

Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

February 2001

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Galatians 1:3-5) Thank the Lord that He has provided a way that we can be delivered from this evil world. This world is winding down, and will soon be replaced by a new and improved one. I pray that each of us will find our home there. Very soon, according to Bible prophecy, troubles are coming upon this world greater than we could ever imagine. I pray that each of us will be ready to stand in that great day. I pray that this paper will help you in some way to become more prepared for that final struggle between good and evil.

The Time of Jacob's Trouble

by Lynnford Beachy

We want to study about Jacob's trouble, but first let us look at Christ's experience, for it helps clarify the true meaning of Jacob's trouble.

When Jesus became a man He laid aside what He was made of and was made in the likeness of men. Paul wrote of Christ, *"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made Himself of no reputation [emptied Himself (RSV)], and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."* (Philippians 2:6, 7) At Christ's birth on earth, He did not retain the memory He had when He was with His Father. Throughout Christ's childhood His Father was revealing more and more to Him until He exclaimed to His earthly parents, *"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"*

Jesus had learned, from the Scriptures and what His Father revealed to Him, that He was the Son of God. As the years went on, through studying and His Father revealing more to Him, He was able to remember when He had been with His Father. He said, *"For the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father. His disciples said unto Him, Lo, now speakest thou plainly, and speakest no proverb."* (John 16:27-29) Jesus was telling His disciples of the time when He was with His Father.

Of Christ, Luke wrote, *"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him."* (Luke 2:40) *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."* (Luke 2:52) His wisdom increased as He put more of God's Word in His mind, and as His Father gave Him back His memory a little at a time. Let us take a look at how Christ's learning experiences have an impact upon us and our experiences.

Choose the Good

When we choose evil over the good, we are developing a habit, and it becomes harder and harder for us to choose the good over the evil. The result of this is that our moral strength is weakened and we do not have as much strength to face our next temptation. However, when we choose the good over the evil, we will have more strength to face the next temptation. We should take every opportunity to strengthen our moral faculties by choosing the good over the evil.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Questions and Answers..... page 5

Digital Video Project..... page 6

Letters from our Readers..... page 7

by Lynnford Beachy

Jesus never chose the evil over the good, which means that with each right decision He made, He had more moral strength to face His next temptation. This resulted in a man that had an incredible amount of moral power, because none of His moral strength was lost and the moral power He had was continually getting stronger. What does this tell us? Did Jesus have it much easier than us, because He had a much greater amount of moral strength? No! Remember the verse in 1 Corinthians 10:13. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* God promises us that He will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able.

Jesus, with His great moral strength, was able to endure much more severe trials and temptations than you and I are able. With each passing temptation, we have the opportunity to become closer to God. If we take this opportunity our characters will more closely resemble that of the Divine character. The reason we are tempted, is so that it will refine our characters. *"Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."* (James 1:3) *"Wherein ye greatly rejoice though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 1:6, 7) *"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."* (Romans 5:3-5)

Jesus was allowed to suffer temptations which strengthened Him to endure His final trial. The trial He was to face was much more severe than the trials any of us will face, yet He was ready for the struggle because He had a greater amount of moral strength. All of Christ's life on earth, God was preparing Him for this final struggle. Christ would not have been ready to endure the trial twenty-five years earlier, but was in need of yet more refining. He was made *"perfect through sufferings."* (Hebrews 2:10) God is also preparing us for something. We are allowed to go through temptation and tribulation so that we can become more and more ready to endure the final trial of our faith.

When the time was come for Jesus to bear the sins of us all, He had an incredible amount of moral strength that was able to endure the immense weight of our sins. At this time of great distress, Satan came at Jesus with everything he had. With the almost unbearable feeling of guilt that

our sins brought to the Saviour, He was tempted to believe that it would forever shut Him out of heaven. He was tempted to believe that He would never see His Father's face again. With bitter anguish these words were wrung from His lips, *"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matthew 27:46)

Every outward evidence was telling Jesus that He was forsaken. It was by faith alone that He clung to the promises of His Father's love and acceptance. This, my friends, is a feeble portrayal of Christ's final struggle. His temptations were much greater than we will ever have to endure.

