



"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 09 ISSUE 01

JANUARY 2006

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Built His House Upon A Rock - Part IV (Matthew 7:24)



A study of Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

Continuing our study of Matthew 5, 6, and 7, in learning what it means to be "a wise man, which built his

house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24), we pick up in Matthew 5:9.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. (Matthew 5:13)

Again, Jesus uses an illustration that appears to make an Old Testament teaching easier to understand by example, but this is not so. In the act of salvation with the sanctuary, there were meat offerings. If someone thought that because there were no refrigerators, all meat was salted, they are wrong. Only that meat that was not consumed was salted. However, in the sanctuary service, God had to specifically tell them to add salt even to the recently sacrificed animal. Though it needed no salt for preservation, it needed salt to be the proper influential sacrifice.

Leviticus 2:13 *And every oblation of thy meat offering shalt thou season with salt; neither shalt thou suffer the salt of the covenant of thy God to be lacking from thy meat offering: with all thine offerings thou shalt offer salt.*

Numbers 18:19 *All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it [is] a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.*

2 Chronicles 13:5 *Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, [even] to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?*

Now of course the priest would use only salt that had a good taste to it, otherwise, it would be cast away. Jesus picks up this illustration and tells us that we are the salt. Not only are we to sacrifice our lives for the gospel, but also give up (sacrifice) our old ways. We are not just a meat offering to the Lord, but a salted meat offering. We are to influence by example, by teaching, and by preaching to others.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

This too is not an original idea.

2 Samuel 23:4 *And [he shall be] as the light of the morning, [when] the sun riseth, [even] a morning without clouds; [as] the tender grass [springing] out of the earth by clear shining after rain.*

Isaiah 49:6 *And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

To be a light, especially shining where it is dark, is to be bright. That means, for the sake of friendship, the current movement of avoiding subjects of belief with other people is wrong. Jesus wants us to share with others what we know. Many know that

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

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries at PO Box 10607, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

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.

NEWS FOR CHILDREN OF LIGHT

(1 Thessalonians 5:5)





The following are "sudden destruction" news items that appeared between Nov. 16 and Dec. 15, 2005. [Preview future "sudden destruction" news snippets at www.tstl.net/suddendestruction.]


» None


ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES!

On the Eve of Armageddon


 2005 has seen the most number of hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean.


 The disasters happening one right after another is unprecedented in number and timing.


 Are we living in the last days?


 Outside of weather and earthquakes, are there other signs?

Nailing It To His Cross

 In Leviticus 23, there are seven specific feast days identified.

 What were they all about?

 How do they parallel Jesus' ministry?

 How detailed do they parallel?

Both studies include quite a few brand new questions and answers that never were presented in this series before. The truth has never been made more plain.

* Both studies are part of a sequential series of study. Prerequisite studies are required.

smoking is not good for one's health. Further, many know it is also a sin to purposely destroy the body with a known cancer causing element. To leave people to themselves without enlightening them to the connection of smoking and sin is to not be a light.

In addition, Jesus talked of putting a light on a candlestick. Again, that comes right out of the sanctuary, which is the plan of salvation illustrated (Psalms 77:13). Exodus 40:24 *"And he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward."*

Being a light does mean less friends. But that is alright because the true friends will appreciate what you have to offer and they will be your friends for life and eternal life.

Why hide the truth to keep friends for this world only?

To be continued...

These lessons are two fold. Not only a verse-by-verse study of Matthew 5, 6, and 7 but also an illustration against the argument that we are New Testament Christians, not Old Testament Jews. What we really are to be is Bible Christians. That is both Testaments. If you live out of the new, you are missing over half of the message from heaven. There are bigger reasons the Old Testament has been preserved over 96% accurately. Read it; study it; live it.

We will continue our verse-by-verse study next month, but for now, let us seek to be salt with influence and a light that shines.

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



Topic: Character of God.

