how long do you have to wait until you can remarry, that is to be married to Christ? "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to [her] husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of [her] husband" (Romans 7:2). So the old man must die.

"But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Through faith in God, the old man can die. And Jesus says, "without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). So think not that you can have the old man die without God's help.

How dead is dead?

In regards to the old man of sin, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6). According to the Bible, the old man is to be crucified and destroyed. That does not sound like the old man dies and goes to heaven or hell. The old man is dead and no longer living in any form. No reincarnation either.

Compare it with Jesus. Jesus was crucified. The same day he died. "And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling [unto him] the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew [it] of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph" (Mark 15:44-45). Now did Jesus go to heaven that day? On the day of resurrection, "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say

WE ARE NOT A CHURCH BUT ENCOURAGE ALL TO ATTEND CHURCH NOT AS A PEW WARMER BUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Strengthen faith in God's Word.

MISSION FOCUS:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by reaching out to the communities through our newsletter (since 1998) as well as through our evangelistic seminars (since 1994). It is to help keep those that are discouraged about things they see inside the church from leaving, to ground those that are new or have not heard of these things before, and to strengthen those that are already grounded. And to reach out to those that are searching for a meaningful relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ.

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Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

WEB SITES

We host the following websites:

- www.tstl.net
- www.tstlstore.com
- www.tstlseminars.com

ADDED LAST MONTH TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

WWW.TSTLStore.COM:

- None

WWW.TSTLSeminars.COM:

- None

FUTURE WWW.TSTL.NET:

