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"Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel*; For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he swore to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives." Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

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Covenant Messenger

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"A NATION'S HERITAGE IN ITS FLAG"

Hidden Secrets

by Deborah Roelofs

*(this was presented as an Oratory at the
ACA Student Convention in Brisbane, Sept 2006)*

A Nation's heritage in its flag. The Bible and God's Covenants with His People are the cornerstones of our flag. In Psalm 60:4 it says:

"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth."

The secrets that lie within our flag are numerous. The secrets behind the Union Jack, the stars, the Southern Cross, they are all part of our heritage. And, hopefully, what I tell you today will uncover some of those secrets. Let's take the Union Jack as a starter. Many "Australians" want to change our flag. Instead of the Union Jack they wish to replace it with a kangaroo, boomerang, or some other animal or plant. The Union Jack represents the covenants of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus Christ - that God made with Israel. We must NEVER change that for a kangaroo or wattle.

The Union Jack was formed during the era from 1606 when King James became king of England to 1801 when the nations of England, Ireland, and Scotland combined into a union, or the United Kingdom. When we look at the Union Jack we see three crosses: the St. George's Cross of England, the St. Patrick's Cross of Ireland, and the St. Andrews Cross of Scotland.

The white cross, or St. Andrews Cross, was the first in the line of covenants. This cross symbolised the covenant which God made with Abraham. The shape of the cross probably came from when Jacob crossed his arms in blessing Ephraim and Manasseh.

The St. Patrick's Cross, which is the thin white broken cross, represents the covenant God made with Moses on Mt. Sinai. This covenant was broken immediately by Israel, unlike the St. George's and St. Andrew's crosses. St. Patrick's is broken in four pieces, just like the Mosaic covenant.

And, most important of all, the Cross of St. George, representing the New Covenant God made with His children, through Jesus' blood. This cross is the red cross, and a different shape to the other crosses. It is the shape of the cross of Calvary, where Jesus died for our sins.

Has anybody ever seen God's signature? - Yes, you have! The LORD said, "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last." Does anyone know what the first and the last letters of the Hebrew alphabet are? In the old Hebrew, the first letter of the alphabet is Aleph (X) and the last letter is

Tau (+). When you put these two crosses on top of each other what do you get? The old Union Jack before Ireland joined the union.

Next let's take a look at the Southern Cross, the distinguishing constellation of the southern skies. This constellation consists of five stars, four bright and a small duller one, placed in the form of the cross. At the time of the birth of Christ, according to American Biblical Archeologist, E. Raymond Capt (M.A., A.I.A., F.S.A (Scotland), in his book *The Glory of The Stars* (#341 @ \$15.80), this constellation could be seen in the latitude of Jerusalem. During the recession of the Polar Star, this constellation became invisible at that latitude.

The Hebrew name for this constellation, the Southern Cross, as it has been called for generations, is "Adom" which means "cutting off." And so it has been prophesied in Daniel 9:26 in which it says,

"After three score and two weeks shall the Messiah be cut off." Isn't it amazing that this constellation carries the promise of Jesus' sacrifice, since millennia before? God truly called the stars by name.

Ever since Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, it has been a sacred, and the most significant emblem to almost all Christian believers. To most Christians today the cross is a symbol of life, the life Jesus gave us when he sacrificed his life on the cross that we may have eternal life in His forgiveness of our sins. The cross is a symbol of life and salvation through our Lord God. The Southern Cross is

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The views and opinions expressed in the articles herein or herewith are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CIM. They are written by fallible men. You must ask Jesus to guide your studies!

a starry representation of the price at which our redemption was bought.

The Federation Star under the Union Jack has seven points symbolising the States and Territories of Australia. All the stars in our flag have seven points (except for the smaller star on the Southern Cross, which only has five). Seven means Completion - which is the Seal of God in Bible Numerics.

Now, let's take a look at the colours of our flag, the Red, White, and Blue. The colours red, white, and blue were often used in the Old Testament, and are very symbolic. The White represents the white robes of righteousness given by the Lord to His people, when they repent of their sins, and become purified. Red signifies the blood covenant fulfilled in Jesus. Blue is the national colour of Israel, and of God's right to rule over His people.

In Numbers 15:38-41, it says,

“Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a riband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.”

This is an instruction to wear a ribband of blue as a remembrance to keep His Commandments and to be Holy (means: separated!). Our flag is formed from these very important and powerful colours.

Finally, why should we keep our flag? Because (and no-one can say it better than www.iprimus.com.au our heritage is God-given. And our flag is the history of God's plan for us. To reject our flag and the Union Jack is nothing more than the rejection of God's Name. It reflects one's state of heart. To replace it with pagan symbols, i.e. trees, kangaroos, and boomerangs, is rebellion. To turn our backs on our God-given Heritage is inviting fatal consequences. It is an honour to have these God-given symbols on our flag. How thankful our chosen and blessed nation should be. I am very blessed to know our heritage and the importance and meaning of our flag. I only hope that I have helped you in understanding our Biblical basis and foundation as a country and as a people.

I thank the sources that I had for this information. Sites on the Internet were very helpful to me, and I especially thank Mr. Capt (now in his 90's) for his insights on the Southern Cross (Glory of The Stars). It is truly an honour to have these God-given symbols on our flag. Thank you.

BIBLICAL FREEDOM - WHAT IS IT? *by Jessica Roelofs*

(this was presented as an Oratory at the ACA Student Convention in Brisbane, Sept 2006)

Freedom is something we all want - that elusive liberty that so many men have fought and died to obtain. But over the years, we seem to have lost the true meaning of freedom, and replaced it with something else.

Freedom to today's world is far from the purity and high ideals it used to be. If I asked anybody whether they

are free, they would say, yes. But their freedom is not true freedom, because they are not truly free.

Are they free from fear? No, they are afraid almost constantly: of death, failure, sickness, and many other things. do they have freedom from anger, from anxiety, and sadness? Many people are slaves to these things and they are unaware of their own slavery. *Webster's Dictionary* defines *Liberty* as freedom from debt, fear or servitude to any man, power or right of doing, thinking or speaking according to choice. *Freedom* is defined as *exemption* from slavery.

These freedoms can and have been achieved. But man is weak and easily influenced. Without a strong foundation, freedom is easily taken from us. We would not be able to maintain or keep them. Is there a freedom, or a basis for freedom, that cannot be taken from us? That if we work to keep it, we will be able to? Yes, I believe there is! So what is *true, lasting, freedom*? To know that, we'll have to go to the Author of all things, and find out what true *Biblical* freedom is.

In the Bible, freedom is usually won or bought by someone else, and they give it to the person or people that are not free; thereby releasing them. So freedom in the Bible is most often actually redemption. For example, in Leviticus 25:47-49,

“And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself to the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: After that he is sold, he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: Either his uncle or his uncle's son, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.”

We have a man who sells himself as a servant to pay of his debt (or going into debt to a bank or finance company), and then we have some-

one buying him back, that is, giving him his freedom (the borrower is servant to the lender, Prov. 22:7) The Lord did this for us in a much greater sense in Exodus 6:6.

“Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgements.”

God redeemed us from the Egyptians, thereby giving us freedom. And then there is the most important kind of freedom - freedom from sin. In John 8:32, Jesus speaks about freedom like this:

“Then said Jesus unto those Judeans that believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” - and then in verse 34: *“Jesus answered them, Verily Verily, I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house forever, but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*

So we need to be made free from sin, that is, redeemed by God's Son, Jesus, to have true freedom. Without having freedom in every sense, we are not truly free. One could be free of hate, but if they are not free from fear, they are not completely free. They could be free from political oppression, but if they are not free from sin, they do not have true, complete, lasting, freedom.

However, freedom isn't just being 'free from every-



thing bad.' Freedom isn't floating through a sunny field without a care in the world. All freedom is responsibility, and it is also an undeserved gift from God. We seek God's kingdom and His righteousness, and by doing so we are the recipients of God's true freedom.

A good example of this is the Law of God. In God's perfected kingdom, the Law of God will be practiced. Freedom definitely comes from the Law of God. In Psalm 119:44, David prays,

"So shall I keep Thy Law continually forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, for I will seek Thy precepts."

If we keep God's perfect Law, we will be free, spiritually, and physically. God's Law is the recipe for true freedom, because it punishes evildoers properly, thereby giving everyone else freedom (Deut 13:10-11), and because when we obey God's Laws, we are showing that we love God and we are under His protection because we are seeking His Will and His kingdom (Neh. 1:9, Prov. 7:2, John 14:15, 15:15, Matt 6:33).

This shows us the political side of Biblical freedom. If God's kingdom is sought on the earth, and His Law implemented, true freedom will be the result. Evil and slavery cannot flourish when subjected to the light of God's divine Will and Law. Freedom can also be thought of as submission. Redemption is something God does for us to give us freedom, and submission is something we do in order to gain God's true freedom. Submission to God is true freedom. Paul writes in 1 Cor. 7:22-23,

"For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price, be ye not the servants of men."

