

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1:00 PM, 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. Please ask us about hosting.

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, September 19, 2003  
Friday, October 31, 2003  
Friday, December 12, 2003

**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 November/December 2003 Newsletter is October 15, 2003. Thank You. Laura Lee (Editor)

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSER:**

We do not charge for the services that we provide to the brethren. We also do not take any wages from the gift donations we are sent. The services we provide do however cost us money. In 2001 expenses for services provided were **-\$4537.29**. We received **+\$1368.00** in gift donations for 2001, leaving us with a balance of **-\$3169.29**. In 2002 expenses for services provided were **-4066.37**. We received **+\$1737.00** in gift donations for 2002, leaving us with a balance of **-\$2329.37**.

Donations for 2003 total **+\$2950.80**. Expenses for 2003 are as follows: Postage **-\$946.33**, Telephone **-\$77.51**, Internet Services **- \$218.85**, Printing Charges **-\$815.65**, Local Services **-\$50.94** and Research Materials **-97.48**. Total balance for 2003 is: **+\$744.04**.

If you need a year end receipt, please request one. We truly appreciate the help we receive in helping others. Thank you Darwin & Laura Lee.

**E-MAIL & SNAIL MAIL:**

**Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com** Send your prayer requests here. They will go out via email.

**Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@juno.com** The deadline for Issue #18--November/December 2003 is October 15, 2003.

**Answer-Me-Darwin-Laura@juno.com** If you want us to answer your email, send it here.

**Darwin-Laura@juno.com** If you want us to read it, and delete it, send it here.

**FAX**--Our Fax number is: (775) 239-2119.

**SNAIL MAIL**--Our snail mail address is Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502.

**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 we will let you know one way or the other. Some ads will also be posted on our Web Site.

**Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** (List ID is: prayer-requests-darwin-laura)

**HOW DO I GET ON THE NEW "PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATE" LIST? (Instructions:)**

We cannot go in and put you on the new list. You have to put yourself on the new list, and there are 2 ways you can do that. They are as follows:

#1--Use the invitation we sent you from Coollist. That Web Site link takes you right to the place where you can sign up/join the new list. The link on the invitation can be found under: "If you would like to participate in this mailing list, please visit the following web page on the web:" Then it gives you the link. This is the easiest way for you to sign up, so if you no longer have any of the invitations that we sent to you, let me know and I will send you another one, or if you never got an invitation but would like one, please e-mail us at **Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com** and we will send you an invitation. The subject line on the invitation reads "Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura Registration". This E-mail Prayer line is open to the general public.

#2--You can go to our Web Site at: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> and go into the Prayer Requests & Updates section. There is a box there where you can subscribe to our new list. You put your e-mail address in the box and click on the subscribe button, which takes you into the Coollist web site, where you would click on the "Join" button and follow the instructions. This is a little harder way of doing it.

If you still have problems getting on the new list, let me know, and I will work with you. Thank You and I am looking forward to seeing you on the new list. Editor Laura Lee

**Free Tapes**

"Abomination of Desolation & 666" and "How to Evict Demons"

Contact Alan Croyle, PO Box 411, Petersburg, VA 23804, Phone: (804) 862-4981 or E-mail: [Croyle123@msn.com](mailto:Croyle123@msn.com)

**FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2003**

Roaring River State Park in Southwest Missouri

For a packet of information, write to:  
Church of God  
PO Box 521  
Shell Knob, MO 65747

A program schedule will be available on site, or you may  
request a copy closer to the Feast dates, Oct. 11 to Oct. 18.

**FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2003**

Roaring River State Park in Southwest Missouri  
There is a need for speaking ministers at this Feast Site.

Anyone who has a Bible Teaching that you would like to  
present at this Feast Site, your help would be deeply  
appreciated.

Telephone: (417) 858-3807  
I would need to know the title of the teaching and the time that  
would be required.

**SABBATH VIDEOS--NOVEMBER 1, 2003**

"The Seventh Day--Revelations from the Lost Pages of History" Part One with Hal Holbrook  
"The Seventh Day--Revelations from the Lost Pages of History" Part Two with Hal Holbrook

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

**SABBATH VIDEOS--NOVEMBER 8, 2003**

"The Seventh Day--Revelations from the Lost Pages of History" Part Three with Hal Holbrook  
"The Exodus Revealed--Search for the Red Sea Crossing

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

**SABBATH VIDEO--DECEMBER 12, 2003**

"Discovered Noah's Ark" Wyatt Archaeological Research

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

**FEAST OF TRUMPETS--SEPTEMBER 27, 2003**

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

Join us for a 5:00 PM meal at: Bonanza Family Restaurant in Mandan, North Dakota

**ATONEMENT--OCTOBER 6, 2003**

Come join us at 1:00 PM at 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota (Fellowship starts at 12:00 PM)

Join us for a meal at sunset at: North American Steak Buffet in Bismarck, North Dakota

**FEAST OF TABERNACLES--OCTOBER 11-17, 2003  
LAST GREAT DAY--OCTOBER 18, 2003**

**NO SABBATH SERVICES AT 320 N. Griffin St. in Bismarck, North Dakota on: October 11,  
2003 and October 18, 2003**

**HAVE A GREAT FEAST!!!**

**BUILDING BRIDGES--MINNESOTA--SEPTEMBER 6, 2003**

Building Bridges invites you to hear guest speaker Dave Havir. Dave Havir is the pastor of the Church of God Big Sandy and he also writes articles for The Journal, the Newspaper for the Churches of God.

When: Saturday, September 6, 2003 Where: Christ Life Church 4555 University Ave. NE. Columbia Heights, MN Meeting begins at 1:30 pm (A question and answer session will follow the message) Please join us after the Q & A for a potluck dinner and fellowshiping. Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to share. We have use of a full kitchen and plenty of outlets for crock pots.

Building Bridges is a ministry to help provide opportunities for fellowship, edification and education to those interested. If you have any questions call: Dale & Dona Fehr (763) 572-8377 email: [difehr@compuserve.com](mailto:difehr@compuserve.com) If you know of someone who would be interested in coming, please invite them.

**INFORMATION SECTION**--This section is meant for various items which should be of interest to the general public. Again as a reminder, we are not in agreement with all things we print. If you have an item to be considered for inclusion in this section, please send it to: [Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

**BAPTISM REFERRAL SERVICE  
PROPOSED AT [BibleStudy.org](http://BibleStudy.org)**

by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Friends:

The [BibleStudy.org](http://BibleStudy.org) Web site recently received an unsolicited request for BAPTISM from a visitor with NO previous church of God exposure! The request came from a person who builds grain bins and lives in the province of Manitoba, Canada. This unexpected event has prompted the idea for a global BAPTISM REFERRAL SERVICE (BRS). This proposed service would offer site visitors a referral to a local church of God person or group (like YOU!) who could not only baptize them but also aid their growth as a new Christian.

Your comments and suggestions about this unique idea are desired as your input can shape the ultimate form of this service that you or your group could receive BAPTISM REFERRALS from!

This first request came from a gentleman who not only reviewed study materials but who got PERSONAL attention through correspondence with two of the site's fifteen "Email Evangelists" who answer submitted questions. When the request came in, a review of COG-related groups and brethren in the area turned up a few options---one of which was Alex Kennedy. Alex, who I have never met, oversees a CGI group in Winnipeg, Manitoba. While mulling over how to handle this first-time opportunity I attended a Bible study weekend in Chicago. What happened next was amazing. While fellowshiping with

brethren I ran into Jim Patterson, who, it turns out, use to attend church in Winnipeg and knew Alex! Jim was kind enough to initiate Email contact with Mr. Kennedy. After calling Alex about the baptism, email addresses and other information were exchanged with both parties. Baptism arrangements are now ready to go forward!

What kind of a response might an Internet-based Baptism Referral Service generate? Are people in the 21st century still interested in what God and the Bible says? There are some hopeful signs:

- 1.4 MILLION of the site's Web pages were requested in 2002. On August 3rd the site SURPASSED 2002's total. With 2.4+ million pages projected for 2003, the hunger for God's truth is definitely out there!
- For seven years the site was unable to offer personal answers to questions. Once the service could be offered---WOW! In 318 days, site visitors (90% of which have NO COG background) have submitted 1,570 Bible-related questions!

For eight years [BibleStudy.org](http://BibleStudy.org) has sought to complement, not compete, with other outreaches and fellow church of God brethren. Though site closure due to lack of donations has almost occurred many times, somehow it has stayed online. It could be God has had a hand in the site's perseverance for a reason. Maybe this idea is part of that reason. Maybe not. What IS certain is that we will never know if a door has become open to us unless we proceed forward.

Thank you for a piece of your valuable time. And thank you, in advance, for any comments, concerns or suggestions you may send in.

P.S. A test of the BRS is tentatively

scheduled for early November. While it is assumed most groups would welcome baptism referrals, if you would NOT like to be contacted with referrals from the site, let us know.

Alan Ruth, Webmaster/Founder  
[BibleStudy.org](http://BibleStudy.org)  
Email: [webmaster@biblestudy.org](mailto:webmaster@biblestudy.org)  
8/11/2003

Barnabas Ministries, PO Box 3393,  
Farmington Hills, MI. 48333, U.S.A.

[BibleStudy.org](http://BibleStudy.org)  
You Have Questions. The Bible Has Answers!

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**GUEST BOOK ENTRY**

by Sarah Switzer

I was pleasantly surprised to find such a website... It has created a want to share my story of healing.

I was 17 years old and fell ill with Tonsillitis (severe) in the month of December. It was chronic tonsillitis, and antibiotics did nothing to cure it. Then in March I got Mono from sharing a drink with a friend on New Years Eve (I didn't know she had mono at the time. Hers surfaced a month later). I was the sickest I ever had been my whole life. I was bedridden, with insomnia, sleeping maybe 30 minutes each 24 hour period. My throat was so infected I couldn't even swallow my own saliva and had a 'spit cup' beside my bed. I was on Tylenol three for the pain, but since I couldn't swallow, my mother would grind it up and



put it in a teaspoon of water. When I swallowed it was so painful I would punch something or cry...

I was sick with mono (and tonsillitis) for about two weeks when I came across a scripture in the bible about calling on the elders of the church and asking for prayer and anointment. So, I did just that. My mother was getting ready for church on Sunday morning and I asked her to bring Father John and some other family friends from the church home to pray for me. She did just that and they all came and laid their hands on me and prayed.

That night was the first night I slept all the way through in over two weeks. The next morning I ate more than I had eaten in at least a month with close to no pain at all. I was completely healed before the end of Monday came. I now want to tell everyone that no job is too small or too big for God. Ask Him and have faith that he can do anything. Prayer is a powerful thing.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Our guest book can be found on the "Welcome" page of our Web Site at: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com>

For more information on how to sign up to send and receive prayer requests, see page two of this newsletter in the "Ad Section" Laura Lee

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**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](mailto: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.

**Letter Received: July 10, 2003  
Subject: NON CHRISTIAN  
ACTIONS**

**by Jim Graves  
Jackson, Michigan**

**This letter is in response to "What is Division?" by Dave Baldauf and Laura Lee, which is a letter and response which was printed in Issue #3 on page #9. It is also printed as a tract and can be ordered on page #24 of this newsletter.**

**Laura writes:** Dear Jim, Following is my response to your letter of 7-10-2003:

**Jim writes:** Please pray for a teachable attitude and please read starting below. Thanks.

**Laura writes:** We pray the same for you also.

**Jim writes:** Dear Laura, I do not enjoy having to correct people, but I must write and point out that this tract does not describe the Biblical definition of division between the Fathers' called out ones.

