

**God's Non-Transmittable
Attributes (Part Three)
Omniscience**

by Martin G. Collins
(Charlotte, North Carolina)

PAGE 2 **Articles**

**The Mighty Grizzly –
Reproducing
After Their Own Kind**

(Copyright) by David Rives
(Tennessee)

PAGE 3 **Articles**

**Sabbath Thoughts:
Forgiven as We Forgive**

by Gary Miller
(Pocahontas, Arkansas)

PAGE 4 **Articles**

Spirit Definition

by BibleStudy.org
(Farmington Hills, Michigan)

PAGE 5 **Articles**

Private Prayer

by Betty Schatzle
(West Chester, Ohio)

PAGE 6 **Articles**

**Are You in the
True Church?**

by Wayne Schatzle
(West Chester, Ohio)

PAGE 7 **Articles**

**The Word, The Spirit and
The Church**

by Robert Schmid
(Westminster, California)

PAGE 7 **Articles**

Have Faith as a Child

Sent by Rich Daniels
(Shawano, Wisconsin)

PAGE 10 **Other Items**

Evolution

by Author Unknown
(Internet)

PAGE 10 **A Blast from the Past**

In regard to: Was the Sop Leavened or
Unleavened? (John 13:26-27)

Article by John W. Ritenbaugh

Comments by Ray Daly

(Lincoln, North Dakota) and Laura Lee
(Bismarck, North Dakota)

PAGE 11 **Iron Sharpening Iron**

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The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

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

Contributors: Author Unknown, BibleStudy.org, Martin G. Collins, Ray Daly, Rich Daniels, Laura Lee, Gary Miller, David Rives, Betty Schatzle, Wayne Schatzle, Robert Schmid

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

Articles

God’s Non-Transmittable Attributes (Part Three) Omniscience by Martin G. Collins (Charlotte, North Carolina)



God fully knows Himself and all things—seen and unseen, physical and spiritual—past, present, and future. I John 3:20 confirms this by declaring that God “knows all things.” All God’s thoughts and actions are wholly informed by His perfect knowledge and character, making Him unconditionally and eternally trustworthy (Psalm 147:5; Proverbs 8:14; Isaiah 46:10).

This fact brings us to a third non-transmittable attribute: God’s omniscience. To be omniscient means to know all things—to possess infinite knowledge. Despite all its expertise, intelligence, and achievement, humanity will never know all things, even as God’s people anticipate spending all eternity learning.

1. Does God actually perceive all things? Psalm 139:1-12; Acts 15:18; II Chronicles 16:9.

Comment: The Bible employs numerous idioms, metaphors, and literal descriptions to declare and confirm that God indeed perceives everything. He is thoroughly and intimately acquainted with His entire creation, including

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

all of the innumerable stars and each of us (Psalm 147:4). No place exists where we can hide ourselves, our thoughts, or anything from God. He knew every move David made. Anticipating our sins, He prepared a plan of salvation for us from before the foundation of the earth (Matthew 25:34; Revelation 13:8; Ephesians 1:4; I Peter 1:20). He understands our desires, intentions, and motivations—our nature—and why we make our decisions.

2. Can anything escape God’s senses? Jeremiah 32:19; Hebrews 4:12-13.

Comment: We humans discover and perceive the physical world through the five physical senses, but God designed limitations to what our senses allow us to see, grasp, discern, or understand. On the other hand, God’s senses are not limited. Since He designed and created everything, He observes the entire spectrum of light and energy, and He hears the whole range of sound. Nothing escapes His understanding.

Even though some humans have a weak intuitive sense through which some can instinctively predict the actions of others, it is only marginally accurate, especially outside a person’s limited sphere of influence. God, however, has no such constraints. His Spirit searches all things, including our most secretive thoughts (Psalm 69:5; 90:8; I Corinthians 2:10). He knows us more thoroughly and intimately than we know ourselves (Psalm 139:13-16), so predicting our future actions is but child’s play to His immeasurable intellect. This divine ability explains His confidence in men like Noah, Abraham, and Moses, and even more significantly, His willingness to lay the responsibility of His entire creation plan—including our salvation—on the shoulders of Jesus Christ (John 1:29).

