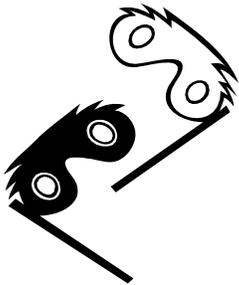


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 3 - 4th Quarter - Issue #5



CREATION CORNER

Satan's Nasty Tricks

There is a text in the Bible that we all should know about: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders," 2Thessolonians 2:9. It is talking about the times we live in, here at the very end of this world's history.

It is warning us that Satan is going to use all his nasty bag of tricks to fool people until he has nearly the whole world in his snare and possessed by him. Only a small group will be left believing and obeying God and the Bible calls them 'the elect'. We must be among those 'elect' ones!!

What will be the difference between those Satan catches and those he cannot fool? This text goes on to tell us that those that get fooled refuse to believe the truth- they love a lie more than they love the truth. The 'elect' stand firmly on what the Bible teaches and will not believe the tricks- even when they seem so pretty and so nice to believe-they go by what the inspired writings say!

CONTENTS:

CREATION CORNER

HISTORY LESSON

STORY

WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON

One of the tricks Satan is using, is getting people to believe that the dead can come back and talk to us and help us. Some think that is what the angels are, our dead friends. I have read true stories also of even dead pets being impersonated and coming as ghosts to help their former owners. Satan knows that if your beloved dead dog or cat comes and saves you from some terrible danger- it is not going to be easy for you to stick with Bible truth that the dead know not anything!

Less than a year ago I lost my best kitty friend, a black cat named Harley. I had another cat who was Harley's pal, an orange cat named Tawney. A few months back as I was sitting at my computer writing one evening, all of a sudden I plainly heard Harley's voice.

Now Harley had a very unique voice, not a meow, but a musical 'mirrr'. The sound did not seem to come from anywhere particular in the room, but sort of all around me. Now I have run into Satan's tricks before and I know my dead kitty cannot talk to me, her little life is with God and she knows not anything.

So I quietly turned and looked at Tawney. At first I thought maybe he had managed to make the sound, although his voice is very different.

There he was by his food dish looking wildly and alertly around to see Harley. He had heard it and he was sure it was she.

Not seeing her in the room he ran to the hall door and insisted I let him out-- He thought she was in the hallway. He ran out and looked puzzled up and down the hall and did not really want to come back in. Finally I assured him there was nothing there and he came sadly in.

Now, you see, Satan is mean and cruel. He knows we love pets and people whom death has taken from us, and he wants us to fall for his tricks so he can lead us to not believe the Word of God and be snared and lost.

What do you do if he plays a trick like that on you? Well, first off, don't be afraid, he can't hurt you unless you believe him or start to respond to him. Don't talk to the thing whatever it is, not even to tell it to go away. It is safer to quietly pray, "Lord Jesus, Satan is trying to trick me, but I know Your Word tells us the dead cannot come back to us. Please make him stop and drive him away."

It will have to go away. Remember, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Psalms 34:7.
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HISTORY

Pioneers of The Advent 3

James White: Deacon John's Son

UP IN Maine, away up, is the community where Deacon John White once lived and worked, and taught his sons and daughters as well as every other nightingale to sing. Deacon John of the Baptist, then the Christian, church was a man of might; muscularly building his stone fences and clearing his land, on the west side of White's Pond, a sizable sheet of water that is one of Maine's million jewels.

Six sons and three daughters were born in the old house. Three of those sons became ministers: John, Samuel, and James; one of them, Nathaniel, breathed out his life in Rochester in the early days of James White's residence there. One of them lost his life on the Western plains; and "one of them in the church-yard lies," the infant whose grave alone of the Whites keeps watch in Palmyra. Anna sleeps with Nathaniel in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Those other two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, how they sang, like the angels, with James and their father making a no-

table quartet. And the rest of the family being musical also, there must have been a heavenly choir at times.