**Laura writes:** The title of the tract was, "What is Division?". Dave Baldauf in his letter to me was telling me that I was creating division. I was pointing out to him that what he called division was not division as the Biblical definition goes. I am sorry that you missed my point here. God's word is what divides people, because people just don't want to believe what God says, they would rather believe lies or fables.

**Jim writes:** It is a public rebuke that should have been handled privately, "I desire mercy rather than (harsh) judgment."

**Laura writes:** The entire reason that Dave Baldauf wrote to us in the first place is because he no longer wanted anything to do with us because we were disfellowshipped from the same church that he attends. I have known Dave for many years and yet when we were disfellowshipped he never even asked me what happened. Sometimes letters should be addressed in a public forum, especially when the writer does not want a response as Dave did not. I am sure that Dave

would side with you on this one, in that we should have kept it a private matter and just let Dave continue to feel it is okay to cut other people off from himself because a church group tells him to. Darwin and I feel however that matters like this where people cut others off in such a manner should not continue to be kept secret so people continue to do this non Christian act to others. The only judgment made here, was that such behavior in cutting people off is non Christian.

**Jim writes:** "Those things you accuse others of you do yourself" is a Proverb: try to be very aware of: find it applies thousands of times a year, everywhere, including with myself.

**Laura writes:** Do you feel that I accused Dave of something which he did not state himself in his own letter? If I did, please let me know what it was. I do agree that we should not go around accusing people of things, however my letter to Dave only addressed those things which he brought up himself and he clearly accused me of creating division when biblically I was not.

**Jim writes:** Also, previously, I have requested that I receive the prayer list but not the newsletter, if receiving only the prayer list is possible.

**Laura writes:** I will remove you from the newsletter list today, however when you correspond with us, you will be put back on the newsletter mailing list. We only do two way communication here. If you want us to hear you, then you must also hear us. Most of what is in our newsletter is not even written by us, but by others and I believe that if you have an attitude of being teachable, that you can learn from what others have to say.

**Jim writes:** Satan is dividing up the Eternals' true Christians more as time goes on. He is now more sophisticated in his means of doing so, and also is now dividing us up on the individual level more than before. And many are falling for it!

**Laura writes:** Why do you give Satan so much credit? The bottom line is that you as an individual are responsible for your own behavior towards other people. If you stand by when you see other people abuse people and not say a word, you are sending a clear message that you agree

with their behavior and that gives the person the clear message that it is okay to abuse people in this manner. The clear message I wanted Dave and others to get from the tract is that it is not okay to cut people off because they sent you something to read and you read it and you didn't like it and also that you don't just cut people off because a church tells you to do so. People fall for Satan's ways because they continue not to believe God.

**Jim writes:** Did you ask Dave if you could print his letter to the public?

**Laura writes:** I do not have to ask you or Dave if I can print your letter or his letter in a public forum. Dave as well as yourself know very well that you are writing to a newsletter when you write to us. A newsletter which goes to a public forum. In many cases I do ask if it is okay to print a certain letter which is sent here, however in cases like Dave's where the person wants no more personal correspondence with us, I print my response in a public forum hoping the person will see the response at some point, or in hopes that others will learn that the behavior (such as cutting people off), is inappropriate behavior.

**Jim writes:** Our God "But the greatest of these is LOVE". "I watered, God gave the increase". I will look to him who is of a humble and contrite spirit". I promise you that everything the incorporated churches are doing is not wrong and everything the non incorporated churches are doing is not right.

**Laura writes:** Did I ever say this? Darwin and I both say if a person (whether corporation or not), says or teaches what squares with the Bible and what God says, then do it. If it doesn't square with the Bible then don't do it. We included ourselves in that and printed it in Issue #16 on page #12, first column under the second editors note.

**Jim writes:** Every one of us--including you is speaking, printing, teaching and thinking things that are in err with his ways and truth.

**Laura writes:** I agree with you fully on this point as there is no perfect person alive. Again you do have individual responsibility to interact with others for the purpose of refinement. If you see people teaching things which are against

God you need to clearly tell them, whether it be privately or publicly. When churches publicly disfellowship members, it becomes a public forum. If someone just said something to you privately which hurt your feelings it is a private matter. If the dispute is over doctrine, make sure that you can prove that doctrine wrong according to scripture before you open your mouth, because you might be the one who is wrong. If you see things in our newsletter which are wrong and you can prove it, it is your individual responsibility to do so with scripture.

**Jim writes:** In much words sin does not want. We all can see the sins and shortcomings of others far more readily and sooner than our own. Only the Pope is infallible (sic) unless he has a sidekick somewhere who is hoping to be also.

**Laura writes:** I agree that we can see the short comings of others before we can see our own, however the way we come to see our own short comings is due to the fact that someone was brave enough to point them out to us, rather than keeping the mouth shut so we continue to do the wrong things over and over again. Darwin and I have never claimed to be infallible as the Pope claims to be.

**Jim writes:** You assumed Dave took some ones word. Then you proceeded totally as if your assumption was bulletproof. This is unqualified journalism.

**Laura writes:** What I said was this "Did someone just tell you we were angry and you believed them? I would assume this..." The subject of assumption was our anger. This was not really an assumption on our part as Dave stated the following: "I pray that you can overcome your anger". Whether we assume he got the idea from others is a mute point. Where did he get the idea at all, since neither Darwin or I had spoken to him or heard from him in approximately a year before he wrote us the letter. What Dave was receiving from us at the time he wrote the letter was our newsletter and invitations for fellowship with us.

**Jim writes:** You go by the heading Darwin & Laura but from the readers viewpoint, all writings and information are from Laura with no input from Darwin.

**Laura writes:** The above statement from you is false. I did not want to start a

newsletter. Darwin wanted the newsletter and he wanted me to start it. I initially said no and later changed my mind. Darwin and I spend many hours together going over the articles which are printed. If we don't both approve the article it doesn't get printed. Darwin has put printed input in the following Issues #2, #11, #13, #14 and #16. It was totally 100% Darwin's idea for me to start a newsletter and be the editor of that newsletter. It is not totally my work as I do not write everything in it, however, I am the editor because I put it all together and I publish (print) it. Darwin reads and approves all that goes into it, except some of the items that go into the ad section. Darwin goes over everything which I write in the newsletter and even this letter to you and makes corrections and then I send it. Darwin's input is 100% there, where it counts. Does it make it a lesser work if a woman does it with a man's approval than if a man does it with a woman's approval? The newsletter takes over 40 hours a week and I do not have a job outside of the home. Darwin has to work outside the home or we do not eat. Make sure that when you make assumptions in the future that they are true assumptions and not false assumptions.

**Jim writes:** Must I continue? Or do you see that you too, like the admittedly plenty imperfect readers and ministers of incorporated churches and as a matter of fact, anyone also who doesn't have it all sewed up like I do--are plenty imperfect and far far away from righteousness on, of, our own--so much that we desperately need a savior. And where is that line that determines that He will intervene for us and He won't? We better find out and get there ourselves.

**Laura writes:** Where did I ever claim to be a perfect human, when there is no such thing. The bottom line is that if people want to continue to act publicly in inappropriate ways, such as to quit talking to a person or persons they have known for many years, without even asking that persons input or checking with the person to see if what they are told by others is true in regard to that person, I will be the first one to stand in the gap for that person who is being unfairly treated by those who want to claim to be Christians. Perhaps you feel this to be a small matter, however I do not. Once a

**#6**

person cuts another person off, the person who has been cut off has no way to repair the relationship. God wants us to have relationships with others. God does not want us to be cutting people off from us. Most corporation churches and many independent groups continue to promote this satanic concept of cutting people off, not only over issues of doctrine but also for any petty little thing that comes along. If you believe such behaviors should continue that is your belief, it is not ours and we will not promote this concept of cutting people off from others, nor will we protect the privacy of those who participate or promote such an unchristian behavior.---We all do need a savior. Where is the line, as you state? The line would be that we are all striving to do exactly what God wants us to do.

**Jim writes:** "And if I delay, will you beat your fellow servants?" Yes! We are well headed in that direction! Believe it or not.

**Laura writes:** Many people seem not to be able to discern between what is beating and what is not. Many people avoid relationships with others and never say anything negative to another person just to keep from being accused of beating their brother. Many people see the wrong behaviors first hand and stand there mute and watch not lifting a finger to help anyone in distress. To focus on your complaint against me, let me point out to you that Dave Baldauf intentionally and in writing cut us off, believing us to be angry, and therefore not wanting anything more to do with us. We were cut off with no trial. We were charged as guilty. Dave might as well have hit us, it's the same thing. On the other hand, I still consider Dave to be a brother and would treat him as such the next time I see him. Darwin and I never cut Dave off. We did not smite our brother, but we also will not keep in secret his treatment of us so he can continue to treat others in the same manner.

**Jim writes:** Your brother, Jim Graves, hope this wasn't too discouraging! Hope it is helpful. Applies to me 100%.

**Laura writes:** If I let things such as this letter discourage me, there wouldn't be another newsletter or prayer request list. I have tough skin Jim and although I see some of the things you say as biblical principals, I believe that you are among many who have been taught a wrong

application of those principals. We don't reward bad behaviors and keep them secret so they can continue. On the contrary we make it clear that the reward comes with good behaviors. We need to make sure we can discern right from wrong.

**Jim writes:** As for me, I am a pitiful one. And I agree many things could be done better in many groups. I know of serious wrong teachings in both types of groups. Knowledge is knowing the scriptures of our Great God, wisdom is knowing when to apply which. Love is the guide.

**Laura writes:** You forgot understanding. Real love when applied is to tell the other person that what they are doing is against God. Whether that is done in an article, or a letter is beside the point. Sometimes when the person doesn't hear privately a public forum in a public matter is the only way to get someone to listen. Sometimes it even helps others to learn from a wrong concept in a personal way, because as you said yourself people are able to see the faults of others but not their own faults.

**Jim writes:** Someplace, sometime the scripture applies that says "who are you to judge another mans' servant?" I know, I know, they also say "you will surely rebuke your neighbor", but we need to start realizing when and how, and that we ourselves are Full of err, every single one of us. We know a lot of his ways, and we prove a lot of his sayings against us. Probably, most probably, the vast, vast majority of His true ministers and disciples are in everything, doing somewhere around their (our) best to live and grow in His grace and knowledge and wisdom. We cannot escape the Proverb: "Those things you accuse others of you do yourself. Peace!

**Laura writes:** I guess I can't find the spot where I accused Dave Baldauf of anything. It would be great if you could point out my accusation to him, so I might look at it. Dave Baldauf on the other hand accused me of the following: #1--playing mental games, #2--causing division and #3--being angry. Again, all he was being sent at the time he wrote this letter was our newsletter and invitations for fellowship and I personally hadn't talked to him for a year or more.---Something else you should understand about the tract you were sent--it was written and

printed in Issue #3 back in 2001. This is 2003 and we are now on Issue #16 which was just mailed. The tract was a reprint from Issue #3 and it states this both at the end of the tract and also there was an explanation in Issue #16 on page #4.

I am very sorry that you do not like our newsletter and that you do not want to receive it any longer. We don't expect that all people will agree with every single thing printed in it, but certainly everyone should be able to find something in it which could be helpful. I hope my letter is not too discouraging to you, for that is not my intent. I just wanted you to see our perspective. We believe the tract "What is Division?", points out a very non Christian behavior which many ignore or participate in themselves. We printed it to help many learn of this awful error which causes much heartbreak to those who are on the receiving end of the beating and left with no way to rectify the relationship because the person doing the beating is making it clear that they no longer want to speak to you.

