

WHO ARE WE?

Group Name: We have no official name--nor do we want one--however we provide the following: INTERDEPENDENT-INTERACTIVE, CHURCH OF GOD, SABBATH SERVICES, BIBLE STUDIES, AND OPEN FELLOWSHIP.

Address: 320 N. Griffin St. City: Bismarck State: ND Zip Code: 58501

Country: USA Phone: (701) 258-7172 FAX: (775) 239-2119

E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Website: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

Leadership Body: Christ the Head of God's Church, Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23, and I Corinthians 11:3. Local contact persons are Darwin or Laura Lee.

Purpose: To provide Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services and Bible Studies to all of God's People, including those who are not welcome to visit or attend other groups due to having been suspended or disfellowshipped, as well as those who want a place to attend weekly, those who are just visiting our area, and anyone else who is interested in God's way of living. We also have open fellowship here, meaning that you are welcome to come visit with us during our open fellowship times even if you are not interested in attending our Sabbath Services or Bible Studies.

History: We held our first Bible Study here on June 30, 2000 and our first Sabbath Service was held on December 16, 2000.

Affiliation/Membership: Our Affiliation is with God our Father and His Son Jesus the Christ. Our membership includes *all* of God's people, no matter where they are.

Distinctive Doctrines: John 13:34-35

Use Sacred Names?: Since salvation is between God and each individual (Philippians 2:12), so the use of sacred names would be between each individual person and God.

Observe Holy Days?: We believe that God commands us to keep the Weekly Sabbath as well as Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, however, we also believe there is much controversy out there in understanding if certain ones should or shouldn't be kept, how to keep them and when to keep them. So with this in mind, we will try to the best of our ability to accommodate these differences, believing and having faith that someday through God's Holy Spirit, we will all be brought into the same understanding on this subject. Until then let's follow John 13:34-35.

Evangelistic Efforts: We provide a service to God's People no matter where they are to the best of our ability. This service includes Interdependent-Interactive, Church of God, Sabbath Services, Bible Studies and Open Fellowship. We also welcome live speakers for interactive, and special music, on a volunteer only basis.

Periodicals: We have a newsletter, which we publish every 2 months.

Literature: We distribute tapes and literature for others and ourselves to the best of our ability.

Parent Group: The greater Church of God--The Ekklesia. Language: English

Other Language: None Country: USA

Name: Contact Persons are Darwin & Laura Lee Address: 320 N. Griffin St.

City: Bismarck State: North Dakota Zip Code: 58501

Phone: (701) 258-7172 E-Mail: Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

Directions To Meeting: 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota, located at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Griffin Street, with plenty of side street parking.

Time of Meeting: Usually 1:00PM, but may vary.

SABBATH SERVICES--Every Saturday unless stated other wise on page 3. We generally do a phone hookup, video tape, or cassette tape, service with various speakers. If you have a video or audio tape you think we should hear, please send it.

We also welcome live speakers, and special music, by others on a volunteer basis.

Sabbath Schedule is as follows:

12:00 Noon--Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
1:00 PM----Sabbath Services
3:00 PM----Open Fellowship

BIBLE STUDIES--We have Bible Studies approximately every 6 weeks. We have a Pot Luck Meal before we start our Bible Studies, so please bring food if you would like to participate in the fellowship, which goes with a meal.

Bible Study Schedule is as follows:

6:30 PM----Open Fellowship
(Door Open, Come In)
7:00 PM----Pot Luck Meal
(Bring Food)
8:00 PM----Bible Study
9:00 PM----Open Fellowship

Bible Study Dates are as follows:

Friday, July 26, 2002
Friday, September 6, 2002
Friday, October 18, 2002

GUEST ROOM--If you are from out of town and are here to attend Sabbath Services or one of our Bible Studies, we do have a guest room. Please call ahead so we know when you will be arriving. (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

LOCATION--Sabbath Services and Bible Studies are held at the home of Darwin & Laura Lee, located at 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, North Dakota. Please use the upper back door by the garage. Phone Number (701) 258-7172 (Please Leave a message.)

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--The deadline for submitting articles and letters for possible inclusion in our September/October 2002 Newsletter is August 15, 2002. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL

Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please use this E-mail address for prayer requests, prayer request updates, and prayer request inquires and information. All prayer requests go around the world via E-mail and are always printed on our Web Site and they are also available via Snail Mail on request. Thank you.

Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please use this E-mail address for anything which you want considered for inclusion in our newsletter such as articles, advertisements, letters to the editor or points of interest. If you do not want it printed, then do not send it to this E-mail address. The deadline for Issue #11--September/October 2002 is August 15, 2002. Thank you.

Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please, use this E-mail address only for those letters which you want an answer to. Send tape, literature and newsletter requests and unsubscribes to this E-mail address. If you do not want or need an answer to your E-mail, then do not send it to this E-mail address. Thank you.

Darwin-Laura@Juno.com Please only send things to this E-mail address if you only want us to read it and you do not need or want an answer to it. Also, if you want to unsubscribe and do not need a notice stating you have been taken off, this is the place. Thank you.

FAX--We now have fax 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

SNAIL MAIL--When you send a letter or information via snail mail, and you do not need an answer back or if you do not want it printed, please be sure to clearly put that information in your letter. Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502. Thank you.

WEB SITE ADDRESS--<http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

AD SECTION--If you have an ad that you would like to have us print, please write it up and send it to: **Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** We may not print all ads, but we will read them for consideration of inclusion in this newsletter and then will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2002 – LAKE OF THE OZARKS

For the third consecutive year, the Mid-Missouri Church of God (**MMCG**) will be sponsoring the Feast of Tabernacles (September 21st through 28th) at the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks in central Missouri... to be held at the **Baymont Inn** in the town of Lake Ozark. Information and registration will be at 5:30 p.m. in the Baymont Conference Hall, with opening services commencing at 7:30 p.m. on Friday night, September 20. Seating capacity at the site is 100, so be sure to get your reservations in early.

Serving opportunities are plentiful, with help needed for sermons, sermonettes, Bible studies, scripture reading, song leading, accompanying, special music, children's Bible classes, registration, information and activities table, ushers and greeters. Please contact us and let us know how you would like to serve your brothers and sisters in Christ. The following accommodations are all within a mile or two of the feast site—first come first served—no reserved blocks of rooms. Special rates have been obtained for the Baymont Inn (see below). Rates for the other accommodations are currently being negotiated. In any case, ask if there has been an MMCG Feast rate established (we anticipate confirmation of rates by April 30.)

Arrowhead Lodge 573-365-2345

Baymont Inn and suites 573-365-2700: Newly constructed in 2001—a prime facility.

Plentiful level parking. Adjoining rooms and suites are also available. Complimentary breakfast. Heated indoor pool. Fitness center. Free local phone calls, cable TV, telephone data ports, executive desk and chair, hair dryers, ironing boards, and coffeemakers. Children under 18 stay free in parents' room. Denny's Restaurant adjacent. Guest laundry room. All rooms having queen beds also have refrigerators and small balconies or patios. Second story rooms have a nice view, but no elevators. **Rates:**

1 King or 2 Queens: \$59.00.

Holiday Inn Resort 573-365-2334

Motel 6 573-365-4566 or Tomahawk Inn 573-365-5331

For further information, please contact Duke Schneider at 31879 Triangle Cove Road, Gravois Mills, MO 65037, phone: 573-372-3221, or e-mail: ddinmo@advertisnet.com or contact Bud or Connie Houston at 573-394-4394, e-mail: budhouston@prodigy.net Also see info and links at our website: www.mmcg.org

FEAST INFORMATION FOR HASTINGS, MICHIGAN--2002

The 2002 Feast will be observed at Winding Creek Camp, just south of Hastings, Michigan, Friday evening, Sept 20 to Sept 28. This site will focus on the Leviticus 23:41-43 message comparing the Feast of Tabernacles to the wilderness wandering after Egypt. It well is **not** intended to be a typical feast with "morning sermons followed by tourism and restaurants", but an assembly of believers who will spend eight days spiritually preparing to "go into the promised land". The themes for the eight days will be: **1) Purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles; 2) Meeting the Brethren; 3) How has God blessed you? 4) How has God protected you in difficult times? 5) How can we prove God to the outside world? 6) What does God expect His people to learn and do today? 7) What will we help Christ do in the Millennium? 8) The Eighth Day, a new beginning.**

During the Feast, we plan to record and distribute CDs of original songs and spoken words as a thanks and permanent memory of what God has done for us. If you are interested in attending contact us to make a reservation. Camp cabins and lodge rooms are available in varying sizes. They are nice looking and have electricity, but no plumbing or central heat-there are heated bathhouses. Lodging cost for 8 days is \$80 per adult, \$64 per child 3-12. The 8-day meal plan (you help prepare & serve) is \$85 per adult, \$55 per child 3-12. You are encouraged to stay and eat at the camp, but several big stores, restaurants and motels are 2 miles away (the camp charges \$2 per day per person for daytime-visitors). Contact **Church Bible Teaching Ministry, PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan 48872-0107; info@servantsnews.com; 517-625-7480. Norman Edwards**

FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2002 – JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

We will again be hosting the feast this year in Jerusalem, with a five day tour of Israel and Egypt to follow. We will also go to ancient Gamorrah, and to the Red Sea crossing site, during our tour, where 14th century BC Chariot wheels were found. We also have the special and rare opportunity to work with a very special Archeological dig leading into the feast. Because of the current situation in the land, we have been able to secure an unbelievable LOW price for the full 16 day FOT and tour. The full price of 10 days during the feast for deluxe Hotel, breakfast and fellowship meal daily, and 5 full days of touring, including deluxe Hotel, two meals daily, all cost of touring, and visas to and from Egypt is \$949 per adult, and \$599 per child between 3 and 12. Children under 3 are free. This price does not include airfare. This is an extremely rare opportunity to go to Israel at such a discounted price. If anyone may have an interest, please write to me and I will send a full feast package to you, with full details. If you do have an interest please let us know right away. The dates we will be observing the feast this year are Sept. 21-Sept 28th, beginning at sunset on the 20th. The tour will start Sept. 29th and run thru Oct. 3rd. Write to Don Esposito, 28 Swarthmore Drive, Carteret, NJ 07008. **EDITOR'S NOTE:** You may also get the application for this feast site by contacting us. Laura Lee

Listen to The Keith Slough Commentary every Sabbath at 10:15 AM (Eastern Time) over the Internet. Keith Slough is an Ambassador College graduate and minister in the Church of God. The radio broadcast has been broadcast in 100 different nations and is now in its 19th year. You can hear it on the internet at **www.Fordbroadcasting.com** at 10:15 (Eastern time) each Sabbath. A free Bible Study Course is offered each week.

Feast of Trumpets Services At 1:00PM	September 7, 2002 Meal At 5:00PM At: Bonanza Family Restaurant In: Mandan, North Dakota
Atonement Services At 1:00PM	September 16, 2002 Meal At Sunset At: North American Steak Buffet In: Bismarck, North Dakota
Feast of Tabernacles Last Great Day	September 21-27, 2002 September 28, 2002

There will be **no** services here in Bismarck, North Dakota at 320 North Griffin Street, on September 21 or 28, 2002.

We here in Bismarck, North Dakota, at 320 North Griffin Street want to once again remind everyone, that as we go into the Fall Holy Day Season, as well as all year around, how important relationships with each other are. With this in mind, once again we extend our helping hand to those who need some help with keeping any of the Holy Days, even if we do not keep the same dates as you. We are willing to help anyone to the best of our abilities.