Deacon John, in his fifty-one years of living here, enlarged the house by building on the front rooms as his family grew. James was in the very middle of nine children.

James, when a twenty-one year-old young man, with a term at teaching school behind him, had an ambition to go through college. He had come home to find his father under conviction and his mother fully committed to the doctrines of William Miller, who said the world was coming to an end around 1843-44.

A little arrogantly, the young school teacher undertook to down his mother with arguments; however, he quickly found himself thrown by the calm but assured Biblical answers of his mother. Setting himself to study, he was still more dismayed to find himself in agreement. And backsliding church member that he was, he came again to his Savior under the impact of the Advent message.

Then the Lord told him to go back to Troy and tell his new faith to his students and their parents. The cross seemed great, and he rebelled. Out into the field he went to work, but the Spirit followed him. He threw down his hoe and fled to the grove for prayer. But, like William Miller, he could get no relief. "Visit your scholars," said the Spirit. At last, angry and rebellious, he rose, stamped his foot, and cried, "I will not go!"

In five minutes he was at the house-packing his books and clothes for Newport Academy. Over the road he traveled to Newport, with good old Elder Bridges, who talked to him all the way about preaching, greatly to his discomfort. James White got busy with his classes in the school and in his room, trying to study.

But distressed and agitated, he could not concentrate his thoughts upon his studies. Finally, he resolved to do his duty, and left the academy, going south on foot, thirteen miles to Troy, the community where he had taught school. There he talked and prayed with his former pupils and some of the patrons of the school, to the great relief of his spirit. His work brought a religious revival in the area.

From that point on, James seemed destined to preach the 2nd Advent message. He had many adventures. One time, on a journey to Knox by

Deacon John White, James, and two of his sisters; driven by storm to an inn, they sang their Advent hymns, charming the motley crowd, and received free food and lodging over night and an invitation to come again on the same terms.

A conference was held at Knox, in the autumn of 1843, the Maine Eastern Christian Conference. This was after James White had been actively preaching the Advent message for a year, and had been ordained as a minister in the Christian Church. The conference was split on the Millerite doctrine, a majority favoring it but the older and more sedate ministers doubting or rejecting it.

Young James White now had a reputation in Maine, not only in his own church but among Freewill Baptists, Methodists, and others, as a preacher of the second coming. He was greeted at Knox with lively anticipation by the advocates of the imminent Advent, and they urged him to speak.

But the ruling ministers gave no opportunity. And the last day came. James White felt impressed by the Spirit that he should proclaim the message. His friends urged him to do so. One of the prominent ministers was his older brother, Samuel. The last day, Sunday, the service was arranged, and an old and conservative minister was set to preach.

James White had retired for prayer, and he returned filled with the Spirit. As he entered the crowded church and made his way toward the front, his brother Samuel and an Elder Chalmers, seated on the platform, stepped down and took him by his arms, saying, "Come up, Brother James. If you wish to preach, you shall have a chance." And they seated him with them upon the ministers' sofa.

"If you will read an Advent hymn, Samuel," he whispered, and if you, Brother Chalmers, will pray, and if I can get hold of the pulpit Bible, I will preach."

So Samuel announced and read the hymn, which they sang, and then Brother Chalmers prayed. And while he prayed, Brother James took the pulpit Bible into his lap, and set to work to look up his proof texts. The prayer ended, the other ministers noted that the Bible was in the possession of the young preacher, and decorum prescribed that he be left with it. Another Advent hymn was sung, and no one told James he could not preach. Therefore he stepped forward

and took the desk, while Amens rang through the house.

It was an unorthodox proceeding, doubtless, yet the majority of the conference were with him, and the opposition seemed paralyzed. He must have been a great preacher even then, in the beginning of his career. The power of God came down that day, and hearts were melted into love. The sermon ended on the trumpet note of the soon-coming Savior. Then the conference prepared to partake of the Lord's supper.