With Much Love,  
Darwin & Laura Lee (Letter by Laura)  
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**Letter Received: July 21, 2003  
Subject: NOT LISTENING**

**by Jim Graves  
Jackson, Michigan**

Hello, This is Jim Graves, I just received your a answer back. I'm not going to argue with you people. I stand on everything that I said and I want you to a please keep me on your mailing list as far as the prayer requests. I do not want and I'm not going to even look at any of your gossip paper. If you want to call me about that my number you've got.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

The above is a transcript of a phone message left on our answering machine on 7-21-03 at 7:40 PM Central Standard Time.

We believe that all people should be able to freely express themselves in writing or on the telephone if they so wish. My question is this, when people respond to letters which people send, why is it that most people don't even want to hear the #7

response? Are you writing the letter just to air your feelings? Or are you writing the letter to find common ground and to keep a relationship going? Or are you writing the letter because you sincerely want a response? We try very hard to answer or acknowledge all of our mail. If you write here, you will get a response and if you did not get a response, perhaps we did not receive your letter. I would almost have to conclude from Jim's telephone response to us that he probably didn't read our letter response to the letter he sent here, because he says he stands on everything he said in his letter to us, part of which had to do with Darwin not saying anything in our newsletters. I am not sure how anyone can continue to stand true on something which can be so easily proven as false. I would have to conclude, to give him the benefit of a doubt, that Jim did not even read our response or he would not continue to stand on a false statement.

We do not print all letters and we do not intentionally print letters with personal information in them. The letters we generally print are those which pertain to the newsletter we publish or when we see people cutting others off, whether it be for petty points, disfellowshipments, or just because they don't like what someone says. Cutting people off is not a Christian practice. For those who wish to continue the practice of cutting people off, I suggest that you start your own isolation group and have no contact with anyone least they might corrupt you. Having relationships with humans is hard work, and we here do not always get it right either. Most humans seem to think they know everything and so therefore they expect people to listen to them, but they do not have to listen to anything that the other person has to say. Even in those many instances where people say things which we ourselves do not agree with, we should still listen before we comment. If there is something the other person said which we did not understand, then we should ask questions and let the person perhaps explain what they were/are talking about. All people have opinions, and opinions are just that, opinions. We need to learn to discern what the difference is between a person's opinion when they speak or write and what things can be proven to be true through other sources. We also need to learn to discern between right and wrong. The main reason why people are cut off from God is because of unrepentant sin. God does not

cut us off if we are still hanging in there and trying to get it right. From God's own examples throughout the Bible, when you write a letter to someone and that other person responds, they are trying to continue a relationship with you. When you do not respond or you respond by cutting the other person off, then how does that relationship continue? The bottom line is that it cannot continue. If Jim disagrees with our response to his letter, then he should let us know which parts of it he disagrees with and why.

Our hope is that someday Jim will take the time to read our response to his letter and respond in a proper manner. We have not cut Jim off from us and he will continue to receive the Prayer Requests and Updates via snail mail. We have removed Jim from our newsletter mailing list at this time as he has requested. Those who send correspondence to us do either receive a sample newsletter or the newsletter on a regular basis. If you do not want to receive our newsletter, please let us know and we will immediately remove you from that mailing list. Laura Lee

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**Letter Received: July 25, 2003**  
**Subject: NO SILENCE HERE**

by **Al Van Dyk**  
**Bella Vista, California**

**Al writes:**

**Subject:** Your continued mention of unjust and incorrect accusations.

**Message:** It is to be expected. Babylon won't change. Our response or silence is appropriate. Please read Proverbs 26:4, and the enclosed copies of articles. Enclosed: "Fellowship of His Sufferings" and "Approved Unto God"

In the love and peace of Jesus, Al Van Dyk

**Laura writes:**

Proverbs 26:4 no place tells us we should not answer a fool.

4. Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.
5. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit. (Proverbs 26:4-5)

It says "Answer not a fool according to his folly (without thinking first, without studying first, in the same ignorance as a fool), lest thou also be like

unto him (lest thou make a fool of yourself just as the fool did)."

"Answer a fool according to his folly (showing the fool his folly), lest he (the fool) be wise in his own conceit (lest you lead the fool to believe what he says is true correct and proper, reinforcing the fools belief that you see it just as he sees it.)

Silence is not a response to a fool. The Bible clearly shows us to give an answer to the fool.

**Who is a fool?**

Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. See also Psalms 53:1

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

**Do we correct a fool?**

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Ecclesiastes 4:13 Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.

There are many many scriptures throughout the Bible on the traits of the foolish. In order for every person to get on the right path, which is to follow God, there are a series of corrections all through life which take place. If we judge the things which people say as foolish and don't answer them when we have an open door to do so, then how are fools corrected?

God uses his own people who were once fools themselves to correct others. That correction is to speak up about what is wrong or evil when we see it. For example if you are a parent of small children, one understands that if we do not correct a wrong concept in a young child such as stealing, the child will grow up to believe stealing is okay and continue to do it until the authorities catch him and throw him in jail. If we correct the wrong behaviors of our children why wouldn't we correct the wrong behaviors of an adult when we see it? Because they won't listen? Only a fool won't listen, but your responsibility is to tell the fool anyway, thus putting the responsibility of correction on the fool to make the

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changes.

### How do we use this tool?

Do we just go around and tell everybody and anybody when they are wrong? No, we do it when people ask us or when they do it right in front of us. We do it in a manner that shows wisdom in our speaking. In other words we don't just fly off the handle and act as a fool does by saying whatever comes to mind. If we have to we research the problem first and then we approach the other person in a time and manner where we feel we can receive the most attention from the person who needs correction. We do not love if we are unable to correct wrong or evil concepts. Our example of this comes from raising our own children.

- Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. (This requires speaking up.)
- 1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. (No silence here.)
- Isaiah 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

We should be rewarding good behaviors. Many today continue to reward bad behaviors by their silence and continued covering up of things which are pure evil. When we say nothing or cover up the sins of others, we are sending that person a clear message that we go along with their behavior and we won't say anything about what we know they are doing which is wrong. By our silence and cover up we are partakers in that persons sins. Let's use the minds God gave to us and **quit** rewarding the abusers and **quit** punishing the victims.

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**God requires  
Christians to do more  
than Pay, Pray, Stay  
and Obey at their  
church or fellowship!**

by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan

**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](mailto:Newsletter-Only-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com)

**W. W. J. D. ?**

by **Bill Bratt**  
Portsmouth, Ohio

Years ago at a spokesman's club meeting in West Union, Ohio, one of the speakers gave a speech in which he used a 4 x 6 card with the letters W.W.J.D. on it. I don't remember anything of which he talked about except what the letters stood for.

What could W.W.J.D. stand for? I suppose it could stand for: World Wide Juvenile Delinquents. I would like to encourage you to take a card and print W.W.J.D. on it and put it on the mirror in your bathroom, then when you look at it, it would remind you of what W.W.J.D. stands for.

What does the acronym W.W.J.D. stand for? It stands for: What Would Jesus Do?

Through out life we will have trials and tests. This gives us the opportunity to ask: What Would Jesus Do? By applying this concept this will help us in overcoming.

### Jesus would Keep God's Ten Commandments

Jesus is our Saviour, Redeemer and High Priest. He lived a perfect life without sin: "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Heb 4:15 NKJV).

To be "without sin" means that

Jesus kept God's laws perfectly. Notice that Jesus kept God's commandments and abided in the Father's love: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:10 NKJV). Also notice that if we keep God's commandments that we will abide in the love of Jesus.

Jesus told us that if we love Him then we will keep His commandments: "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15 NKJV).

When we have a trial or test and we don't know exactly what we should do, we could think of our acronym: W.W.J.D., and ask the question: What Would Jesus Do?

Let's look at an example: In the near future you will be tested on your honesty. How? The answer is: APRIL 15th.

April 15th. is the deadline for filing your Income Tax. Preparing your tax return will test your honesty.

When you prepare your taxes, keep two things in mind:

☞ The eighth commandment says: Thou shall not steal.

☞ Jesus said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

God wants us to be honest in paying our taxes. If you can deduct it, then deduct it. If not, then don't.

### The Babysitter who had two rates.

There was a fellow who needed a babysitter and he contacted a lady. This babysitter gave him two rates. One if he reported it on his income tax and a lower rate if he didn't. This meant that if he didn't report it neither would she report it on her income tax. This is ILLEGAL and it's also "bearing false witness" which is breaking the ninth commandment.

This was probably a big temptation. Sometimes it is easy to get trapped into being dishonest without even trying!

Now, let's ask the question: What Would Jesus Do? We have already read the scripture that says that Jesus "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Jesus kept all of God's commandments perfectly. If we want to be like Jesus we would analyze our situation in regards to God's Ten Commandments and realize that being dishonest and cheating the government

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out of taxes that we should be paying would be breaking the eighth commandment: Thou shall not steal.

We now have our answer to our trial in this situation by asking the question: What Would Jesus Do?

### **Jesus Would Do God's Will**

Jesus was obedient and submissive to the will of God. The Apostle John records Jesus' words: "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me" (John 5:30 NKJV).

The night before Jesus was crucified He was with His disciples. He knew that His crucifixion would happen soon and he was sorrowful and deeply distressed.

36. "Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."
37. And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.
38. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."
39. He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
40. Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?"
41. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
42. Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done"" (Mat 26:36-42 NKJV).

When Jesus first prayed, He was hoping that God could work out another solution for the salvation of man besides the horrible way for Him to die through the crucifixion, but He realized that it had to be done God's way. Jesus said "Your will be done."

Jesus realized that God the Father knew what was best.

When we are having trouble with our will conflicting with God's will, then we need to ask: What Would Jesus Do? The answer is that Jesus submitted to God's will.

We then need to be submissive

and obedient to God's will just as Jesus was. We should also do as Jesus did and go to God in prayer. We must ask God to help us understand and surrender to His will. Ask God to help you as you study to understand the Bible so you can know His will. How would you know what God's will is without reading and studying the Bible? "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Mat 4:4 NKJV).

### **Jesus Would Put God First**

Let's notice how Jesus said to put God first: "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30 NKJV).

In putting God first, we are seeking the spiritual instead of the physical. We are to lay up treasures in heaven:

19. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;
20. but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.
21. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"" (Mat 6:19-21 NKJV).

Let's notice Jesus' admonition to the Rich Young Ruler in Mark 10:21:

21. "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."
22. But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:21-22 NKJV).

If we are in the wrong attitude of being greedy, obsessed with materialism and lusting after money, perhaps being a workaholic, then we need to ask the question: What Would Jesus Do?

Jesus would put God first. In the Sermon on the Mount of Olives, Jesus said: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Mat 6:33 NKJV).

We have to be careful to have the right attitude about our material and physical treasures and not to let them interfere in our spiritual worship of God. Let's remember to put God first.

### **Jesus Would Love His Neighbors**

How do we maintain good relationships with our neighbors, friends, coworkers and family members? What Would Jesus Do? Jesus tells us to love our neighbors:

35. "Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him (Jesus) a question, testing Him, and saying,
36. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"
37. Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
38. "This is the first and great commandment.
39. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
40. "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Mat. 22:35-40 NKJV).

The Golden Rule says: "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Mat 7:12 NKJV). Quoting James 2:8 (NKJV) "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well;"

### **Jesus Would Keep the Sabbath and God's Seven Annual Festivals**

Do you want to ask Jesus what day to worship God and Him on? What Would Jesus Do? Notice that it was Jesus' custom to keep the Sabbath.

"So He (Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read." (Luke 4:16 NKJV).

Mark recorded in his gospel that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath:

27. "And He (Jesus) said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
28. "Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath"" (Mark 2:27-28 NKJV).

Jesus made the Sabbath for man. The Sabbath is one of the greatest gifts that God and Jesus has given man. It is a day of freedom from work and the daily "rat race" that most of us have to endure. It is a time when we can focus on God in extra prayer and Bible study. It is a time of fellowship with other people of like-minds. The Bible admonishes us: "not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb 10:25).