3. Does God’s omniscience limit our free-will choices? Isaiah 46:9-11; Genesis 22:1-18.

Comment: Our omniscient God is sovereign over all His creation, “declaring the end from the beginning.” When we use the term “omniscient” to describe God, it does not mean that He *always* knows our every decision and action before we make them. Consider the account of Abraham and God’s command for him to sacrifice Isaac. God arranged this test to confirm His trust in Abraham as the father of the faithful and to show the rest of us the level of faith He desires.

While He possesses the power and authority to force any person’s hand in any matter, His greater priority is the development of righteous character in His children. Because He is preparing us for eternity in His Family, He has given us a vital role in our development. To that end, God prepares scenarios in our lives to facilitate and measure our growth (II Corinthians 4:17; James 1:2-4).

So, He requires us to exercise our faith and use our free will—just like Abraham—to make choices that are, by His flawless design, unpredictable. However, just as God chooses to act and intervene in history to accomplish His ends (Psalm 135:6; Proverbs 16:9; Isaiah 46:11), He always retains the right to restrain Himself from *controlling* our free will.

Indeed, our great omnipotent and omnipresent God is also omniscient. “The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable” (Isaiah 40:28).

The Mighty Grizzly – Reproducing After Their Own Kind

(Copyright) by David Rives (Tennessee)

There are eight species of bears worldwide—the Asiatic black bear, also known as the moon bear, giant panda, Malayan sun bear, sloth bear, spectacled bear, brown bear, American black bear, and polar bear. Some of these species have subspecies, such as the grizzly bear, a subspecies of the brown bear.

A couple of years ago I traveled to British Columbia, Canada and interacted with a real-life grizzly. They’re recognizable by their concave faces, the hump between their shoulders, and the lighter tips of their fur. This gives them almost a “grizzled” appearance, and that’s where the name comes from.

The hump between the grizzly bear’s shoulders is actually a mound of muscle. Grizzlies spend a lot of time digging, more than any other bear species, so that muscle comes in handy as they hunt for food in the ground and dig their dens for

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

winter. The four-inch claws don't hurt when it comes to digging either!

Many grizzly bears live in a subarctic environment where they come into contact with the largest bear in the world—the polar bear. And this contact has led to “grolar” and “pizzly” bears which are actually hybrids between grizzly and polar bears.

How is it that these two separate species can breed with one another? Well, the Bible tells us in Genesis chapter one that organisms reproduce according to their kinds. Since polar and grizzly bears are part of the bear kind—along with all the other bears I mentioned—it makes sense that they could breed together.

It also makes sense that if what the Bible says is accurate, then a hippopotamus will never be able to breed with this grizzly... it doesn't work, because they aren't the same 'kind' of animal. Basic logic and an understanding of the Biblical record gives us an advantage in nearly every field of science.

What we observe in the world confirms what we'd expect starting with the Bible—organisms reproduce according to their kinds.

I'm David Rives. Truly...the heavens declare the glory of God.

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Sabbath Thoughts: Forgiven as We Forgive

by Gary Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors...” (Matt. 6:12)



FORGIVING TRESPASSES

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you.” (Matt. 6:14,15)

WHAT FORGIVENESS REQUIRES:

“If your brother trespass against you, rebuke him; and **if he Repent**, Forgive Him and if he trespass against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to you, saying, **I repent**; you shall Forgive him.” (Lk. 17:3-4)

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

Yahshua put forgiveness in context showing how it follows repentance. Very often we hear that forgiveness is unconditional. But does Yahweh automatically forgive all human sins....without any repentance; completely unconditional?

