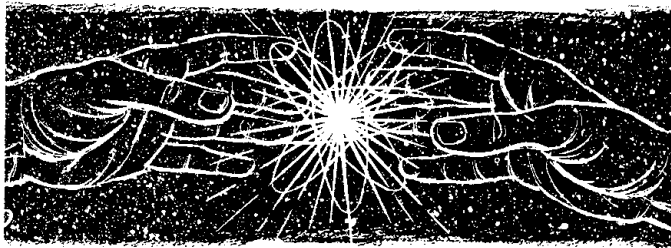


The Sword AND Staff

"Preach the Word." (II Timothy 4:2)

"Feed the Flock." (I Peter 5:2)

The Greatness of God



By DAVID KIRK, Route 5, Box 128-B, Galax, Virginia 24333

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable" (Psalms 145:3).

"...Who is so great as our God" (Psalms 77:13).

"For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods" (Psalms 95:3).

GOD'S GREATNESS is seen in the vastness of creation.

The sun, our nearest star is said to be ninety-three million miles away. It takes light traveling at the rate of 186,330 miles per second, eight minutes to reach the earth.

Our next nearest star, Alpha, is said to be 4.3 light years away. How far is that? Is it 4.3 x 365 x 24 x 60 x 186,300. How far is that? It is 25,251,996,240,000 miles.

The nearest galaxies, the Magellanic clouds, are said to be 170,000 light years distant. How far is that? It approximately is: 170,000 x 6,000,000,000,000 which equals 1,020,000,000,000,000,000 miles.

And what we have mentioned thus far is merely a drop in the ocean compared to the rest of the universe that God made. Only an omnipotent God could have brought such a universe into being and maintained order in it such as is being done to the present.

God's greatness is seen in the material out of which He made the universe. By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear" (Hebrews 11:3). "...so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible" (Hebrews 11:3b—Amplified translation).

Scientists claim that the material universe is made of atoms which are invisible. The Scriptures agree with this

conclusion of the scientists as is seen in the Amplified rendering of Hebrews 11:3b—"what we see was not made of things which are visible."

The manner of creation also speaks loudly of the greatness of God. How did God bring it into being?

"By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathered the waters of the sea as an heap; he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalms 33:6-9).

Variety also proclaims the greatness of God. Who can begin to number the different kinds of plants, animals, marine life and all the things God has made, both living and dead? Who has even tried to count the teeming life forms in a drop of water from the river? Who has accounted for the way that marine life cannot only live near the surface of the water, but how it swims innocently about miles down in the depth of the sea not concerned about the tons of pressure exerted against every square inch of its body?

Mountains, lakes, plains, valleys, rivers, springs of water, seas, deserts, marshes, the frozen north—all full of living things. Only a great God could make all this endless variety of living things and adapt them to the various places they are able to live and thrive in.

God's greatness is heralded in tones clear and loud by His infinite wisdom.

The Bible declares: "Great is our Lord...His understanding is infinite" (Psalms 147:5). "...All things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:13).

The Bible further declares: "If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and knoweth all things" (I John 3:20).

It is most refreshing when you can read the testimony of a scientist who gives proper honor unto God, and in so doing heralds the greatness of God. Such is the testimony of Herbert D. Schwetman, Chairman of the Physics Department, Baylor University. His degrees include a B.A., Baylor; an M.A., University of Texas; an M.S., Harvard University, and a Ph.D., University of Texas. Dr. Schwetman is a Sen-

(Continued on Page 3)

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Renew your subscription when it is due—no notice will be sent. Thank you for doing this.

Proverbs of Today

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people—have you made your reservations yet? (1 Peter 1:4).

“Gossip is the art of saying nothing in a way that leaves nothing unsaid.”

In this modern world of luxury and ease many people are better off who are not better.

“He who is not liberal with what he has deceives himself when he thinks he would be liberal if he had more.”

Nothing is too small to make a matter of prayer before the throne of grace.

“To be content with little is difficult; to be content with much, impossible.”

If you stop coming to church because the preacher preached against your pet sin or habit, then that proves your sin or habit means more to you than the church does.

