

Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

September 2008

“Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth” (2 Thessalonians 1:2, 3). I pray that your faith is growing exceedingly, for you will need it to be strong so that you can endure the trials that are just ahead, as this world is going to drastically change very soon.

Camp Meeting Reminder: *God’s Word, God’s Way* is hosting a camp meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, September 24-28. For directions and details, please contact Cheryl Bonner at 216-225-9400 or Willis Smith at 216-334-4414.

Misprint Notice: Last month we printed a list of those who are hosting public meetings where Lynnford Beachy will be speaking. In that list we included a meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, hosted by Pat Kroeger. This was a mistake. Pat is not hosting any public meetings. We are sorry for the misprint.

Preparing for the End

by Lynnford Beachy

Financial instability, economic collapse, an astounding number of natural disasters, wars, diseases, and religious turmoil all point to an impending crisis on the horizon. Everyone seems to be expecting a catastrophic event that will change the world as we know it. Are you ready for such a change? What can be done to prepare for this crisis?

We could hide our heads in the sand and pretend nothing is going on. But the Bible informs us: “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished” (Proverbs 22:3). The simple approach, to ignore the problem, can have some drastic consequences. It is much better to foresee what is coming, and hide ourselves.

There is a biblical precedent to prepare for hard times. God revealed to Pharaoh that there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine, and God used Joseph to prepare for the seven years of famine.

Physical Preparations

There are a few practical things we can do to avoid difficulties during the upcoming crisis. One important measure to take in light of the instability of the banking system is, do not go into debt. If you are in debt do not go into anymore debt, and seek to free yourself of your existing debt. This may take drastic measures, such as selling some of your belongings to pay your debt, or mortgaging in such a way that at least your home is clear of debt.

The Bible says, “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7). In years gone by, borrowers were put into prison, or even taken as

servants until the debt is paid. Do not think that bankruptcy will bail you out. Bankruptcy laws are changing, and you could still be held accountable for your debts. Not only that, but you have a moral obligation to do what is right. “The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth” (Psalms 37:21).

If your bank collapses with your money in it, it may be difficult or impossible to recover your money, so you may wish to keep your money elsewhere. Many large banks are in serious trouble. You may wish to switch to a local credit union instead of a bank.

You may also wish to get rid of some of your belongings that are not necessary, and trade them for things more necessary, both for yourself and for others. Determine the difference between your wants and your needs. “There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt” (Ecclesiastes 5:13).

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Jones on Righteousness (Part 3) page 3

by Alonzo T. Jones

Upcoming Meetings in Your Area page 6

Keeping God’s Commandments (Part 4) page 7

by Joseph Lahud

Beachy Travels Update page 10

by Lynnford Beachy

Something for the Young at Heart page 11

Radio Announcement. page 12

Another important measure to be taken is to leave the cities. There are only a few days worth of food in a city, and if food supplies are limited, the cities will be the first to feel the crunch. Also, it takes a large amount of water to sustain an entire city. If you are dependent upon someone else to supply your food and water you will be more easily controlled. Cities can, and most likely will, be closed to incoming and outgoing traffic in a crisis.

Jesus warned His disciples to leave the city of Jerusalem before it was destroyed. Those who stayed in the city were trapped, with limited access to food and water, and they became victims of some of the most horrific violence and hardship. Those outside the city were relatively free from these hardships. Country living allows greater access to food and water. You can grow your own food, or find edible wild plants, and naturally occurring water is much more plentiful than in the city.

It would also be helpful to learn what you can eat in the wild. Some people starve in the wilderness while there is a plentiful supply of food all around, but they didn't know what they could eat. It is easier to acquire immobile edible plants than to try to hunt animals that try to escape.

The Essential Preparation

You could live in a country home with your own garden, solar electricity, spring water, an ample supply of wood for heating, and plenty of food, yet you could become a victim of hardship. "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death" (Proverbs 11:4).

Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:15-21).

If you are not rich toward God, if you do not have a strong connection to Him, it does not matter how much physical preparation you have made, you could lose it all in a moment. "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch" (Proverbs 11:28).

Hiding in the Time of Trouble

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Proverbs 22:3). We are counseled to foresee the evil and hide ourselves.

God instructs us, "Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger" (Zephaniah 2:3). To be hidden in the time of trouble, we are counseled to seek the Lord, to seek righteousness. This agrees with what Jesus said about acquiring our earthly needs. He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

To be hidden in the time of trouble we could hide ourselves in a cave, or on a mountain top, but is that the hiding it is referring to?

God said, "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast" (Isaiah 26:20). There is a hiding place we are instructed to utilize, but where is that place?

There is some excellent comfort and strength to be found in Psalm 91. It says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation" (Psalms 91:1-16).