Ye shall drink of the cup

One day a woman came to Christ desiring a certain thing. Matthew wrote, *"Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping Him, and desiring a certain thing of Him. And He said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto Him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto Him, We are able. And He saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father."* (Matthew 20:20-23)

What was Jesus talking about when He said that His disciples were going to drink of the cup that He was going to drink of? Where in the Bible does it talk about a cup that Jesus drank of? Mark wrote, *"And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and He saith to His disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. And He taketh with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. And He went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt."* (Mark 14:32-36)

This cup that Jesus was talking about was not a literal cup, but represented an experience He went through. He tells us we will take part in the same experience He encountered. As we learned before, Christ was able to endure much more temptation than we are able to because of His greater moral power. Christ had much moral strength and His temptation was in proportion to His strength. Our moral strength is less, and our temptations are in proportion to our strength because God does not allow us to be

tempted above what we are able. The struggle Christ went through is very similar to the struggle we will go through. We will drink of the cup, but Christ drank all of the cup, even to the dregs.

The Cup of Trembling

The cup that Christ was referring to represented the experience of guilt and the separation that sin makes between God and man.

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2) At the garden of Gethsemane, when the sins of us all were placed upon Him, Christ fully realized the separation that sin makes between God and man. This separation caused Him to cry out in anguish, *"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me."* (Matthew 27:46)

This is the cup that Jesus told us we will drink of. We will experience that same separation, and feel forsaken of God. Our only hope will be to cling to the promises of God by faith alone. It was by faith that Christ overcame the world, and it is only by faith that we will overcome the world. *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."* (1 John 5:4)

Clearly, we can see that the cup we will drink of is referring to the experience Christ had just prior to His death. The Bible calls this experience *"the time of Jacob's trouble."*

"For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? Wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:5-7) Praise the Lord for His mercy. He not only has warned us of the struggle we will have to face, but He has promised that we will be *"saved out of it."* Not saved from experiencing it, but saved through it. Remember that blessed promise.

We shall drink of the cup of the Lord, but He will not allow us to drink it to the dregs. We shall drink of the cup that Christ drank of, but Christ drank the cup completely. We will only taste of the cup, yet this taste will be so severe that the Bible calls it *"the time of Jacob's trouble."*

Notice what the Bible tells us about this cup: *"Thus saith thy Lord the LORD, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of His people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again: But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul,*

Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over." (Isaiah 51:22, 23)

We see from these verses that God will take the dregs of the cup out of our hands and give it to the wicked. The experience of guilt, separation and being forsaken will finally be given to the wicked, and they will realize that their case is closed and that they are forever lost. This will be a terrible feeling and will outrage them.

"For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the LORD's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me: To wit Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, ... and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth." (Jeremiah 25:15-18, 26) The wicked will drink of the cup, which is the experience of feeling forsaken and separated from God forever. May God keep us from such an experience.

God's servants will be a cup of trembling to the wicked. *"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."* (Zechariah 12:2, 3)

Those who have thought they were doing the will of God, and now realize that they are lost, will be ashamed when they behold *"the remnant of Israel [who] shall not do iniquity."* (Zephaniah 3:13) God's people will then be a cup of trembling to all those round about them. For the Scripture says, *"he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked."* (Proverbs 29:27)

Reaction of Professed Leaders

"Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes, ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel. And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape. A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, shall be heard: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture." (Jeremiah 25:34-36)

Here is a picture of the reaction of those who have neglected to take the opportunity of advancing with increased light and turning from every cherished sin. They have appeased their flocks with cries of peace and safety. They have fed their flocks lies of a secret rapture, giving them a false hope. [For more information concerning the

erroneous doctrine of the secret rapture, please request the October 1999 issue of *Present Truth* containing the study entitled "The Millennium"] They have refused to enter the kingdom and hindered those who were seeking entrance. These have held on to their sins too long, and now comes the stark realization that they are forever separated from the God whom they have professed to love. Probation has closed for them, and the cup they are drinking is a horrible one.