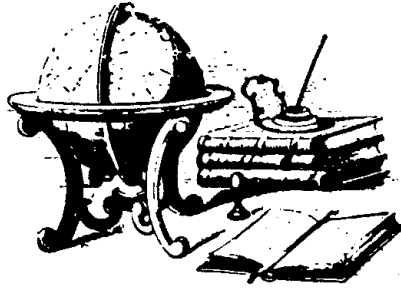
“The only way on earth to multiply happiness is to divide it.”

It has been said that LUST is the besetting sin of Youth, GREED that of Adulthood, and DESPONDENCY that of Old Age.

“Some people give and forgive; others get and forget.”

If you have never talked to God in prayer it is obvious that you do not know Him.

“He didn’t know it couldn’t be done but went ahead and did it.”



EDITORIAL

COMMENTS...

ABOUT AN ARTICLE IN A FORMER ISSUE

IF YOU RECALL, a reprinted article appeared in the October, 1969, issue of THE SWORD AND STAFF from another publication entitled, “Evolution: Darwin’s Other Book.” There was a question mark about the authenticity of the article—did Darwin actually write such a book in his latter years? The paper we got the article from said they were not able to confirm it. We have since read elsewhere that it cannot be proved that Darwin wrote a book like this, nor have we been able to establish it otherwise. We pass this information on to you because of the general interest aroused by the article and because of those who have since written. □

CARNAGE AND DESECRATION OF WAR

“REPORT SAYS Dope Sent to U.S. In GI Corpses”—these were the shocking words that caught our eye and affected us in a most repulsive way as we read the evening paper. The article told of this Heroin ring in Vietnam which was smuggling this drug into the United States by putting up to 55 pounds in plastic bags which were placed inside dead soldiers’ bodies after autopsies; also, some was sewed into the lining of caskets. After getting into this country, at some point the drugs were retrieved, to be sold to those poor, doomed souls on this “living death.”

This is one of the most shocking things (if not the most) that this writer has ever heard. War is the most brutalizing thing. The article identified this Heroin ring as a band of ex-GIs. Here we see the last inkling of human respect and dignity gone. This must be the bottom for degradation and inhumane activity. But war brutalizes human beings, making beasts out of them, and it is but one step from the carnage to such desecration of the dead. All tender, Christian feelings must be set aside to engage in physical warfare. □

THE CHURCH

The church that gives is the church that lives.

The church that bestows is the church that grows.

The church that releases is the church that increases.

The church that spends is the church that wins.

The church that holds is the church that molds.

The church that keeps is the church that weeps.—Selected.

THE GREATNESS OF GOD

(Continued from Page 1)

ior Nuclear Engineer, Nuclear Analysis Group, Corvair Incorporated.

Dr. Schwetman's testimony follows:

"Quite often the physicist is asked, 'How can a man be a physicist and believe in God at the same time?' This question comes from sincere, well-informed, and perfectly normal associates and friends who have been led to believe that the scientist has gained complete knowledge of nature because of recent accomplishments in medicine, electronics, computers, nuclear physics, and space physics.

"Much to the contrary, the further the physicist delves into advanced and more specific information about nature such as the nucleus of the atom, the gravitational, electrical and magnetic forces involved, the more he is amazed at the completeness and the precision with which all of nature is designed and operated.

"The chemist and the physicist are able to analyze the atom, and in fact are able to use the forces and energies in the nucleus in remarkable ways: yet when they try to explain the origin of the forces and energies of the atom and the nucleus, they find themselves facing a blank wall.

"In simple words, they do not attempt to say what great power arranged the nuclei, the atoms, and molecules, nor what great engineer designed the forces required to hold them together so that the potential energies might be used of man.

"In a similar manner scientists have been able to gain much knowledge about the universe, yet they are not able to explain satisfactorily the origin of the universe.

"The scientist looks to God as the true example of the most accomplished and precise of all scientists.

"Thus, as the layman seems to stand in awe of the scientist who has mastered some of the information concerning nature, the scientist himself stands in greater awe of God who has so expertly designed and operated all of nature and who indeed created the very minds that have been able to follow some of His accomplishments." —The Collegiate Challenge, April, 1962.

We marvel that scientists at the University in Charlottesville are able to monitor the heartbeats of a cell so small it takes 200 like it to fill a pin head, but what should cause us to really marvel and to stand in awe, is that this heartbeat coming from the cells of unhatched chicks, is only one of numberless marvels in God's endless creation.