No, not at all. Just the opposite:

- "Repent....for the remission of sin..." (Acts 2:38)
- "Repent: for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand..." (Matt. 3:2)
- "And they...preached that men should repent." (Mk. 6:12)
- "...but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." (Acts 17:30)

REPENTANCE OF SIN:

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the Law: for Sin is the Transgression of the Law." (I Jn. 3:4)

FORGIVING A DEBT:

Is payment required when a debt is made? Yes. Why? Because an unpaid debt is stealing, getting something without paying for it; doing without being accountable: "Thou shalt not steal." (Ex. 20:15)

Forgiving the debt means either the person pays his debt; or the one he owes pays the debt for him; or maybe a third party pays the debt. That is, the creditor or third party absorbs the loss.

Either way, when payment is made, the debt is forgiven. *But someone must pay.*

By law, forgiveness requires an atonement, a payment: "...the priest shall make an atonement for him as concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him." (Lev. 4:26; also 4:20,31,35; Note the guilty pays with an animal sacrifice)

THE PRIEST WHO NOW MAKES ATONEMENT:

"...We have such an high priest [Yahshua; Heb. 5:5,6]... A minister of the Sanctuary...it is of necessity that this man [Yahshua] have somewhat to Offer." (Heb. 8:1-3)

IF "...we Confess our Sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I Jn. 1:9).

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Spirit Definition

by BibleStudy.org (Farmington Hills, Michigan)

What does spirit mean in the Bible? How important is it to all conscious life in the universe? What vital role does it play in our eternal destiny?

Spirit, in the King James Old Testament, is usually derived from the Hebrew word *ruach* (Strong's Concordance #H7307). It can mean, among other things, a wind (Hosea 8:7), breath (Genesis 6:17) or mind (Genesis 26:35). The English word itself is recorded 244 times, with Isaiah utilizing it the most (37) followed by the prophet Ezekiel (26). The first recorded use of "spirit" is in the Bible's second verse.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit (*ruach*) of God moved upon the face of the waters (Genesis 1:2, KJV).

In the KJV New Testament, the word comes from the Greek *pneuma* (Strong's #G4151) that roughly means the same as *ruach*. It is found 261 times, with the book of 1 Corinthians using it the most (35), followed by Romans (29) and Acts (24). Another roughly 98 occurrences of spirit should be added to this amount as the King James erroneously translates *pneuma* as "ghost" in many verses (Matthew 1:18, 20, 3:11, etc.).

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

Spirit is the substance that comprises God's existence (John 4:24). Angels were created to possess this type of "body" along with a mind able to think, make choices and build character (Hebrews 1:7, 1 Peter 3:19). Together they live in an invisible dimension or realm that predates the physical universe (Job 38:4 - 7).

What about us?

All humans, although composed of flesh (the stuff of the physical universe), do possess a spiritual component that makes their life possible. This component, known as the "spirit in man" (Job 32:8, Zechariah 12:1, 1 Corinthians 2:11), is given by God upon conception. It, in conjunction with our brain, gives us the power of mind. It grants us the capacity (unlike animals) to think, reason, learn, create, make choices, be self-aware and so on. It also functions as a recorder of all our thoughts and choices that form our character and make us who we are.

This spirit in humans is not immortal and is not conscious upon the death of the body (Ecclesiastes 9:5). When a person dies, it goes back to God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Their spirit is kept, completely unaware of the passage of time, until the second resurrection where it is placed in a new physical body. The resurrected, which never had a full opportunity to understand God's truth, will now be offered repentance and a chance to live forever.

Doubling up

Not all humans, however, are destined for the second resurrection. Another spiritual component exists that offers the gift of rising from the dead at the return of Jesus!

When an individual is called to repentance and responds positively, they can receive God's Holy Spirit upon baptism. This spirit, which unites with the one a person already has, enables them to become a son or daughter of God (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6). It allows their minds to understanding the truth and empowers them to build righteous character as they live a life of overcoming and obedience. Those who remain faithful until death will then, at the Second Coming, be given new eternal bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35 - 54) and will help rule the world for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4, 6).

