

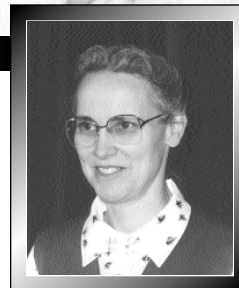
# Megiddo Message

Have You  
Checked Your  
PRIORITIES?



Vol. 88, No. 7  
August, 2001





# Whose Priorities?

Whether we have a plan for our lives or live by default, all of us have priorities. Something comes first, something else second, something is left out.

Maybe it is keeping that front lawn manicured to perfection. Or maybe it's the grades our children get in school. Or maybe it's the auto we drive. Or the meal we put on the table. Or the degrees attached to our name. Or our job title in the business world. Or the number of people under us. Or, or, or... Something gets our first attention and would be painful and devastating to lose.

So we prioritize. We take the steps to get and keep it.

Jesus addressed this topic in His Sermon on the Mount. What are the big priorities in life? Simple: what I'm going to eat, what I'm going to drink, what I'm going to wear.

Wrong! says Jesus. *"Your heavenly Father knows you have need of those things, he'll see that you have them."*

What should come first? *"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."* This is where Jesus set His first priority.

The apostle Paul was thinking about priorities when he said, *"This one thing I do."* No doubt he had many other things on his mind, but one concern was foremost: *"This one thing I do,... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:14).

If we are preparing for company, we think about priorities. Every detail is evaluated in relation to the deadline. That way, the most important things get done first.

If we're preparing for an exam and we know there are some areas more difficult than others, we make those areas our priority so they get more of our attention.

Why shouldn't we do the same in our service to God? Why shouldn't we be asking, "What is most important? What should I put at the top of my list? What can I let go? What is going to matter when Jesus comes whether I've done it or not?" That is the really big issue.

I heard of a man conducting a seminar who illustrated this subject in a very interesting way. Taking a very large glass jar, he carefully placed a number of very large rocks inside the jar, as many as would fit, then asked the group: "Is the jar full?" Someone said, "Yes, but you could have put more rocks in if they weren't so big."

So the man pulled up a bucket and poured gravel into his jar, shaking it so the gravel pieces settled around the rocks. Then he asked the question: "Is the jar full?" Someone answered cautiously, "Probably not."

So he pulled up another bucket and poured sand into his jar, shaking and jostling it so that the sand settled through the gravel and around the rocks. Then the inevitable question: "Is the jar full?" This

time the group said no, even though no space was visible.

The man then pulled up a pitcher and poured water into the jar. He poured, and poured, and poured, and slowly, little by little the water settled in around the sand, around the gravel and around the rocks. Now again he asked the question: "Is the jar full?" This time they all said Yes. There was no more room for anything. Once the water had settled in among the sand and gravel, there was no more space.

What is the lesson?

Is it that when you think your jar (of time) is full, you can always fit more in? No, the lesson is this: If you don't put the big rocks in first, they won't be there.

That is the lesson we need on priorities. First, decide what are the big rocks in your life and put them in first, then let everything else fill in around them. But get those big rocks, those big priorities, in first. Those are the things that really count.

If we don't put them in first, after we have filled it up with all the other hundred details of life, there won't be any way to get the big rocks in.

This is the lesson we need to remember every day: Figure out what are the big rocks in your life. What are the really big interests, those important things you don't want to leave out? Put them in first, and make all else secondary. That is what Jesus said, *"Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."* Put that in first, everything pertaining to the Kingdom of God and righteousness. Then the little things can come along and take their place, their proper place—and we won't have to worry about them taking too much space, because the biggest interests were put in first.

When Jesus came to visit the home of Mary and Martha, and Mary sat at the feet of Jesus to learn more of His message, she was putting the big rocks in first. Martha, concerned about the little things in the kitchen, was pouring in sand and gravel. But Jesus didn't care whether he had this or that to eat. He had come there for the really important things. That is why He said, *"Mary has chosen the better part."*

Let us assign to everything its proper rank, classify the size of the rocks we put in, choose our priorities, not just take it by default.

Then our commitment to God will carry us, until we have developed the character God is looking for and He grants us a place in His Kingdom.

That is the priority that is important to God and will benefit us—eternally. ♦

***Make sure  
that what is  
important to  
YOU is important  
to GOD.***

A person is crossing the desert. He is hot, thirsty, famished. He wants water more than anything else.

Someone is suffering excruciating pain. He wants relief more than anything else.

A miner is trapped in an underground pit, and the supply of oxygen is fast being exhausted. He gasps, and gasps—he wants air more than anything else.

Someone is starving; his one longing is for food.

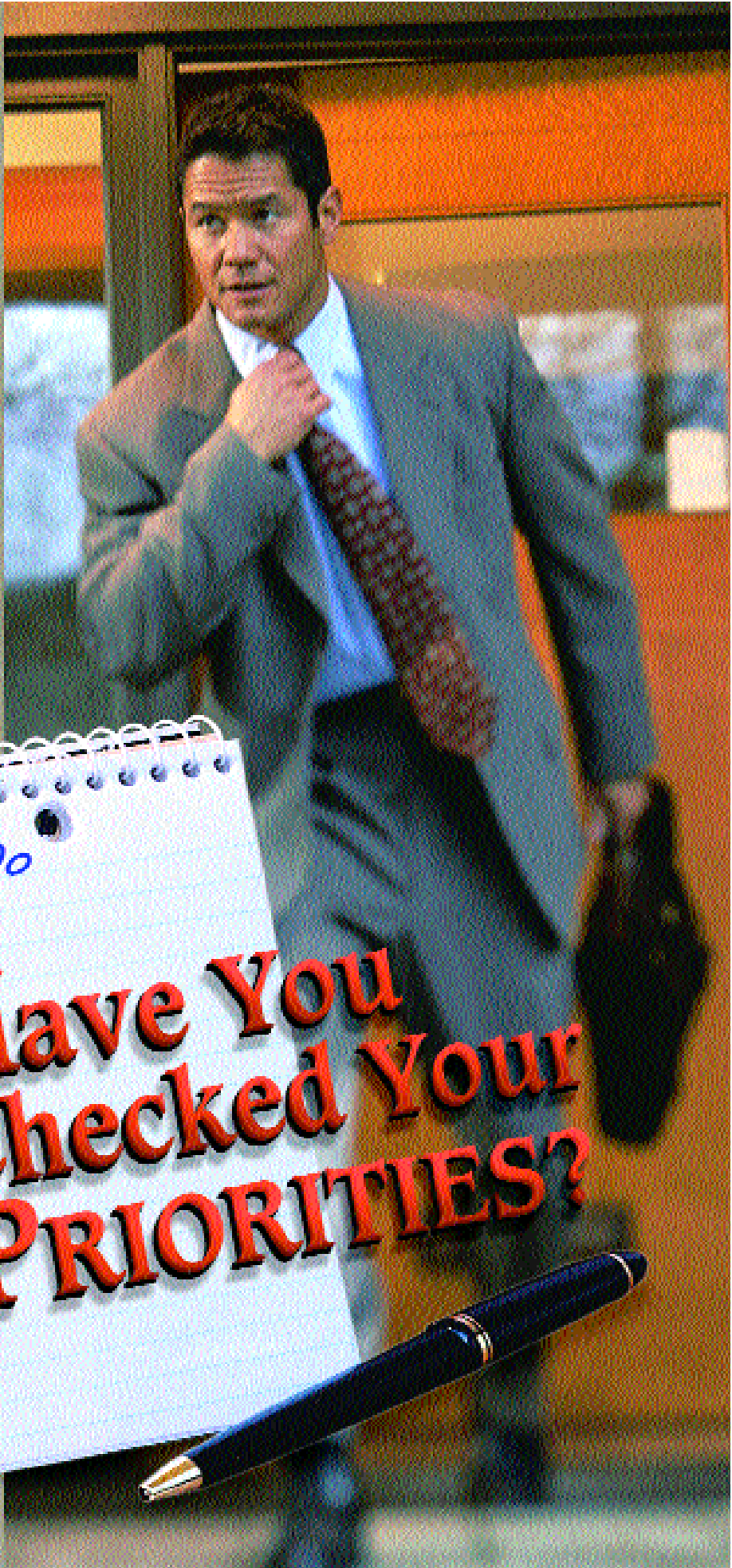
Each of these situations sets up clear priorities. In each case, one of the basic necessities for life is lacking, and the desire for it is paramount.

If we as human beings were on a par with the beasts of the field, all the important things of life would center around obtaining physical necessities. But the great Creator has given our lives another dimension; it is the dimension of intelligence, reason, thought-power, and spiritual desire; it is the ability to appreciate; it is the life of the Spirit. God has given us minds capable of learning about the meaning and destiny of life, its purpose, its Creator. We *have* this larger dimension which gives us possibilities of larger—even *eternal*—attainments. The question is, Are we developing it? Are we giving it top priority in our lives?

In the 21st century business world, priorities are emphasized repeatedly. Many a company has suffered economic ruin because management failed to carefully assess priorities. Or the priorities were set but no one followed through.