While it was being made ready, James White and his sisters sang those new Advent hymns, while good old Brother Clark, solemn and ecstatic, rose at every repetition of the chorus, clapped his hands above his head, shouted, "Glory!" and sat down, only to repeat. "Amen!" "Praise the Lord!" sounded through the audience. And that yearly meeting closed.

One day James White, had ridden on his father's loaned horse, with his patched saddle and bridle and his worn, thin overcoat, to a great Advent adventure in the locality of Newport. At a country schoolhouse he delivered some of his first lectures and met a mob on two successive nights.

It was in winter, and the snow lay deep and heavy. Yet the schoolhouse, packed with people, mostly women, had all the windows out, and outside the unruly mob howled and threw snowballs and other missiles, one of them a spike that hit the preacher on the head.

The second evening he was warned that the mob would take his life, but after earnest prayer he went down. A Universalist, whose selected preacher had been rebuffed the previous evening, stood by the pulpit, shaking his fist and crying, "Your meeting will be broken up."

"As God wills," said James White.

He hung up his chart, sang an Advent hymn, with some voices joining in, prayed, then started to preach. But the mob howled him down. Finding he could not be heard, he stopped his lecture, and raising his voice above the howls and catcalls, he entered upon an impassioned description of the judgment day.

The mob quieted. "Repent!" he cried, "and call on God for mercy and pardon. Turn to Christ, and get ready for His coming, or in a little from this on rocks and mountains you will call in vain. You scoff now, but you will pray then."

The noise sank. Taking from his pocket the iron spike, he held it up to view, and he said: "Some poor sinner cast this spike at me last evening. God pity him! The worst wish I have for him is that he is at this moment as happy as I. Why should I resent this insult when my Master had them driven through his hands?" And suiting the action to the word, he stepped back against the wall, with his arms elevated in the posture of one hanging upon a cross.

The noise died. Some shrieked. A groan ran through the crowd. "Hark! hark!" cried others. And, inspired by his subject, the young preacher called upon repentant sinners to rise for prayers. Nearly a hundred stood, then knelt with him as he prayed for them. Then, taking his chart and Bible, he stepped through the crowd and out of the door.

The mob outside, stilled and cowed, yet were vengeful. They pressed toward him. But a man of noble countenance, familiar yet unknown, came to his side, locked arms with him, and they advanced. The crowd gave way; their missiles dropped from their hands. And shortly James White and his companion were outside the fringes of the mob. He turned to thank his rescuer-and no one was there!

The Freewill Baptist quarterly meeting, under Elder Andrew Rollins' urging, first invited James to speak, and then changed their mind. But at the Reed meeting house, three miles out, White had, previously held a series of meetings, and now Rollins, angered by the conference's action, announced that Elder White would preach that evening in the Reed house.

"Come up, brethren, and hear for yourselves! Come up, brethren: it will not hurt any of you to hear upon this subject." And most of the ministers and all the delegates trooped out over the packed snow to hear James White that night, leaving the conference flat.

They crowded into that large house to hear James White, and every soul in the audience stood up to show belief in the Advent message. They stayed that night, in the vicinity for, says James White, "The next morning I returned to the village, accompanied by at least seven-eighths of that Freewill Baptist quarterly meeting."

So, through all this Valley of the Kennebec, and north, and east, and west, labored James White, those many years ago, with scores of other ministers in the principal denominations,

proclaiming the soon coming of the Lord. From -A W Spalding 1947 = ^..^ =



STORY LESSON

The Taiping Revolution

Today I am going to tell you about a very little known event, an event that has been so lied about that very few people know the truth about it. Just recently I received an email with a news article in it that expressed concern that China was now receiving the Christian faith in increasing amounts. They mentioned what is called the Taiping Massacre, and said that this is what happens when a religious revival happens in China!

Now the truth of the matter is the 'Massacre' occurred when the Jesuit inspired non-Christian Chinese rose up and slaughtered the Taipings! But history has been tampered with and very few records of what really happened exist today.