How is it possible for a homing pigeon that has been placed in a box and hauled hundreds of miles from home, when released, to circle just a moment and then head almost straight home?

The young salmon of the northwest will swim to the ocean and spend years at sea, but eventually he will head back to his original spawning ground. Amazingly, he will swim up the same river and the same side of the river into which the tributary flows where he was "born." Through a series of tests it was established that if a salmon was taken out of his own tributary and placed in another he would immediately realize that he was not in the correct stream and would find his way down stream to the main river and back to his own tributary and to the spot where he was "born."

How account for all these marvels? Only one way; accept the fact that God who is omnipotent and omniscient made and controls all these things. And thus we arrive at

the inescapable conclusion that God indeed is a great God above all else.

But God would not be as meaningful to man if it were not for another mark of His greatness, and we have reference to His great love.

God's great love is seen in His longsuffering. It was not until "the thoughts and imaginations of men's hearts was evil continually" and the earth was "filled with violence" that God determined to destroy the old world. And even then, he had Noah preach and warn men for more than a century before the flood was sent to destroy them.

Sodom and Gomorrah were so utterly corrupt, but if ten righteous souls had been found in them God would not have rained fire and brimstone down upon them.

God kept the Israelites out of the "promised land" until the "cup of iniquity" of the inhabitants of the land was full and running over before sending Joshua into the land to drive out and destroy them.

Israel and Judah were completely sold out to idolatry and other sins before he brought judgment upon them.

It seems that God gave Jerusalem forty years to repent of crucifying the Son of God before the armies led by Titus destroyed the beloved city.

And God is still "longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

The longsuffering of the Lord is seen in the promise that he would not return until the world was like it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot.

God's great love is most clearly seen in the gift of His Son for our sins. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16, 17).

"... The love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given us. For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:5-8).

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3).

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:31, 32).

Reading the preceding Scriptures and knowing them to be true, how utterly foolish to question the love of God for man. As we think on these things we are made to cry out with the Psalmist: "What is man that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man that thou visitest him?"

But while we are rejoicing in the great love of God that provides salvation, the forgiveness of all our sins and the hope and assurance of eternal life through personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and obedience to His will, let us also remember another way that He is great.

God is also great in wrath.

God's wrath was demonstrated when he destroyed the old world, Sodom and Gomorrah, Israel, Judah, Jerusalem, etc. It is also declared in the Scriptures:

(Continued on Page 6)

**THE COMFORT AND THE JOY
OF BEING A TRULY FAITHFUL
CHRISTIAN**

1. We KNOW all the time that we are without the condemning guilt of sin in the sight of God. I John 1:7.
2. We KNOW that whether Jesus returns before we would have died, or returns after our death, we shall be caught up to meet Him in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. I Thess. 4:14-17.
3. We KNOW that our Creator and Savior hears us each time we pray in Jesus' name. I John 5:14, 15.
4. We KNOW that all things do, and will continue to, work together for our good. Romans 8:28.
5. We KNOW that we shall never be tempted above that we are able to bear, and that God will supply an avenue of escape every time we are tempted to sin. I Cor. 10:13.
6. We KNOW that God is so close, and so concerned for us, that he numbers the hairs of our heads (Matthew 10:29-31), that Jesus knows us by name (John 10:14), and that he has supplied us with a personal ministering angel (Matthew 18:10; Psalms 34:7; Acts 12:15; Hebrews 1:7). I Peter 5:6, 7.
7. We KNOW that the very Spirit of God Himself, the Holy Spirit, literally dwells within us, shedding God's love abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5), leading us (Romans 8:14), strengthening us (Ephesians 3:16), interceding for us in prayer (Romans 8:26), bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Romans 8:16). Acts 5:32; I Cor. 6:19, 20; Luke 11:5-13.
8. We KNOW that the sacrifices of time, money, social position, and popularity with the world, that we gladly make in this life, are as nothing when compared with the inheritance we shall receive as children of God—glory, dominion, power; incorruptible wealth not to be measured by the gold standard. Romans 8:16-18; I Peter 1:3-19; Matthew 25:14-46; Mark 10:29, 30.
9. We KNOW that in our obedience from the heart to the gospel of Christ we have been added to God's family, the church—forgiven, justified, regenerated, adopted—, that as we continually grow in Christ these above-mentioned

blessings might become more and more fully ours. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-18; Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 5:9; John 3:5; Titus 3:5; Galatians 4:5-7.