Nowhere does this challenge of the priorities find more serious application than in the life of the aspiring Christian. Indeed, all hope of future life in the glorious world made new depends on how well we use our time and opportunities here and now. If this be true—and we know it is—how prayerfully and carefully we should evaluate the things which take up our time, our thought, our inter-

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## MEGIDDO MEANS...

"a place of troops" (Gesenius' Hebrew Lexicon); "a place of God" (Young's Analytical Concordance). Megiddo was and is a town in Palestine, strategically located, and the scene of frequent warfare. In the spiritual parallel, it is a place where soldiers engaged in spiritual warfare gather to renew their strength and courage (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

## WE BELIEVE...

- ♦ in God, the Creator and sustainer of the earth, the world, the universes, and all life, in whom we "live, and move, and have our being."
- ♦ in the Bible as our only source of true knowledge about God and His purposes and plans for His creation and for the salvation of humankind.
- ♦ in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Perfect Example, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin; who ministered among His brethren, was crucified, resurrected, and taken to

heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father, crowned with immortal glory, and who shall shortly return to be King of the whole earth.

- ♦ in the Holy Spirit, the openly manifest power of God, which God bestowed at various times and in various ways to reveal His knowledge to humankind, to support His spokesmen, to confirm His utterances, and to demonstrate His supreme power and authority.
- ♦ in life as the gift of God, and in our sacred responsibility to use it for God and His coming Kingdom.
- ♦ in humankind as providing the raw material from which shall be selected and developed a superior, God-honoring people upon whom God will bestow the blessings of immortal life in His soon-coming Kingdom.
- ♦ in ourselves as capable, with the help of God, of applying to our own lives the precepts and principles taught in the Word of God, in this way perfecting that high quality of moral character which God has promised to recompense with life eternal in His heavenly Kingdom on earth.

- ♦ in the promise of God, that Jesus Christ will soon return to rid the earth of all sin and suffering and inaugurate an eternal and worldwide kingdom of peace and righteousness, until God's will is done here as it is now done in heaven.

## THE HERALD AND THE KING

OUR PLANET will soon witness the greatest events in its history. For centuries God has been silent. But that silence will soon be broken by the arrival of Elijah the prophet, who comes to herald the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:...lest I come and smite the earth with a curse"* (Mal. 4:5-6).

Then shall follow the King of kings and Lord of lords, to begin His momentous work of transforming our world into the glorious and eternal Kingdom of God.



## Have You Checked Your Priorities?

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est. Could it be that we are putting second things first, that we are giving too much time and thought to non-essentials—when we are racing against time? The second advent of Jesus is rapidly approaching. Now more than ever before we are pressed for time; things of prior importance *must* come first.

This is the question facing us today: What are my priorities? What comes first in *my* life?

### Choose the Best!

Here is the fact that makes priorities important. All things are not equal; even all good things are not equal. All interests and all goals are not equal. Some are far more beneficial, far more lasting, thus, far more important—than others. It is our responsibility to learn to discern, to choose the best. We can sense quickly when people mistake temporal values, but do we sense it as easily in ourselves when we confuse our spiritual values, when we put second things first?

The story is told of a certain small-town dairy farmer who preferred to separate the cream from his milk and use it to make butter, rather than to sell the whole milk to the neighborhood dairy, as most farmers were doing. A neighbor, thinking of the great amount of work involved in separating the milk and then churning the butter, and the relatively low market value of the butter, suggested that the family could do better by shipping the whole milk, and save all that work. The farmer agreed that it was a good suggestion, but his wife declared it unacceptable—the reason, “What would we do with the *churn*?”

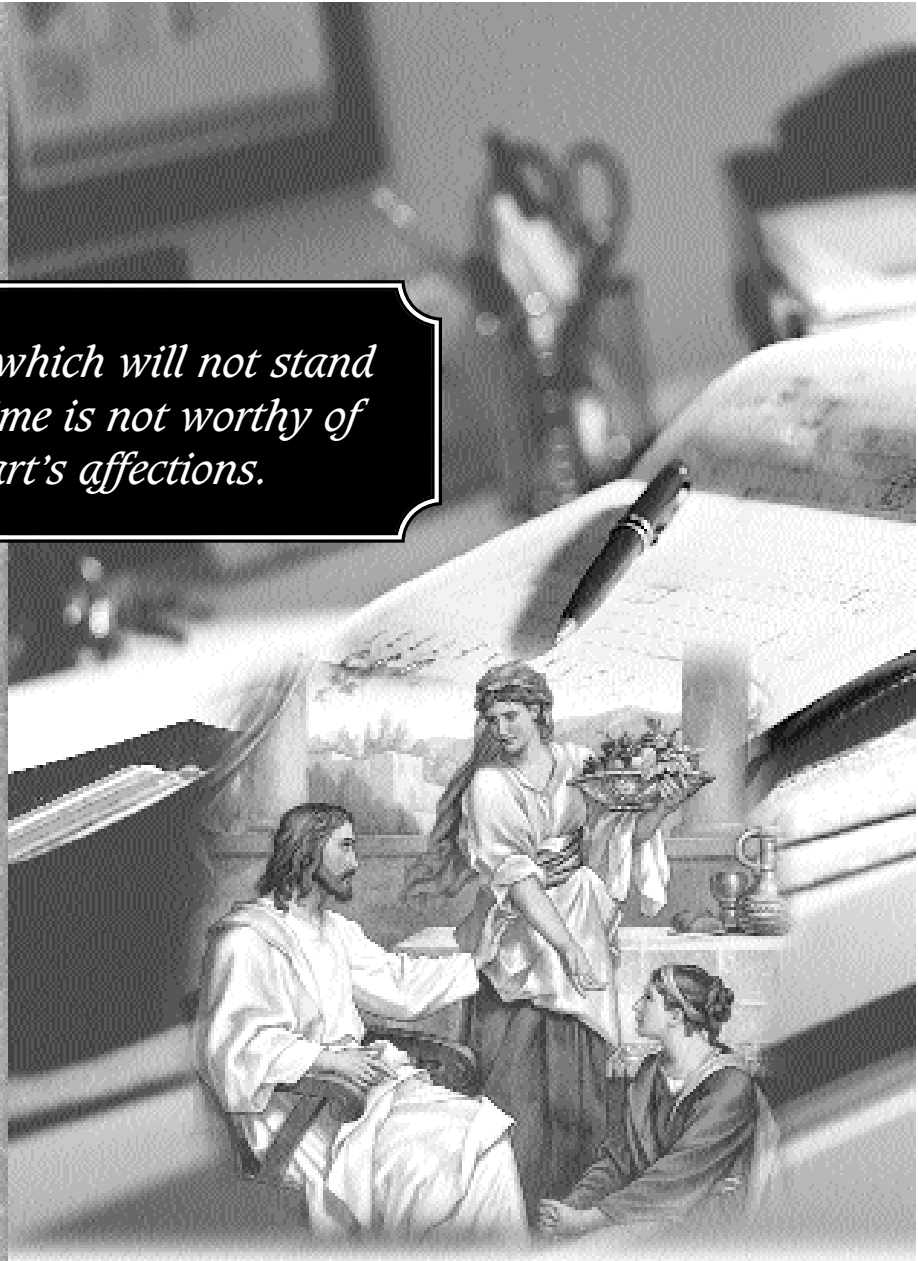
Misplaced values are serious in business, but much more seriously do we lose when we let go an eternal advantage for some small thing of the present. It is all a matter of setting up right values and putting first things first.

What comes first in your life—in mine? We would all like to answer that “growing spiritually” is on top. To help us decide, let us ask ourselves three questions:

#### **1. What do I think about—especially when relaxing?**

The things we think about are usually the things which are nearest our hearts and most important to us. They tend to be the priority issues in our lives.

*Any value which will not stand  
the test of time is not worthy of  
our heart's affections.*



### DO YOU HAVE “MARTHA” PRIORITIES?

From the familiar life-incident recorded in Luke 10 we may draw an impressive lesson, we who—like Martha—are tempted to confuse our priorities. Martha “*was distracted by her many tasks.*” She could not understand how Mary could spend so much time conversing with Jesus. The answer Jesus gave states the relative value of the choices: “*Martha, Martha, you are fretting and fussing about so many things; but one thing is necessary. The part that Mary has chosen is best; and it shall not be taken away from her*” (Luke 10:38–42, NEB). What Mary had put first was something that could not be taken from her. Mary had chosen that which would last—that made all the difference.

The lesson is for us. Houses, lands, family, positions, securities, comforts in this world can all vanish in a night. How much are we investing in those things that cannot be taken away?

