



THE QUARTERLY

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RISEN

DEATH WHERE IS YOUR STING?

The
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MY MOM USED
TO SAY ...Series

"Quote Me, But Don't MISquote me"

Page 6

What Should
We Learn From
The Life of Jonah?

Page 7

Page 9

Do You Have a Willing
Heart?

Passover or Easter
Which is Biblical?

Page 10

RISEN
DEATH WHERE IS YOUR STING?

Page 11

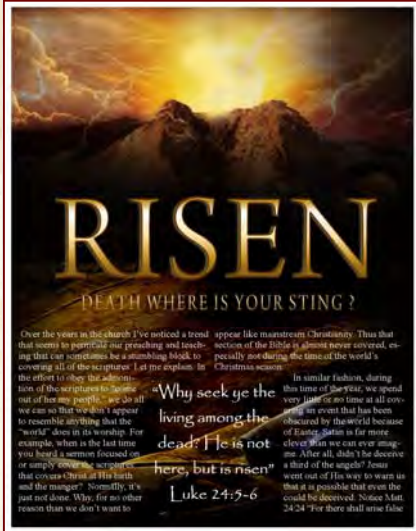


EDITORIAL

God's
Unchanging Word
for our ever-changing world

"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen" Luke 24:5-6

Page 11



Do We Outreach to Fulfill the Commission Alone?

John 15:16 "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

Before Jesus was led to the stake, He gathered His disciples around Him and gave them final words of comfort and instruction. Today, we see this often when someone knows he has but a very short time to live. When it becomes obvious that time is very short, the very closest family and friends gather, pay their respects and say goodbye. Normally at that time, if the person is still coherent, he gives them his final words of love and encouragement. Today we call that a death bed admonition. At that moment of time, it is believed to be the deepest and most sincere feelings a person will ever have. Even in courts, the deathbed confession of a criminal holds tremendous weight on a jury or judge.

There was one thing very different at this final meeting of Jesus and His disciples and Jesus' deathbed admonition. On this occasion, He alone knew what was taking place. Even though the disciples were given plenty of information, they had not yet been converted and had no idea what the next twenty four hours would entail.

In John chapters 13-17, God has preserved for us Jesus' deepest thoughts, desires, and instructions for those disciples He gathered around Him, and for all of those that shall be gathered through them for all the generations to come. Notice verse 20: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."

When we examine these chapters of John, the most powerful expressions of Jesus' desires are revealed. First is His desire to fulfill the will of His father who sent him. Jesus told us earlier in His life that: "This is My commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12-13 There can be no mistake of the depth of the love that Jesus had, He fulfilled the very point He just shared with the disciples.

The next point that jumps out at us at this deathbed admonition is His desire to continue in the path on which the Father set Him. "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

When we focus on outreach and fulfilling of the commission to preach the gospel unto the world, we often forget to connect the dots to Jesus' final words of admonishment to His disciples where we are instructed to "bring forth fruit and that fruit should remain."

One last point; at the same meeting Jesus told the disciples: "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."

To address the question; **Do We Outreach to Fulfill the Commission Alone?**

I answer, it is because of the love God has granted us in fulfilling the final words of our Elder Brother Jesus Christ; "If a man love Me, he will keep My words."

To forsake preaching the gospel to the world is to forsake the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jon



Changes for the Feast on the East Coast

It's never too early to prepare for the Feast

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Joe Shuster 540-662-4241

Elwood Woodcock 478-923-6103



Trinidad

Each year the *Trinidad* congregation plays hosts for the Feast of Tabernacles for the brethren filled with worship, activities, and lots of music. Looking to go out of the U.S, this year for the

Feast. This is your place. Location this year is the **Bethesda All Purpose Center**. Every one is invited

For more information email Newton James:
newtonjms546@gmail.com



Lancaster, PA

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717-464-2711



Rooms : 119.00 Per Night, Up to 4 People
Includes Full Buffet Hot Breakfast

For More Information Contact :

Charles Gray 215-519-6264

bjcsgray@verizon.net

5 U.S. Feast Sites and 2 Overseas This Year



During the year we will be adding information, activities, and speakers to each of the sites. Stay in touch by going to www.thecogmi.org and look up the Feast

Feast Sites for the Rest of the Country

It's never too early to prepare for the Feast

New Location in Branson, MO

Steve Councill has found a great new location this year for Branson



To get these rates making reservation please mention the Church of God, Ministries International. Their staff will be more than glad to accommodate you with your reservation.

Standard Room (Single/double)

\$49.00 per night

King \$54.00 per night

For reservations: 417-339-4666

Website: www.ozarkvalleyinnbranson.com

For more information contact:

Bobby Webre: 504-273-3733

Steve Sibille: 850-426-7979

spsibille@yahoo.com

Auburn, Indiana



also several church sponsored events to help all to participate.

For questions about the Feast Site, please contact:

Bruce Chapman - 616-636-9209

Or: Chuck Hunt Jr. 517-581-1624

15.chunt@nhaschools.com

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Be Sure to Mention the Church of God, Ministries International for the discount.

Auburn will be the location again this year for the northerners. Establishing Feast Sites is one of the most challenging responsibilities of the church in servicing the needs of its members.

Distance, expense, the economy, what the area has to offer, motel availability, restaurants, and the list goes on.

After speaking with many of the members it was decided to remain where we have been for one more year to help more of the brethren attend.

This is a wonderful site filled with many activities, and events. Additionally there are

Ft Walton Beach, FL

It's back to Ft Walton Beach

ISLANDER BEACH RESORT

This is the same location we had when we were in

Ft. Walton beach last year. They are offering 30% off the fall rates to us.

For more information contact: Steve Councill:

269-445-7943

Steve Councill

secouncill@comcast.net

Tom Kerry: 504-367-2005



MY MOM USED TO SAY...Series

TRUTH

LIES

“Quote Me, But Don’t MISquote Me”

By Audrey Kerry

With all the lies, “fake news,” and half-truths that is prominent in today’s media, I can only imagine what my mother would be saying. One of her ‘proverbs’ comes to my mind, and now more than ever I understand the depth of those simple words, “You can quote me, but don’t MISquote me!”