It is another of the devil's sneaky tricks that history accounts are being re-written to hide the truth and true documents destroyed. Just a week ago I got an add for a new book on the Crusades that makes the Papacy out to be a hero protecting the very roots of Christianity, instead of the truth that they were a bloody persecution waged against all who dared be non-catholic. But God has kept many ancient records for us, and many people, such as Hartland Institute work to reprint these old classics to refute the devil's lies.

Here is a brief account of the Taiping revolution:

WHILE the advent message was just beginning in America, there was a most remarkable movement going on in the heart of China. A heathen Chinese, without any acquaintance with Christianity, had, in 1837, a series of remarkable visions, in which he was shown the princi-

pal points in the Christian religion. (remember the stories in earlier TEMKITS, about prophets raised up around the same time, among Eskimos, African tribes, and remote Islands of the Pacific?)

In his visions Hung-sui-tshuen was first taken to a river, where the celestial visitors said to him: "Why hast thou kept company with yonder people and defiled thyself?" He was then washed clean, his heart was taken out, and a new heart was given him. (How could a heathen be given a better idea of conversion and baptism?) He was then brought in before "a man, venerable in years," "sitting in an imposing attitude upon the highest place," whom he called "Our Heavenly Father." He also "met with a man of middle age," whom he called "our Celestial Elder Brother."

"Sui-tshuen's whole person became gradually changed, both in character and appearance. He was careful in his conduct, friendly and open in his demeanour."

When Sui-tshuen, in his visions, was brought in before "Our Heavenly Father" he was shown the sinfulness of idolatry. God "began to shed tears, and said, 'All human beings in the whole world are produced and sustained by Me; they eat My food and wear My clothing,'" but they have no "heart to remember and venerate Me"; "they take of My gifts and therewith worship demons." "And thereupon he led Sui-tshuen out, told him to look down from above, and said, 'Behold the people upon the earth! Hundredfold is the perverseness of their souls.' Sui-tshuen looked, and saw such a degree of depravity and vice that his eyes could not endure the sight, nor his mouth express their deeds." He was then told to go and rescue his brethren and sisters from the demons, and was given "a seal, by which he would overcome the evil spirits," and our "Elder Brother" "instructed him how to act," and "accompanied him upon his wanderings." When "he woke from his trance" he started on his God-given work.

Before this Hung had received from a stranger on the street nine small books, which he had not read. Now he started to read them, and was joined by his cousin Le. The books contained some chapters from the Bible which presented the same picture of God and Christianity that he had seen in his visions. "Sui-tshuen felt as if awakening from a long dream. He rejoiced in reality to have found a way to

heaven, and a sure hope of everlasting life." He and Le then baptized each other.

They prayed to God, and decided to obey His commands, and then felt their hearts overflowing with joy. "They thereupon cast away their idols and removed the table of Confucius." Through their earnestness and joy in the new-found salvation, many were soon won, and in answer to prayer the power of God was manifested among them in healing the sick. They had also the "gift of prophecy" among them.

"At this time, Hung prohibited the use of opium, and even tobacco, and all intoxicating drinks, and the Sabbath was religiously observed." - "The Ti-Ping Revolution," by Lin-Le, an officer among them, Vol. I, pp. 36-48, 84. London: 1866.

"The seventh day is most religiously and strictly observed. The Taiping Sabbath is kept upon our Saturday." The Sabbath is ushered in with prayer, and "two other services are held. . . Each service opens with the Doxology:

"We praise thee, O God, our Heavenly Father;

We praise thee, Jesus, the Saviour of the world;

We praise the Holy Spirit." - Id., p. 319.

When the Manchu government made war on the followers of Hung, they organized their own government, and millions of Chinese gladly flocked to their standard, because of the kindness and strict justice of their government. During the wars, their soldiers were not allowed to drink the water nor eat the food of the conquered without paying for them, and no crime was committed by them, under death penalty. The Taipings printed the Bible and spread it among their people, and the Ten Commandments were strictly followed.

