

# HOPE Gazette

September 2021

## Labor Day

Read all about it on page 10

## Marriage and Adultery

Check it out on page 20!

## Yom Kippur

Learn more on page 24

Pastor Response

## Where Does Sin Begin?

Pastor Larry Mitchell





Verse of the Month

*"Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this made known in all the earth." Isaiah 12:5*



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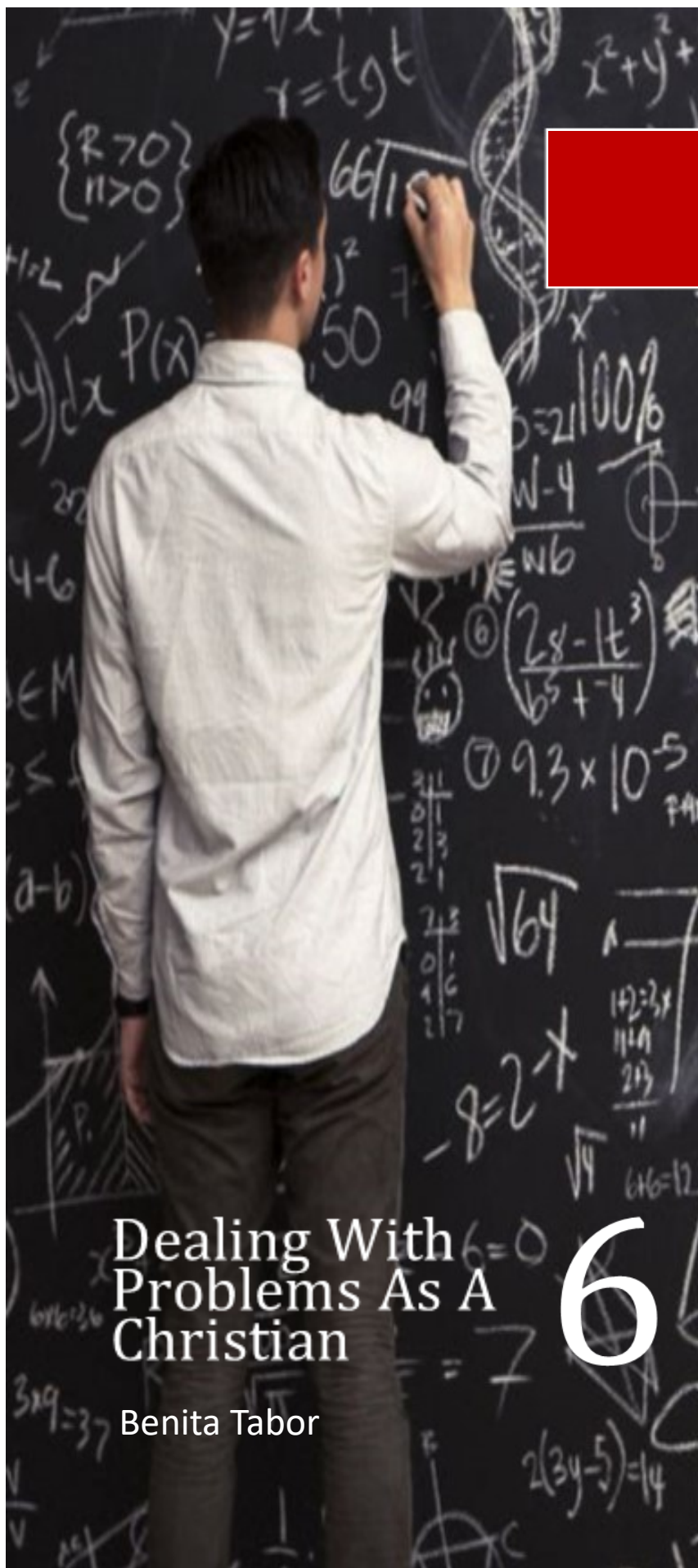


This Gazette is intended to share ideas, discuss theology, and to inform. This is a volunteer-based publication. It is through the hard work of many people that we can produce and share this.

If you have any questions please reach out to us!

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## Dealing With Problems As A Christian

Benita Tabor

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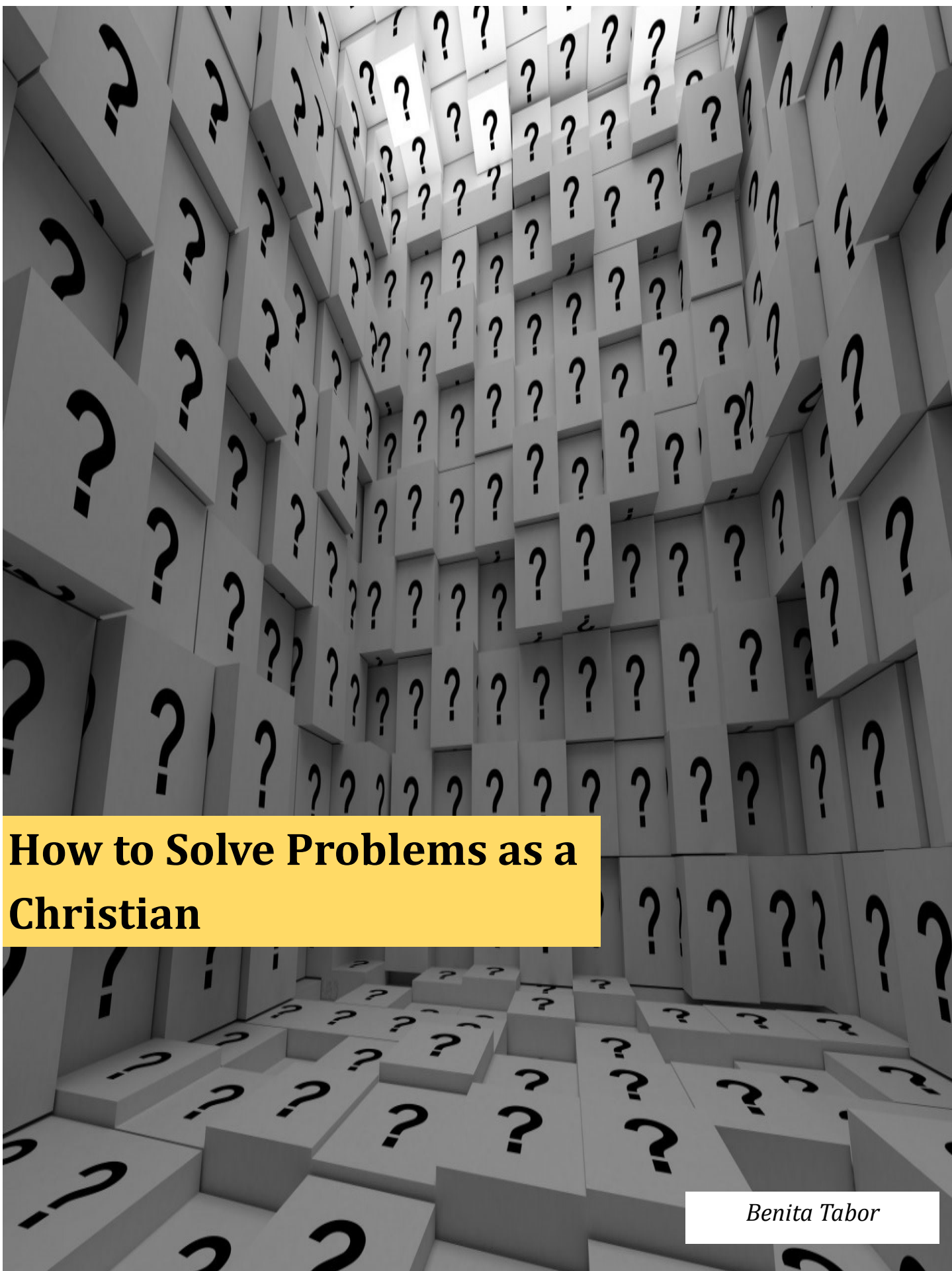
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# How to Solve Problems as a Christian

*Benita Tabor*



## **How to Solve Problems as a Christian:**

**By having a relationship with God!**

**By being a doer of His Word not just a hearer. James 1:22**

**By simply walking in the Spirit, the Truth, letting Christ in us be our hope of Glory. Colossians 1:27, Proverbs 3:6**

**To be a doer of His Word means we must know His Word. Which, of course, means we must study His Word. (II Timothy 2:15)**

One of the most significant times in my walk after giving my life to God was when God showed me the scripture James 1:22 and what happens when we follow His direction. When we are a doer of His Word, we are experiencing Him and letting Him direct our path. Christ in us our hope of Glory. (Colossians 1:27)

I have been learning one day at a time, one moment at a time, how to walk in the Spirit. This walk is a journey and is the relationship that Jesus gave His life to purchase for us. Now we can have this relationship with Him and share Him with others.