We have a zero disfellowshipment/dismemberment policy here. You may cut us off if you want, however, we will not cut you off. When people no longer speak to each other all hope of straightening anything out or having a relationship with that person is gone. **PLEASE DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN DISMEMBERING THE BODY OF CHRIST.**

LETTERS SECTION--This section can contain letters to the editor, to the brethren, or from the editor. Please keep in mind while reading these letters, that just because we print them does not mean that we agree with everything people say in these letters. Letters many times are filled with opinion and emotion and sometimes factual and un-factual information. This section is interactive. If you agree or disagree with a letter or an article in this newsletter and want others to know, this is the section for you. Please, if you want your letter to be printed, clearly say so and send it to Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com We do not print all letters that we receive. If you state you want your letter printed, then we do consider it for inclusion. If we receive a letter that we feel would be of interest to others, generally we ask the writer for permission to print it. If you clearly state that you do not want your letter printed, it will not be printed.

by Alan Croyle
Petersburg, Virginia

Dear Darwin & Laura Lee,

Could you please run the following ad, if you would, until further indication.

Scattered groups and individuals, ask for prophetic tapes one or two or both, contains much information, free, write; Alan Croyle, PO Box 411, Petersburg, VA 23804.

Our tape two is nearly ready and is much clearer and smoother with additional information.

Again, God Bless your love and work in Christ Jesus, who came in the flesh, and will soon come in power and glory, in the Spirit.

God Bless all the brethren,
Sincerely,
Alan Croyle

EDITOR'S NOTE: This ad along with many other ads is also posted on our Web Site. We invite you all to check out our Web Site, perhaps there is one of our services you can make use of or perhaps you just want to read an article or two. Our Web Site Address can be found on page 2 of this publication. Laura Lee

by Ned Dancuo
Ontario, Canada

Dear Rhoda Foust,

I read a couple of your recent letters in the newsletter and wished to comment.

Firstly, you asked whether Paul was referring to a cloth covering or long hair in 1 Cor. 11. He was referring to a cloth covering. See 1 Cor. 11:13. "Judge it

yourself: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God unveiled?" In verse 6, he mockingly says that if she desires not to be shorn, she ought to be veiled (with some covering, at least, if she refuses to wear her hair short, noting that he says that long hair is the ideal for the woman). Now, you might ask, "Why do we not do this today?" Well, that is a question for the ministry to answer, though I believe it will be done in the millennium.

As for your question regarding the number of resurrections, there are two. See John 5:29. One either believes in Christ (defined by doing the Father's will) or He does not. He is either under judgment (yet to be decided upon) or has passed from judgment to life.

In the Lord,
Ned Dancuo

EDITOR'S NOTE: The two articles by Rhoda Foust referred to here are "To Cover or Not To Cover" which was printed in Issue #8 and "Resurrections-How Many?" which was printed in Issue #9.

1 Corinthians 11:13 says "Judge it yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?" KJV.

All scripture should be read in context. This actually starts in 1 Corinthians 11: 2 and goes to verse 16. Please pay close attention to 1 Corinthians 11:15 which defines what this head covering is. "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for *her* hair is given her for a covering." KJV. The word *her* was in italics, so that was added to the text later. It should read "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for hair is given her for a covering." KJV. Verse 13 is a question and not a command from God.

--The Nelson Study Bible--Footnote for 1 Corinthians 11:3--**But** introduces an exception to the praise Paul had given the Corinthians in v. 2, Paul wanted to instruct the Corinthians on another point

of confusion. **Head** primarily means "authority" when used in the context of human relationships. But the Greek word for head can also mean "source" or "origin" in some cases. **the head of woman is man:** The relationship between men and women does not involve inferiority, for, in the parallel clause, **Christ** is not inferior to **God** the Father. Submission does not indicate inferiority, but subordination. Just as Christ and God are equally divine, men and women are equal beings. But just as Jesus and God the Father have different roles in God's plan of salvation, so men and women are given different roles.

--The New American Bible--Footnote for 1 Corinthians 11:4-6--From man's direct relation to Christ, Paul infers that his head should not be covered. But woman, related not directly to Christ on the scale but to her husband, requires a covering as a sign of that relationship. **Shameful... to have her hair cut off:** Certain less honored classes in society, such as lesbians and prostitutes, are thought to have worn their hair close-cropped.

--The Nelson Study Bible--Footnote for 1 Corinthians 11:5-6--**every woman who prays or prophesies:** Women were obviously allowed to pray and prophesy in the Christian assembly because it would have been meaningless for Paul to give instructions for something they were not permitted to do. **Dishonors her head** refers either to the woman's own physical head or to her husband as her head, or possibly both (v. 4). For a woman not to cover her head with a veil or with her own hair was as shameful as having a shaved head, a sign of public disgrace.

--The New American Bible--Footnote for 1 Corinthians 11:10--A sign of authority: "authority" (exousia) may possibly be due to mistranslation of an Aramaic word for "veil"; in any case, the connection with v.

9 indicates that the covering is a sign of woman's subordination.

-- Young's Bible

1 Corinthians 11:15 and a woman, if she have long hair, a glory it is to her, because the hair instead of a covering hath been given to her;

-- Darby's Bible

1 Corinthians 11:15 But woman, if she have long hair, it is glory to her; for the long hair is given to her in lieu of a veil.

-- Weymouth's New Testament

1 Corinthians 11:15 but that if a woman has long hair it is her glory, because her hair was given her for a covering?

-- Webster's Bible

1 Corinthians 11:15 But if a woman hath long hair, it is a glory to her: for [her] hair is given her for a covering.

--Weymouth's New Testament

1 Corinthians 11:16 But if any one is inclined to be contentious on the point, we have no such custom, nor have the churches of God.

Conclusion: Paul is speaking to the Corinthian Church about relationships between God and Christ and Man and Woman. Paul is also speaking of hair as being the head covering. If some want to say the relationship between God and Christ or between man and woman is not an equal relationship there is no such custom in the churches of God. If some want to say it is a cloth head covering instead of hair, there is no such custom in the churches of God. Verse 14, when speaking of the man, clearly shows it is referring to hair. Men should not have long hair and "it is a glory" for a woman to have long hair (verse 15). It would not be wrong for a woman to wear a cloth covering on her head if she wants to do so, however in order for the wearing of a cloth covering to be required it would have to be a command of God, and would have to be found someplace within the pages of the Bible, God's word. If anyone knows of such a command having been given within the pages of the Bible, please give us book, chapter and verse.

About the resurrections--John 5:29 reads: "And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of

life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

One would be stretching the truth to say this verse says there are only 2 resurrections. One could however safely say that this particular verse speaks of 2 different kinds of resurrections. God can have as many resurrections as He so pleases, and scripture shows us and gives us proof that there have already been more than 2 resurrections. In Issue #9 both Arlan Weight in his article "She Is Not Dead But Sleeps..." and Rhoda Foust in her article "Resurrections-How Many?", list several resurrections of different people at different times that have already taken place. The bottom line here is that I can see no place in scripture where it tells us exactly how many resurrections there will be all together. Again, if you can find in the Bible, God's word where it tells us for sure, exactly how many resurrections there will be, please give us book, chapter and verse. Laura Lee



Dear Brethren in Iowa,

I have been associated with the CoG since 1954 when I was born. I am not a novice to the differences over doctrine in the CoGs. Alas, I didn't kiss that piece of the Blarney Stone at Texas Tech and do not have the gift of Eloquent Speech. I will do the best that I can.

All of you are now engaged in a squabble that has split nearly every CoG in this country. We were taught that if one doesn't agree with everything from Headquarters that one is of Satan and deceived. If anyone denies this basic premise, I must question his honesty and his claim as a seeker of truth. Yet many of us know that we hold varying opinions on many things even doctrines we all hold dear. It just is not politically correct to admit it. Further, if one holds a different idea than the majority, he is in danger of being booted out. He must keep it to himself or to a small group of friends holding the same idea.

Further, we have been taught that disfellowshipping and treating an

individual holding a different opinion as dirt is actually showing love! In fact, it is self-righteous hate. We admit that Jewish tradition doesn't necessarily follow biblical principles much less the letter of the Bible. In general, we reject the Jewish Passover, but accept the Jewish calendar. Many are accepting the Jewish Passover but rejecting the Jewish Calendar. Some keep both while others reject both. Witness the first split in the WCG back in 1972. It involved the timing of Pentecost.

If you are of the persuasion that you must accept whatever your minister or your church leader teaches without question, may I invite you to join any of a number of xCGs who claim to carry the baton of HWA. Some of these are PCG, LCG, CGG, Reformed, ICG, DH-CG and Dave Pack's group. All will tell you that their group follows HWA better than anyone else. All will tell you that by staying with their group, that you will get into the Kingdom of God while it is questionable at best for anyone else. However, if you should choose to believe anything different you can expect to do so alone and marked by your supposed friends. It isn't easy being alone or in a small group. Remember, Elijah felt VERY lonely!

Now I want you all to think on this. Could it be possible that the time we could all lean on each other agreeing to all the same things is over? Would God give some truth to you and not to me yet we still both be converted? Would God test us to see if we really love our neighbor as ourselves by allowing a difference where no difference occurred before? Will we treat each other like the Shiites do the Sunnis and vice versa? Throughout the country people are looking down on every person not in their group. I know one xCG teaches its members that all those not in their group will worship at their feet in the Kingdom of God.

Now if one of you thinks the Jewish Calendar is in error, how should you treat him if you think it is correct? Will you study the issue on your own or just accept whatever the pulpit has to say? I promise you, every pulpit has a convincing sounding argument. If you will not study both sides of the issue for yourself, if you will only listen to what one side says and you reject anyone differing with you, then I can promise you that your group will split. There exist many different feast

sites where different groups believe all different sides of this issue. Whatever position you take, someone has already been keeping that position for years.

Some of the issues are these:
Jewish Calendar or:

Is the new moon:

- a) conjunction
- b) day after conjunction
- c) observed crescent
- d) full moon
- e) irrelevant to the moon at all

(One group uses March 16 to start the year!)

Should you use:

- a) local determination of the moon
- b) determination of the moon from Jerusalem
- c) determination of the moon from some other fixed location

Passover:

- a) Beginning of the 14th
- b) End of the 14th
- c) Beginning of the 15th

The first month:

- a) must begin after the Vernal Equinox
- b) Nearest new moon to the Vernal Equinox with Passover in Spring

Was Christ killed in 30AD or 31AD?

Do the oracles of God include the rules for the Jewish Calendar?

Relevant Scriptures: Psalms 81:3, Ex. 23, Ex. 32

I recommend each of you get and read Frank Nelte's article entitled "Operation Dumbo Drop" if you have the science background necessary to understand the ramifications. Yet, if you will not study the subject, do not get caught beating your fellow servant.

Sincerely,
Timothy W. Henry

PS: Please reject any argument that you must read only what one person says. If you believe you have God's spirit in you, do you reckon you can discern truth proven as opposed to someone making a claim based on their own authority?

Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was written in response to a prayer request that we sent out via e-mail in regard to a church in Iowa who's members were having difficulties over calendar issues. We believe as Tim does, that one needs to study the issues, whatever they may be. When studying any given subject, do not take only one person's word for anything and always check everything through scripture to see whether it is true or not.

1 Corinthians 11:29-31--For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the **Lord's body**. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

In the above scripture one can define "Lord's body" in two ways and both would fit. Lord's body can literally mean Lord's body or it can mean the church or the Ekklesia (called out ones). There is not one single one of us, who has any idea who God is and is not working with or on what level He is working with any person, whether this person be in a church of God group or a Sunday keeping group (from where many of us originally started). If we are not able to discern the body of Christ, the church, then why are so many people fighting with each other over a multitude of issues, some of which have nothing to do with scripture and then to top that off many quit speaking to others, and many are disfellowshipped or barred from services.

