

## Suffer the Little Children

(Copyright) by David Sielaff  
(Portland, Oregon)

PAGE 2 **Articles**

## Why Wouldn't He?

by Nathaniel Burson & James E. Burson  
(Big Sandy, Texas)

PAGE 3 **Articles**

## Teaching of the Tithe

by Ray Daly  
(Lincoln, North Dakota)

PAGE 7 **Articles**

## Atonement and Suffering

by Richard Frates  
(Easley, South Carolina)

PAGE 9 **Articles**

## How a Great Awakening Turned America's Founders Against Slavery

by Eddie Hyatt  
(Tulsa, Oklahoma)

PAGE 10 **Articles**

**To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:**

Send a blank email to [church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com) with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

**To Subscribe to this newsletter:**

Send a blank email to [church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com) with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

**To Submit Items for Print:** Send to: [church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com](mailto:church-of-god-bismarck@hotmail.com) or Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502

The "New" Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

**Publisher:** Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

**Contributors:** James E. Burson, Nathaniel Burson, Ray Daly, Richard Frates, Eddie Hyatt, David Sielaff

**Website:** Church of God, Bismarck <https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org>

## Articles

### Suffer the Little Children (Copyright) by David Sielaff (Portland, Oregon)

#### ... to Come Unto Me, and Forbid Them Not

Human sacrifice and ritual murder begin in Genesis, proceed through the Old and New Testaments, and end in Revelation. Only when all the biblical evidence is presented can you begin to comprehend the full horror of Israel's sin of human sacrifice — and most of the victims were children.

YHWH told Israel He would "drive out" the nations from the land God promised to Abraham (Exodus 33:2–3; Deuteronomy 7:1, 16–26, 9:4–5). God warned Israel not to do what the nations did, not to worship their gods. Children in those nations were offered and sacrificed to their gods. Israel did not listen; they did the same as the nations. Israel's sins caused YHWH to order the people themselves to drive out or kill the men, women, and children of the nations who would not leave the land God gave to Israel.

Child sacrifices were sins most offensive to YHWH. Israel's continual sins resulted in God's exiling them from the promised land. After 70-years of exile God allowed Israel to return to Judea. Jesus came to teach them about God the Father (Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22). He taught that all believers should be like little children in awe of God their Father.

#### Christ's Exalted View of Children

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus made an important statement about small children, teaching that child-like qualities are essential for a person to "receive the kingdom of God":

**"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them,**

**'Suffer [allow] the little children to come unto me and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God AS A LITTLE CHILD, he shall not enter therein.'**

**And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:13–16<sup>1</sup>**

Jesus elsewhere described the attitude each believer should have after their conversion:

**"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you,**

**'Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receives me.'" Matthew 18:1–5**

Little children are humble. We as God's children are likewise to be humble toward our heavenly Father. Jesus described the severity of judgment against those who harm children:

**"But whoso shall offend [cause to sin or offend God] one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18:6**

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

The imagery is vivid and indicates no escape from decisive future punishment for those who cause children of God to sin. Punishment never leads a person to salvation. Punishment does, however, focus the mind and cause people to pay attention to God’s teaching.

When people are resurrected to physical life in judgment before the great white throne (Revelation 20:11–13), evil people will pay attention and will learn what God and Christ have done and will do for their salvation. All sins will be forgiven eventually, even sins of human sacrifice of children, even sins causing “**little children**” to sin. Part of the redemption process will be reconciliation between perpetrators and their victims. That will be difficult for both, “**For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil**” (Ecclesiastes 12:14). Note what Jesus said:

**“Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.”** *Matthew 18:10–11*

Angels record and report. The apostle Paul tells us more. Angels are “**ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation**” (Hebrews 1:14). Just as God was offended when the people of Judah sacrificed sons and daughters to Moloch, those committing such sins will be severely punished unless they repent. God’s punishment will be severe against those harming children.