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*In my bedroom hangs this Motto,  
And its place is near the door,  
Yes, it hangs there to remind me  
God must always go before!*

*Never do I cross the threshold  
But the Motto seems to say  
"Just a word with God, your Father,  
Before you hurry on your way."*

*When I'm dressing in the morning,  
As I see it hanging there,  
It reminds me of my duties,  
Bids me to seek help in prayer.*

*Duties, burdens, worries, troubles,  
All may come to me this day;  
How can I prepare to meet them?  
How, I ask, except I pray!*

*When I plan fresh undertakings,  
Then the Motto seems to say,  
"Don't in your own strength begin it;  
First ask God! Kneel down and PRAY!"*

*When I'm ready, dressed for walking,  
With so little time to spare,  
Still I cannot leave my bedroom  
Till I've seen that Motto there—*

*Till I've stopped for just a moment,  
And in earnest, secret prayer  
Placed myself and all my doings  
In my Heavenly Father's care.*

*When the busy day is over,  
And for rest I would prepare,  
Once again I hear its message,  
"First go meet your God in prayer!"*

*Yes, "God First!" must be my Motto  
If I would succeed each day;  
Do you wish your ways to prosper?  
Then you must kneel down and pray.*

*Yes, let "God First!" be your Motto,  
He'll your joy and trouble share;  
All life's duties, cares or pleasures,  
Take them to your God in prayer.*

*— Contributed*





## Have You Checked Your Priorities?

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### **2. How do I spend my time, especially time that is not committed to definite activity?**

To some extent our time is not our own. Most of us have to work, and there must be time for sleeping and eating. But this is not *all* our time. Do we know how to get the very most out of the remainder—in terms of spiritual improvement?

### **3. What do I long for—what do I really love?**

Comfort, pleasure, convenience, ease—or righteousness, purity, holiness, life?

In other words, what am I seeking most, the things of this world or those of the world to come?

These questions honestly answered will tell us much about our priorities.

## Advice from Jesus

Jesus devoted a large portion of His very first sermon to the subject of right priorities. He wanted us to know that some things in life matter very much more than others. Let us read a few passages from Matthew 6 from the Jerusalem Bible.

*"Do not store up treasures for yourselves, on earth, where moths and woodworms destroy them and thieves can break in and steal" (v. 19). Notice the selfish motivation—storing up "treasures for yourselves." This is the wrong first interest. Why? Not because it is wrong to want something for ourselves, but because we choose the wrong treasures, things of earth, things which cannot last, things which are subject to moths, rust, and the processes of decay. What does Jesus recommend? "Store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworms destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal."*

This "storing up" is right—because it is *heavenly* treasure, treasure which will endure.

Any value which will not stand the test of time is not true value and is not worthy of our heart's affections: this is Jesus' message.

In the ordinary management of life, it is simple wisdom to buy merchandise that will last, which has quality and permanence. This is what

Jesus would have us do: Concentrate on securing those riches that will stand the test of time.

*"Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life"—do not be anxious about your life—"what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" (Matt.*

## AVOID SMALLNESS

So many interests clamor for our attention. How shall we decide which should come first? Someone has suggested that we divide them into two groups—the "God-wants-me-to's" and the "I really-want-to's." In other words, we should ask, What does God prefer that I do? What does He consider most important? It is just possible that something very important to me may not be nearly so important to Him.

The world is full of smallness. Small goals and small interests lie very naturally in our hearts. Then, too, it is so easy to set up our own goals in this world and work ardently to achieve them—and at best are they not exceedingly small compared to the great things God has offered?

Small distractions of everyday can so easily take too much of our time and heart. Words that do not upbuild; thoughts that do not strengthen; petty absorptions that yield no lasting good—couldn't all these be completely eliminated from our crowded time budget and with great spiritual gain? Oh, how easily we may be overcome with smallness!

A missionary serving in a foreign country was offered an executive position with an oil firm. Impressed by his obvious skills, some representatives of the company offered him a large salary, hoping to secure his services for the company. The missionary refused the offer; so the firm increased the salary. When the missionary refused again, the officials of the firm were amazed. What could the young man want? Was the pay still too small? "No," the missionary responded thoughtfully, "it isn't the pay that's too small. It's the job."

Can we even picture the greatness of the goals to which we have been called? Does not the thought of them make everything of this world seem so small?

Beware of becoming so involved in small interests that you "cannot see the forest for the trees." Keep asking what is the purpose in your work, your activities, your life. Where is it all tending? Mere busy-ness is fruitless.

*The goal is not reached at a single bound;  
but we build the ladder by which we climb,  
From the things of earth to the heights sublime,  
and we mount to the summit round by round.*

## APOSTLE PRIORITIES

If we could ask the Apostle Paul what were his priorities, we would get a ready answer: *"This one thing I do."* What was that *"one thing,"* Paul? Was it pleasure, or business, or education, or the goals you had set for yourself in this world? Hear his answer. *"I strain to reach the end of the race, and receive the prize."* *"Somehow,"* he wrote, *"[I want to] experience the resurrection from the dead!"* (Phil. 3:14, 11 NLT).

He was following the example of Jesus, who had set His own personal priorities when He said, *"I always do those things that are pleasing to him";* and again, *"My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work"* (John 8:29; 4:34 NLT).

The Apostle John had the welfare of his children-in-the-faith closest to his heart. He wrote: *"I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children live in the truth"*—their spiritual growth and development was a top priority with him (3 John 4 NLT).

The Apostle Paul also seemed deeply concerned that his people learn to put first things first. *"And this is my prayer,"* he wrote to the Philippians, with all the fervor of brotherly devotion, *"that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight"* (Phil. 1:9 NIV). These words are tremendously significant: *"that your love may abound more and more."* It is not a soft, sentimental love but a love that teaches, develops, disciplines and directs. It is love that finds its fruition in *"knowledge,"* the knowledge of God; and *"in depth of insight."* This judgment is spiritual discernment, the application of knowledge. Factual information is not enough; the knowledge of God must be applied to our everyday lives.

Then Paul continues: *"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ"* (Phil. 1:10). Here is the purpose and direction of true, abounding love: *"that ye may approve things that are excellent."* *"Approve"* involves the idea of testing, or proving, for the purpose of approving. It was used in the New Testament times of testing metals and coins to determine those which came up to proper standards.

But notice what the Philippians were to approve: *"Things that are excellent."* The word translated *"excellent"* means literally *"things that really matter, things that matter most."* Here again we find Paul thinking about priorities: *"things that matter most."*

Paul did not want his brethren absorbed in every passing interest; he wanted them seeking and doing the *"things that really matter."*

There is yet another thought built into these words. Paul did not want them absorbed merely with distinguishing good from evil; he wanted them to know the difference between what is good and what is best. He knew the danger of getting absorbed with colorful nothings. He wanted them to seek *"the things that matter most."*

6:25). Jesus is not advocating a shiftless, thriftless, thoughtless attitude toward life. He does not say we are not to go to work and earn our daily bread; but we are to keep our priorities right. Even while we are working, we can often be living in another world of thought, dwelling with the infinite, as it were. Even in the most common occupation, we can be laying up treasure in heaven. We can—if our priorities are right.

*"He will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern"* (Matt. 6:33 NLT). A lens cannot have two focal points. The universe cannot have two First Causes. A country cannot have two prime ministers. Neither is there room for two controlling interests in our lives. Christ can have no rival. Where He sits, He must rule or He will not sit.

It is ironic that the activities of life which are most crucial to obtaining our goal we most easily put off. Taking time to pray and meditate, for example—we know we should do more of it, but right now we must respond to the demands of this world. Someday we will have more time. There are portions of the Bible which we know would be refreshing and spiritually strengthening to review, or even to commit to memory; but that can be done tomorrow, or next week. Right now the house must be cleaned, or the garden weeded, or that special project that has been waiting for months, or—or. We will have more time to give to the spiritual disciplines of life some other time. And so we rationalize that next week, or next month, or next year we will begin more seriously the task of rebuilding our souls.

Oh, let us not underestimate the gravity of this problem.

## Right Priorities

What are the activities and interests which should rightly claim priority in our lives? Let us take our first from Paul's advice to his son-in-the-faith Timothy. The aged Apostle, in prison for the last time and aware that his remaining life might be very short, was trying to think of the most pertinent encouragement and advice he could leave. That advice is recorded in the Epistle of Second Timothy.

Whatever came, Timothy should keep himself pure, committed to his high calling, pressing toward the goal. How could he do it? Paul wrote, *"Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus"* (2 Tim. 3:14–15 NRSV).

Paul urged Timothy to *continue in the Word.* That should be our top priority also. Continue. Do more and more of those good things you are



doing the most of. Keep doing them. As you see others fall away or as society sinks further into spiritual delusion, take your stand for God, spend time in His Word, and grow stronger.

Again in 2 Timothy 2, Paul urged his son in the faith to submerge himself in the Scriptures. Nothing else was so important. *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth"* (v. 15 NASB). And Paul did not write this to Timothy because Timothy was newly converted or learning these things for the first time. Timothy was well-established. From a child he had been taught. Now he was the leader of the church in Ephesus; *still* he should give priority to strengthening himself in the Word of God. Still he should continue learning, meditating, reading, studying, absorbing himself in its truths.

If Timothy needed such advice, how much more do we, we who have not had the companionship of the Apostle Paul, we who have not felt the power of the Holy Spirit, we who have not heard and seen all that Timothy was privileged to hear and see. In this last late hour, we must not grow cold.