- The following are remaining to be transferred to the new site:
 - Radio
 - Adult Newsletters
 - 1998 has been transferred.
 - Still have 1999 - 2005.
 - Children's Newsletters

~~~ NEW SITE WILL BE RELEASED ONCE WE REACH THIS POINT ~~~

- Children's Coloring pages
- Forum
- Prayer Requests
- Online Study
- Free Church Web

unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and [to] my God, and your God" (John 20:17). So the answer is no.

What is death? "Consider [and] hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the [sleep of] death" (Psalms 13:3). "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep" (John 11:11). "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" (1 Thessalonians 4:14). It is a period of unconscious rest or sleep. If it were not so, then the analogy of marrying Christ, which is used in the Old Testament as well as by Paul, holds no meaning. The reason is that we are spiritually married to the old man. If the spirit lives after being crucified, it really is not dead then. But if it sleeps the sleep of death, then we are free to marry another.

#### The second marriage

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:2). Now a virgin is one that is pure. How can you be presented pure to Christ after having been married to another? "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 1:24). Jesus is able to keep us from resurrecting the old man of sin, but more importantly, He is able to present us as being faultless, that is, without sin.

#### Courtship

Now marriage contains a long period before hand. The modern term is called dating, which contains actions far different from the intended meaning of courtship. During the courtship time, a couple will get to know each other better. This is done through a form of study. They will observe each other, ask questions directly and sometimes with a third party. Courtship is also part of the relationship with Jesus. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

As you see, marriage is not all emotion. In fact, that is where the phrase "Love is blind" comes from. If a couple enters into marriage without the studying time and is based upon emotion, then when the emotions seem to have disappeared, so does the marriage. The same is true with Christ. If we give our

hearts to Jesus based upon emotion and go through the ceremony without any study, the relationship will fall apart. The person will little by little return to the old habits. And a deceptive aspect is that they have been convinced that being saved is a matter of a single moment in time. So as they return to their old lifestyle, they do not see the danger in that they are actually leaving their spouse and getting a separation.

#### The ceremony

People can get married in various methods, not all ordained of God. Though a couple may use the Justice of the Peace, it has not been witnessed in heaven through His ordained means – the church through the minister. So it is with Jesus. Many choose all different forms of baptism, yet Jesus says, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). Make sure you have the right ceremony – the one ordained by God.

Couples join hands in matrimony and through a celebration afterwards receive gifts, so it is with marrying Jesus. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

#### How does one cheat?

"He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me" (John 14:24). "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thessalonians 2:10). "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17). Overall, self-sufficiency, disobeying the Word and remember that Jesus is the Word, not keeping the commandments, not loving

the truth enough to die for the truth, listening to another gospel, listening to weak arguments in favor of an easier entrance into heaven, and overall, not loving Jesus with your whole heart, mind, and soul (Matthew 22:37). That is how one will destroy the marriage.

**How does one reconcile?**

*“Now when they heard [this], they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men [and] brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:37-38).*

*“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*

*“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye” (Colossians 3:13).*

*“And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore [him] fourfold” (Luke 19:8).*

Repentance, confession, forgiveness, and restitution where possible is the means of reconciling and keeping the marriage strong.

**How does one stay faithful?**

*“Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise*

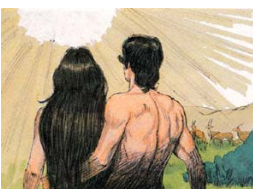
*with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of [his] time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God” (1 Peter 4:1-2). “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him” (John 14:21). “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23). “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love” (John 15:10). “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone” (James 2:17).*

**Not unto “death doth you apart”!**

*“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:54). “That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:15). “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, [even] eternal life” (1 John 2:25). “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (Jude 1:21).*

*“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” (Revelation 19:7-8).*

**THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH (3 John 1:2)**



**HEALTH SNIPPET:**

**Topic: Creation’s Crown**

Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and designed to be a

counterpart of God. Man is very dear to God, because he was formed in his own image. This fact should impress us with the importance of teaching by precept and example the sin of defiling, by the indulgence of appetite or by any other sinful practice, the body, which is designed to represent God to the world.

**IN THE CHILDREN’S NEWSLETTER**

- PAGE 1** — New Testament Lesson in children’s language.
- PAGE 2** — Old Testament Lesson in children’s language.
- PAGE 3** — Character Lesson — Application of character attributes from both Bible lessons.
- PAGE 4** — Nature Lesson — Learning from God’s nature.
- PAGE 5** — Health Lesson — Taking care of the body.
- PAGE 6** — Coloring Page — Alternating between either the Old or New Testament
- PAGE 7** — Puzzle and Definitions — Matching from both Bible lessons and answers to questions.
- PAGE 8** — Learning Activities — Object lessons in our work and in our play.