I’ll never forget the time when I first used those words myself. Oddly enough it was during a local church meeting. It was a pretty heated type of meeting and one lady took it upon herself to sit in the back and take notes. After I had my say speaking, I walked in the back and told her the words that my mom had told me many times, “You can quote me, but don’t MISquote me.” I told this lady that I was serious and I hoped that truth was important to her.

As usual, the proverbs my mom often quoted were full of wisdom and backed up by godly principles. One of the things that the Lord absolutely hates is deceit. Scriptures are full of admonitions to be truthful. Since the carnal mind is enmity towards God, it is a MUST that we be truthful to ourselves, but the only way to do that, since our own hearts are deceitful (Jer.7:9), is to come before God and ask HIM to examine our hearts.

In the book of Acts there is a profound example of the seriousness of deceptiveness. It is the account of Ananias and Sapphira found in Acts 5. When reading this story, many overlook the real lesson to be learned. This famous husband and wife team sold their property and gave some of the money gotten for it to the church, but made it ‘appear’ that they were giving the entire amount. After Peter confronts them for being deceptive, they both drop dead,




first Ananias, then his wife Sapphira. As Peter said, it was their property to do what they wanted to do with it, to keep the money or to give the money. There was no sin in keeping some of the money, but to make it ‘appear’ that they were giving the ‘entire’ amount was the *deception* that could not be tolerated. It was a hard lesson no doubt that the early church had to learn. It is a hard lesson for us to learn today. Deception leads to death!

As we approach the Passover season, with the backdrop of all the lies in our world that

are rising against anyone speaking the truth, I find it a very sobering time for those who are seeking to be in the family of God. Satan, the father of all lies knows his time is short and we are witnessing a rise in evil. People will distort what you say, but when it is appropriate and if you are able, stand up to them with words of wisdom. Lying is evil, but ‘bearing false witness’ takes lying to another level. THIS is one of six things listed in Proverbs 6 that the Lord HATES. Bearing false witness is lying *against* someone.

We must therefore be careful when we speak, as when we tell a story. Without even knowing it, we could be twisting the truth and thus lying about someone to fit our own agenda. The only way to avoid this is keeping our motives pure and thoughts in subjection to God. Without Him, we are just pawns for Satan, the father of all lies.

So next time you “quote someone, remember not to MISquote them.” And remember this also, “A thief can only take what you have, but a liar can send you to the electric chair!” Those two proverbs go hand in hand.

Oh yes, one last point: can you guess where I got that second quote? That’s right, “My Mom Used to Say!” 

What Should We Learn From The Life of Jonah ?

By Anna Samons

Proud, stubborn, disobedient, unfaithful, a grumbler, and altogether a bad-tempered, cantankerous old man—this was Jonah, whose name means “dove!” Jonah was the son of Amittai, who came from Gath-hepher in Zebulun (called Gittah-hepher in Joshua 19:10-13). He was the earliest of the prophets and close behind Elisha in his place in the Old Testament. Jonah’s story is told in the short (just 48 verses) but powerful book of Jonah.

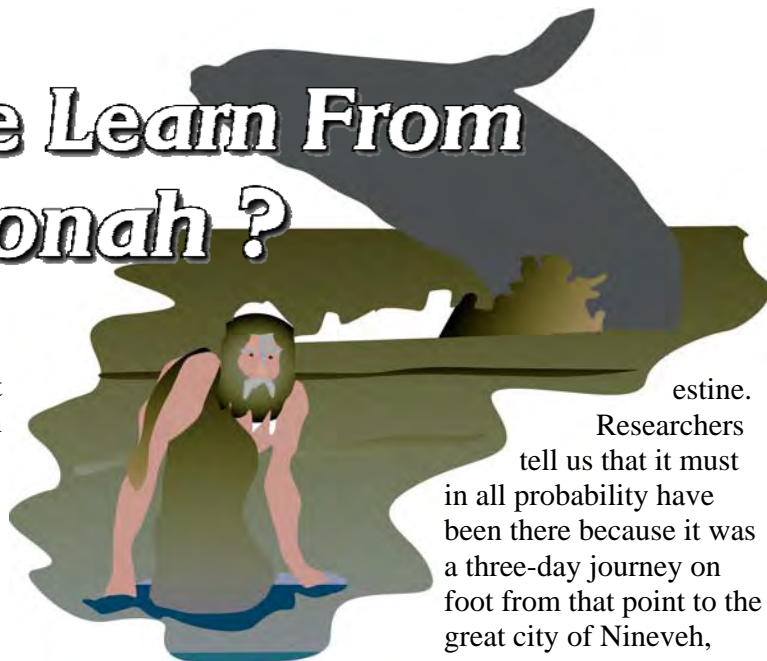
When God called Jonah to go and warn the violent and godless Ninevites of their impending doom, all his pride in being a Hebrew—and therefore uniquely favored by the Almighty (so he thought, no doubt along with many others of his nation)—rose up in rebellion. Pagans, to him, were the worst kind of human garbage, not even fit to pollute the good earth by living on it. They were the “untouchables,” and that God should take an interest in them was unthinkable. Therefore, not being one to put up with that which was not to his mind, he fled to Joppa and booked passage on a ship bound for Tarshish, which was in the opposite direction from Nineveh.

A human father would probably have shrugged Jonah off in disgust and found someone else more willing to take his message to Nineveh, but not so our Heavenly Father. If God has a purpose for someone, then, the gifts and calling of God being irrevocable, he will either fulfill His purpose, or He will simply roll over him to accomplish what He has foreordained (Isaiah 46:9-10). God rolled

over Jonah with a vengeance, causing a violent storm to threaten the safety of his ship and its crew, so that their indignation at his contented snoring through their danger, soon put an end to his satisfaction. This unceremonious awakening also awakened Jonah to the fact that, far from being an “artful dodger,” he was being followed by the Almighty. There was nothing for him to do but to confess what he had been up to and tell the sailors that only by dumping him overboard could they be saved. This they did, and the huge whale sent by God promptly swallowed him up (Jonah 1:17). This, and the immediate stilling of the storm, brought the ship’s crew to faith and salvation as a result (Jonah 1:16). The Lord is not one to miss out on His opportunities!