He who hungers and thirsts after God (Matthew 5:6 remembering that God is righteous) will seek for an understanding of the laws, which the God of wisdom (1 Timothy 1:17, Jude 1:25, Ecclesiastes 1:13) has impressed upon creation. These laws are a transcript of his character. They must control all who enter the heavenly and better country (James 4:7 speaks of submitting). God's law is written by his own finger (Exodus 31:18) upon every nerve, every muscle, every faculty which has been entrusted to man (Romans 2:14).

HEALTH TIDBIT: Sprouting: Sprouts provide numerous vitamins, enzymes,

minerals, carbohydrates, protein, folic acid, and energy. They especially contain the B complex and vitamins A and C. Did you know that a ½ c of sprouted seed is equivalent to the vitamin C found in 6 cups of orange juice? Alfalfa is the king of sprouts, highest in vitamin and mineral content. Sprouts are easy to digest, saving on the digestion process. There are a large variety of methods for producing sprouts and they are not just for on salads. You can use them in casseroles, salad dressings, sauces, soups, breads, pancakes, pizza, baked goods, juices, sandwich spreads and much more. Many of those allergic to a particular item such as wheat find that they can eat the sprouted grain with no reactions. Sprouts can also be frozen to use later in soups.

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 – Centurion

Matthew 8:5-13 *And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, and saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am*

not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this [man], Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth [it]. When Jesus heard [it], he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many

shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, [so] be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

The centurion did not have to see the results. The centurion believed by faith that it would happen.

When a parent tells a child that something is going to happen, the child typically is unable to believe without seeing it. For instance, a meal that is tasting so good that a child might want seconds, though there is still food on the plate, upon the first person taking seconds, the child will say, "I want seconds!" This is said usually to

secure their portion of seconds. Telling a child that when all of the first serving is eaten, then they may have seconds usually does not satisfy a child. Some parents will slide a portion of food to another position on the serving dish and say that it is the child's seconds. This usually satisfies their desire for seconds as now they can keep an eye on their portion of seconds. But this is seeing and not having faith in the parent's words.

The centurion is the greatest example of faith. A child should be taught this lesson frequently and tested frequently. Let the child be insecure regarding seconds but make sure there is seconds for the child, even at the risk of the child being full after the first serving. When the plate is clean, reinforce the act of faith by saying something like, "Didn't I tell you that you will have seconds when your plate is clean? Here it is."

WEB SITES

UPDATES LAST MONTH:

WWW.TSTL.NET:

- Over 94,000 of searchable paragraphs.
- July through December 2002 newsletters have been transferred.
- March and April 2001 children's newsletters have been transferred.
- Revelation's Book of Life Bible study released

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 November 16 and December 15, 2005. [Preview future news snippets at www.tstl.net/news.]

»CNN, December 13, 2005 - Alleged pope incarnate excommunicated

A Roman Catholic bishop here has excommunicated members of a communal sect whose leader allegedly claims to be a manifestation of the late Pope John Paul II. Gonzalez, a former firefighter in the town of Aguada, has told his followers that he became a manifestation of John Paul when the pope died in April and that Pope Benedict XVI is the "antichrist," according to the order, which priests in the diocese read to their congregations Sunday.

The bishop also alleged that another sect leader, Gladys Miranda, claims she is the Virgin Mary, and that followers of the group make it hard for parishioners to receive communion by lying face-down in the aisle.

COMMENT: Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment". We do not believe in reincarnation.

»Arizona Central, December 6, 2005 - Christian nudists to build village in Florida

Christian nudism might sound like an oxymoron, but for thousands of devout followers, living and worshipping naked is at the core of their faith.

COMMENT: 1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." Chapter 10 is about the experience of Moses. The things that happened in the Exodus and desert are examples for those in the last days. They are a warning or admonition. That means that what happened then would probably be repeated in some form at the end of time. And for some reason, Christians seem to be wanting to take their clothes off. Is there a parallel? "Moses saw that the people [were] naked" (Exodus 32:25). Absolutely there is a parallel. That means the nudist movement in Christianity is wrong. It was wrong then and it is wrong now. Some may argue that sex was involved. Read Leviticus 18 and 20 and no one but husband and wife are to experience each other's nakedness.