We must be only submitted to God, and have him as our only master or we will not be truly free. Luke 16:13 reads,

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

We are all servants to something or Someone. To God or our own desires and lusts. To have true liberty, we must serve only God. When we are in total submission to our Creator and Redeemer, we cannot be in submission to anything else. When we serve God truly, we are freer than we could ever be without God.

Becoming free by being a servant may sound impossible, but when God is our Master, there is no room for wickedness, and the result is freedom. Freedom from sin, freedom from fear, and ultimately political freedom. You see, freedom begins in your heart. It starts with you, the individual, and then the family. And finally, our nation becomes free.

But remember, only a nation submitted completely to God can remain free. With God as our King, Judge and Lawgiver, we can be free forever, and the Kingdom of God will be fulfilled. - - - Thank you.

LESSONS FROM JUDAH'S KINGS - PT 4

by pastor Don Elmore & Jan Holloway

KING ASA INTRODUCTION

King Asa's reign could be summarized as a great start

but a poor finish. Early in his kingship, he relied on the God of his fathers and soundly defeated a stronger and larger army of the Ethiopians and Lubim. But at the end of his forty-one year reign, he completely reversed his actions:

1. First, he relied on the army of the Syrians to help him in his war against King Baasha of the House of Israel.

2. Secondly, he relied on the physicians and sought not the Lord when he was diseased in his feet.

3. Thirdly, when Hanani the prophet informed King Asa of God's displeasure with his actions, King Asa went into a rage and put him in prison and oppressed some of the people at the same time.

Therefore, for the last two years of his life, King Asa suffered greatly with the disease that was in his feet (2 Chron. 16:7-14).

The Bible also informs us of other kings who made similar mistakes in regards to their physicians. For example, twenty years after King Ahazia (Aha-zee-yah) of the rival House of Israel, sent messengers to the priests (physicians) of Baalzebub, god of Ekron, as to whether he would recover of his disease (2 Kings 1:2-4). The result was the same.

And angel was sent to Elijah (ae-lee-yah) instructing him to intercept the King's messengers and inform them of God's displeasure by asking them the following question:

"Is it because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Baalzebub, the god of Ekron?"

Then Elijah pronounced his death sentence:

"Now, therefore, thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed to which thou art gone, but shall surely die."

BABYLONIAN MEDICAL SYSTEM

Baalzebub was the Philistine (Phili-stein) name for the deified god of Nimrod—the post flood world ruler and great physician. Other names in other countries and languages were: Osiris (Egypt), Apollo (Greece), Baal (Babylon), Marduk (Israel), etc. Aesculapius, son of Apollo in Greece was Horus, son of Osiris in Egypt.

The ancient civilization of Egypt and their contemporaries, encountered basically the same diseases as the modern world. And, surprising to some, their manner of treatment was similar. They used antibiotics, sedatives, anesthetics, surgery and exact drug prescriptions!

In fact, their prescriptions were marked by their physicians just like the modern physicians do: with a "Rx" (see box on page 7).

"This symbol Rx is derived from the major lines in the symbol of the Eye of Horus. Horus was an Egyptian god, the god of Nekhen, a village in Egypt, and god of the sky, of light, and of goodness. He was the son of Isis, the nature goddess, and Osiris, the god of the underworld. Osiris was murdered by his evil brother Seth, the god of darkness and evil. Horus sought to avenge his father's death by challenging his uncle Seth to a fight. Seth cut out Horus's eye, but Thoth, a god associated with wisdom and compassion, magically restored the eye. Horus did defeat Seth, finally. Horus's eye, also called the wadjet eye, became a symbol for health. The Egyptians considered it a symbol of good and restored health" (Amy Beth Dukoff, D.M.D.

—<http://www.endomail.com/articles/ad13rx.html>).

But these methods of treatment—surgery and drugs—by the ancient pagan cultures, were in contrast to



the laws of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for His covenant people. God had promised to His people blessings and curses. Blessings (which included good health) if they obeyed His laws; curses (which included plagues, epidemics, and the dreaded diseases of Egypt) if they disobeyed His laws (Deuteronomy 28).

If the diseases were caused by sin (transgression of God's Law), then the healing was dependent upon the confession and forgiveness of those sins.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:1-3).

To treat by surgery and drugs was an attempt to bypass the consequences of the illness—disobedience. For an ancient Israelite to go to a pagan doctor for treatment was rebellion against His God.

And for him to go to a pagan doctor for an illness caused by a non-sinful action, was also disobedience—for it ignored God's means of treatment. Pagan medical treatments utilized sorcery (drugs with dangerous side effects); God's medical treatments utilized prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing with essential oils by the priests and by the patient consuming herbs (which have no side effects).

I must confess that while I heard of and used herbs for medicinal and preventive purposes for several decades, I never heard of or even saw any essential oils until I was sixty-three years old! What a lack of knowledge of God's medicine.

As a result, I asked a member of our church, Jan Holloway, the person who introduced me to essential oils to write about it so other covenant sons and daughters may learn of God's medicine.

GOD'S MEDICINE FOR HIS PEOPLE

Essential oils are mentioned more than 500 times in the Bible. Understood chemically and historically, essential oils reveal the harmony between man's science and God's Word. The oils provide an opening between the material world and the spiritual world through which man can receive healing and insight from his Creator.

From the dawn of our civilization, our forefathers used these oils, which they called precious or sacred oils, to anoint their lives and property. They used oils for physical protection and spiritual contact. They inhaled them, ingested them, burned them and applied them to their bodies. Over time, essential oils became prized for their fragrance as well as their spiritual properties. Modern science, which is yet to catch up with the wisdom given in the Bible, continues to confirm the unique and divine power of essential oils.

There are 33 types of essential oils and aromatic plants mentioned in the Bible, which actually makes 1015 references to anointing oil, incense ointment, spices, perfumes, odors, sweet savors, aromas and fragrances, all implying essential oils since synthetic oils had not been invented yet.

The oils contain divine programming that works therapeutically to produce health and balance in the body, mind and spirit. Essential oils demonstrate that God's power and divine nature can be seen in and through the things He has made.

Essential oils, which are distinct from food oils, are actually the blood of the plant. One drop of essential oil can

bathe each cell in the body with 40,000 molecules. Modern science finds some oils to be as effective as antibiotics, and without the risk of dangerous side effects. Oils can be used to promote longevity, increase vitality, facilitate deep relaxation and strengthen the immune system.

The most potent antioxidant on earth is the essential oil of clove. The most resonant substance on earth is the essential oil of the rose. Aloes, Cassia, Frankincense, Galbanum, Hyssop, Spikenard, Myrrh and Cedarwood are a few of the oils created and ordained by God for use by His people. God commanded Moses to use essential oils for prayer and to protect the Israelites from disease. Mary and Joseph used oils to keep themselves and the Christ child healthy.

Today, through research, we know something of the chemistry of the potent oils that are found in leaves, seeds, petals, roots, shoots, flowers and fruits. We know that essential oils act on the immune system, the organs and soft tissue, and most especially they act on emotions and the soul.

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Revelations 9:21, 18:23, 21:8 and 22:15

Today, most people have been conditioned to turn to secular agents for solutions, that is they run to the doctor. The word secular means "against or outside of God."

The "health care" system presently in place is a health care system, but not the type that most people think it is. Rather, it is an interconnecting system of high-profit death-dealing industries built to feed on ever increasing numbers of people caught in its web of declining health by design.

Fact: In a little over a hundred years, cancer rates have risen from one in one thousand

to one in two. This is not by accident.

Fact: Modern medicine is now the third leading cause of death in the United States. Iatrogenesis as it is termed, claims hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

Man's health care system fails utterly to acknowledge the source from which flows all life and vitality. The roots of atheistic medicine are revealed in its language, which comes from the Greek:

- Pharmaceutical comes from "pharmakeuein" which means to practice witchcraft.

- Pharmacy comes from "pharmakon" which means poison. (fifty-five years ago, my father's uncle, who was a pharmacist by trade, told my father: Go to the doctor as little as possible, and ALWAYS walk past the chemist. My father repeated this to me many times! HR)

COMPOUNDS IN ESSENTIAL OILS

Genesis 1:26, Exodus 20:5, 34:7

No other substance known to man works like oils do. Essential oils return the body to its natural, created state at its most fundamental level: the cell. The rejuvenating activity of the oils is so powerful that generational curses can be cured.

Essential oils are composed of three classes of compounds that work sequentially at the cellular level.

- Phenylpropanoids prepare the cell for rejuvenation. They "clean the pipes."

- Sesquiterpenes remove damaged cellular matter, including damaged genetic information in the RNA/DNA. They "wipe the slate clean."