Private Prayer
by Betty Schatzle (West Chester, Ohio)

Jesus put considerable emphasis on Private Prayer (Matt 6:6). When you pray enter into your own room, shut the door and pray to your unseen Father and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.

Prayer is the highest exercise of man's spiritual nature. First of all, we need to have a certain time to meet with God personally each and every day. David chose the mornings. "In the morning, O Lord you hear my voice, in the morning I lay my request before you and wait in expectation". (Psalm 5:3). David's tie with God each morning drew him into God's heart. God honored this relationship with David by marking him as a man after his own heart (Acts 13:22). We need to make prayer a habit, at the same time each day when we will not be interrupted to spend that precious time with God.

We must expect God to meet us in our private prayer. This does not mean that we can expect God to audibly speak or show himself, but deep in our hearts feel his presence. Praying is the expression of need, trust, submission, and union with God. Whether we are praying for others or ourselves it has to be God's will on how and when he answers our prayers. We will not always get the answer we expect. For He knows what's best for us. Sometimes we need to slow down so we can hear the voice of God. Life tends to spill over in our secret time with God. We rush through our private time with him, and we cannot hear God speak. Sometimes our minds wander in the middle of our prayers and a different thought pops in. Say you're sorry to God and get back to your original thought you were praying about. God understands.

We need to be transparent with God. Before and after every important decision we should lift our hearts to God for guidance and strength. There is no other habit that will do as much to give us joy in life. David was not afraid to express his feelings during his time of prayer. "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love, according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions." (Psalm 51:1). If we are discouraged, despondent or just angry, be honest and tell God how you feel. He already knows how we feel anyway. Our willingness to be transparent with him builds a deep friendship and trust between our maker and us. Use God for all emergencies and non-emergencies. By being transparent you can unload some of the burdens and your heart will feel lighter. You can go through life hand and hand

with an all-Powerful Friend, who we can consult with about everything and have confidence in right down to the smallest detail. God loves us; let's try harder to make sure we spend enough quality secret time with him.

Are You in the *True* Church?

by Wayne Schatzle (West Chester, Ohio)

Are you in the True Church that was founded by Jesus Christ? That is an important question to ask when you consider that Jesus warned there were false brethren and false ministers. Paul had a chilling warning to the church at Corinth: "There are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ's. Marvel not! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light, therefore it is no great thing if *HIS ministers* also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness". That scripture should be a wakeup call to all of us. Consult any handbook on the various denominations and you will see literally hundreds of Christian sects and denominations. Strangely enough, few people seem to be concerned as long as they like the people and enjoy the service.

Society is not without its watchdogs to sniff out cults. There are whole shelves devoted to books listing groups to be avoided. In fact, once a person informed me, I was attending a cult. I showed him a book I had that indeed listed my church as a cult. He was overjoyed that his suspicions were reinforced in that book, but quickly lost confidence when I showed him that his church was listed just a few chapters later in that same book! Foremost cult investigator, Ruth Tucker, defines a cult as "someone else's religious group that does not agree with mine" {Strange Gospels p15}. Early books on the subject use culture differences as reasons to label groups, such as "Buchmanism" where ladies would wear colorful dresses with bare arms at religious meetings! {Heresies Exposed 1919, p58}. Another popular authority is the late Walter Martin. His definition is: "A cult is a group of people polarized around someone's interpretation of the Bible and is characterized by major deviations from orthodox Christianity..." {Martin Speaks Out on Cults p17}. That reasoning may appeal to most people, after all we all seem to agree that the majority can't be wrong, yet Jesus' words ring out that the "whole world is deceived". The trouble with the cult watchers is that they fail to realize a false church will *look* like a real church.

The Greek word, Ecclesia, translated church, is used to depict a collection of believers but never a building or organization. In fact, just two or three *true* Christians praying together on a street corner can be called a church.