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BIBLE STUDY



Eating and Drinking

1. What was the result of Eve and then Adam eating the forbidden fruit? **Genesis 2:17**

2. What destruction happened while people were careless about eating and drinking? **Matthew 24:38**

3. What other destruction happened while people were careless about eating and drinking? **Luke 17:28-29**

4. What happened to the people while they left their fleshly desires rule their appetite? **Numbers 11:33**

5. What ability did Daniel have because he was careful of what he ate (see Daniel 1:12-15 regarding what Daniel ate)? **Daniel 1:20**

(Continued on page 5)

►Sky News, December 6, 2005 - Anger Over Crucifix Ban

Sam Morris, 16, was reportedly sent home from Sinfin Community School, Derby, after she refused to remove a gold cross on a necklace. Sam, who had worn the necklace for the past three years, told Sky News the cross was not a "fashion accessory" and she felt "naked without it".

COMMENT: Matthew 10:18 *"And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles."* In this case, she is being brought before the principal and now the world via Internet. Though we disagree on the use of jewelry, none-the-less, Christianity is being brought forth through attack as was predicted to happen in the last days.

►WorldNetDaily, December 4, 2005 - 'Porn again' for kingdom of God

A former stripper is taking off all pretense when it comes to the Word of God, as she's on a mission designed to bring porn stars, nude dancers, and people addicted to pornography closer to salvation. "We pattern our ministry after the very ministry of Jesus by actually going to the people who need him," says Heather Veitch, who performed in Las Vegas and California. "Our desire is for people to see that Christianity is anything but boring and restrictive. In Christ, we are free to experience adventure, pleasure, forgiveness, hope and peace."

COMMENT: Sorry Heather, but we have never read anything about Jesus purposely going to a place or environment of sin. An invitation to speak in such a place is acceptable as Jesus accepted such, but to continue to hang out in the environment goes against 1 Thessalonians 5:22, *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."*

►Scotland on Sunday, December 4, 2005 - See you in Hell - one in three clergy believe in damnation

The concept of Hell as a literal place has declined in an increasingly secular world.

COMMENT: Maybe the lack of knowing where hell is could be a problem. Down yonder just does not seem acceptable. Further, the thought that a good but lost person born thousands of years before Hitler is burning longer than Hitler is unbelievable for a just God to do. That is because hell is not existing right now. Jude

1:6 says, *"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."* The evil angels are not burning in hell right now. And Revelation 20:9 says, *"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."* This identifies hell being the surface of the earth, and hell being an execution of the ungodly at the end of time. A future hell in a real location.

►BBC News, December 3, 2005 - Youths reveal racy Bible calendar

A German Protestant youth group has put together a 2006 calendar illustrated with erotic scenes from the Bible. The 12 re-enacted passages feature a bare-breasted Delilah cutting Samson's hair and a nude Eve offering an apple. The Nuremberg-based group said they wanted to represent the Bible in a way that would entice young people. "Anyway, it doesn't say anywhere in the Bible that you are forbidden to show yourself nude."

COMMENT: The young lady that made the comment about forbidding the act of nakedness needs to read Leviticus 18 and 20. A sample includes Leviticus 18:8 *"The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it [is] thy father's nakedness."* Only husband and wife are to see and experience each other's nakedness. But overall, we have been against drama, Christian rock, modern music, and other forms of entertainment all in the disguise of winning the youth. We warned that by opening what appears to be an innocent door would eventually lead to something that was not so innocent. And now we have finally reached that point. Who knows, maybe for further winning the youth we should invite the youth from having orgies in the privacy of homes when parents are away and move them to the church classrooms. That should "entice young people." It's time to clean house. Remove the calendars, remove the drums, and remove the movie theaters. Let's get back to how Jesus and the apostles won souls -- the Word and verbal illustrations.

