



"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 02

FEBRUARY 2006

PAGE 1

Built His House Upon A Rock - Part V (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.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach [them], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed [the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-20)

Remember, we want to be wise men building upon the rock (Matthew 7:24). And Jesus says we are wise if we do all that He said in His sermon (Matthew 7:24). He makes it plain that the wise go to heaven and the foolish are lost (Matthew 7:21-23). Therefore, it is not wise to say that Jesus nailed the law to the cross because that would destroy the law. It is not wise to say that we are under grace and free to break the law because that is another way of saying that Jesus destroyed the law. Besides, grace was only revealed at the cross (2 Timothy 1:9) but existed in the Old Testament times (Genesis 6:8, Exodus 33:12-17, Exodus

34:9). It is not wise to say that we are not under that bondage because that is another way of saying that Jesus destroyed the law. Besides, the world needs that law so that we treat each other and God rightly. It is not wise to say that Jesus fulfilled the law so that we do not have to keep it because that is another way of saying that Jesus destroyed the law.

And besides, when did Jesus fulfill everything? A quick response would be, "At the cross!" and you would be wrong. According to Revelation 16:17, Jesus is not done with everything until after the plagues. According to Revelation 17:17, not everything has been fulfilled. But Jesus even tells us more specifically – "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law."

And if a Christian is breaking any of the commandments and/or are teaching others to do the same, they are considered least. And that is not a ranking in heaven -- that is a class on earth. And least people will not be taken to heaven for they consist of "the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars" and who will all "have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

Now how is your righteousness to exceed the Pharisees and the Scribes who taught obedience to the law if you believe that the commandments have no application to guiding everyday activity of a Christian? I am glad Jesus answers this. "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, [that] observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do

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.

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 10607
Harrisburg, PA 17105

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Voice – 717-249-8785 (TSTL)

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Info@tstl.net

COPYRIGHT:

This publication is **free** and free to copy, however, your tax-deductible donations are needed and greatly appreciated.

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 December 16, 2005 and January 15, 2006. [Preview future "sudden destruction" news snippets at www.tstl.net/suddendestruction.]


» None


ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES!

On the Eve of Armageddon


 2005 saw the most number of hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean.


 The disasters happening one right after another was 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.

not" (Matthew 23:2-3). So instead of only teaching the right way of living, live it also and your righteousness will exceed the Scribes and Pharisees.

Now there is someone that is going to cry, "Works! We're not saved by works!" Another will cry, "It's Jesus' righteousness alone!"

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous" (1 John 3:7). "Blessed [are] they that keep judgment, [and] he that doeth righteousness at all times" (Psalms 106:3). You see, doing righteousness reveals who you are servant to. Jesus' righteousness is what empowers you to do

the righteous thing – keep His law. And to quote the frequently used verse, "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).

To be continued...

We will continue our verse-by-verse study next month, but for now, let us seek to keep the law by His grace and His righteousness and teach others to do so also.

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



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

Topic: Obedience to Law

God in his wisdom has established natural laws for the proper control of our dress (1 Timothy 2:9), our appetites (Proverbs 23:2), and our passions (1 John 2:15-17), and he requires of us obedience in every particular (Exodus 15:26).

Health Tidbit: Enzymes and Amino Acids: God placed enzymes in foods to aid in the digestion process. These enzymes are either killed or greatly hindered in four ways. The first is heat, so

avoid very hot foods or beverages. You can contain the greatest amount of enzymes by eating the food in its natural state - raw. The second enemy of enzymes is cold temperatures. Avoid very cold foods or beverages as well, by consuming all items warm; that is near body temperature. The third enemy of enzymes is liquid. Consuming beverages with the meal dilutes enzymes that are necessary for proper digestion. Rather, include items with the meal that alleviate that need for fluid such as celery sticks or fresh fruit. Sugar intake is the fourth enemy of enzymes. Avoid consuming a significant amount of sugar with a major meal. If you must have that dessert, have it as part of a lighter, simpler meal so that your digestion is not greatly hindered and the enzymes are not harmed.