### **Conclusion**

The apostle John used the phrase “**little children**” nine times in his epistle of First John to identify his readers as believers (1 John 2:1, 12–13, 18, 28, 3:7, 18, 4:4, 5:21). Saul (later Paul) accused Stephen of blasphemy and prosecuted his religious murder by stoning. Saul persecuted God’s “**little children**” and would have murdered them also. Then the risen Christ encountered Saul on the way to Damascus and he repented (Acts 9:1–18). Both Christ and Paul tell us there will be persecution, religious murder, and human sacrifice of believers in the future (Matthew 13:21, Mark 4:17, Romans 8:35). Note what Paul wrote before his death:

**“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”** *2 Timothy 3:12–13*

<sup>1</sup> Matthew 19:13–15 and Luke 18:15–17 present the same information but with less detail than Mark.

---

Reprinted with permission from: Associates for Scriptural Knowledge  
<https://www.askelm.com/>

---

## **Why Wouldn’t He?**

**by Nathaniel Burson & James E. Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)**

YOU LACK FAITH.

You know this is true. You may not like accepting it, but it is true. You know full well that you could have more faith than you do – probably a lot.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY?

If the answer is not a resounding yes – a YES, that *YOU INTEND TO BACK UP* by doing **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to correct it – then you are reading the wrong article.

If you are willing to pay ANY PRICE to have God pleased with you, if you TRULY want to have your prayers answered –

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

no matter WHAT you might have to give up – then you are the reason for the writing of this article. And, indeed, the entire Bible.

You will often find yourself in situations, where you know God promised something – Healing for instance – and yet, you still doubt for some reason. You know that you shouldn't be doubting God, and so you try to squelch this doubt, you argue with yourself, and try to convince yourself that God will perform His promise.

THIS IS WRONG!! This is NOT the appropriate thing to do if this happens to you! Unfortunately, most people have been taught to do this – most people believe that this is actually HOW you build faith! This is a TERRIBLE, HIDEOUS, FAITH-DESTROYING LIE!

**Micah 3:11** *The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, **Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.***

You may lean upon the Lord – you may convince and argue yourself into believing God will do something – but that ISN'T FAITH. **Convincing yourself God will do something IS NOT FAITH IN GOD.**

**SO WHY DO YOU DOUBT?**

The ministry tries desperately to convince you that all you need is to somehow convince yourself to go BOLDLY before God's throne – when in fact, you found that you never quite felt bold before God, no matter how hard you tried.

I frequently have heard people say, “I COMPLETELY BELIEVED that God was going to heal <insert name here>, and He didn't!” - and before this article is finished, you will see that that is not faith at all. That is self-delusion.

I believe if you honestly look back over even the last few weeks of your life, you'll remember a time where you needed help from God – but you doubted. Perhaps money problems, perhaps someone was ill. Perhaps you had trouble at work or wanted to take a trip somewhere... you will have to fill in this example yourself.

In any case, you came to a point where the question came up – well, “what if God doesn't...?” This thought can come at various levels of consciousness. But WHAT IF God doesn't do something. HOW should you approach this question?

WHAT should be your ANSWER?

“WHY WOULDN'T HE??”

The “What ifs” are endless. “What if a thief breaks into my house – I need my .45 under my pillow!” Or “What if you come home and someone is raping your wife – and God didn't protect you?” Or again, “You can't go to Costa Rica – what if someone suspects you are smuggling drugs!”

You have heard, and may well have said, words, excuses like these hundreds of times. And yes – WHAT IF God doesn't protect you?

WHY WOULDN'T HE??

The question must be HONESTLY, and FAIRLY answered. Remember, you are not trying to convince yourself, you're wanting AN ANSWER. **Why wouldn't God protect you?** Well, let's see what the Bible says.

**Psalms 34:21-22** *Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.*

The Lord doesn't protect the wicked! And the reason you doubt, the reason you aren't SURE of God's protection – is that your conscience, your HEART, as it's called in scripture – KNOWS THIS!