To truly be hidden in the time of trouble, we must set our love upon God and make Him our refuge and habitation, then we have nothing to fear. God will give His angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways. God sent ravens to feed Elijah in a famine. He made water come out of a rock in the desert for the Israelites. He caused containers of flour and oil not to go empty during a famine in Elijah's day. God has a thousand ways to provide for us that we have never


even thought about. But He will not do these miracles for us if we turn our backs on Him and His instructions. It doesn't matter how many earthly provisions we have stored up, if we have not made the most important preparations of establishing a close relationship with God all your provisions are in vain.

God is able to get you out of any situation. I read an amazing story of some Christians in Russia who were instructed by God to flee the country before the really hard times hit. They traveled over 1,000 miles to China to escape persecution, and they did this by heeding God's instruction at every turn. God told them to turn down an alley, and they would go, only to find out that an army was marching down the road they had just left. This type of thing happened over and over. God told them when to go, how to go, and where to go, and they made it safely into China. God is powerful, and can see you through any circumstances, but He must have your heart as His throne. You must be willing to follow His instructions even if they do not make sense to you. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (James 4:8).

Final Considerations

Jesus admonished, "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it" (Luke 17:33). Check your motives for what you are doing. Are you seeking to preserve your earthly life, or are you seeking to preserve your eternal life? Are you working to help others with their physical and spiritual needs, or are you only looking out for yourself?

If your life is not hidden with Christ in God, then any efforts you make on your own to hide yourself from the time of trouble will end with you crying for the rocks to hide you from the presence of the Lord when He comes in the clouds of glory (Revelation 6:15, 16). "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

Friends, I pray that you will take the time to prepare for the upcoming crisis by hiding yourself under the shadow of the Almighty. This is the only protection that will be worth anything in the time of trouble. God says to you, "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalms 50:15). 

Jones on Righteousness (Part 3)

by Alonzo T. Jones

This morning we will study some texts that speak to us of faith, what we are to do with it and what it will do for us. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). To be justified is to be accounted righteous and this by faith. "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5). "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference" (Romans 3:22). This righteousness is to take the place of all our sins, remember. Now see what the Lord will do with our sins: "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). The latter condition is just the opposite of the first—the sins no matter how deep the color will be made white as snow.

We are to be clothed with white raiment, our scarlet sins to be changed, our filthy stained garments to be

changed like wool, white as snow. When we ask to have our sins taken away it is asking to be cleansed. What does it mean to be made white as snow? Speaking of Jesus, Mark wrote, "And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them" (Mark 9:3). That is the garment that is to be put upon us—whiter than any fuller can make them. This is the blessed promise. Faith says that this is so. "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." (Isaiah 44:22).

The Lord has paid the ransom by the death of Christ, now he says return unto me, I have redeemed thee. All the thick, black clouds have gone—blotted out. "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into

the depths of the sea." (Micah 7:18, 19). Passed by the transgression of what? The remnant? Those who keep the commandments and have the faith of Jesus. That is a promise to us. He is fixing them up for Himself. He is taking their sins from them. He delights in treating them better than they deserve. He delights in us when we believe in Him. All our sins are to go into the depths of the sea, the deepest depth we can conceive of. Is not that a blessed promise?

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalms 103:11, 12). Who can conceive the distance of heaven from us, so great is God's goodness and mercy towards us. Don't we want to worship such a Lord as that? Do we want to offend such a God as that? No, we want to be like Him. Now how far is the east from the west? Suppose we walk out looking for the west, how long shall we seek it? Eternally. Then so far are sins to be

from us, as long as we believe it. Have faith then and keep them eternally away from you.

Why should we not have peace? Faith then gives us peace. God gives us the Holy Spirit as a seal of his righteousness. We must ask for the Holy Spirit to receive it. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:9-13). How must we ask?

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." (James 1:6). "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:13, 14). The blessing of Abraham was righteousness through faith. "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:21-25).

What does God promise us in reference to our sins? They shall be white as snow. Then we are righteous. He says he will blot out the thick clouds of our sins. If we believe it then, we are righteous. By Micah he says our sins shall go into the sea. Do we believe it? Then we are righteous. Our sins are to go from us an eternal distance. Do we believe God can do this? Then we are

righteous. Now the promises were not written out for Abraham's sake alone, but for our sakes to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10).

Then how are we to have righteousness? By faith. Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God—now read Galatians 3, again. We receive the seal of it by faith. There is another step we want to take when we receive the promise by faith. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 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 5:1-5).