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 – Gideon

Judges 7:2-7 *And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that [are] with thee [are] too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever [is] fearful*

and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people [are] yet [too] many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, [that] of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee,

the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them that lapped, [putting] their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the [other] people go every man unto his place.

The Midianites were a strong and numerous people that ruled over Israel. To break the grip of the Midianites would, in Gideon's eyes, require a massive strong

army. Even 32,000 people was considered small to go up against the Midianites. After a few tests, this number dwindled to 300 people. And the Lord gave Israel the victory.

Sometimes children meet too strong of a challenge in their own eyes. At a young age, cleaning up their room may seem impossible. But the child can be taught that what looks impossible, if done faithfully, can be accomplished. One method is to not focus on the huge amount, in other words, do not look at numbers. Do not look at the 100 blocks, 5 pieces of clothing, and the 10 toys. Gideon was not to look at numbers. Rather, look at simply doing what is asked. Put away all the clothing. Then put away the 10 toys. Then put away the 100 blocks. And soon the room is clean.

WEB SITES

UPDATES LAST MONTH:

WWW.TSTL.NET:

Since March 2005...

- The main page has been seen by over 26,000 visitors, which is an increase of over 3,000+ between December 16, 2005 and January 15, 2006.
- Children's coloring pages have been accessed by over 276,000 people, which increased by 22,000 between December 16, 2005 and January 15, 2006.

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 December 16, 2005 and January 15, 2006. [Preview future news snippets at www.tstl.net/news.]

»MSN, January 13, 2006 - The Shrimp Factor

Shrimp is, in fact, the most-consumed seafood in the United States. We have a shrimp-farming revolution to thank. Shrimp passed canned tuna on the NFI's most-consumed list in 2001 and has been increasing its lead ever since.

COMMENT: Interesting how the healthy sea creature was replaced by the unhealthy. Leviticus 11:12 *"Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that shall be an abomination unto you."* Most tuna have fins and scales while shrimp has none. This Old Testament law is not an arbitrary rule for the Jews. All of the creatures listed in the unclean list in fact cause more health problems than the clean ones. The clean ones can still cause health problems because of the unclean environments. But the reason unclean are actually unhealthy is because God made them different than the clean creatures.

The same junk that each creature feasts upon is digested differently. One produces poison and the other removes it from the body.

»Times Online, January 12, 2006 - Judas the Misunderstood

JUDAS ISCARIOT, the disciple who betrayed Jesus with a kiss, is to be given a makeover by Vatican scholars. The proposed "rehabilitation" of the man who was paid 30 pieces of silver to identify Jesus to Roman soldiers in the Garden of Gethsemane, comes on the ground that he was not deliberately evil, but was just "fulfilling his part in God's plan". He told La Stampa that there was a Christian tradition that held that Judas was forgiven by Jesus and ordered to purify himself with "spiritual exercises" in the desert.

COMMENT: That may be tradition but Mark 7:13 says that people that believe such are *"Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."* The reason is that Judas did purge himself. He purged himself permanently from society. Acts 1:16-20 *"Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the*

ADD TO THIS FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Send to TSTL, PO Box 10607,
Harrisburg, PA 17105

BIBLE STUDY



What is the future of sin?

1. Where will God cast our sins? **Micah 7:19**
2. What is that location mingled with? **Revelation 15:2**
3. How far reaching can that mingled item stretch? **Revelation 20:9**
4. What is the purpose of the item that is mingled? **Malachi 4:1, Revelation 20:9**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Eating and Drinking

1. What was the result of Eve and then Adam eating the forbidden fruit? **Genesis 2:17**
"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
2. What destruction happened while people were careless about eating and

mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, *Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.* For it is written in the book of Psalms, *Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.*" The man committed suicide and never asked to be forgiven. He thought his sin too grave.