**Proverbs 15:29** *The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.*

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

WHY WOULDN'T HE PROTECT YOU? Get SPECIFIC. Find REASONS. And the Bible tells you how – if you really want to know. If you'd rather be comfortable, and go on as you are, again, you're reading the wrong article. This article is about you SHAKING UP your mind, and turning it upside down, and RATTLING IT UNTIL YOU FIND THE PROBLEM!

Do you want to fix this? Do you want to have TRUE faith – faith that produces WORKS – such as God answering your prayers? The key lies, not in trusting GOD, but in trusting YOU. Shocking? Unorthodox? Absolutely. Today, the truth usually is.

There are three things that are required to have true faith.

**Hebrews 11:6** *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.*

Notice the three parts of faith, ALL of which must be present for your faith to have WORKS, mentioned in this verse.

1. Belief in God

A good portion of the world has *this* much faith, and probably as much or more than you do. This is *almost never* what is lacking – almost never the PROBLEM. The demons even believe this – and they believe it more than you do – and it doesn't help them!

**James 2:19** *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

2. Belief that God will reward a righteous person.

This too, is believed, at least academically, by much of the world. It's muddled and confused, but it is believed. You believe that God is good. And you know the scriptures that talk about the righteous flourishing. But, logically, this part of faith requires that **another** part be present, one that isn't mentioned.

3. Belief that YOU ARE A RIGHTEOUS PERSON

Because, after all, what good is believing in a God that rewards the righteous, without the knowledge that YOU are righteous, and therefore ENTITLED to those rewards! And HERE we find the CRUX OF THE MATTER!

Far too much – in fact, almost all – of the emphasis has been placed on believing in God, and not enough on the other two parts. IN PARTICULAR, the last part. Do not misunderstand, the first two ARE more important – without them, the last would have no value.

But the LAST is **WHAT IS MISSING IN YOU!** You BELIEVE there is a God, and you will freely acknowledge that He IS GOOD. The missing piece is your firm belief that YOU ARE WORTHY OF THE PROMISES!

This is not a believe you can just argue yourself into. Thank God for this! There is only ONE way to build faith! The problem is that YOUR HEART KNOWS that you are not worthy. YOUR HEART KNOWS you are not serving God.

It knows that, while you should be studying, you are watching TV. It knows that, while you should be honest and scrupulous, you play slick little games – never actually STEALING of course – you couldn't justify that – but you could justify only telling PART of the truth. Your heart knows the hundreds of ways you compromise your conscience DAILY – until your conscience is so seared, so calloused, that it can't even RECOGNIZE a compromise!

**1 Timothy 4:1** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; **having their conscience seared with a hot iron.***

A good example of this is a good friend of mine had a low-income housing application, a house they really needed. Their income was received from two sources. Unfortunately, the total income would disqualify them from the program. So, the solution was simple; only report one of the income checks!

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

It wasn't a lie of course. And it wasn't stealing. And there were many ways to justify this. If you take a few moments of clear thought, putting yourself in this situation, you could think of many ways of justifying it.

And a conscience that was used to the thousand tiny lies you tell daily, everything from “Oh, it's nice to see you!” to “Mm, that meal was great, dear”, a conscience that you have silenced until it has formed huge, solid, callouses will barely notice this.

HOWEVER, THIS KILLS FAITH! Because, while you may silence your conscious mind – while you may argue and CRAM that annoying conscience of yours back into a corner where it's quiet – it knows. And furthermore, you can't lie to it.

**1 John 3:19-22** *And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

If your heart condemns you – if you're doing something similar to the story related above – then YOUR HEART KNOWS. And IT CONDEMNS YOU. And that means YOU CAN'T believe you are diligently seeking God. And that means... that's right. It means that when you go to God, you have no faith. Zero.

Oh, you can still believe that He IS – just as the demons do. You may even have convinced yourself, argued that little voice into submission, to where you THINK you believe God will do it. But as I've said, that isn't faith.

Convincing yourself that God will protect you, or that God will heal you, or that God will do ANYTHING **is not FAITH!**

So, what do you do about this? It's quite simple. When you feel doubt, and say, “What if God doesn't...” IMMEDIATELY respond with “WHY WOULDN'T HE??”