We get into the grace of God by faith (whatsoever is not of faith is sin—Romans 14:23), and we must rejoice. Why should we not? What have we to complain of? What have we to do but rejoice? The Lord is good. Rejoice anyhow. Rejoice in tribulations also, because the Holy Ghost sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts. Don't get a wrong turn here. It is not love for God (though that will be there), but the Holy Spirit puts God's love in our hearts. God gave his Son when man was at enmity toward him, because he loved them, and when his love is in our hearts they will go out towards mankind in love as his great heart has done. The evidence we want is to have the love of God in our heart.

Now read Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." (Galatians 5:22). How shall we be good? Have the Spirit of God in our hearts. Do we want the other virtues? These are all the fruit of the Spirit of God. We can't have the fruit unless we have the tree—for it is God that works within us both to will and to do of his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I" (John 14:21-28).

The Lord went away but promised to send the Holy Spirit to manifest him. Is that not what we learned yesterday? Where do we abide? At our homes. We are sojourning here. He says, "We will come unto him and make our abode with him."

"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus

throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:14-21).

We begin, then, at the 16th verse, which speaks of the family of God, not two, but only one, some in heaven, the balance on earth—this is a prayer for us—that we be strengthened by the Spirit, that Christ may dwell with us by our faith. How can we know that which passeth knowledge? Why, only by faith and then we know it. Now verse 20. Paul could not find words to tell what he wanted to, and failed to express it all. The Lord says he will do all we ask or think. Do we believe it? Then we can get from him all we ask or think, further exceedingly abundantly beyond what we can ask for or think, according to what power? The power working within us. And what is this? Our faith. Well, then, that is all the limit put upon God—the power of God being limited only according to the measure of our faith. Then, brethren, let us have faith. God is able to do all he promises.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16, 17). Many do not know what this expression "from faith to faith" means. We begin with faith, and the exercise of that faith will develop the capacity to exercise faith tomorrow—so that we grow from faith to faith, from today's to tomorrow's—therefore we grow in faith, and from grace, favor, power with God, to grace, and in knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us exercise our faith then, and it will develop power—the power of God unto eternal salvation. Why, then, should we not rejoice?

Now faith works. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6). Here is where the work comes in, and is the only work acceptable to God, for it is of God, but works without faith are our own. "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18). Well let it do this for it is true, the man who has the most faith

will do the most acceptable work to God. Work is of no value except it have faith, and faith without works is valueless.

Works will tell the amount of faith we possess. "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father" (1 Thessalonians 1:3). "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power" (2 Thessalonians 1:11). Now comes obedience. Where? "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith" (Romans 16:25, 26). This is all made manifest for the obedience of faith—then all short of this faith is sin, that is, "comes short" of the perfection of the law of God, according to the view of God—not intentional sin, perhaps, but short of the glory of God, and is not obedience—for without faith it is impossible to please God.

So, then, our obedience comes in after we have faith, and God's spirit is dwelling within us. Do you not see now that we have to be made good before we can do good? If then you want to do better get more of Jesus Christ in your heart. It is all well enough to want to do better, but go first to Jesus to be made better. "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, [to the] obedience [of] faith among all nations, for his name" (Romans 1:5, margin). Also read 1 Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

A battle is to be fought, and the beauty of it all is there is a victory to be won. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Mark what "overcome" means; "to conquer." "Veni,

vide, vice," means, "I came, I saw, I conquered." This is what Caesar wrote home to the senate. I came, I overcame, I conquered is the literal translation. Then to overcome is to conquer—but it does not protect from temptation and battles, but it fits us up and enables us to fight, and gives us the victory, all through faith. Is not faith, then, a glorious thing?

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all [or having overcome all-margin], to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:10-18). After having conquered be able to stand when the battle is over (see margin of verse 13), having the righteousness of God as our armour, and above it all the shield of faith to not only stop the fiery darts of the enemy (which if they strike us create a flame within us), but it quenches them—puts them out.

"For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under

him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me" (Hebrews 2:5-13).

Paul says Christ partook of our suffering and took upon him the bondage of death to rescue us from death, and took upon him our nature that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest, so that having stood in our place, remember that he stood there before we did, and if we put him between us and the temptation, it vanishes, and we conquer in him. That is the shield of faith. Another thing, brethren, the heart is purified by faith and the pure shall see God. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:3). The heart is made pure and kept pure by him. How is it done? There is no "how" to faith; but let us read Luke 8:43-48.


"And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him

before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace" (Luke 8:43-48).

Why did he not say before this who touched him? Because the touch of the woman was the touch of faith and drew virtue from Him. Faith reaches out to Christ and virtue comes in response as surely as it did on that woman, and this is not all. "And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all" (Luke 6:19). Touch approved unto God will come to all and make you faithful, i.e., full of faith.