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The Sabbath is a time to worship God in singing songs of praise to Him and hearing His word expounded.

Jesus said that He, "the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." Jesus is our Lord and Master. He is the member of the God family who created the Sabbath at creation (Genesis 1-2). Since Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, that makes the Sabbath the true "Lord's Day."

Jesus has a commitment to love and protect the Sabbath, as a husband is to love and protect his wife (1 Peter 3:7). Jesus never spoke negatively about the Sabbath. He observed the Sabbath and showed how it should be kept and observed.

Did Jesus keep God's seven annual festivals, God's Holy Days? The answer is an emphatic YES! It is interesting to note that the apostle John in his gospel gives a detailed record of Jesus' public ministry based around God's holy days, the annual "high day" Sabbath Festivals. For years people have known that the only way to prove the length of Jesus' ministry is to go to the Gospel of John and count the number of Passovers. You can not do this in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark or Luke. It is amazing to realize that God inspired the apostle John to record his testimony of Jesus' public ministry around God's Feast Days. These feast days are important to God for He calls them His feasts: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts'" (Lev 23:2 NKJV).

**In Conclusion:**

When faced with a trial or test and we are not sure what we should do, we should get into the habit of asking "What Would Jesus Do?" Read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to see what else Jesus would do!

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**FAMINE OF THE WORD  
FORETOLD BY AMOS**

**by Wayne Schatzle  
West Chester, Ohio**

It has been interesting watching how folks react when faced with the prospect of a shortage. In recent memory,

the Cabbage Patch doll shortage was something to behold, where adults would even take one from the arms of a child so they would have one to give to their own daughter. It seems every year there is another toy that is in short supply. Today, Pokemon is the object to covet, where usually normal, levelheaded parents will go to great lengths to obtain something from the Pokemon craze lest their little darling be disappointed.

In this land of plenty we have the luxury of fretting over nonsense such as toy shortages. But other countries are not as fortunate as us. More often than not, the rest of the world experiences serious shortages of food. Year after year, due to war, drought and other factors, crops fail and populations are denied much needed foodstuffs.

Is famine in the future for the United States? Only time will tell for sure, but terrible times are indeed forecasted for all inhabitants of earth. How will Americans handle it? Judging by the behavior displayed when mere toys are wanted---it will be a sight to behold when food is the issue. People do scramble when faced with the possibility of shortage. Witness the recent stockpiling at the threat of Y2K. Citizens will do what is necessary to obtain scarce commodities.

Brace yourselves for a coming famine. Believe it or not, an obscure book of the Bible details God's anger at men of the nations for their utter failing to conduct their lives as they should. Men have crushed the needy, pervert worship to God, did not even repent in the face of famine and the sword.

The prophet Amos writes of a time when men are so callous and stiff-necked to a God that continually reaches out and tries to show men the way of repentance. God comes to the Point he takes away the most important thing to seeking souls the way to salvation: "Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will send a famine across the land, a famine not of bread, but of the hearing of the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, north to south. They shall run to and fro seeking the word of the Lord, but shall not find it."

The book of Amos should be of interest to everyone. It details how we seem to take pains to avoid converting to God's way of thinking and continue in our errant ways. As usual, we never appreciate things until they are removed from us. Presently, our country's cup

runneth over. We are the envy of the world with our wealth. Almost over-looked in our cornucopia is the plethora of Bible-related materials and the freedom to worship and hear the word of God from more than 700 church organizations.

Will Americans heed the warning of the prophet Amos and stockpile Bibles and study helps like they stockpiled water for Y2K? Don't wait for the anger of the Lord to motivate you to study and search for him and his way to live. "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with him, we shall also live with him. If we endure, we shall also reign with him. If we deny him, he will also deny us. If we are faithless, he remains faithful; for he cannot deny himself." 2 Timothy 2:11-13.

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**YELLOW PENCILS "R" US**

**by June Narber  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

As a body of believers, we in the Sabbath community come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors, and backgrounds. However, we often end up expecting everyone in our circle of faith to act alike, think alike, and most of all, to LOOK alike.

Our creator made an incredibly diverse world. Tens of thousands of varieties of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, ocean creatures, and insects (not to mention the other subdivisions of creatures) roam the earth. With so much variety in nature, is it any wonder that God made diversity among humans, the only living creature made in the image of God himself? Often in the church, we find ourselves judging someone if they look different, act different, or come from a background that we may not personally understand. We used to joke at Ambassador College and call ourselves "yellow pencils", as we had to dress conservatively, men had similar hair cuts, no women wore makeup (in those days), and so forth. Was all of that really necessary in order to be true followers of Jesus Christ? I don't think it was. Today, we live in a multi-cultural society. Perhaps in the not so distant future, God is going to start calling more and more people into His truth. Among these, will be people that we see few of in

the "church" today.

Consider for a moment, how the church would change if more young people, all of a sudden, came into it? What would happen if several high ranking "corporate types" walked through our doors? What if a supermodel came to church? What would happen if anyone "different" from the working class came into our midst? Would they be treated well? Consider for a moment how people in YOUR area have been treated. If a person has their hair a little too long, or a little too short, are they immediately singled out as a gossip topic and labeled as not being "Christian"? In my observations, the two most judged areas in the Churches of God, include women (in all regards: clothing, makeup, their "appointed" role via career, family), and the possession of money and/or the college educated. For example, if a woman wears a little brighter makeup than you are used to, do you think "daughter of Jezebel"? In one church I am familiar with, the ministers will not allow women to come to services unless they have dresses or skirts on, no slacks are allowed. The reason is that slacks are considered a man's clothing garment. Let's evaluate this example. Clothing styles are a culturally defined phenomenon. In ancient Israel, males wore robes. Technically speaking then, skirts were originally a man's "garment". We cannot add additional laws to God's word, in order to legislate how a person is to dress. If we do, we are no better than the Pharisees! Modesty is always the main objective. If someone is dressing with half of their body exposed (the parts that generate sexual excitement), some one of the same gender should take this person aside in private and talk to them. Another common subject is the use of jewelry. Anyone can make the Bible say anything they want it to say, if they take a couple of verses out of context. God created gorgeous gems and rocks in a variety of colors and textures. Gems are most beautiful when cut so they can reflect the light. They show some of God's most incredible artistic work in the Creation. If we are not supposed to wear them, what are we supposed to do with them? Would God have us leave them buried deep in the Earth? If so, why did he create them to be so gorgeous when cut? If a supposed rule of God does not measure up to common sense, we need to make sure that we have the rule right.

I do not believe it is a sin to wear

jewelry; only if such things become an icon to us; and that is by far in the minority of cases. There is little difference in decorating our own "selves" verses decorating our homes. For example, I could dress in pastel pink from head to toe (including pink gem jewelry) or have every square inch of my house done in pink: what is the difference? It is a matter of beauty and personal creativity, and of personal expression of the individual. There is nothing sinful in any of this. Some examples might show a person has a little cultural taste or flair for color or a sense of matching, but it does not constitute SIN, the breaking of one of God's spiritual laws.

Consider the subject of money. Many people translate the scriptures to read, "Money is the root of all evil". I hear brethren saying that God only calls poor people now, the weak of the earth, because they are the only ones He wants. Excuse me? Are these people not adding additional words to a scripture to twist it to fit their personal rendition? Such an idea would make a poor person feel really good about themselves, but God is not a respecter of persons. There are examples in the Old and New Covenants of very rich people and very poor people, all of whom worshipped God in fear and trembling, and who will be part of the first resurrection. Another area that always has mystified me is the open hostility in the church toward those who are educated. It appears as though this generation of God's church has reversed the discriminations found in society. If this is truly the case, we are NOT using God's Holy Spirit properly, or at all in these cases. Just because some one has a selfish view point they hold in order to exalt themselves and their personal "life circumstance", does not make their situation the godly ideal in which to render as the Christian ideal.

Makeup, clothing, jewelry, money--all of these things must be individually balanced in the Christian's daily walk with God. The brotherhood of believers is comprised of the rich and the poor, male and female, the brilliant and the ignorant, and many shades of color. We must not judge those that are different from us in worldly possessions, physical attire, or professionally. We should only be concerned when the subject at hand is a matter of sin, the breaking of one of God's Ten Commandments. The last time I checked, there were still only Ten Commandments. Some times I have

wondered if there was not an Eleventh Commandment that said, "Thou women shall submit in all things", and a Twelfth Commandment that said, "Thou must be poor, blind, and ignorant in order to follow me"; but as we all know, these are not the case.

Yellow pencils have their purpose. They are instruments to be written with. However, God's creation is an incredibly diverse and complex thing. We should not attempt to destroy the individuality and the uniqueness of each other by trying to mold each other into our "own image". Instead, we should learn from each other, improving on our strengths, and casting our weaknesses aside. We should be industrious, developing our talents in fear before God. So what if a talent comes wrapped in a human package we might not expect? Most of all, we should appreciate the talent, intelligence, and gifts of others. Maybe we judge others out of jealousy, especially if they have more money than we do; or they are obviously more talented or even physically attractive. So what? Learn to develop yourself into the best you can be! I can assure you that right now, you are NOT the best that you can be, as it is a life long process! Perhaps we judge others based on physical things because only by chopping someone else down below our level, can we keep our self esteem high. If any of this rings true in regard to your own behavior or attitudes, it is time to break the yellow pencil mentality and learn that individuality and diversity are among the greatest gifts we have received as a human being made in the image of God. We develop God's character and apply HIS way of life to our own individual and unique lives. This way, every sector of society can be penetrated by the light of God's way of life. There is such great beauty in each of us. Open up your eyes a little more and see the beauty around you. (By the way, pencils now come in a variety of colors).

\*\*\*\*\*#12\*\*\*\*

**True friends are mirrors.  
They lovingly reflect  
the image of our  
faults and flaws back  
to us so that we may  
repent and mature.**

**by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan**



**WHAT IS FORNICATION?  
PART #4**

by Laura Lee  
Bismarck, North Dakota

**New Testament**

Strong's Ref. #4205

Romanized pornos  
Pronounced por'-nos

from pernemi (to sell; akin to the base of GSN4097); a (male) **prostitute** (as **venal**), i.e. (by analogy) a **debauchee** (**libertine**):

KJV--fornicator, whoremonger.

At first glance it truly looks as though we are only talking about sexual sin here. However with a much closer look at the above definition as well as a closer look at the scriptural context, we will find that a fornicator is much more than just a sexual sinner.

Many times we look things up and find words which are not often used today and if you are like me, you sometimes wonder what those words actually mean. This is the case with the above Strong's definition. I wondered what the words venal, debauchee and libertine meant. So first I checked to see if I could find any of these three words used any place in the entire Bible (I used the King James Version). The only one of the three which was used in the Bible was the word "libertine" which can be found only in Acts 6:9.

8. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.
9. Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the **synagogue of the Libertines**, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, **disputing with Stephen**.
10. And **they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake**.
11. Then **they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God**.
12. And they **stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,**

13. And **set up false witnesses**, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:
14. For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.
15. And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. (Acts 6:8-15)

**Strong's # 3032---Libertinos (lib-er-tee'-nos)**

1. one who has been liberated from slavery, a freedman, or the son of a freed man
2. Libertine, denotes Jews (according to Philo) who had been made captives of the Romans under Pompey but were afterwards set free; and who although they had fixed their abode in Rome, had built at their own expense a synagogue at Jerusalem which they frequented when in that city, The name Libertines adhered to them to distinguish them from free born Jews who had subsequently taken up their residence at Rome. Evidence seems to have been discovered of the existence of a "synagogue of the Libertines" at Pompeii.