Jesus is our example! He is our WAY, TRUTH, & LIFE. (John 14:6-7; John 1-5)

Paul prayed for the Colossians that they would be pleasing and fruitful. Please read the whole book of Colossians; it is full of instruction and how-to have a relationship. All things were created by Him, for Him, and in Him are held together (Col 1:15-17). He is the head of the body, firstborn from the dead, and has the final say (Col 1:18).

When God started showing me this, I had no idea that He was preparing me for what was lying ahead. His being the same yesterday, today, and forever had not become personal to me yet. As I have grown my relationship with Him over the

years, He has brought His Word to life in me. He surrounds me and has taught me how to let Him flow through me.

When I was in a wreck and ended up in the ER, I saw God take what the enemy meant for my harm and destruction and work it out to my good and to His Glory BIG TIME (Romans 8:28).

Because of what He had shown me in the past, when He told me not to worry that day by bringing these scriptures to my remembrance, Proverbs 3:5-6, Philippians 4:6, John 10:27-29, and Isaiah 54:14,16,17, in that very moment I made up my mind to believe what the Truth said and not give place to the facts.

So I prayed and told Him I knew I belonged to Him and asked Him to let His will be done. I said to God that by His Grace, I was not going to worry about anything. Later they did X-rays to see if I had broken any bones or organs in my chest. Instead, they found a small spot on my left lung and told me they wanted to do a biopsy on it as soon as possible. I said ok, and the arrangements were made. Long story short, during the biopsy the bottom lobe of my lung collapsed, and they told me to do deep breathing, and it would reinflate. But it did not reinflate.

Next, I went to my doctor to get the results of the biopsy. My doctor looked at me and said they came back positive for cancer, and they wanted to do surgery to remove it as soon as possible. I looked at him and smiled. He asked me why I was smiling. I told him I knew God had this and I was anxious to see how He could use this to give others hope. He smiled back and asked if I was expecting this kind of report. I said I was not, but now that I have gotten the news, I will get to watch and see how God works it out.

Then came the surgery to remove a spot of cancer about the size of a dime. When they got in inside, they found that the lower lobe of my lung had

never reinflated. It, too, would have to be removed. When I woke up, I had tubes in my chest, and my family looked quite worried. The doctor came in and told me I would be there a few days because my surgery turned out to be more severe than was expected. I replied that all was good, and God was in control.

I wanted to go home the next day. The doctor smiled and said that usually doesn't happen under these circumstances but would consider it. When she left the room, I got up and grabbed my machine, and walked my Mom and sister to the elevator. Of course, the nurses were flipping out, so in came the doctor.

She agreed to take my chest tube out and, after a good night's sleep, I went home the next day. Soon I was walking four blocks to the store, walking around my yard, and singing praises to the Lord.

The check-up was two weeks later. It turns out that my lung expanded back out to full size!!! We looked at each other, smiled, and at the same time said, "BUT GOD."

So, know what God says, believe what God says, and be a doer of what God says. **It is that simple.** No matter what the facts say, stay focused on what the Truth says. Matthew 14:26-33 is a

perfect example of this. Peter was walking on water until he stopped focusing on Jesus. As he was sinking, he called on the Lord to save him, and Jesus reached down and pulled him up. Jesus asked him what caused him to doubt. The Lord is the same now as then and wants to work with us right where we are. One day at a time, one moment of the day at a time. We need to let go and let God.

*<sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."*

*<sup>28</sup> Peter responded and said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." <sup>29</sup> And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and when he began to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out with His hand and took hold of him, and \*said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. <sup>33</sup> And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are truly God's Son!"*

*Matthew 14:26-33*





# Classifieds

 **stuff**

 **services**

 **jobs**

 **homes galore**



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# Labor Day

Mark Pitman

Labor Day: Is it a day of labor or a day of rest?

As we all ponder this thought, let's look at the history of the start of Labor Day and its significance as a national holiday. Next, we will explore it from a Biblical perspective. These steps will highlight some key verses that address the "labor" versus "rest" issue and better understand how it relates to everyday life.

Observed on the first Monday in September, Labor Day celebrates American workers' social and economic achievements. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century when labor activists pushed for a

federal holiday to recognize workers' many contributions to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

Before it was a federal holiday, Labor Day was recognized by labor activists and individual states. After municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886, a movement developed to secure state legislation. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon passed a law recognizing Labor Day on February 21, 1887. In 1887, four additional states – Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York – passed laws creating a Labor Day holiday. By the end of the decade, Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894,





23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

Many Americans celebrate Labor Day with parades, picnics, and parties. These traditions and festivities are similar to those proposed long ago. The street parade was suggested to exhibit "the strength and spirit de corps of the communities trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. As such, this became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day.

Giving speeches (by prominent men and women) was later introduced as more emphasis was placed on the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

American labor has raised the nation's standard of living and contributed to the most significant production the world has ever known. The labor movement has brought us closer to realizing our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. Therefore, it is appropriate that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership – the American worker. [ from the US Dept of Labor]

As you notice, the history of Labor Day was about celebrating the nation's workforce. It pays tribute to the American worker. So, on this day are we not to work? Well, many employers have made it a holiday for their employees to enjoy a day off and celebrate in whatever fashion they wish. It is just another day off from work and a long weekend for most, holding no special meaning.

Let us shift our focus to the biblical perspective of "labor" and compare it to the world view. In the Bible, we see that in Genesis 3:17-19 the first account of "labor" mentioned.



"And to Adam, he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain, you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Here in this verse, we read the account of the fall of Adam and Eve. If you read the whole Chapter 3 of Genesis, you will understand the reason for the above verse. You see, Adam and Eve had it made in the Garden of Eden; it was like living in heaven.

Everything was perfect, and if they had obeyed God, they could have lived there forever. After disobeying, they no longer deserved paradise, and God told them to leave. If they had continued to live in the garden they could have lived forever. But eternal life in a state of sin would mean forever trying to hide from God.

As a result of their disobedience, they now had to work by the sweat of their brow. So, as we will discover throughout the Bible, there are many examples of how man was to work. There are Godly principles we must apply to be successful in our labor. Let's now look at a few of these examples. All verses are in ESV translation.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat, drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth, possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-13

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ...

Exodus 20:9-11  
1 Corinthians 15:5  
Ephesians 4:28  
Proverbs 14:23  
1 Thessalonians 4:11  
John 6:27  
Proverbs 12:11  
Proverbs 13:11  
Colossians 3:23-24  
Psalm 128:2  
1 Corinthians 10:31  
Proverbs 16:3  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Matthew 5:16  
2 Chronicles 15:7  
1 Corinthians 4:12  
Proverbs 18:9  
1 Corinthians 3:8  
Proverbs 10:4  
1 Thessalonians 4:11-12  
1 Timothy 4:10  
Jeremiah 22:13  
Psalm 90:17  
John 4:34

We are to look to God for all our needs. "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:19 ESV. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33. ESV.