Look at the next part of these scriptures. "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." Many of you reading this newsletter receive prayer requests for others via email on a regular basis. These are real people, and these illnesses are awfull. Cancer, comas, and a multitude of illnesses too numerous to count, not to mention the many who have died. Could these ill be brought on because many people only think they know who God's people are and many are being thrown out like so much trash by those who cut off and disfellowship or dismember the body of Christ. Please wake up--this fighting and splitting must end. Laura Lee



EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are parts of 2 letters sent by Don Esposito. I have combined these parts into 1 letter, with no changes made to Don's wording. Laura Lee

Dear Brethren,

Greetings in the precious name of our Savior Yahshua. As we enter the Passover season, my prayer to our heavenly Father is that all of Yah's Saints are growing spiritually. I believe that in these end times, too many brethren are far too focused on knowledge based information, than spirit based. The reality of our sinful nature, even after immersion, should truly humble us, and bring us to our knee's daily. It truly amazes me, how brethren can hold grudges against other brethren, when it is so clear that unless we forgive others, our sins will not be forgiven. But as it states in the book of Luke, the seventh chapter, "He who is forgiven much, has much love, but to he who is forgiven little, has little love. I believe in such a self-centered, selfish world, that most tend to justify themselves, instead of really looking to the core of our wicked human nature. It is only when we truly look in the mirror, with the mask off, and see ourselves for what we really are (worthless flesh without the blood of Yahshua) can we truly start to put on Yahshua's grace. There is such a spirit of judgement out there today that it is sickening. Scripture is clear that we are to judge ourself, and sin, but not our brother. That does not mean that we should not go to our brother in love when he is in a fault, and correct him. That is laid out in Matthew, 18th chapter...

...Greetings in the precious name of Yahshua our Savior. We pray that all are well. We have been doing fine, and greatly blessed. We have had so many doors for ministry opened in our time in Israel. I also hosted a two house conference that truly went well. At times we have been counseling around the clock. Although blessed, our time here has been extremely exhausting. There is also a great need for prayer of the true Saints in Israel. You, almost daily, hear about the suffering of both the Palestinians and Israelis, but rarely hear

about the persecution of the Saints. We personally know of several stabbings of brethren, by both Palestinians and also by Orthodox Jews. We went to a conference several weeks ago at the conference center, and several hundred anti-missionary Orthodox Jews stormed past police barriers, and charged the stage, and destroyed the audio equipment, and injured several security personal. It is also a well known fact that when the Israeli immigration department finds out that a new immigrant is a believer in Yahshua, the paperwork for his residency is immediately stopped.

I also wanted to let everyone know that we will be taking a very short trip to America this summer. We have been invited to appear on Promised Land Messianic TV station, on Sky Channel, with over 4 million viewers. They are taping two shows about our ministry on July 28th, so we will be in the US for only the month of July, as we need to get back overseas to set up for the feast and the dig. Regretfully, we will not be able to make as many public speaking engagements as we would have liked to. But we do plan on being in Vero Beach Florida for a speaking engagement on July 20th. All are welcome to come. I plan on sharing some very exciting things that are happening today in the Land of Israel. Please write to us if you plan on coming, so we can have an idea on how many people to prepare for, and we will send the address of the hall and of meeting in the next letter. We truly look forward to seeing as many as we can in our short trip to America...

B'Shem Yahshua,
Don

ARTICLES SECTION--We are always looking for good articles written by ordinary people, to consider for inclusion in this newsletter. Darwin and I do not always agree with every single thing that we print. Darwin and I also do not know everything. Like most people reading this newsletter, we are still learning. We do strive to bring to you Biblically Based Articles--The problem is that opinion and interpretation of scripture varies from person to person. So with that in mind let's let "iron sharpen iron" Proverbs 27:17--Let's learn from each other. Send articles to: Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com

**THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH
PART #4**

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**THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH
THE GENUINE OFFSPRING OF THE
UNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH HIS SPOUSE. THE
CLAIMS OF PROTESTANTISM TO ANY
PART THEREIN PROVED TO BE
GROUNDLESS, SELF-
CONTRADICTORY, AND SUICIDAL**

"Halting on crutches of unequal size, One leg by truth supported, one by lies, Thus sidle to the goal with awkward pace, Secure of nothing but to lose the race."

In the present article we propose to investigate carefully a new (and the last) class of proof assumed to convince the Biblical Christian that God had substituted Sunday for Saturday for His worship in the new law, and that the divine will is to be found recorded by the Holy Ghost in apostolic writings.

We are informed that this radical change has found expression, over and over again, in a series of texts in which the expression, "the day of the Lord," or "the Lord's day," is to be found.

The class of texts in the New Testament, under the title "Sabbath," numbering 61 in the Gospels, Acts, and Epistles; and the second class, in which "the first day of the week," or Sunday, having been critically examined (the latter class numbering nine [eight]); and having

been found not to afford the slightest clue to a change of will on the part of God as to His day of worship by man, we now proceed to examine the third and last class of texts relied on to save the Biblical system from the arraignment of seeking to palm off on the world, in the name of God, a decree for which there is not the slightest warrant or authority from their teacher, the Bible.

The first text of this class is to be found in the Acts of the Apostles, 2d chapter, 20th verse: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord shall come." How many Sundays have rolled by since that prophecy was spoken? So much for that effort to pervert the meaning of the sacred text from the judgment day to Sunday! The second text of this class is to be found in 1st Epistle Cor., 1st chapter 8th verse: "Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that you may be blameless *in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ,*" What simpleton does not see that the apostle here plainly indicates the day of judgment? The next text of this class that presents itself is to be found in the same Epistle, 5th chapter 5th verse: "To deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved *in the day of the Lord Jesus,*" The incestuous Corinthian was, of course, saved on *the Sunday next following!* How pitiable such a makeshift as this! The fourth text, 2d Cor., 1st chapter, 13th and 14th verse: "And I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end, even as ye also are ours in the day of the Lord Jesus. *"Sunday or the day of judgment,* which? The fifth text is from St. Paul to the Philippians, 1st chapter, 6th verse: "Being confident of this very thing, that He who hath begun a good work in you, will perfect it *until the day of Jesus Christ,*" The good people of Philippi, in attaining perfection *on the following Sunday,* could

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afford to laugh at our modern rapid transit!

We beg to submit our sixth of the class; viz., Philippians, first chapter, tenth verse: "That he may be sincere without offense *unto the day of Christ*." That day was *next Sunday*, forsooth! no so long to wait after all, The seventh text, 2 Ep. Peter, third chapter, tenth verse. "But *the day of the Lord* will come as a thief in the night." The application of this text to Sunday passes the bounds of absurdity. The eighth text, 2 Ep. Peter, third chapter, twelfth verse: "Waiting for and hastening unto *the coming of the day of the Lord*, by which the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved," etc. This day of the Lord is the same referred to in the previous text, the application of both of which to *Sunday next* would have left the Christian world sleepless the next Saturday night. We have presented to our readers eight of the nine texts relied on to bolster up by text of Scripture the sacrilegious effort to palm off the "Lord's day" for Sunday, and with what result? Each furnishes *prima facie* evidence of the last day, referring to it directly, absolutely, and unequivocally.

The ninth text wherein we meet the expression "the Lord's day," is the last to be found in the apostolic writings. The Apocalypse, or Revelation, first chapter, tenth verse, furnishes it in the following words of John: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day;" but it will afford no more comfort to our Biblical friends than its predecessors of the same series. Has St. John used the expression previously in his Gospel or Epistles? - Emphatically, NO. Has he had occasion to refer to Sunday hitherto? - Yes, twice. How did he designate Sunday on these occasions? Easter Sunday was called by him (John 20: 1) "*the first day of the week*." Again, chapter twenty, nineteenth verse: "Now when it was late that same day, *being the first day of the week*." Evidently, although inspired, both in his Gospel and Epistles, he called Sunday "the first day of the week." On what grounds, then, can it be assumed that he dropped that designation? Was he *more inspired* when he wrote the Apocalypse, or did he adopt a new title for Sunday, because it was now in vogue? A reply to these questions would be supererogatory especially to the latter, seeing that the same expression had been used eight times already by St. Luke, St. Paul and St. Peter, *all under*

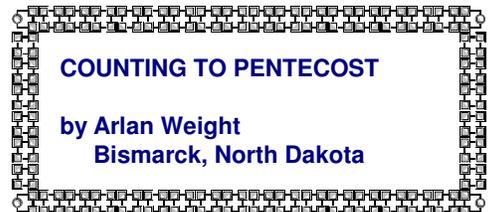
divine inspiration, and surely the Holy Spirit would not inspire St. John to call Sunday the Lord's day, whilst He inspired Sts. Luke, Paul, and Peter, collectively, to entitle the day of judgment "the Lord's day." Dialecticians reckon amongst the infallible motives of certitude, the moral motive of analogy or induction, by which we are enabled to conclude with certainty from the known to the unknown; being absolutely certain of the meaning of an expression can have only the same meaning when uttered the ninth time, especially when we know that on the nine occasions the expressions were *inspired by the Holy Spirit*.

Nor are the strongest intrinsic grounds wanting to prove that this, like its sister texts, contains the same meaning. St. John (Apoc. first chapter, tenth verse) says "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day;" but he furnishes us the key to this expression, chapter four, first and second verses: "After this I looked and beheld a door opened in heaven." A voice said to him: "Come up hither, and I will show you *the things which must be hereafter*." Let us ascend in spirit with John. Whither? - through that "door in heaven," to heaven. And what shall we see? - "The things that must be hereafter," chapter four, first verse. He ascended in spirit to heaven. He was ordered to write, in full, his vision of what is to take place antecedent to, and concomitantly with, "the Lord's day," or the day of judgment; the expression "Lord's day" being confined in Scripture to the day of judgment exclusively.

We have studiously and accurately collected from the New Testament every available proof that could be adduced in favor of a law canceling the Sabbath day of the old law, or one substituting another day for the Christian dispensation. We have been careful to make the above distinction, lest it might be advanced that the 3rd (In the Catholic enumeration, the Sabbath commandment is the third of the ten commandments.) Commandment was abrogated under the New Law. Any such plea has been overruled by the action of the Methodist Episcopal bishops in their pastoral 1874, and quoted by the New York *Herald* of the same date, of the following tenor: "The Sabbath instituted in the beginning and confirmed again and again by Moses and the prophets, *has never been abrogated*. Apart of the moral law, not a part or tittle of its sanctity has been taken away." The above official

pronunciamento has committed that large body of Biblical Christians to the permanence of the 3rd commandment under the new law. We again beg to leave to call the special attention of our readers to the twentieth of "the thirty-nine articles of religion" of the Book of Common Prayer; "It is not lawful for the church to ordain anything that is contrary to God's *written word*."

DUE TO THE LENGTH OF THIS ARTICLE IT WILL BE CONTINUED IN ISSUE #11--THANK YOU LAURA LEE (EDITOR)



When does Pentecost occur? What day of the week? What day of the year? Does it always occur on Sunday? During the 1970's, controversy arose in the Worldwide Church of God as to whether the day should be observed on Monday or on Sunday.

In Leviticus 23:15-21 it says "You shall count unto you **from** the morrow after the Sabbath from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number fifty days; . . . And you shall proclaim on the selfsame day, that it may be an **holy convocation** unto you: you shall do no servile work therein: it shall be **a statute for ever** in all your dwellings throughout your generations"

At that time everything hinged on that word **from** in verse 15. When counting, do you include Sunday or do you start with Monday. Whichever day you start out on is the day you end up on. For example, if you start counting on Monday, Pentecost will be Monday seven weeks later. If you start counting on Sunday, Pentecost will be on Sunday, seven weeks later. So the question to answer was do you count 'inclusively' or 'exclusively'?

To find out, Herbert Armstrong, leader of the Worldwide Church of God and editor of the 'Plain Truth' magazine, went to the Jewish community to enquire on how they dealt with the word 'from'. Does it include the day they start with or does it start the next day? Well, as it turned out, they include the day. For example if one started counting from the day after the Sabbath, you would include that next day, 'Sunday' as the 1st day.

Up until that time the Worldwide Church of God observed Monday as Pentecost. It always fell on Monday as the day the church began counting from always started out on 'the morrow after the Sabbath' counting from (exclusively) and ended up on Monday, fifty days later. So when it was discovered that the Jewish community counted 'inclusively' the Church changed from observing Pentecost on Monday to that of keeping it on Sunday.

But which Sabbath? Which Sabbath do you start counting from. This is also a **big** question. The understanding back then, as well as now with most major corporation 'churches of God' is that the Sabbath you count from is the **weekly Sabbath that falls within the week** of the 'Days of Unleavened Bread'.