►The Daily Telegraph, January 12, 2006 - Ants are in a class of their own with tandem teaching

Ants have been shown to give less alert comrades lessons about locating food in what scientists claim is the first example of "teaching" to be found in the animal world. A team at the University of Bristol has discovered that ants teach others where food is located by running in tandem.

COMMENT: It is about time scientists listen to God! Proverbs 6:6 *"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise."*

►WorldNetDaily.com, January 10, 2006 - Iran leader: Islam to 'rule the world'

Islam must prepare to rule the world, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a crowd of theological students in Iran's holy city of Qom, according to a report. "We don't shy away from declaring that Islam is ready to rule the world." According to Shiites, the 12th imam disappeared as a child in the year 941. When he returns, they believe, he will reign on earth for seven years, before bringing about a final judgment and the end of the world. Ahmadinejad is urging Iranians to prepare for the coming of the Mahdi by turning the country into a mighty and advanced Islamic society and by avoiding the corruption and excesses of the West.

COMMENT: We find it interesting that Islam is to rule for seven years and then the judgment while many Christians believe in a seven year tribulation for those remaining after the rapture. The Bible does not teach either. Acts 14:22 says, *"Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the*

kingdom of God." We go through the experience as Israel went through the ten plagues - protected, not raptured.

►Times Online, January 9, 2006 - Gory games that can warp your brain

VIOLENT computer games trigger a mechanism in the brain that makes people more likely to behave aggressively, research suggests. Avid users become desensitized to shocking acts of aggression. Psychologists found that this brain alteration, in turn, appeared to prime regular users of such games to act more violently.

COMMENT: Psalms 101:2-3 *"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; [it] shall not cleave to me."*

►WCPO, January 9, 2006 - Coroner: Body Was In Madisonville Home For Years

The Hamilton County Coroner says a body found in a Madisonville home last week had been in the home for two and a half years. Dr. Owens says the deceased believed when she died she would come back to life and her caregiver wanted to honor that wish.

COMMENT: Hebrews 9:27 *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."*

►Reuters, January 9, 2006 - No evidence cough syrups work: panel

Over-the-counter cough medicines do little good and may harm children, U.S. experts said in new guidelines released on Monday. Adults are better off using older nonprescription antihistamines and decongestants to stop the flow of mucus that causes the cough, the American College of Chest Physicians said in its guidelines.

COMMENT: Luke 7:7 *Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.* The word is that God has given us natural remedies and we ought to seek those before submitting to medicines that are not reliable tomorrow.

►Health Day News, January 6, 2006 - Urethritis in Men Linked to Oral Sex

New research suggests that the gonorrhoea-like condition known as urethritis, perhaps the most common sexually transmitted disease, can spread to men when they're on the receiving end of fellatio. The research points to the potential influence of normally innocuous germs in the mouth, Handsfield said. "It suggests that some of these cases might be due to bacteria that are entirely normal when they're in the mouth but cause inflammation in the urethra."

COMMENT: Genesis 1:28 *"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."* God gave the instruments to carry out His command -- be fruitful and multiply. Using the instruments in other manners was never God's

intention. This does not mean that the marital privilege is restricted to only the purpose of having children.

▶ **ABC News, December 20, 2005 - Poll: Elbow Room No Problem in Heaven**

Eighty-nine percent in this ABC News poll believe in heaven, which is consistent with data going back 30 years. Among believers, 85 percent think they'll personally go there — mainly in spirit, since 78 percent say it's a place where people exist only spiritually.

COMMENT: Jesus is our example. Luke 24:39 *"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."* We will not be in heaven just as a spirit. We will have a glorified body of heavenly flesh. In other words, it will be just like Adam and Eve before the fall. They

(Continued from page 4)

drinking? **Matthew 24:38** *"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark"*

3. What other destruction happened while people were careless about eating and drinking? **Luke 17:28-29** *"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all."*

4. What happened to the people while they left their fleshly desires rule their appetite? **Numbers 11:33** *"And while the flesh [was] yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague."*

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** *"And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers that [were]*

(Continued on page 8)



ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH

(Daniel 10:21)

QUESTION #1 – I have often read the different understanding of not being able to be plucked out of Jesus' hands. I however see it now to mean that nobody can take away our salvation, but I still can chose to give up my salvation. Seeing that you also teach that the New Testament is but a revelation of the Old, is there a parallel in the Old Testament to John 10:28-29?

