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“...According to your FAITH”!

Part 1

by Robert Ardis

Look up in the sky! It's a bird—it's a plane—No! It's Superman! Superman; strange visitor from another planet with powers far beyond that of mortal man...!

From the comic book world of the 1930's to the big screen movies and television of today those super-human characters have captured our imagination with their super powers. A bite from a spider with the blending of its DNA with that of an unassuming young man produced the very exciting and heroic character, Spiderman!

And we can go back further in our memory and recall one of the great fictitious comic characters who was a normal man from planet earth, who had not been bitten by a spider or raised by apes or influenced by bats or any other creature—but he had a novel way of greatly increasing his physical prowess. What he would do was good! This was my hero way back in the 30's and 40's—he was Popeye, the Sailor Man (toot, toot) and his ever available can of spinach! Many of us as kids of that generation ate the nasty stuff trying to be as powerful as good ole' Popeye.

Have you ever wondered why the creators of these super-heroes always needed some type of unusual thing or occurrence to produce the super abilities in their characters? The Bible can easily explain why! First consider Ecc. 1:9: *“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun”.*

The creators of the super-heroes have not come up with anything new. God Almighty is the originator of the “idea” of having a special commodity for mankind to use to produce miraculous events in their lives. Popeye had to have an entire can full of spinach to

give him the super strength he needed for a particular act of heroism. However, in the New Testament, Jesus Christ, the Creator of all things for the glory of God, states that a can full of a most valuable product is not required—only an amount equal to that of a grain of mustard seed! *“...And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you”* (Matt. 17:20; see also Luke 17:6).

Understand! Our Lord and Savior said *nothing will be impossible unto you—if you have FAITH as a grain of mustard seed.* The comic strip creators have applied their imaginations in making their creations to be able to do the impossible—but they are only a fabrication of an active imagination. Faith is altogether different!

What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 in the KJV defines faith as: *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.* The ISV makes it a little plainer: *“Now faith is the assurance of things we hope for, the certainty of things we cannot see”.*

Verses 2-3 and 6 emphasize how important faith really is: *“For by it [faith, #4102 pistis] the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear...But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”.*

This is the Bible's definition of one aspect of faith. We will look at Strong's expanded definition of *faith*, #4102 *pistis* a little later.

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Greetings brethren!

As I write this section of this twelfth issue of *The Philadelphia Witness*, preparations are well under way to publish the March-April edition of *The Midnight Cry* magazine. Every article has been written and edited and what remains is the design and layout. Hopefully, we do understand that this is a most important publication to both the outer court, which includes those who have passed through Laodicea (PCG), as well as to those who still blindly follow the PCG leader Gerald Flurry.

As Pastor General Robert Ardis stated, although the midnight cry is presently going out as a wee voice, we know that **Jesus Christ will awake all those who are asleep when the time is right**. This means that we need to be praying that *The Midnight Cry* magazine will accomplish the purpose which our Head intends at this time.

It is most encouraging to note that only 2% of the 1657 persons / families to whom the first issue of the magazine was e-mailed have requested to unsubscribe. We must pray that those who have received and accepted the magazine will be moved to read the articles and to then meditate on them. It may be a while before we can see the fruit of God's labour. I must say that I was also very encouraged to learn of someone who had our magazine forwarded to them by a third party.

This phase of the Work – preparing the way for the Two Witnesses – reminds me of the beginning of the Work of the Philadelphia Church. In the *Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, Vol. 1, pg. 507, we read about the “small, infinitesimal start of what was destined to grow to a major worldwide Gospel Work reaching millions of people every week. But if small, it started with a burst of energy and inspiration... with intensive and earnest private prayer.”

As Mr. Armstrong was about to start a new campaign holding meetings in Eugene, he relates that he could not afford to purchase advertising space to announce the meetings or have handbills printed. So, even walking part of the time, he took typed notices and visited all the homes for some five miles around telling the people about the meetings, inviting them to attend, and leaving the typed announcements.

Today, as it was in 1933, the Philadelphia Church – the Church of God's Faithful – again finds herself in the position of having “a little strength”. God's faithful Church is presently very little in number and has very limited financial resources. We are assured, however, that because we have kept Christ's word and we have placed ourselves under His authority, He is with us as our Open Door (Rev. 3:8). During the DELS meeting last Wednesday, Mr. Ardis confirmed his decision to continue producing *The Midnight Cry* magazine on a monthly basis. He has given the green light to continue to take advantage of the power of instant electronic communication that God has made available to us by e-mailing *God's wake-up call* to an increasingly significant number of God's begotten children!