- Monoterpenes replace or rewrite cellular data, includ-



ing cellular memory. This is the most divine healing activity of all.

Because oils can actually correct the cause of a disease at the cellular level, they can facilitate a complete, permanent and even instantaneous healing.

THE BLOOD BRAIN BARRIER

The blood brain barrier is a super-fine membrane that protects the brain and central nervous system from potentially dangerous substances circulating in the blood. Only oils, some solvents and some heavy metals can penetrate the barrier. Recent tests of in-utero umbilical cords revealed unborn babies developing in a broth of over two hundred toxic chemicals.

When essential oils penetrate the blood-brain barrier they cause chemical reactions that produce therapeutic changes in all facets of metabolism and well-being. While essential oils are not a food, they nourish and heal at the cellular level.

It's worth noting that the American Medical Association has said that if researchers could find an agent that would pass the blood-brain barrier, they'd be able to find cures for man-made ailments such as Lou Gehrig's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimers and Parkinson's. Such agents already exist and have been around since Creation. Those agents are essential oils, and oils highest in sesquiterpenes deliver the most therapy through the blood brain barrier.

THE GARDEN

Of all the settings into which God could have placed our forebears, Adam and Eve, He chose a garden. Perhaps one lesson to be learned from this setting is that God intended us to live in an environment permeated with the gentle scents of essential oils. Scientifically, we know that these scents are more than just pleasant; they are healing and rejuvenating.

Essential oils can be inhaled through the nose, infused into the air, applied to the body and taken internally. Their benefits, ranging from the subtle to the profound, are physical, emotional, mental and spiritual. Our ancestors used essential oils for physical healing, enhancing spiritual states and emotional cleansing. man-made substances do not compare with essential oils because they lack the intelligence, life force and the vibrational energy found in pure oils. Essential oils are divinely ordained as medicines for God's people, and as such, are meant to be used with His guidance, and with prayer.

THE LANGUAGE OF OILS

1 Peter 2:5,9, Exodus 30:25-31

The word anoint is "masach" in Hebrew, which is the root of the word "Messiah." It is also the root from which came "massage." Anointing with essential oils in Biblical times consisted of pouring oil onto the head of the person being anointed. In Psalm 133:2, Moses poured oils on Aaron until they ran down his beard and the skirts of his garment.

God gives us the authority to anoint. Sometimes things were anointed instead of people, such as buildings and implements. The Greek word "Kristos," which is the root of the word "Christ" appears 361 times in the New Testament. Kristos means, literally, "anointed, "the anointed one."

THE MYSTERY OF SMELL

When inhaled, the oils enter the amygdala, the seat of emotions in the brain. This small gland responds not to temperature, touch or sound, it responds only to smell. The

sense of smell works unlike any of the other senses. That is, the emotional brain stores repressed emotions and traumatic memories. Essential oils are a vehicle for releasing them.

Olfactory nerves go directly to the seat of emotions in the center of the brain, just above the roof of the mouth—the amygdala. This is part of the limbic system or diencephalons, which involves several organs--the thalamus, hypothalamus, corpus callosum, fornix, pineal gland and pituitary gland. It includes neural cortex and endocrine glands as well. It functions electrically and chemically through hormones.

With the oils, less is better most of the time. It only takes one molecule of the right oil to cleanse and open a receptor site and communicate with the DNA to repair and restore cellular function. This is why inhaling even a minute amount of oil vapour can have profound effects.

THE HEALING OILS OF THE BIBLE

JOY

Isaiah 61:3, Psalms 45:7-8, Proverbs 27:9, Hebrews 1:9
Joy contains rose oil, which has the highest electromagnetic frequency of any known substance: 320 megahertz. It takes 3000 to 5000 pounds of rose petals to produce one pound of Rose oil, so it is very precious indeed. Also of note, there are many instances in history when people who have had profound religious experiences, visions, miracles or epiphanies reported the scent of roses accompanying the spiritual experience. In some cultures, they say that the fragrance of the rose is the smell of God.

EXODUS

Numbers 16:46-50, Psalms 133, Ecclesiastes 9:8

In Exodus, the Lord gave the following blend to Moses for a holy anointing oil: Myrrh, Cinnamon, Calamus, Cassia, Olive. The Psalms speak of the sweetness of brethren dwelling together in unity, "It is like the precious ointment ..." Another scripture refers to anointing, "Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment."

The Old Testament records that Moses instructed Aaron to take a censor and go to the congregation to make atonement for their sins before God. Aaron did this, he stood between the living and the dead and the plague was stayed. According to biblical records, three varieties of Cinnamon were used in this instance. Cinnamon is known to be highly anti-microbial, anti-infectious and anti-bacterial. Another ingredient Myrrh is also anti-infectious and anti-viral as well.

THIEVES

The name of this oil blend comes from its interesting history. During the plagues of the Dark Ages millions of people died from bacterial and viral epidemics. These illnesses were so contagious that no one was willing to remove the bodies of the dead for fear of infection. People would fall dead in the streets and be left untouched and unburied. However, it became apparent that there were thieves who stripped the dead bodies of jewelry and broke into the homes of the deceased to rob them. These thieves didn't get sick. Some of them were arrested and brought before the King, who demanded to know, on pain of death, what their secret was.

It turns out the thieves were spice traders and perfumers, and well versed in the protective properties of the oils. The oils they confessed to using were Clove, rubbed on their bodies and put on the masks they wore during their

New Video

ROOTS OF US GOVERNMENT

The US Government is MASONIC -- NOT CHRISTIAN! It was Masonic from its beginning, and it is time Christians stop their blind support of it. This amazing video shows graphic and extensive evidence to convince even the stubborn that the US Government and the Founding Fathers were masonic.

CI-473 DVD only, sug. don. \$15



heists. The Thieves blend has been tested for its anti-microbial properties and found to have a 99.96% kill rate against all tested airborne bacteria.

VALOR

In Biblical times, soldiers often used essential oils, such as Spruce, to give them courage. The soldiers would rub the oils on their feet and shoulders and inhale them before dressing to go into battle. Spruce is the first oil in Valor. Frankincense is the fourth. Valor is called “chiropractor in a bottle” for its structural healing properties. If you have any back, hip, neck or shoulder pain, rub a couple of drops on the back of your neck.

ALOES

John 19:39

Aloes, or Sandalwood, is best known for its balancing effect on the nervous system. High in sesquiterpenes, it has been found to stimulate the pineal gland and the limbic region of the brain, the seat of emotions. The pineal gland is responsible for releasing melatonin, a powerful antioxidant that enhances deep sleep. Aloes supports the nerves and circulation. It has a calming and soothing effect that helps reduce stress and alleviate anxiety. Sandalwood is also used for revitalization of dry or dehydrated skin.

CASSIA

Cassia belongs to the laurel family of plants. Its pungent spicy scent is sometimes confused with cinnamon, from which it differs markedly in all other regards. Cassia is highly anti-bacterial, antiviral and anti-fungal. Cassia is one of the oils in the holy anointing blend that God gave to Moses when He directed him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Cassia is an oil of joy. A physical and emotional stimulant that gets the blood and mind in motion. As an incense, it reduces drowsiness and irritability.

CEDARWOOD

Leviticus 14:4-6, Leviticus 14:49

Cedarwood is from the Pine family of trees. The cedars that grow in Morocco and the United States, *edrus atlantica* is the species most closely related to the Cedars of Lebanon. In Biblical times, it was used in beautification, cleansing and purification rituals—applied to the tip of the right ear, right thumb and right big toe. That part of the ear is where one releases and resolves issues regarding their parents. The thumb and toe are trigger points for clearing fears of the unknown and blocks against learning. The big toe is also a trigger point for clearing addictions, and compulsive behaviour. Cedarwood has also been used to help clear buried emotions, including pride and conceit.

Cedarwood is a mild antiseptic and brain stimulant. It has long been used for embalming, skin healing, incense, respiratory relief and fluid retention. It is also an effective, non-toxic insect repellent. It contains the highest concentration of sesquiterpenes of all the oil. Sesquiterpenes oxygenate the blood and support clear thinking. King Solomon built his palace and the temple out of Cedar.

CYPRESS

Isaiah 44:14

The Cypress tree yields a pale oil that has been used through the centuries to support the circulatory system as well as to regulate and normalize hormonal and lymphatic deficiencies. In modern times, Cypress has been helpful for

arthritis, bronchitis, cramps, insomnia, parasites, spasms, tuberculosis, throat problems and varicose veins. Cypress supports the immune system and the cardiovascular system. It is also outstanding for skin care as it heals scar tissue. As an incense, Cypress has been used to ease the pain of loss and emotional trauma. Cypress is rich in monoterpenes, which reprogram the DNA and RNA.