ANSWER #1 – That is correct. John 10:28-29 says, *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand."* But it is conditioned by the verse in front. John 10:27 *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."*

At any time, you may cease to follow. There are many that followed Jesus only to turn away including Judas. Now the argument is said that they were not really followers. That is not true. They all followed and believed in Jesus. In every case though, when the requirements became tougher to accept, they turned away. John 6:28-71 is a good example. And though it concludes that

Judas is a devil, at that moment, Judas did not know. He just misunderstood scripture and was trying to force Jesus' hand.

Many want to be a Christian and even join a church. But after that first moment experience and as they learn how a true representative of Christ acts, they fall away spiritually by still attending church and believing as they please or fall away physically. They do not like to hear that a true Christian gives tithes or ten percent of their income. They do not like to hear that a true Christian will give up the bar scene, cease from gambling, watching filth, and cease eating as a glutton. Though these things do not earn heaven, these things reveal if one is really converted. A true Christian will say yes every step of the way. When the message gets tough, Christians are not to say, *"This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"* (John 6:60).

So for the parallel, we turn to Isaiah 26:3, *"Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee."* Being kept perfect is the same thing as not being able to be plucked out of His hands. Keeping our mind stayed upon God and

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.

trusting in Him is the same as hearing His voice and following. That is because trust includes reading God's Word and believing what the words say and not what is reported on television or by people.

To follow does not mean to walk physically. To follow is to do what God says despite what the world does.

QUESTION #2 – I am having a difficult time balancing sports competitiveness and being a Christian. Do you have any advice?

ANSWER #2 – You may not like the advice but here it is. Sports and Christianity are opposites. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon", which includes sports (Luke 16:13). No matter how Christian one makes the sport, it still will be opposite of Christianity.

Every school that we know of, Christian alike, teaches school pride, especially when it comes to sports. In fact, it is brought out more so during sporting events. "Show your pride!", they say. Even the bragging that one is "Number 1" is being proud. What does the

Bible say? "An high look, and a proud heart, [and] the plowing of the wicked, [is] sin" (Proverbs 21:4). "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch" (Malachi 4:1). "These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him: A proud look..." (Proverbs 6:16-17).

Now to have a winning attitude means that you must think you or your team is better than the other team. There is no way you can win a game if you go into a game thinking the other team is better than you. So people convince themselves they are better, even if they are not. But what does the Bible say? "[Let] nothing [be done] through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3).

And that last quote touches on something else. What is all the sports games about? Striving for the temporary glory at the end of the season – the playoffs.

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.

FREE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Send to TSTL, PO Box 10607, Harrisburg, PA 17105

Then there is the body factor. Playing sports is almost a guarantee of some injury if played long enough. But the coach encourages, "Give it your all." "Sacrifice for the team!" "Way to use your body!" What does the Bible say, "*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's*" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Overall, have fun hitting a ball around with some friends. Go ahead and shoot some hoops by catching a rebound here or there and taking a shot. Throw the football around. But do not get caught in the competition by joining teams or picking up sides.

And the other argument that follows, you can get exercise and teammanship in other activities. It does not have to be competitive sports.

Terrible Effects of Sin upon Man

(One perspective of the workings of Satan to deceive man)

Satan had succeeded so well in deceiving the angels of God and in ruining noble Adam that he thought he should be successful in overcoming Christ in His humiliation. He looked with pleased exultation upon the result of his temptations, and the increase of sin in the continued transgression of God's law for more than four thousand years.