Then see what your heart says. If it says “Well, for a start you love watching movies about ghosts, witches, vampires and dragons...”

Then GUESS what the solution is. STOP IT.

Then ask yourself again “Why wouldn't He now?” If your conscience replies “Well, maybe he wouldn't be happy with you downloading illegal music...” then STOP IT! The fascinating part of all of this is that IT DOESN'T MATTER if it's wrong or not. The point is, if YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE, then IT IS TO YOU.

**James 4:17** *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Whether it is truly wrong or not, DOESN'T MATTER. If your conscience suggests it, and you can't completely justify it from scripture – if you can't prove it is right, not only your lusts and your sense of reason, but your conscience – STOP IT!

Repeat this process until your heart doesn't condemn you, and YOU WILL HAVE STRONG, POWERFUL FAITH!

Keep saying “Why wouldn't He? What is THE MOST LIKELY REASON God wouldn't protect me, heal me, or help me?” And when you come up with an answer, then STOP IT!

At some point, when you ask, “Why wouldn't He?”, if you have been doing this properly, your conscience will HAVE NO REPLY. It will be satisfied! You will have done what it says in 1 John 3:19 and ASSURED YOUR HEART BEFORE HIM! You will be able to think of no reason for God to be displeased with you if you eliminate all the reasons your conscience – working together with the holy spirit – tells you.

At the end of this process, YOU WILL KNOW that 1. God is, 2. God is good AND 3. You have qualified for his promises. You will know this calmly, and surely, and you will no longer doubt God, for you will KNOW that He has no reason not to help you.

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

So, stop – right now – take the time, and ask yourself "If God was going to punish me for something, if He was going to ignore my prayer – what is the MOST LIKELY REASON He would use?"

Think about it. Carefully. Rationally. Don't get caught up in saying "Oh, there are so many reasons"! Don't LET yourself use the tired old excuse "Well, I'm just a rotten person"! DEMAND SPECIFICS. Get a REASON, something to sink your teeth into, something you can CHANGE!

If you can think of things that you have done now, and are doing, that your conscience bothers you for, and want to change them, you are on the right track. Here is the answer.

**Ezekiel 33:10-16** *Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus, ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity;*

*he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.*

-----  
Reprinted with permission from: The Simple Answers  
<https://www.thesimpleanswers.com>  
-----

## Teaching of the Tithe

by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Deut. 14:22. "You shall truly TITHE all of the increase of all your [produce] that the fields bring forth. Year by year!"

As shown, this Study is on "Tithing". And to "Tithe", meant to set aside the "first of each ten". The first of animals, and the first of anything grown from the ground. Whether crops, fruits, and the like. Actually, since all "livings" are made from that which is produced from the ground, then ALL occupations that earn money, is to be Tithed on. And take note that, there is only ONE Tithe commanded to be set aside. There is not a hint of a "second or third" Tithe.

Let's take a look at what said Tithe was to be used for. V.23. "and you shall eat BEFORE the LORD your God. In the place which he shall choose to place his name there!" Most readers likely are aware of Jerusalem being the primary "place". However, that would not have been the "only" place. For, there is evidence that every year, the feasts were observed as well, in the fifty cities throughout Israel. Thus making them "places" in which the LORD had placed his name.

And it should seem obvious that said feasts were observed in many parts of the world, by Israelites. Thus, it would seem that wherever the children of Israel went, there would be "cities of Levites" set up for them to "observe the feasts". Note, this is the ONLY thing said ONLY Tithe was to be used for.

Let's now see how the Tithe was handled, and what it was used for in feast observing. In V's.24-26, it tells us that some of those that lived close to the various feast sites, would or could take their animals and other produce with them. But others that lived far away, could sell their produce for money, and go to the feast with that in their hands. And when they got there, they could spend such money on "wine and strong drink, and whatever their soul desired". And it would seem that, for those who brought their actual produce, they would have to "sell it" in order for them to do the same "rejoicing".