On this Labor Day, take a look at your life, and reflect on these key points and ask yourself these questions:

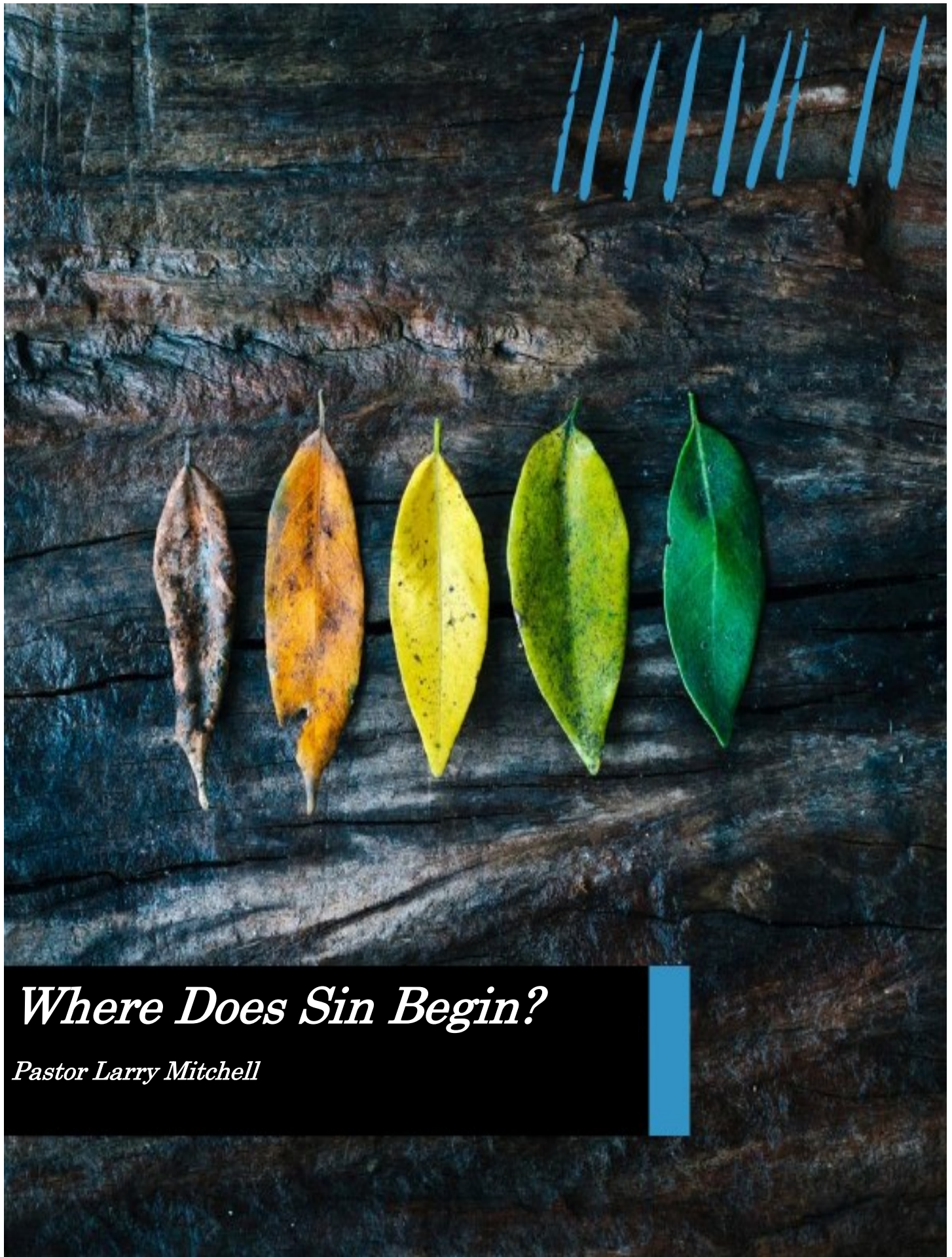
- Am I building my own house without God?
- Am I looking to Him to supply all my needs?
- Am I providing for my family as I should?
- Am I looking to man for success or am I seeking God and His direction for my life?

To answer the question, "is Labor Day a day of rest or a day of labor?" I believe it is both. When we labor with our hands as God instructed us, we are to rest and to take time to enjoy the fruits of our labor. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:2 8ESV. This rest is from our labor but from the cares of life, the burden we carry in trying to make it on our own. God provides rest from these cares.

However, we are not to be slack in working and expect the Lord to bless us and provide for all our needs. We are to be busy doing the work of the Lord. We are to labor each day and take time to reflect on all that He has blessed us with. When and how you choose to do this is up to you- Just remember to take at least one day to rest and place all your care upon the Lord. For this, you will be greatly rewarded. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 ESV. "Happy Labor Day"







# *Where Does Sin Begin?*

*Pastor Larry Mitchell*



THE QUESTION Has Been Asked; "WHERE DOES SIN BEGIN?". "WELL, I Believe, With That, WE ALSO Have to Talk About, "WHEN. DID SIN BEGIN." AND Of Course, Maybe We Need to Preface Our Answer FIRST, With the Question of, "WHAT IS SIN?"

The BIBLE Lets US Know That "SIN," is the Breaking of ANY. Religious or Moral LAW!" It's the Transgressing of GOD'S LAW! And of Course, GOD'S COMMANDMENTS Are NOT GRIEVOUS! [ 1 JOHN 5:3]. Because His Commandments Are All About US Getting Along With Each Other, And US, Putting OUR FAITH IN HIM, And Acknowledging Him in All our Ways, And NOT Putting Our FAITH IN OURSELVES! [PROV. 3:5-6]

The Word, "SIN" Was Even Used in Days of Old on the Archery Ranges; When One Would MISS the MARK, or the "BULLS EYE,". The "DISTANCE," Measured Between Where the ARROW Landed, and the MARK, or the BULLS EYE, Was Called, "SIN!" SO, SIN is "MISSING the MARK! It's Transgressing GOD'S LAW! JAMES 4:17 says; "To HIM Who KNOWS to DO GOOD, BUT Does it NOT, To HIM, IT IS SIN!" It's DOING WRONG Against GOD, Or Against Your NEIGHBOR, . . . Or EVEN SINNING AGAINST YOUR OWN BODY!!

The Apostle PAUL Said in His Letter, PHIL. 3: 14. "I PRESS towards the MARK. for the PRIZE. of the "HIGH CALLING" of GOD, in CHRIST JESUS."

"WHAT'S the "MARK?" "WHAT IS THIS, "HIGH CALLING of GOD IN CHRIST?" IT'S to Be CALLED a "CHRISTIAN!" That's the "MARK! "IT'S TO BE CHRIST-LIKE!" SO, the Short Answer Would Be, . . . "NOT DOING the NEXT RIGHT THING, Would BE MISSING the MARK!"

### Where Did Sin Begin?

You See, in the Beginning, in GEN. 1:28. GOD Gave to Adam and Eve, (and Ultimately to ALL of Mankind), "WELL, Let's SEE WHAT it says; . . . "And GOD Blessed Them and said to them, Be Fruitful and Multiply and Replenish the earth, and Subdue it; And have DOMINION Over (Everything) in the Earth."

. . AND SO, This Word, "DOMINION," Means "SOVEREIGNTY,". . . Which Means, That MANKIND Was "PUT in CHARGE," Over EVERYTHING IN the EARTH! PSA. 115:16 says. "The Highest Heavens Belong to the LORD; . . . BUT the EARTH, HE has GIVEN to MAN."

AND SO, The POINT Being WE, [Earth People - lol]. Should Realize That WE CAN'T RULE the EARTH and the Affairs of MANKIND, . . . WITHOUT GOD!" SO, CONTRARY to Popular Belief, ALL the BAD IN THIS WORLD, ISN'T GOD'S FAULT! BUT the FAULT LIES With MANKIND IN MISSING the MARK, . . . And ALLOWING "SIN," to Become the NORMAL WAY That WE LIVE!". SO, WITH THIS DOMINION, ALSO Came the Wonderful, FREEDOM of CHOICE! BUT, with the FREEDOM of CHOICE, There Comes RESPONSIBILITY!

You See, In the Very BEGINNING of Things, GOD Told Adam and Eve NOT to Eat of the TREE of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, . . . Because [He Said] "In the Day That You EAT From THIS TREE, YOU Shall SURELY DIE!". BUT WE KNOW That EVE Was SEDUCED By the SERPENT, Alias "Lucifer,". And So, THEY DID EAT, and Their CHOICE, of DISOBEDIENCE, Brought on the DEATH PENALTY! ROM. 6:23 says; "For the Wages of SIN is DEATH." GAL. 6:7 says," Be Not Deceived; God is not mocked; (Like GOD Doesn't Know What He's Talking About) For whatsoever a man Sows, THAT is WHAT. HE Shall Also REAP."