At this point Jonah has now found himself in a situation worse than anything he could have imagined, but like Jacob, he has by now awakened to the fact that God is with him wherever he ends up, in obedience or disobedience. The result is a beautiful prayer of faith rising up from the belly of the great fish, but still with a hint of spiritual pride: “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD” (Jonah 2:8-9).

In response to this prayer of contrition and faith, on his Creator’s orders, the whale then vomits up Jonah on what were probably the shores of Pal-



estine.

Researchers tell us that it must in all probability have been there because it was a three-day journey on foot from that point to the great city of Nineveh, which is in line with the

statement in Jonah 3:3. Ancient cave drawings from this time indicate that Ninevite fishermen lived on the shores of the Mediterranean. This fact is important in illustrating the wonderful way in which God paves the way for His servants to fulfill His commands. The principal goddess worshipped by the Ninevites at that time was Ashtoreth, but they also deferred to the god Dagon who had a man’s upper body and a fish’s tail. Jonah, so the researchers say, would probably have been bleached completely white from his head to his toes by the acids present in the belly of the whale, and on the sudden appearance of this ghostly figure from the waves the fishermen may have been convinced that this was Dagon’s messenger and fallen flat in worship. These men would have fed and housed Jonah until he was recovered enough from his experience and then, as he was a stranger in those parts, given him directions on how to find their city. Of course, the biblical narrative doesn’t give us these details, but it is fascinating to theorize.

In any case, the biblical text is a masterful expression of understatement: “Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ‘Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you’”

Continued on p. 8

What Should We Learn From the Life of Jonah ?

Continued from p. 7 (Jonah 3:1-2). This time, there is no arguing from Jonah, who, although he may be complying on the outside, is still stubbornly disobeying on the inside. He finally arrives at Nineveh and strides vengefully through the city announcing doom and destruction on the people in forty days because of their wickedness and their ignorance of the Lord and His ways. He then retires to a flimsy shelter he builds for himself, probably on a hill overlooking the city, and waits for the fireworks to start (Jonah 4:5). Result? Utterly and absolutely nothing! To his utter chagrin, he finds not just the people from the king down, but their animals as well, clothed in sackcloth and sprinkled with ashes as an indication of their absolute acceptance of the prophetic word sent to them by God, their deep repentance, and their fervent anxiety to get right with the Lord (Jonah 3:5-10). This does not suit our friend Jonah at all and he flies into a fury at God and lets Him have no small piece of his mind (Jonah 4:1-3). God's answer is to cause a leafy gourd to grow up to help protect Jonah from the blazing sun, for which Jonah is somewhat sullenly grateful, and then to promptly remove it the next day! His reply to Jonah's bitter complaints about this is that if Jonah can have so much compassion on himself for his loss of comfort in spite of being aware of what a faulty child of God he is, then how much more compassion will Almighty God have on a people who are utterly ignorant of right from wrong (Jonah 4:9-11).

So that is Jonah - a very great comfort to all who fall flat at times when it comes to obedience and who run away from what they know God wants them to do. Jonah's story is also an object lesson to those who are possessed of a short fuse and those who are at times guilty of a superior attitude to the spiritually ignorant or immature. Like the Ninevites, many around us are in darkness and, but for the grace of God, so would we be. May we all by that grace read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Word!



Spring Cleaning and the Holy Days ... Are They Connected ?

The time old tradition of Spring Cleaning is celebrated by many countries and cultures. What's interesting is that, it seems that nearly no one can agree on how and where it got started. It's because they don't look to the author and creator to find the true source.

The Different Perspectives

While people can't agree on the origins, they all agree on the benefits. The practice is believed by some to be biological because most people enjoy the renewed energy they experience when spring arrives. Because there's less sunlight during the winter months, we generate more sleep hormones, making us sleepier. When the sunny days return, we magically feel more energetic.

From a Healthy Perspective: Spring cleaning has both psychological and physical effects on us. From a health perspective, spring cleaning helps clean out dirt and dust to avoid illnesses that include allergies and asthma. You can take deep cleaning to an even safer level by using naturally non-toxic household cleansers like Pure Care's to ensure that you're not adding more toxins by using the toxin ridden options.

From a psychological standpoint, the winter gloom connotes stagnated energy and things left undone. Springtime on the other hand is a time of renewal and the physically letting go of things you don't need anymore, cleaning and opening up your home to fresh air and sunlight. It also opens you up psychologically, making it possible to come up with new ideas and a happier spirit.

Chinese Tradition: To prepare for Chinese New Year it's an important tradition to thoroughly spring clean their homes and have it completed by Chinese New Year. Every inch of the home is scrubbed and swept, broken household items tossed out and some families follow this up with Feng Shui practices. Once the cleaning is done, they hang paper couplets (chunlian) around the doorway to bring good luck for the New Year.

Iranian Tradition: During the spring equinox, Iranians celebrate the New Year (Now Rouz) with a festival that lasts two weeks and features a variety of celebrations. Before the festivities begin, the Iranian people take part in "khaneh takani" which means "shaking the house" or what we call "spring cleaning", taken to an entirely new level - shaking the house.

Where Do We ... God's Called Out Ones Get Our Tradition?

It starts with the preparation for the Spring Holy Day, Passover and the days of Unleavened Bread. It is both physical and spiritual in nature. The origins is found in Ex. 12:14-16 "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance. For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do."

To leaven a product that is baked requires yeast, and time for the yeast to ferment to allow it to cause the baked products to rise. One of the elements of yeast is that it can also be airborne, thus, according to this line of thinking, if a person is to "unleaven their home," they must remove all yeast. Thus house cleaning to get all of the yeast which God uses as an TYPE, for explaining sin.



Do You Have a Willing *Heart*?