**The "New" Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

Oh yes. There was another thing that the feast goers would have needed "money" for LODGING. It doesn't say that, but in the NT, we see where, when Mary's baby was born, there was "no room in the INN" to put him. IOW's, there were no "empty" rooms. And it would have been hard for him to sleep, with all of the "drinking, dancing, singing", and the rest that was going on.

A final thought on this above. For, when the feast goers came to the sites where the feasts were being observed, there were other feast observers that were still "working and earning a living". There were the usual "eating and drinking places, lots and lots of lodging", and other things to spend their Tithe on.

Few do not know it, and I will not go to the "law" at this time to show it, but at the feasts, the only "commanded assemblies" were on the Holy Days. At which time, the feast observers would go through the Temple, and "eat". Yes, that is what they went for. They did not go to hear sermons, or to practice other "church" activities. They went to eat meals. And the Levites did everything for them. They spent the nighttime preparing food and setting tables. During the meals, they served the lines, bused tables, and washed dishes. The observers would simply sit down and eat, get up and leave, and others would take their place.

Let's address another Tithing aspect. That of the "third Tithe". Although those words are not used. Deut. 26:12. "When you have made an end of Tithing of your increase, the THIRD YEAR. Which is the year of Tithing, and have GIVEN it to the Levite, the stranger, fatherless, widow, that they may EAT within YOUR gates!"

What the above is saying, is that what the Israelites were to give the third year, was "money or produce", so that those mentioned, "could rejoice in the feasts". But what was it that they gave? Was it the entire "ONLY" tithe that they were commanded to set aside "year by year"? If it was the total Tithe, then they would not have had enough for themselves to rejoice at the feasts. Look at it this way. If the Israelites total increase was of \$1000, then they would have \$100 dollars Tithe. Now, if they gave said total \$100 dollars to the needy, and all twelve tribes did so, then the needy would have \$1200 dollars. Get real. What they got was "one of one hundred" dollars. Meaning that they would have a total of \$120.

Before moving on to further Scriptures, from which most today feel that the giving of a full tithe to the Ministry is commanded, let's look at one more where we are at. Deut. 14:27. "And the Levite that is within your gates. You shall not forsake him. For he has no part nor inheritance with you."

Let's not move on and examine the meaning of the above verse. Num. 18:24. "But the Tithes of the children of Israel [the ONE Tithe of Deut. 14:22. Of] which they offer as a HEAVE offering to the LORD. I have given to the Levites to inherit...[because] they have no inheritance." IOW's, they did not have "jobs", in which they earned money, so they had nothing of themselves that they could "Tithe on". Meaning, that they would have had no "feast observance" money. They could not "eat and drink and rejoice". And, as we will see, the answer is in the "heave" offering.

Keep in mind as we read this next verse, the example of the "third Tithe" given for the needy so that they could observe the feasts. It was not a TOTAL Tithe, but a Tenth part of said ONLY ONE Tithe. Num. 18:21. "And behold, I have given the children of Levi all the TENTH in Israel, as an inheritance. For their service that they serve. Even the service of the Tabernacle of the congregation." And their service was conducted mostly in the "cities of the Levites".

Did you notice that I capitalized TENTH? Or a "Tenth of a Tithe". Or, one in one hundred. Which, adding all the tribes Tenth's, then the Levites were given "120", instead of the Israelites 100. And what was said Heave offering to do. It was to allow for the Levites outside of Jerusalem, to "eat, drink, and rejoice" in feast observances.

Can we be sure that that is what the Heave offering meant? One of one hundred? I find it to be so. As is shown in V.26. "Speak to the Levites and say to them. When you take of the children of Israel the [heave offering of] the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then YOU shall offer up an HEAVE OFFERING of [your heave offering] for the LORD. A TENTH part of THE TITHE". This latter one of a hundred, was to go to the Levites that served in the Temple in Jerusalem. And for what use. Yeah, you got it. "To drink and eat and rejoice". Just like all Israel was to do with their ONE AND ONLY Tithe. All were to be treated equally. The Levites without money, and the needy that often as not had no money as well.