Christ was faithful; his faithfulness comes to us in answer to our faith and that makes us faithful. It is only by his obedience that we are made righteous. Then when I have anything to do, let my faith reach out to him and bring faithfulness from him to enable me to do it. Faithfulness, that only can do it. If we want to be good let our faith touch him, and goodness comes to us and makes us good; if we want to be righteous, in answer to our faith, power comes to us and makes us righteous. In answer to our faith as it grows, more and more of his power and goodness will come to us, and just before probation closes we shall be like him indeed, and then we shall be keeping the commandments of God in fact, because there will be so much of him in us that there will be none of ourselves there. That is when we get to the place where we keep the commandments of God, and there is the beautiful promise, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and

the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). We must reach that place yet. There is too much self glorification, too much self confidence, but let our faith come to him. Then that is sanctification, that is what the 26th chapter of Acts tells us in verse 18, "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Also read John 17:19, "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." That is genuine sanctification. When that comes it will be all right. Get all that kind of sanctification you can.

Faith is actually a something, a reality, and when it touches Jesus Christ, in response to it virtue comes from him and makes us what we want to be. Get that into your minds, brethren, and let us understand what faith is. Let our faith touch him and draw from him virtue, goodness, righteousness, and every good and perfect gift will come to us. Then the glory, the praise and the honor is Christ's, and let us give it to him. Then if there be any virtue at all it is Christ's virtue that makes us acceptable to God in any way whatever. A text to sum up this matter is Hebrews 10:37, 38. "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." 

(This article was taken from a sermon preached by Alonzo T. Jones May 13-15?, 1889—the exact date is uncertain. Some editing was done for this publication. *Editor*)

Upcoming Meetings in Your Area

Here is the currently-planned 2008 itinerary for Lynnford Beachy:


Sep. 6 **Chicago, Illinois**, contact Ramon Irizarry, 630-759-2373.

Sep. 13 **Newark, Ohio**, contact Steve Sutton, 740-763-0155.

Sep. 20 **Welch, West Virginia**, contact Allen Stump, 304-732-9204.

Sep. 24-28 . . **Ohio Camp Meeting**, contact Willis Smith, 216-334-4414.

New Oct. 11. **Roan Mt., Tennessee**, contact Malcolm McCrillis, 423-772-3161.

Between these meetings we will be available to visit people in their homes and to have additional meetings. If you would like to host meetings in your area, please contact Lynnford Beachy at (304) 633-5411. 

The Importance of Understanding and Keeping God's Commandments

According to the Scriptures (Part 4)

by Joseph E. Lahud

(This article was taken from a booklet written by Joseph Lahud. For a copy of the complete booklet, you may contact Joseph directly at: 42012 State Highway 32 SW, Fertile, MN 56540, or by calling 218-945-3733. *Editor*)

The Mark of the Beast

"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 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).

Earlier we indicated a religious system which claims that by her "power," she changed the Lord's day from Saturday to Sunday, and called this her "mark." Are you seeing the relationship? We are heading into the time when Sunday will be enforced as a law. "Blue laws" already exist in many states where you could be fined for working on Sunday. It is illegal to buy or sell a car on Sunday in the state of Indiana. This is similar to the days of Emperor Justinian, where the people were forced to work on Saturday, breaking God's law. Pope John Paul II wrote, "Ensure that civil legislation respects their duty to keep Sunday holy refraining from work and activities which are incompatible with the Lord's day" (Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Letter: *Dies Domini*, dated May 31, 1998).

The Bible prophesies about this are in the books of Daniel and Revelation. The Jews in Poland never imagined Germany marching in on them and destroying them. History has a very sober way of indicating the repeating habits of lost mankind, inspired by Satan's sophistries, unleashing his hatred of God and His children.

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:4, 5).

Come out of the false, pagan, satanic religious system which is contrarily set against God's kingdom!

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:11-13).

Any church organization that supports doctrines contrary to the truth as found in the Word of God is a backsliding church. There are many churches which claim to be the "remnant" church who proudly boast the exact same false doctrines as the apostate religious system described in the books of Daniel and Revelation. Beware! Just because a church professes to keep God's Commandments, this does not mean they are without sin. Satan has influenced Christendom to deceive as many as are not grounded firmly in the Word of God.

Will God allow into heaven those who knowingly teach others to disregard God's law? No! For this very reason God placed a flaming sword to guard the tree of life in the Garden of Eden, so as not to allow fallen man (sinners) to eat of the tree of life. If they did, then sinners would have the gift of eternal life (Genesis 3:22-24).

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). Check to see if what your church teaches is in harmony with God's Word.

About twenty four years ago I attended a meeting where an attorney mentioned this phrase; "the willing suspension of disbelief." He went on to explain to me that this term was used in the legal profession to describe a condition produced by the mind to disengage from what is recognized as truth, and for a period of time believe something which you would otherwise reject as false and not true, such as when we go to the movies and willingly believe the giant gorilla is a good monkey, as he climbs the Empire State building.