A better question than "are you in the true church?" may be "are you a true Christian"? Biblically speaking, a Christian is one that has the Spirit of Christ {Rm 8:9}; keeps commandments of God and the testimony of Christ {Rev 12:17}; called out of the world {Jn. 17:16}; and of the seed of Abraham {Gal 3:29} among other things.

This ministry, from its inception has urged people not to depend on any church organization nor any man to lead them into the promised land, but to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling. There is a warning to "beware of men" throughout the New Testament. We are urged to "study to show yourself approved unto God" {2 Tim 2:15} and that the scriptures make one wise to salvation {2 Tim 3:15}.

Jesus described the way to eternal life as a narrow and difficult path- and amazingly FEW would find it! Conversely, the way to DEATH is a wide highway that many go therein {Mt 7:14}.

"...now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light. {Rm 13: 11-12}

The Word, The Spirit and The Church

by Robert Schmid (Westminster, California)

Is there any doubt in anybody's mind that this world, that we live in, is NOT the Kingdom of God? I do not believe so, for we all know that we live in a world that is not God's world, but Satan's world. Satan is the ruler of this age, and the evidence of his rule is all around us.

When Christ was on this earth, He was the light in a dark world, but after a few short years He left, to be at the right hand of God the Father in heaven.

What about the disciples He left behind? What about His disciples today, you and me? Did Christ leave us mercilessly exposed to Satan's lies and Satan's way of life, or did Christ make provision to continually be with his disciples, to give them the truth, to protect them, to comfort them and to provide the fellowship that we all need?

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

In John 16:1 Christ told His disciples *“I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away.”* Now at first this appears to be a strange statement! What did he mean? *“To your advantage!”* How can Christ’s going away be to our advantage? Let’s look at what Christ said: But first of all, just in case there is any doubt in anybody’s mind, Christ assures us that He is telling the truth, that we can trust and rely on what He is going to tell us. *“I tell you the truth,”* He said, *“that it is to your advantage that I go away!”* **Do you believe that?**

In II Cor. 10:3 Paul said: *“For though we live in the world, we are not carrying on a worldly war”.* No, our battle is not physical, requiring physical solutions; our battle is spiritual, requiring spiritual tools and spiritual solutions.

And so, Christ assured us that it is to our advantage that He, the physical Christ, would go away and in His place, He would give us the spiritual tools we would need to overcome Satan.

What then did Christ leave behind that is to our advantage that would make it possible for us to overcome Satan? In Ecclesiastes (4:12) there is a scripture that says that:

“A threefold cord is not quickly – not easily broken.”

Christ left behind such a threefold cord. A cord so strong, that Satan cannot break it, unless you and I don’t use it, unless you and I weaken it by using only one or two of its individual cords. This threefold cord Christ left behind for us, consists of:

- 1.) The WORD - The Word of God
- 2.) The HOLY SPIRIT - The Spirit of God
- 3.) The CHURCH - The Church of God

Taken and used together they are strong and unbreakable. Taken together as one, threefold, intertwined cord, they provide both the physical and the spiritual tools and weapons we need to resist the devil.

My message is that Christ left us a strong threefold cord, to resist and fight the devil, to survive in Satan’s world.

Be neglectful of one of its parts and you will have to pay a penalty. Take away one of its parts and you will surely fail.

But, if you utilize all three, the **Word, the Spirit, and the Church** you are assured of every needful thing in this life, and of eternal life in the world to come.

These God given tools, the Word, the Spirit, and the Church, are obviously big-ticket items. A sermon or two could easily be given on each of these subjects. My point is to show that all three are necessary. You must study them individually and meditate on them in detail yourself.

Now we all know from John 1 and other scripture that **Jesus Christ** is the **Word of God**. When he was on this earth, He was the **Living Word**. When He went away, He left us the **Written Word** - the Bible. Now, this complete Bible has been around for almost 2000 years and has been read and studied by millions, but we all know from experience that this Word cannot be comprehended unless God’s Spirit is within us to make it comprehensible.