In the years ahead, we too will be able to reiterate the words of God's 20th century Apostle and end-time Elijah, who went on to write: “SURELY NOTHING could have started smaller. Born in adversity in the very depths of the Depression, this Work of God was destined to grow to worldwide power... Most people are conscious only of what they see -- of that which is material. They fail to see the invisible Hand of GOD in the working out of things... All I had in mind... was to serve God faithfully wherever He should lead... It is true that "where there is no vision, the people perish." But few people realize that the source of true vision is GOD. There has been vision behind the planning and phenomenal growth of this great work. But this is the WORK OF GOD, not of man; and the vision and the planning has been that of Jesus Christ, the active, living HEAD of this Work, not of man.” – pg. 535-536.

Brethren, we today are on the eve of the Greatest Work ever: “The *gathering* of God's lost sheep is ready to commence. Christ is bringing in a few faithful ministers as SHEPHERDS along with other true Philadelphians that have been members in the Laodicean PCG. As Christ awakens them through our constant “knocking”, they are thankfully coming to the CGF and are being set as steadfast Pillars. The Pillars must be in position in the spiritual Temple in preparation for the other “lively stones” to be *gathered* and made into a part of the Temple. Those “lively stones” are begotten children of God who presently are the *lost sheep* of the House of Israel. They are deceived and unknowingly are a part of the synagogue

of Satan! However, Christ knows each one of them and will MAKE those who have not quenched the Spirit of God, to COME to the Church of God's Faithful that they may be taught. Read this again in Revelation 3:9: "**Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.**" – Robert Ardis, *Set Apart By Truth*, pg. 45.

Let us therefore continue to "be strong and of a good courage" (Josh. 1:6) as we faithfully look ahead, being CERTAIN of where this Work is heading and what it's leading up to.

With much love, in Christ's service



Daniel Frendo

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During Jesus' earthly ministry two blind men came crying aloud to Him diligently seeking to be healed of their blindness. They had been made aware of the astounding news that this man, Jesus of Nazareth, was performing mighty miracles, people from everywhere were being healed of all kinds of sickness and disease, the lame could walk, the deaf were given their hearing, demons were being cast-out and even some who had died were raised to life again. The blind men heard the good news and were anxiously waiting for Him to come into His home city of Nazareth or Capernaum. When it was told them that Jesus had arrived they lost no time in making their fervent desires known.

We pick up the story in Matthew 9:26-30:

"And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land. And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it".

Another very comparable situation on the way to Jericho is described in Luke 18:35-43 where one blind man came to Jesus for healing and was told similar wonderful words: "*Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee*".

Two other examples of FAITH that greatly impressed our Lord during his ministry is related in Matthew 8:5-13 and Mark 9:24: "*And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour"*

In Mark 9:21-27 the instance of the man with a demon possessed child is another point of faith to deeply consider. "*And he (Jesus) asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose"*.

These are examples, keys, to fulfilled faith: "According to your faith be it unto you" or "your faith has saved you" or a plain statement of faith as the centurion gave! And don't we believe that all things

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are possible to those that believe? Was the faith of these people—their belief—that much greater than our faith—our belief—today? We have many who are sick or have other problems and we cry out in faith—and nothing obviously happens. Why? God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:5), but our fervent prayers go unanswered. Why? Are we lacking in FAITH?

Jesus Christ said he would build His one true New Testament Church! And the Church began on Pentecost of 31 AD (Matt. 16:18 and Acts 2) ten days after He returned to heaven. However, before his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension He asked a question concerning faith and His Church as recorded in Luke 18:7-8: “*And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find **faith** on the earth?”*

We are the Church of God’s Faithful. Do we bare this name in answer to this important question? Christ has returned in the Day of the Lord and has found faith on the earth—in this tiny Church! That statement is provable by the wealth of New Truth revealed to the CGF. New Truth comes from the Word of God! Christ is the Living Word; the Bible is the written Word. When New Truth, the knowledge of Jesus Christ, is revealed it is from Christ. He is here in the CGF—this is His Church. Therefore, it is apparent that Christ came and found FAITH here and has generously poured out more New Truth upon us as a sign that we are the True Church to anyone who wants to investigate.

He found FAITH in us—it was our life-style! Yet we do not see miraculous signs of healings or other manifestations as with the examples mentioned! Again ask the question; did these early believers have more faith than we do today? How did they receive such miracle producing faith?

Consider this. They did not have the Spirit of God. The Spirit was not given until Christ was resurrected from the dead and glorified as the First of the Firstfruits. John 7:38-39 states this: “*He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

According to God’s Plan the Spirit was sent to the 120 faithful gathered in Jerusalem on Pentecost of 31 AD (see John 16:7-15 and Acts 1:4-5,15; 2:1-4). Were these recipients of merciful healings we have just read about, among the 120? We aren’t told. But they were only a few that had received miraculous interventions by the miracle working Christ. And Christ found faith in the tiny group of 120 and they received the gift of the Holy Spirit—they were begotten by God, given the mind of Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life! Yet the prophecy in Luke 18:8 is for the Day of the Lord and the secret return of Jesus Christ to re-build His Church. His question and proven answer was; “*when I return will I find FAITH on the earth?*” And He did in His Philadelphian Pillars of the Church of God’s Faithful!