**FREE CHILDREN’S NEWSLETTER**

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## BIBLE STUDY



*The Bride of Christ*  
(Revelation 21:9)

1. How is the bride presented to her husband? **Revelation 21:2**
2. What does she put on? **Isaiah 61:10**
3. What do they represent? **Malachi 3:16-18, Revelation 19:7-8**

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

*Revelation's Conglomerate Beast Part 8* (Revelation 13:2)

1. What period of time does the statue dream cover? **Daniel 2:29** "As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came [into thy mind] upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass." Every moment from the time of Babylon until the end.
2. What happens to the fourth kingdom? **Daniel 2:41** "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the

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The wonderful mechanism of the human body does not receive half the care that is often given to a mere lifeless machine.

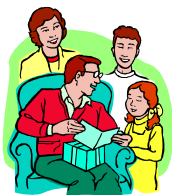
### What Is In the Food?



The B-vitamins, especially vitamin B-1, pantothenic acid, niacin, and B-12 are specifically nerve cell nutrients, just as iodine is a specific thyroid nutrient and vitamin A is a nutrient for the retina. Nerve cells develop severe abnormalities in microscopic appearance and in function when B-vitamins are deficient or lacking. Vitamin B-1 (Thiamine) is the good disposition vitamin. The integrity of the

central nervous system and the proper functioning of the gastrointestinal tract are associated with proper amounts of thiamine, along with all other B-vitamins. Thiamine serves an important function in maintaining normal appetite and digestion and is essential in carbohydrate metabolism. A high level of mental function is not possible with a thiamine deficiency. Almost all natural foods contain thiamine. It is present in generous amounts in legumes, food yeast, whole grains, nuts, seeds, and grains. In other words, ample supply is found in God's original diet.

## TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT (Prov. 22:6)



### Character Examples From the Bible – Jonah Running From God

Jonah 1:1-3 *Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Jonah Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*

Even when you are alone, God still sees you. So even if your parents are not able to see that you are doing something wrong, God is watching, your guardian

angel is watching, and who knows who else is watching. So it is always important to do good even when no one is watching.

How do we know God is watching? The Bible says in Psalms 139:7-12 *Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou [art] there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou [art there]. [If] I take the wings of the morning, [and] dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light [are] both alike [to thee].*

## ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH (Daniel 10:21)



### QUESTION #1 – Mechanicsburg, PA – What are the beatitudes of Revelation?

**ANSWER #1** – A beatitude is typically associated with the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus stated a series of statements beginning with "Blessed". So looking the word "blessed" up in a concordance and focusing on those in the book of Revelation, we find seven such references. Revelation 1:3 *"Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which*

*are written therein: for the time [is] at hand."* A blessing is placed on a person that does all three and does not leave any of the three out, for it is written, *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"* (James 1:22). The Bible is not to be taken lightly. Prophecy is provided so that we are not deceived and lost. The Bible as a whole contains a power that is found in no other book or human being -- John 17:17 *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* It only can do this if we treat the Bible as God speaking directly to us, which He is, and by us submitting to do as

He has asked.

Revelation 14:13 *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."* Why is death a blessing? Well first, note the key phrase *"in the Lord."* That is very significant because death in its general sense is not necessarily a blessing, but to die *"in the Lord"* is a sealed future, which Satan cannot touch. What is that future? 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* Noting that the phrase *"dead in Christ"* in Thessalonians means the same as *"die in the Lord"* from Revelation, we then see that those who do *"die in the Lord"* will *"ever be with the Lord."*

Revelation 16:15 *"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."* There are many today that think they are saved and yet are naked and will be lost. This was prophesied to happen. Revelation 3:17-18 *"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."* These people think that since they are well off physically or even making ends meet on a regular basis, they must be blessed of God. If this analogy is correct, then Christ was well cursed seeing *"the Son of man hath not where to lay [his] head"* (Matthew 8:20, Luke 9:58). John the Baptist must have also been well cursed seeing *"his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey"* (Matthew 3:4). Then there is Paul the apostle *"Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain*

*dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, [and are] the offscouring of all things unto this day"* (1 Corinthians 4:11-13). In short, we need a daily watching and not just rejoicing over a one time historical reference in our life. This is what Paul preached. *"I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily"* (1 Corinthians 15:31).

Revelation 19:9 *"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed [are] they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God."* Each of us is called. The question is, what is our response? Matthew 22:12-14 *"And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast [him] into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few [are] chosen."* Will we accept Christ righteousness for entrance into heaven and not our own works? At the same time, there is a work to be done which gives evidence of our response. 1 Peter 2:9 *"But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."* Living up to all the light and seeking for more light is the positive response.