By: Anna Samons

When it comes to right and wrong, our conscience should cut to the “heart” of any concern of right or wrong. When it comes to who we really are deep down, the question we should ask ourselves, “What’s in my heart?” In other words, what controls our thoughts, our emotions, our viewpoints, our makeup, our “person?” Who are we really? What *is* in our hearts? Do we have a wise heart? Are we receptive to real and right values and do we “live” these values in our daily lives?

All my life I have heard people saying things like: “A good heart is better than all the heads in the world,” and “A person’s world is only as big as their heart.” A Chinese proverb says, “If I keep a green bough in my heart, then the singing bird will come.”

The Bible “speaks” about the heart. Romans 10:10 says, “For **with the heart** one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Galatians 6:9 says, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we **do not lose heart.**” Jesus himself said in Matthew 22:37, “You shall love the Lord your God

with all **your heart**, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Yet, there’s a flip side to what the heart holds and God is not mocked; He knows us better than we know ourselves and we need to be very careful what we allow into our hearts. In Mark 7:6, Jesus answered the Pharisees and the Scribes saying, “He answered and said to them, ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me” (Isaiah 29:13).

Matthew 15:19 says, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” And, of course, Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

We have to ask ourselves, “Do we have a good and moral heart? Are we truly seeking God, humbly, with our whole heart? Or, do we have a proud heart that is “fat as grease?”—in other words, proud, stupid or slow to understand?

Psalm 119 gives us insight to these important questions. In verse 2 it is written, “Blessed are those who keep His

testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart.”

Psalm 119:67–70 says, “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word, You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes. The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep your precepts with my whole heart. Their heart is **fat as grease**, but I delight in Your law.”

What truly controls our conscience as we all live before the great God of the universe? Where does our heart “stand” in relationship to Jesus Christ and God the Father?

Throughout Psalm 119 the reoccurring theme is to be taught and to learn and to understand the statutes, laws, precepts, ways and commandments of God - and to do so with a humble, caring, loving heart. Not a proud or “fat” heart of self-righteousness or hypocrisy.

As time continues for those of us who really care what God thinks about us, we need to be “conscience clear,” carefully preparing what’s in our hearts, clarifying where our treasure is, and beseeching our God to put in us a clean heart worthy of His blessings and protection.



Continued from p. 14

Passover or Easter Which is Biblical *Cont.*

children of Israel, and say to them: The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, *these are My feasts*” (Leviticus 23:1-2). They are God’s holy days and feasts

Sure, the holy days and festivals of God were first centered on Israel. But the holy days and festivals represent many things. They teach us about the past. They teach us about the future. They’re symbolic. They are signs between God and His people: “You shall surely observe My Sabbaths; for this is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you” (Exodus 31:13). Not the Sabbath, but the plural “Sabbaths,” which encompass the seventh-day Sabbath **and** the Holy Days. (God says that we must refrain from working on the holy days; they are thus considered Sabbaths, or days of rest.)

These Holy Days and Festivals Point to Jesus Christ:

Festival of Unleavened Bread: Jesus was unleavened. Biblically, leaven symbolizes sin. Jesus referred to Himself as the “bread which came down from heaven.” Jesus was sinless, or unleavened;

Festival of the Firstfruits (alternately called Feast of Weeks, later known as Pentecost): Jesus is the First of the firstfruits of God, and Christians are also called firstfruits who receive God’s Holy Spirit, which was first made available in a transformative way on the first Day of Pentecost (Acts 2);

The Memorial of Blowing of Trumpets heralds the return of Jesus to the earth;

The Day of Atonement depicts Jesus’ atoning sacrifice on our behalf (and the

binding of Satan for one thousand years following the return of Jesus);

The Feast of Tabernacles represents Jesus ‘tabernacling’ in the flesh for 33.5 years, and He was probably born on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles; and

The Last Great Day foreshadows Jesus as Judge in the judgment period of the second resurrection. (When all those who have not known Christ will have an opportunity for salvation).

Since the holy days and festivals (collectively referred to as Sabbaths in Exodus 31:13) are Christ-centered, and since they are “signs” between God and His people, why have millions of mainstream Christians unwittingly replaced these sacred days and festivals with pagan Easter and Christmas?



Passover or Easter Which is Biblical?

When the Lord your

God cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?' You shall not behave thus toward the LORD your God, for every abominable act which the LORD hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it" (Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

God warned us - Israel then, Christians now - not to adopt pagan customs. However, we have chosen not to heed God's warning. Many traditional Christian doctrines and celebrations - such as going to heaven or hell when we die, the immortality of the soul, and Christmas - are rooted in paganism. So is Easter.

"Easter, a Christian festival, embodies many pre-

Christian traditions.

The origin of its name is unknown. Scholars, however, accepting the derivation proposed by the 8th-century English scholar St. Bede, believe it probably comes from *Eāstre*, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox; traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored Easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts" (MSN Encarta, article on Easter).

Easter eggs, the Easter bunny, the Easter fire, and the word Easter itself: what do they have in common? They originated in paganism, as the Catholic encyclopedia admits:

Easter eggs: "Because the use of eggs was forbidden during Lent, they were brought to the table on Easter Day, colored red to symbolize the Easter joy. This custom is found not only in the Latin but also in the Oriental Churches. The symbolic meaning of a new creation of mankind by Jesus risen from the dead was probably an invention of later times. *The custom may have its origin in paganism, for a great many pagan customs, celebrating the return of spring, gravitated to Easter. The egg is the emblem of the germinating life of early spring.*"

Easter bunny: "The Easter Rabbit lays the eggs, for which reason they are hidden in a nest or in the garden. *The rabbit is a pagan symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility.*"

Easter fire: "The Easter Fire is lit on the top of mountains (Easter mountain, *Osterberg*) and must be kindled from new fire, drawn from wood by friction (*nodfyr*); *this is a custom of pagan origin in vogue all over Europe, signifying the victory of spring over winter.*"

The word Easter is derived from "Eostre, a Saxon goddess celebrated at the spring equinox" (The Oxford Companion to the Bible, pg. 173). Eostre is also known as Ostara. "In ancient Anglo-Saxon myth, Ostara is the personification of the rising sun. In that capacity she is associated with the spring and is considered to be a fertility goddess. She is the friend of all children and to amuse them she changed her pet bird into a rabbit. This rabbit brought forth brightly colored eggs, which the goddess gave to the children as gifts. From her name and rites the festival of Easter is derived" (*Encyclopedia Mythical*).