"For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and He poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them." (Psalm 75:8) All of the wicked will drink of the same cup that Christ drank of and that His people will drink of.

Of the wicked Job said, *"His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty."* (Job 21:20) The cup they are drinking is seeing their own destruction, and the knowledge that they are forever shut out from the presence of the Lord. *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou shalt drink of thy sister's cup deep and large: thou shalt be laughed to scorn and had in derision; it containeth much. Thou shalt be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of thy sister Samaria."* (Ezekiel 23:32, 33)

The wicked that drink of this cup will be filled with sorrow, astonishment and desolation. *"Waters of a full cup are wrung out to them."* (Psalm 73:10)

"Upon the wicked He shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup." (Psalm 11:6) The worst part of the destruction of the wicked is their realization that they are going to die and never come back again; knowing that they had a chance for life everlasting.

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture [undiluted] into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (Revelation 14:9-11)

Those who drink of the wine of the wrath of God that is poured out undiluted will experience the weight of their sins, and will feel completely forsaken and hopeless. They will have no rest day or night while they reflect on their miserable life.

Final Separation from God

The feeling of being separated from God is the most miserable and terrifying feeling that anyone can experience. This is the cup Christ drank of, and this is the cup that His people will drink of just prior to their deliverance from this world. This is also the cup that those who have neglected to submit their lives wholly to Christ, so that He could subdue all their iniquities (Micah 7:19), will have to drink of. The wicked also, who never acknowledged God in their thoughts, will drink of this cup.


"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts." (Psalm 10:4) This verse does not say that God is not in *any* of his thoughts, but that God is not in *all* his thoughts. Is God in all your thoughts, or just in some of them? God wants all our thoughts to be focused on Him, and everything we do to be done for Him. God's remnant people will have God in all of their thoughts.

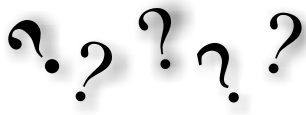
We must strive with every part of our being to be part of the *"remnant of Israel [who] shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth."* (Zephaniah 3:13)

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5) What mind, or type of thinking, did Christ have in Him? His Father spoke to Him, describing His thinking, saying, *"Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."* (Hebrews 1:9)

Christ hates sin, and He longs to impart to us that same hatred for sin. May God give us that same hatred for sin that we will not tolerate sin of any kind to taint our garments. *"Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."* (Psalm 119:133)

There is a final struggle that we will go through before the Lord returns for us, and it will be such as we have never experienced before, neither have any before us experienced it in the same way we will. If we want to know what we will soon face, we need to look at the experience Christ went through just prior to His death. Oh, dear friends, truly *"It is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you."* *"Break up your fallow ground."* (Hosea 10:12) *"Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near."* (Isaiah 55:6)

My friend, you have a choice now, whether to give your life to God and be saved even through Jacob's trouble, or to forsake God and suffer the bitter consequences of your choice. God is pleading with you now to give your life to Him in complete surrender, for He has *"no pleasure in the death of the wicked."* (Ezekiel 33:11) 



Questions and Answers

by Lynnford Beachy



Question:

"I can see how Saturday is the seventh day... I've come to realize that in order to fellowship with Christians of other denominations, Sunday is the only day that I can. This is the only day they meet. I've come to understand that it's not worth arguing over a day of the week... Can you show me where it is said that I must go to church service on any Sabbath day? Please do not use 'let us not forsake the assembly.' This is too vague." *New Hampshire*

Answer:

You wrote that you do not see the issue as being worth arguing over a day of the week. If it is just an issue of a day of the week, then I would agree with you whole heartedly. However the Bible brings out that it is much more than that. God must be quite concerned about this particular day of the week since He rested on that day from creation. He blessed and hallowed that day and He commanded us to keep it holy. In fact, when a man in Exodus went out to gather sticks on that day, contrary to the commandment, God required that he would be put to death. *"Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death."* (Exodus 31:15) That is very serious. We are not living under a theocracy as they were, and therefore capital punishment for disobedience to the first four commandments is no longer in effect. However, we can see that God is serious about which day we keep. In fact, it is not possible to keep holy the first day of the week, because it was never holy to begin with.