►AP, December 1, 2005 - Pharmacists disciplined over morning-after pill

Walgreen Co., the nation's largest drugstore chain by revenue, said it has put four Illinois pharmacists in the St. Louis area on unpaid leave for refusing to fill prescriptions for emergency contraception in violation of a state rule.

COMMENT: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Many times we hear of companies saying that their hands are tied because the government mandates it. Well, that is not good enough. Companies hardly stand behind employees today when they are in the moral right. It earns respect if it did, but not here. Just because the government mandates something does not mean it is right. It is time to stand for the right.

► **The Daily Telegraph, December 1, 2005 - Moderate drinking 'may not be good for you'**

Drinking in moderation may not be good for you after all, scientists said yesterday. Previous research has suggested that light to moderate alcohol consumption protects the heart. One study suggested drinking the equivalent of up to two pints of ordinary strength beer or three glasses of wine can reduce heart attack risk by a quarter. However, writing in today's issue of *The Lancet*, Dr Rod Jackson and colleagues from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, suggest the apparent protective effect of alcohol may be largely due to poor-quality research. They conclude that any benefit from light to moderate drinking is probably small and unlikely to outweigh any harm to health.

COMMENT: Proverbs 20:1 says, "Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." We have been saying this from the beginning, it is not necessary to have alcohol to reduce apparent health risks. Unfermented grape juice works well. But there is always someone claiming a glass of wine is better. Go with the original word. God forbids it. Besides, most alcoholics will tell you that it started out this way -- a glass a day. It is Satan's snare to get you to believe that something bad is good for you. Now you have proof that it is not.

► **Herald Tribune, November 26, 2005 - Praying to Jesus in a Jewish setting**

A cross, of course, is an enduring symbol of Christianity and belief in the life and death of Jesus. You'll see one at virtually every Christian church around the world, but not at Kol Mashiach, which is in a secular-looking building on Lake Washington Road.

COMMENT: Why are people criticizing this little church for the lack of a physical cross? Nowhere in the Bible is it commanded to do so or not to do so. In fact, taking the principle in the Bible regarding adorning the body, the Bible says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning]" (1 Peter 3:3). Just because a church has a cross on the outside does not mean the people inside have accepted the cross. Remember, it was not until the fourth century until a cross was placed on any object regarding Christianity. It was placed on a shield in battle by Constantine. Additionally, Christianity's dark history reveals that a physical cross has been misused more often than naught. It was used in the crusades to force Christianity on people forgetting that anyone forced into Christianity is not Christian, but even worse, it was used by the Roman Church to squash Protestants. It is not the object we need, it is the crucified heart of a believer.

► **The Courier, November 23, 2005 - A Biblical attempt to dodge jury duty**

A University of Northern Iowa student found salvation from his court obligations after he showed up for jury duty dressed as Jesus. "Basically, I was just trying to get out of it," Platt told the court when jury selection began and all attention turned to him. He said he had an issue with the concept of judging others.

COMMENT: Here we go again. Many Christians for some reason have been sold on not judging. The Bible does not contradict itself. So there has to be a balance when faced with "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?" (1 Corinthians 6:2). So we are told to judge and told not to judge. The balance is that Christians are to judge matters, not if a person is going to heaven or hell. The Christian cop out of "Don't judge me" has grown in popularity because it permits a person to continue in sin, continue in church, and continue thinking they are headed to heaven. If Christians were never to judge, then how would a Christian know who to witness to?

► **NBC, November 22, 2005 - Some See Jesus On Truck Tailgate**

Believers say the face of Jesus is visible in the dirt on the tailgate.

► **Reuters, November 21, 2005 - Islanders pray to Jesus image on plant pot**

Mexicans have set up a shrine at a plant pot

(Continued from page 4)

6. Who, at the first coming of Jesus, represents the group of people prior to the second coming and was careful of what he ate? **Matthew 3:4**
7. What was one of the first major temptations Jesus had to face? **Matthew 4:2-4**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Winter







1. How did winter come about? **Psalms 74:17** "Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: thou hast made summer and winter." God made it.
2. What did Jesus hope would not happen during the winter for His disciples? **Matthew 24:20** "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day"
3. What will remain while

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NEW ONLINE BIBLE STUDY!