Let’s come back to Luke 11:9-13: “*And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*”

Understand! Those early believers in Christ did not have God’s Spirit! They did not have the godly fruits of the Spirit of which the seventh fruit is FAITH. But they had faith! The faith these people had was the “faith and assurance” of what they could see or hear related to them of a miracle working man of compassion—thus they believed. They were caught up in the emotion of the moment. If He had done good things to others, He could do it to them too!

Today, we walk by FAITH and not by sight (II Cor. 5:7). We have the Word of God, the Living Word and the Written Word to live by in faith. And we live by the faith of Christ. Gal. 2:20 states: “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith [4102] of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”.*

Here is Strong’s definition of *pistis* #4102 to expand on Heb. 11:1: “From G3982; persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly

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constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Faith is not only “belief and assurance”, but is our profession or vocation, the complete Christian lifestyle following Christ. Eph. 4:1-5 explains: “*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism...*”

And there are many other scriptures that describe FAITH as our vocation not just the act of FAITH. *Pistis* #4102 is used 244 times in 228 verses and many of those verses speak of the Christian vocation rather than the express action of faith. Some verses you can go to for the Christian vocation are: Rom.1:5,8, 12; I Cor. 15:14,17; 16:13; II Cor. 13:5; Gal. 3:7-9 [tie in Gen. 26:5 with that verse]; Col.1:23; 2:7; II Tim. 4:1; Heb. 12:2 and 13:7; James 1:3 and 2:1; I Pet. 5:9 and II Pet.1:1; Jude 1:3; Rev. 2:17 and 14:12.

James 1:2-4 states: “the trying of your faith works patience”, and sums up the fact that we are tried and tested in every facet of the Christian profession—in every fruit of the Spirit, *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* We have had the preconceived idea that the trying of our FAITH meant only in ACTS of FAITH—but in truth it also means our total Christian walk with Christ (again see Gal. 2:20 and I Jn. 2:6) and we walk by faith and not by sight!

In Part II next time we will study the power of God’s Holy Spirit and what the statement, “*according to your Faith...*”, actually means to one called to be a Pillar in the Temple of God! (to be continued)

Please send your Article contributions via e-mail as a Word doc. attachment to:

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Examine Yourself Before Passover And Discern the Lord’s Body!

Part 2

by Frank Borg

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). God gave His begotten Son because of His love for us. As the pastor general of the Church of God’s Faithful (CGF) has so amply expounded, the Passover sacrifice demonstrates the greatest act of love by God for mankind! Christ’s sacrifice demonstrates God the Father and Christ the Sons supreme love for us, and we have the opportunity and privilege of partaking of the Passover symbols and understanding the deep significance and meaning of what they represent.

Till recently, God’s people have differentiated between physical and spiritual sins: we believed that breaking physical laws constituted the committal of ‘physical sins’, and that Christ’s beating and scourging prior to His death was the penalty that paid for the forgiveness of our ‘physical sins’. Meanwhile, we also believed that the breaking of spiritual laws constituted the committal of ‘spiritual sins’ which were forgiven through the spilled blood of Christ.

Consider this: Our physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). If, for example, we eat poorly or treat our bodies harmfully, are we not damaging the temple wherein dwells the Holy Spirit? When we break ‘physical laws’ such as these, are we not ultimately sinning against God? Whether breaking a ‘physical’ or ‘spiritual’ law, isn’t sin just that – sin?! Is not ALL sin spiritual?

Scripture doesn’t differentiate between physical or spiritual sin, it simply discusses ‘sin’. The Bible clearly tells us that ALL sin is forgiven by the shed blood of Christ. Please read and understand the following scriptures carefully:

- 1) “...THE BLOOD of Jesus Christ His Son CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN” (1 John 1:7).
- 2) “In whom WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD” (Eph. 1:7).
- 3) “Unto Him that loved us, and WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD” (Rev. 1:5)

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4) “CHRIST DIED FOR US...BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, we shall be saved...” (Rom 5:8-9)

Scripture is so clear! It plainly states that it is Christ’s blood that washes away our sins! Forgiveness of sin is made possible through Christ’s spilled blood. Furthermore scripture also tells us that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23). Notice carefully! This scripture says that *death* is the penalty of sin. It doesn’t say that beating or scourging is the penalty of any sin – not even so called ‘physical sin’! You will not find one single scripture in the Bible that supports the pre-conceived idea, or theory, that ‘physical sin was forgiven by the *beating* of Christ’. (We will come to Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Pet. 2:24 later). Christ *had to die* for the forgiveness of ALL our sins. Irrespective of whether we term certain sins ‘physical’ or ‘spiritual’, Christ’s *blood* had to be, and was, spilled for the forgiveness of ALL sin! For those willing to see, this is astonishing, deeper understanding on Christ’s sacrifice that has been given to the Church of God’s Faithful! The CGF has had the courage and faith to acknowledge past error on this subject and accept New Truth – a hallmark of God’s true Church!