The Pharisee's were not of the Levitical priesthood. Even though they were THE "priests/ministers" of their day. And did you know that they themselves "worked for a living". That they set aside ONE Tithe of their income, and of that gave a TENTH every three years to the "poor and needy", and also gave a TENTH to the Levites every year. And it was ONLY to observe the feasts. The Tithe was NEVER to be used to "pay wages".

## Holy Days 2022

**Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**  
**Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022**



**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

Pentecost – June 5, 2022  
Trumpets - September 26, 2022  
Atonement – October 5, 2022  
Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022  
Last Great Day – October 17, 2022

## **Atonement and Suffering**

**by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)**

*The apostles felt privileged to suffer persecution for Christ. Acts 5:41” rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering” for Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives. Philippians 1:29 “It has been granted to you on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him”. Philippians 3:10-11, I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow to attain to the resurrection of the dead. 1 Peter 4:1 “Since Christ suffered, arm yourselves with the same attitude”.*

Leviticus 23:26-27 “The Lord said to Moses - The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves.” V28 “Do not work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God.” The Day of Atonement is an invitation and command, calling believers to: identify with the death and sufferings of Christ by fasting on this day. If not fasting, then how else would you “deny yourselves?” It is also a prophecy that Christ would suffer and has been fulfilled in the sacrifice of the Son of God.

The high priest entered the most holy place once a year on the Day of Atonement. **Hebrews 9:1-8**, Verse 8 “The Holy Spirit was showing by this that - the way - into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed.” **John 14:5-6** “Thomas said to him, Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know “the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

*This is teaching that the Most Holy Place was symbolic of the Father’s Presence. We know that eternal life or Salvation, is to know the Father and his Son Christ Jesus. John 17:3 “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Leviticus 23:29 “Anyone who does not - deny himself - on that day must be cut off from his people.” Verse 32 “It is a Sabbath of rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth Day of the month until the following evening you are to observe your Sabbath.”

Luke 9:21-23: The same command is given in the new testament: When speaking of his death and suffering, Jesus Christ said: Luke 9:23 “If anyone would come after me, he must – “deny himself” – and take up his cross – daily, and follow me”; the same words “deny himself” was also said in Leviticus 23:29. This teaches that we identify, with Christ, in his suffering and death by - denying ourselves – by fasting on the Day of Atonement.

The concept of Christians willingly “denying” yourself extends to repentance; that is a lifelong battle. Repentance is, turning away, and denying yourself the sins of this world. The word “daily” that Christ used in Luke 9:23 is referring to “daily” turning away from sin, “denying” yourself.

Jesus Christ commands all to “deny” themselves in Luke 13:3 by saying: “unless you repent you too will all perish.” That is the same as saying: Leviticus 23:29 “Anyone who does not – deny himself – on that day must be cut off from his people.” Jesus Christ called on all, to “deny” themselves, at the beginning of the gospel, Matthew 4:17 “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

*All those who are called by God are commanded to fast on the Day of Atonement so that believers may identify with Messiah; by taking part in the sufferings of Christ. What other reason would there be for God to say “anyone who does not deny himself must be cut off from his people?” God teaches believers to accept, persecution, hardships and trials in our lives as discipline from God; Hebrews 12:7 “Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.” Sadly, many*

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

*Christians today are looking for acceptance by the world. If the world loves you, you do not belong to Christ. We should accept and expect to be rejected and persecuted by the world, as Jesus Christ was, and wear that persecution like a crown. Carrying our trials and sufferings without grumbling is Carrying our cross daily, Luke 9:23.*

**1 Peter 2:20-21**, if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is commendable before God. “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps”. **1 Peter 4:12-13** “rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ”.