Regarding not having any Christians with which to fellowship on Saturday, it is true that most Christians gather on Sunday rather than Sabbath.

However, I am sure if you look around you will find some who worship on Sabbath. Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* (Matthew 18:20) There are many Sabbath-keeping groups around the country.

You are right that the majority of Christians honor Sunday rather than Sabbath. I do not see that it is a sin to meet with these people on Sunday, which I have done many times. Usually I do so with the intent of sharing the light of the Sabbath with them. It is a sin to work on Sabbath, and that is what the world is trying to get us to do. I believe this issue will become more prominent in the future when the Mark of the Beast will be enforced.

You brought up a very good point regarding the Sabbath. It is very clear in the Bible that the seventh day of the week (Saturday) is the Sabbath, and that this day is a day of rest. However it is not as clear regarding worship.

If the only purpose for the Sabbath is to rest our weary bodies, why not one day in six, or one day in eight. I mean, if one day in seven is good, then one day in six would be just as good, especially if you happen to work harder and need more rest. The yearly cycle is determined by the rotation of the earth around the sun. The monthly cycle is determined by the rotation of the moon around the earth. The daily cycle is determined by the rotation of the earth itself. There is no reason for the weekly cycle other than the fact that God instituted it at the creation of this earth. It is a commemoration of God's creative power in creating the world.

"It [the Sabbath] is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed." (Exodus

31:17) God was refreshed. How was He refreshed? Was He weary? Certainly not. *"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."* (Isaiah 40:28)

God was not refreshed because He was weary. However, He was refreshed on the Sabbath. What refreshed Him? I believe He was refreshed because of His fellowship with His new creation. I also believe He wishes to be refreshed in this way every Sabbath, and He wants us to be refreshed by fellowship with Him as well.

God gave Ezekiel a plan (which was never carried out) for a sanctuary in which God would be more accessible on the Sabbath. *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; The gate of the inner court that looketh toward the east shall be shut the six working days; but on the sabbath it shall be opened, and in the day of the new moon it shall be opened."* (Ezekiel 46:1) In this plan God's people were expected to worship God on the Sabbath. *"Likewise the people of the land shall worship at the door of this gate before the LORD in the sabbaths and in the new moons."* (Ezekiel 46:3) Here we have clear evidence that one of the purposes of the Sabbath was for the worship of God.

In Leviticus 23:3 we read, *"Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an holy convocation [בִּקְרָא "public meeting" or "assembly" (Strong's)]; ye shall do no work therein: it is the sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings."* The Sabbath is a convocation for public meetings or assemblies.

It was the custom of Jesus to enter into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. *"And he 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 for to read." (Luke 4:16) Jesus taught in the synagogue on the Sabbath. "And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught." (Mark 1:21) "And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue." (Mark 6:2) "And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered." (Luke 6:6)

Paul also went into the synagogue on the Sabbath. "But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down." (Acts 13:14) Of Paul it is written, "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." (Acts 16:13) "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures." (Acts 17:2) "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." (Acts 18:4)

The Scriptures were read on the Sabbath day. "For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day." (Acts 15:21) After Paul preached on the Sabbath to the Jews, the Gentiles asked him to preach to them the next Sabbath, "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath... And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." (Acts 13:42, 44) If there was no link between rest, worship of God, and assembling on the Sabbath, then the Gentiles should have asked Paul to preach to them the next day, on Sunday the first day of the week, or on some other day, but they waited a whole week for the next Sabbath day.

God says that the Sabbath is His day, not ours. It is true that the Sabbath was made for man—made for his benefit, but that does not change the fact that it is God's holy day. "Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death." (Exodus 31:15) The Sabbath is holy to the Lord, not holy for ourselves. "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words." (Isaiah 58:13) We are to consider the Sabbath as the holy of the Lord, and honour Him on that day.