WHAT HAPPENED?? JESUS said in LUKE 12:48. "To whomsoever MUCH is Given, of HIM. Shall MUCH be REQUIRED." ROM. 5:12 says; "Therefore, through One Man, SIN entered into the world, and DEATH, came through SIN, and THUS, SPREAD to ALL MEN, . . . " . . . AND SO, THIS IS WHY MUST BE "BORN-AGAIN!"

The TRUTH IS, There Are So Many People in THIS World, That CLAIM to BE MAD at GOD, Wanting Nothing to DO With GOD, . . . Because of ALL the BAD Things, That Have Happened to Either Themselves, or to Someone Else in Their Family, . . .. AND SO, THEY BLAME GOD FOR ALL the BAD

Things, That Have HAPPENED In the WORLD. to SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE!

WHEN BAD Things HAPPEN, to BAD People, RIGHT Away Our Response is; “WELL, They’re Just Getting What They Deserve”. BUT WHEN BAD Things HAPPEN to GOOD PEOPLE, . . . WE Wonder, “WHAT’S”. GOD THINKING?”

FIRST of All, I Believe WE MUST ALL Realize, That BAD THINGS DO HAPPEN, IN THIS WORLD, and WILL HAPPEN! JESUS WARNS US About THIS in . . . *JOHN 16:33 – “In this **WORLD YOU SHALL Have TRIBULATION!**”*



WHY IS THIS? IT’S BECAUSE WE LIVE in a CURSED WORLD! WE LIVE IN A FALLEN WORLD! AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT? IT’S BECAUSE OF SIN!! WELL, THAT’S WHAT We’re TALKING About!

. . . BUT Let’s Be HONEST, Since WE Believe That the Bottom Line to THIS Whole Matter, is That GOD IS a SOVEREIGN GOD And That HE Has ALL POWER and is ABLE to UNDUE or. to FIX ANY EVIL That the DEVIL, [Through PEOPLE] CAUSES, . . . “PEOPLE BLAME GOD, and They say, “IT MUST BE GOD’S FAULT!”. BUT LET’S WAIT a MINUTE, LET’S Back Up and SEE Where the Responsibility REALLY LIES!!

. . . BECAUSE WHEN Talking About, “BAD THINGS”. WE Have to Talk About SIN, and the “EFFECTS of SIN, Because it’s the EFFECTS of SIN. That Brings About the Manifestation of BAD THINGS THAT HAPPEN in People’s LIVES, too BAD PEOPLE - And/ Or to GOOD PEOPLE!”

“IT’S Like GRAVITY, Whether YOU’RE GOOD, or BAD, IF YOU DON’T RESPECT GRAVITY, . . . IT’LL HURT YOU!”

YOU See, IN the Old Testament, IT Describes a DISEASE Known as LEPROSY! IT was a Disease, So Hideous, So Contagious, and SO EXTREMELY FATAL! . . . LIKEWISE, SIN is to BE COMPARED to LEPROSY. Because SIN is JUST as FATAL! *JAMES 1:15 says; “When Lust has been committed, it is SIN; When SIN is finished, it Brings forth DEATH.”*

In the BOOK of *Genesis 7:23* . . . IT Tells US That SIN Had SPREAD and Polluted MAN-Kind SO Much. That GOD Had REPENTED That HE’D EVEN MADE MAN! (THINK ABOUT THAT!)

WE’VE Got To REALIZE, That SIN is Contagious, AND Through the CHOICES That WE ALL MAKE, (Especially, BAD CHOICES) . . . WHEN SIN is CONCEIVED, IT SPREADS Like LEPROSY. . . And CAN DEFILE the LIVES of SO MANY OTHERS, and ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO LIVE WITHIN OUR OWN LIFE CIRCLE!!! *PAUL says in ROM. 14:7 “None of us LIVES to Ourselves or DIES to Ourselves.”* “SO, IT’S ALL ABOUT the CHOICES WE MAKE!!!

SO, Consequently, GOD DESTROYED the Population of the WHOLE WORLD By a GREAT FLOOD! AND The ONLY People SAVED, Were NOAH and HIS Family! BUT STILL AFTER the Flood, AFTER SIN Had Been ERADICATED, . . . IT Only Took a Couple of Generations Later, And WE SEE That MANKIND was RIGHT BACK IN the SIN BUSINESS, AGAIN!

WE SEE That a Fella by the Name of NIMROD, WHO was the Son of CUSH, who was the Son of HAM, who was the Son of NOAH, Was SO EVIL, That HE Ended Up Marrying His Own Mother, .. Whose NAME was “SEMIRAMIS.”

Otherwise Known as “the Goddess of Heaven” – Other Names in Other Cultures Call Her “Venus” – ESTRA, ISHTAR, or OSTARA, or MAYBE Better Known Here in America as; EASTER the goddess of Fertility.” (Sound Familiar?) DID You Ever Wonder WHERE ALL Those Bunny Rabbits, and Little Chickies and EASTER EGGS. CAME FROM? IF NOT, YOU SHOULD HAVE!!



In MARK 8:38. JESUS says," Whosoever therefore shall be Ashamed of me and My words, in this Adulterous and sinful generation; Of him also, shall the Son of Man be ASHAMED, when He comes in the glory of his Father, with the Holy Angels."

Alright, We're Talking About the EFFECTS of SIN. And the POINT That I Want to Make is; HOW the SIN, of ONE MAN, (Like ADAM, And Like NIMROD). Can AFFECT the LIVES of SO MANY People!! NIMROD and SEMIRAMIS had a SON By the Name of "TAMMUZ." (Who, incidentally, was BORN On December the 25th) (Coincidence?) We Know that JESUS Wasn't Born December 25th. SO, WHERE. and WHO Came Up with DEC. 25th?



NIMROD Had Become So Infatuated with the WORSHIP of STARS, (NOT the STUDY of STARS, which is ASTRONOMY). BUT ASTROLOGY, in Which Has Been Passed Down to US, TODAY, Through the DAILY Reading of HOROSCOPES!

NIMROD Had Become SO FILLED With HIMSELF, With the SAME PRIDE That LUCIFER was FILLED With, That HE Had the SAME DESIRE to BE WORSHIPPED! SO, HE Was Incensed with BUILDING the "TOWER of BABEL," in Which HE Could RISE to the HEAVENS, And HE Could BE a GOD!" (GEN. 11:2)

OF COURSE, GOD OVERTHREW HIS LITTLE BUILDING PROJECT BY CONFOUNDING Their LANGUAGE, And SO, THEY Couldn't FINISH, Because THEY Couldn't COMMUNICATE!! NIMROD was Also Responsible for Initiating the Practice of SATAN WORSHIP! AND Because of THIS PRACTICE, ... The

FIRST Church of SATAN was Formed Here in America, by Anton Zandor LeVey, on APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>, 1966.)

NIMROD Became Known as the "CHILD DESTROYER" Because HE Was So EVIL, That HE Began Sacrificing BABIES, By Throwing Them ALIVE Into the FIRE, as a RELIGIOUS PRACTICE! ONE Can't Help but Think, That THIS SAME EVIL RELIGIOUS PRACTICE is Still being Carried On TODAY, in the ABORTION MILLS of AMERICA, On the ALTAR of "PROFIT and PLEASURE!" Of Which, ALL of THESE PRACTICES, That NIMROD had SET UP in EARLY BABYLON, SO Long AGO, Ultimately SPREAD Throughout the ENTIRE WORLD, and THEY STILL Are in PRACTICE TODAY!

YOU SEE, NIMROD'S EVIL Practices, HIS SIN, Has Been Passed Down through the Centuries, Poisoning Lives, Polluting Governments, and "YES,". Even POLLUTING the CHURCH! SO, WE SEE, That NOT ONLY DO the BAD CHOICES That WE Make, EFFECT JUST OUR Lives, BUT Those SAME CHOICES Can Have a FAR REACHING EFFECT ON OTHER LIVES, AS WELL!

WHAT KIND of CHOICES Are WE Talkin' About?