FRANKINCENSE

Exodus 30:34, Numbers 16:46-50, Leviticus 2:1-2, Isaiah 59:20, 60:3,6, Matthew 2:11

Frankincense comes from an exotic tree now found only in Somalia. It is referred to in the Bible over 50 times. The Egyptians considered Frankincense a cure-all, “good for everything from gout to a broken head.” It was valued more than gold and possessed only by those of great wealth. It was one of the oils given to the Christ child.

Frankincense is to inhale, massage and consume. The Israelites used it all three ways. It is a deep healing oil and has been burned as incense in churches for centuries. Its fragrance is used to increase spiritual awareness, improve attitude and lift the spirit. Today, it is used in many perfumes and colognes, including Old Spice aftershave.

Frankincense is an expectorant, anti-tumoral, anti-depressant and an immune system stimulant. As such, it has been used in the treatment of many cancers. It is helpful with allergies, bites, bronchitis, respiratory weakness, headaches, typhoid and skin eruptions. Because of its high sesquiterpene levels, Frankincense has been used to stimulate the limbic system, the hypothalamus, the pineal and pituitary glands.

GALBANUM

Exodus 30:34

Galbanum is a member of the parsley family. Its pale resin has a pungent, earthy smell that is emotionally grounding. Esteemed for its medicinal and spiritual properties, it was Moses’ favorite oil. Since Biblical times, Galbanum has been used for pain relief, inflammation, seizures and skin wounds.

Today, Galbanum is used for acne, asthma, bronchitis, coughs, cramps, cuts, indigestion, muscle aches, nervous tension, poor circulation, rheumatism, scar tissue, stress and wrinkles. As incense, it is balancing, soothing and harmonizing. Galbanum is anti-infectious, anti-spasmodic, a stimulant, and analgesic and supportive of kidney and uterine functions.

HYSSOP

Exodus 12:22, Psalm 51:7-10, Leviticus 14:4-6

When Moses told the elders of Israel to sacrifice a lamb and use a branch of Hyssop to apply the blood of the lamb to the doorposts of their dwellings, the choice of Hyssop was because the Israelites believed that its scent would repel evil spirits. God’s instructions were to “strike the lintel and the doorposts,” which would have bruised the leaves and released the scent of its oil. Thus the fragrance of Hyssop was a part of the ritual to cause the Lord to pass over when He saw the blood, and would not allow the destroyer to enter that house.

The fragrance of Hyssop was considered spiritually purifying and an aid in cleansing one’s self from sin. The 51st Psalm was written during David’s grief over his realization of the magnitude of his transgression of the Law. David’s remorse was very intense and his repentance com-

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E-156 Warning To Fathers - pt 1

E-157 Warning To Fathers - pt 2

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pastor Don Elmore

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G-673 Romans 11 - Prophecy Fulfilled, 2

G-674 Romans 11 - Prophecy Fulfilled, 3

G-675 Romans 11 - Prophecy Fulfilled, 4

pastor Ted Weiland

J-149 Wine: It’s Condemnation and Commendation

J-150 The Confederate Chaplain

J-151 The Temple Tax

J-152 Deja Vu

pastor John Weaver



plete. There is no Biblical record of his ever committing such an act again. repentance is a crucial prelude to healing and reestablishing a broken relationship with God. Hyssop, directed by sincere intent to create a clean heart and restore a right spirit can blot out transgression and erase sinful tendencies stored in cellular memory, thus releasing and cleansing the root cause of the wrong action.

The calling for Hyssop oil to purge one's self of iniquity has a scientific basis. Hyssop is about 50% ketones, which act like phenols in cleansing the cell's receptor sites. Hyssop contains 5-10% sesquiterpenes, which delete addictions, compulsions and other ungodly directives from the DNA. Hyssop also contains 20-30% monoterpenes, which reprogram the DNA to restore God's original handiwork.

Hyssop is anti-catarrhal, a decongestant and an expectorant. It is cleansing and purifying, helping to reduce fat in soft tissue. It raises low blood pressure, regulates hormones and increases perspiration. It also stimulates creativity and prayer.

MYRRH

Genesis 37:25, Genesis 43:11, Exodus 30:23

Biblically, there are more references to Myrrh than to any other oil. It was one of the oils given to the Christ child. It was used for many skin conditions as well as spiritual deepening and uplifting. Myrrh has extremely high levels of sesquiterpenes, which support the hypothalamus, pituitary and amygdala, which is the seat of emotions.

Myrrh is anti-infectious, anti-viral, anti-parasitic, anti-inflammatory and anti-hyperthyroid. It supports immune, digestive and thyroid function. It is also highly effective for dental health. As a skin healer, it is useful for thrush, ulcers, stretch marks, chapped skin and wrinkles. As an incense, Myrrh is both uplifting and calming.

MYRTLE

Nehemiah 8:15, Isaiah 41:19, Isaiah 55:13

Myrtle was prized for its overall balancing and normalizing properties in antiquity. It was used for reproductive and metabolic disturbances, as well as for respiratory healing and strength. Myrtle is an expectorant, a liver stimulant, a prostate decongestant, a light anti-spasmodic, a thyroid regulator, a skin tonic and it is also anti-infectious. It can also be helpful for diminishing anger, asthma, cystitis, dysentery, blemishes, bruises and psoriasis. As an incense, Myrtle is elevating, and in some cases euphoric.

ONYCHA

Exodus 30:34

Onycha is mentioned in the Bible as an ingredient in the holy incense that was diffused in places of worship. It goes by several names including Friar's Balm and Javanese Frankincense. It is extracted from the resin of a tree that grows only in Indonesia. The thick resin is used commercially in countless cosmetics and personal care products. The oil of Onycha is unparalleled in its therapeutic action on skin wounds. It is a powerful and safe antiseptic. It prevents infection and scarring while promoting deep and rapid healing.

ROSE OF SHARON

This highly prized oil is made from the petals of a small, hearty rose that grows wild in many parts of the

world. It has a honey-like fragrance. The Hebrews used this oil for skin care as well as for mental and spiritual elevation. Today, the Rose of Sharon is used to help asthma, bronchitis, depression, impotence, nausea, scarring and tissue regeneration. This oil is known for its anti-aging effects of promoting skin elasticity. It also cures skin fungal growths. As an incense, the Rose of Sharon is soothing and nourishing mentally, physically and spiritually.

CONCLUSION

Mark 6:12-13

The sun is the sole source of sunshine whether you "believe" in it or not. And God is the sole source of healing and life whether you realize it or not. Those of us who study, administer and teach the use of these holy oils do so to carry on the work as Christ taught his disciples and as expressed in Mark 6:13: "And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them."

Sources:

Essential Oils Integrative Medical Guide by D. Gary Young, N.D.

The Healing Oils of the Bible by David Stewart Ph.D.

* * * *

THE STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS

Modern Symbol of the Healing Art of Medicine

Aesculapius, son of Apollo, was the Greek god of healing. Patients believed that they could be cured by sleeping in the medical schools which were located in temples called Asclepion. They would visit, offer gifts and sacrifices to the god, and be treated by priest healers (called Asclepiadae). During their sleep Aesculapius would appear in their dreams and give them a message about their treatment. After awakening the priests would interpret their dreams and by that determine which drugs to give them. The worship of Asclepius spread to Rome and continued as late as the sixth century.

The Hippocratic (Hippocrates was the fifteenth generation descendant of Aesculapius) Oath was originally sworn "by Apollo the physician, by Aesculapius, Hygeia and Panacea (daughters of Aesculapius) and the gods and goddesses."

Despite the unequivocal claim of the staff of Aesculapius to represent medicine (and healing), the caduceus, a rod with two entwined serpents topped by a pair of wings appears to be the more popular symbol of medicine in the United States. The caduceus is actually the symbol of the magic wand of the Greek god Hermes (Roman god Mercury), messenger of the gods, inventor of magical incantation, conductor of the dead and protector of merchants and thieves.

The link between the caduceus of Hermes (Mercury) and medicine seems to have arisen by the seventh century AD when Hermes had come to be linked with alchemy. Alchemists were referred to as the sons of Hermes, as Hermetists or Hermeticists and as "practitioners of the hermetic arts." There are clear OCCULT associations with the caduceus.

The caduceus was the magic staff of Hermes (Mercury), the god of commerce, eloquence, invention, travel, and THEFT, and so was a symbol of heralds and commerce, NOT MEDICINE. But when one examines the medical health business that use this symbol—it can be concluded that they are using the right symbol.



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Top to
Bottom:



Eye of
Horus

Symbol
for Jupiter



Rx symbol



An occult description of the caduceus of Hermes (Mercury) is that the serpents may represent positive and negative kundalini as it moves through the chakras and around the spine (the staff) to the head where it communicates with the mind by intellection, the domain of Mercury (wings).