This answer usually settled it with most members, although, some continued to question and have doubts about that part. In 2001 this writer observed some of the confusion over this issue when the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread fell on Sunday (April 8) and the 7th Day of Unleavened Bread occurred on the following weekly Sabbath (April 14). If one uses the logic described above, the church should have begun counting from the Sunday following April 14. That would have put Pentecost on Sunday, June 3, but most major corporation groups didn't. Instead they started counting from Sunday (April 8) which put Pentecost on Sunday (May 27). Some groups did, however, observe Pentecost on June 3. (See Figure 1)

Was June 3 the correct day? Was May 27 the correct one? Were either one of them correct? Some claim you must go to the land of Palestine to find out when they begin the barley harvest to know which Sabbath is the closest and the one to begin counting 'from'. Is that the way we must proceed? Why all this confusion? Does God expect us to sort of guess when to keep these days or figure it

out the most logical way we see it. Is this something he leaves up to us?

In 1 Corinthians 14:33 it says "God is not the author of confusion", therefore there must be an explanation. If God would have us keep His Holy Days, which he commands as sacred assemblies to be kept year by year, forever, would he leave it to chance? Not likely. To this writer there are sure principles, **sure guidelines**, that the scriptures give to assure accuracy on this issue. It is not a chance thing and one can have full confidence in it being correct.

One other thing Herbert Armstrong always taught is that if one starts off to prove something true or false one must not begin on a assumed premise. One must first start off on firm solid ground with that beginning premise rooted and provable beyond question. Else, any conclusion following will have questions surrounding it and more than likely be a wrong one. To this writer this teaching is still valid and correct today.

❖ Sure guideline number one is that Christ came to fulfill the prophecies written about him. Notice what he said in Matthew 5:17. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to **fulfill**."

In the past as well as presently, the Church has used this verse to show God's commandments are as much in force today as when he gave them. This is true, but sometimes do we consider the second part of this sentence as much as we should? He says he didn't come to destroy the law **or the prophets**. This is not meaning the prophets themselves, but what the prophets wrote. He said he didn't come to undo that, but to '**fulfill**' it. (Mat. 5:17)

Therefore if Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of himself as written down by Moses and the other prophets, he fulfilled them exactly at the right times. So we must first start with the Old Testament Scriptures for the basis of when and how we are to do things. When we do it this way we can see how he fulfilled them perfectly, and if we follow them as he did we will be on track and will not go astray.

❖ The second sure guideline is given in Mat. 23:1-3. "Then spoke Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples saying, 'The **Scribes and Pharisees** sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do. . .'"

All of the things Moses wrote about, concerning the Passover, Pentecost and the other Holy Days, he says the Scribes and Pharisees were doing correctly. Jesus went on to say "but do not you after their works". The works that they were involved with or what they were doing was a totally different thing.

Notice what Eerdman's Bible Dictionary says under the heading 'Pharisees'. (Emphasis mine)

PHARISEES (Gk. Pharisaioi)

One of the parties or movements within Judaism of the late Second Temple period (ca. 150 B.C. - A.D. 70). The Pharisees were noted most for their **exact observance**, of the Jewish religion, their **accurate exposition** of the law, their **handing down** of extra biblical customs and traditions, their moderate position with regard to the interplay of fate and free will, and their belief in the coming resurrection and in angels...

During the time of Jesus and the first generation of the Church, the temple was essentially controlled by the **Sadducean aristocracy** and was the center of the religious life of the Jews. **But through Pharisaic scribes** the synagogues often became points of **Pharisaic influence on the common people**. Still the enduring significance of the Pharisees for Judaism lies less in the direct impact on Second Temple Judaism than in their survival as the most viable leadership after the destruction of the temple. **Almost all forms of modern Judaism trace their lineage through the Pharisees. . .**

In the Gospels "Pharisees" has become one of the generalized designations for the opponents of Jesus (e.g., Mat. 27:62; John 7:32; 18:3) This negative view of the Pharisees **can obscure the fundamental agreement of Jesus**

2001

Some Churches of God observed this method of counting, considering the 15th as the day of the Wave Sheaf Offering. This method followed the rule of the Sadducees.

Most larger Corporate Churches of God observed this method of counting, considering the 8th as the day of the Wave Sheaf Offering. This method followed neither the rule of the Sadducees or the Pharisees as the 7th did not Fall within the days of Unleavened Bread.

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 ₁	16 ₂	17 ₃	18 ₄	19 ₅	20 ₆	21 ₇
22 ₈	23 ₉	24 ₁₀	25 ₁₁	26 ₁₂	27 ₁₃	28 ₁₄
29 ₁₅	30 ₁₆					

The 1st Day of Unleavened Bread is the 8th.

The 7th Day of Unleavened Bread is the 14th.

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 ₂	10 ₃	11 ₄	12 ₅	13 ₆	14
15 ₈	16 ₉	17 ₁₀	18 ₁₁	19 ₁₂	20 ₁₃	21 ₁₄
22 ₁₅	23 ₁₆	24 ₁₇	25 ₁₈	26 ₁₉	27 ₂₀	28 ₂₁
29 ₂₂	30 ₂₃					

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 ₁₇	2 ₁₈	3 ₁₉	4 ₂₀	5 ₂₁
6 ₂₂	7 ₂₃	8 ₂₄	9 ₂₅	10 ₂₆	11 ₂₇	12 ₂₈
13 ₂₉	14 ₃₀	15 ₃₁	16 ₃₂	17 ₃₃	18 ₃₄	19 ₃₅
20 ₃₆	21 ₃₇	22 ₃₈	23 ₃₉	24 ₄₀	25 ₄₁	26 ₄₂
27 ₄₃	28 ₄₄	29 ₄₅	30 ₄₆	31 ₄₇		

Pentecost is here reckoned to be the 27th of May. (Did not follow either the rule of the Pharisees or Sadducees)

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 ₂₄	2 ₂₅	3 ₂₆	4 ₂₇	5 ₂₈
6 ₂₉	7 ₃₀	8 ₃₁	9 ₃₂	10 ₃₃	11 ₃₄	12 ₃₅
13 ₃₆	14 ₃₇	15 ₃₈	16 ₃₉	17 ₄₀	18 ₄₁	19 ₄₂
20 ₄₃	21 ₄₄	22 ₄₅	23 ₄₆	24 ₄₇	25 ₄₈	26 ₄₉
27 ₅₀	28	29	30	31		

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 ₄₈	2 ₄₉
3 ₅₀	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Pentecost is here reckoned to be the 3rd of June.

(Sadducees rule)

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

(Figure 1)

with them on a number of points, including resurrection (cf. Matt. 22:23-33) and the **validity of the Pharisees interpretation of the precepts of the Torah** although it is likely that the points on which Jesus and the Pharisees agreed are those held in common by **all Jews**. . .

The conflict appears not to have been carried over into the period of the Church's history covered by the book of Acts. Pharisees appear as defenders of the Church (Acts 5:34-39; 23:6-9) and as conservative members of the Church (15:5). When Paul speaks of his background as a Pharisee, **he does not denigrate Pharisaism** per se, even as he regards his former life focused on fulfillment of the precepts of the law as replaced by his life as apostle to the Gentiles. . ."

Again as stated above, the Sadducees were the Aristocracy but it was the Pharisees that really prevailed as the teachers and had sway among the common people. Notice what Eerdman's says:

Most members of the Sanhedrin, the central judicial authority of Jewish people, were Sadducees. Thus the Sadducees were the party of those with political power, those allied with the Herodian and Roman rulers, but **they were not a group with influence** among the people themselves. The **views of the Pharisees prevailed** among the common people, so that even though the two groups differed with regard to items in the laws of purity and details of temple procedure during the feasts, the **Sadducean priests were compelled to operate according to the Pharisees' views**".

Eerdman's Bible Dictionary says this about the "Scribes"

Scribes (Heb. Soper; Gk. Grammateus). Interpreters and teachers of the Mosaic law. . . The model for the teachers of the law was Ezra. His designation as Heb. Soper "secretary, scribe, learned

person" (Ezra 7:6) became the standard Hebrew designation for the teachers of the Torah. In the New Testament these teachers are called primarily Gk. Grammateus "scribe, one learned in the Scriptures," but also nomodidaskalos "teacher of the law" and nomikos "lawyer." . . .

Most of the scribes were adherents of the Pharisees' interpretation of the Torah. It was the Pharisees, as opposed to the Sadducees, whose concept of "oral Torah" **gave the greatest respect** of the development of legal traditions in the teachings of the scribes.

So with these two broad principles in mind we can proceed to see how Pentecost as well as the other Holy Days were observed. Again, Jesus was a Jew. He came from the lineage of Judah, (Heb. 7:14) and during his young life growing up, followed the teachings of his parents, observed the Passover (Luke 2:41 & 51) and kept all the teachings of the Scribes & Pharisees of the law as passed down from Moses and the Prophets. Jesus had no conflict with that at all.

So when did Jesus observe Pentecost? Well, he observed it the same time as his countrymen did. Which followed the instruction laid down in the Old Testament scriptures, particularly Leviticus 23. Therefore, let's look closely at the verse. "And you shall count unto you from the **morrow after the Sabbath** from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; **seven Sabbaths** shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the **seventh Sabbath** shall you number fifty days;"

When were they to bring the sheaf of the wave offering? What Sabbath is the verse referring to? This is the big question. There are at least two schools of thought on this issue. That of the **Pharisee's** interpretation and that of the **Sadducees**. Notice what Eerdman's Bible Dictionary says under the heading '**Weeks - Feast of**'.

"The determination of a precise date for the beginning of the festival has remained a matter of long standing debate in rabbinic writings. The crucial phrase '**The morrow after the Sabbath**'

(mimmah rat hassabbat; Lev. 23:15) has been subjected to two major interpretations: That of the **Sadducees**, who understood the Sabbath as a **normal weekly one** and began counting the seven weeks the day after (thus the counting could begin **anytime during the passover week**, depending upon where the normal Sabbath fell after the first day of Passover), and that of the **Pharisees**, who interpreted the Sabbath of Lev. 23:15 in a more restrictive sense as the **first day of the Passover Feast**, whereby the counting of the seven weeks always began on the **second day of Passover**. (Emphasis mine throughout)

The New Catholic Encyclopedia says this under the heading "**Date of Pentecost**".

There was fixed, in Lev. 23:11,15-16, a period of 50 days from "the day after the Sabbath" of the massot, counting **7 weeks** to "the day after the **seventh week**" on which the Pentecostal feast was to be observed. Later, the **Pharisees** identified the **Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread** with the feast-day itself on the 15th of the 1st month (Nisan) and, computing the 50-day period **from the 16th**, they celebrated Pentecost on the **6th day of the 3rd month**. The Boethuseans (a sect of the Sadducees), interpreting the Sabbath as **the ordinary Sabbath that fell during the week of the massot** between the 15th and 21st day of Nisan, kept Pentecost on the **Sunday following the 7th Sabbath**."

The Jewish Encyclopedia states basically the same thing as the other two sources above with some additional insight.

'Shavuot (Heb., "weeks," Pentecost, "the 50th day"), the festival celebrated on the sixth of Sivan (and also on the seventh outside Israel). The biblical names for the festival are "Hag Shavuot" ("Feast of Weeks," Ex. 34:22; Deut. 16:10); "Yom ha-Bikkurim" ("The Day of the Firstfruits," Num. 28:26), and "Hag ha-Kazir" ("The Harvest Feast," Ex. 23:16). The rabbinic name is "Azeret" (RH 1,2 Hag.2,4). . .