1. When People CHOOSE to Drink and Drive? (Is it GOD'S Fault When a Drunk Driver Kills Someone in a Head-on Collision?)
2. When People CHOOSE to Have SEX Out of Wedlock Without Protection? (Is it GOD'S Fault, the Millions of Babies That Have Been Aborted?) (Is it GOD'S Fault, for the Epidemic of AIDS & all the STDs?)
3. When Pregnant Mothers CHOOSE to Use Tobacco or Drugs or Alcohol! (Is it GOD'S Fault, When Children are BORN Mentally Retarded, or Physically handicapped?)
4. When People CHOOSE NOT to Eat Right and Get Plenty of Exercise! (Is it GOD'S Fault When They Get Sick and Die SOONER Than They're Supposed to?) NO, NO, and NO!!!! *ECC. 7:17 says; "Don't be a FOOL; Why DIE before Your TIME."*



AND MY POINT is LET'S PUT THE BLAME WHERE IT LIES! PAIN and SUFFERING That's Created from BAD DECISIONS like These, THEY DON'T Come From GOD, THEY Come From OUR OWN FOOLISHNESS in Making BAD CHOICES!!

- THEY Come from DECISIONS That WE MAKE, That AREN'T BASED Upon the WORD of GOD!
- THEY Come from Man's OWN Rebellion to DO IT HIS WAY, And to DISOBEY GOD'S WORD!!

SO, the TRUTH IS, IS IT Really GOD'S FAULT THAT THE INNOCENT SUFFER in Situations Like THIS? NO!! IN FACT, The TRUTH is ALL Hurtful Situations That Come About in Our Lives, are CAUSED By BAD CHOICES That Either WE Make, . . . or A BAD CHOICE, That Somebody ELSE Has MADE!!

Once Again, The Perfect Example, is Just like the CHOICE that ADAM & EVE Made, over 6,000 Years Ago, And Because of THAT BAD Choice, IT Threw the Whole World into Spiritual DEATH, And Brought on Sickness and Death, and Every Kind of HURT That's Imaginable! And Because of THIS SIN NATURE, that was Brought upon Themselves, (Through THEIR DIS-OBEDIENCE), They REPRODUCED After Their Own Kind, (Just Like They Were Commanded to DO), AND THUS, . . . . . IT SPREAD TO ALL MEN. (ROM. 5:12 says) . . . WE Were ALL BORN With THAT SAME SIN NATURE, and That's WHY WE MUST Become "BORN AGAIN!"

- ROM. 3:23 says; *"For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*
- EPH. 2:3 says, *". and were by Nature, Children of Wrath."*
- The Writer in Psalms 51:5 says, *"Behold, I was Shapen in Iniquity. And IN SIN, did my Mother Conceive Me."*

AND SO, was it GOD'S FAULT That the WHOLE WORLD Was Plunged into SPIRITUAL DEATH? ABSOLUTELY NOT! ADAM & EVE Were WARNED in GEN. 2:17. ". in the Day that you eat of this TREE, YOU Shall Surely DIE!"

Alright, NOT Much Has Changed TODAY, People are STILL, Making BAD CHOICES; CHOICES That AREN'T Based Upon the WORD of GOD, and the DEAL IS, NO ONE Wants to Accept the RESULTS of ALL Those BAD CHOICES! SO, IT HAS TO BE GOD'S FAULT!! EVEN the Insurance Companies BLAME GOD! . . . . "DID You Know That ALL These HURRICANES That Are Happening, Are Called. "An ACT OF GOD!"

WHEN the AIDS Epidemic First HIT, . . . Even So-Called Christians Got in on the ACT by saying; "GOD was Pouring Out HIS Judgment on homosexuals by "GIVING THEM AIDS!" GIVE ME A BREAK, GOD DON'T GIVE PEOPLE AIDS, . . . PEOPLE GIVE PEOPLE AIDS!!!



Look at What's Going on in Our Courts Today! Our Courts are Literally Backed Up with People SUING One Another, And in MOST Cases, Over STUFF That's Their OWN FAULT!

- WHOSE FAULT is it When People Continue to Build Homes Along "Fault Lines" Where Obviously Earthquakes Usually Strike, and PEOPLE DIE?
- WHOSE FAULT is it When Warning Sirens Go Off, and Weather Channels Send Out Warnings of Tornados and Hurricanes, and People Refuse to Evacuate or Take Shelter, and PEOPLE DIE?
  - IN the New Living Translation - PROV. 19:3 says, *"People RUIN their Lives by their own Foolishness, AND THEN, they are ANGRY at the LORD."*

- WHOSE FAULT is it, When People Die Because of Wars That Start Over Greed, and Power, By Some GODLESS DICTATOR?
- WHOSE FAULT is it When people Die of Famine and Starvation Because They Choose to Worship Cows and Rats Instead of Serving the LIVING GOD?
  - Did You Know that at One Time, INDIA Used to BE One of the Most FERTILEST Countries in the World?? . . . BUT Because of Their BAD CHOICE to REJECT the LIVING GOD, . . and WORSHIP COWS and RATS; . . . Where the COWS Are LEFT to EAT ALL the Vegetation, And the RATS Are Allowed to EAT UP ALL the Grain, . . . THEY are NOW STARVING to DEATH By the Millions!!! IS THIS GOD'S FAULT??

*II THESS. 2:11-12 says," For this cause, GOD shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a LIE!" That they all might be damned who believe NOT the Truth, but found pleasure in unrighteousness!"*

The BOTTOM LINE IS "IF We Expect GOD to SNAP HIS Fingers, And BAIL US OUT of our MESSES, Every Time WE Make a BAD CHOICE, . . . THEN the QUESTION is "WHY DID JESUS CHRIST DIE On the CROSS?"

Somebody said," To SAVE US FROM OUR SINS" AND That's Exactly RIGHT, BUT HE DIDN'T SAVE US SO That WE Could CONTINUE IN Our SIN, AND KEEP ON MAKING BAD CHOICES!! "NO!" HE SAVED US. to CHANGE US, and to Get Us OUT of the SIN BUSINESS!" WHY? Because *ROM. 6:23 says;" The WAGES of SIN is DEATH."* SO, WE'VE GOT to GET

OUT of the SIN BUSINESS, . . . BEFORE PAY DAY ROLLS AROUND!

SO, THIS IS IT: JESUS CHRIST DIED on the CROSS, SO THAT WE WOULD CHANGE!! . . . SO That WE Would QUIT Making BAD CHOICES!! *HEB. 12:14 says;" Without HOLINESS, NO MAN shall see GOD."* *HOLINESS Means; "to Have the DESIRE, to BE CHANGED Into HIS LIKENESS!"*

YES, GOD Loves US the WAY WE ARE, BUT HE LOVES US TOO MUCH to LEAVE US THAT WAY! SO, THE THING IS; IF GOD IMPOSED HIS GOODNESS, on OUR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, . . . OR IN Other Words, IF GOD SNAPPED HIS Fingers TO CLEAN UP OUR MESS, EVERY TIME WE GOT OURSELVES IN A MESS, BY Making a BAD CHOICE, . . . WE'D NEVER SEE ANY NEED. to CHANGE! WE'D NEVER SEE ANY NEED For a SAVIOR! IN FACT, . . . WE WOULD NEVER CHANGE, AND JESUS WOULD HAVE DIED ON THE CROSS, FOR NOTHING!!!!

WHY DO BAD THINGS CONTINUE TO HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?? IT'S Because, Obviously We've NOT CONVINCED Everybody to GET SAVED YET!! It's Because We've NOT Convinced Everybody to be OBEDIENT to GOD'S WORD to "GET OUT OF THE SIN BUSINESS!"

SO, WHAT WE'VE LEARNED From This LESSON, is That Our CHOICES are VERY IMPORTANT! SO, HANDLE WITH PRAYER!!! JOSHUA Made the RIGHT CHOICE as An Example to US When HE said," *AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE - WE WILL SERVE THE LORD."*

Please feel free to submit your questions to [parrottkasey@gmail.com](mailto:parrottkasey@gmail.com) to receive an answer in the next edition!



A photograph showing a woman in the foreground, seen from the side, covering her face with her hands as if crying or in deep distress. She has long brown hair and is wearing a light grey sweater. In the blurred background, a man and a woman are embracing each other. The man is wearing a blue shirt and the woman is wearing a white top. The setting appears to be an outdoor public space with trees and a path.