10. We KNOW that when the earth and all the heavenly bodies shall be no more, having been melted with fervent heat, burned up, dissolved into energy, WE yet, as the same individual personalities we are now, will be living eternally in unspeakable joy, where there will be no more fatigue, pain, disease, death, suffering or sorrow. II Peter 3:7-14; Revelation 20:11 through 22:21.

Yes, we KNOW these things assuredly, because we have a faith that is more reliable than anything we can know in this world by human wisdom.

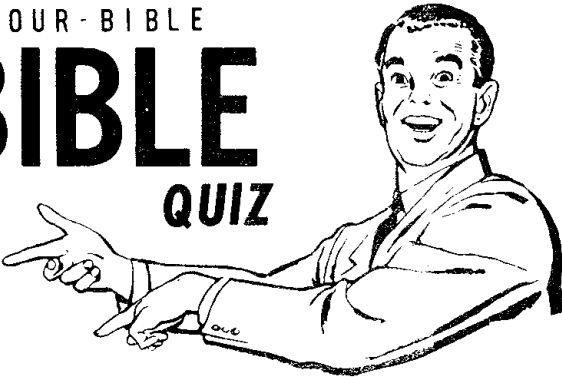
The Bible tells us so.

This is the comfort and joy of being a truly FAITHFUL Christian. WON'T YOU BECOME ONE, AND SHARE WITH US IN THESE BLESSINGS?
—Richard Snell—



KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE

**BIBLE
QUIZ**



1. What great man of Ur of the Chaldees became the father of a nation?
2. What man had his name changed to Israel?
3. Why were the children of Israel commanded not to eat blood?
4. What is a Scriptural description of the manna the children of Israel ate in the wilderness?
5. To whom did king David say, "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man"?
6. Why did leprosy fall upon the prophet Elisha's servant, Gehazi?
7. "The glory of young men is their _____ : and the beauty of old men is the _____ head."
8. Why did the angel say the son to be born to Mary would be called Jesus?
9. At what place and city where Paul went preaching did he find an altar with the inscription "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD"?
10. Wives are commanded to submit themselves unto their own husbands as to whom?

(Answers found elsewhere in this issue)

How Jesus Fulfilled the



Will of God

By JAMES E. GIBBONS

THE COMING OF JESUS to this world just didn't "happen." He came by definite plan and purpose. Jesus himself declared, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38). The life of Jesus was filled with predestinated purpose and meaning. It is the aim of this article to endeavor to show how He fulfilled the will of the Father on earth as relates to man.

But what is the will of God? To ascertain this is essential before we can know how it was fulfilled.

After examining the Scriptures, I believe we can break the answer down into two parts as it pertains to mankind and also to Jesus: first, the will of God as it concerns His commands; and second, the will of God relative to His over-all purpose in our lives. Sometimes it is hard to distinguish which one is meant when it mentions the will of God in the Scriptures. Both meanings go together and implement one another in our lives as well as in the life of Jesus, the Son of God. The second significance obviously carried more meaning and importance with Jesus than it does with us.

I. How Jesus Fulfilled the Will of God Relative to God's Commands.

God's will does relate to His commands which we may know and do. Jesus said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). It is God's will that we obey His commands and follow His noble principles. God said to the Israelites, "Ye shall be holy; for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44). That was the essence of Old Testament morality.

However, man has not always kept the law of God. After God's law had been in force for centuries, the writer of Ecclesiastes asserted, "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). Paul, after exposing Gentile and Jewish depravity alike, proclaimed that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Man had been a failure in keeping God's will in the complete sense of the word. By one man's disobedience sin had entered the world and put man at the opposite pole of God's will.

Every living human soul had eventually fallen into the same pitfall.

Until the coming of Jesus, this was the disheartening story. But of Jesus it is said, "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God" (Hebrews 10:7, 9). Jesus was early apt at knowing God's will and doing it. When Jesus was twelve, the doctors of the law in the temple "were astonished at his understanding and answers" (Luke 2:47), and Jesus made answer to His earthly parents in this manner, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (2:49). For an over-all perspective of Jesus' life this commentary is excellent: "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Peter 2:22).