## The Gain

What shall we gain by concerning ourselves so much with our priorities? Jesus our future King supplies the answer: We shall live when *"He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever"* (Rev. 21:4 NLT). And best of all is this assuring statement: *"Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."*

There is no question what we shall gain by giving up the goals of this world. Now we can dream of what it will be to be there. But what will the reality be! Try losing yourself in the thoughts of the future. Let this priority thinking gain control, and see how much fuller and richer is life even now. Try to comprehend, if you can, an eternal future where you will have *"exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think."* The words are so familiar, let us not miss their meaning. *"Exceeding, abundantly above all that we ask or think."* Just try it. Think of every grand thing you can imagine—it will be beyond that.

It is the homeland where *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Cor. 2:9 NLT).

With so many benefits in store for putting first things first during this little time, why are we so slow to make the effort?

The currency of time can purchase for us the riches of eternity—if only we use it wisely. ♦

## SET GOALS

It is helpful in our Christian lives to set definite goals. If we do not, we may find ourselves careless in the use of our time. Well-defined, clearly pictured goals give real impetus to progress.

What is our long-range goal?

It is eternal life in Christ's Kingdom. We want to stand among the saints, redeemed from the problems of mortality, free to enjoy forever the glorious liberty of the sons and daughters of God; this is our supreme goal. To reach this goal we must develop a character God will accept.

This goal is not achieved overnight. So we need to set up mid-range goals, goals we can reasonably achieve in a space of a month, or two, or six months or a year. It might mean tackling our tendency to become discouraged, to doubt, to criticize, or to complain. It might be the maintaining of a steady, buoyant disposition and strong, abiding faith. It might be the patient enduring of one who sorely tries us, whose personality does not suit us, or whose mannerisms distress us. The first step to these mid-range victories is to become conscious of each approaching temptation—so we can mentally fortify ourselves.

But even such goals are too long-ranged for marking daily progress. We also need near targets, which we can aim at today and with God's help can strike—or miss, chide ourselves and try again tomorrow. These near targets will assure our long-range success.

The harsh word or unkind reaction we restrain, the bitterness we subdue, the anger we silence, the pride we swallow, the sensitive feeling we overpower—these are near targets we can strike any day, if such be our determination—and which will build toward our long-range success.

Will this or that help me and all those within my sphere of influence toward the Kingdom?

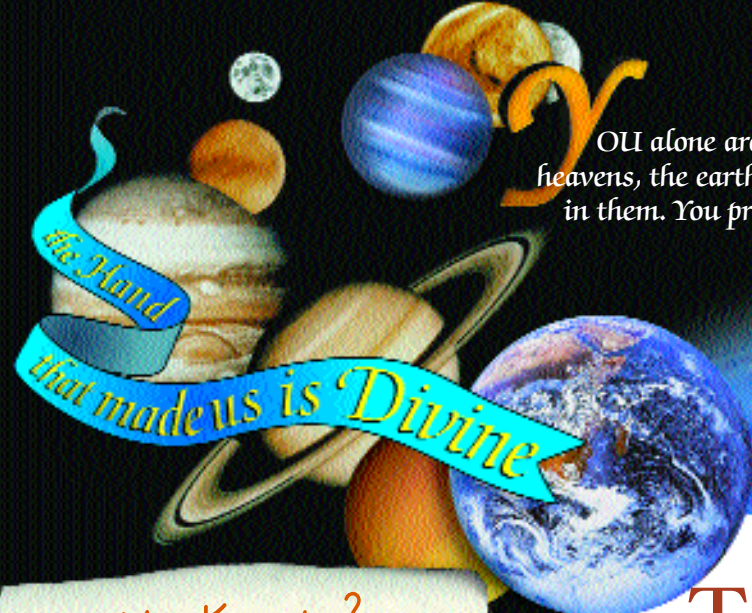
Will my attitude inspire faith and courage in those around me? Being mindful of our responsibilities will help us concentrate on the things that matter most.

Each morning we should set our goals for that day—

- ✓...more consciousness of our thoughts,
- ✓...more long-suffering with others,
- ✓...more sympathetic understanding,
- ✓...more submissive,
- ✓...more pliable,
- ✓...more kindness,
- ✓...more patience,
- ✓...more self-control,
- ✓...more temperate,
- ✓...more full of faith,
- ✓...more firm in temptation.

And we should be more conscious of our example to others.





YOU alone are God. You have made...the heavens, the earth and the seas, and everything in them. You preserve it all. —Neh. 9:6 TLB

*The Hand that made us is Divine*

# Water Wonders

PART TWO

## Did You Know...?

- ✓ ...that a redwood tree releases as much as 160 gallons of water into the atmosphere each day?
- ✓ ...that you can survive about 3 to 4 weeks without food, but only about 5 to 7 days without water?
- ✓ ...that water is our greatest cleanser and detoxifier?
- ✓ ...that each year, nearly 10,000 cubic miles of water flow along the world's rivers to the oceans?
- ✓ ...that nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable, that 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers, leaving just 1% for all humanity's needs?
- ✓ ...that water regulates the earth's temperature?
- ✓ ...that water regulates the temperature of the human body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells, cushions joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes wastes?
- ✓ ...that about 77% of the human brain is water?
- ✓ ...that about 75% of a living tree is water?
- ✓ ...that ice floats because water expands by 9% when it freezes, making it less dense than in its liquid state?
- ✓ ...that a loss of more than 10% body water can prove fatal?
- ✓ ...that blood plasma, our body's natural waterway, is 90% water?
- ✓ ...that we exhale about 20% of our water intake?

by GERALD R. PAYNE

## Life and Water

The publicity being given to escalating energy costs may give the impression that oil is our most valued resource. Nations fight over it, and prices continue to rise. But did you know that water is more valuable than oil, and more likely to bring conflict? Why? Because life cannot exist without water.

Without water, the forests would dry up, the grass would die, our farms would fail and there would be no food for our tables. The oceans would be gone and the many creatures that live there. Take a tiny drop of water and view it under a microscope, and you will see many creatures moving about in it. They, too, would perish. Even creatures of the desert, some of which never drink, would die because their food supply would be gone, and they depend on the food they eat to give them the water they need.

A quick look at the quantity of water required to produce various products will help us understand the value of water.

PRODUCT	ESTIMATED VOLUME OF WATER REQUIRED TO PRODUCE
a ton of milk	113 tons (7,060 gallons)
a ton of meat	480 tons (30,000 gallons)
a ton of beet sugar	2,208 tons (138,000 gallons)
a ton of textiles	4,656 tons (291,000 gallons)
a ton of aluminum	6,560 tons (410,000 gallons)
a ton of synthetic rubber	7,392 tons (462,000 gallons)
a ton of paper	8,688 tons (543,000 gallons)

Everything living must have water to survive. It might be said that water is even more important than food. It is estimated that one can live about 3 to 4 weeks without food, whereas one would die in about 5 to 7 days without water.

But this only concerns the water we drink.

Have you ever considered the water we *breathe*—does it surprise you that humans breathe water too? Well, we do, though not to the extent the fish uses it for respiration. But each breath we inhale contains water—it can be as much as 100% RH (saturated with water) by the time it enters the lungs.

It is said that the human body is about 60% water, the brain 77 to 78%, blood 82% and the lungs 90%. Water is basic to all life forms, plant and animal. Were it not for water's unique ability to dissolve so many different substances, our cells could not use the many nutrients, minerals and chemicals needed to support life. Its ability to



transport these vital nutrients to all parts of the body is due to its “stickiness” (from surface tension). By a very complex process water carries the metabolized carbohydrates and proteins our bodies use as food to every part of our being.

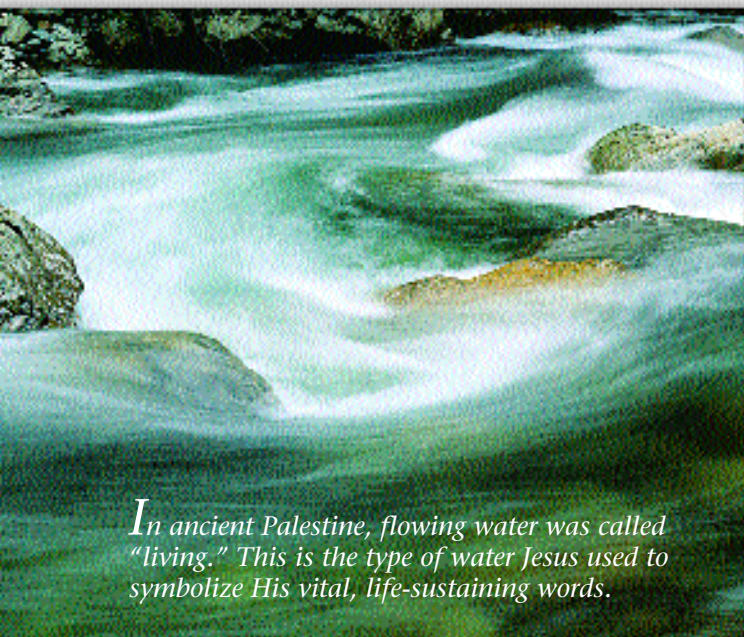
Also due to this stickiness, water is one of nature’s best cleansing agents. After dropping off its load of nutrients, it sticks to waste products, picking them up and carrying them through our arteries to the lungs for disposal.