**KJV Word Usage and Count**

Libertines 1

**Strong's #5260---Hupoballo (hoop-ob-al'-lo)**

1. to throw or put under
2. to suggest to the mind
3. to instruct privately, instigate, to bribe or induce (someone) unlawfully or secretly to perform some misdeed or commit a crime
4. to induce (a person esp. a witness) to give false testimony

**KJV Word Usage and Count**

suborned 1

From the above we can clearly see that the actions of the Libertines were actions against God. When the Libertines could not resist (withstand) Stephen any longer, they prompted people to bear false witness against him because they did not like what Stephen was saying or doing. From this we can conclude that the "**synagogue of the Libertines**" was in direct opposition to God and his ways.

For the other two words we must go to a dictionary for a definition. Sometimes dictionary definitions don't

square with what the Bible actually defines certain words to mean. From Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition, 1968, I will give the definition of all 3 words and then we will see what the Bible says about the actions of a fornicator.

**Libertine**

1. (n.) in ancient Rome, a person who had been freed from slavery
2. (n.) a man who leads an unrestrained, immoral life; **rake**
3. (n.) a free thinker; **skeptic**
4. (adj.) morally unrestrained; **licentious**

**Debauchee**

1. a person who indulges in **debauchery**; **dissipated** or **depraved** person

**Venal**

1. that can readily be bribed or corrupted; **mercenary**: as, a **venal** judge
2. capable of being obtained for a price; as, **venal** services
3. characterized by corruption or bribery; as, a **venal** bargain

Included here are a few other dictionary definitions for words used in the above meanings which are not used very much by us today.

**Rake**

1. **dissolute**, debauched man; **roue**

**Skeptic**

1. a member of any of the ancient Greek philosophical schools which denied the possibility of real knowledge of any kind
2. a person who believes in or practices philosophical skepticism
3. a person who habitually doubts, questions, or suspends judgment upon matters generally accepted
4. a person who doubts religious doctrines, especially those of Christianity

**Licentious**

1. disregarding accepted rules and standards
2. morally unrestrained; **dissolute**; **lascivious**; **libertine**

**Debauchery**

1. extreme indulgence of one's appetites, **#13**

- especially for sensual pleasure;  
**dissipation**  
2. orgies  
3. a leading astray morally

#### Dissipated

1. scattered
2. squandered; wasted
3. wasting time and energy on frivolities; indulging in pleasure to excess;  
**dissolute**
4. showing the harmful effects of  
**dissipation**

#### Depraved

1. morally bad; corrupt; **perverted**

#### Mercenary

1. working or done for payment only; motivated by a desire for money or other gain; **venal**; greedy
2. designating a soldier serving for pay in a foreign army; hired
3. a professional soldier serving in a foreign army for pay
4. a person paid for his work or services;  
**hireling**

#### Dissolute

1. **dissipated** and immoral; **profligate**; debauched

#### Roue

1. **dissipated** man; **debauchee**; **rake**

#### Lascivious

1. characterized by or expressing lust or lewdness; **wanton**
2. tending to excite lustful desires

#### Dissipation

1. a scattering or being scattered; dispersion
2. a wasting or squandering
3. any wasteful use of time or energy; frivolous diversion
4. wasteful or excessive indulgence in pleasure;  
**intemperance**;  
dissoluteness

#### Perverted

1. deviating from what is considered right, natural, or true; characterized by perversion; misdirected
2. of or practicing sexual perversions
3. misinterpreted; distorted; twisted

#### Hireling

1. a person who works only for the wages he is paid; person who will follow anyone's orders for pay;  
**mercenary**

#### Profligate

1. abandoned to **vice**; **dissolute**
2. extremely wasteful; recklessly extravagant

#### Lewd

1. **indecent**; lustful; unchaste;  
**lascivious**
2. (a) unlearned; ignorant (b) base; unprincipled; **vicious**

#### Wanton

1. originally, undisciplined; unmanageable; as, **wanton** boys
2. unchaste; **lewd**; immoral
3. (a) playful; frolicsome: as, a **wanton** child (b) unrestrained in play; as, **wanton** winds
4. senseless, unprovoked, unjustifiable, or deliberately malicious: as **wanton** cruelty
5. recklessly or arrogantly disregarding of justice, decency, people's rights or feelings, etc.
6. (a) luxuriant: said of vegetation, etc. (b) lavish, luxurious, or extravagant: said of speech, dress, etc.

#### Intemperance

1. a lack of temperance or restraint; immoderation; excess
2. excessive drinking of alcoholic liquor

#### Vice

1. a serious fault of character; grave moral failing
2. evil or wicked conduct; corruption; depravity
3. a particular immoral, **depraved**, or degrading habit
4. in old English morality plays, a character, often a buffoon, representing a **vice** or **vice** in general
5. a fault, defect, or blemish
6. a physical defect or imperfection
7. a bad or harmful trick or habit in a domestic animal, as in a horse or dog

#### Indecent

1. not proper and fitting; unseemly; improper
2. morally offensive; immodest; obscene

#### Vicious

1. given to or characterized by **vice** or evil; wicked; depraved; immoral: as, a **vicious** person
2. having a **vice**, flaw, fault, or defect; faulty; as, a **vicious** argument
3. having bad habits; unruly; dangerous: as, a **vicious** horse

4. malicious; spiteful; mean; as, a **vicious** rumor
5. debasing; corrupting; as, the experience had a **vicious** effect on her
6. impure, foul, or noxious, as air or water

#### Dissipate

1. to scatter; dispel; disperse
2. to drive completely away; make disappear
3. to waste; squander
4. to be dissolved or dispelled; vanish
5. to waste one's time and energy on frivolities; indulge in pleasure, especially drinking, gambling, etc, to the point of harming oneself; be **dissolute**

#### Lust

1. a desire to gratify the senses; bodily appetite
2. (a) sexual desire (b) excessive sexual desire, especially as seeking unrestrained gratification
3. overmastering desire: as, a lust for power
4. (a) pleasure (b) inclination

I am also including the dictionary definition of prostitute and orgy, lest anyone continue to believe that these are terms used only in a sexual context

#### Prostitute

1. to sell the services of (oneself or another) for purposes of sexual intercourse
2. to sell (oneself, one's artistic or moral integrity, etc.) for low or unworthy purposes.
3. adj. given over to base purposes; debased; corrupt
4. a woman who engages in promiscuous sexual intercourse for pay
5. a person, as a writer, artist, etc., who sells his services for low or unworthy purposes

#### Orgy

1. in ancient Greece and Rome, feasting and wild celebration in worship of certain gods
2. any wild riotous merrymaking
3. an overindulgence in any activity: as, an orgy of work

As we can see from these, "fornication" seems to be a lifestyle which is lived in direct opposition to God and  
**#14**

consists of many things, such as promiscuous sexual activity, alcoholism, gambling, abuse of power, bribery, being a false witness, wasting time, lusting after things or pleasures.

### **What does the Bible say about "Fornicators"?**

Strong's #4205 is translated as "Fornicator" 2 times, "Fornicators" 3 times, "Whoremonger" 1 time and "Whoremongers" 4 times. It is found in the following verses:

- ✓ 1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with **fornicators**:
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 5:10 Yet not altogether with the **fornicators** of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a **fornicator**, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
- ✓ Ephesians 5:5 For this ye know, that no **whoremonger**, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- ✓ 1 Timothy 1:10 For **whoremongers**, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;
- ✓ Hebrews 12:16 Lest there be any **fornicator**, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.
- ✓ Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but **whoremongers** and adulterers God will judge.
- ✓ Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and **whoremongers**, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.
- ✓ Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and **whoremongers**,

and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

### **Esau sold out to the devil**

In Hebrews 12:16, we read, "Lest there be any **fornicator**, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright."

Here we are told that Esau was a fornicator and a profane person. The word "profane" as used here has the following Strong's definition:

Strong's Ref. # 952

Romanized bebelos  
Pronounced beb'-ay-los

from the base of GSN0939 and belos (a threshold); accessible (as by crossing the door-way), i.e. (by implication of Jewish notions) heathenish, wicked:

KJV--profane (person).

Now we know that Esau was a wicked person and a fornicator. We also know that Esau prostituted himself when he sold his "birthright". The lust of the "one morsel of meat" was more important than the "birthright". To satisfy his own desires, he sold his birthright for one morsel of meat.

Do we even understand the importance of this "birthright"? This birthright was of great value to God, because through it the people of God would be blessed. Esau cared more about his desire to eat than in being blessed by God. It was like selling a priceless treasure for one penny in the sight of God.

Perhaps this is why God said: Romans 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. When Esau sold his birthright for one morsel of meat, it was like spitting in God's face. Esau sold out to follow the devil.

### **Esau despised God?**

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and **despise** (count it as worthless) **the other**. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (See also Luke 16:13)

Esau ended up despising God: Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus **Esau despised his birthright**.

(To despise the birthright of God is to despise God.) Esau counted his birthright as worthless so it was easy for him to sell it for so little.

### **What are some of the other actions of a Fornicator?**

### **Hatred to the point of wanting to murder someone.**

Genesis 27:41 And **Esau hated Jacob** because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and **Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob**.

### **Intentional disobedience to ones parents and to God.**

6. When Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob, and sent him away to Padanaram, to take him a wife from thence; and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, **Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan**;
7. And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother, and was gone to Padanaram;
8. And **Esau seeing that the daughters of Canaan pleased not Isaac his father**;
9. Then went Esau unto Ishmael, and took unto the wives which he had Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife. (Genesis 28:6-9)

Genesis 36:2 **Esau took his wives of the daughters of Canaan**; Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite, and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite;

### **Esau's name was changed to Edom**

Genesis 25:30 And **Esau** said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was **his name called Edom**.

### **Esau dwelt in mount Seir**

Genesis 36:8 Thus **dwelt Esau in mount Seir: Esau is Edom**.

### **Esau worshipped idols**

2 Chronicles 25:14 Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and **#15**

burned incense unto them.

2 Chronicles 25:20 But Amaziah would not hear; for it came of God, that he might deliver them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought after the gods of Edom.

### Esau sought revenge

Ezekiel 25:12 Thus saith the Lord God; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them;

### Conclusion

Esau is not known as a "fornicator" because of his sexual sins. Esau is known as a "fornicator" because of his de-valuing of God and his law. Esau had an attitude of hatred for members of his own family which was manifested in his actions and thoughts. In his heart (mind) he wanted to murder his own brother. In his actions he heard what would hurt his father Isaac and he went and intentionally, willfully did it, knowing full well that it would displease his father.

On a spiritual plain Esau did not value God or the things of God, but sought his own pleasure and was willfully disobedient to the point of hurting his own person and those around him. James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Fornication is a lifestyle which leads a person down a path that is in total opposition to God. These lifestyles lead to destruction for the person involved and those who are near to him. These lifestyles include, alcoholism, gambling, sexual immorality, murder, bribery, extortion, being a false witness, lusting after your desires, wasting your time with gods of pleasure, idolatry, abuse of power, abuse of people and anything which is against sound doctrine. These lifestyles are sin. These lifestyles are **Fornication.**

The next and last part of this series on Fornication, will cover Strong's #4202. This is the one many corporation churches and individuals use to hold victims of abuse in abusive marriages. Part of how they do this, is by telling the abused person that they can divorce, yes, but you may not get remarried, ever because if you do, you will be committing adultery.

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**HAVE A GREAT FEAST**

## RELATIONSHIPS

by Ed Oettel  
Blaine, Washington

There was a concept that Wayne Speed brought to the group at the feast. This topic was: Becoming a co-creator with God.

When we look at the creation, the human race was given the opportunity to be creators as well. The main focus of that creative ability was that of creating relationships with other human beings. This is why Satan interfered at the beginning to thwart that process as much as he was able.