I find that this is the condition that permeates throughout Christendom today. We willingly allow ourselves to believe doctrines which are contrary to what is contained in the Word of God. Through centuries of concessions, true Christianity has been defiled and made weak and powerless. Where is the evidence of God's power manifested as in the book of Acts? Show me the evidence and I will immediately join that church today and support it prayerfully and financially.

Has the calendar been changed?

How do we know which is the seventh day? Did the calendar make a change in the days of the week? How do we know that Saturday today is the same seventh day of creation? Isn't it true that our calendar has gone through some revisions? First, the Lord did not lose sight of the Sabbath. Can you imagine Him commanding us to do something that later would be impossible because of a man-made change? Some time ago, a well-known biblical scholar wrote to the royal astronomer in London for help in this matter. He asked three questions: "First, is there any doubt that there is an unbroken sequence of the week as far as reliable records go? Second, did the calendar change, in any way, effect the weekly cycle so that one day might have been lost, passed over or eliminated from its normal position? And then third, is today's Saturday the same as in the days of Christ?" The reply was:

"Sir, your letter of October 15, I have to advise you that there is no reason to doubt the statement regarding the unbroken sequence of the week as far as reliable records go. Secondly, it is certain that the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in 1582 and equally its introduction into the British Dominion in 1752 in no way affected the cycle of the week. Certain specific provision was made in the 1752 Act that although September 2 was immediately followed by September 14, these dates were successive days of the week, namely Wednesday and Thursday. Thirdly, there is no reason to doubt that present day Saturdays are an exact number of weeks after the Saturday between the first Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

"Yours faithfully,

"Harold W. Richards, for Royal Astronomer."

"The calendar did not change the weekly cycle. It takes 30 days for the Moon to revolve around us. But it takes 365 days for us to revolve around the Sun. We have added an extra day every four years to make up that one-fourth of a day. We call it 'leap year.' But the calendar change simply made the world uniform and equal in its dating. The date of September 2 was moved up to September 14 to make this uniformity?" (Bill Stringfellow, *All in the Name of the Lord*).

The "Seal" of God

The word 'seal' is used in the Scriptures in various senses, even as in common life. The definition by Webster is as follows: "that which confirms, ratifies, or makes stable; assurance; that which authenticates; that which secures, makes reliable, or stable." The terms "mark" and "sign," also given by him, are used in the Scriptures as synonymous with seal, as in Romans 4:11. In the covenant with Noah it is used in the idea of assurance, or evidence of stability. The bow in the cloud was given as a sign or token that God would not destroy the Earth by a flood (Genesis 9:13). In the covenant with Abraham circumcision was the token or sign. This ratified, or made sure; for he who had not this token was cut off (Genesis 17:11, 14). This sign or token was an institution, or rite. Gesenius gives "a memorial" as one of the definitions of the word found in the original of these texts. But a memorial, in the sense of a reminder, or a remembrance, is a token or sign. In Exodus 31:17 and Ezekiel 20:12, 20 the Sabbath of the Lord is called a sign. It is a memorial of the Creator's work, and so a sign of His power and Godhead (Romans 1:20). This is also an institution as was circumcision; but there was this distinction: circumcision was a sign in the flesh, while the Sabbath was a sign in the mind.

"Hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God" (Ezekiel 20:20). In Ezekiel 9:4 the word used in the original is translated "mark." In Revelation 7:2, 3, the mark or sign is said to be placed in the foreheads of the servants of God. Both of these Scriptures refer to a time when utter destruction is coming on the ungodly. The seal is placed upon God's people as a safeguard to preserve them from the impending evil. But the "forehead" is evidently used as a figure, to denote the disposition or affections. To mark or seal in the forehead is the same as to "write in the mind" (Hebrews 10:16). The Sabbath is the sign of God; it is the seal of His law (Isaiah 8:16). It is the token of His authority and power. It is a sign whereby we may know that He is God, and therefore it is appropriately said to be placed in the forehead. The worshipers of the Beast (Revelation 13) are said to receive his mark in their foreheads or in their hands. As the forehead represents the intellect, the hand represents power, as in Psalm 89:48. Compulsory worship is not acceptable to God; His servants are sealed only in their foreheads. But it is acceptable to wicked powers; it has always been craved by the Romish hierarchy.