This “stick-ability” property of water makes it a useful cleansing agent, from the simple washing of our hands to the cleansing of the earth’s atmosphere by complex weather systems which produce precipitation. Is it any wonder Christ used the term “water” as a symbol of the cleansing words He spoke?

Rarely do we even think of the drink we are enjoying when we add to water a little lemon and sugar and call it lemonade, or pour it over tea leaves or ground coffee beans and call it tea or coffee. Even the fruit juices we drink are primarily water.

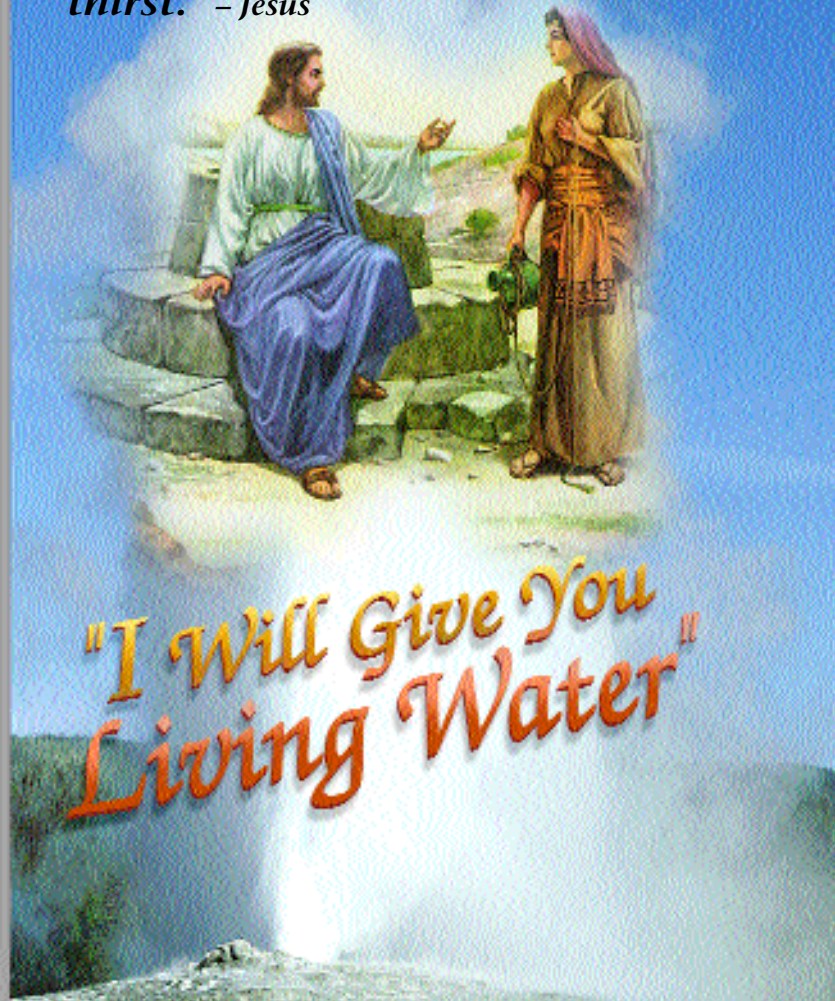
Water is a vital resource, rarely thought about unless you are responsible for providing a clean supply to your community or city, or if you are one of the millions who do not have ample access to it. According to Paul Simon, about 9,500 children die every day because of lack of water or, more frequently due to polluted water. Some areas just have too many people for the amount of available potable water. For example, Qu Geping, head of China’s Environmental Protection Agency, says that the ideal population for China’s water supply is 650 million. Today the nation has almost twice that number, and the population is still climbing. “It is no exaggeration to say that the conflict between humanity’s growing thirst and the projected supply of usable, potable water will result in the most devastating natural disaster since history has been accurately recorded, unless something happens to stop it.”<sup>1</sup>

*continued on page 12a*



*In ancient Palestine, flowing water was called “living.” This is the type of water Jesus used to symbolize His vital, life-sustaining words.*

***“Whoever drinks  
of the water that I shall  
give him will never  
thirst.” – Jesus***



**T**he long rainy season in Palestine thoroughly soaks the land. But the land being limestone and very porous, the heavy rain is soon drained away. The lakes become marshes or dwindle to shallow pools of dirty water. On the West of Jordan there remain only a few short and very shallow brooks in the hill country. To maintain an ample supply of water, cisterns are dug to accumulate rain. But during severe drought these cisterns sometimes prove insufficient.

The use of water from cisterns in ancient Palestine led to the term “living water,” meaning water from a self-sustaining supply. “Living” water was “alive” because it consisted of water from running streams, springs or fountains, i.e., water that continues to flow, always active, in contrast to the non-flowing water of cisterns, stagnant pools, or marshes.

*continued on page 12b*



The United States is not exempt from water shortages. Because its abundant supply is claimed for irrigation of arid lands, the Colorado River is only a trickle<sup>2</sup> by the time it reaches the ocean. Aquifers, nature's large water storage tanks, are being depleted. Farmers that were depending on irrigation for their crops are turning more and more to dry farming, resulting in more expensive produce.

Sometimes just diverting water-flow can cause great harm. Some years ago Senators Paul Simon and Harry Reid visited Uzbekistan. While there they visited what had been a port city on the Aral Sea, reported to have been the third<sup>3</sup> largest inland sea in the world. About 1960, Russian engineers had convinced Nikita Khrushchev and other leaders that they could increase cotton and rice production by diverting the waters flowing into the Aral Sea for irrigation purposes. The idea was that once the fields were saturated the water would again begin to flow into the sea. What the visitors found instead were hulks of large boats marooned 50 miles from water. The irrigation idea did not work as planned.

Aralsk was once a major fishing port on the Aral Sea. Today one would have to travel about 100 miles from there to reach the main body of the sea. It is thought that by the year 2015, the Aral Sea could totally disappear.<sup>4</sup>

In order to sustain life, the Everlasting God made abundant provisions for humankind and all creatures on earth. When these provisions are studied, their complexity and delicate interdependence and balance give strong testimony to the wise Master Designer.

But we must not limit our vision to the here and now. The discerning eye sees design with purpose—pointing to the *purpose* of the Master Designer. There must be more, and there is! Through His written Word the Creator has given us a far vision, a glimpse into eternity. And this view includes short-lived human beings changed to immortal beings. This earth will be filled with joyful individuals who will never suffer the agony and fear of death, pain or sorrow, where the water of life will flow freely, abundant to all.

Do you want to be included in that joyful time? Do you want that eternal life He is offering? You can have it, if only you make Him your choice now; if only you choose to abide by His precepts with all your heart. ♦

<sup>1</sup>Paul Simon 1998, in his book *Tapped Out, The Coming World Crises in Water and What We Can Do About It*.

<sup>2</sup>[gorp.com/gorp/publishers/pruett/ives\\_exp.htm](http://gorp.com/gorp/publishers/pruett/ives_exp.htm) "Salinity (total dissolved solids) is the most serious water pollution problem in the Colorado River Basin."

[environmentaldefense.org/pubs/EDF-Letter/1977/Jul/a\\_coloriver.html](http://environmentaldefense.org/pubs/EDF-Letter/1977/Jul/a_coloriver.html)

<sup>3</sup>Other sources put this figure at the fourth largest inland sea, now the eighth.

<sup>4</sup>[news6.thdo.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/special\\_report/1998/water\\_week/newsid\\_70000/70460.stm](http://news6.thdo.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/special_report/1998/water_week/newsid_70000/70460.stm)

**Additional sources:**

[faculty.washington.edu/chudler/facts.html](http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/facts.html);

<http://www.wzzm13.com/waterwise1.asp> and

[www.paradisairrigation.com/Water\\_Items/water.htm](http://www.paradisairrigation.com/Water_Items/water.htm)

We find the term "living water" used in Gen. 26:19 (margin) in reference to a well. It is used metaphorically in verses like Zech. 14:8; John 4:10–11; 7:38; Rev. 7:17. This "living water," if one drinks deeply of it, will quench one's thirst for life, not just the life we now have but the life that will be eternal.

When Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman about living water (see John 4), He was in an area where the lack of water was and still is well known. This common knowledge prompted Him to say to the Samaritan woman, "*The water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*" She could relate to an acute need for water in a much deeper way than we who have always had an abundance of water.

The Jews of Jesus' day would know what it is like to die from thirst. Some of them had probably witnessed it firsthand. There would be talk about it during times of drought. There being long stretches of desert, some had no doubt given drink to a traveler along the way and witnessed him recover from what would have been certain death. When an enemy besieged a city, they would cut off the water supply if possible. Water, the sustainer of life, was always a critical issue, whether one was traveling, founding a city, or fighting in war.