In 1862 there were 85,000 converted Sabbath-keeping Christians among them, besides more than 45,000,000 others who gladly yielded themselves under their government, but were not accepted as church members. Their territory covered 90,000 square miles in the heart of China, and liquor, tobacco, opium, and idols were totally banished from its whole extent. Had the Christian nations kept out of the struggle, China today might have been a Sabbath-keeping Christian country. But two influences conspired against the Taipings, or God-worshipers, as they were called:

1. English opium-traders became alarmed about the probable destruction of opium and the loss of the millions they earned annually in the opium trade in China.

2. The Taipings did not understand the difference between the images of saints, used by the French Jesuits in their worship and the idols used by the heathen Manchus, so the Taipings opposed them indiscriminately, which aroused the ire of the Jesuits, and finally Christian countries assisted in completely destroying the Taipings. Lin-Le, heart-sickened at the thought of this "cruel sacrifice of the greatest Christian movement this world has ever witnessed," exclaims:

"What excuse can missionaries give for their surprising negligence of . . . the 70,000,000, and upwards, of those who might have become Christians under the Taiping authority during 1861-1862." - Id., pp. 310, 312.

The terrible massacre of the Taipings was so heart-rending that we must not describe it here, but will refer the reader to the description of it given by H. L. Hastings, in his book: "Signs of the Times," pages 149-151. We can see in this another evidence of the vigilant spirit that eagerly watches and determinedly opposes every effort to wrest souls out of his grasp, or to bring the true knowledge of God to mankind. (Revelation 12: 17.) (If anyone knows of where a copy of the above book could be found-please notify us!) Story from 'Facts of Faith' by CHRISTIAN EDWARDSON 1942 = ^ .. ^ =



Year 3: 3rd Quarter:
"JESUS OUR SAVIOR"
WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 5: "WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE"

This series of Bible Story Lessons is about Jesus. For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matthew 5:44.

Sunday

Text: Luke 4:16 "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

Jesus had grown up in Nazareth. Quietly he had grown into manhood, working day by day at the occupation of a carpenter, he had not seemed much different from anybody else in the town, except for an amazing purity that most ignored.

Now after His ministry had begun, he came back to His hometown and, when Sabbath came, he went to the synagogue and was asked to read the scriptures.

He took the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and turning to Isaiah 61:1 He read from it. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Lu 4:18,19.

Then he sat down. The people were thrilled as the power of the Holy Spirit impressed these words about the work of the Messiah home to their hearts. Then Jesus stood and said plainly that the words were fulfilled that very day in their ears.

At this the people began to doubt and grumble and very quickly the impressions of the Holy Spirit were driven out of their minds. They did not like Jesus saying that they were in need of being set free, or any such thing and the cer-

tainly did not want Him as their Messiah!

Then Jesus spoke bluntly to them, telling them how in the days of ancient Israel, the heathen people often received blessings from God that the people of Israel did not receive because they refused to believe the prophets!

At this they flew into a rage and grabbed Jesus and dragged him out to where there was a high cliff. They would have thrown Him off and killed Him had not angels of God protected him and taken Him safely away from them.

Thought - Jesus said that a prophet is usually not believed in his own town. The people wanted to believe that He was no different from any one of them. Down inside they knew that was not true. It is like all the stories that are told today to try and make out that Ellen White was just an ordinary woman with a talent for writing, which is not at all true. Her whole life shows the special power of God in a most amazing way. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." Jeremiah 1:5

Monday

Text: Matthew 4:23 "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." 5:1, 2 "And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them."

In chapters 5-7 of Matthew we have the greatest sermon ever preached. It was given by Jesus as the people came out to be healed of their diseases and to see the wonderful new prophet of Galilee.

Jesus was careful to make his lessons so simple that all could understand who heard them. He liked best of all to teach in the open air, rather than in buildings. In the fields, groves, and the lakesides, were his favorite spots for teaching and also for meditation and prayer.