The sign or seal of God is His Sabbath, and the seal or mark of the beast is in direct opposition to it; it is a counterfeit Sabbath on the "day of the sun." In the message of the third angel (Revelation 14:9-12) they which do not

receive the mark of the beast keep the commandments of God, and the Sabbath is the fourth precept; they keep the Sabbath of the Lord; they have His sign or seal. The importance of this sign is shown in this, that the Fourth Commandment is the only one in the law which distinguishes the Creator from false gods. (Compare Jeremiah 10:10-12; Acts 17:23, 24; Revelation 14:6, 7; etc.) And it is that part of His law which His people will suffer persecution for keeping. But when the wrath of God comes upon the persecutors who are found enforcing the sign or mark of the beast, then they will realize the importance of the Sabbath—the seal of the living God. They who turn away from that which the Lord spoke when His voice shook the Earth, will confess their fatal error when His voice shall shake the Heavens and the Earth (Hebrews 12:25, 26; Joel 3:9-16, and others).

“It is impossible to describe the horror and despair of those who have trampled upon God’s holy requirements. The Lord gave them his law; they might have compared their characters with it, and learned their defects while there was yet opportunity for repentance and reform; but in order to secure the favor of the world, they set aside its precepts and taught others to transgress. They have endeavored to compel God’s people to profane his Sabbath. Now they are condemned by that law which they have despised. With awful distinctness they see that they are without excuse. They chose whom they would serve and worship. ‘Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.’ (Malachi 3:18.)

“The enemies of God’s law, from the ministers down to the least among them, have a new conception of truth and duty. Too late they see that the Sabbath of the fourth commandment is the seal of the living God. Too late they see the true nature of their spurious sabbath, and the sandy foundation upon which they have been building. They find that they have been fighting against God. Religious teachers have led souls to perdition while professing to guide them to the gates of Paradise. Not until the day of final accounts will it be known how great is the responsibility of men in holy office, and how terrible are the results of their unfaithfulness. Only in eternity can we rightly estimate the loss of a single soul. Fearful will be the doom of him to whom God shall say, Depart, thou wicked servant” (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 639, 640).

Conclusion

The Testimonies contained in the Word from our heavenly Father, indicate conclusively that good intentions alone do not justify for disobedience to His

Commandments. The evidence to support this is overwhelming, both biblically and historically.

If we love Him, why do we reject Him in this way? Why believe otherwise? Why willingly disobey Him?

By prayerful and willing surrender of our hearts to our loving Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, we enter into a new and wonderful covenant experience unlike anything we have had before. The embracing of the true Sabbath of the Lord is but the threshold of a new and powerful level of intimacy in our knowledge of Him. He will reveal to us a greater intimacy and knowledge of Himself through obedience to His Word. The Sabbath is but the threshold of entering into a true covenant relationship with our Creator. It is a test of our faithfulness to Him. He stands at the door of our hearts and gently awaits for those who will receive Him and His gift of eternal life. It is with great reverence, and desire, that this writer prays: “May the reader receive the message contained in these pages with an open heart, and make the decision to follow Christ.”

“That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.” (Psalms 78:7, 8).

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (Psalms 1:1-3).

Joseph Emilio Lahud, 2006

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Beachy Travels Update

by Lynnford Beachy

Our last report, in the March 2008 issue of *Present Truth*, ended with us heading for Arizona. We made it back to Arizona in mid-March and stayed in a small town about 50 miles northeast of Tucson, called San Manuel. We stayed in an RV park there until mid-July. During this time we visited several churches, and distributed literature in each place. We had many wonderful contacts during this time, several of whom have learned the truth about God. We were also able to witness to some of the locals in San Manuel and nearby Oracle.

I know many of you have been confused by the prayer request for Kendra's health since her health has improved since leaving West Virginia. Thank you so much for your prayers for her. While in San Manuel Kendra visited a local naturopathic doctor because she was still experiencing frequent episodes of dizziness. While in the doctor's office he heard a heart murmur and referred her to a cardiologist. An echocardiogram showed mild mitral valve regurgitation, and a stress test revealed tachycardia. The cardiologist diagnosed her as having inappropriate sinus tachycardia and prescribed a beta blocker to slow the heart rate down. After much prayer and consultation with other doctors she opted not to take the drug while additional tests were performed. She also went to another cardiologist for a second opinion. That cardiologist put her on a heart monitor and found that she definitely did not have inappropriate sinus tachycardia. Her low heart rate was 42 beats per minute. Praise God she did not take the beta blocker which could have been very dangerous with that low of a heart rate. It has been found that she has very low blood pressure, and within 15-45 minutes of sitting or standing she will experience a drop in blood pressure which causes a temporary high heart rate, up to 160 beats per minute, to compensate. It is not life threatening, as the first cardiologist was telling her, it just makes her feel uncomfortable at times.