We discussed the devices of Satan that he uses to keep us in bondage to him, and prevent us from developing good relationships. The devices he uses are: discouragement, fear, confusion, depression, bitterness, anger, envy, self hatred, selfishness, self centeredness, and guilt.

Each of these factors are totally negative, and they help keep us in tune with this world and its systems. One thing to remember, unrepentant sin gives Satan great power over our lives.

Eph 6: Gives us keys to change. Vs. 1-3 speaks of the main focus of our lives; the family. Honoring your parents, and building relationships that are sound with our children. If we are showing the force of God's Spirit in this area, we can strengthen the family and protect it from Satan.

The next area deals with the relationships we have as either servants, which are as employees, and the masters which are the employers or bosses we work for, or if we are in charge of employees. Using the power of God's Spirit to build relationships in this area, expands the area beyond the immediate family. As Eph 6:7 states using good will doing service either way, employer to employee or vise, versa. We should strive to become either the best employer or the best employee, whichever we find ourselves.

Putting God's Spirit to work in our mind, creates a positive atmosphere or sphere, that will repel all the negative forces that may try to infiltrate our mind.

Eph 6:10-18 speaks about the armor which God provides to ward off the effects of Satan the devil. A totally positive mind will repulse any negative force that tries to subvert our

subconscious mind. Using the armor of God refers to protecting our subconscious mind.

Vs. 14 Girding your waist with truth: (1) knowing Christ defeated Satan on the cross, we can do the same thing using God's Spirit as a tool. (2) Knowing who we are in Christ, that we have been sanctified and justified by Him (Rom 8, entire chapter) as vs. 1 states there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ.

### BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Phil 3:8-9, we stand under Christ's righteousness.

### GOSPEL OF PEACE

No more turmoil, we are already justified by Christ.

### SHIELD OF FAITH

Prov. 30:5, the object of faith, Christ and God the Father.

### HELMET OF SALVATION

Luke 2:28, and Acts 4:12, protecting our mind from Satan the devil.

Again the importance of developing a totally positive mindset regarding all things. As it states; "I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me."

If our outlook at life is positive, we will destroy all the negative factors around us. Satan cannot reach a mind that is positive.

The final key then is to protect our subconscious mind from all negative factors. We must use the Spirit of God to influence our subconscious mind to remain in a positive mode. This is how we resist Satan's fiery darts.

In summary, mind development is a major factor in developing a converted mind. Our fleshly bodies will eventually die, but our mind which is the human soul is something God is working with today in those humans He calls. Having a mind like God involves developing a totally positive way of thinking, because God wants us to become perfect like Him, Matt. 5:48.

This was an excellent topic to start the feast with, which set the stage for the remainder of it.

\*\*\*\*\*#16\*\*\*\*\*

**" The Devil may shout  
deception, but Man provides  
the echo. "**

by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan



**HOME CHURCH MEETINGS**

by Al Van Dyk  
Bella Vista, California

Christians generally meet together in either institutional/conventional church buildings under the direction of a clergyman or in a home church. Sometimes the two are combined. Christ is honored, and Christians can grow in faith and serve God in either kind of church meeting.

"Where two or three have gathered together in My [Jesus] name, there I am in their midst." (Matt. 18:20) .

"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as we see the day drawing near." (Heb. 10:24-25)

Home church meetings are opportunities for all true believers to participate in church meetings as priests of God according to the Word of God (I Peter 2:5,9) as the Holy Spirit leads each one.

The LIFE of Christ, His presence expressed in God's people, is the key. Meetings are not programmed and directed by clergy. The LIFE of Jesus Christ rather than liturgy of men is the mode. This is personal and practical Christianity in action, sharing the love of God and helping people in Christ through Christians in homes.

**WHY HAVE "TWO OR THREE IN MY (JESUS) NAME MEETINGS?"**

In the beginning Christianity was dynamic, powerful and very much alive with the Holy Spirit expressed through God's people. Church meetings were in homes (Acts 20:20; Rom. 16:5) instead of separate religious buildings as we have today. God is showing us again how to have church meetings in homes like the early believers. We call these "TWO OR THREE IN MY (Jesus) NAME" MEETINGS or just TOTIMN meetings.

Christian homes provide the setting for more personal and powerful church gatherings. The Holy Spirit has more freedom of expression in homes of God's people than in institutional church buildings.

Home church meetings are the key for the rapid expansion of churches

through the spontaneous multiplication of churches without the need to raise money for paid clergymen and the need to build expensive structures. Money can instead be used for the needs of poor people and to send missionaries out with the good news.

The time is coming soon when true Christians all over the world will be persecuted and it will be necessary to meet secretly in homes, not in visible church buildings. Now is the time to prepare for persecution by learning how to meet together in a home church.

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**PREACHING THE GOSPEL**  
by Don Esposito  
Israel

I'm sure most of us out there who are Christians have wondered at one time or another, what is my responsibility for the calling that God has given me?

We read from the Father's word that he "says to whom much is given much is required" Luke 12:48. What exactly are we called to do? If we read Matt. 28:18-20 it states, "First of all, all power has been given to Yahshua the Messiah". He is in control. Next he tells his disciples (or students) which we are, "go you therefore and teach all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy spirit (God's supreme power). Teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you". So he tells us exactly what we are to do.

Think now for one moment. This was said two thousand years ago. If ever, for the last two thousand years, this chain was broken so to speak, how could we today have the proper Gospel? But Yashua said in Matt. 16:18 that he would build his church (or better yet, his elect body) and the gates of hell would never prevail against it. In other words by his spirit for two thousand years he would relay the gospel through his chosen called out ones until his return.

Now the last sentence of Matt. 28:20 is also very important. It says "I am with you always even unto the end of the world". We have seen men try to take the place of the Messiah for the last two thousand years, and yet he said he has never left. So the very first point when thinking about the great commission here in Matt. 28 is to let Messiah lead us, and

to NOT do the work of men. Eph. 2:10 says that "we are his workmanship created in Yahsua Messiah unto good works which the Father has ordained that we should walk in them". Where Brethren have gotten off base on this subject before, is when they stop seeking God's will and start following their own.

And yet if we are true disciples, and just want to share the joy of our salvation and his Kingdom with others, preaching the Gospel could be the most rewarding and fulfilling aspect of our lives. Hab. 1:5 "says behold you among the heathen and regard and wonder marvellously: for I will show you a work in your days, which you will not believe, though it be told to you". It is the most exciting thing a human being can imagine to be a part of that work.

We read in acts the eighth chapter verse four, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word". And dropping down to verse thirty" And Philip ran down to him and read him Isaiah the Prophet and said do you understand? And he answered and said, How can I except that some man can guide me? And he desired that Philip would come up and sit with him". It is a great honor to us that our Holy Father has chosen us to be a part of bringing sons to salvation. That is the work of God. We are the work of God. And we do have a responsibility (as God leads us) to help others down their path of salvation.

Following I will give you some ideas on Matt. 24, our two fold commission in doing this great work. By far it is not an exhaustive list but at least it is a start, and a way to give some ideas on how to accomplish this great commission. May our Heavenly father richly Bless you as you get out there and start sharing your joy with others that he brings into your path.

**Math 24:14 The Twofold Commission**

Matt. 24:14 says that "the Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations." I like to refer to this passage as the great two fold commission. 1) Literally Preaching the written word (the Gospel) And 2) As a witness, showing by the example of our lives, the way we live, that we really are Messiah's disciples.

**1) Preach the Gospel:**

**A) Pamphlets-** It is as easy as putting them out at train stations, #17

supermarkets and local stores in your community. This is one of the most simple and most effective ways to preach the gospel in a local area and to give God a chance to bring new sons to you in your local areas.

**B) Radio-** You could sponsor a ministry that you believe in, by getting tapes from the ministry and sending them to the radio station. If you have been blessed with the spiritual gift you could make your own tapes.

**C) Monthly open meetings-** You could try putting out flyers and local ads and have open meetings to the public monthly. Much prayer and fasting is needed to find out which of these ideas God deems best for your area.

**D) Possible door to door-** Now, I know this one may not be for everyone, but what better way to invite local people in your community to a local fellowship, than to greet them door to door and share the Gospel with them?

To those who may feel compelled to try this avenue, read Luke 10 on the commission to the 70. Yahshua did send out his disciples.

## **2) As A Witness-**

Being a witness is such an important part of our preaching. If we only preach with words and not with actions then we are hypocrites. We are to be selfless, even loving our enemies. The golden rule "Love your neighbor as yourself" has always got to be written on our hearts.

**A) Homeless people-** This is a great way, to not only preach the Gospel to these people, but to really fill a true need. Homeless people need food and clothes and in most cases just pure fellowship from someone who has true love. They are out there almost everywhere, and especially large cities. Just think if you were homeless and hungry wouldn't you want someone to help you.

**B) Anti- Abortion Clinics-** No greater abomination is happening in this land than the some-odd 38 million babies who have been murdered since Roe vs Wade in 1973. There are clinics who give these women an alternative to abortion. You could donate time to phones or counseling, or even some financial help. When I see Catholics, and others out there doing these things I wonder where are the true called out ones of God? Are they sitting in a living room fighting over doctrines? I pray that we are out there

also, showing our father's testimony in us.

**C) Helping people broken down on the Highway-** There is no greater frustration, than being stranded and helpless. This can be very dangerous to old people stranded in the cold of winter with no heat in the car. Many people have been greatly amazed and appreciative of those who take the time to help in this fast paced, no help society.

### **Editor's Note:**

Use discernment when stopping to help a motorist. In some areas there have been people who pretend to have car break downs and when someone stops to help them, they are robbed or worse. If you are not sure and the break down is in an isolated area, the best way to help is sometimes to drive to the nearest gas station and see that the attendant or yourself calls the nearest police station to report the break down. The police will make sure that the motorist receives the help they need in their situation. Laura Lee

Some other ideas for service are soup kitchens, hospitals, and retirement homes. There are literally 100's of opportunities for service. We could use each one not only to fill the physical needs that they may require, but to preach the Gospel and give these people hope for God's soon coming Kingdom.

Let's not forget our own Brethren. The bible says do good unto all men especially those of the household of God, Gal. 6:10. We could start a ministry of encouragement and exhortation to the brethren, or maybe card writing. How about picking up someone for services who does not drive, or caring for a widow? Our service should be ongoing and outgoing. We need to truly seek the will of God as well as the love of God to know exactly where his service is for us.

Let us all continue to pray and fast to seek our father's will for us, and to pray for him to show us our spiritual gifts that we may use them to serve others.

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**NATURALLY SPEAKING**

by **Christopher C. Barr**  
**Pocahontas, Arkansas**

### **Cell phones and abortions**

Just call me "operator" while I make the connection.

The use of cell phones as a

possible cause of brain cancer keeps popping up in the news. It is featured in the latest issue of Consumer Reports.

There have been six studies published on cell phones and brain cancer according to Dr. Frank Joseph, M.D. of southern California. Three have noted a cell phone connection to brain cancer and three have denied any connection at all.

There have been 15 studies published on abortion and breast cancer according to Dr. Joseph. Thirteen have noted an abortion connection to breast cancer.

The connection of abortion to breast cancer is most often ignored in the news. When it is in the news it is almost always attached to a denial by someone of the link.

### **Accountability**

What is wrong with mainstream media coverage?

A low-scoring item with a tie score (3-3) gets constant attention. Meanwhile, a high scoring item with an overwhelming score (13-2) is ignored or denied.

Dr. Joseph has also noted that more than twice as many studies worldwide have confirmed a link between abortion and increased breast cancer risk. More than half of those are noted as statistically significant. That means those researchers are at least 95% confident that a purported risk factor is an actual risk.