Revelation 20:6 *"Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."* There are two resurrections identified in the Bible. John 5:29 *"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."* There is obviously a blessing being in the first group for that is the one for eternal life while the second is for damnation.

Revelation 22:7 *"Behold, I come quickly: blessed [is] he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."* Like bookends, Revelation is surrounded with a blessing to those that keep, that is to live what is

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*strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay", Daniel 7:7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it [was] diverse from all the beasts that [were] before it; and it had ten horns."* It would divide into ten separate kingdoms.

3. How many kingdoms appear as a result? **Daniel 7:7** *"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it [was] diverse from all the beasts that [were] before it; and it had ten horns"; 7:20 "And of the ten horns that [were] in his head, and [of] the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even [of] that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look [was] more stout than his fellows."*
4. What pattern develops between the kingdoms (this one may be difficult to see)? **Daniel 2:38-40** *"And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou [art] this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear*

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*rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all [things]: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.*" One followed immediately after another. No lapse of time is present in the kingdoms.

So as the study of the conglomerate beast of Revelation 13 comes to a close, we now provide a summary. In Revelation 13, there is one beast that is made up of four distinct animal parts, which represented kingdoms according to Daniel 7. To understand these animals, we find a parallel to the animals in a dream of a metal man. Four different metals matched the four distinct animals. They were Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greece, and Rome. When Rome fell in 476, the kingdom would divide into Ten pieces, which has come down to us as Europe. It is through the collection of these belief systems, combined together that make up the beast. The beliefs of the system are not Biblical. In fact the doctrines could be said to be pagan in nature. This is why the Bible states "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 1:7-9).

stated in the book. Further, you can see how important this is to God for He states it twice.

Revelation 22:14 "Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Doing God's commandments, which is the working transformation that Christ has wrought in us, gives us entrance into the

New Jerusalem. This is also stated outside of Revelation. Romans 10:4 "For Christ [is] the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." As previously addressed, the word "end" does not only mean "non-existent" but it also means "result." So the result of keeping the law, which is righteousness and can only truly be kept if one believes in Jesus, is to see Christ Himself in the clouds of glory as well as throughout eternity.

## NEWS FOR CHILDREN OF LIGHT (1 Thessalonians 5:5)



The following are "sudden destruction" news items that appeared between December 16, 2004 and January 15, 2005.

[Preview future "sudden destruction" news snippets at [www.tstl.net/suddendestruction](http://www.tstl.net/suddendestruction).]

### ►► The New York Times, December 26, 2004 - Iraq Militants Post Video on Bombing of U.S. Base

The purported video of the Mosul blast -

titled "The martyrdom operation done by our brother Abu Omar al-Mosuli" - begins with three men dressed in black with their heads wrapped in scarves kneeling in front of a black banner that says, "There is no God but God and Mohammed is the messenger of God."

**COMMENT:** Luke 21:9-10 "But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end [is] not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom."

## WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?

(Isaiah 53:1)

- COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN THE NEWS -



The following are news items that appeared between Dec. 16, 2004 and Jan. 15, 2005. [Preview future news snippets at [www.tstl.net/news](http://www.tstl.net/news).]

### ►► UPI, January 14, 2005 - Gays win in Lutheran church policy debate

A task force of the largest U.S. Lutheran denomination wants it to stop enforcing the church's official ban on ordaining homosexuals. The Episcopal Church, for example, consecrated a practicing homosexual as bishop and allows same-sex ceremonies, and the Presbyterian Church USA is deferring a final decision on such issues until 2006. Those two churches have lost more than 1.5 million members combined in recent decades.

**COMMENT:** What will the churches be like in the last days? The following verses are about the church for they only can deny godliness by unconverted people attending

church. 2 Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **Without natural affection**, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**" Allowing homosexual practices in the church and ordained is not even helping the churches to grow.

### ►► AP News, January 10, 2005 - Calif. Principal Bans 'Freak Dancing'

Fed up with students' racy moves, a principal at a California high school has taken the unusual step of canceling the rest of this year's school dances.

**COMMENT:** "And they were both naked,

the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Genesis 2:25). "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Praise the Lord for this principal. God intended sexuality to be between husband and wife. Sexuality, as Jesus states, includes being sexually aroused by the simple gaze. And short of actually having intercourse, a frequent arousal for a male is to watch girls swing their stuff on the dance floor. The racy dancing is said to relieve frustration seeing they are not supposed to have intercourse. But in reality, it is simply the next step in a serious of subtle moves on Satan's part. Many Christian churches did not permit dancing even up into the 1900's. Then little by little it crept in. Today, many who read this comment are more than likely shocked at our comment. Unfortunately, this is how well Satan's little steps into the church has progressed. There is no such thing as Christian dancing, mostly because such dancing is done to devil music. It is pretty hard to dance to Amazing Grace, which the amazing part is that it gives power to see what sin truly is, the power to not desire it, and the power to not give in to sin.