## **Marriage: Adultery and Where It Starts**

*Rev. Candis Oswalt*



Our devotional topic this month is not an easy one. Many marriages suffer from this sin in our current "world culture," and this has also leached into the church and our brothers and sisters in Christ. I am not sure that the sin itself is more prevalent in the church than it once was so much as it is talked about more and, unbelievably, has become accepted and by many to be expected and "the norm." This shouldn't be. Adultery is still a sin. The Bible hasn't changed in its proclamation of this as a sin.

*Thou shalt not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14*

*Neither shalt thou commit adultery. Deut. 5:18*

So let us begin with the "definition" of adultery as it pertains to this devotion. I am not going into spiritual adultery and any other forms but sticking strictly to physical adultery. So here is the definition that is used for a worldly standard of adultery.

**Adultery: voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not his or her spouse.**

As I stated, this is the definition used for a worldly standard of adultery. If we adopt it for the body of Christ then the sin of adultery does not happen until and unless the physical act of intercourse has occurred. I would submit that this is not the standard that "the church," "the body of Christ" should adopt or hold to as this is a slippery slope of destruction.

Assuming adultery doesn't occur unless the physical act takes place leaves the battlefield of the mind an open playing field. This is a dangerous thing to allow to happen. So, let's dig a little deeper into marriage as ordained by God and what/where adultery is and begins according to scripture. Based on study and prayer, I will confess that some of my "opinion" come through in this article.

**Marriage: Mark 10:6-9 (KJV)**

*6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

When joined in marriage by God, the two people become one unit. They are no longer separate individual people but are one unit with God as the head. All decisions are to be made jointly and together. There are numerous scriptures giving instructions on the way a husband and wife are to behave towards one another in a marriage ordained by God. I won't type them out here but, in your study, please take time to read: [Ephesians 5: 21-33](#), [Colossians 3:17-19](#)

Marriage itself is a many-layered subject that cannot be contained in one short devotional article. So, if you are married or planning to be married, take the time to really research and study and apply what the Word of God has to say about marriage and the two becoming one.

As we can discern by reading these scriptures, the marriage covenant is not an "if it doesn't work out, we will get divorced" thing in the eyes of the Lord and should not be considered such in the eyes of any follower of Christ.

I want to give now the definition of adultery that we as followers of Christ should adhere to: Jesus spoke very clearly on this in the gospels:

**Matthew 5:27-32 (KJV)**

*27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*

I believe it necessary at this juncture to make a couple of things clear. I am not listing scripture to bring condemnation on anyone. Praise Jesus Christ! Because of His finished work on the cross, forgiveness, grace, and mercy, forgiveness is extended to all who seek repentance. Some were joined in marriage (not a covenant with God) before either party had given their life to God, and that marriage, civil union, did not last and ended in divorce. 1. this was not a marriage covenant with the Lord, and 2. when you came repentant to the Lord again, there was forgiveness, grace, and mercy. I am stating this so that anyone reading this doesn't suddenly condemn themselves for a sin already forgiven. This is a lie and distracts them from going forward.



So, adultery for the follower of Christ is not something that doesn't happen until the physical act of intercourse takes place. As with all sin, adultery begins within the mind. The scripture above states if you look upon a woman (or a man) with lust, you have committed adultery. Why would this be so? Because the two are now ONE. We are to cleave to the one that we have been joined and to no other. Just as our bodies are not our own, belonging to our spouse, so our mind is not our own. It is joined with our spouse. Therefore, adultery is not only a sin against someone else but a sin against yourself and your body. It demonstrates a disregard for yourself (as the temple of the Holy Spirit) and for your spouse (as your covenant partner).

I want to list a few fallacies that need to be abandoned by the followers of Christ that seem very prevalent and accepted in our thinking today and which, in my opinion, contribute to the covenant of marriage being destroyed in what were originally Godly marriages.

**Sex before marriage is ok as neither are married so not adultery.** This is blatantly false (1 Cor 6:18) and sets up soil for the seed of adultery to be sown in once a marriage covenant is entered. Remember, sex is NEVER just sex. There is always a mental component, and it is always sin outside of the marriage bed.

**It's ok to fantasize about someone else when making love to my spouse because I'm still making love to them.** Again, another lie and deception from the pit of hell. Reference the scripture above. If you think it in your mind, you've committed adultery. You are defiling your body and the body of your spouse and the marriage covenant where the two became one. This is not a way to "spice up" your love life. If you feel the urge to "spice things up" in your love life you have a problem that needs to be addressed with Christian counseling.

We are now at the point where we must agree that adultery is not something that occurs with a physical act but has already started in the mind when one looks upon someone else with lust in his mind and heart.

The question is now, how did one get to the point of looking upon someone else with lust and thus become guilty of adultery? Do we wake up one morning and decide we like the way someone else looks or behaves or ??? I do not believe so. I think the beginning seeds of adultery began and are sown much more subtly than this.

If it were this blatant, then most followers of Christ would have no problem recognizing and rebuking the lie for what it is and bringing that thought captive to the Lord.

Let's look at this scenario. You have a disagreement with your spouse about something. Instead of coming together after calming down and discussing and coming into an agreement, you let the hurt and upset lie in your mind and start to take root. You say, "I have a headache" instead of physically joining with your spouse because you are hurt and upset and have allowed the hurt and upset to build.

Then, you begin to be discontent with your spouse. You express that discontent among your friends who sympathize with you and "feed" that seed of discontent instead of maybe asking you what's really going on.

You probably begin your statement of dissatisfaction by saying, "I love my husband, but..." or "hey, ya know I'm just kidding, I'd never really cheat on my wife." But you don't bring the thoughts captive to the will of God, and one slippery little thought leads to another, and then you wake up one morning looking on someone else with desire and lust because discontent and hurt have been allowed to build up in your heart and mind.

Most of the time, adultery isn't something that crops up by itself out of the blue. Other things lead to it. Adultery always starts in the mind with a thought (even if that thought doesn't seem to have anything to do with lust at the beginning).

We must, in all our actions and thoughts, remember that in this covenant with the Lord that He has caused the two to become one.

When we consider that everything we think and do towards our spouse is being done and thought towards us because we are one, our pattern of thinking and doing will change, and we will submit one to another with singing and joyful songs.

*Ephesians 5: 18-21 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*





**This month's highlighted booklet is "Grief—Finding Hope Again" by Paul David Tripp** No matter what the circumstances, death shakes us to the core. It seems so wrong, and it is! We long for comfort, but we don't know where to look. Can God really help when we are overwhelmed with grief? With compassion and biblical wisdom, Paul David Tripp shows us how to think and what to do when death enters our door. He reminds us that we have a Savior who knows our sorrows, hears our cries, and promises to one day wipe away all tears. Hope and healing come from our relationship with Jesus, the One who promises to walk all the way through the valley of the shadow of death with us. **Please take advantage of our Counselor's Corner in the back of the church. For you....or a friend or loved one.**

**Counseling Services Offered to Church Members. If you need help, or know someone who needs help, please let Pastor Larry or John Leis know.**

*Counselingathope@gmail.com*

**812-876-9002 ext 105**



## Vicki's Recipe Corner

*Chicken Enchiladas*  
 3-4 chicken breasts, boiled & shredded  
 1 pkg flour tortillas (8-12)  
 1 pt whipping cream  
 1 small can chopped green chilis  
 8 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese  
 Mix chicken, chilis & cheese. Wrap in flour tortillas & lay in baking dish. Pour whipping cream over & top with cheese. Cover & bake at 350° until hot, approximately 25-30 minutes.





# Yom Kippur

Elder Isis Earnest

A couple of years ago, I had a visitor. It was not the first time members from the Jehovah's Witness group had stopped by my house, but this time a man, the group leader, came. After a bit of talk, I had to stop him. I looked into his eyes and asked him: Isn't the blood of Jesus enough for you? He could not respond. I asked him again the same question, and he did not answer.

If I asked a Christian churchgoer the same question, most likely the answer would be "of course" or "Yes," but why is the blood of Jesus enough or sufficient to pay the price of salvation?

Why and how does God see Jesus' blood as enough? Have you ever asked yourself that question?

Many Christians read the New Testament and are more acquainted with it than with the Old Testament; however, both bring unity in the story of Jesus.