Other occultists, New Agers, Gnostics and Cabalists interpret the staff of Hermes to be the Tree of Life with the symmetric twin serpents coiling up the tree following the 33 paths to godhood. A Freemasonry connection to the disastrous sin that occurred in the Garden of Eden.

"*... for thy [Babylon] merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy SORCERIES were all the nations deceived.....*"—Revelation 18:23b

Courtesy New Covenant Messenger, Box 321, Union KY 41091

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS

by *Bertrand L. Comparat*

God knew that the conditions and events of the last few years of this age would be very terrible, so He has provided many Scriptures to encourage us as we find ourselves in the final, titanic death-struggle between good and evil. These Scriptures tell us plainly that the awful events we see are marks of the end of the age. Therefore, they mean that our Saviour Jesus Christ will soon return. If they did not reveal our position in history, they would be of no comfort. What good are mere platitudes to a person who is wondering if his family is about to be fried in an atom-bomb explosion? But these Scriptures bring hope because they show that we have reached almost the very end of our troubles.

Unfortunately, much of this is lost by mistranslation out of the Hebrew and Greek in which the Bible was written. Passages of clear, specific meaning in the original languages are mistranslated into vague uncertainty.

One of these is found in Luke 21:25-26, where Jesus Christ is giving the signs by which we may recognize the end of the age. As found in the King James Version, it reads:

"Upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

While this sounds vaguely forboding, just what does it mean? Can you find in it anything the people in any century could recognize? Let us examine the meaning of the Greek words which have been mistranslated in this passage. In the first place, the Greek word *sunoche* (soon-okh-ay), from which was mistranslated "distress," is derived from *sunecho* (soon-ekh-o) meaning "to hold together," as in a group or organization. And the Greek word *aporia* (ap-or-ee-a), mistranslated "perplexity," is derived from *aporeo* (ap-or-eh-o), meaning "to have no way out," or to be in impassable straits. The Greek word here translated "the earth" is *oikumene* (oy-koo-men-ay), and refers more particularly to the civilized parts of the earth.

Then this passage speaks of "the powers of heaven." Where the same statement is recorded in Mark 13:25, it says "the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken." Now the Greek word here translated "heaven" is *ouranos* (oo-ran-os), a word of particular interest to us in the last twenty

years, for the name of the metal which made the atom bomb possible - uranium - is derived from this same Greek word. which was merely ended with the letters "ium," always used to designate a metal.

The history of this metal is interesting. Before it had been discovered on the earth, it had been found to exist on the sun, being found by its characteristic lines in the spectrum of sunlight examined with a spectroscope in a great astronomical observatory. Since this metal had been found "in the heavens" before it was found on earth, it was decided to call it by the name which means "the heavenly metal," so they called it uranium. There seems to be much more than mere coincidence in the relation between *ouranos* in this Bible passage and uranium, in view of what uranium has done to bring about exactly the conditions of which the Bible speaks. and finally, the Greek word *saleuo* (sal-yoo-o), translated "shaken," means also "to agitate or stir up."

Now let us retranslate our brief little passage. Luke 21:25-26 will read thus:

"Upon the earth, the nations banding together, in impassable straits, and roaring storms; men's hearts failing them for fear and expectation of those things which are coming upon civilization, because the power that is in uranium shall be stirred up."

New Book
THE LOST CHAPTER OF ACTS
by E. Raymond Capt M.A., A.I.A., F.S.A. Scot
The Sonnini Manuscript, better known as the Long Lost Chapter of The Acts of the Apostles contains the account of Paul's journey in Spain and Britain. The document, purporting to be the concluding portion of the Acts, covers a part of the period after Paul's two years enforced house arrest in Rome. It is written in the same style as the Book of Acts and reads like a continuation of that book. There are many points in favor of its authenticity, including its preservation in the Archives of

Constantinople.

#025 sug don \$11.50

Now isn't this a true picture of this present time? The nations banding together in the so-called "United Nations" - not really united in anything - but entangled in an organization which serves only to frustrate all good plans and finally force compromises with evil, compromises which need never be made if the nations were not in this unholy association with Communism. Because they have violated God's warning to have nothing to do with evil, the nations now find themselves "in impassable straits" - no way through, no way around, no way out at all -

and this in the increasing tumult and danger of international storms of diplomacy and recurring wars. By abandoning Christian principles to compromise with wickedness, even the Western Christian nations have maneuvered themselves into impassable straits and desperate circumstances. And now, as they see the consequence of their own misdeeds approaching, many are disheartened with fear and expectation of the disasters which threaten the civilized nations. Again, note the peculiar accuracy of the Scriptures, for it is only the civilized which are threatened; we are only in this position because we lack the moral courage to turn the great weapons against our barbarous enemies until they surrender unconditionally to civilized rule; we have even helped to arm them with the weapons which they now prepare to use against us. And what is the cause of this abject terror which affects so many? The power which is in uranium - the atom bomb - is about to be stirred up and released against us.

Well, what shall we do about it, now that we recognize the picture as a true one? Fall into despair with the others? No: just go back to the Bible for the answer. The next two verses give it. First, what follows immediately after the atomic warfare?

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great ."

The second appearance of Jesus the Christ, the event



the world has waited two thousand years to see. Shall we be downhearted at *this* prospect? What greater event can life offer you?

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Now do you recognize your place in history/ “When these things *begin* to come to pass.” They have already begun: the nations have banded together in an organization; they are already amid the storms which threaten to swamp all civilization; they are already trapped in impassable straits - although many people still lack the courage to admit all this is so. These things have begun to come to pass. Therefore, it is time, not for craven despair, but to look up, and lift up our heads. This is the very thing our God spoke of, telling us more than nineteen hundred years in advance, so we could recognize it when it happened. As He tells us through the Prophet Isaiah:

“Have ye not known? Have ye not heard? Hath it not been told you from the beginning? Have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? ... Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” (Isa 40:21; 42:9).

Therefore, our Lord said that when these things *begin* to come to pass, it indicates that our “redemption draweth nigh.” Everything we have ever dared to hope for is included in that redemption. It is the restoration of all that was lost in the fall of Adam. . It is the restoration of our rightful position as the sons and daughters of God; it is freedom from the crushing pressures of the Satanic world order; it is the leisure to live in peace and dignity, in a world where the wicked dare not raise their heads; it is an age in which righteousness never has to yield to evil, in which poverty, sin and tragedy are banished from the earth. With *this* prospect ahead of us, shall we fear the ending of the old, the beginning of the new?

* * * * *

LAWS THAT ARE NOT GOOD

Through the Prophet Ezekiel a timely message is addressed to God’s people today. After recounting the departure of the nation from the observance of His commandments, statutes and judgments, leading finally to the flagrant desecration of His Sabbath, the Lord declared He would pour out His fury upon them:

“Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their father’s idols.” (Ezek. 20:24)

here is clearly set forth what today is as true as it was when Ezekiel was speaking, for modern Israel refuses to recognize the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord. Sabbath desecration is at an all-time high; the day set apart for service to the Lord has become a day for work to gain profit and a day of pleasure on both an individual and national scale.

The statement, *“Their eyes were after their father’s idols,”* appears to be more obscure until it is recognised that their eyes were upon the idols of their fathers because the basis of Baal worship was sensuous. The worship of sex played an important part in idolatrous rituals. The Septua-

gint translates this: “their eyes were after the desires of their fathers.”

Here again, we have throughout the Israel lands today a constant emphasis upon sex: in the theater, on radio and television programs, in literature, and in many other ways, all tending toward moral degeneracy. Because of all this, the Lord has decreed:

“Wherefore I gave them [His people] also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live.” (Ezek 20:25).

By the statement, “statutes that were not good,” we have a reference to the many laws on our statute books which are oppressive, as well as confiscatory of the wealth of the people. Already approximately 40% of the earnings of our people are being taken from them through taxation in one form or another.

The “judgments whereby they should not live” may readily include the multiplicity of court decisions which contribute to strife rather than peace. The Supreme Court ruling regarding segregation is leading to upheaval and bloodshed throughout our land, for we will not be able to live in a society that breaks all the racial barriers which were established by Divine fiat. The court’s rulings on obscene literature have not only opened the floodgates of the propagation of moral depravity, but its rulings have forced criminals and Communists in our midst.

As morality is the essence of life, bringing true happiness and peace, no people can continue to live when the bars of decorum and decency are lowered. The dictum given us in the Book of Proverbs is eternally true:

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.” (Prov 14:34).

Our forefathers laid, as a foundation for our nation, reverence for God and the Bible and upon this foundation the American society was built. The United States of America became a foremost power as a result. Today, however, through the passing of statutes that

are not good and the enforcement of judgments by which we cannot live, the former virtues that made our nation great are fading away. The end of the present course can be nothing less than disastrous.

Courtesy Destiny Letter, Box 177, Merrimac MA 01860

[Regarding Australia’s Christian beginnings, read *Understanding Our Christian Heritage* by Graham McLennan B.D.S., vol 1 & 2 @ \$20 the set posted.]