This Feast, one of the three "pilgrim festivals (Deut. 16:16), marked the end of the barley and beginning of the wheat harvest. . . It is stated in Leviticus: "From the day after the Sabbath, the day that you bring the sheaf of wave-offering you shall count (until) seven full weeks have elapsed: you shall count fifty days, until the day after the **seventh week**: then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the Lord: (Lev. 23:15-16 and to 21). Leviticus 23:11 states that the sheaf was waved on the day after the Sabbath on the festival of Passover. Thus Shavuot falls 50 days after this day. The "**Sadducees** (and later the **Karaites**) understood the term "Sabbath" in these verses literally, hence, for them Shavuot **always falls on a Sunday**. The **Pharisees**, however, interpreted "Sabbath" as the first day of Passover (**which was a Sabbath, "day of rest"**) so that, for them Shavuot **always falls on the 51st day from the first day of Passover**. (Sifra Emor Perek 12; Men. 65a-66a). . .

It is possible the Pharisees insisted the Shavuot be observed on a fixed day because they wished to affirm that the festival commemorated the Sinaitic theophany which occurred on the 50th day after the Exodus (following the general Pharisaic belief in the oral Torah reaching back to Moses **which the Sadducees denied**)."

Continuing on in Leviticus 23:15 it says "from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall you number fifty days; . . .

The word Sabbath here can also be rendered 'week' or 'weeks'. Notice Numbers 28:26. "Also in the day of firstfruits, when you bring a new meat offering unto the Lord, after your weeks be out. . ."

In Deuteronomy 16:16 it says, "three times in a year shall all your males appear before the Lord your God. In the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, in the feast of **weeks**, in the feast of tabernacles: . . ."

In Exodus 34:22 it says, "And you

shall observe the feast of **weeks** . . ." The Hebrew word for weeks here in all three places is 'Shabua' meaning 'A seven, a week'. (Young's Concordance)

Throughout the Old Testament the festival is known as the 'Feast of Weeks' and in the New Testament it is called 'Pentecost'. Young's Concordance says this, "Pentecost - Feast on fiftieth day after **Passover**". The festival represents the end of a period of time known as the first-fruit harvest. It celebrates the end of that harvest. Therefore the Pharisaic view of this term 'Sabbath' in Leviticus 23:15 is more appropriately rendered **week** instead of **Sabbath**.

Reading it this way is as follows: "And you shall count unto you from the morrow after the sabbath" (**the first day of unleavened bread**), "from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven **weeks** shall be complete: Even unto the morrow after the seventh **week** shall you number fifty days..."

Pentecost in the New Testament

The Acts account of the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection says a great deal more when we consider some of the foregone discussion. That particular Pentecost was looked forward to with great anticipation by Jesus disciples. However, this anticipation was probably occurring in more than the disciples only.

Jesus' resurrection was an event that caused a great deal of excitement and interest. No doubt word of it reached far and wide, including the secular world. It's quite possible word of others being resurrected at the same time was 'noised' abroad as well. It's quite likely then, that many were beginning to take notice what was happening, particularly the scattered Israelites in the northern regions of Asia Minor.

So when Pentecost occurred that year in 31 A.D. it seems to indicate a great deal of interest was also there. It says, "there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5) Were these people there just because they lived there, or were they there to keep this festival? It doesn't say.

Let's read the account in Acts 2. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in

one place. . ." Now it doesn't say that this pertained only to the disciples, but from the amounts of people that are talked about later, indications are that there was a multitude of people in the area.

If they were all there mainly to observe the day of Pentecost, how was it that they were all there at the same time. Pentecost was not a hit and miss thing. People were not observing it at different times. They were all there at the very same time under the same understanding of when it should occur. Notice again Acts 2:5. "They were all with **one accord in one place**".

The only answer appears to be that people at that time were not in a quandary as to when Pentecost was to be observed. Everyone knew. As stated above under the inserted article titled 'Pharisees', the common people all knew and followed the established teaching on this subject. And with Jesus' own support (Matt. 23:2-3) it lent greater credence.

Notice again when Jesus said the words in Matthew 23:2-3, it says he spoke these words to the multitude as well as his disciples. Sometimes Jesus spoke in parables or he spoke to his disciples in private but not this time. "Then spoke Jesus to the **multitude**, and to his disciples, Saying, The **Scribes** and **Pharisees** sit in Moses' seat: **All** therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do;" It's quite evident, here at least, Jesus intent was to show who was following the correct teaching. It was not something hidden or intended only for his disciples, as was the case in some instances. This was for everyone to know.

After his resurrection Jesus' words no doubt took on a greater level of importance and maybe explains why the Pharisee's teaching survived after the destruction of the 2nd Temple in 70 AD, as Eerdman's Bible Dictionary says.

Pentecost in the Church Today

Most Church of God groups count to 'Pentecost' according to the way the Sadducees did at the time of Christ. They observed the 'wave sheaf offering' as occurring on the day after the weekly Sabbath, that fell within the days of Unleavened Bread, and not the way the Pharisees did. They observed this event to take place immediately following the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread, which was

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Some Churches of God observed this method of counting, considering the 29th as the day of the Wave Sheaf Offering. This method followed the rule of the Pharisees.

Most larger Corporate Churches of God observed this method of counting, considering the 31st as the day of the Wave Sheaf Off.. This method followed the rule of the Sadducees

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 ₁	29 ₁	30 ₂
31 ₃						

The 1st Day of U.B. is the 28th of March. The day to start counting is the day after, or the 29th (Lt.) The Sadducees observed the 31st as day of the Wave Sheaf Offering.

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 ₁	29	30
31 ₁						

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 ₄	2 ₅	3 ₆	4 ₇	5 ₈	6 ₉
7 ₁₀	8 ₁₁	9 ₁₂	10 ₁₃	11 ₁₄	12 ₁₅	13 ₁₆
14 ₁₇	15 ₁₈	16 ₁₉	17 ₂₀	18 ₂₁	19 ₂₂	20 ₂₃
21 ₂₄	22 ₂₅	23 ₂₆	24 ₂₇	25 ₂₈	26 ₂₉	27 ₃₀
28 ₃₁	29 ₃₂	30 ₃₃				

The 3rd of April was the 7th Day of Unleavened Bread.

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 ₂	2 ₃	3 ₄	4 ₅	5 ₆	6 ₇
7 ₈	8 ₉	9 ₁₀	10 ₁₁	11 ₁₃	12 ₁₃	13 ₁₄
14 ₁₅	15 ₁₆	16 ₁₇	17 ₁₈	18 ₁₉	19 ₂₀	20 ₂₁
21 ₂₂	22 ₂₃	23 ₂₄	24 ₂₅	25 ₂₆	26 ₂₇	27 ₂₈
28 ₂₉	29 ₃₀	30 ₃₁				

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 ₃₄	2 ₃₅	3 ₃₆	4 ₃₇
5 ₃₈	6 ₃₉	7 ₄₀	8 ₄₁	9 ₄₂	10 ₄₃	11 ₄₄
12 ₄₅	13 ₄₆	14 ₄₇	15 ₄₈	16 ₄₉	17 ₅₀	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Pentecost for the Pharisees was the 17th of May.

Pentecost for the Sadducees was the 19th of May.

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 ₃₂	2 ₃₃	3 ₃₄	4 ₃₅
5 ₃₆	6 ₃₇	7 ₃₈	8 ₃₉	9 ₄₀	10 ₄₁	11 ₄₂
12 ₄₃	13 ₄₄	14 ₄₅	15 ₄₆	16 ₄₇	17 ₄₈	18 ₄₉
19 ₅₀	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

(Figure 2)

also a Sabbath.
(See figure 2)

The Church today takes its cue from John's account, where Jesus told Mary, "touch me not for I am not yet ascended to my Father; . . ." (John 20:17) Today the Church leadership assumes Jesus is fulfilling the 'wave sheaf offering' at that time, when he did it the year he died and was resurrected. But is this assumption correct? Was that Sunday morning the proof that we are now to begin counting to 'Pentecost' from that day?

If so, then he changed the day. But that can't happen because he said he did not come to "**destroy. . . the prophets**" (Matt. 5:17) and he followed the teaching of when the Scribes and Pharisees observed these things. (Matt. 23:2-3) So what's the answer?

The only answer that can be is the same as what happened with the Passover the year of Jesus death. Most present day 'Church of God' groups believe Jesus changed the observance of this event from the end of the 14th, as outlined in the Old Testament, to the beginning of the 14th in the New Testament. They take their words from what the apostle Paul said in 1st Corinthians 11:23. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the **same night** in which he was betrayed took bread; . . ."

Yes, Jesus delivered the symbols of the bread and wine the night before the actual Passover. But that's the point. Jesus, that year **fulfilled** the meaning of the 1st Passover in Exodus. That year he was killed at the very same time as all the other Jews were slaughtering their lambs. He could not, in the same way observe this event with all his countrymen, as he had done prior to that time. That year he would **fulfill** its meaning exactly and perfectly as it had been foretold centuries before.

He had to deliver the symbols at some time prior to that time and he chose the night before. In 1 Corinthians 11:23 it is simply a statement of when Jesus delivered the symbolism of the bread and wine. It does not say he changed the Passover observance to that time, a day earlier than the Scribes and Pharisees were teaching it.

The same is true with the 'wave sheaf offering', that year. Jesus couldn't possibly ascend to the Father on the day

after the 1st Day of Unleavened Bread, as he was still in the grave. But again, like the Passover, that was a unique year. But does it mean he was not accepted of the Father on the proper time, **fulfilling** the scripture?

Jesus physical life on this earth was a perfect example of how we should all live. He obeyed the will of his Father in everything and submitted himself totally even to the point of dying a hideous death. Notice the words of John 19:28, "Jesus knowing that **all things were now accomplished** that the **scripture** might be **fulfilled**, said, I thirst. . . when Jesus therefore had received the vinegar he said **it is finished.**"

Notice again the words, "all things... accomplished... scripture... fulfilled... it is finished". It's done. It's completed. Jesus' mission to this earth was over. He finished the job his Father gave him. His Father said of him when he was baptized, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17) Jesus said, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." (John 8:29)

Do we think for a moment his acceptance as the 'wave sheaf' was not assured? Was it necessary in his fulfilling the 'wave sheaf offering' to be able to ascend to his Father? To this writer his acceptance did not depend on that. He was accepted the moment he died. His acceptance was a sure thing.

It's true, Jesus may have ascended to the Father on the day after his resurrection. But it only shows his complete determination to follow through to the very completeness that he did. But it no way says here that was the day the 'wave sheaf offering' was now to be reckoned. No indeed, Jesus did **fulfill** the Scripture, and for us to assume this is now the day we are to start counting to Pentecost is to say he changed the day from what the Old Testament scriptures say and from what the Scribes and Pharisees were teaching.

Conclusion

So there you have it. From the Bible and other sources we can distinguish the difference between the way the Sadducees and Pharisees counted to Pentecost. The Sadducees method counted from where the ordinary Sabbath

fell during the 7 days of Unleavened Bread, whereas the Pharisees method always started counting on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Which is correct? If we are to follow the advice of Jesus we need to observe the day the Scribes and Pharisees started counting. He said they are the ones who sit in 'Moses seat'. They were the teachers of the Law (Torah) at that time. Nowhere does he say the Sadducees sit in 'Moses seat'.

When we look at all the evidence, both from Scripture and other secular sources, we can see the 'sure guidelines' mentioned in the beginning of this study, stand up to the test, (1) Jesus fulfilled what the prophets wrote (2) The Scribes and Pharisees were observing the proper times when it all occurred.

But to see it all in its proper perspective we must view it as how Jesus **fulfilled** the scriptures. We must **first** read and follow the Old Testament directions, for they are exactly as Jesus did. But if we start with the New Testament, on the surface it appears Jesus changed the date of the Passover as well as the 'wave sheaf offering'.