When Jesus died on the cross, it was an act of Judicial execution from the human perspective. Jesus had a trial by the Roman "authority" who passed the verdict for his death on the cross.

How does God see the death of Jesus? Was it necessary for Jesus to die in that manner? Could He have been killed by stoning or another method than the cross, and would it still have been ENOUGH?

According to the Scriptures, God sees the death of Jesus as animal sacrifices. Before the Law was given to Moses, we read that God always pointed to the covering by blood until the complete Redemption or payment could be made.

In Genesis 3:21, after the fall of man to the lies of Satan:

God provided a covering for man and woman out of the skin of the animal, death of the animal – bloodshed for the covering.

Abel brought animal sacrifices, Genesis 4

In Genesis 8:20 Noah made a burnt offering on the altar.

These offerings were not a complete atonement or payment. They were just a temporary covering.

The ritual for animal sacrifices was explained to Moses after the Israelites were taken out of slavery in Egypt. I will explain that later but first, I want to bring what the New Testament says on how the Jews viewed and practiced animal sacrifice:

Hebrews 10:1-18 " The Law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason, it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. 2 Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. 3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. 4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and Offering you did not desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;  
6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you were not pleased.

7 Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—

I have come to do your will, my God.'"

8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the Law. 9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we have been

made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 Day after day every Priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. 15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First, he says: 16 "This is the covenant I will make with them

after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." 17 Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." 18 And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary."

God instructed Moses and the Israelites to be obedient to all the things He prescribed to do, exactly as commanded, year after year as a "full dress rehearsal" until the REAL SACRIFICE came and made the complete justification or atonement.

Let me try to explain, to the best of my knowledge, the yearly Feast of YOM KIPPUR according to Scripture.

Leviticus 23 gives instructions on how to keep and celebrate the appointed Feasts, ordained by Yahweh. The LORD gave to Moses detailed instructions for the Tabernacle construction, priestly garments, priests' duties, and appointed Feasts. Obedience to the ordained instructions pointed to the Messiah, prophecies about Him and His work of Redemption.

Unfortunately, the early church, as far back as the second century AD, began to separate themselves from anything "Jewish." We must remember the church is made of Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus Christ (Christ meaning Messiah/Savior).

I need to explain that in many of our English Bibles and commentaries, the word "FEASTS" is used, which conveys the idea of a banquet or a party. Still, Leviticus 23:2 says: These are my appointed festivals, which indicates a "meeting by appointment." These appointed times were performed every year as a type of REHEARSAL for the prophecies of the work of the Messiah to come.

Interestingly, in three of the seven rehearsals, the word Feast can be applied since all three involved a

gathering of the people coming together for the celebration with their families and all males had to appear in Jerusalem for those appointed Feasts: 1) Passover, 2) Weeks or Pentecost and 3) Tabernacles.

For Christians, Yom Kippur is a day to rejoice! As the writer of Hebrews tells us. We've been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; our sin atoned for by Jesus Christ the Savior and Redeemer, our High Priest who did the work on our behalf permanently!

I will make a brief review of the fall feast and of the detailed work on what the High Priest had to do on YOM KIPPUR and how it was completely accomplished by Jesus.

WARNING: since most people are not familiar with this feast and the wording, it might sound too "Jewish and boring" PLEASE bear with me because to see how all the "boring" and tedious book of Leviticus brings alive the work of Jesus. It is WONDERFUL!!

Leviticus 23: 4 says... " These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons."



The FALL FEASTS, which run together:

TRUMPETS, in the month of Tishri, which speaks of Repentance. It started with the New Moon. It was to be a one-day Feast. During and after the Babylonian captivity, the Rabbis made it two days, so the people all around the countryside would know the feast had started.

YOM KIPPUR: (the Day of Atonement), took place ten days after the Feast of Trumpets which speaks of Redemption. The High Priest alone atoned for his sins and the sins of the people.

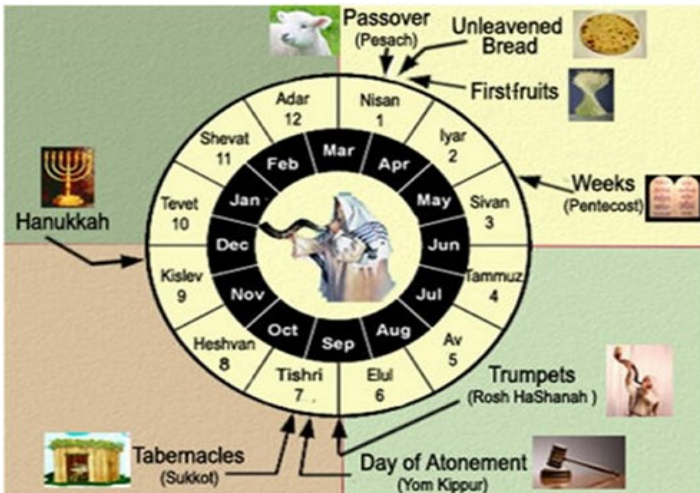
FEAST OF TABERNACLES speaks of Rejoicing, which took place five days after YOM KIPPUR.



NOTE:

In about 500 BC., The rabbis renamed Trumpets: ROSH HA SHANAH, meaning HEAD or beginning of the New year.

There are two dates for the new year on the Hebrew year:



The civil year starts in the fall on the month of Tishri (Rosh HaShana).

The religious calendar starts in the spring in the month of Nisan (Passover).

Leviticus 23:26-32 (what all the people need to do on the day of Kippur, meaning atonement).

"The Lord said to Moses, "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves, and present a food offering to the Lord. Do not do any work on that day because it is the Day of Atonement when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God. Those who do not deny themselves on that day must be cut off from their people. I will destroy from among their people anyone who does any work on that day. You shall do no work at all. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live. It is a day of sabbath rest for you, and you must deny yourselves. From the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening, you are to observe your sabbath."

How was the ritual of YOM KIPPUR done?

The whole chapter of Leviticus 16 and Numbers 29 gives us insight, beginning with Aaron and for every generation of High Priests after him.

Leviticus 16: 1-34

1 The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached the Lord. 2 The Lord said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the Ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover. 3 "This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: He must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. 5 From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 6 "Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household. 7 Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 8 He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat. 9 Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the Lord and sacrifice it for a sin offering. 10 But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat. 11 "Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering. 12 He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them behind the curtain. 13 He is to put the incense on the fire before the Lord, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the tablets of the covenant law, so that he will not die. 14 He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover. 15 "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. 16 In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever



their sins have been. He is to do the same for the tent of meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17 No one is to be in the tent of meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel.

18"Then he shall come out to the altar that is before the Lord and make atonement for it. He shall take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it on all the horns of the altar. 19He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse it and to consecrate it from the uncleanness of the Israelites.

20"When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. 21 He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. 22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.

23"Then Aaron is to go into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most Holy Place, and he is to leave them there. 24 He shall bathe himself with water in the sanctuary area and put on his regular garments. Then he shall come out and sacrifice the burnt Offering for himself and the burnt Offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for the people. 25 He shall also burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar. 26"The man who releases the goat as a scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp. 27 The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and intestines are to be burned up. 28 The man who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp. 29 "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves c and not do any work—whether native-born or a foreigner residing among you— 30 because on this day atonement will be made for you, to

cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins. 31 It is a day of sabbath rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance. 32 The Priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high Priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments 33 and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the tent of meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the members of the community. 34"This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites. And it was done, as the Lord commanded Moses."

"God foretold that His High Priest (Messiah) would do all the work of atonement for His people and that HE was the God-ordained sacrifice Who would shed His own blood for the remissions of the people's sins. So, God in His SON Jesus, gave His life on the altar of Calvary. "

He was afflicted for us, Isaiah 53:4; His soul was made an offering for sin Isaiah 53:10; He suffered separation from God Psalm 22:1; He shed His blood as an atonement for us Leviticus 17:11 & Hebrews 9:12 and He rose from the grave for our justification Romans 4:25.



#### INTERESTING FACTS:

Seven days before the "DAY OF ATONEMENT," the High Priest would leave his house and took a room in his chambers in the Temple. A substitute was also appointed for

him if he should die or become Levitically unfit for his duties.