As soon as we found the final results of Kendra's testing we made plans for our next trip. In mid-July we headed north, first to Prescott, Arizona, to visit a good friend there, and then to Riverton, Wyoming, to meet with Andy and Christy Whitehurst. Andy and Christy have been doing local evangelism, as well as working on the "Evangelism in a Binder" project that we mentioned last fall. It was a blessing to meet with them again, along with several brethren in the area with whom we had spent time last fall. The brethren there are holding on strong.

Our next stop was near Billings, Montana. The meetings there touched on the millenium, the three angels' messages, the Holy Spirit, and other subjects. We greatly appreciated the kind and loving spirit demonstrated by our brethren there. Andy and Christy came all the way from Wyoming to attend the meetings, and it was a pleasure to see them again. It was sad to part from our beloved friends in Montana, but we continued our trip east.

As we were traveling through North Dakota we had an evening meeting in the Foerderer's home. They are

delightful people, and we studied long into the night, covering many topics, such as the rapture, the millennium, the Holy Spirit, the truth about God, the antichrist, etc. This was the first time we had the privilege of meeting this lovely family. We hope to be able to see them again.

Next, we visited some friends in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where we stayed for several days. It was a delight to fellowship with them again.


Our next stop was Fertile, Minnesota, where we visited with our beloved friends, Joseph Lahud and his family. We had meetings in Bagley, Minnesota, that weekend, where we were privileged to see some of our brethren near Bemidji. These folks are wonderful, many of whom have been in the message long ago, when Evangelist Bill Stringfellow lived in the area preaching the truth.

Our next stop was to visit my wife's brother near Hibbing, Minnesota. We had a nice visit with Kendra's brother, and then headed for International Falls, Minnesota, to see my dad. As usual, my dad was a big help in getting some repairs done to the RV.

Next we headed to southern Michigan to attend a family reunion on my wife's side of the family. We had a wonderful Sabbath in southern Michigan, where we visited a church composed of mostly people from parts of Africa such as Zambia, Rwanda, Nigeria, etc. It was a delight to see some of our brethren from overseas, and distribute some literature. Many years ago Kendra's aunt and uncle were missionaries to Africa; they are now retired and living in the states. On Sabbath Kendra's aunt was surprised to see a familiar face in the congregation. It was a girl that she had kept in her home as a little baby in Zimbabwe. There were many happy tears shed at this unexpected reunion.

Next Sabbath, September 6, we will be in Chicago, Illinois, followed by several meetings in Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee, and then Florida.

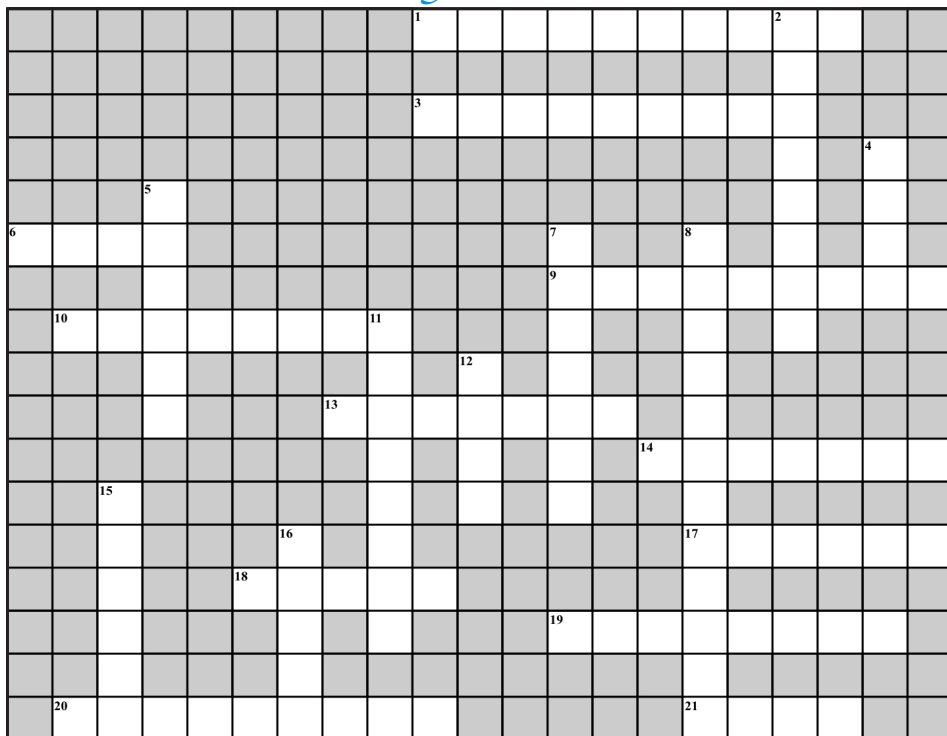
When we began this trip we fully intended to return to Arizona for the winter, and hold meetings in the western part of the US during late fall, however, God has a way of changing our plans. Some dear brethren in Florida have been moving forward with plans to start a printing work in the Orlando area. They have offered to print *Present Truth* there to help relieve the burden from Allen Stump, who has been doing all of the physical printing work for *Present Truth* for nearly two years. This is in addition to his other burdens. I have been longing to be able to relieve him ever since I had to leave West Virginia for my family's health.