### **More number crunching**

Brain cancer accounts for only two percent of cancer deaths. Breast cancer accounts for almost ten times as many deaths as brain cancer in women. It is the leading cancer cause of death in women and the second leading cause of death overall in women.

Does the mainstream media have a love-hate relationship with abortion and cell phones? If noted at all it downplays the overwhelming evidence of abortion as increasing the risk of breast cancer like some kind of overprotective mother hen. At the same time it crows about cell phone dangers where the jurors are equally divided like some proud barnyard rooster.

Another very telling statistic is that breast cancer has almost doubled since the killing of preborn children was legalized in 1973. In that same time period all other cancers have remained

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relatively the same or decreased.

Evidence continues to mount in the face of a deafening silence from the mainstream media.

### No exceptions

Dr. Janet Daling (a pro-choice researcher) headed up a study on abortion and breast cancer funded by the National Cancer Institute. Her group came to several stirring conclusions that included the risk of breast cancer is increased by an average of 50% due to abortions.

Perhaps the most stunning conclusion of all was with regard to females 18 years and younger.

Every female 18 years and under who had an abortion, and also had a relative afflicted by breast cancer (mother, sister or aunt) was also afflicted by breast cancer by the age of 45! Yet laws are passed in many jurisdictions forbidding full disclosure with information like this from being provided to young pregnant women, or even any pregnant women.

"I would have loved to have found no association between breast cancer and abortion, but our research is rock solid, and our data is accurate. It's not a matter of believing, it's a matter of what is", said Dr. Daling of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

Dr. Joseph has summed this matter up with the following statement. "DO NOT HAVE AN ABORTION. Your very life depends on it."

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**MY HOLY DAY**  
**(Sabbath or Sunday)**

by **David Klopfenstein**  
**Kendallville, Indiana**

There is quite a difference of opinion throughout the religious world today. Some observe Friday, some observe Saturday, some observe Sunday as the Sabbath day. Many say we are now under grace and are not under the law using John 1:17, "For while the law was given by Moses, **grace** and **truth** come by Yahoshua the Messiah."

### EXAMPLES OF GRACE FROM THE BEGINNING

Genesis 6:8, "But Noah found **grace** in the eyes of Yahvah."

Exodus 33:12,13,17, "And Moses said unto Yahvah, See, Thou sayest unto

me, Bring up this people: and Thou hast not let me know whom Thou wilt send with me. Yet Thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also **found grace** in My sight. Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have **found grace** in Thy sight, shew me now Thy way, that I may know Thee, that I may **find grace in Thy sight**: and consider that this nation is Thy people. And **Yahvah said** unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: **for thou hast found grace in My sight**, and I know thee by name."

Judges 6:17, "And he (Gideon) said unto Him, **If now I have found grace in Thy sight**, shew me a sign that Thou talkest with me."

Jeremiah 31:2, "Thus **saith Yahvah**, The people which were left of the sword **found grace in the wilderness**; **even Israel**, when I went to cause him to rest:"

Proverbs 3:34, "Surely He scorneth the scornors: but **He giveth grace unto the lowly.**"

II Timothy 1:9, "(Yahvah) Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and **grace**, **which He hath given us in Yahoshua the Messiah before the world began.**"

According to the scriptures, when did **GRACE really begin? Grace has been since the creation of the world and all through the entire Old Testament and up unto the present day which will continue in the future!** Not Grace Dispensationalism as some preachers teach!

It is recorded in Hebrews 11, **(the Faith chapter)** that all of the Old Testament brethren **were all saved by FAITH!** "By **faith** Abel, by **faith** Enoch, by **faith** Noah, by **faith** Abraham, by **faith** Isaac, by **faith** Jacob, by **faith** Joseph, by **faith** Moses, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David, Samuel who **through faith** . . ."

Never was anyone saved by the law in the Old Covenant, but only **by faith!** So where do preachers get the idea that Moses taught salvation by keeping the law? Moses only taught the people to love and obey Yahvah **by faith!**

James 2:20,26, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?**"

Genesis 26:4,5, "And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all

the nations of the earth be blessed; **because that Abraham obeyed My voice, and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.**"

Abraham **KEPT Yahvah's commandments, statutes, and laws** hundreds of years before Moses was born, so how could these be Moses laws? (Genesis 26:4,5).

### SCRIPTURAL SABBATH

Mark 2:29, "Therefore the Son of Man is Master (Lord) also **of the Sabbath.**" If the Saviour is the "Lord of the Sabbath", wouldn't that mean it is the Lord's Day? **It doesn't** state that He is the "Lord of the first day of the week"!

Many Christian sects claim that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day. There are **eight** references in the New Testament to the first day of the week.

- Matthew 28:1, "In **the end of the sabbath**, as it began to dawn toward the **first day of the week**, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre;"
- Mark 16:1, "And when **the sabbath was past**, Mary (Miriam) Magdalene, and Miriam the mother of James, and Salome, bought sweet spice, that they might come and anoint Him. And very early in the morning, **the first day of the week**, they came to the sepulchre at the **rising of the sun.**"
- Mark 16:9, "Now when Yahoshua was risen, early **the first day of the week**, He appeared first to Miriam Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven devils."
- Luke 23:56; 24:1, "And they (the ladies) returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and **rested the Sabbath Day according to the commandment.**" "Now upon **the first day of the week**, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, . . ."
- John 20:1, "The **first day of the week** cometh Miriam Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and **seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.**"

Each of these texts state that the **"first day of the week" is the day after the sabbath!** Any fourth grader can read and understand it. It needs no interpretation! The ladies came out to finish the burial, a work day. They were not having a Sunday service! There is no

indication of a change of the Sabbath to Sunday! The ladies "**rested the Sabbath Day according to the commandment, Luke 23:56 and that was not the first day of the week!**"

➤ John 20:19, "Then the same day at evening, being **the first day of the week**, when the doors were shut where the disciples were **assembled for the fear of the Jews**, came Yahoshua and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." This was not a Sunday service, they were assembled for "**the fear of the Jews**". In verse 26, "And **after EIGHT DAYS** again His disciples were within," Is this a service on Monday or the second day of the week?

➤ Acts 20:7, "And upon **the first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech unto midnight." When does each day start? According to the scripture each day is from sunset to sunset, Leviticus 23:32; Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31; 2:1-3, etc. Time is calculated according to Bible time, not Roman time! So the **first day of the week** in Acts 20:7 and Paul preaching unto midnight was a continuation from **Saturday**, not a Sunday service.

➤ I Corinthians 16:1,2, "Now concerning **the collection for the saints**, as I have given order to the assemblies of Galatia, even so do you. Upon **the first day of the week** let every one **lay by him in store**, as Yahvah hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." This is **not a church offering**, but a collection of **food stuffs** for the poor brethren who were having famine in Jerusalem at this time which was foretold in Acts 11:28-30 and Paul was gathering this offering of food spoken of in Romans 15:25-28.

In I Corinthians 16:1,2, At Sabbath service Paul's letter was read to the saints and were told that they were to go out in the fields and gather this food stuffs and put it in storage so "there would be no gatherings when I come" and to start on the **first day of the week, a work day, not a Sunday service!**

#### **THE LORD'S DAY?**

In the King James Version the "Lord's day" is only mentioned once in Revelation 1:10, "I was in the Spirit on the

Lord's day." Because the writer did not name the day, human minds have assumed to fix a certain day or a duration of time on this day. The majority of Christianity have accepted the **tradition that the first day of the week is the Lord's day, without one verse of scripture to back up this tradition!** Proverbs 30:6, "**Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**"

In 1976 I purchased the booklet "A CATECHISM FOR ADULTS" by Rev. William J. Cogan (of the Catholic church). Under the Sabbath Commandment on the end "NOTE: **The Church changed the Lord's Day from Saturday to Sunday because our Lord rose from the dead on Sunday and the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles on Pentecost Sunday.**" Look up Sunday in the Catholic Encyclopedia and it states that "Sunday is not the Sabbath Day".

The Catholic Church has made a Sunday Law in the likeness of Yahvah's Sabbath Law and **the majority of Christianity bow to the law of the Catholic Church over the law of Yahvah in the scriptures! Sunday is the counterfeit Sabbath!**

#### **"YAHVAH'S DAY" IS IN HIS LAW (In the Ten Commandments)**

Exodus 20:8-11, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; But **the seventh day is the sabbath of Yahvah**, thy Elohim (God); in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy **stranger** that is within thy gates. For in six days Yahvah made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested **the seventh day**: wherefore Yahvah **blest the sabbath day and hallowed it.**"

**The Sabbath Day (seventh day) was made at creation and was made holy by the Creator 2,000 years before there ever was a Jew, so how could it be called the Jewish Sabbath?** Marriage was also instituted at creation, is marriage only Jewish also?

Nehemiah 9:13,14, "Thou camest down also upon Mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: and madest known unto them **Thy holy sabbath**, and commandest them

precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses Thy servant."

Isaiah 58:13, "If thou restrain thy foot for the sake of the **sabbath**, not doing thy business on **My holy day**; and call the **sabbath** a delight, the **holy of Yahvah**, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in Yahvah; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of Yahvah hath spoken it."

Ezekiel 20:12,20, "Moreover, also I gave them **My sabbaths** to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am Yahvah that doth sanctify them." "And hallow **My sabbaths**; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am Yahvah thy Elohim."

Ezekiel 22:25, " There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof . . ." Verse 26, "Her priests have violated **My law**, and have profaned **Mine holy things**: they put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from **My sabbaths**, and I am profaned among them."

#### **SABBATH OBSERVED IN NEW TESTAMENT**

Luke 4:16, "And He (Yahoshua) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as **His custom** was, He went into the synagogue **on the sabbath day**, and stood up to read."

Luke 23:56, "And they (the ladies) returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and **rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.**"

Acts 13:42,44, "And when they were gone out of the synagogue, **the Gentiles** besought that these words be preached to them **the next sabbath.**" (Not the first day of the week!) "And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of Yahvah."

Acts 16:13,15, "And **on the sabbath** we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither." "And when she was immersed, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to Yahvah, **#20**



come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us." (At Philippi, a gentile city).

Acts 17:1,2, Verse 2, "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and **three sabbath days** reasoned with them out of the scriptures." (Thessalonica, a gentile city).

Acts 18:4,11, "And he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue **every sabbath**, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." "And he (Paul) continued there **a year and six months**, teaching the word of Yahvah among them." (**On the sabbath days, NOT the first day of the week!**) (At Corinth, a gentile city).

### PAUL'S CONFESSION

Acts 24:14, "But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the Elohim (God) of my fathers, **believing all things which are written in the law and the prophets.**"

Acts 25:8, "While he (Paul) answered for himself, **neither against the law of the Jews**, neither against the temple, nor yet against Caesar, **have I offended anything at all.**"

Romans 3:31, "Do we then **make void the law through faith? God forbid, yea we ESTABLISH the law.**"

I Corinthians 9:20,21, "And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (**being NOT without law to Yahvah, but under the law to the Messiah,**) that I might gain them that are without law."

### DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

What does the scripture say SIN is? I John 3:4, "Whosoever committeth **sin** transgresseth also the law; **for sin is the transgression of the law.**"

Romans 3:20b, "For **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**"

Romans 7:7, "What shall we say then? **Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law:** for I had **not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.**" The Ten Commandments referred to!

Can the Ten Commandments be changed? Elohim (God) wrote the commandments with His own finger. Ecclesiastes 3:14, "I know that **whatsoever Elohim doeth, it shall be forever; nothing can be put to it, nor**

**any thing taken from it, and Elohim doeth it that men should fear before Him.**"

Psalms 111:7,8, "The works of His hands are verity and judgment; **all His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever and are done in truth and uprightness.**"

Luke 16:17, "Yet it is easier for **the heaven and earth to pass (away), than one tittle of the law to fail.**" (See also Matthew 5:17-17).