Baths were done continually, and he was twice sprinkled with the water and ashes of the red heifer (the 3rd and 7th day of his week)

Performed various priestly rites and practiced them continually: a sprinkling of the blood, burning incense, lighting the lamps, and offering the daily sacrifices.

He must commit no mistakes.

The night before entering the Most Holy Place, he would spend reading the Scriptures, for he was not allowed to sleep.

The service in the morning began at the first streak of daylight. That day he bathed five times the whole body and his hands and feet ten times.

The High Priest would put enough incense that it would cover the area with smoke to put like a curtain in between himself and the Ark of the covenant. Then the High Priest would sprinkle the blood on the cover of the Ark.

The RITUAL:

The garment the high Priest was to wear on YOM KIPPUR, according to Lev. 16, was the simple white linen garments. The royal garments were taken off that day, and he was to perform ALL the duties of sacrifices by himself!

No one was to enter The Most HOLY Place and only the High Priest alone on the day of atonement.

1. The High Priest would take some of the bull's blood as a sacrifice for himself and his household, go inside the Holy of Holies:

Dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle the blood upon the Mercy Seat on the east side, and then Sprinkle SEVEN times before the Mercy Seat.

2. Go outside and bring in the bowl containing the blood of the goat sacrificed on behalf of the people for their sins and proceed as same as the bull's blood:

Dip his finger in the blood, sprinkle upon Mercy Seat once, then

Sprinkle before the Mercy Seat SEVEN times, then after that, he goes out of the Most Holy Place and faces the Veil and

Sprinkles the Veil seven times with the bull's blood then repeats this with the goat's blood.

At this point, the High Priest pours the goat's blood into the bowl that contains the rest of the bull's blood, both becoming ONE mixture of blood.

3. The High Priest then sprinkles each of the horns of the Altar of Incense with the mixed blood (4 horns) and sprinkles the top of the altar SEVEN times.

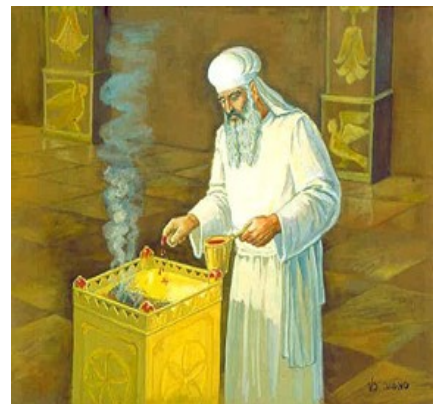
4. The remaining blood in the bowl would be taken outside of the Holy Place and poured out at the base on the west side of the Altar of Burnt Offering.

5. The other goat, the scapegoat, symbolically bearing the sins of the people, was then sent out into the wilderness.

#### RITUAL ANIMAL SACRIFICE

Today, we don't have an idea of the meaning behind the animal sacrifice ritual as viewed by the people in Old Testament times or the motive behind that ritual. In that culture, it was understood that the animal and the person made a connection, not as becoming one, but the animal would take place for the disobedience or the broken vow or sin of the person.

The best I can explain it is to look at Genesis 15 when Abraham sacrificed several animals unto the Lord. Those animals were killed, blood spilled, the bodies were cut open and put on the altar. We read that Abraham was terrified. WHY? If the vow to obey the terms of the covenant were broken by either person, the same as was done to the animals would be done to that person. It was a legal transaction. Since Abraham knew he and his descendants would not keep the transaction to OBEY God, the result would be death. But God is the ONLY ONE who passed in between the pieces on that altar. GOD took it upon himself alone so that Abraham and his descendants could live to meet



the requirement of justice by a Just God. The animal dies, the person lives. That is GRACE. That is the logic behind the animal sacrifice. Do you see that? The idea is:

SUBSTITUTION- the animal takes the place of the person. The animal is dead. The person is not.

REPRESENTATION- the animal represents the person. The animal is dead, and so is the old person, so that the body of sin is done away with.

The idea gives us a light unto the work of the cross, Romans 6:6-7; Hebrews 10:1-12.

Jesus fulfilled the work of the High Priest

Took off His heavenly Royal clothing, put on flesh

Jesus was a Teacher of the Law

Jesus communicated the Will of God for man

Jesus did not call Himself to the office. He was called by God, High Priest, Heb. 5:10

Jesus was our sin offering. Christ frees us from sin, Rom. 6:11

The blood poured out on the Burnt Offering altar, which means complete surrender to God. Jesus said, "not my will but yours be done," in Gethsemane. See Lev. 2 and 6; Lk 22:42



Burnt Offering: signifies propitiation for sin and complete surrender, complete devotion, and commitment to God.

High Priest performed all the services on Atonement Day, Jesus performed all the atonement work needed to save humanity, forever & for whosoever. Jn 17-20; Heb. 10:10; Lev. 16

He is our High Priest forever Heb. 7:21

His blood on the Altar of Incense, He intercedes in Heaven on our behalf.

The blood on the Veil - He ripped the curtain, making the Most Holy Place accessible to whosoever accepts His sacrifice. Heb. 10:19-20

Jesus fulfilled the Feast of Yom Kippur by His sacrifice. He atoned for our sins with His blood and was the scapegoat taking away our sins as far as the East is from the West.

This feast has another side for the Jews who have not accepted Him as Messiah as we read in Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit [a] of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. "

We do not need to know all of this to receive Jesus to make Him Lord/king of our hearts, mind, and will.

I certainly did not know it. All I wanted and needed was HIM to come and bring me out of darkness, to give me life in Him, which His Grace and Mercy did. His Love is beyond measure as we learn more about how much God values our salvation.

As we grow in the Knowledge of HIM and of His promises, it fits for us to study and meditate on His Word, which strengthens our faith in Him.





# IMPORTANT Historical Dates, Old Testament



# MATTHEW

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

TYPE

1

28

GOSPEL, SYNOPTIC



## OVERVIEW

One of the Gospels, this book is an account and testimony of Jesus Christ. It was written by Matthew, an educated tax collector who was one of the original Twelve Apostles. His account is unique in that it was written for the Jewish people, to persuade them that Jesus was the promised Messiah. Matthew understood the importance of supporting his testimony with Old Testament prophecy, which he cited more than 50 times. The book is a balance of stories, teachings, miracles, and prophecies.



**WRITTEN**  
50-60 AD



**TIME PERIOD COVERED**  
7 BC to 26 AD



**AUTHOR**  
Matthew the Apostle







**Sabra Ann Blackwell-Stark**  
Getting to spend actual time with my momma and not through a window..HUGs



**Randy Haagsma**  
A closer relationship with my children



**Dale Sissman**  
My family and friend



**Gracy Jackson**  
My baby girl 🧡



**Andrea Wagner**  
Good health and good friends



**Brenda Lee**  
More time with my grandkids!



**Cathy Fidler**  
Continue to wake me up everyday- praise the lord



**Wanda Nicholson**  
My amazing husband Brian Nicholson



**Kathy Evans**  
He has done so much for me I cannot tell it all.He gives me Love peace and joy and mercy and grace. 20 years cancer free. I give GOD all the glory.



**Carolyn Roberts**  
Everyday God blesses me



**Glennis Ray**  
Salvation and my health



**Dale Sissman**  
My family and friend



**Steven Shumaker**  
Healing in my family



**Judy Herrington Burris**  
Joy, Hope, Peace



**Theresa Heaton**  
A new life



**Connie White Kent**  
Oh my so much!



**Ed Bitner**  
Surviving cancer



**Stephanie Bruce**  
Building closer relationships with Him, and my family.



**Carmen D. Campbell - Wolfe**  
A new life with Jesus!  
And he teaches every day how to walk the right way as he holds my hand.  
Both my husband and i were baptized a given a new life.



**Timothy Johnson**  
Continue to wake me each day



**Susie Glasgow**  
Blessings every single day with health and blessed family !!



**Maria Rogers**  
Family 🧡



**Jay Bry**  
Courage and peace.



**Beaty Beaty Beaty**  
Life



**Bob Webb**  
Life



**Top Fan**  
**Steve E Reynolds**  
Blessing Me With One More Day , After Day Till He Returns For His Children 🙌🙏❤️📖

# What is something that God has blessed you with this past year?

House of Prayer Facebook Poll