To grasp the import of Jesus' meaning, imagine traveling through the desert and coming upon a lone figure lying in the sand motionless. You roll him over on his back and notice he is still alive—barely. You look at his water container—empty. His parched lips, dry tongue, sunken eyes and rapid heartbeat leave no doubt—he is dying from thirst. Splashing water on his face brings a response—with his eyes. He doesn't speak. Lifting his head with one hand, you pour a little water on his tongue. With some effort, he swallows. You mix in a little honey and salt and give him a little at a time, along with some grape juice, until he finally revives. You know he will probably live, but it will be some time to complete recovery.

From such experiences, the Easterner came to think of water as life: it gives life, it revives.

Do we wonder, then, that when Jesus told the Samaritan woman, "*whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst,*" she was really excited? "Sir," she exclaimed, "*give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water!*" But she missed the point. Jesus spoke of spiritual water, she thought only of literal water.

Looking more closely at a few details, we may learn more about this woman and her point of view—and the meaning of Jesus' words to her.

First, she came to the well alone. Could this be because she was the town's outcast, because she had had five husbands and was not married to the man with whom she was living? Could it be that other women wanted nothing to do with her? If only she didn't have to come to this well every day and hear their insults as they peered from their doorways. Can we blame her for not wanting to draw from this well again?



But she wasn't with the Master long until she sensed this was no ordinary man. And when He asked her for a drink, she was taken aback, for she was a Samaritan. No "respectable" Jew would ever ask a favor of a Samaritan. As for her bad reputation, there was no way He could know about her past life. She was sure of it when He asked her to go and bring her husband. *"I have no husband, she replied."*

But Jesus' next words penetrated her deepest thoughts and emotions: *"Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.'"* He did know! He knew all about her! Uncomfortable, she quickly changed the subject. *"Sir,"* the woman said, *"I can see that you are a prophet."*—perhaps she had been longing to speak with a prophet. If only someone could assure her just how and where one should worship maybe she could change her way of life. But what was the use when one said this and another something else? And so she asked the key question that separated Samaritans from Jews: How should one worship God? Would this Stranger know?

*"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."*

Jesus told her, *"a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."* Knowing her thoughts, He confirmed her doubts about not knowing where or how to worship as He continued, *"You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews."*

Wasn't Abraham her ancestor too? And didn't Jacob, Abraham's grandson, give them the well? Did not the Samaritans have equal standing through Abraham with God? Her thoughts rushed ahead, *"If we no longer worship God in Jerusalem and not even on this mountain, then how should we worship Him?"*

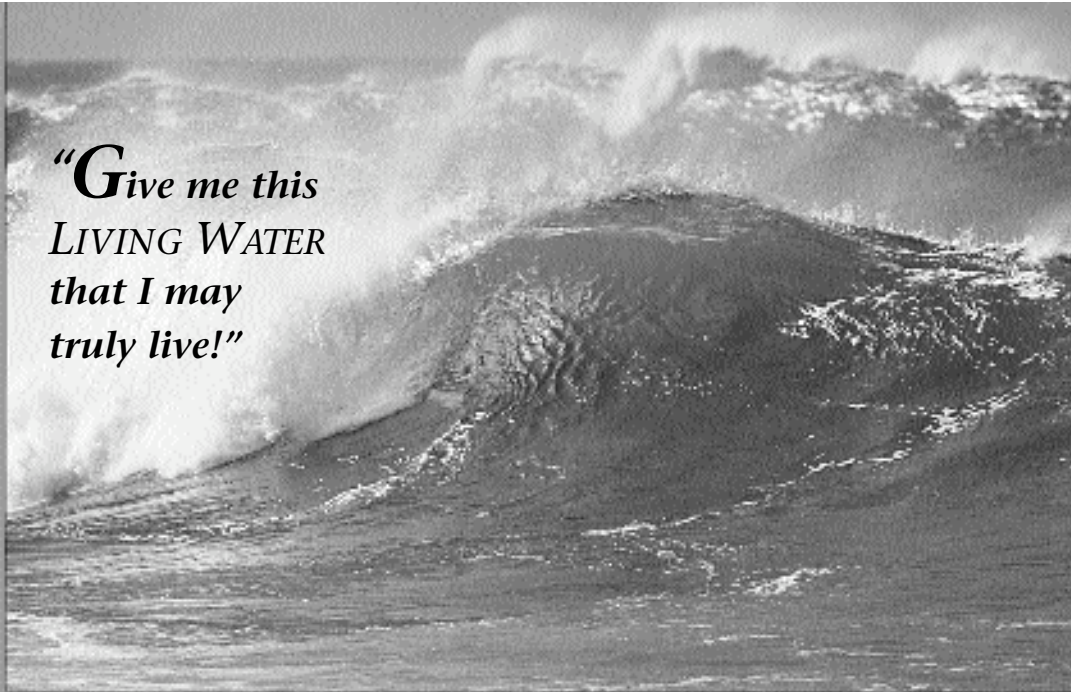
But before she could speak, Jesus continued, *"True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."* Worshiping the Father *"in spirit and truth"* makes one a "true" Jew, a Jew "indeed."

Peering into His eyes, not yet satisfied, she replied, *"I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."* Then Jesus answered, *"I who speak to you am he."*

She was speechless. Suddenly she knew it had to be true. How could anyone know such things as this Man knew and not be who He claimed to be? She was convinced. *"It is the Messiah!"* she thought.

As the drama unfolds we are allowed to peer into her heart with Christ. She is not a selfish person. She is willing to share, even with those who cared nothing for her. Leav-

*"Give me this  
LIVING WATER  
that I may  
truly live!"*



ing her water jar, she left Jesus sitting at the well. Running into town, she shouted to everyone she met, *"Come, come, I have found the Messiah! He has told me everything I ever did. Could this not be the Messiah?"*

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, *"If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."* But His words did not stop here. He went on to say, *"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst."* Perhaps Jesus knew His words would take root in this woman, resulting in repentance and a complete change of life. I think He did, and her immediate response seems to indicate this to be true.

What is the evidence? When she ran back into town she not only got everyone's attention because of her excitement but she spoke so convincingly that some believed right on the spot! Her reaction to meeting Jesus was quick and decisive. While Jesus sat at the well she ran into town, spread the word, and brought others back to drink with her the Water of life that freely flowed from the lips of the Master.

*"Ask and you will receive,"* said Jesus. When the Samaritan woman returned with the crowd and sat down at Jesus' feet, she was saying, in essence, *"Give me this Water that I may drink; give me this Living Water that I may truly live!"* Can you imagine how she thrilled when she learned about Jesus' living water that would spring up into eternal life?

If that Samaritan woman were to meet you today, I am sure she would still be shouting, *"Come! Come! Drink from the fountain of living water!"*

Are you thirsty for this water that gives eternal life? Then come! Come, drink—and live! ♦

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\*Salvation is from the Jews," the Jews indeed (Rom. 2:28–29). Christ is our Saviour, the One who will reward us with eternal life at His coming. And He was a Jew, both literally (from the lineage of Abraham) and spiritually (a Jew indeed). So it seems that, in this way, salvation is from the Jews since Christ was a Jew. Jesus is coming to give salvation to every "Jew indeed."





Mom gasped with surprise as she stepped into the girls' room. Not only were there paper scraps all over the floor, but the table and dresser tops and chairs were strewn with all the different things that can clutter young girls' rooms. What was worse, there on the floor were Ann's night clothes and a dress belonging to Melissa.

The closet door stood open and showed dresses and sweaters all plopped in a heap on the floor.

Paul followed his mother into the room. He saw the look on Mom's face and then he remarked, "They don't keep their room very nice, do they?"

Mom shook her head. It was Saturday. Ann and Melissa had scampered happily off for a visit with two of their schoolmates. They had hurried away without tidying their room.

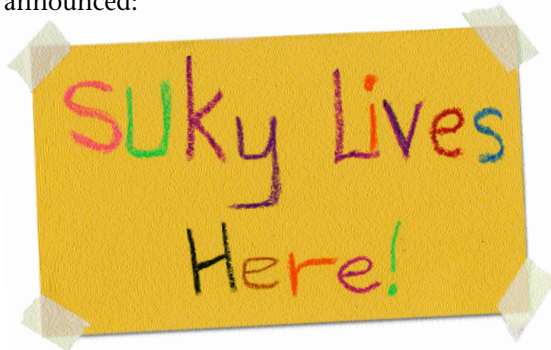
"This is like the way Suky keeps *her* place," said Paul as he looked around the tousled room.

Mom laughed. Suky was a big brood sow. Her pen was a messy looking place, and she was constantly rooting and digging the ground.

Mark happened by in time to hear Paul's remark. As Mom closed the door of the girls' room, Mark said to her as he stuck out his chest, "If you are out on an inspection tour, ma'am, just come this way!" He opened the door to the room he shared with Stephen.