UNSPOTTED FROM THE WORLD?

by Kenneth Pierpont

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (James 1:27).

“For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, Who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe” (1 Tim 4:10).

When I was a boy I frequently heard messages on the subject of worldliness. Lately the pulpit has grown quiet on the subject. Use of the term “worldliness” is out of fashion. (Thank God there are those who are not afraid to address the subject. R. Kent Hughes, in his book, Set Apart, and



men like Bill Gothard, John MacArthur, and John Piper have written with courage and contemporary relevance on the subject, but they are lonely voices crying in the wilderness). Vance Havner noticed it before he died over twenty years ago. He said what we used to call worldliness we have softened to “secular humanism.” Secular humanism sounds like something philosophical and disconnected from common life. When the preachers of my childhood spoke of worldliness they were talking about something that threatened individuals we knew, damaged real families in our town, and tarnished the testimonies of churches within driving distance. Worldliness was something even the barber on main street could do. You didn’t have to go to college back east for it.

I often heard people described as worldly and I had a vague idea what they meant. Usually we meant that persons were careless about habits of personal holiness or undiscerning in their exposure to entertainment media. I didn’t have an adequate, comprehensive, Biblical definition of worldliness.

Scripture is not at all silent on the subject. The Scripture has much to say about worldliness. The world and its influence is a significant theme in the Bible.

Can worldliness be quantified? Is the term confusing? Has it lost its meaning or has its meaning been distorted over the years to the point that it is no longer understood in a Biblical light?

WHAT IS WORLTLINESS?

If I were to ask you to define worldliness what would you say? What passages would you use? Would you agree that worldliness is a problem among professing Christians? If so why? What is worldliness? Why is it a problem? Why is it dangerous? How do we define it and recognize it?

Is there such a thing as worldly talk, worldly dress, worldly music? Is worldliness something that you can see outwardly? How do you describe worldliness? How do you define it?

THE SAD CASE OF DEMAS

If you read between the lines in the letters of Paul you will see a sad story unfold there. I call it the sad case of Demas. Demas was a promising associate of the Apostle Paul. He was invited to travel with Paul on one of his historic missionary journeys. Paul kept a journal on his missionary trips and included in his journals the progress of the gospel. Demas makes a few cameo appearances in these letters. In Colossians and Philemon he is listed among the associates and helpers of Paul, but in 1 Timothy there is a sad and final line about Demas. Paul just simply states, “Demas has forsaken me having loved this present world.” Whatever Paul meant by that, Demas was a victim of worldliness.

What was it about the world that Demas loved? Was it money, sex, power, wrong philosophies, desire for pleasure, desire for fame, desire to avoid hardship, personal offense, desire for ease? Paul said, “... **having loved this present world ...**” Whatever it was, it was a choice of this world to the exclusion of the ultimate world.

It is important to understand what the Bible has to say about worldliness. It is a rare person, even among professing Christian young people, who is not influenced by that spirit of worldliness. Study with me some of the many passages of Scripture that deal with worldliness and a spirit of worldliness.

1. There is a spirit of worldliness that can destroy believers. If you have a spirit of worldliness you are being influenced by un-Godly spiritual forces. It is important to realize that worldliness is not just an attitude or choice. Worldliness is a spirit. I believe it keeps people from the ultimate joy of love for Christ.

This is clear from a reading of Ephesians 2:2: “*In time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air; the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all had our conversation (life-style) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others, but God who is rich in mercy...*” In this passage Paul is listing the privileges and position of a believer. It is a long and wonderful list. When he reaches chapter five he turns a corner and says, “*Since all these things are true about you, you should walk or continually live in a worthy manner.*”

“*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God*” (2 Corinthians 2:12). There is a spirit actively at work in the sons of disobedience. Clearly from this passage we can see that the Spirit of God and the spirit of this world are in opposition to each other. **Worldliness is an ungodly spirit.**

2. If you have a spirit of worldliness you may become infamous. Demas today is known for the one thing he did that was wrong. This is the opposite of a good testimony. (1 Tim. 4:10) **Worldliness is the opposite of a good testimony.**

3. If you have a spirit of worldliness you lose the distinctiveness that is vital to a powerful testimony “*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*”

(Phil. 2:15). **Worldliness is loss of distinction.**

4. If you have a spirit of worldliness you will squander great opportunities. Think of what Demas could have been involved in, “... by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4). Worldliness is waste.

5. If you have a spirit of worldliness you will exchange purity for pollution. “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning” (2 Peter 2:20). The pollution and corruption of the world is like the noxious fumes from a rotting corpse ... “miasma” of the world. Worldliness is defilement.

6. If you have a spirit of worldliness you will never find satisfaction. It is in forwarding the Name of Jesus among the (His) people that we find satisfaction in this life. “Because you would not serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart for the abundance of all things; you will serve your enemies” (Deut 28:47). Worldliness is dissatisfaction with God and what He has provided.

7. If you have a spirit of worldliness you will not enjoy fellowship with Jesus (James 4:4). Only those who are willing to “go outside the camp and bear His reproach” will enjoy fellowship with Him. That is the fellowship of His suffering; the fraternity of suffering. “If the world hates

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you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you” (John 15:18). “Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you” (1 John 3:13). **Worldliness is forfeiting fellowship with Jesus for some other loyalty.**

8. If you have a spirit of worldliness you will weaken and harm others. “*Demas has forsaken me...*” Lot was a believer, but because he loved the world he lost his family and he lost his influence in the world (Genesis 13:5-13; 19:1-17; 24-26; 30-38). Lot was a righteous man (2 Peter 2:7-8). **Worldliness is living for yourself without regard to the harm it will do others.**

9. If you have a spirit of worldliness your salvation is in question. “*Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world*” (James 1:27). **Worldliness is the spirit of an unbeliever.**

10. If you have a spirit of worldliness you will live in bondage to lust. “*Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world*” (Gal 4:3). “... the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life” (1 John 2:15-17). This key passage on worldliness leads to this definition of worldliness: **Worldliness is a spirit that leads to living for the present things, without appropriate consideration or regard for eternal realities.**

- “The lust of the flesh” is a consuming desire for earthly pleasures and experiences without regard for pleasure in God. The desire to DO something.

- “The lust of the eyes” is a consuming desire for earthly possessions without regard for treasures in Heaven. The desire to HAVE something.

- “The pride of life” is a consuming desire for approval from men without regard for God’s approval. It is being more concerned about what people think of me than what God knows about me. The desire to BECOME something.

11. If you have a spirit of worldliness you will forfeit spiritual riches that are eternal for temporal riches which cannot last. “*Give what you cannot keep to gain what you cannot lose.*” (See 1 John 2:15ff). Worldliness is temporal values.

12. If you have a spirit of worldliness you are involved in idolatry. You worship a false god. “*Their god is their belly and they mind earthly things*” (Phil 3:19). Worldliness is idolatry.

13. If you have a spirit of worldliness people can usually tell by external observation, but it is deeper than that. Worldliness is primarily internal with external manifestations. “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*” (Rom 12:2). “*Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*” (1 Cor 5:10-11). When you have fellowship with the wicked you are in danger. “Lot called the wicked his brethren” (Gen 19:7). Isolation is not the answer (John 17:13). We are to break fellowship with worldly Christians (1 Cor 5:10)!

14. If you have a spirit of worldliness the only way of escape is to die to it. You cannot hope to hold onto it and control it. You cannot use it for good. “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” (Gal 6:14). Beware of the lure of the world. It is new life that drives out death!

John Piper, *Don’t Waste Your Life*, pp 118-120,122” “Avoiding fearful trouble and forbidden behaviours impresses almost no-one. The avoidance ethic by itself is not Christ-commending or God-glorifying. There are many disciplined unbelievers who avoid the same behaviours Christians do. Jesus calls us to something far more radical than that. People who are content with the avoidance ethic generally ask the wrong questions about behaviour. They ask, What’s wrong with it? What’s wrong with this movie? Or this music? Or this game? or these companions? Or this way of relaxing? Or this investment? Or this restaurant? Or shopping at this store? What’s wrong with going to the cabin every weekend? Or having a cabin? This kind of question will rarely yield a life-style that commends Christ as all-satisfying and makes people glad in God. It simply results in a list of don’ts. It feeds the avoidance ethic.

“*The better questions to ask about possible behaviour are: How will this help me treasure Christ more? How will it help me show that I do treasure Christ? How will it help me know Christ or display Christ? The Bible says, “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” [1 Cor 10:31].*

“So the question is mainly positive, not negative. How can I portray God as glorious in this action? How can I enjoy making much of Him in this behaviour?

