

THE

# HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

JUNE 1995

No. 114

## THREE REASONS WHY MAN SERVES GOD

There are three reasons why man serves God, but there is only one acceptable reason in God's sight. A good example of this one acceptable reason for serving God can be found in the first chapter of Job.

The Bible teaches that there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also with them. God inquired concerning what Satan had been doing. He immediately answered, that he had been *"going to and fro in the earth and walking up and down in it."* The implication here is that Satan had been walking upon the earth for the express purpose of encouraging

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men to worship him instead of God. God asked him if he had considered His servant Job.

The Devil laughed at God's question and asked if Job served God without any ulterior motive. He said that Job served God only because God had so blessed him in every way. He felt so sure that he was right that he challenged God to take away Job's material blessings and declared that Job would then curse God. God allowed Satan to put forth his hand against Job with the understanding that he must not take the life of Job.

Satan's purpose in this matter was to cast a shadow of doubt upon the sincerity of man's service and love for God. The idea that man would serve God simply because of his love for Him was beyond Satan's comprehension. He laughed at the thought of a man serving God from a heart of love. He felt sure that the only reason any man would serve God was either because he was greatly blessed or because he was afraid not to serve God. To his dismay, however, Satan learned that, at least in the case of Job, there was a man who served God, not because of any ulterior motive, but simply because he loved God.

Many people today have the same view of service to God as did Satan in the book of Job. They believe that no man serves God because he loves Him, but either because he is afraid that God will cut off his blessings, or that he will lose his soul. Because these individuals themselves serve God out of fear, they seek to justify their actions by claiming that everyone else serves God for this same reason. They need to learn as Satan did long ago that there are individuals that serve God not because of fear or any other motive, but purely from a heart full of love.

We want to point out here that God has never intended the reward of blessings or the threat of hell to serve as a motivation for us to serve Him. In John 14:15, it is significant that Christ said, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* Love is the only acceptable motive for serving God. What is your reason for serving God?

Now of course, as was the agreement, God allowed Satan to destroy all Job's material blessings: seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred she asses, and a very great household. He also lost all of his sons and daughters.

Job was a man of immense wealth and influence, famous for his integrity, piety, and benevolence. He was a good man who suffered fearful reverses that came suddenly and overwhelmingly, apparently without cause. Job's troubles became known far and wide. It was the subject of much conversation and speculation, lasting no doubt for some time.

Job's friends came from some distance, to try to cheer him up, and some argued that Job's trouble was proof of his wickedness. But Job, conscious of his integrity and puzzled at God's treatment, insists that trouble befalls the wicked and righteous alike. Suffering may be prompted by God's love rather than His justice. It may be sometimes a trial and sometimes a punishment.

Now God allowed Satan to further punish Job because Satan was not satisfied with Job's attitude concerning his first punishment. So he comes to God again and again God said to Satan, *"Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth*

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*God and escheweth evil, and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movest me against him, to destroy him without cause. And Satan answered the Lord and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life, but put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, He is in thine hand, but save his life."*

So Satan smote Job with sore boils from head to foot, and Job scraped himself and sat down in the ashes. And his wife said to him, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die." In verse ten of the second chapter, he said unto her, "Thou speaketh as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

So then how profitable is love? Love is everything to a man of God. In closing let us read from 1 Cor. 13:1-2. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains and

*have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing!"*

Finally Job, out of the patient endurance of his suffering, comes to see God, and is abundantly rewarded with far more wealth than he had before. This is likewise the same for us. If we patiently endure the trials and tribulations of this life, we also will be generously rewarded.

CHARLIE KIRBY (deceased)  
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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What did Jesus say the Pharisees swallow while straining at a gnat?
2. On whom did Paul and Silas tell the jailer in Philippi to believe, in order to be saved?
3. What did Solomon say his lover's teeth were like?
4. Which prophetic book is found between Hosea and Amos?
5. What type of food was always present in the tabernacle?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What reward did Caleb promise to the man who attacked and captured the city of Kirjath-sepher? HIS DAUGHTER (Judg. 1:12)
2. According to Psalms 99, where should we worship God? AT HIS FOOTSTOOL (Psa. 99:5)

3. Who talked with Jesus Christ at the Transfiguration? MOSES AND ELIJAH (Mat. 17:3)
4. When the Jews did not accept the word of Paul that Jesus was Christ, to whom did he say he would go? THE GENTILES (Acts 18:6)
5. What did the city of Shiloh provide for the Benjaminites? WIVES (Judg. 21:21)

### POINT TO PONDER

There is a parable which tells of a man who went throughout his day giving something to all he met. To the mailman his gift was given, but the mailman promptly returned it. Down the street he passed two boys on their way to school, and to them he gave his gift. They quickly gave it back to him. When he arrived at his shop, the man gave his gift to his fellow-workers. No sooner had they received it than they gave it back. When he returned home in the evening, he brought back that which he had taken with him in the morning. All to whom it was given returned the gift as soon as it was received. He could not give away his smile, for each to whom it was given cheerfully returned it.

Christianity is like a smile in that the more one shares it, the more benefit he receives from it. No one can truthfully hold to the principle of Christianity without wanting to share with others his joy and peace and hope. Christianity cannot be stored as in a jar for our personal use when needed, but it can only serve its intended purpose when constantly applied to our lives. Jesus said, *"Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and*

*put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matthew 5:14-15).*

During coming weeks when the disciples of Christ often conduct extended studies we will have a golden opportunity to enjoy a feast of spiritual things and to share these spiritual blessings with others. It would be wise for us to prepare for these studies by re-scheduling secondary matters and diligently supporting these efforts. Some of our friends might well be persuaded to come with us if we would but invite them in time for them to prepare. We can aid by providing a way for those who might have no way, and the elderly might welcome an opportunity to change their usual routine. Those with whom we work are ideal prospects, for we should have gained their respect as they have seen Christ in us. The telephone is a most useful instrument in announcing meetings. Let us be alert in telling others of these studies, for the messages cannot benefit those who do not hear them.

There are a number of ways each of us can aid in making these meetings a success, but they are all based upon one principle -- that of our wanting to share with others the happiness and truth we possess as Christians. Would it not be good to know that through your influence someone was led to the Master?

HARRY COBB

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*Sound off when you're angry  
and you'll make the finest speech  
you'll ever regret.*

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
May 29 thru June 3	Fourth Avenue Church Algood, TN 7:00pm - Revelation Series	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 4 - 9	Taylor's Crossroads Church Roanoke, AL	(Not available at print time)
June 9 - 11	Red Hill Church Woodbury, TN	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
June 11 - 16	Mt. Carmel Church Woodland, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
June 16 - 18	Wesley Avenue Church Thomaston, GA	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
June 18 - 22	Ephesus, GA	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
June 19 - 23	Cloudland Canyon Chattanooga, TN area - "God's Word" Studies -	Various Speakers
June 25 - 29	Eogue Chitto, MS	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
June 25 - 30	Antioch Church Douglasville, GA	Jim Pritchard (Tecumseh, OK)
June 30- July 2	Summerfield Rd. Church Selma, AL	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)

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THANKS to all those who have sent donations and articles in assisting The Harvester. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Special thanks are extended to the Sun Hill Road church and to the Hokes Bluff church for their generous support. May God continue to bless all of you. The Editor