He had special reasons for choosing these natural places to teach and preach in. Everywhere could be seen things that all were familiar with and He could use these things to teach His lessons in a way they would remember.

The birds singing in the leafy branches, the pretty flowers of the valley, the spotless lilies, the lofty trees, the fruitful lands, the waving grain, the barren soil, the tree that bore no fruit, the mighty hills, the bubbling brooks, the setting sun that tinted and gilded the heavens, all were used as lessons of divine truth.

Now leading the crowd to a grassy place on the mountainside, He began to teach them. The disciples were close around Him and all listened as Jesus words rang out over the beautiful scene.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

The poor in spirit are those who know how weak and sinful they are and trust only in Jesus, who is all-righteous and kind, to save them.

"Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted."

In blessing those who mourn, Jesus did not say that we are to be sad and gloomy all the time. The mourning spoken of by Christ is a godly sorrow for sin, which works repentance unto eternal life. Many grieve when their guilt is discovered, because the result of their evil course has brought trouble. But this is not true sorrow for sin.

Thought - When we are truly convicted of sin, we feel our whole life to have been selfish and unthankful. We feel we have robbed our Best Friend of the time and strength that He bought for us at an infinite price. Our whole soul is filled with great sorrow that we have grieved the dear Saviour. Such mourning is precious, for it will open the heart to the powers of heaven that Jesus uses to change us and make us like Him.

Tuesday

Text: Matthew 4: 5:5-7 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

"Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth."

What does it mean to be 'meek'? Well, it is just the opposite of being proud and boastful, bossy and showing off. It means being gentle, mild, modest and humble. If you have a friend that is bossy and a friend that is meek, you will see they are so different that it is like night and

day.

The meek friend will listen to your ideas, he will share with you. But the bossy friend will boast and push and snatch, always trying to be best and first. Which would you rather play with?

But we forget which kind of friend we like, and often WE are the bossy, pushy person! Always remember, Jesus, and even God the Father Himself, are meek and gentle! Satan is boastful, bossy and pushy!

“Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.”

Have you ever been hungry? I mean really hungry? Soon nothing else matters to you but trying to find something to eat. To be hungry and thirsty for righteousness, really means that we will want to be like Jesus so much, that it will be the most important thing in our lives. When it is as important to us as that, then we can be sure that Jesus will guide and help us to find what we need to become like Him.

As the weary traveler eagerly seeks the spring in the desert, and, finding it, quenches his burning thirst with its cool and sparkling water, so should the Christian thirst for and seek the pure water of life, of which Christ is the fountain. We can find this in the inspired writings!

“Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.”

Harshness and cruelty is naturally found in the hearts of all of us. Unless these hearts are changed and kept under the control of the kind and gentle Saviour, we will show a hard, unkindness to others.

Jesus wanted to teach his followers a lesson of mercy that they should have that tender compassion which pities and aids the suffering and erring, and avoids magnifying the faults of others.

When we remember how patient Jesus has been to us and how often we have disappointed Him, we will show mercy and patience to others.

Thought – To be merciful is to treat others better than they deserve. So God has treated us. He delights to show mercy. He is kind to the unthankful and to the evil. So He teaches us to treat one another. He says, “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32. SJ 61

Wednesday

Text: Matthew 5:8-12 “**Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**”

“Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.”

God cares more for what we really are, than for what we say we are. He does not care how beautiful we may look, but He wants our hearts pure. Then all our words and actions will be right.

We can fool people. We can pretend to be someone’s friend and then later turn around and say bad things about them to others. But we can never fool God! We may make everybody think we are a wonderful Christian, and go to church and do all kinds of good deeds, but if down in our hearts we are still living for self, God knows the difference!

King David prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God.” “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my Redeemer.” Psalm 51:10; 19:14. This should be our prayer.

“Blessed are the peacemakers.”

He who has the meek and lowly spirit of Christ will be a peacemaker. Such a spirit doesn’t quarrel, gives back no angry answers. It makes the home happy, and brings a sweet peace that blesses all around.