►►NY Post, Jan 4, '05 - \$40 MIL HUNCH

Brooklyn's Clifford Maxwell is living proof you should pay attention to the voices in your head — they could make you \$40 million richer. The retired father of five was riding a bus past his regular lottery outlet two weeks ago when an "inner voice" urged him to get off and purchase a ticket — even though he already had three entries tucked away in his wallet. Sure enough, a few nights later the 61-year-old former MTA worker watched in stunned disbelief as his lucky seven numbers rolled across the screen — the exact numbers shown on the last of his Quick Pick tickets. "I am truly blessed," a beaming Maxwell said yesterday. "I was on the bus and an inner voice told me to get off and buy another one. So I did." "The first thing I did was pray to God."

**COMMENT:** Though the Bible does not specifically say that gambling is wrong, the principles of how to correctly earn money is there. "Wealth [gotten] by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase" (Proverbs 13:11). Every Christian should agree that putting money

down on sports teams through a bookie is not a Christian activity. How about betting on horses? Even if it is legal, it does not mean that God approves. So yes, even though it is for a good cause, playing the lottery is not a Christian activity. And the argument that it is only a dollar is as good as participating in sin a little bit — it is wholly wrong.

Then we compound the issue by declaring that we have been blessed. Wealth gained for the sake of wealth is never a blessing of God. Satan blesses as well. Saying that you need a million dollars to fund a church project and an anonymous donor just so happened to send a check before the need was apparent is a blessing from God.

God never blesses sin, even in the slightest. If a so-called blessing would misguide a person, Satan would be more than willing to pour out his blessings. There is only one test and one test alone — do you have a "Thus Saith the Lord;" is it in the Bible?

Because something is not forbidden does not make it right. People used to say that they cannot find doing something like that in the Bible therefore they would not do it. Today, it is the opposite. Since it is not condemned, it is considered permitted. God help us.

►►The LA Times, January 2, 2005 - Enrollment of Gays' Sons Roils O.C. Catholic School

In a clash that pits Catholic teachings against shifting values of American society, a group of parishioners and parents has accused Orange County church leaders of defying Pope John Paul II by allowing a gay couple to enroll their two boys in a diocese school. Eighteen people signed a letter last month demanding that St. John the Baptist School in Costa Mesa accept only families that sign a pledge to live by Catholic doctrine — a move that effectively would kick the boys out of school. The church regards homosexual acts as sinful, and in 2003 the pontiff condemned marriage and adoption by same-sex couples. But Father Gerald M. Horan, superintendent of schools run by the Diocese of Orange, rejected the idea of a parental covenant. If the school barred gay parents from enrolling their children, they would also have to ban children of parents who violate other church teachings,

**BIBLE THOUGHT**

*Making Yourself Ready*

**Revelation 19:7** *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

The church or bride will be ready when Jesus returns. The church or members thereof will be prepared in such a way "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27). Are you seeking Jesus to help you remove blemishes and wrinkles from your life?

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including those who are divorced, use birth control or weren't married in the church, he said.

**COMMENT:** *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness"* (Ephesians 6:14). We are to stand, which means non-compromising, in regards to the truth. When one allowance is permitted it opens the door to more. And here we see an example, right or wrong. Too many think to win souls to Jesus we have to permit allowances here or there, even though Jesus never did. He said, "Sin no more" (John 8:11). What the world needs is high standards. What is your example?

### ►► Israel Insider, Dec. 29, 2004 - Police indict 4 Israelis for running huge antiquities fraud ring

Four Israeli antiquities collectors and dealers were indicted Wednesday on charges they ran a sophisticated forgery ring that spanned the globe and produced a treasure trove of

fake Bible-era artifacts, including some that were hailed as major archaeological finds. Police said the ring forged what were presented as perhaps the two biggest biblical discoveries in the Holy Land in recent years \_ the purported burial box of Jesus' brother James and a stone tablet with written instructions by King Yoash on maintenance work at the Jewish Temple. The forgery ring has been operating for more than 20 years, Dorfman said.

**COMMENT:** *"For we walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7). The context of this verse is discussing visions, but the principle holds true. We do not put faith in what we see. We should be like the people of Sychar who heard and believed. Depending upon anything but faith to substantiate your belief is setting yourself up for deception (Revelation 13:14). That includes even the manifestation of what is attributed to spiritual gifts. Please do not misunderstand. Spiritual gifts are in the church. But if you believe only

because of the spiritual gifts, then that is where faith is no longer faith but sight.

### ►► WorldNetDaily, Dec. 26, 2004 - Disaster compared to Bible scene

The largest earthquake in the past 40 years and the resulting deaths of thousands from 33-foot tidal waves are being compared by an American reporter to descriptions of disaster from Holy Scripture. Officials at the U.S. Geological Survey the 9.0 quake centered off the Indonesian island of Sumatra was the world's fifth-largest since 1900 and the biggest since a 9.2 temblor hit Prince William Sound Alaska in 1964. An Italian scientist says the earthquake was so strong, it even disturbed the rotation of the Earth. "All the planet is vibrating," Enzo Boschi, head of Italy's National Geophysics Institute said on SKY TG24 TV.

**COMMENT:** Isaiah 29:6 *"Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire."*