Romans 6:23, "For the **wages of sin is death;** but the gift of Yahvah is eternal life through Yahoshua the Messiah our Saviour."

**Has sin ever changed? When has sin ceased to be sin? Hasn't sin always been sin?** If the sabbath has been changed, then sin would have to change also.

It wouldn't make any difference which day we would keep if Yahvah hadn't designated the seventh day sabbath! It wouldn't have made any difference which tree Adam and Eve ate from, except the tree that Yahvah said NOT to eat from.

Exodus 31:13-17, "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily **My sabbaths** ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you **throughout your generations;** that ye may know that I am Yahvah **that doth sanctify you.** Ye shall keep **the sabbath** therefore: for it is holy unto you. **Every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death:** for **whosoever** doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. **Six days** may work be done, but in the **seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to Yahvah: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day he shall surely be put to death.** Wherefore the children of Israel shall **keep the sabbath**, to observe the sabbath **throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.** It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel for ever; for in six days Yahvah made heaven and earth, and on the **seventh day He rested** and was refreshed."

This is a **perpetual covenant with Israel** and in the scriptures Romans 2:11, "For there is **no respect of persons with Yahvah.**" **What is sin for an Israelite is also sin for a Gentile. Yahvah is not a man that He should lie.**

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### BE NOT TROUBLED

by Doyle J. Carter  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Many Americans today are uneasy about the possibility of war with Iraq and terrorist attacks against this country. This uneasiness has caused many people to run to the stores and buy various items such as duct tape and bottled water. Even at the company that I am employed at, many of my co-workers are worried about the possible lay offs and pay cuts. But are we as Christians to be as disturbed by the present events? Let's see what the Word of God tells us.

In Matt. 24:6, Jesus said to his disciples, "And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled [Greek word means frighten or upset]: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

In this verse, Christ informed his disciples that they were not to be frightened or upset over wars and rumors of wars, because this may not yet be the time of the end. Like us today, they must have seen many of the events of their time as the signs of the end of the world or age.

In Matt. 25:13, Jesus told his disciples, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes." This theme is repeated in Matt. 24:36-42. These verses inform us that we may not know when His Coming may be, but we are to watch the events around us to be aware of the possible signs.

You should not to be frightened or upset when you hear of rumors of events that can disrupt your normal process in life, or even if certain events do. You should be prepared for any crisis if you are aware of the possibility of one in the future. You must depend on God to provide for your needs during any time in your life whether in good times or in bad times.

In Matt. 6:31-34, Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? Or, what shall we drink? Or where shall we be clothed? ...for your heavenly Father knows that you have need of these things. But seek you first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Take therefore no thought [anxious] for the #21

morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

In Romans 8:35-39, Paul states, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME [future events] shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I want to encourage you to place your trust in God the Father and Jesus Christ. No matter what happens in your life. Whether events in your life are good or bad, God is there to assist you and provide for your needs. You should place your trust in Him; for He is aware of your needs. Place your trust in God.

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**LESSON FROM THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD**  
by Jeff Caldwell  
Cupertino, California

Reinforced by the messages I've been hearing, one thought has been uppermost in my mind this Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread season: the thought of hastening to obey God.

"Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover" (Exodus 12:11, NIV, end of verse). Everett Fox in The Five Books of Moses renders it: "you are to eat it in trepidation -- it is a Passover-Meal to YHWH", noting: "Others, "in haste," but the element of fear is also contained in the verb (Hebrew hafoz)."

The reason given for the bread being unleavened on the Exodus has everything to do with haste, including the element of fear: "The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" So all the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing" (Exodus 12:33-34, NIV).

The reason Israelites are told to give to their children for observing the days of unleavened bread is: "I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came up out of Egypt." (Exodus 13:8, NIV) -- there is an element of haste there, mixed with fear, and isn't that the very element we ought to celebrate?

"Haste, with an element of fear" reminds me of the character of the one we call Jesus Christ. Of him it was foretold: "he will delight in the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:3). He was consumed with zeal for the house of the LORD (Psalm 69:9), seen when he cleared the temple of the moneychangers, which was near to the time of Passover (John 2:13-17). He alone, of all men, actually followed Solomon's wise advice: "Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD" (Proverbs 23:17, NIV)!

Moses instructed the Israelites: "for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste -- so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt" (Deuteronomy 16:3). Again, we see the element of haste mixed with fear and concern associated with observing the days of unleavened bread.

One verse above all others comes to mind as I consider the meaning of these days of unleavened bread. It is about the attitude of the holy one whose life is an example for Christians: "I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands" (Psalm 119:60, NIV). That, I suppose, is the attitude our Father would be pleased for all of us to emulate!

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**GOD REJECTS AN EVIL HEART**  
by Wayne Schatzle  
West Chester, Ohio

I once saw a bumper sticker which I guess was intended to be funny. It said "I'm not prejudiced I hate everyone!"

Maybe if it wasn't such a serious subject it may have been funny. To hate someone because of skin color makes a hopeless situation because there's nothing you can do about it, we're stuck with the look God gave us.

But just how important is racism? In Matthew 5, Jesus said, "Whoever would be angry with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment and if you bring a gift to the altar and remember the offense you have, leave, the gift there and go and reconcile first then come back and offer the gift."

Do we grasp the magnitude of that verse? If we are not willing to solve the racism problem in our minds, we

shouldn't waste time by going to church and save that money from the collection plate. God will not accept worship from such an evil heart. Furthermore, the Bible declares you can't love God who you have never seen, and hate your brother who you do see.

Someone has probably said by now, "That scripture doesn't apply to me -- the race I hate is not my brother." Think on this: Eve is the mother of all men, and all races as well. Eve had the capacity within her to mother all races. This is the only conclusion left to us if we believe the Bible. Also, according to a recent summary of modern biological knowledge on human racial characteristics, the difference in human genes linked to race is only .012 percent. Humans all have the cellular machinery to make them very white or very black. What color you are reflects only trivial genetic differences. In transplant surgery, an organ from a white donor can make a more acceptable match for a black patient, and vice versa.

Racism reduces people to objects of hate rather than individuals created in the image of God and blurs commendable actions of others.

In Germany, 1935, the racism theme was given legislative expression by the enactment of the Nurnberg Laws. Jews were formally excommunicated from German society--legalized racism. They were hated regardless of the kind of citizens they were.

The people who hated them were Christians --- followers of Jesus, a Jew. They venerated his mother, also a Jew, held sacred the Bible, written by Jews, and belonged to a church formed by Jews.

Can we pick and choose whom will be our object of hate and our object of love? Not so, according to that same Jesus Christ we find written about in that same Bible. Matthew 22, "You shall love God with your whole being --- this is the first great commandment and the second is like it --- you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the laws and prophets. That's amazing --- love God and others as yourself and the rest of the laws will take care of themselves.

Loving all people requires help from God, we need his Holy Spirit for us to show genuine love for others. May God speed the day when his kingdom comes and we can finally live in peace and harmony with each other.

\*\*\*\*\*#22\*\*\*\*

**SEND ORDERS TO:**

Darwin & Laura Lee  
320 N. Griffin St.  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
(701) 258-7172

**SEND ORDER TO:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com (List ID is: prayer-requests-darwin-laura)**

**HOW DO I GET ON THE NEW "PRAYER REQUESTS & UPDATE" LIST? (Instructions:)**

We cannot go in and put you on the new list. You have to put yourself on the new list, and there are 2 ways you can do that. They are as follows:

#1--Use the invitation we sent you from Coollist. That Web Site link takes you right to the place where you can sign up/join the new list. The link on the invitation can be found under: "If you would like to participate in this mailing list, please visit the following web page on the web:" Then it gives you the link. This is the easiest way for you to sign up, so if you no longer have any of the invitations that we sent to you, let me know and I will send you another one, or if you never got an invitation but would like one, please e-mail us at [Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com](mailto:Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@Juno.com) and we will send you an invitation. The subject line on the invitation reads "Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura Registration". This E-mail Prayer line is open to the general public.

#2--You can go to our Web Site at: <http://darwinlauralee.150m.com> and go into the Prayer Requests & Updates section. There is a box there where you can subscribe to our new list. You put your e-mail address in the box and click on the subscribe button, which takes you into the Coollist web site, where you would click on the "Join" button and follow the instructions. This is a little harder way of doing it.

If you still have problems getting on the new list, let me know, and I will work with you. Thank You and I am looking forward to seeing you on the new list. Editor Laura Lee

Please send your prayer request by snail mail to: Darwin & Laura Lee, PO Box 2333, Bismarck, ND 58502  
By E-mail to: [Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com](mailto:Prayer-Requests-Darwin-Laura@juno.com) By Fax to: (775) 239-2119.

**I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE PRAYER REQUESTS AND UPDATES VIA SNAIL MAIL.**

Darwin & Laura Lee      Name \_\_\_\_\_  
320 N. Griffin St.      Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Bismarck, ND 58501      \_\_\_\_\_  
(701) 258-7172      Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**THESE TAPES ARE FROM THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM IN MINNESOTA. FOR INFORMATION ON THE BUILDING BRIDGES PROGRAM YOU MAY CONTACT DALE & DONA FEHR AT [DLFehr@compuserve.com](mailto:DLFehr@compuserve.com) TAPES MAY BE ORDERED THROUGH US.**

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**OTHER TAPES**

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| _____ 1. Nimrod's Effect on the Church Today<br>Wes White 6-17-03 | _____ 2. The Hireling & the Wolf--Brian Convery (3 Tapes) |
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**CD'S**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Miracle of Hope and Nadia---2 Rich Text Files & 1 Media Player File

**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  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Garnet Hill Story (Another Case of Abuse) 28 pages

**ARTICLE REPRINTS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Is Disfellowshipping a Christian Practice?--by Arlan Weight--Issue #2  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Just Judgment Important for Local Congregations--by Darwin Lee & Norman Edwards--Issue #2  
\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Letter of Appeal--by Ned Dancuo--Issue #2  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Go To Your Brother--by Arlan Weight--Issue #2  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Passover--by Arlan Weight--Issue #3  
\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage--by Laura Lee--Issue #3  
\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Testimony of Abuse within the Church of God--by Tawanda Ray--Issue #4

**TRACTS (Article Reprints)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. UCG Attendance Policy Raises More Questions & About a Shepherd--From Servant's News--Issue #1  
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\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Are You Busy?--by Turning Point Ranch Ministries--Issue #3  
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DETAILS VIA  
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**ALL CONTACT  
INFORMATION IS  
ON PAGE #2.**

**Laura Lee (Editor)**

**HELP**

Friends:

The [BibleStudy.org](http://BibleStudy.org) Web site recently received a request from HONG KONG for a Sabbath-keeping church to attend.

After review of a few church groups lists and turning up nothing, I thought some of you could suggest a group or fellowship for the person to attend.

The man's name is Kin and he has sent questions to the site about who/what is the Holy Spirit, the "investigative" judgment, etc. He has gotten some study info from the SDA's. He left (and has decided NOT to return to) Sunday-keeping churches in February. He has been keeping the Sabbath since February and wants to attend a Sabbath-keeping "safe church" in his area.

If you could suggest or refer a potential church or group to visit in Hong Kong, it would be most appreciated. Please include any contact info you may have so that it can be passed on to this person.

Thanks friends!

\*Alan  
[BibleStudy.org](http://BibleStudy.org)

Barnabas Ministries  
PO Box 3393  
Farmington Hills, MI. 48333, USA

**A Christian's life is a progression  
from Love TO me to Love  
THROUGH me.**

**by Alan Ruth  
Farmington Hills, Michigan**