The Easter egg, bunny and fire, and the word Easter, are pagan. Is it too farfetched to assume that the Easter celebration is also pagan?

Continued on p. 13





RISEN

DEATH WHERE IS YOUR STING ?

Over the years in the church I've noticed a trend that seems to permeate our preaching and teaching that can sometimes be a stumbling block to covering all of the scriptures. Let me explain. In the effort to obey the admonition of the scriptures to "come out of her my people," we do all we can so that we don't appear to resemble anything that the "world" does in its worship. For example, when is the last time you heard a sermon focused on or simply cover the scriptures that covers Christ at His birth and the manger? Normally, it's just not done. Why, for no other reason than we don't want to

appear like mainstream Christianity. Thus that section of the Bible is almost never covered, especially not during the time of the world's Christmas season.

"Why seek ye the
living among the
dead? He is not
here, but is risen"

Luke 24:5-6

In similar fashion, during this time of the year, we spend very little or no time at all covering an event that has been obscured by the world because of Easter. Satan is far more clever than we can ever imagine. After all, didn't he deceive a third of the angels? Jesus went out of His way to warn us that it is possible that even the could be deceived. Notice Matt. 24:24 "For there *Continued on p. 12*

Continued from p. 11

shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; inso-much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Why am I saying this? Because sometimes in our zeal to do what we are commanded to do, separating ourselves from this world, we throw out the baby with the bathwater. In this case, through Satan’s deception, he has buried two important truths in a single blow. First he has deceived the world as to the correct time of the resurrection and substituted a perversion, Easter. Second, he managed through magnification of the first lie to totally obscure the actual event that did take place at that time, on that morning; it is called the *WaveSheaf*.

The church properly focuses on how Satan has deceived the world, and that Christ was not resurrected on Sunday morning at daybreak. We explain the three days and three nights from Friday afternoon and being put into the grave at dusk, and resurrection three days and three nights later, at sunset on Saturday evening. We normally don’t cover the second truth, the *Wave Sheaf*.

On Saturday evening just before sunset, Jesus was resurrected from the dead and became the Firstfruits of them that slept. (I Cor. 15:20) “*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the Firstfruits of them that slept.*” Even though Jesus was resurrected from the dead, risen from the tomb, he had not yet ascended, “**Risen**” to the heavens to sit upon the right hand of the Father in the heavens.

Notice John 20:1 “The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and sees the stone taken away from the sepulcher” Jesus was still on the earth, almost 12 hours after he had been resurrected. Verse 17 confirms this: “Jesus said unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet

RISEN

ascended to my Father:” The event that Satan had totally obscured by inserting Easter is one of the most momentous occasions of all times. The reuniting of Christ with the Father, it is called the *WaveSheaf*.

That event also points us to future events that involve all of the called out ones. (I Cor. 15:21-24) “*For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.*”

We find the foundation of this event in Luke 24:1-8, 24 “*Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.*”

The WaveSheaf / Firstfruits

Without the true wave-sheaf offering, Jesus Christ, there would be no Holy Spirit to lead us, no Church to

spiritually nurture us and no harvest for the salvation of humanity. (Lev. 23:10-14) “*Speak*

unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. ...it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.”

Jesus fulfilled the first part of the commands and prepared the way for the rest of the called out ones to receive the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and opened the way for the first resurrection of the Saints to take place at the return of Jesus Christ.

This first sheaf of grain was called the “*firstfruits*” (Leviticus 23:10) Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, When you be come into the land which I give to you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest:

It was the *firstfruits* of the barley harvest, the first part of the grain harvest. No one was to eat any of the grain of the harvest until the first sheaf of the harvest was brought to the priest, who in turn waved it before God. Thousands of years later we find the same language used in the New Testament of the Bible—describing Jesus Christ! “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the *firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20) But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

We also find that Jesus Christ is called “the *firstborn* over all creation” and “the

Continued on p. 15

PASSOVER OR EASTER, WHICH IS BIBLICAL?

Continued from p. 10 The Bible does not contain the word "Easter." Moreover, the Easter celebration remembers Jesus' resurrection (on the wrong day, by the way). But Jesus commanded His disciples, then and now, to *observe His death* until He returns. God commands us to remember Jesus' death, and hence the reason for His sacrifice (our sins), during the Passover season. "For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed" (I Corinthians 5:7). Why, then, do we celebrate Easter? Why not Passover?

More on the Pagan Origins of Easter

"What does the term Easter mean? It is not a Christian name....Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven" (Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, pg. 103). Hislop also demonstrates that many Easter customs, including hot cross buns, are pagan.

Lent is a forty-day period of fasting, prayer and penitence before Easter. Lent, too, is pagan: "The forty days' abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonian goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, 'in the spring of the year,' is still observed by the Yezidis or pagan devil-worshippers of Koordistan, who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians. Such a Lent of forty days was held in the spring by the pagan Mexicans, for thus we read in Humboldt [*Mexican Researches*, v. i. P. 404] where he gives account of Mexican observances: 'Three days after the vernal equinox... began a solemn fast of *forty days* in honor of the sun.' Such a Lent of forty days was observed in Egypt, as may be seen on consulting Wilkinson's *Egyptians*. This Egyptian Lent of forty days, we are informed by Landseer, in his *Sabean Researches*, was held expressly in commemoration of Adonis or Osiris, the great mediatorial god" (*The Two Babylons*, pg. 105).

There's no doubt about it: the roots of Easter are pagan. God commands us to not keep pagan customs. Why, then, do we keep Easter?