Doing it this way is like putting the cart before the horse and it doesn't work. You cannot take the time frames of Jesus observance of the Passover symbolism and his ascension to the Father and make it fit into the Old Testament Scriptures. It just doesn't work that way, but it works perfectly when we see how Jesus actually **fulfilled** all the things written about him. The important thing is to believe what Moses wrote about Jesus. If we do this we will see how he fulfilled the scriptures and will be more inclined to believe what he said. Notice what he said in John 5:46-47, "For had you believed Moses, you would have believed me: for he wrote of me. **But if you believe not his writings, how shall you believe my words?**"

So where does all this study on the subject leave us? To this writer it indicates we should make the necessary corrections as we are led to understand. God looks at each heart. He does not condemn us or judge us on the basis of what we don't know. But Pentecost, like all other subjects ought to be studied by each person individually. Like it was commonly said by church leaders in the

early going, "Don't believe me just because I said it, read it for yourself, check it out, prove it, and then believe it."

The purpose of this study was not to learn 'some new thing' or to seek to divide any of the brethren in any way. And it is our hope that it will only lead to a better understanding of the Old and New Testaments and how they fit together. Many brethren may see things differently than what is presented here, and if one sincerely has points of disagreement and would like to discuss them, we of this newsletter, encourage your response. You may write to the addresses listed on page 2 of this newsletter. If proof can be presented to the contrary of what this study shows, we also must be ready to make the necessary changes.

**THE SPIRIT OF
RECONCILIATION**

by Wayne Schatzle
West Chester, Ohio

I have been active in promoting the Christian Faith and Bible reading for many years now. I have also relied on prayer for guidance. Recently, as I was bothered by the lack of new people in our local churches, I prayed to God because He is the One that sends people. This time I prayed a little differently, instead of asking for direction in evangelistic efforts, I asked- what is wrong with *us*? Remarkably, this verse popped into my mind: "if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you- leave your gift there... first be reconciled to your brother and then offer the gift" {Matt 5:24}. Immediately I understood what message the Lord had for me.

I wondered if I was over reacting or reading more into that verse than should be until I checked a trusted commentary: "This is as much to say, "Do not attempt to bring any offering to God while you are in a spirit of enmity against any person; or have any difference with your neighbor, which you have not used your diligence to get adjusted." It is our duty and interest, both to bring our gift and offer it too; but God

will not accept any act of religious worship from us while any enmity subsists in our hearts toward any soul of man, or while any subsists in our neighbor's heart towards us which we have not used the proper means to remove." {Adam Clark pg 775}. Very strong words indeed, and I feel compelled to agree with them.

Our tradition of Faith is a web of ugly divisions in the body of Christ and those splits are still festering with hard feelings. In spite of the smiling faces on the brethren, resentments continue. No one admits to harboring ill will towards former brethren, yet their actions belie the lip service. This is the time to do some soul searching and ask God if there is less than a pure heart within you. Actually the verse I cited shows that even though you may harbor no ill will, but your brother does- it is up to *you* to remedy the situation. But why me you ask? Just this, "you who are Spiritual- restore such a one" {Gal 6}. If you are the one that remembered it- you are the spiritual one and the task has fallen on you!

We may sear our conscience to put ex-brethren out of our minds- but make no mistake, God remembers, and He hates divisions. We identify ourselves by the church we attend or better yet, the man we follow. God desires that we be likeminded, no divisions, and have the same mind and judgment. When there are divisions, we must be treated as carnal because we are behaving like ordinary men and not God's elect. {1 Cor. 1-3}.

Looking at this problem from God's point of view, should He send more people into a situation where people who believe the same cannot get along? Why would we think we could get along with strangers more than former brethren? Think about this: "if one says "I love God", and hates his brother- he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this **commandment** we have from Him: that HE WHO LOVES GOD **MUST LOVE HIS BROTHER ALSO**. {1 John 4: 20-1}. It is not an option for us to ignore others in the Spiritual Body of Christ.

But many will say that it seems hopeless to mend the hurt feelings of the past- and they are correct. "A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city and contentions are like the bars of a

castle" {Prov. 18:19}. Just possibly your efforts will fail and the offended party will not hear you. You have done your job and God knows your heart. "blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God" {Matt 5: 9}. That is a worthy prize for your effort!

If this message has touched your heart and brought to mind a problem in your congregation, I urge you to act and discuss these thoughts with your church. Instead of planning campaigns and advertising ploys, why not be proactive in restoring the church in your area? Plan a "Family Reunion" at a neutral site, and put away the denominational banter for one week? Invite all those who were once considered Family and enjoy singing hymns, scriptures, and a nice meal together. Set your goal to do this, not to create another organization because there is room for many efforts to proclaim the Gospel, but to show God we do have the capacity to be loving and forgiving. Who knows, you may even have a great time in the process?

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**"EZEKIEL'S PROPHECY AND
REVELATION 20"**

by Rhoda Foust
Williamsburg, Indiana

Have you ever read Eze. 37 through to the end of the book, and wondered where and how to apply them in God's overall plan for Israel? Then you read Rev. 20:7-9 and you see there is a very familiar connection to the same set of events. Take the time to read Eze. 37 and 38 then go to Rev. 20 and read verses one through nine.

In Rev.20:1-3 we see that Satan is bound for a thousand years. "I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand and he laid hold on the dragon, which is the Devil, and Satan and bound him a thousand years And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he

should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season".

In the next verses we read of a first resurrection. In order for there to be a "first" there follows one or more. In verse five we read, "the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years are finished". This is the same thousand years that Satan is bound. In verse seven, we see after the thousand years, Satan is "loosed" out of his prison for a short time.

After Satan is loosed, he goes out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, (Ezekiel 38:3-4 adds other Gentile nations, "Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, and many people with thee") to gather them together to battle. Who are they going to battle against? Verse nine answers: "they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city..."

The beloved city, of course, is Jerusalem. The "saints" are not necessarily righteous people, but they are "holy" in that they are called to be God's chosen people. John omits many details that Ezekiel fills in and he jumps directly to the destruction upon these Gentile armies, showing God's wrath upon them. Now to get the rest of the story we must go to Ezekiel. Rev. 20 is just an outline of the "latter days" letting us glimpse into future ages. We have to look elsewhere to fill in some details between the verses of Revelation chapter 20.

Start at Eze. 37:1-13. These verses describe a great resurrection, not to the whole of mankind, but "to the whole house of Israel". Some teach that this resurrection includes all the dead, both Gentile and Israelites, but God specifically identifies them as strictly "bones of the whole house of Israel". Eze. 37:11 "Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel..." Notice he does not say these are a mixture of Gentiles and Israelites. Nor does he say, these are the whole house of Judah, (Jews).

Many religious teachers believe and teach that this is referring to the movement that is going on in Jerusalem today, the Jews returning, etc. We can assume lots of things that we think the bible means, but we need proof from other parts of the bible to back up such assumptions. What the bible actually

says is that these people are dead and in their graves.

Eze. 37:12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

37:13 And ye shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

37:8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but [there was] no breath in them.

37:9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

This verse shows that they were "slain" or dead. The people who are migrating back into Jerusalem today are neither dead nor dried up. They are full of hope, determined to rebuild their nation.

Eze.37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

37:11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel..."

Then we have a leap in time when God looks forward to their becoming one nation with David being their king, never to be divided again. He says that Ephraim (northern ten tribes) and Judah will be joined together, showing that not only Jewish people will return but all of the lost, scattered nations of Israel, "the whole house" will return.

Eze. 37:22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.

Notice there is no mention of any Gentiles being included in this resurrection. We see now that Satan has been loosed to do his job.

Immediately following the resurrection of the whole house of Israel, we read about Gog, (the same incident that we

read about in Rev.20:7-9) and several other Gentile nations in Eze. 38:1-2, 5-6 whom God allows Satan to lead up against Israel. By verses 11 through 13 we see enough time has elapsed for Israel to become settled into a peaceful and wealthy nation. (Eze. 38:13-14) Remember that before the thousand year millennium reign, the earth underwent drastic geographic changes, and a thousand years has passed since then, so Jerusalem is not the same little area that it is today. It, no doubt, has been enlarged to host all the combined nations of Ephraim (the lost ten tribes) and Judah.

Compare Rev. 20:7-9 with Eze. 38 and 39 for many details that Rev. 20: between verse 9 and 10 left out. Eze.38 and 39 fills in the details.

We know this is the same time period because it takes place "after" the thousand year period, "after" Satan is imprisoned and released, (for a short time), because it is Satan God uses to influence these Gentile nations to go up against a peaceful, wealthy, resurrected nation, called "the whole house of Israel". These Gentile nations are those who started very small at the very end of this age, beginning the "time of the Gentiles". The thousand years begins with the earth demolished, the saints martyred by the beast, and near every nation destroyed by war and from the seven vials of God's wrath. (Rev. 15 and 16). During the thousand years these Gentile nations grew, and were taught by Christ and his saints the right way to live. Without Satan there to influence them, they were willing to be led by Yeshua and his saints. They cleansed the earth, rebuilt and lived in peace until Satan was released.

Back to Ezekiel: After the resurrection of the whole house of Israel, these Gentile nations allowed themselves to be influenced by Satan. Israel follows the Gentile nations back into idolatry. God becomes angry at them and turns his back on them when the Gentile nations attack them, conquers them and takes over their land, leading those who survive into captivity.

Eze. 38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes. Notice this is in "the LATTER days", after the

end of this age, and after the thousand year period, and after the resurrection of the whole house of Israel, and after Israel becomes wealthy, and after Gog and Magog (Gentile nations) attack Israel. Just as they were slaves in Egypt, once again they find themselves, (all twelve tribes, not just Jews) in captivity by their enemies.

Chapter 39 tells about the punishment to the nations that came against Israel and took them into captivity, then occupied their land.

Eze. 39:22 So the house of Israel shall know that I [am] the LORD their God from that day and forward.

39:23 And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.

39:24 "According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them."

Then God becomes enraged at these nations that dare take over his holy people and their land.

Eze. 38:18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, [that] my fury shall come up in my face.

38:19 For in my jealousy [and] in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

38:20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that [are] upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

38:21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

38:22 And I will plead against him (Gog) with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that [are] with him, an overflowing rain,

and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

39:17-21 tells the gory details of the end of these Gentiles.

39:20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD.

39:21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

39:22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God "from that day and forward".

39:26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made [them] afraid.

God reminds them that this all happened to them "when they dwelt safely in their land", yet they had turned against him. But now, he will once again rescue them (those who are scattered in these Gentile nations as slaves) from their enemies.

39:27 When I have brought them AGAIN from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;

39:28 Then shall they know that I [am] the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

Then God in his mercy tells Israel they will finally turn back to him, never go back into idolatry again.

Eze. 39:29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.

38:23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people and I will be their God.

v.25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt: and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their

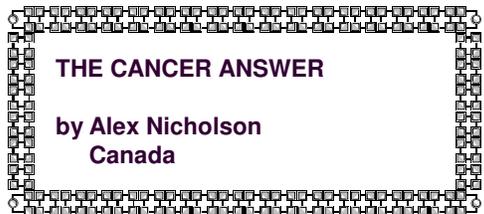
children's children for ever, and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

V.27-28 My tabernacle also shall be with them, I will be their God and they shall be my people, and the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

In the next eight chapters of Ezekiel we read of the nation as they build God's temple according to God's blueprint and proceed to become the nation that leads the world in following God.

Zechariah, 14:16-18 And it shall come to pass that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles v17. And it shall be that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, upon them shall be no rain v18. Andthere shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up..."

Now that you have found these pieces of the puzzle of God's plan, it should be easier to find the other pieces as you read many places in the bible that fit into this picture. Here is something to think about: If we are Israelites, and we don't make it into the first resurrection, then we, too, will be in the second resurrection, and will be a part of the future history we have just glimpsed into.



There is no doubt that cancer is more prevalent today than it was fifty years ago. Many doctors say they don't know the cause of cancer. However, the cause of cancer is no mystery. There has to be a cause for every effect. There are people out there who have studied the causes of cancer as well as the solution to the problem. People need to be educated on this topic so that they will be better informed in order to make wise decisions

concerning their health.