Jesus promised to give us peace. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27. The more we are like Jesus, the more peace we will have in our lives. The more we try to be like the world and want the things of the world, the less peace we will have.

“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.”

Jesus knew that for His sake many of His

disciples would be put in prison, and many would be killed. But He told them not to mourn because of this. Nothing can harm those who love and follow Christ. He will be with them in every place. They may be put to death, but He will give them a life that will never end, and a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

The things that seem so hard for us to bear will often turn out to be the greatest blessing to us. We are told that when we belong to Jesus, nothing can come to our lives except what Jesus allows to come. These trials and tests are what He uses to help us see how bad sin is and to help make us more like Him.

Do not let it bother you if when you stand for right and refuse to do wrong things, even those you thought were your friends, call you names and are mean to you. Remember Jesus had that happen more than anyone of us ever will. The wicked church leaders even made up false stories and then paid people to travel around and tell these stories against Jesus. He will always hear your prayer and help you if you ask Him to.

Just because someone says a bad thing about you, does not make it true. God knows all about it and He will take care of it for us, we do not have to try and defend ourselves. We do not see Jesus spending His time running around trying to prove the false stories wrong, do we? No, He just kept right on with His work for God and ignored the lies.

What are we to do? "Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad;" "for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Thought – It is better to be blamed for a bad thing you did NOT do, than to be punished for a bad thing you DID do!

Thursday

Text: Matthew 5:14-16 "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Jesus went on to use more object lessons for the people. He told them they were to be the light of the world. Nobody would light a candle

or a lamp and then hide it under a basket so it could not be seen. That would be silly!

If we truly have given our whole hearts and lives to Jesus, it will show to others in everything we do and every word we say. Just like a candle drives away the darkness, our lives will bring light to many people around us.

In the olden days, traveling in ships on the great oceans was very dangerous. If the ships traveling in storms or at night came too close to dangerous cliffs or rocks, they could be all broken to pieces!

In order to try and make ocean travel a bit safer, certain lighthouses were built on dangerous places and people lived there in them and every night they would light the huge lamps and care for them so the light would stream out over the water to warn passing ships of the dangerous rocks and to help them know where they were in their journey.

Now sometimes there were cruel robbers who wanted to cause the ships to crash so they could rob them. These pirates would sometimes attack a lighthouse, tie up the keeper and put out the light. Or sometimes they would light false lights in wrong places to confuse the ships and cause them to take a wrong turn and be smashed on the rocks.

What could the ship captains do to avoid these tricks? They had to use their charts and check them carefully.

This is just like Satan does. He wants people to all be lost. He wants to rob us of the truth God has given to us and get us all confused. He tries to put out the good lights by getting God's people into sin. He tries to make false lights by telling us ideas that the Bible says is wrong. If we stay with the Bible truth and check it carefully, we will not be fooled.

Thought – Remember the sweet, old song, "This little light of mine; I'm going to let it shine!"

Friday

Text: Matthew 5:17,18 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Because Jesus did not teach all the many

ceremonies and regulations that the Pharisees and priests had made up for the people to try to follow, some got the idea that he was saying the law was done away with.

Jesus was very careful to tell them how important the Law of God was and that all should obey it. He told them that not even the crossing of a 'T' or the dot of an 'I' would ever pass from the law.

And yet in spite of this, there are millions of so called 'Christians' today who are saying the law of God was all 'nailed to the cross'. They do not seem to realize that if it were possible that the Law could be changed or done away with, then Jesus would not have to have paid

that terrible price on Calvary!

God's 10 Commandment Law is the very foundation of the heavenly government and it is also what His own character is like. Never can it be changed or done away with.

Thought - Why did ministers start teaching that the Law was nailed to the cross? It was because of the teaching of the Seventh-day Sabbath. They could not answer why they were keeping Sunday when the Bible says the Seventh day is the Sabbath, so they decided to teach that the law was 'nailed to the cross'. It is certainly a most foolish and dangerous idea indeed!
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