The Early Church

"The divine authority of Moses and the prophets was admitted, and even established, as the firmest basis of Christianity" (Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Volume 1, pg. 451). In his magisterial history of the decline of

the Roman Empire until the fall of Constantinople in 1452, Gibbon includes a succinct and insightful history of the early centuries of Christianity. He affirms what most scholars believe, and indeed, what the Bible states: early Christians were considered a sect of Judaism.

The earliest Christians kept the law of God as found in the first five books of Moses. They observed the holy days and festivals of God. They did not observe Easter and Christmas; those celebrations, which are rooted in paganism, arrived centuries later. Jesus Himself validated the law and holy days of God: "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, *until heaven and earth pass away*, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17-19).

Heaven and earth have not passed away. According to Jesus, neither have God's laws and holy days (including the seventh-day Sabbath). Man, however, has ignored Jesus' teachings and replaced them with worldly traditions. "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the *tradition of men*, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

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What happened?

The divergence of early Christianity from God's laws and holy days took a long time. "The first fifteen bishops of Jerusalem were all circumcised Jews; and the congregation over which they presided *united the law of Moses with the doctrine of Christ* (emphasis mine)....But when numerous and opulent societies were established in the great cities of the empire, in Antioch, Alexandria, Ephesus, Corinth, and Rome, the reverence which Jerusalem had inspired to all the Christian colonies insensibly diminished. The Jewish converts, or as they were afterward called, the *Nazarenes*, who had laid the foundations of the church soon found themselves overwhelmed by the increasing multitudes, that from all the various religions of polytheism inlisted (sic) under the banner of Christ" (*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. 1, pg. 453).

Luke records that Roman and Jewish authorities labeled the apostle Paul as a leader of this sect of the Nazarenes: "For we have found this man a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ring-leader of the sect of the Nazarenes" (Acts 24:5). These Nazarenes (or earliest Christians) believed not in the destruction of God's laws, holy days, and festivals. Instead, they clung to

Continued on p. 14

PASSOVER OR EASTER, WHICH IS BIBLICAL?

Continued from p. 13 the belief in the validity and permanence of God's laws, holy days and festivals (Matthew 5:17-19).

The Roman and Jewish authorities considered the Nazarenes (or earliest Christians) to be a sect because they believed that Jesus had fulfilled the role of the prophesied Messiah. That was the main difference between the earliest Christians and other Jews. (Other differences involved the role of Mosaic Law in salvation and the sacrificial system.)

During the second half of the first century, the Jewish people in Judea revolted against Roman rule. Josephus is our primary source for the first Jewish revolt of 66-70 AD. He describes their unhappy ending during the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman general Titus (son of Roman Emperor Vespasian). "But when they went in numbers into the lanes of the city, with their swords drawn, they slew those whom they overtook, without mercy, and set fire to the houses wither the Jews were fled, and burnt every soul in them, and laid waste a great many of the rest; and when they were come to the houses to plunder them, they found in them entire families of dead men, and the upper rooms full of dead corpses, that is of such as died by the famine; they then stood in a horror at this sight, and went out without touching anything.

Although they had this commiseration for such as were destroyed in that manner, yet had they not the same for those that were still alive, but they ran every one through whom they met with, and obstructed the very lanes with their dead bodies, and made the whole city run down with blood, to such a degree indeed that the fire of many of the houses was quenched with these men's blood. And truly so it happened, that though the slayers left off at the evening, yet did the fire greatly prevail in the night, and as all was burning, came that eighth day of the month Gorpheus [Elul] upon Jerusalem; a city that had been liable to so many miseries during the siege, that, had it always enjoyed as much happiness from its first foundation, it would certainly have been the envy of the world" (Josephus, *War of the Jews*, Book 6).

The Romans sacked Jerusalem, killing many of its inhabitants and destroying the Herodian temple in which Jews wor-

shipped. "The ruin of the temple, of the city, and of the public religion of the Jews, was severely felt by the Nazarene" (Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, vol. 1, pg. 453). In the aftermath of this revolt, the Roman Emperor re-named Jerusalem *Aelia Capitolina*, and ordered a general persecution against the Jewish religion. In order to escape persecution, the Nazarenes appointed a gentile bishop to lead them. This bishop convinced many of them to renounce Mosaic Law and the holy days and festivals found in Leviticus 23. However, some Nazarenes did not comply with this order. "The name of Nazarenes was deemed too honorable for those Christian Jews, and they soon received from the supposed poverty of their understanding, as well as of their condition, the contemptuous epithet of *Ebionites*. In a few years after the return of the church of Jerusalem, it became a *matter of doubt and controversy, whether a man who sincerely acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, but who still continued to observe the law of Moses, could possibly hope for salvation*" (ibid, pg. 455, emphasis mine).

The Nazarenes (or Ebionites) melted into obscurity: "The unfortunate Ebionites, rejected from one religion as apostates, and from the other as heretics, found themselves compelled to assume a more decided character; and although some traces of that obsolete sect may be discovered as late as the fourth century, they insensibly melted away either into the church or the synagogue" (ibid, pg. 455).

The separation of church and the synagogue (or more aptly, *Christians from God's laws, holy days and festivals*) was almost complete by the end of the first century. Then, in 135 AD, a false messiah named Bar Kochba led a second revolt against Roman rule. "The one thing that does happen in the second revolt, though, is [that] the self-consciously apocalyptic and messianic identity of Bar Kochba forces the issue for the Christian tradition. It appears that some people in the second revolt tried to press other Jews, including Christians, into the revolt, saying, 'Come join us to fight against the Romans. You believe God is going to restore the kingdom to Israel, don't you? Join us.' But the Christians by this time are starting to

say, "No, he can't be the messiah -- we already have one." And at that point we really see the full-fledged separation of Jewish tradition and Christian tradition becoming clear" (from *Jews and the Ancient World*, companion text from the PBS Frontline special, *From Jesus to Christ, a portrait of Jesus' world*).

How Easter Replaced the Passover


The earliest Christians kept the law of God, including the holy days and festivals that begin with Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23). We have seen how the forces of history led later Christians to renounce Mosaic Law and God's festivals and holy days. These laws (such as the seventh-day Sabbath) and holy days and festivals were considered *too Jewish*, and no one wanted to be associated with the persecuted Jews in the last half and first half of the first and second centuries. Therefore, they sought replacements; hence the creation of Easter and Christmas as replacements for Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles.