Years ago, in Russia a little boy through a priest learned to memorize scripture. The boy was an exceptional student. In fact, he was so good that he received an award for being able to recite the four gospels verbatim. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John word for word.

Years later however, the priest was horrified about his pupil, for he was Nickita Khrushchev.

What’s the point? Well, it’s obvious! You can have the Word, and many do, but unless you combine it with God’s Spirit, it will do you no good, it cannot wage spiritual warfare, it cannot fight by itself the invisible Satan.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

But the Word of God in combination, in unity with the Spirit of God, is a powerful weapon. Jesus Christ used both when He was tempted by Satan. Remember, Christ quoted scripture with the true, spiritual meaning and intent of the Word. Satan, in contrast, also used and quoted scripture, but without the Spirit of God, and thereby wrest the Word of God to his own destruction.

So, the **Word of God** must be combined with the **Spirit of God**. But God knew that even with His Word and His Spirit we would be vulnerable because we humans are greatly influenced by the company we keep and the people we associate with.

We not only desire, but we need fellowship - interaction with other people. And so, Christ fulfilled His promise and provided for us. Before He left, He not only made God’s Spirit available, but He established the **Church of God** on the day of Pentecost.

Can you imagine having the Word of God and God’s Spirit but nobody to share it with? No, God knew! After all He made us. And He made us the social creatures that we are, in need of like-minded fellowship. Can you imagine being without the Church!

That would be like being without a mother. You wouldn’t know where you came from or where you belonged. There would be nobody that teaches you and protects you. Who would give you constant attention, always be there, feeding you with the Word of God according to the Spirit of God!

Can you see how the **Word, the Spirit, and the Church** work together? Can you see the necessity of the complete threefold cord Christ left behind for us?

In the July/August 1996 issue of the Good News magazine, the cover story is entitled, “When you need a friend.” It speaks of the role the Church plays in providing essential fellowship.

Take for example if you have to move, especially if you lived all your life in one place and whatever family and friends you have must be left behind. As you begin a new life in a new community, you immediately enter a Church family there, providing you with fellowship and the opportunity to continue to grow spiritually.

Over the centuries man has tried to find his way without the Word of God only to become utterly lost. They have called upon substitute spirits and Satan has answered their prayers. And they most certainly have created their own churches, and their own religions, throwing the world into hopeless and utter confusion.

But Christ said: “I will build my Church” and He did. Unfortunately, some have found the true Church of God, only to be drawn away again, and some, even though in the Church of God, are not really there either.

That is tragic, for you see we all need to be there, we all need each other, for every one of us is a vital part contributing to make us strong, to make it possible for us to overcome Satan and his world. **With the threefold cord of God’s Word, His Spirit and His Church we can’t lose.**

On the other hand, if we neglect one of the three, we expose ourselves and become vulnerable to Satan’s attacks.

Remember Christ’s words before He ascended to heaven:

“I tell you the truth” he said, *“it is to your advantage that I go away”*. Why is it to our advantage? Because He knew that He would leave us the **Word of God - the truth**, the **Spirit of God - His power**, and the **Church of God for fellowship** - a threefold cord that cannot be easily broken. Let’s take full advantage of all the gifts God has given to us.

Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022

Pentecost – June 5, 2022

Trumpets - September 26, 2022

Atonement – October 5, 2022

Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022

Last Great Day – October 17, 2022

Other Items

Have Faith as a Child

Sent by Rich Daniels (Shawano, Wisconsin)

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20

Does this count?



It doesn't matter how many people you send this to, just remember if it made you smile, your friends will smile too.

A Blast from the Past

Evolution

by Author Unknown (Internet)

One day a 6-year-old girl was sitting in a classroom. The teacher was going to explain evolution to the children.

THE TEACHER ASKED A LITTLE BOY: Tommy do you see the tree outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

TEACHER: Tommy, do you see the grass outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

TEACHER: Go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 23, 2021 --- Issue No. 38

TOMMY: Okay. (He returned a few minutes later.) Yes, I saw the sky.