"And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning." (Exodus 16:23) You cannot have "the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord" on any other day than the day which He blessed and made holy. You can see here that the rest is unto the Lord, not unto ourselves. There is no other day that will do as a substitute for this holy Sabbath day, no matter how eloquent a man may preach otherwise.

Also, it is clear here that the Sabbath and worship are linked in the fact that we are to participate in "the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the Lord." If this just meant physical rest for our own bodies alone, then many heathens and pagans have kept the Sabbath just as truly as any Jew or Christian ever did. Yet it is clear that this is not the case. From the testimony of Scripture it is clear that the Sabbath was designed for man to rest from earthly cares and devote himself to honoring, worshiping, and fellowshiping with God. I hope this helps to answer your questions. 

DIGITAL VIDEO PROJECT

With the Lord's help, we were able to acquire some digital video equipment and have begun production on a series of messages entitled: "The Good News About God." This series is designed to cover the basic issues concerning the truth about God and its relationship to the gospel. These messages will be presented by David Clayton, Lynnford Beachy, and Allen Stump.

We thank and praise our heavenly Father for providing this equipment to help us find another avenue with which to reach souls with the gospel presentation!

A current list of the titles we are planning for the series, "The Good News About God" are:

- The Love of God
- Who is the God of the Bible?
- The Father and the Son
- The Death of Christ
- The Holy Spirit
- Answers to Trinitarian Objections
- The Roots of the Trinity
- The Spirit of Antichrist

The message, "Who is the God of the Bible?" is now finished and available for distribution. We hope to have the message, "The Love of God" ready by next month and the rest of the titles to follow in quick succession.

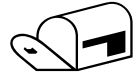
The digital format allows production with quality that is at least 25% clearer than Super VHS. The digital editing provides us with the ability to superimpose captions, Bible texts, and quotations on the screen while the minister is speaking. Multiple sound tracks, and video layering with "pip" (picture in picture) effects are just some of the advantages of being able to digitally edit.

Our goal has been to enhance the presentation without overdoing the effects to the point where they are dwelt upon and the message becomes secondary.

(Continued on page 8)



Letters from our Readers



“Please remove us from your mailing list.” *California*

“I want to tell you how good *Present Truth* is. The ‘Questions and Answers’ was wonderful and I’m going to save it as I do all the papers from Smyrna. The question could Jesus have sinned was explained like I have never heard it before. ‘Sinful Flesh’ was very interesting by Jones. I like his writings and I think you must also. The way he says the ‘Holy Spirit of God’ is very good... I don’t know if I can put into words what I’m trying to write but I will try. I’m so thankful for you and one of the reasons is that you are right on with the truth and not off in left field somewhere.”

Arkansas

“I would like to receive your newsletter *Present Truth*... May God continue to bless you, your family and your ministry, ‘Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.’ 2 John 3.”

Australia

“Recently I was introduced to your website by a friend. I am interested in getting the books that you have listed there. How do I arrange for payment.”

E-mail Contact

“It has been a while. I wish to maintain our communication. May the LORD YHVH encourage you and strengthen you in Him. I have used your material in cut and paste applications in e-mails. This is very convenient. Thank you for these works. Keep your eyes towards Him. Believe on Him whom the Father has sent!”

Canada

“I would like to order several copies of your book ‘The Formulation of the Doctrine of the Trinity.’ My husband and I have been researching this topic a lot, and we believe as you, Allen Stump, etc., do. We are so glad that God has seen fit to bestow us with this light. I look forward to your reply about getting a hold of your book.”

Australia

“Thank you, I would like to be on your mailing list.”

New Zealand

“Dear Friend, I’ve been reading the book *America in Prophecy* and found it to be a very enlightening book. I will be very thankful if you can provide me with a copy of this book in Spanish. May the Lord keep blessing your ministries and you personally.”

Pennsylvania

(We now have this book available in Spanish. *Editor*)

“Thank you very much for the letter you mailed me. I am interested in *Present Truth*.”