Think of that! A person who did no wrong deed nor uncomely act in his whole life! Beloved, this is the Son of God! He fulfilled God's will in the ultimate although being in the flesh as we are. Oh what a victory! Death came by Adam, but victory over sin came through Christ (Romans 5:12-21). Thanks be to God for "Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30). "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:8, 9). Immortal life awaits, "and every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:3).

II. How Jesus Fulfilled the Will of God Relative to the Divine Purpose.

That God has a personal hand in the life of every Christian is clear. This is sometimes referred to as "divine providence." The New Testament writers continually mention doing things "by the will of God" (Romans 1:10; 15:32; etc.), and we are instructed to say that we shall do such and such a thing "if the Lord will" (James 4:15). It is my conviction that God will work out His divine purpose in the life of every Christian who is devoted to Him.

Now this is especially true in reference to Jesus, who is the Son of God and God in the flesh. Jesus was "fore-ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you" (I Peter 1:20). Jesus clearly stated that the will of the Father was which was to be accomplished through Him: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:38-40). He elsewhere makes it plain that it is the will of the Father to save the lost (Matthew 18:11-14). Peter says that God is not willing that any should perish (II Peter 3:9).

How did Jesus fulfill the will of the Father relative to redeeming the world, making possible everlasting life to frail humanity?

Well, first it was necessary for Him to establish His identity as the Son of God. It was essential for Him to leave evidence of his diety to produce faith. We can never please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6). In reference to the mighty works of Jesus, John records, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his

(Continued on Next Page)

THE GREATNESS OF GOD

(Continued from Page 3)

"Go ye, inquire of the Lord for us...concerning the words of this book: for great is the wrath of the Lord, that is kindled against us..." (II Kings 22:13).

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18).

"But unto them that are contentious and obey not the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath..." (Romans 2:8).

"And the angel cast his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vintage of the earth, and cast it into the winepress, the great winepress of the wrath of God" (Revelation 14:19). "And he is arrayed in a garment dipped in blood: and his name is called the Word of God...he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God the Almighty" (Revelation 19:13, 15).

Jesus told John on Patmos: "Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me to give to every man as his works shall be" (Revelation 22:12). But when Jesus comes it will be "from heaven with the angels in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be marvelled at in all them that believe" (II Thessalonians 1:7-10).

Today is the day of grace. The time of judgment and the demonstrating of the wrath of God is at hand. How important to flee to the arms of Jesus where there is mercy and forgiveness, and prepare yourself to meet God and to enjoy his love throughout all eternity!

Without a doubt the God of the universe is great. He is great as seen in the vastness, variety, perfection and endlessness of creation. His greatness is beyond description when we know that he brought all this universe into being from the invisible and that all of it was accomplished by His spoken word: "He spake and it was done." His infinite wisdom makes us stand in awe. But that which makes the heart of man rejoice beyond description is God's great love that provided the gift of His only begotten Son for our sins. This loudly shouts: "God is love!"

But just as light cannot be fully understood and appreciated until we know darkness, so perfect love can only be fully known as men come to see perfect hatred or wrath. And in God we see both perfect love and perfect wrath.

Knowing that the time is short, I urge every alien sinner and every backslider to flee from the wrath to come. Escape the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God by accepting His Son, for "we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:9). □

HOW JESUS FULFILLED...

(Continued from Last Page)

disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30,31). That explains one of the primary reasons why Jesus performed miracles, and it fits into the pattern of God's will to save man.

It was inevitable that Jesus must die and be resurrected to fit into God's pattern of things. The life is in the blood

For "Moth and Rust" or Eternity



(Leviticus 17:11). Animal sacrifice had been instituted, the blood and the life of the animal being shed in death emblematic of the animal's taking man's place in death. Man had sinned and was destined to death inasmuch as the wages of sin is death (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23). Now the sinless Christ must die as the sacrifice for the whole human race, bearing the sins and penalty of degenerate men.