Let us proceed by taking a look at Isaiah 53:5 (1 Pet. 2:24 is almost identical). This most crucial scripture is one which we certainly have to study carefully along with all the aforementioned scriptures on this subject to get a true understanding of Christ’s sacrifice and honestly ‘discern the Lord’s body’:

“He was WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, He was BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES: the CHASTISEMENT of our peace WAS UPON HIM; and WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED” (Isaiah 53:5). Christ went through tremendous beating and scourging. He endured the pain of being whipped with leather whips. These whips had metal spikes at the end of them which ripped into and tore open Christ’s flesh and disfigured Him to the point where He was no longer recognizable (Is. 52:14). It was by the stripes of Christ that the *first step* of the forgiveness of our sins and healing was made possible. He was brutally *wounded* as a result of our sins, but those sins were actually forgiven by His spilled blood. Without the stripes of Christ, our sins couldn’t be forgiven and we couldn’t be healed!

This is what we must understand: All of our sins were ‘borne’ (Strong’s 5375: accept, carry, taken, worn, etc) upon Christ’s body through every stripe of the whip that He received (Is. 53:4-5). The transgressions of God’s law (physical and spiritual) were placed upon

Him at the time of His beating and scourging. This is when He bore our sicknesses and diseases (Is. 53:4) and every other sin (verse 5) on Himself! This was a tremendous burden our Savior carried because of God’s tremendous love for us. Understand further: When Christ was beaten, *no sin was forgiven!* The beating that He suffered signified the heaping of our sins upon His body! He then carried the weight of those sins to the stake. He still bore the sins on the stake (1 Peter 2:24). It was then by His spilled blood that our sins were washed away (1 John 1:7; Eph 1:7; Rev 1:5; Rom 5:8-9; Rom 6:23 etc).

On the stake, Christ finally took His last breath as “one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water” (John 19:34). The story continues in Matthew 27:50-51: “Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent”. The moment the soldiers spear ripped through Christ’s side, His blood was spilled and He died. At that same time, the veil of the temple was ripped in two. Hebrews 10:19-20 clearly confirm that (a) our sins are washed away through Christ’s spilled blood, (b) His death gave us access to God through Christ’s torn body representing the torn veil of the temple, and (c) Christ’s sacrifice provided access to God so that He can forgive our sins and heal us from all our sicknesses and diseases.

We must deeply understand the meaning of Christ’s sacrifice. We are so privileged to be able to partake of the Passover having this deeper understanding. Carefully read chapter 2 of the CGF’s Healing booklet to understand this subject fully and more deeply. Meditate upon the meaning and significance of Christ’s beating and spilled blood as we examine ourselves in the run up to Passover. This is deeper understanding of the Lord’s sacrifice which, till recently, no one on this earth has understood -- yet God saw fit to reveal to His Church this deeper understanding on the most awesome event ever to occur in the history of mankind!

In the last issue of this periodical, we looked at areas to help us as we examine ourselves. As we discern the Lord’s body over the next weeks, we must continue to search ourselves and ‘root out the leaven’ so that we can be partake of the Passover in a worthy manner. Examining ourselves also means that we must discern the Lord’s body: we must take personal responsibility for Christ’s sacrifice and understand what He went

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through and why He went through it! In conjunction with the first article on this two-part series on examining ourselves, following are further areas where we need to be examining ourselves so as to root sin out of our lives more effectively:

- **Is my lifestyle in obedience to God, allowing my light to shine?**

2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates”.

Eph. 4:22-24 “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness”.

Matt. 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world....Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”

- **Am I committed to following God and His Word?**

2 Cor. 13:8 “For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth”.

- **What must we overcome?**

James 1:14 “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed”

- **Do we seek perfection by growing in grace and knowledge?**

Hebrews 6:1-2 “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment”.

2 Peter 3:19 “Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior”.

- **Do we do good for the right reasons?**

Matt. 6:1-4 “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly”.

- **Do we rule our tongue, or do we allow our tongue to rule us?**

James 3:5-10 “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be”.

- **Do we fulfill our roles within marriage the way God expects?**

Eph. 5:22-28 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.”

- **Do we apply scripture or do we deceive ourselves?**

James 1:22 “Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves?”

We must study and examine ourselves if we are to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15). Self examination is not easy; it is something that human nature does not want to confront. However, out of love for God and for the tremendous sacrifice Christ went through, we must search ourselves so as to be accounted worthy to partake of the Passover!