My wife and I have been praying earnestly for direction from the Lord regarding where He wants us to be, for truly there is no better place than in His will. In our prayers we have never considered the possibility of going to Florida to help get the printing work started there. On this trip we decided to pray about going to Florida, and it was as if God said, "I have been waiting for you to ask." We believe the Lord wants us to go to Florida and get the printing work established there, so we are moving forward with those plans, and expect to be there in October. Please pray for this endeavor, that the Lord will richly bless the work there. 

Something for the Young at Heart

This month we are continuing a series of crossword Bible studies that are based on a Bible Lesson printed by Richard Stratton of Philadelphia Press Ministries, PO Box 218, Florence, Colorado 81226. In order to maintain the flow of the study, this crossword puzzle is not split into Across and Down sections—Across or Down is indicated at the end of each line.

The Sin of Covetousness



Answers will be printed on the back page of next month's issue

➤ Christ said, "Beware of ____." Luke 12:15—**8 Down**

➤ A man's life does not consist in the ____ of possessions. Luke 12:15—**3 Across**

➤ "Thou shalt not ____ ...any thing that is thy neighbour's." Exodus 20:17—**16 Down**

Note: Covetous is "Inordinately desirous; excessively eager to obtain and possess; avaricious" (*Webster's Dictionary*).

➤ Eve "saw that the tree was... to be ____ to make one wise." Genesis 3:6—**13 Across**

Note: Eve coveted the wisdom and experience to "be as gods, knowing good and evil" this led her to steal the forbidden fruit and that was the sin which brought in all other sins.

➤ Jesus spoke of a rich man who decided to build bigger barns to hold all of his _____. Luke 12:18—**18 Across**

➤ Afterwards, this man said to himself, "Take thine ____." Luke 12:19—**6 Across**

➤ "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy ____ shall be required of thee." Luke 12:20—**21 Down**

➤ "So is he that layeth up ____ for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:21—**2 Down**

Note: This rich man was only concerned about himself and neglected meeting the needs of the poor around him. He had plenty and coveted more, which became his downfall.

➤ "The wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD ____." Psalm 10:3—**9 Across**

➤ Judas' covetousness caused him to seek how he might conveniently _____ Jesus for money." Mark 14:10, 11—**5 Down**

➤ Achan admitted that he _____ certain things in Jericho that he was forbidden to take. Joshua 7:21—**14 Across**

➤ This sin caused him to take them and hide them in his _____. Joshua 7:21—**4 Down**

Note: The terrible sin that led to Achan's destruction had its root in covetousness. Of all sins this is one of the most common and the most lightly regarded. It is promoted through advertisements, television commercials, peer pressure, etc., and is often undetected. We must guard our own souls against this deadly sin.

➤ "In the last days ____ times shall come." 2 Timothy 3:1—**10 Across**

➤ "Men shall be lovers of their own selves, _____, boasters, proud,..." 2 Timothy 3:2—**19 Across**

Note: There are many young people who could have been a blessing to others and a great help in the cause of God if they had been taught to seek happiness in the service of others. But instead of being taught good principles they were taught to yield to their own selfish desires, thinking that they would find happiness in this way. Seeking happiness in the path of selfishness will only bring misery.

➤ Jesus said: "No servant can serve two ____." Luke 16:13—**7 Down**

➤ "Ye cannot serve God and ____." Luke 16:13—**15 Down**

Note: Another word for "mammon" is treasure or riches.


➤ "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in ____ riches, but in the living God." 1 Timothy 6:17—**20 Across**

➤ We are to charge the rich that they should be ready to _____, willing to communicate. 1 Timothy 6:18—**1 Across**

Note: Another word for "communicate" is share or give.

➤ "It is more blessed to _____ than to receive." Acts 20:35—**12 Down**

➤ "The _____ is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts." Haggai 2:8—**17 Across**

es are unlimited! Paul said, “I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:18, 19). 

Willis Smith of *God's Word, God's Way* has been proclaiming the messages of *Present Truth* on a radio station in Cleveland, Ohio for several years. Recently the radio station has refused to allow him to continue presumably because of his boldness in speaking the truth. Please pray that God will open the way so he can continue this ministry. Thank you. *Editor*

Note: If you move, please send us your new address. If you inadvertently get deleted from our mailing list, without your request, please write us and verify your valid address.

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