The information contained in this article is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to be medical advice for individual patients. It is not wise to attempt to self-medicate, even with food supplements, herbs or dietary programs. Those with health concerns are urged to consult a qualified health care professional. This is particularly true for cancer, which ideally requires individualized treatment programs. Doctors have the equipment necessary to make the proper diagnosis. After a person learns exactly what the problem is, then they can decide if they want to abide by the doctor's advice regarding conventional therapies or go to a naturopathic doctor for alternative treatments.

There is a conspiracy of silence regarding the cancer industry and people who suffer from cancer are entitled to know the truth. Most of us have heard only one side of the story. We've all heard about the conventional treatments for cancer, which are chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. It is only fair to hear what the other side has to say about it. We should not judge anyone who goes with conventional therapies. In most cases, people are trying to make the best possible decision for themselves and in some cases it may be the only choice they know about.

WHAT IS CANCER?

We have not been told the truth about cancer. What we need to do is to know and understand our enemy. Most people believe cancer is a disease. But is cancer really a disease? There is accurate documentation to prove cancer is not a disease, but is in fact a symptom of an inefficient immune system. Cancer is not an infectious disease like polio, whooping cough, mumps and measles. It is not contagious. You can't catch cancer from someone else. It is not a bacteria or a virus whose purpose is to eat the nutrients we have in the body.

We need to find a definition for cancer. What does the cancer industry want us to believe cancer to be? The American Cancer Society says, "Although most of us think of cancer as a single disease, it is actually a family of more than 100 different types". What does that tell you about cancer? It tells us that it's insidious, complicated, overwhelming, and there are

many types. It also calls it a disease - not just one, but over 100 different types of diseases - a whole family of diseases. This is what we are supposed to believe cancer to be. This is how they classify cancer. If a person has cancer in the bones, it's called "bone cancer"; in the breast, it's called "breast cancer"; in the blood, it's called "leukemia"; in the lymphatic system, it's called "lymphoma". So the cancer industry identifies cancer by the location of the cancer - where it is found in the body - or in some cases names it after the doctor who discovered it, or by the particular athlete who had it when it was first discovered.

Arthur C. Guyton wrote a book of over 1000 pages called "Medical Physiology". In that book he has dedicated one page to cancer. So, either he knows very little about cancer, or else he knows enough about cancer to do the job in one page. He writes, "Cancer is caused in all instances by a mutation of cellular genes". How many of us have cells that are mutating? The answer is - we all do. If we all have cells that are mutating, then why are we not all dying of cancer? The answer is because we have an immune system. Arthur C. Guyton says, "Indeed it is believed that all of us are continually forming cells that are potentially cancerous, but our immune system acts as a scavenger and nips these abnormal cells in the bud". So according to this definition, cancer is a single condition. In fact, it is a naturally occurring condition of the body. It's perfectly normal and natural to have an immune system, and it's perfectly normal and natural to have a population of mutant cells. The human body has 75 trillion cells. We have over 200 different types of cells in the human body. Some 230,000 cells are created every second, almost 20 billion per day. The average person has about 1100 mutant cells daily. It is the immune system's job to find these mutant cells and nip them in the bud.

Cancer cells are loosely formed with no organized method of attack. In fact, cancer is a bunch of confused cells that do not have the capability of functioning and are just waiting around to be destroyed by the immune system.

THE INCREDIBLE IMMUNE SYSTEM

God created us in such a way that if given a chance, the body will heal itself. The immune system is extremely

intelligent and it knows its job well. Your immune system is the most complex and critical component of your body's inherent defense mechanism. Now we need to ask two very important questions. Is it possible to weaken the immune system? Yes, of course it is. What causes a weakened immune system? Many elements of the environment we live in today compromise the defense ability of our immune system. Immune suppressors can be of the physical or emotional type. Physical immune suppressors are any chemical material which is foreign to the body and not needed for a specific function. They include air and water pollutants, chemical additives to food and in household cleaners, pesticides, toxins, the overuse of antibiotics and other drugs as well as refined sugar. Emotional immune suppressors include harboring negative emotions such as fear, hate, anger, grief, anxiety, depression, resentment, frustration, feelings of guilt, hopelessness and helplessness. Debilitating stress, which overloads the nervous system, also weakens our immunity.

The next question is very important. Is it possible to strengthen the immune system? The answer is - yes it is possible. How can we do that? The first step is to eliminate all the immune suppressors that can be removed. The next step is to acquire enough immune enhancers to help with the restoration of the normal healing mechanism of the body. A healthy diet and lifestyle is vitally important to maintaining an efficient immune system. Replace negative emotions with positive ones. Adopt a positive, cheerful, hopeful, loving, giving and winning attitude combined with a diet primarily composed of organically grown grains, fruits and vegetables. Avoid processed foods containing artificial additives. Moderate regular exercise is also very helpful and certain nutritional supplements are known to have an immune enhancing effect such as vitamins C, E, and beta-carotene. Garlic as well as vitamin C are well known powerful anti-oxidants and garlic is a natural antibiotic.

The immune system is dedicated to civil defense. It resembles an army or police force helping with the natural defense and repair mechanism needed for the prevention of disease. It is composed primarily of specialized white

blood cells and a variety of organic compounds produced by the immune cells to act as messengers or regulators. The immune system has the ability to learn to identify, and then to remember specific antigens that have been encountered. Modern conventional medicine battles diseases by means of drugs, surgery, radiation and other therapies. But true health can only be attained by maintaining a healthy, properly functioning immune system. It is the immune system that fights off disease-causing microorganisms and that engineers the healing process. The immune system is the key to fighting every kind of insult to the body. Immunity is partly inherited and partly shaped by lifestyle. Proper nutrition plays a key role in maintaining an efficient immune system as do a number of other factors including adequate rest, emotional stability, purposeful occupation, a positive attitude, regular exercise, spiritual support, and consistent water replenishment. What do these have in common with each other? Balance. When we shape our lives according to this model, we are able to maintain harmony in every aspect of our existence - physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. The Bible teaches a direct correlation between happiness and health. "Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is slow death to be gloomy all the time" (Prov. 17:22). "Peace of mind makes the body healthy, but jealousy is like a cancer" (Prov.14:30). Two other scriptures also relate to this principle. "Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal" (Prov.12:18). "Kind words are like honey - sweet to the taste and good for your health" (Prov.16:24).

THE CANCER INDUSTRY

We need to be aware of a powerful cancer industry that profits more from cancer treatment than from cancer prevention and cancer cures. Disease is an 80 billion-dollar-a-year business in the U.S. and cancer represents one of the biggest sources of income to the medical-drug-hospital industry. There are more people living off cancer than dying from it. What's wrong with that picture? In order to fight cancer we are asked to donate more money. But throwing money at a problem is not the solution. It should not be a question of raising more money for

research, but for steering the research in the right direction. Generally speaking, we are a drug-oriented society. We are always looking for a single drug or a pill that will cure or control the condition. This is also true in regard to cancer. Although drugs may be effective in controlling the symptoms, no drug or pill will be found to cure cancer. In fact, the outward symptoms of any health problem is nothing but the body's manifestation of its own defense and remedial effort to correct the adverse condition and restore health. A tumor is nothing but the body's effort to isolate the affected cells in order to protect the rest of the organism and extend life. Therefore, the effective cure for any health problem can be accomplished by the body's own extensive healing mechanism. We are equipped with a marvelous healing system, more effective than any healing system devised by man. This built-in healing system is capable of correcting any condition of ill health if given the proper conditions. Consequently, the first principle of biological medicine is to create conditions most conducive to stimulate and activate the body's immune system.

But we should also realize that there can be divine intervention for healing in our lives. The age of miracles and healing is not past. God can heal and does still heal today. "Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases"... (Ps.103:2,3). It is difficult to enjoy life if we are in constant pain and God would like us to be healthy. The apostle John was inspired to write, "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (III John 2). God does expect us to do what we can for ourselves. Also, God has given us a variety of principles for healthful living - not the least of which is the list of clean and unclean foods recorded in Leviticus 11. Physical healing should be distinguished from divine, miraculous, supernatural healing. If a sick person asks for healing, then God will make his decision regarding whether, when, why, and how to heal. God may heal now to show mercy, to express love, to encourage the spiritually weak, to reinforce faith, or as a witness of the gospel. To get the big picture, we must keep in mind that this physical life is

temporary and we are going to die sooner or later. Therefore, it is vitally important to remember that one's ultimate reward is neither determined nor affected by whether he was or was not healed during his physical lifetime.

THE HEALTHY CELL CONCEPT

If we can keep most of our cells healthy, then we will be healthy. It is to our benefit to learn about the healthy cell concept which has four important points.

☺ Cell Communication: All living things communicate in one way or another and our cells are no different. If we have a healthy, happy, positive outlook on life, then that will send a message to our cells to do what they are supposed to do.

☺ Cell Environment: All our cells live in a fluid. In order to keep our cells healthy, we need to replace the water we use by drinking pure water which has an alkaline pH balance. Many people have water containing chlorine and fluoride which are known cell killers. Random House dictionary defines chlorine as "a greenish-yellow, incombustible, poisonous, gaseous element that is highly irritating to the respiratory organs"... During World War II, it was illegal for Germany or the Allies to use chlorine gas as stated in the Geneva Convention. But we put it in our drinking water.

Webster's dictionary defines fluoride as, "a corrosive, poisonous, greenish-yellow gaseous chemical element; the most reactive nonmetallic element known in forming fluorides with almost all other known elements". Over fifty percent of the people living in the U.S. have fluoride in their drinking water. Contrary to popular belief, fluoride does not make teeth stronger, nor does it prevent tooth decay. David Kennedy, D.D.S. San Diego, CA. says, "Fluorides do not reduce tooth decay". Both the Proctor and Gamble report obtained from the Department of Health in 1985 and the National Toxicology program under the auspices of the U.S. Public Health Service in 1990, states that fluoride has been linked to cancer. While many have swallowed the propaganda concerning the fluoride in the water deal, the rest of the story is a fascinating one. The plain truth is that the facts, the documentation and the evidence is available which reveals the

real reason why fluoride was put in the drinking water. But that's another story for another time.

☉ Cell Food: You can't build live cells with dead food. If possible, we should try to find organically grown fruits and vegetables. Cooked food destroys most of the enzymes, so it is good to use plant digestive enzyme supplements. Flaxseed oil is nutritional gold and is still the richest source of Omega 3 essential fatty acid. Flaxseed oil provides the right kind of fat to keep our cells healthy.

☉ Exercise: The common denominator of all exercise is opposing gravity. Although all exercise is helpful, the rebounder places the forces of acceleration and deceleration on the same plane as gravity. This exercise stimulates the activity of the lymphatic system. Rebounding is a true cellular exercise and will strengthen every cell in the body. The rebounder is the most efficient, effective form of exercise yet devised by man. With a rebounder, you don't have to worry what the weather is like outside because you can use it in the comfort of your own home while you watch television or listen to the radio.

The primary and ultimate cause of cancer is lowered or broken down resistance of the body's own defense mechanism against the singular or combined physical, chemical, emotional and environmental stresses placed upon it. This paves the way for the development of cancer. Today the medical establishment basically uses drugs to treat the effect of a problem, but it does not eliminate the cause of the problem. We need to understand the cause of cancer before we can find a cure for it. The reason for that is because the true cure for cancer lies in the prevention of it. When the true cause of any illness has been found, then a true cure has also been found by removing the cause of the problem.

For those who have cancer, there is hope. There are natural, harmless, yet effective ways to strengthen your immune system using IP-6 with Inositol, Oncolyn, Moducare, Maitake, Aloe Vera, Essiac Tea and Vitamin C to name a few. But none of those should be taken without the advice of a health care professional - preferably a naturopathic physician.

How important is it to be alkaline instead of acidic? Cancer will thrive in an

acidic environment. In the body that has a slightly alkaline cell environment, the conditions required for the propagation of cancer do not exist. How important is it to maintain a healthy immune system? It is a medical fact that cancer cannot exist in the body that has an efficient immune system.