“Oh, how many lives are wasted by people who believe that the Christian life means simply avoiding badness and providing for the family. So there is no adultery, non stealing, no killing, no embezzlement, no fraud—just lots of hard work during the day, and lots of TV and PG-13 videos in the evening [during quality family time], and lots of fun stuff on the weekend—woven around church [mostly]. This is life for millions of people. Wasted life. We were created for more, far more.”

David Wells, *God in The Wasteland*, p40: “The ‘world,’ then, is the way in which our collective life in society [and the culture that goes with it] is organized around the self in substitution for God. It is life characterized by self-righteousness, self-centeredness, self-satisfaction, self-aggrandizement, and self-promotion, with a corresponding distaste for self-denial proper to union with Christ ... It is important that worldliness has this collective sense about it: there is a public approbation for the private desires and appetites that are hostile to God and to His truth [Rom 3:19, 2 Cor 5:19]. The ‘world’ is a godless curia demanding that its teaching be obeyed, rewarding those who acquiesce, exacting sanctions on those who do not, and generally making belief and trust in Christ difficult. Christ himself was alienated from the ‘world.’ He was not of this world [John 17:14, 18:36], refused to pray for it [John 17:9], opposed its ruler [John 12:31, 14:30], and is now its judge [John 9:39, 16:7-11]. There is a clear line, then, between those who belong to Christ and those who do not, a line separating two very different ways of viewing self and world.”

Rejecting worldliness does not mean that we are expected to be a cultural anomaly. Worldliness is being preoccupied with temporal things, experiences and honors and being unconcerned about eternal things; ultimate things.

Worldliness is like stealing cupcakes and eating from the dumpster of the world instead of eating at the table at home with the Father. To live for eternal things is like the family that lived for years in a cinder-block basement so

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they could one day build a beautiful home on top. This world is the basement!

Love for Christ is the force that overcomes the spirit of the world. Love God with all your heart. Study to understand and strive to experience the love of God in Christ Jesus the Lord.

(Ken Pierpont has been married to Lois, his college sweetheart, since 1979. They have eight children—four sons and four daughters. They live in the Riverfront Character Inn and International Convention Center in Flint, Michigan where Ken serves as the Director. On weekends they minister in churches within driving distance. Ken's goal in life is to communicate truth about Jesus Christ and demonstrate that truth in his own life and family every day. It is their family's desire to help people build strong and happy families. For that reason they are available to speak and sing at churches, retreats, banquets, conferences, camps, homeschool groups or other events on the subject of family, parenting, homeschooling, courtship, and more. see: www.kenpierpont.com)

[Courtesy Home School Digest, PO Box 374, Covert MI 49043]

CHILDREN: PARTICIPANTS OR SPECTATORS?

by Steve & Carol Ryerson

The dictionary defines a participant as one who shares or partakes in the nature or activity of something. It defines a spectator as a beholder, a looker-on, especially as it would relate to a theatrical or sporting event.

Years ago I worked on a rough framing crew, building the basic wood frames for new houses. One summer we had a young man come on the crew who seemed to move in slow motion around the job site. He needed to be told every step to take. One day the boss (that was before we knew anything about team leaders) became frustrated with him and said, "Well, if you're not going to help, at least get out of the way!" I felt sorry for the boy, but I had to admit that he had brought it on himself from his lack of initiative.

A few years after that, I was the principal of a Christian school. We had a variety of children in the school with regard to their family practices and standards. One young family—very proper people when it came to deportment and clean Christian living—had a teenage daughter. During a parent-teacher conference the mother told me about their family schedule and how busy she was with cleaning the girl's room, making her bed, and packing her school lunches. I couldn't help but imagine the girl in casual summer clothes, lounging in the back yard under a large umbrella, sunglasses on, romance novel in hand, sipping her iced tea and ringing a little bell to summon her mother—dressed in a black dress with a white apron and red bow tie—who would run quickly to the girl's side to make sure she had enough ice cubes.

As we rear our children, do we think of them as participants or spectators? Do we think of them as consumers of family resources or contributors to the family economy? Do we think of them as a load to carry or as ones who help carry the load? How do we view them?

How does our Lord Jesus view them? When we survey Scriptures related to children, we are struck by the fact that so many important characteristics of life that concern adults also concern children.

Do not both adults and children have a sense of good and evil? The Law was clear about a child's need to be

responsible. Deuteronomy 21:18-21 describes the situation of a child who will not hear their parents and is guilty of drunkenness and gluttony. The sentence is that they should be brought before the men of the city and stoned. Certainly if a child can be stoned for disobedience, drunkenness, and gluttony, then they must have a sense of what evil is. The age of the child is not mentioned in this passage, yet we can draw some reasonable inferences. Verse 20 leaves no doubt that the parents are to be the chief accusers and that they are to say clearly, "... our child is stubborn..." One parent is not sufficient any more than one witness is enough testimony in any capital case. (See Deut 17:6). So, both parents are saying that the child must be held responsible under the law. Secondly, they must do this before the "elders." This hearing is held before the experienced leaders of the community, not before a hastily-called conclave of neighbours or peers. Those elders are responsible to the whole community to judge wisely. Thirdly, notice that three times in verses 19 and 20 the Scripture says "his," referring to the fact that those doing the judging are also responsible to the child since the community is his, too. These judges fail the child, too, if they do not judge righteously i.e. the child is old enough to be thought of as a member of the community. A fourth point to think about is that since these are elders in the community, they know something about the family. These elders would know if the parents have a reputation for hasty decisions. They would know if they have been

working with the child to bring them under control or if they have been shirking their responsibilities and have just come to a point where they want to be "rid of the problem." Finally, notice the charges: stubbornness, rebellion, refusal to listen - gluttony and drunkenness. Every child exhibits one or two of these behaviours to some extent sometimes, yet these items are present to the extent that the parents go to the community elders and say publicly that these qualities truly characterize their child. These are not isolated, unconnected, and passing things.

They define this child, and the parents have been working for some time to bring them under control. During that time, they have worked with the child, but it has resisted them, and they are ready to give the child over to the law. The child has had a sense of good and evil for some time.

Are not both adults and children called upon to worship God? Regarding the Feast of Weeks, the Lord says in Deuteronomy 16:11, "And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place His name there." All ages are to come before the LORD and worship.

Aren't both adults and children expected to hear the Word of God? Nehemiah 8:1-2 says something very interesting: "And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spoke unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had commanded to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month." The wall has been finished, and an updated census has been taken. The people were gathered before the Lord to hear the reading of the Word and to worship. Who was gathered to

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a 4-page reprint (2XA4) dealing with 1. Laws Define Morality. 2. God's Law: The Christian Standard. 3. God's Law vs. Man's Law. 4. Without Law, There is No Sin. 5. The Legal Basis of Justification. 6. The Law is "Established" by the New Testament. 7. You Are Not Under the Law. 8. The Dangers of Legalism. 9. Being Righteous. #430 @ \$1.05ea or 6 for sug don \$3



hear the Word of God and the sense of it? Men, women, and those who "...could hear with understanding..." The decision about how young a child to bring was not made on the basis of age per se, but on whether the child could understand. When can someone understand? Paul commented that Timothy has known the Scripture "...from a child..." (2 Tim 3:15). Thayer's dictionary says that the Greek word for child here means babe or infant, and the well-known authority, Alfred Edersheim agrees (*Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, p.159). So, in cases where the parents were working within the children to learn the Scripture, we would expect that they would have had very young children there with them to hear the Word.

Doesn't the concept of chastisement apply to both adults and children? Hebrews 12:6-9 *"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"* Here the chastisement for the adults is spiritual discipline given by the Heavenly Father, but it is still chastisement. In fact, in verse six it is the Lord Who "scourgeth" every son who is acknowledged to be God's child. That is, if you are a legitimate son of God—not a pretender to the position of sonship—God loves you enough to make sure you turn out right. That love may motivate Him to put His hand on your life in discipline. Regarding children, we have ample support for loving, firm use of the rod in cases of wilful disobedience.

Of course in each of the above areas of comparison between children and adults, we can say that adults are almost by definition more mature than children. Adults would function on a more advanced level. Yet variation exists within the groups as much as between the groups, so that we understand adults vary in their maturity. Are there not adults who are held back in their lives because of not having developed in certain areas as much as they should?

In fact, that is one of the major premises of the book of Proverbs. There we see the wise, the foolish, the simple, and the scorner. The wise man responds well both to rebuke and instruction; he becomes wiser. (1:5, 9:8) The foolish man is self-destructive, is a discouragement to others, and it is best not to be around him. (9:6, 14:1, 21:20) The simple (seducible) man needs instruction, strong leadership, and he responds when others are punished. (9:4, 19:25, 21:11) The scorner is so hard that your time with him is wasted. (9:8, 13:1, 22:10).