He had worked the ruin of our first parents, and brought sin and death into the world, and led to ruin multitudes of all ages, countries, and classes. By his power he had controlled cities and nations until their sin provoked the wrath of God to destroy them by fire, water, earthquakes, sword, famine, and pestilence.

By his subtlety and untiring efforts he had controlled the appetite and excited and strengthened the passions to so fearful a degree that he had defaced and almost obliterated the image of God in man. His physical and moral dignity were in so great a degree destroyed that he bore but a faint resemblance in character and noble perfection of form to the dignified Adam in Eden.

At the first advent of Christ, Satan had brought man down from his original exalted purity and had dimmed that golden character with sin. The man whom God had created a sovereign in Eden, he had transformed into a slave in the earth groaning under the curse of sin. The halo of glory, which God had given holy Adam to cover him as a garment, departed from

him after his transgression. The light of God's glory could not cover disobedience and sin. In the place of health and plenitude of blessings, poverty, sickness, and suffering of every type were to be the portion of the children of Adam.

Satan had through his seductive power led men to vain philosophy, to question and finally disbelieve the divine revelation and the existence of God. He looked abroad upon a world of moral wretchedness and a race exposed to the wrath of a sin-avenging God with fiendish triumph that he had been so successful in darkening the pathway of so many, and had led them to transgress the law of God. He clothed sin with pleasing attractions to secure the ruin of many.

But his most successful scheme in deceiving man has been to conceal his real purposes and his true character by representing himself to be man's friend--a benefactor of the race. He flatters men with the pleasing fable that there is no rebellious foe, no deadly enemy that they need to guard against, and that the existence of a personal devil is all a fiction; and while he thus hides his existence, he is gathering thousands under his control. He is deceiving many as he tried to deceive Christ, telling them that he is an angel from heaven, doing a good work for humanity. And the masses are so blinded by sin that they cannot discern the devices of Satan, and they honor him as they would a heavenly angel while he is working their eternal ruin.

BIBLE THOUGHT

Human Devices Will Be Cut Off

1 Samuel 5:2-4 *And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon [was] fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon [was] fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands [were] cut off upon the threshold; only [the stump of] Dagon was left to him.*

Dagon was the fish god of the Philistines. It had a human head, a fish body, and hands of a human. This was obviously a human creation, which is also blasphemous towards God.

After capturing the ark, they placed the ark in their temple before Dagon. But Dagon ended up bowing down before the ark twice. The first time was simply bowing down but the second time the statue broke. All human additives of the fish creature were

(Continued on page 8)

FEBRUARY 2006

Did Jesus do away with the law? Did He fulfill the law? Was it nailed to the cross?

(read the main article on page 1)

Gideon teaches children to beat large challenges (read the parenting article on page 2)

Judas actually saved???

Ants teach scientists that God is right???

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

Bible study section continued

(Continued from page 5)

in all his realm."

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 *"And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey."*
7. What was one of the first major temptations Jesus had to face?
Matthew 4:2-4 *"And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."*

Bible thought section continued

(Continued from page 7)

removed.

Likewise, God allows things to happen in people's lives so as to remove all human additivies. People are sometimes so dependent upon money that poverty is allowed. Some people worship vehicles so car problems occur. Some people hold people higher than they should, so trusts are broken to learn the lesson that there is only one to whom we are to depend upon – God.

As you grow closer to God, human forms of activities and lifestyles may drop off and should. Many sports figures have given up sports. Many gamblers have given up all forms of gambling, including the lottery.

Either you choose to give them up or circumstances may occur forcing the issue of a better life. Your choice.

WHAT IS WWW.TSTL.NET USED FOR?

- ▶ The primary purpose of our website is to assist you in your personal and group Bible studies.
- ▶ Visit our website and use the SEARCH box to search for a particular verse or words in a verse.
- ▶ Then the website will produce a list of paragraphs of all the times we have used that in newsletters and other materials.
- ▶ Clicking on those paragraphs provides the full context of the use of the reference.