When all the cancer-causing factors are eliminated from our lives, cancer will disappear. This is the only way the victory over cancer will ever be won. Stop smoking, stop polluting our air, stop devalizing and destroying our food, stop poisoning air, water and soil with carcinogenic chemicals, stop the health-destroying high protein fad, stop the mad race for more material prosperity and adopt a contented mental attitude, eat natural unprocessed foods, breathe clean air, drink pure water, live close to nature and do your daily quota of perspiring, either by hard work or exercise - and you can forget about cancer.



Are teachers of the Gospel more accountable for what they teach to others than those who do not teach? Of course, the answer is yes. But I want to focus on the warning in James 3:1 in which the writer, James, addresses this topic. In doing this, I plan to use my new Bible commentary that I just recently purchased at a bookstore near my home; for it has a great commentary on this verse and on this topic in general which I desire to share with you. Lets see what it is says.

In James 3:1, James says, "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

The Greek word for "Masters" means "an instructor, or doctor, or teacher." In the Abingdon Bible commentary, on page 1335, on James 3:1, it states, "In young and isolated churches there is always a danger that zealous but ignorant men may set themselves up as teachers. Many religious leaders have had to meet

this tendency among their followers. There is the same danger to be guarded against in the churches today. Zeal and piety are not sufficient qualifications for a teacher without due study and preparation. (See pages 1276-7)."

On page 1276, under the title "Commission of Timothy and Titus", it states, "The great statesman of the church who dictated the Pastorals [epistles] wrote from the personal point of view. His problem is the equipment and training of those upon whom is to devolve shortly the care of his churches. . . They [Titus and Timothy] were to teach. Religion always has a message. God has something to tell people. The prophets work never ceases. Where there is no knowledge, no vision, the people perish. Other things churches should have; intelligence in God and His Word they must have. More important than his method or technique is the teacher's message. It is the first duty to learn the things of God, to be initiated in the life of the spirit, to know the secret and power of - righteous living. . . The phrase 'sound teachings' or 'sound words' occurs some half dozen times in the Pastorals(1 Tim. 1:10, 6:3; 2 Tim 1:13, 4:3; Titus 1:9, 2:1)... What Paul was asking was the kind of simple, straightforward, wholesome instruction that called for clean, moral, self control living, that insisted upon outward as well as inward holiness. . ."

As we see so far, those who teach should be grounded in the Word of God and use "sound teaching" as they teach others the Truth.

In 2 Tim. 2: 15-16, Paul says, "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING the Word of Truth. But SHUN profane and vain babbling: for they will INCREASE unto more ungodliness." So we are to study for the purpose of dividing the Word of God correctly , because from foolish teachings comes "ungodliness".

As a side note, the word "study" in Greek means "to make effort, be prompt or earnest, labor." The word implies that an effort is being set forth in the same way that you may work at your job or whatever you put your hand too.

We also see that Paul tells Timothy that a bishop, i.e. overseer, should not be "a novice [one new to the faith], lest being lifted up with pride he falls into the condemnation of the devil." (1 Tim. 3:6)

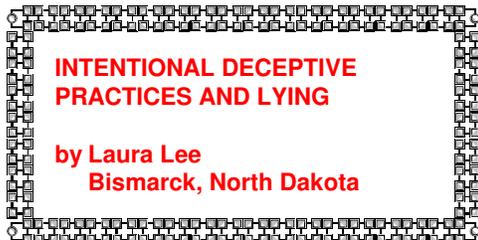
But you say, should I teach others then? The answer is yes, just be sure that what you are showing others out of the Word of God is the Truth. We are all called to be teachers.

In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter says, "But sanctify the Lord God in your heart: and be ready always to give AN ANSWER to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear [reverence]." As you see in this verse, we are instructed to be ready with an answer when we are asked about the Truth of God.

In 2 Timothy 3: 15-17, Paul says, "And that from a child you have known the Holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for proof: for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect . . ." You should use the Word of God as your main source in proclaiming the Truth to others.

You can see that we are all called to give an answer for what we believe from the Word of God. By this fact alone, you are teachers of the Word of God whether in deeds as an example of our daily life or in words as a disciple of Christ answering questions of friends or family members about God's Word. You should be diligent in your study of the Word and mediate on it so you can give a correct answer to those who ask you about the Truth of God.

So I encourage you to study and mediate on the Word of God and be ready to answer any questions that you are asked about the Truth with the correct answer.



- Psalm 119:163--I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love. (KJV)
- Psalm 120:2--Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. (KJV)

- Proverbs 6:16-17--These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,... (KJV)
- Proverbs 10:18--He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool. (KJV)
- Proverbs 12:19--The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. (KJV)
- Proverbs 12:22--Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight. (KJV)
- Proverbs 13:5--The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked bring shame and disgrace. (NIV)
- Proverbs 21:6--The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death. (KJV)
- Isaiah 30:9--That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: (KJV)
- Jeremiah 7:8--Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. (KJV)

The above scriptures have been included in this article to show how God views lying lips and deception. Quite frankly these scriptures are only a very few of the many scriptures which cover this subject and are found throughout the pages of God's word the Bible. One doesn't have to look too far or too hard to see and understand how God views lying and deception.

We are all sinners, Romans 3:23--"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" and Romans 5:12--"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (KJV) With this in mind, I do understand that ALL through ignorance of God's law have sinned. This article is not about those who are ignorant about God's law, but about those who have been caught red handed lying and deceiving other people and have been confronted with it one on one. This article is about those who when they are caught in this practice of lies and deceit seem not at all sorry for it, but want to continue to do this, which shows an action of non repentance. It is quite common for the excuse to be that if the other person knew who I was, then they would not give me any information or tell me what I want to know, which to them seems to be

justification for their lies and deceptions. Personally I do not see any reason to lie or deceive people in a manner that can, does and will hurt other people.

I personally do not take it lightly when I find I have been lied to intentionally or deceived in some way. Such a practice as this among God's people can cause others to make wrong choices at times or to believe things which are not true. When such practices begin to affect those around us, I can no longer, and will no longer stand silently and watch. Isaiah 58:1--"Cry Aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." (KJV)

This article is also, not being written so that you will disfellowship or stop speaking to another person. Just because I was unable to get across to the following people that such practices are wrong according to God does not mean that someone else will fail. So it is with this in mind that I say the following.

We have caught the following people lying and deceiving the people of God. We have proof. We do not and will not go along with the practice of disfellowshipping, or not speaking to the following people. Instead we should all be willing to help those who have gone off course and bring them back to the correct course, keeping in mind that God and only God draws people to him, however those things we do and say to try to point people toward God are important and should be done. So with this said, please practice love and mercy towards those who intentionally try to hurt us, yet also at the same time taking steps to protect others from being hurt by such practices. It is for this reason we publicly post this to our newsletter and to our Web Site. The list that follows will be posted on our Web Site, once in our Web Site, go to "Newsletter", and then to "Deceptive Practices".

The following E-Mail addresses are being used by a woman named Myra McQueen--300 South Moore Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

lane921@hotmail.com Mary Lane
lane921@hotmail.com Misty Green
myron_rose@hotmail.com Myron Rose--1101 Fitch St., Apt. 305, Odessa, TX 79761

JakeHarmina@hotmail.com

Jake Harmina

I have reason to believe she probably uses other addresses besides these. These are the ones I have evidence to connect her with. She uses these E-Mail and Snail Mail Addresses to misrepresent herself as someone she is not in various ways. I believe Myra is a very talented person, and should be encouraged to use her talents for a good purpose, rather than in this manner.

The following E-Mail address is being used by a person who is passing himself/herself off as Richard Nickels, but who **is not** Richard Nickels.

youweremislead@cfl.rr.com This is **NOT** Richard Nickels E-Mail address.

Ephesians 4:25--Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. (KJV)



Many think this is a hard saying: "Deny your self, take up your cross and follow Jesus," but it will be much harder to hear those final words: "Depart from me, (you) cursed into everlasting fire." When the Lord Jesus comes to judgement, all the servants of the cross who conformed themselves to Jesus crucified will approach Christ the judge with full confidence. Why do we then fear to carry the cross? In the cross we have salvation; in the cross we have life; in the cross we have protection from our enemies. In the cross alone we find our eternal salvation and hope of everlasting life... We take up our cross, therefore, and follow Jesus, and we will pass into unending life. Everything is founded on the cross and everything depends on our taking up of the cross. There is no other way to life and interior peace except the

holy way of the cross and our daily dying to self. Plan as we will and arrange everything as seems best to us, till we will find suffering in our lives. Whether or not we wish it, we always will find that in the cross we will feel pain in our bodies or we will suffer affliction of spirit in our souls. Sometimes our heavenly Father may leave us to our selves and sometimes our neighbours will trouble us; and often we will be wearisome to ourselves. God wants us to learn to endure affliction without relief, to submit our selves wholly to Him and to become more humble by passing through adversity... The cross, therefore, is always in readiness and everywhere awaits us.

Do we think we can escape what no other mortal has ever been able to avoid? Do you know of any person who, during his or her life, was without affliction? Even our Lord, the Messiah, while He lived on this earth, was not for a single hour without the pain of His passion. How is it that we seek a way that is different from that of the royal road, which alone is the road of the holy cross? Christ's entire life was a cross and a martyrdom, and we look for rest and pleasure for our selves? We are mistaken, oh, we are mistaken, if we seek anything other than affliction, for our whole mortal life is full of misery and surrounded by crosses. The greater the height we reach in the spiritual life, the heavier we find our crosses. We, though greatly afflicted in many ways, are still not without refreshing comfort for we recognize the great fruit that will be ours by enduring the crosses. The more the flesh is worn away by affliction, so much the more is the spirit strengthened by inward grace. It is not according to our nature to bear the cross and to love it, to chastise the body and bring it into subjection, to avoid honors and be willing to suffer insults.

If we look at our selves, we will realize that by ourselves we can do none of these, but if we put our trust in the Lord, He will send us strength from heaven empowering us, and the world and the flesh will be subject to our holy desires. We need to be determined then, and, like good and faithful servants, carry the cross of our Messiah who was crucified out of love for us. There is no escaping such sorrows, loss and sufferings except by bearing them with patience. If we desire to be Christ's friend, then we drink lovingly of the chalice of the Lord. Leave

all consolations to God to dispose of as He wills, but be ready to bear afflictions and look upon them as the greatest consolations. When we have arrived at the point when we regard affliction as a pleasure for the sake of Christ, and affliction becomes something sweet, then all is well with us, and we have found paradise here on the earth. But so long as suffering is something that vexes us and we seek to avoid it, then something will go ill with us, for the very affliction that we are trying to escape will follow us wherever we go. If we put our minds to doing what we have to do, that is, suffering and dying, then everything will go better for us and we will find peace. We still have to suffer if we wish to love the Messiah and serve Him constantly.

ARE WE WORTHY TO SUFFER SOMETHING FOR JESUS' NAME?

What glory would then be ours! How happy all the saints of God would be! How wonderfully we would nurture our neighbour's spiritual life! With good reason then, we should be willing to suffer a little for Christ when there are many who suffer far worse things to achieve worldly advancement. Know for certain that we must lead a life constantly dying to ourselves; and the more we die to selves, the more we will live to God the creator. Nothing is more acceptable to God, nor is there anything more beneficial in this world, than being willing to suffer for Christ. If we were given the choice, we ought to prefer to suffer adversity for Christ's sake rather than to be comforted by many consolations. In this way we would be more like Christ. If there were anything better suited for and more useful to our salvation than suffering, then Christ certainly would have shown us by His teaching and His example. Speaking to the disciples who followed Him and to those who desire to be His followers, Christ clearly urged them: "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." The conclusion is that through many afflictions, we will enter the Kingdom of God.

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 By E-mail to: Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com By Fax to: (775) 239-2119.

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LITERATURE [Snail Mail Only]

- _____ 1. Why Were We Disfellowshipped By The United Church of God an International Association? by Darwin & Laura Lee 111 pages
 _____ 2. Wiley & Suzanne Black (Another Case of Abuse) by Bernard Kelly (The Bible Expositor--Last Issue) 16 pages