That room was, Mom declared, "trim as a barracks." Neither Mark nor Stephen had liked to make their beds or clean their room until a soldier cousin had come to visit and had told them how neatly soldiers had to keep their barracks.

As Mom left Mark's room, she thought she saw a spark of mischief in his eyes. So she was not greatly surprised when she came upstairs an hour later and found a paper sign tacked to the door of the girls' room. In big bold letters the crayoned sign announced:



Mom left the sign on the door and went about her tasks. She was at work in her sewing room when Ann and Melissa came home and hurried up to

their room. She heard Ann exclaim, "Say! Look, Melissa! *Suky lives here!*"

"Why, the idea! I'd just like to know—say, I think Mark made that sign!"

"Why would he put that sign on *our* door?" asked Melissa.

Ann did not have time to answer before Mom appeared.

"Girls," said Mom, "did you have a nice time?"

"Oh, yes," chorused the two girls. Then Melissa asked, "Mom, why did Mark put that sign about Suky on our door?"

Mom eyed the messy room. "Well," she said, "I just wonder why!"

Ann's face flushed. *She* wasn't wondering why.

"Suky is a big pig," said Melissa, "and we're *girls* in this room."

"Yes, but I guess we left our room looking like Suky's pen today," admitted Ann.

Mom went over to the little bookcase and got Ann's white Bible. She opened it to a certain page, and laid it on the table.

A Bible verse to remember:

***"Let all things  
be done decently and  
in order."***

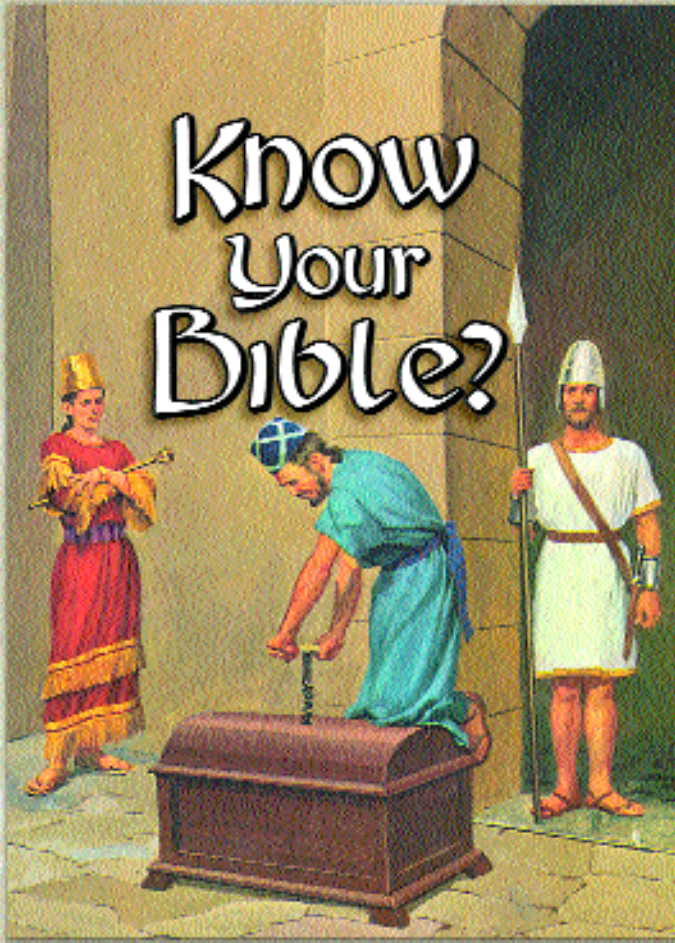
—1 Corinthians 14:40

She pointed to a verse that read: "*Let all things be done decently and in order*" (1 Cor. 14:40).

"This verse wasn't written just for housekeepers," she explained. "It was advice to some people in the church at Corinth who were very disorderly about the way they had church services. But it's good advice for home, too. Being neat and orderly is just plain common sense. You know, if you didn't keep your room in order, why, in a few days you'd be stumbling over things, and you wouldn't be able to find anything without stirring around in the mess. It's just much easier to live with people who do things '*decently and in order.*'" ♦

From "Great Stories for Children," by Erling Nicolai Rolfsrud.





#### WHERE WAS (WERE)...

1. Daniel and his friends when they refused to eat the king's food?
2. Noah when the water of the Flood abated?
3. John the Baptist when he commenced his public ministry?
4. Matthew (Levi) when Jesus called Him?
5. Joseph when his brothers stripped him of his beautiful coat and cast him into a pit?
6. Hannah when she prayed to God for a child?
7. Samuel, when for the first time, he heard the voice of the Lord?
8. Paul when the angel of God stood by him at night?
9. Daniel when King Darius lamented him?
10. Jeremiah when the Lord showed him His absolute power in disposing of nations?
11. Isaiah when he saw a king shedding bitter tears?
12. Absalom when he was slain in battle?
13. The wise men when they asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews"?
14. The prodigal son when he wasted his substance in riotous living?
15. Saul when Samuel anointed him?

#### FAMOUS PAIRS

1. Adam and \_\_\_\_\_
2. Cain and \_\_\_\_\_
3. David and \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mary and \_\_\_\_\_
5. John and \_\_\_\_\_
6. Paul and \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ananias and \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ruth and \_\_\_\_\_
9. Elijah and \_\_\_\_\_
10. Aquila and \_\_\_\_\_
11. Eli and \_\_\_\_\_
12. Joshua and \_\_\_\_\_

#### WHO

1. Who was Samuel's father?
2. Who were the two most famous human ancestors of Christ?
3. Who said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ"?
4. Who was Hanani in the time of Nehemiah?
5. Who was the husband of Mary the mother of Jesus?
6. Who offered "strange fire" before the Lord?
7. Who succeeded Moses as leader of Israel?
8. Who was the father of four daughters who prophesied?
9. Who "sold himself to work wickedness" in the sight of God?
10. Of whom was it said, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not"?
11. Who bored a hole in the lid of a chest to receive gifts for the repair of the temple?

#### WHAT

1. What book of the Bible means "to go forth"?
2. What king "loved husbandry"?
3. What letters did Paul write to churches in Macedonia?
4. To what great leader did the Lord say, "Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount," and what was the mount?
5. What king of Israel injured himself fatally by falling through the lattice of an upper chamber?
6. What were the leaders of Israel called after the death of Joshua?
7. What does the name "Jesus" mean?
8. What heathen tribe once captured the ark of the covenant?
9. What great general of the Old Testament had a name which means the same as "Jesus"?

answers on page 17



# What Do I Need to Do?

***“What would you tell a person if they walked up to you on the street and said, ‘Sir, can you tell me what I need to do so that when I die I will be with Jesus forever?’”***

Salvation is not a subject that can be explained in a few sentences to someone on the street. But if a person is sincere, you could guide them in the right direction.

It would be quite unusual that someone would walk up to a stranger and ask this question, at least today. Yet, this is the most important question anyone could ever ask, either today or in any age. It is the question which the jailer asked the Apostle Paul and his companion Silas the night they were miraculously released from prison. The jailer asked, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

Many people read the word “believe” and think only of vocalizing one’s faith. They fail to realize that the answer which Paul gave was all-encompassing. To believe in the sense in which it is used in Scripture is to believe with all one’s heart, to openly demonstrate one’s belief and commitment by changing one’s way of life from godless to God-honoring; from Christless to Christ-honoring.

This is not something people want to hear widely today. However, after Christ returns, it will be common for many to want an answer to this very question. And this answer will be given:

*“Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isa. 2:3). Why will they be interested then? Because “when Your [God’s] judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn right-*

*eousness” (Isa. 26:9b). They will have no other choice. They will either learn righteousness or suffer the judgments of God as administered through Christ.*

These prophetic words give insight into how people will respond when Christ returns as Saviour, King, and Judge of the whole earth. The first one thousand years will be a time of repopulation and re-education on a grand scale, while Christ rules with a rod of iron (symbolizing strict obedience to law—Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15). God has given the Bible, His written Word, from which one can learn His ways. He gave also His Son, Jesus Christ, as a perfect example (1 Pet. 2:21), to show us how to walk in His paths. Christ Himself gives the invitation, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me” (Luke 9:23; Matt. 10:38).

Jesus’ instructions were plain, but very few have been willing to follow. Speaking of the way to salvation, Jesus Himself said, “Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:14). Also, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able” (Luke 13:24).

When Christ said, “follow me,” He did not mean to follow when you felt like it. Rather, following Him was to be a daily walk of self-denial and sacrifice. “Let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily.”

How far are we commanded to go with this self-denial? Christ pointed to the first two commandments as most important. He said, “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...” (Mark 12:30). This is all-inclusive—none of self, only God.

Does this sound like something impossible to do, to love God with our

all, to pay attention to what He says and do it? Perhaps, if one does not know God well or what He requires. But if we really love Him and His Son Jesus Christ, we will be eager to learn His laws and will do all in our power to obey His every command, just as Christ did.

How can we do this? Perhaps we could follow Paul’s advice to his son-in-the-faith Timothy: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15).