Revelation's Book of Life



-  How important is the Book of Life?
-  How does one's name enter into the Book of Life?
-  Can names be removed from the Book of Life?
-  What does it mean to be JUSTIFIED?
-  What does it mean to be SANCTIFIED?
-  What does one do with sin?

These and many more questions are answered in the newest online Bible Study at www.tstl.net and clicking on **Study Tools** and then **Online Studies**.

These studies are also in print form and available upon request.

All studies must be performed in sequence as the Bible is a building block of information.

on the grounds of a beach resort on the Caribbean island of Cozumel after an image said to depict Jesus appeared on it following Hurricane Wilma a month ago.

COMMENT: Matthew 24:23 *Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here [is] Christ, or there; believe [it] not.* This is a sure sign that Jesus is coming back soon. He said there would be calls that He is there or here or somewhere, but remember, *"this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11). As He went up in a cloud, so He shall return in a cloud. This makes at least a half dozen sightings of Jesus reported in the news in less than a month.

► The Eagle, November 19, 2005 - Minister's wife charged with soliciting teen

A youth minister's wife has been accused of posing as a teenage girl for months and sending dozens of letters to a 15-year-old in which she asked him to have sex, authorities said.

COMMENT: 2 Timothy 3:1-5 *"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." Only church members have a form of godliness, therefore, in the last days these sins would appear in the church telling you it is the last days. Not only did this woman love pleasure more than God, she even had unnatural affection (giving up her husband for someone half her age), she was incontinent for she was not in self control, and she was a traitor to her marriage. In addition, she lied, not just a little. How many times have we heard of these relationships in schools? Now it is in the church, or at least has been revealed again. Just pointing out that prophecy is fulfilling. Pray for this woman, the youth minister who must be devastated, the fifteen year old who could be scarred, and the church, which has been scarred.



ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH

(Daniel 10:21)

QUESTION #1

Are we to back the movement to have modern Israel regain its territory?

ANSWER #1

Absolutely not. Daniel 9:24-27 distinctly gave Israel 490 years to remain a nation guided and directed by God as its favored nation. The time expired in 34 AD and reinforced by the destruction prophesied by Jesus occurring in 70 AD. Now the 490 years is represented by 70 weeks day for a year prophecy that just about every Christian agrees upon. But some believe the seventieth week is still future. Logically that does not make sense. Logic dictates that the seventieth week follow the sixty-ninth week. All that accept the day for a year time line agree that the sixty-ninth week ended in 27 AD. Therefore, the seventieth week ended in 34 AD when the gospel went to the Gentiles.

Now, today's Israel is not the same as the Israel of old, especially since two thirds or more of the Jews are in name only and are simply political or even atheists. That is the first point.

The second point is that the territory that many Christians say belongs to Israel is much smaller than the real amount of land promised to Abraham. Romans 4:13 says, *"For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, [was] not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith."* It is the whole world. That is not going to happen until Jesus brings the New Jerusalem to this planet. And Revelation 21:2 says it is going to happen. *"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."* So what is trying to be established right now is a counterfeit and Christian organizations caught up in the momentum of

establishing the territory are being fooled by a false doctrine.

The true Jews of today are not in appearance but in spirit. Romans 2:28-29 *"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter; whose praise [is] not of men, but of God."*

God gave to Abraham a view of this immortal inheritance, and with this hope he was content. *"By faith he sojourned in the Land of Promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."* Hebrews 11:9, 10. Of the posterity of Abraham it is written, *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."* Verse 13. We must dwell as pilgrims and strangers here if we would gain *"a better country, that is, an heavenly."* Verse 16. Those who are children of Abraham will be seeking the city which he looked for, *"whose builder and maker is God."*

And which territory has a foundation built by God? Revelation 21:14 says, *"And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."* Again, it is the New Jerusalem, which comes from heaven, not man made.