This was not an easy thing to do. Jesus lived His entire life under the shadow of the cross fully realizing what was to come. Yes, He was and is God. But keep in mind that He was clothed with the frail, fleshly form of man and experienced life and pain as we do. He was a man of sorrows acquainted with grief (Isaiah 53:3). As that awful hour drew near, it bore heavily upon Him. In His agony He prayed, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). Thus resigned to God's will, He faced the false trial and was crucified on a Roman cross for the sins of an undeserving world.

But even in the sting of death, there is victory. Satan miscalculated, thinking he had silenced this Son of God forever. Even as a bee must die upon inflicting its sting, the forces of Satan were scattered. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?...But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:55,57). Genesis 3:15 was fulfilled, Jesus coming forth from the grave on the third day, becoming the firstfruits of those who slept (15:20). Jesus had fulfilled the will of God to become the Saviour of the world. His death, burial, and resurrection now make possible our salvation and ultimate resurrection (15:1-4). Of course, this is conditional as we must die to sin and be buried in baptism to obtain the benefits of

Christ's death (Romans 5:6-9; 6:3-6). Praise the Lord that it is in the center of His will to grant us a home in heaven when this life is over! □

Seven Good Resolutions

- I will study the language of gentleness and refuse to use words that bite and tones that crush.
- I will practice patience at home lest my testy temper break through unexpectedly and disgrace me.
- I will remember that my neighbors have trouble enough to carry without loading mine on them.
- I will excuse others' faults and failures as often and fully as I expect others to be lenient with mine.
- I will curb criticism with commendation, close up against gossip and build healthy love by service.
- I will be a friend under trying tests and wear everywhere a good-will face unchilled by aloofness.
- I will gladden my nature by smiling out loud on every occasion and by outlooking optimistically.

---Selected.

THE GIFT MEANT NOTHING

A SORROWFUL WIFE stood just outside of a psychopathic ward in a large government hospital. Her husband, a patient in the hospital, was with her. He looked vacantly into space, as she pleaded, "John, here's a present for you. Take it, John, and look at it."

John made no move. Again the plea was made. "John, dear, all of us at home thought you would like your present so much. Look at it, John. Isn't it nice?" The loving, urging voice failed to reach John's mind. He was powerless to grasp the meaning of a gift.

Millions in the world today are like John. They refuse God's great gift of love—the Saviour. There is a difference, however, between that mentally ill man and those who refuse God's gift. That man didn't knowingly refuse the gift offered to him, but many people today, deliberately and knowingly refuse God's gift of eternal life through the Son.

Sadness must have pervaded the face of the Saviour when He said long ago, "And ye will not come to me that ye might have life" (John 5:40).

—SELECTED

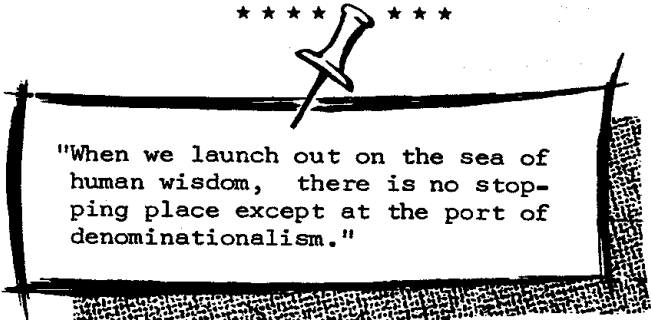
ANSWERS TO "KNOW-YOUR-BIBLE" BIBLE QUIZ

1. Genesis 11:31-32; 12:1-5;
2. Genesis 32:24-28;
3. Leviticus 17:10-14;
4. Exodus 16:14, 15; Numbers 11:7-9;
5. I Kings 2:1-4;
6. II Kings 5:15-27;
7. Proverbs 20:29;
8. Matthew 1:21;
9. Acts 17:22, 23
10. Ephesians 5:22-33.

RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

GOD'S ANSWER

- Much that perplexes us in our Christian experience is but the answer to our prayers.
- We pray for patience and God sends tribulation; for tribulation worketh patience. Rom. 5:3-5.
- We pray for submission and God sends suffering; for we learn obedience by the things which we suffer. Heb. 5:8.
- We pray for unselfishness and God gives us opportunities to sacrifice ourselves by thinking on the things of others, and by laying down our lives for the brethren. Phil. 2:4; Matt. 27:42; I John 3:16.
- We pray for victory and the things of the world swoop down upon us in a storm of temptation; for "this it the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith". I John 5:4.
- We pray for strength and humility and some messenger of Satan torments us until we lie in the dust crying for its removal. II Cor. 12:7.
- We pray for union with Jesus and God severs natural ties, and lets our best friends misunderstand us and seem indifferent to us; and calls on us to walk "alone". Isa. 51:2; 63:3.
- We pray for love and God sends peculiar suffering and puts us with apparently unlovely people, and lets them say things which rasp the nerves and lacerate the heart, for love suffereth long and is kind, love is not impolite, love is not provoked, Love beareth, believeth, hopeth, and endureth all things. Love never fails. I Cor. 13:4-8.
- We pray for likeness to Jesus and the answer is: "I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. Can thine heart endure or can thine hands be strong? Are ye able?" Isa. 48:10; Eze. 22:14; Matt. 20:22.
- And in the furnace he melts us into something of His own tenderness and gentleness and teaches us how to bear one another's burdens and how to live to make intercession for the sick and the sorrowful. Gal. 6:2; Heb. 7:25; Eph. 6:18.
- But this is only the transitory side. There is an everlasting reward of praise and honor and glory at the coming of Jesus Christ. I Pet. 1:17. "For our present trouble, which is only for a short time, is working out for us a much greater weight of glory; while our minds are not on the things which are seen but in the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are for a time; but the things which are not seen are eternal". (II Cor. 4:17, 18 B.E.).



READERS'

... Response

PRYOR, OKLAHOMA:

■ "Sometime ago I ordered a bound volume from you for \$3.25 and a trial subscription for \$1.00. I have received two or three copies of *The Sword and Staff* and I also received the bound volumes. I must confess that I haven't ever been as disappointed in anything that I have ordered in my life.

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: Ma'am, since you do not specify what is disgusting and argumentive to you, we are left in the dark as to giving an intelligent reply. We are unreservedly dedicated to the restoration of simple, undenominational New Testament Christianity. We believe that the traditions and denominations of men must be laid aside to accomplish this. Most of our mail is overwhelmingly favorable, and many are saying they are using our material for exactly what you say you cannot use it for. Regardless, whether you agree with our humble presentations or not, we have Christian love for you and the kindest regards. And, by the way, wasn't your letter just a "little" argumentative?)

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■ "I have been on your mailing list for nearly three years. I have been lax in sending my subscription fee. I have no idea how much I owe but enclosed you will find a check for \$5.00. I hope this will cover my previous procrastination and possibly take me into another year's subscription.

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Who Made It?

Sir Isaac Newton had a friend who, like himself, was a great scientist—but the friend was an infidel, while Newton was a devout Christian, and they often discussed their views concerning God.

Newton had a skillful mechanic make him a replica of our solar system. In the center was a large, gilded ball representing the sun, and revolving in their proper order around this were small balls fixed on the ends of arms of varying lengths, representing the planets. These balls were geared together by cogs and belts, so they moved in perfect harmony when turned by a crank.

One day as Newton sat reading in his study with this mechanism on a large table near him, his infidel friend stepped in. Stepping up to it, he slowly turned the crank, and with undisguised admiration watched the heavenly bodies move in their relative speed in their orbits.

Standing off a few feet, he exclaimed, "My! What an exquisite thing this is! Who made it?"

Without looking up from his book, Newton answered, "Nobody."

Quickly turning to Newton, the infidel said, "Evidently you did not understand my question. I asked you who made this."

Looking up now, Newton solemnly assured him that nobody made it, but that the aggregation of matter so much admired had just happened to assume the form it was in.

The astonished infidel replied with some heat, "You must think I am a fool! Of course somebody made it. He is a genius and I'd like to know who he is."

Laying his book aside, Newton arose and laid a hand on his friend's shoulder. "This thing is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without either a designer or maker! Now tell me by what sort of reasoning do you reach such an incongruous conclusion?"

The infidel was convinced and became a firm believer that "The Lord, he is the God."

—Selected

price and a check will be sent!

"Thank again for your great job."

SPAIN:

■ "Keep up the good work...I enjoy every issue of *The Sword and Staff*."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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