TEACHER: Did you see God?

TOMMY: No.

TEACHER: That's my point. We can't see God because He isn't there. He doesn't exist.

A little girl spoke up and wanted to ask the boy some questions.

THE TEACHER AGREED AND THE LITTLE GIRL ASKED THE BOY: Tommy, do you see the tree outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

LITTLE GIRL: Tommy do you see the grass outside?

TOMMY: Yessssss (getting tired of the questions by this time).

LITTLE GIRL: Did you see the sky?

TOMMY: Yessssss.

LITTLE GIRL: Tommy, do you see the teacher?

TOMMY: Yes.

LITTLE GIRL: Do you see her brain?

TOMMY: No.

LITTLE GIRL: Then according to what we were taught today in school, she must not have one!

(This article has been updated and re-printed from "The Church of God Messenger" March/April 2001—Issue No. 2)

Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Was the Sop Leavened or Unleavened? **(John 13:26-27)**

Article by John W. Ritenbaugh

Comments by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota) and Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Ray writes:

In response to your pointing out that (para.) "I sometimes said that the Passover meal was eaten on the 14th, AND on the 15th". If you check you will see that the Passover meal was eaten on the evening of the 14th, and in the case of Jesus, the meal was a stew. But I also mention that the LAMB was not eaten until after sunset on the evening of the 15th. Thus, the reference to Passover related only to the Lamb.

Laura writes:

This is all mixed up if you are going to teach people anything you have to pick one and stick to it unless you find it is wrong. In the above paragraph you seem confused. By your own admission you have said the Passover meal was eaten on the 14th or on the 15th. Which is it? The lamb is the Passover meal and I see nothing that says Christ ate a stew. Where is that in scripture?

Ray writes:

It wouldn't be of much use to mention that the washing of the feet, for those becoming believers was a "one time only" practice. For, it was this washing of the feet that was the same as the "second baptism".

Laura writes:

What second baptism with water? Where is it in the Bible that foot washing is considered to be a second baptism? Where are you finding this?

Ray writes:

If you look it up in Strong's, then you would find that "washing/baptizing" meant "the WHOLE or the PART of the body.

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Laura writes:

And if you want to teach you should give your proof. Some words have many Strong's numbers with different meanings, which Strong's number do you want me to look up.

Ray writes:

Note that when Paul encountered the "brother" when coming to Ephesus, he had already been baptized (totally immersed) by Paul. But it says Paul "baptized him again". What Paul did was to "baptize/immerse" his feet. This goes back to my explanation of total immersion allowing one to serve only in the outer court of the temple. But the washing of the total immersion of the feet allowed for entry into the outer room. Where the 7 churches are pictured.

Laura writes:

Paul in Ephesus

Act 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Act 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Act 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Act 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Act 19:5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Act 19:6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Act 19:7 And all the men were about twelve.

Act 19:8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Act 19:9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

Act 19:10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

This set of scripture is talking about baptism by immersion there is nothing in any of this about washing anyone's feet. One baptism is by immersion, and one is by the Holy Spirit. There is no baptism of feet.

Ray writes:

When Jesus said to "do this in remembrance of me", he was telling them to "wash the feet of new believers", just as he had washed theirs. Only once.

Laura writes:

What Christ is saying is that if you do not wash one another's feet, you are no part of Christ. Take it or leave it. It has nothing to do with new believers getting a onetime foot washing.

Joh 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, **If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.**

Joh 13:14 **If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.**

If you do not start sending the proof of what you say such as scripture or what book you are getting your strange ideas from, we will stop printing most of what you send. Like the stew, where are you getting that from. If it is true, then you should be able to tell us where you are getting this idea from. I am not saying that everything you send here for print is wrong but some of it is just plain not true unless you can prove it via scripture or some other source. SEND PROOF FOR WHAT YOU SAY.