The latent paganism of the gentile converts also contributed to the gradual renunciation of God's laws, holy days, and festivals, as found in the Old Testament. Still, in the fourth century, some plucky Christians celebrated Passover and not Easter. "Churches celebrating Pascha (Passover) on 14 Nisan, known as Quartodecimans...were a minority" (Encyclopedia of Catholicism, pg. 438). This reminds us of Jesus' prediction that the "gates of Hades," of the grave, will never prevail over the Church. To this day, a relative few Christians keep the Passover and other holy days of God.

Why Do Most Christians Refuse to observe God's Annual Holy Days?

Millions of Christians, and specifically their pastors and leaders, refuse to observe the holy days and festivals of God. Centuries of tradition rooted in paganism have buried God's truth. These sincere Christians are unaware of what the holy days and festivals mean. They are not *Jewish* holy days and festivals. "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the *Continued on p. 9*

John 15:16 "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."



THE Constitutional CHRISTIAN

FREEDOM BY DIVINE PROMISE

Recently someone wrote me the following after watching "**The Constitutional Christian**:"

"I enjoyed your program "**The Constitutional Christian**" it was well done. Thank you. But I must also say that preaching the gospel to all the world as a witness (Matt 24:14), should be the #1 priority of the Church. This is **NOT** in my opinion nor of HWA."

Great point, but is it correct? I thought I would address the question that constitutes the preaching of the gospel? Is there only one way? Do we have biblical direction?

The first question to address is: What is the goal of outreach, preaching the gospel? Jesus tells us at His final meeting with them before He was taken and crucified. "*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain**:"*" (See commentary this issue) The fascinating reality is this: He leaves it up to the individual believer or church on how to go about accomplishing that task.

One of the things I love doing when visiting churches is to ask people how they came into the church. I've found there is no one way. Not all come in via the broadcast or through preaching. On numerous occasions I found

people who came to the truth simply by the kindness of love shared from one person to another. Or by a person simply living God's way that catches another's attention that brings about questions that stimulates the calling God may be giving to that person. Roy Rogers once said, "I'd rather see a sermon that hear one." Jesus also tell us: "*And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*" What I'm saying is that God uses all means to save people. Reaching called out ones is not a one step, single method approach to those God is calling. The apostle Paul understood that when he wrote that he would be "*all things to all men that he might save some.*" (I Cor 9:19-22)

Look what the Bible tells us in (I Cor 12:4-6); "*Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.* And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all." The ultimate goal of all methods is found in that we bear godly fruit worthy of repentance. At the conclusion of it all we have accomplished the task of "*proclaiming the good news of the coming Kingdom of God.*"

Going on Paul says: "*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to*

another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these works that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." (I Cor 12:7-13)

In conclusion, we are at the beginning stage of the outreach for "**The Constitutional Christian**." It has at every turn been producing fruit. We have added more people to the mailing list, and brought more response in a shorter time than anything else we have produced. The "**Constitutional Christian**" is not an end of the outreach, it is only beginning of what we hope will bring more and more people to fulfill their calling. Conversion is a process, just as outreach is not the end, it is the beginning. To that end "**The Constitutional Christian**" fulfills a purpose in the preaching of the gospel.



PLEASE WELCOME The Following to the Family of Associated Churches of God

The following is a list of contacts and churches that we've recently added to the Congregations section on our website. (www.thecogmi.org) Looking for a church or just visiting, you'll find terrific fellowship and warm and friendly brethren.

Anacoco, LA COG

Contact: Ed Malone 202-487-4499
edardmalone@hotmail.com

First Century COG

Contact: Pastor R.F. Woodland
443-801-4697
admin@firstcenturychurchofgod.org

St. Louis, MO COG

Contact: Pat Jenkins 636-387-7711
hpjsmommy@charter.net

Ocala, FL COG

Contact: Don Trumble 812-687-8160
dtrumb@comcast.net

Kawartha Lakes, Ontario, Canada COG

Contact: Stephan Willshaw
youmatter@cogeco.ca

APRIL 29TH

Special Area Wide Fellowship Sabbath Jacksonville, Florida

Location: Embassy Suite by Hilton

9300 Baymeadows Road Jacksonville, FL 32255

Time: 12:00 Noon

When you look at the map on the adjoining page, you can see there are fellowship groups and congregations scattered across the Norther FL and Southern GA. This special fellowship is being sponsored by brethren to give everyone an opportunity to worship and fellowship together. Following services and fellowship the brethren are planning to go to the nearby Golden Coral for a late lunch. Please mark it on your calendar and join us for a "Great Sabbath."

For more information please contact:

Moe and Jean dionne: 401-641-5802

Manis and Anna Samons: 352-472-2730

Chuck and Lisa Baker: 912-595-6705



Continued from p. 12 **RISEN**

firstborn from the dead" (Colossians 1:15-18 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

The apostle Paul said that Christ was prophesied to be "the first to rise from the dead" (Acts 26:23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light to the people, and to the Gentiles.

It is in this connection between the

first grain offering, called the firstfruits of the harvest, that was waved at the time that the world calls the Easter resurrection; and Jesus Christ, the firstfruits and firstborn from the dead that explains our calling and God's promise for the elect?

The apostle Paul explains that if we are buried with Christ in our Baptism, that we will also be "**RISEN**" with Christ at His return. (Col 2:10-12" "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

The harvest for the firstfruits be-

gan on the day of Pentecost and will not stop until all things have been restored. Paul puts all this in order when he wrote to the Corinthians. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." (I Cor. 15:20-26)



Traveling South This Summer For Vacation, or Simply Looking for Fellowship With the Brethren, Then There is No Need to Search Any Further.

Over the years we have gotten calls and emails from the scattered brethren planning on going on vacation, heading to the south and asking if we have a church they could meet with while they are traveling.