E-mail Contact

“[One of] the most important papers that came through my mail today [is] *Present Truth*. The articles are very uplifting and informative... Please keep up the good work. May God bless each of you as you work for Him.”

Colorado

“One of my Christian mates had some of your reading materials and I asked him for your address.

Please send me the book *America in Prophecy* and other reading materials or books that will be helpful in my life... I admit that I got away from God and it almost cost me my life.

Thank God He saved me! I didn’t have my shield of armor on and Satan tried to take advantage of it. Now I wear it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! I’ve accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and I want to continue to build my relationship with Him. To grow in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord! Thank you for your time and God bless. God Is Good All The Time.”

New Jersey

“Isn’t God Good!!!! I just wanted to take a minute and order a few things. First of all here are some names to receive *Present Truth*... Do you have a complete Bible Study series? If so please include a set. Enclosed is my check to cover expenses and for the ministry. May God continue to bless you.”

Ohio

(Yes, we have two English Bible Study courses and one Spanish course. If you would like to participate in any of these courses, please let us know. *Editor*)

“Please delete our address from your files as we do not wish to receive your publications. Thank you.” *California*

“Can you send me a copy of your book. Thank you.”

Alabama

“I am really enjoying the January 2001 *Present Truth* issue. It is great and convicting me up and down. I am guilty of flesh problems and to finally read about it and to know what to do. I really do appreciate all your articles.”

Arizona

“I enjoy reading your studies which you send to me. Also, I tend to agree with most of what you write. Lately you’ve devoted much detail to the Sabbath day. From what I’ve read, I can see that you’re under attack from many denominations on Sunday vs. Sabbath relationship or Sabbath day abolishment. I understand that Constantine changed the Sabbath because of his Apollos worship in the early A.D.s. I can see how Saturday is the seventh day. I can also see how employers in this country make it difficult to take Saturday off to rest. Sunday was made tradi-

tionally [the] Sabbath to keep everyone working on the same six days. At least, I see it this way. I can see why other denominations changed it to Sunday in their own minds, convincing themselves that our Lord, Jesus Christ, rose again on a Sunday, however this is all disputable also. I've come to realize that in order to fellowship with Christians of other denominations, Sunday is the only day that I can."

New Hampshire

"Greetings in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... We would love to receive the *Present Truth* newsletter, and any other publications you care to send us. We will support your ministry as it is exactly what we would like to do. We agree 100% with what we've read about you so far."

Australia

"Receive my greetings in Book of Philemon 1:4, 5. I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers. Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus and toward all saints... Please try to send us the new magazine (*Present Truth*) and [Bible] lessons [which are] very important to us. I hope to get a reply very soon. My Lord bless you all. I am sending to you Christian greetings. We wish you a richly blessed, healthy and happy year 2001."

Rwanda

("Digital Video Project" Continued from page 6)

While these messages have been produced primarily for the video tape format, there will be audio cassettes available as well.

We are also exploring the possibility of making these messages available in audio CD format and a video version on CD-ROM for computer usage. In addition to this, we are considering the possibility of making these messages available in DVD format as well. Your feedback concerning this would be greatly appreciated.

You may request a copy of the new tape, "Who is the God of the Bible?" by phone, fax, e-mail, or postal mail. The tape is sent free upon request. For those who are able *and* wish to help with the expenses, the cost of video tape production and postage is \$7.00 U.S.—\$10.00 outside the U.S. The cost of audio production and postage is \$2.00 U.S.—\$4.00 outside the U.S.

Editor

Present Truth is published monthly by *Smyrna Gospel Ministries*. It is sent free upon request. Duplication of these papers is not only permitted but strongly encouraged. *Present Truth* is available online at <http://www.present-truth.net>.

Editor: Lynnford Beachy, HC 64 Box 128-B, Welch, West Virginia 24801, phone: (304) 732-9204, fax: (304) 732-7322, e-mail: berean@present-truth.net.

Present Truth

HC 64 Box 128-B
Welch, West Virginia 24801
U.S.A.

Address Service Requested

**Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Welch WV
Permit No. 35**