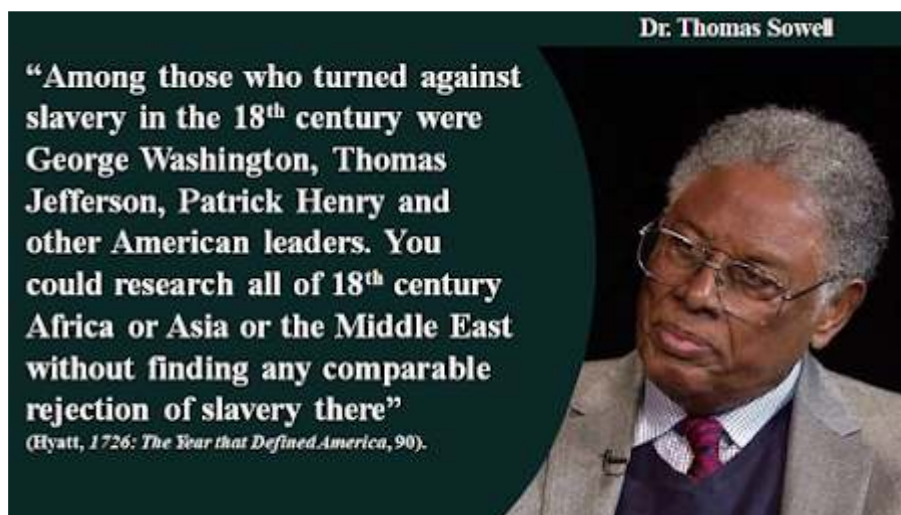
*The fulfillment of the Day of Atonement is when God gives the nation of Israel and all Jews his Holy Spirit and reveals the sacrifice of his Son Christ Jesus to them. Ezekiel 36:24-36 is speaking of God’s Holy Spirit being poured on the Jews and the nation of Israel. Verse 25, “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new Spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. This will be - reversing what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 11:25 NIV “Israel has experienced a hardening in part.”*

V24 “I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back to your own land.” V27, “I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. This is something new and will be the first time God’s Spirit is given to an entire nation. The Day of Atonement will be a time of National Repentance: V31, “Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loath yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.” V32, “Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, O house of Israel!” This attitude of repentance will spread to all the remaining nations.

Zechariah 12:10 - I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a Spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced”. They will “grieve bitterly for him.” “On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great.” Christians should, observe the Day of Atonement, by “denying ourselves” and as we hunger, remember, we are identifying, with the great suffering and death of the Son of God. **Isaiah 53:3-12**, describes the great suffering of our Savior, Christ Jesus. **Leviticus 16:3-22**, reveals the way God commanded the priest to sacrifice on the Day of Atonement. Praise the God and Father of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

## How a Great Awakening Turned America’s Founders Against Slavery

by Eddie Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)



America's Founders are under attack. Their monuments are being toppled and their names removed from schools and other public buildings. Children are being taught that George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were evil, rich

---

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

slaveowners who formed this nation to protect their wealth and maintain the institution of slavery.

This twisted history of America is dividing and destroying her. The truth is that at a time when slavery was being practiced in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and many parts of the world, America’s founders turned against it. Dr. Thomas Sowell, who happens to be black, has written about this, saying,

Slavery was just not an issue, not even among intellectuals, much less among political leaders, until the 18th century—and then it was an issue only in Western civilization. Among those who turned against slavery in the 18th century were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and other American leaders. You could research all of 18th century Africa or Asia or the Middle East without finding any comparable rejection of slavery there (Hyatt, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, 9).

The late historians, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Eugene Genovese made the same observation, and wrote, “Perception of slavery as morally unacceptable — as sinful — did not become widespread until the second half of the eighteenth century.”

### **The Source of the Moral Outrage Against Slavery**

The rise of this 18th century movement against slavery can be traced to the great, spiritual awakening that rocked Colonial America, beginning in 1726. Entire towns were morally transformed as evidenced by Benjamin Franklin’s description of this “Great Awakening” in his hometown of Philadelphia in 1739. He wrote,

From being thoughtless or indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street (Hyatt, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, 14).