This year we are pleased to report that God has blessed us with many new contacts and groups that you will be able to meet with across the country. The strongest expansion has come across the south where interestingly, most of the churches and fellowship groups are either on, or near an Interstate Hwy. This makes it extremely convenient to be able to make a

Ps 133:1-3

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

² It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;

³ As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."

stop to worship and fellowship with one another.

Because the brethren are within a few hours drive of each other, we are also hoping to plan combined services, where those in the scattered groups can get together with one another from time to time.

We'd also like to note, that we understand that there are actually many more groups meeting in the scattered areas. If you would like to add your group and be a part of the scattered fellowships, please let us know. We'd love to have you and add your group. Gives us a call at 504-367-2005. or email at : tomk122@cox.net.

United Church of God Birmingham, A Christian Fellowship
Contact: Neil Parker 205-307-9836
members@unitedchurchofgodbirmingham

COGMI Dublin, GA
Elwood Woodcock 478-923-6103
elwood.woodcock@us.af.mil

COGMI Savannah, GA
Eddie Fountain 912-656-4168
eddie1571@aol.com

COGMI Jacksonville, FL
Manis Samons 352-472-2730
manisq@att.net

COGMI Daytona, FL
Maurice Dionne 401-641-5802
dionneproperties@gmail.com

Florida Keys-Islamorida, FL
Fred King 305-664-8422

Ocala, FL COG
Don Trumble 352-681-8160
dtrumb@comcast.net

Pensacola, FL COG
Glenn Daniel cogcantonment@yahoo.com
Steve Sibille 850-426-7979
spsibille@yahoo.com

Monticello COG, FL
Chuck Baker 812-595-6705
chuckbaker_69@yahoo.com

COG Mobile, AL
Contact Bobby Edmonds
251-709-4627

Anacoco, LA Church of God,
Ed Malone 202-487-4499
Edwardmalone@hotmail.com

New Orleans Home Office of
Church of God Ministries Int'l
Tom Kerry 504-367-2005
www.thecogmi.org

No need to miss services or fellowship
with the brethren this year if you're on
the road or heading south for vacation.

The above is the most current information we have for the churches, fellowship groups, and contacts for the southeast region of the U.S. In most cases, the churches meet regularly on the Sabbath at specific times. However, it is always best to call in advance to find out the schedule.

We'd also like to note that the Jacksonville, FL congregation's meeting place was recently sold and they are looking for a new location. In Dayton, they meet with other brethren in different locations during the month. It's best to call in advance for information and meeting places. Fred King is holding down the fort in the Keys and is looking to meet with others.

Looking For A Place To Take The Family

Opening this fall

MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE

Washington, DC

Check it out online: www.museumofthebible.org



Digital Lobby Ceiling

Creating an awe-inspiring welcome for the museum guests, the 140-foot digital canvas will rotate throughout the day and set the tone for guest's entire experience at Museum of the Bible



Courageous Pages

Courage is the overriding theme of the kid's area, packed with biblical stories of people who dug deep and did what they believed was right, even in the face of fear or opposition.



Impact of the Bible

This floor will explore the Bible's impact over time in cultures, civilizations, and daily life, including its profound influence on fine arts, science, government, music, film and more.



Narratives of the Bible

On this floor, visitors will walk through the narratives of the Hebrew text from Genesis to Chronicles and then through first-century Nazareth, ending with the story of the New Testament.



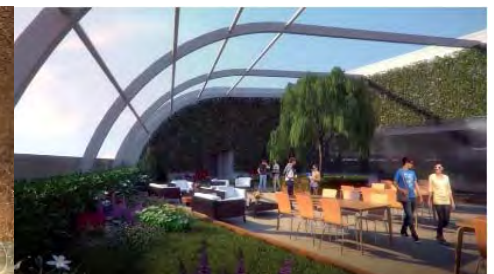
History of the Bible

Galleries on this floor follow the Bible from its origins as a series of writings accessible to only a small group of people, through many changes in form and adoption by multiple faith traditions, to the most widely read text in history.



Bronze Doors

This grand entrance has a height of 40 feet and will be flanked by an architectural re-creation of the printing bed of the first page of Genesis from the Gutenberg Bible, and is made of large bronze panels.




Restaurant and Biblical Garden

In the spirit of the festive Middle Eastern outdoor marketplace, this restaurant will highlight the foods of the Bible. Guests can enjoy display kitchen viewing and take a stroll through a rooftop biblical garden.

Study to Show Yourself Approved

Last Year You Saw it As a Sermon Series
This Year, View it As it Was Meant to Be



The EXODUS

9 Part

PowerPoint Bible Study

MAKE THIS YOUR MOST REWARDING PASSOVER TO PENTECOST BIBLE STUDY HOLY DAY SEASON YOU'VE EVER HAD

Years ago, the Worldwide Church of God, had a very informative Bible Study Correspondence Course. Now you can return to those days of learning; this time in the video format with the Exodus Bible Study lessons, one lesson for each week.

The Exodus series was designed to be used as a Video Bible Study Course. Study alone in your home at your own pace, or as a Bible Study with a group or church. All of the lessons are available online to download into your computer, or view via your DVD player. Set your own pace, create your own charts, read all the scriptures, make notes where you will, to research and work through your lessons; one lesson a week.

DVD 1 Week 4/9 - 4/15

Introduction

DVD 2 Week 4/16 - 4/22

Lesson 2 Background

Lesson 3 Prophesied Captivity

(Note: Both of these on same DVD)

DVD 3 Week 4/23 - 4/29

End Time Work of Joseph

DVD 4 Week 4/30 - 5/6

Passover Lamb

DVD 5 Week 5/7 - 5/13

Passover Lamb

DVD 6 Week 5/14 - 5-20

Cut Off in the Midst of the Week

DVD 7 Week 5/21 - 5/27

Re-establishment of time Pt.1

Exodus to the Sea

DVD 8 Week 5/28 - 6/03

Re-establishment of Time Pt. 2

Crossing of the Sea to the Mount

New 3 Part Series

Lesser Known
Characters
Of the
BIBLE

Jehoshaphat King of Judah



A Message for the End Times
And a history lesson of depending on
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