The word “study,” as translated in the KJV, has a different meaning in the original Greek. Paul chose it as a word of serious action:

“Study”—Greek, *spoudazo*: “to do something with intense effort and motivation to work hard, to do one’s best, to endeavor to do something hurriedly, with the implication of associated energy to hasten to, to hurry to, to do quickly.”

What, then, was Paul’s advice to Timothy?

“Timothy, my dear son, do everything within your power, and intensify your effort. Work hard to make yourself approved of God. Don’t delay, but hasten to do it quickly so you will not be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (my paraphrase). Yes, I also changed the word “dividing” to “handling,” as some other translators do. This word is translated from the Greek *orthotomeo*, which has these meanings: “1) to cut straight, to cut straight ways; 1a) to proceed on straight paths, hold a straight course, equiv. to doing right; 2) to make straight and smooth, to handle aright, to teach the truth directly and correctly” (*Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon*).

How should one answer such a question as you present? Many Bible texts explain what one must do to be saved eternally. As a matter of fact, that is exactly what the whole Bible is about, getting ready for Christ’s return. ♦





### Careful At Home

We are living in the closing hours of salvation's day. And we must be living in these ending days with the utmost care. Every day is a working day, every day is a day for more concentration, more thought, and more heartfelt and sincere devotion to the cause.

Home is the best place to demonstrate how we live our lives.

At home we think we can do as we please and God will not see or hear our expressions. But the living God is everywhere and His

thoughts and His seeing is near and as far reaching from home to the far ends of our universe. *"He knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust"* (Ps. 103:14).

Each day we are given 24 hours to use. God expects us to use this time according to His high expectation, to think right, to speak right and to act right,

Just so, every life must speak and act for itself. No one can do the work for us. Each of us must spend our days under God's rules and demands. He expects the best and the utmost from us: *"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom"* (Ps. 90:12).

It is not easy, but it can be done if we truly want eternal life.

It may not be easy, but the more we practice Christ's holy attributes, the more like Christ we will become.

*L. Kapica, New Jersey*

### Be Warned!

We are on a journey which has many hazards and dangers along the way. However along the King's Highway we travel, there are signposts to warn us of these dangers.

Let us be always alert to those things which are forbidden in God's book of laws. Proverbs 4 gives us some timely advice, *"My son attend to my words; incline thy ear unto my sayings."*

We need to cultivate all the virtues which Peter mentioned in his Second Epistle: faith, courage, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. These are wonderful attributes for any pilgrim.

We want to be shining lights displaying the Christ-like spirit of godliness and hope. We want to be found *"without spot or wrinkle or any such thing"* when our Lord returns.

*R. Balsdon, Great Britain*

## OBITUARIES

### WALTER A. RATHBUN

We have received word of the passing of a long time friend and subscriber, Walter A. Rathbun, of Caney, Kansas, at the age of 95. He corresponded regularly with Church friends, and even very recently, though in failing health, sent a short note expressing his hope in the soon coming of Christ.

Brother Rathbun is survived by his sister, Louise Rathbun, of Avon, New York, who regularly attends services at our Church in Rochester; also by two sons, Alwin of Bartlesville, OK and Robert of Caney, Kansas; and one daughter, Susan Brimm, of Caney, Kansas, 5 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

### STELLA WNEK

On July 26, we met to pay our last respects to a friend and sister, Stella Wnek, of our Rochester Congregation.

Stella was born in Poland, and when still a young child emigrated with her family to America, settling in the area of New Jersey.

When in her 30's, she became aware of the Megiddo Church through her sister Lottie, and in 1960, she relocated to Rochester. Her active life was very short, she being forced into total retirement in her mid-40's due to advancing rheumatoid arthritis.

In spite of a strongly independent

nature, she was partially or totally confined for more than 30 years. She bore her sufferings bravely, her one hope the lively expectation of Jesus Christ and his forerunner Elijah, who will come with power to free the suffering from the bondage of pain until no one anywhere will have to say, *"I am sick."*

Sister Stella is survived by one sister, Lottie Kapica, of Tom's River, New Jersey, who is a member of our Church; a number of nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, among whom are the Kapicas of our Rochester congregation.

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON PAGE 15

#### WHERE WAS (WERE)...

1. In Babylon in the king's palace (Dan. 1:1-8)
2. In the Ark on Mount Ararat (Gen. 8:1-5)
3. In the wilderness of Judea (Matt. 3:1)
4. Sitting at receipt of custom in Capernaum (Mark 2:1, 14)
5. Dothan (Gen. 37:15-24)
6. In Shiloh (1 Sam. 1:9-11)
7. In the tabernacle at Shiloh (1 Sam. 1:24; 3:1-4)
8. On the ship in route to Italy (Rome) (Acts 27:23-24)
9. In the lions' den (Dan. 6:20-25)
10. In the potter's house (Jer. 18:1-10)
11. With King Hezekiah in his palace (Isa. 38:1-3)
12. Hanging by his hair from an oak tree (2 Sam. 18:9-14)
13. In Jerusalem (Matt. 2:1, 2)
14. In a far country (Luke 15:11-13)
15. In Ramah (1 Sam. 7:17; 9:14, 27; 10:1)

#### FAMOUS PAIRS

1. Eve
2. Abel
3. Jonathan
4. Martha
5. James
6. Barnabas (or Silas, or Timothy)
7. Sapphira
8. Naomi
9. Elisha
10. Priscilla
11. Samuel
12. Caleb

#### Who

1. Elkanah (1 Sam. 1:19-20)
2. Abraham, David (Matt. 1:1)
3. Paul (Rom. 1:16)
4. The brother of Nehemiah, who brought him news of the sad condition of Jerusalem (Neh. 1:1-3)

5. Joseph (Matt. 1:18-19)
6. Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron (Num. 3:4)
7. Joshua (Josh. 1:1-5)
8. Philip (Acts 21:8-9)
9. Ahab (1 Kings 21:25)
10. Christ (John 1:11, 17)
11. The priest Jehoiada (2 Kings 12:9)

#### WHAT

1. Exodus
2. Uzziah, king of Judah (2 Chron. 26:9-10)
3. 1 and 2 Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1:8); Philippians (Acts 16:12)
4. To Moses at Mt. Horeb (Deut. 1:5-6)
5. Ahaziah (2 Kings 1:2, 4)
6. Judges (Judg. 2:18)
7. Savior (Matt. 1:21; Luke 2:11)
8. The Philistines (1 Sam. 5:1)
9. Joshua



# The Lord Is Leading

## *This far the Lord has led us...*

In darkness and in day,...Through all the varied states of the narrow, homeward way;...Long since He took that journey...He trod that path alone;...Its trials and its dangers full well Himself has known.

## *This far the Lord has led us...*

The promise has not failed;...The enemy, encountered oft, has never yet prevailed;...The shield of faith has turned aside or quenched each fiery dart,...The Spirit's sword in weakest hands has forced Him to depart.

## *This far the Lord has led us...*

And will He now forsake...The feeble ones whom for His own it pleases Him to take?...Oh, never, never! Earthly friends may cold and faithless prove,...But He is changeless goodness and everlasting love.

## *This far the Lord has led us...*

Our joys and sorrows past...We know that all is mercy now, and shall be well at last;...Calmly we look before us; we fear no future ill,...Enough for safety and for peace, if You are with us still!





*Every day begin with courage,  
Confident that you can win  
Over trials and temptations,  
Let the day you're living in  
Be the one that rules your conduct,  
For the past has gone its way;  
Do not let its ling'ring shadows  
Mar the brightness of today.*

*Every day perform the duties  
That await you, and with song  
Cheer the weary souls that falter  
As you pass life's way along,  
Do not fret about tomorrow—  
Let it bring forth what it may;  
You are shaping well your future  
If you live just right today.*

*The best time to do  
something is between yesterday  
and tomorrow.*

*If you try to improve another person by setting a good example,  
then you are really improving two people.*

*Commitment in the face of conflict produces character.*

*One thing you can give and still keep is your word.*

*Disappointment should always be taken as a stimulant,  
never as discouragement.*

*For the weariest day, may Christ be your stay;  
For the darkest night, may Christ be your light;  
For the weakest hour, may Christ be your power;  
For each moment's call, may Christ be your all.*

*There is more satisfaction in  
putting forth effort than gloating over easily won profits.*

*The rungs on the ladder of success are composed of difficulties.*

*The person who has not struggled with difficulty and  
discouragement cannot know the joy of genuine success.*

*Face your problems and fight your way through them.*





He Is  
COMING!

He is coming, Christ, Messiah,  
Coming to this world again,  
Coming as Earth's future Sovereign  
Over all the world to reign!

Can't you hear Him getting ready,  
Counting down the hours till then?  
He has promised soon to be here,  
On His word you can depend!

As we see the evil rampant,  
Hate and greed and pride and lust,  
Oh, it grieves our hearts so deeply,  
Fills our souls with deep disgust.

Though things look so fearsome,  
Stormclouds hov'ring dark and drear,  
Lift your heads, redemption cometh!  
Soon the Saviour will be here!

—Contributed