QUESTION #2

Is the mark of the beast something physical like a credit card or chip?

ANSWER #2

The mark of the beast is not something physical that controls buying and selling. The beast is symbolic, therefore the mark is symbolic. However, the mark will be enforced through a controlled system. In other words, the chip is not the mark but if you do not buy certain items that constitutes the mark, you will be tracked, jailed, and even may be put to death via the tracking through the chip. But the chip is not the mark. Again, if you do not use

the identification card of the future to buy from a particular vendor, you will be marked, tried, and sentenced. But again, the card is not the mark. It just tracks.

God is not concerned if you use a credit card with 666 encoded. It does not matter to Him if a chip is implanted or not. What matters is the heart and actions. In other words, *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* (Romans 6:16). Therefore, the mark must deal with some form of forced sin.

Using fictitious examples, let us say that the buying and selling tracking of the future requires you to treat pornography as a normal life style since it generates world wide revenue, is worshipped in every nation, and is controlling. The tracking system will track your purchases or lack thereof. If you do not buy the magazine, you will face the consequences. Now we do not believe pornography to be the mark of the beast. It was simply used as an illustration.

To find out what the actual mark is, we encourage you to request our free studies or perform the step-by-step study online.

So the short answer is, the mark is not the tracking system. It is forced sinning. How sure are we? Job 10:14 says, *"If I sin, then thou markest me, and thou wilt not acquit me from mine iniquity."* Accepting the mark of the beast is simply being marked by God because one is willing to sin according to the dictates of the beast. They have chosen to be servants of the beast versus servants of God.

QUESTION #3

Did Jesus teach something new when He said to love your enemies?

ANSWER #3

Proverbs 25:21 says, *"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink."* Love an enemy does not mean to be pals. Love an enemy means that you do not want to see harm come to the person especially fatal harm. An enemy should not be left to die of hunger or thirst. It is better to win an enemy than to have the final physical victory by death.

BIBLE THOUGHT

Reverence

Hebrews 12:28-29 *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God [is] a consuming fire.*

When we gather together in church to sing unto the Lord, to give unto the Lord, and to hear a message from the Lord, many approach God very carelessly today. Because Protestant churches lack a most holy place of which Catholics hold on to some form of a most holy place, it seems Protestants have lost their reverence towards God. Any form of worship is now acceptable despite lessons in both the New and the Old Testaments speaking contrary to this belief. The best Old Testament example is when Nadab and Abihu offered just any fire to the Lord. This is compared to today where we offer any music to God and call it godly. The same worldly rhythm and beat are still present; the same excitement is still generated; and the same artist worship is still present.

But even on simpler terms, how many carelessly talk in church making much of a distraction, preventing praying people from connecting with God as they could if there was silence. Treat the church environment as the Israelites treated the sanctuary. You are going to gather to meet God.

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Jesus said that you are a light and salt? Was that an original thought or was it recorded in the OT?

(read the main article on page 1)

Centurion shows children to act on faith (read the parenting article on page 2)

Youth win youth with racy calendars!!!

Jesus appearing!!!

(read these in the general news section that begins on page 3)

Bible study section continued

(Continued from page 5)

summer and winter still exists?

Genesis 8:22 *“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”*

- 4. What will happen to the possessions of those that spend money lavishly upon themselves, piling on multiple homes and expensive homes while the work of the ministry is left to scraping pennies together and church buildings are lacking? **Amos 3:15** *“And I will smite the winter house with the summer house; and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall have an end, saith the LORD.”*

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.
- ▶ Question of the Month
- ▶ Memory texts

PAGE 4 —

- ▶ Nature Lesson — Learning from

God’s nature.

- ▶ Health Lesson — Taking care of the body.

PAGE 5 — Coloring Page — New Testament

PAGE 6 — Coloring Page — Old Testament

PAGE 7 — Puzzles — Puzzles to reinforce the lessons.

PAGE 8 — Learning Activities — Object lessons in our work and in our play.

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