So, as we are rearing our children, we should assume that they are growing in their understanding of good and evil and that they need to come before the Lord for worship. We should assume that they will respond to instruction from the Word. We need to hold them accountable for obedience. We must discipline them appropriately when they don't obey, including the use of the rod. We need to involve them fully in the life of the family, the very best parts where worthwhile things are being accomplished. They should be taught to assume that they are being included in spiritual things, not that spiritual things are for adults only. These expectations make no sense if we see our children as spectators or as ones who need entertainment much of the time. Each of these areas—awareness of morality, need to worship, receiving instruction, and accountability—assumes and requires that children be involved in important things as opposed to contrived activities to occupy their time. When we are sharing the gospel with our acquaintances, our children ought to be there as much as

possible (and be quiet and learn to just listen!). This is part of preparing our "arrows" to be sent out into the world.

A very interesting article was carried by the Fox News Network on April 5, 2002. It was entitled "First Wave of Homeschoolers Comes of Age." The article stated that "...homeschooling has often been criticized as a paranoid practice of right-wing religious fanatics that stunts children's emotional growth. But as that first generation of homeschoolers settles into young adulthood, the criticism is proving unfounded. If anything, some experts say, the homeschoolers are proving to be better prepared for adulthood than their traditionally schooled peers." In particular, one aspect of youth culture today was featured. The article continued: "Curiously absent from homeschoolers as a group is something many presumed to be a part of every childhood—youthful angst and alienation. The burning desire to isolate and separate themselves from their parents just doesn't seem to be there, researchers say." The researcher, J. Gary Knowles of the University of Toronto, extensively interviewed young adults who had been homeschooled. He concluded that many school-related activities that our culture assumes are required rites of passage into adulthood are actually detracting from the maturing process.

This article was not dealing with Christian families, but it was recognizing facets of homeschooling that we Christians frequently share with unschoolers: close, mentoring relationships with parents and flexibility in curriculum according to the child's bent. Those two aspects are closely related to the last two areas we mentioned above: receiving instruction and accountability. The mentoring relationship fosters both of them. Encouraging young people to participate in productive family activities leads to finding out where the child will best be able to contribute. That leads to adjusting his curriculum to make him more effective in doing so. The sum of the matter is that the child's entire experience should be geared toward his participating in and learning from real life more than just being "active at school." Of course, serious Christian homeschoolers' worldview causes them to define "real life" far differently from the unschoolers, but the processes of involving the young person are similar.

Are you taking food to a shut-in? Have your children help prepare the food and accompany you to deliver it. Does the table need to be cleared after a church fellowship dinner? Let the children help (ALL OF THEM!). Are you going to a neighbour's house to bring the gospel to him? Take one of your children—one who would understand (Nehemiah 8:2). Are you conducting a service at a rest home or assisted living centre? Take your children and have them sing and testify to the folks. Are you adding a room to your house? Involve the children. All of these productive family activities are bulging with lessons for children about real life.

The proper Christian school parents mentioned earlier did produce a daughter who got her homework done and was a respectful young lady. However, she had serious problems when she came against some harsh realities of life. I have often wondered if some of her problems had to do with the fact that Mom and dad made her bed, fixed her lunch, and "spared" her too much from real life.

Our children are not trained well when we allow them to be spectators. They are not reared as Godly seed by letting them watch us live life instead of training them to live it. Paul the Apostle said it well: "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." (Gal. 6:4). "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another."

Courtesy Home School Digest, Box 374, Covert MI 49043



WHAT IS A BILLION?

THANKSGIVING DAY - in the Northern Hemisphere, Thanksgiving will be held on November 23.

REFORMATION DAY - Remember that on October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenburg-removed from your mind by Halloween

144,000

(Written by David Weber)

“And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah 12,000 ... from the tribe of Reuben 12,000 ... from the tribe of Gad ... Asher ... Naphtali ... Manasseh ... Simeon ... Levi ... Issachar ... Zebulon ... Joseph ... Benjamin ...” (Rev. 7:4-8)

I know that many Judeo-Christians have been taught that the “tribulation evangelists” described in Revelation chapter 7 are 144,000 Jewish virgin boys. But hidden just beneath the surface of the scriptures, yet still in plain sight, are some clues that indicate a much deeper symbolic meaning.

Beloved, God tends to hide many things in plain sight ... we just need spiritual eyes so that we might see them.

One of the first clues that hinted to me that there must be a spiritual meaning to the 144,000 is the way in which the tribes of Israel are listed. This is the only time in Scripture that the names of the tribes appear in this order.

Reuben, the first-born of Jacob, is listed second on this list, while Judah, fourth in birth order, is listed as first. Joseph and Levi are included here, while Ephraim and Dan are left out altogether. Joseph was not normally listed among the twelve tribes because his inheritance was given to his sons Ephraim and Manasseh. Levi was not normally listed among the tribes because the Levites were chosen to be the priests of Israel and were excluded from receiving specific territory and excluded from census figures. The Levites were to spread out among the tribes of Israel as teachers and priests. Dan and Ephraim were normally listed with the tribes, but in this case they are left out altogether.

So ... might we ask just why this is? What does all of this mean?

When I looked into the meanings of the names of each of the tribes that are listed in Revelation chapter 7, and I then put those meanings together in the very order that they are listed ... they formed a statement. Some words were added to form complete sentences, and to complete the thought that the meaning of each name is meant to convey to us. Then the statement came to life, and just might give us some indication as to the nature and the character of the 144,000, as well as reveal their story of struggle, redemption, victory, and then placement as sons of God in the Kingdom of God.

Here's the statement:

I will praise the Lord (Judah), for He has looked on me (Reuben) and has granted me good fortune (Gad). Happy am I (Asher), because my wrestling (Naphtali) is teaching me to overcome my fallen nature, and is making me to forget (Manasseh) that lost and fallen state from which I have been redeemed. God hears me (Simeon), for He has joined Himself in Spirit to me (Levi). He has purchased me (Issachar) by the Blood of the Lamb and is making me into a place in which He chooses to dwell (Zebulon) forever. As I myself decrease (that is my Adamic nature), God will add more of Himself to me (Joseph), for He is making me into a son of His right hand (Benjamin) ... a son of God.”

That's kind of interesting, isn't it?

Courtesy, America's Promise, Box 157 Sandpoint ID 83864

The next time you hear a politician use the word “billion” in a casual manner, think about whether you want the “politicians” spending your tax money. A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into some perspective in one of its releases.

A billion seconds ago it was 1959

A billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive

A billion hours ago, our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.

A billion days ago, no one walked the earth on 2 feet.

A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate the US government spends it. And, while this thought is still fresh in our brain, let's take a look at New Orleans. It's amazing what you can learn with some simple division. Louisiana Senator, Gary Landrieu (D), is presently asking the Congress for \$250 billion to rebuild New Orleans. Interesting number, what does it mean?

a. Well, if you are one of 484,674 residents of New Orleans (every man, woman, and child), you each get \$516,528.

b. Or, if you have one of the 188,251 homes in New Orleans, your home gets \$1,329,787.

c. Or, if you are a family of four, your family gets \$2,066,012.

Washington, D.C. ... HELLO!!!! ... Are all your calculators broken?----- speaking of which.....

Each year, Americans spend billions on procedures that medical evidence says are unneeded.

- In the 1950s, the rage was to routinely remove children's tonsils, a procedure later found to bring no benefits to the majority. Now, each year 300,000 children have ear tubes implanted, cost \$200 to \$400 per procedure; 300,000 operations per year; \$600 million to \$1.2 billion spent!

- Before getting your back operated on, you might want to check the facts. Evidence suggests that, in the long run, physical therapy, exercise and just plain passage of time does as much to fix the problem as surgery. Many are worse after operations. Cost, \$50,000 per procedure; 325,000 spinal fusions per year; \$16.25 billion spent yearly

- Available data now shows that the 400,000 bypass surgeries and 1 million angioplasties performed each year are unnecessary except for about 3 % of the most severe cases. Cost, \$20,000 per bypass surgery; 400,000 operations per year; \$8 billion spent annually.

- Removal of the uterus (hysterectomy) has been one of the most overdone operations for several decades running. Experts report that up to 75 percent of the 600,000 hysterectomies performed each year may be unnecessary. “The medical establishment puts no value on having a uterus if a woman is no longer having babies,” says gynecologist Michael Broder. Cost \$8,300 per hysterectomy; 450,000 unnecessary hysterectomies per year; \$3.7 billion spent.

courtesy *The Philadelphia Trumpet*, PO Box 6626, Upper Mt Gravatt Qld 4122

Pray for Arnold Kennedy who is presently in hospital awaiting operation for cancer. The year is almost at an end again. Is it just me, or is everyone suffering from time going to fast? Thank you to a few late renewals, and the regular senders of orders and support. Please try to influence your children to pick up the baton and carry on from you. Get together REGULARLY with fellow believers for much needed fellowship and worship. May our God bless you as you trust Him and obey His Law,