Out of this Awakening racial and cultural barriers were breached and there arose a powerful anti-slavery movement as Awakening preachers began, not only to offer salvation to individuals, but to attack the institution of slavery as sinful and evil in the sight of God.

Samuel Hopkins (1721–1803), for example, was outraged by what he saw while pastoring in Newport, Rhode Island, an important hub in the transatlantic slave trade. He declared, “This whole country has their hands full of blood this day.”

In 1774, after the First Continental Congress had convened in Philadelphia, Hopkins sent a pamphlet to every member of the Congress, asking how they could complain about “enslavement” to England and overlook the “enslavement” of so many blacks in the Colonies.

Methodists, Baptists, Quakers, and Puritan preachers carried the fight against slavery even into the South and to slaveowners. This is what historian, Benjamin Hart was referring to when he wrote, “Among the most ardent opponents of slavery were ministers, particularly the Puritan and revivalist preachers.”

This abolition movement gained momentum and eventually turned multitudes against slavery, including America’s founding fathers.

### **America’s Founding Fathers**

**Thomas Jefferson** called slavery a “moral depravity” and “hideous blot” and said it presented the greatest threat to the future survival of America.

**James Madison**, America’s 4th president, called slavery “the most oppressive dominion ever exercised by man over man.”

**Dr. Benjamin Rush**, a member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a passionate abolitionist who helped form the first Abolition Society in America in his hometown of Philadelphia. He said, “Slavery is a Hydra sin and includes in it every violation of the precepts of the Laws and the Gospels” (Hyatt, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, 38).

**The “New” Church of God Messenger**  
**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
**January 29, 2022 --- Issue No. 52**

**Benjamin Franklin**, in 1785, liberated his two slaves and began advocating for abolition. He joined the Abolition Society in Philadelphia and later served as its president. He called slavery “an atrocious debasement of human nature.”

**George Washington** faced a more complex situation because of the size of the plantation and the number of slaves he had inherited. Nonetheless, he set up a compassionate program to completely disentangle Mt. Vernon from the institution of slavery. Concerning abolition, he declared,

Not only do I pray for it, on the score of human dignity, but I can clearly foresee that nothing but the rooting out of slavery can perpetuate the existence of our union by consolidating it in a common bond of principle (Hyatt, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, 42).

By the time of the writing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Constitution in 1787, virtually every founder, even those who owned slaves, agreed with **John Adams**, America’s 2nd president, who declared,

Every measure of prudence ought to be assumed for the eventual total extirpation of slavery from the United States. I have throughout my whole life held the practice of slavery in abhorrence (Hyatt, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, 36).

**America’s Colorblind Founding Documents**

Because America’s founders turned against slavery, there are no classifications based on race or skin color in America’s founding documents. Neither is there any mention of slaves or slavery. Nothing in either the Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution indicates that the freedoms guaranteed do not apply to every individual. America’s founding documents are colorblind even if her history has not been.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) understood this and in his stirring, *I Have a Dream* speech, he challenged America, not to dispense with her founding documents, but instead, to live up to them. Speaking from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he declared,

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Secularists love to insist that America was founded on racist principles. They are wrong. The historian, David Azerrad, was correct when he said, “The argument that the Constitution is racist suffers from one fatal flaw; the concept of race does not exist in the Constitution.”

**Not Perfect, But Worthy of Honor**

America’s founders were born into a world where slavery had existed for thousands of years. They were not perfect, and their writings sometimes reflect prevailing notions of the times. Nonetheless, they should be honored for the revolutionary stand they took against slavery at a time it was accepted and practiced all over the world.

Against the tide of history and world opinion, they created a nation based on the belief that “all men are created equal” and that they are “endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” They formulated founding documents that would eventually eradicate the institution they had come to abhor and make America *the land of the free and home of the brave*, with people of every race and ethnicity wanting to live here.

---

**Reprinted with permission from: God’s Word to Women**  
<http://www.godstowomen.org/>

---