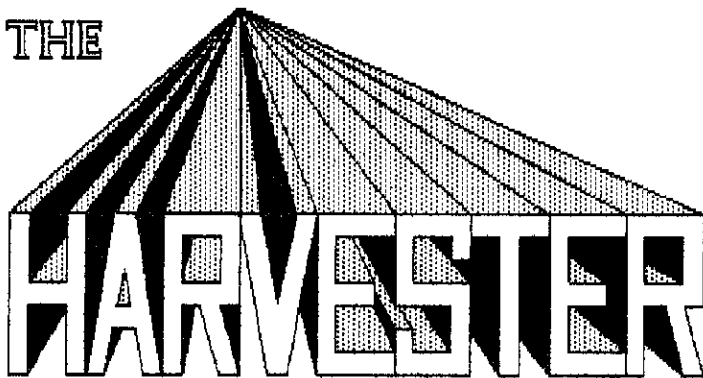


THE



*"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)*

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**MAY 2001**

**No. 185**

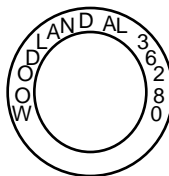
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## THINGS TO CONSIDER

After the death of Moses, Joshua became leader of the wandering Israelites. God then gave Joshua these special instructions. *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* (Josh. 1:8) The Lord was telling Joshua that the secret to being successful was to "meditate" on God's

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word. Certainly this is good advice for all of us today. Spiritual prosperity begins with a careful consideration of the law of our Father and its message to mankind. In describing God's people, the psalmist noted this particular trait: *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law he doth meditate day and night."* (Psa. 1:2)

What does it mean to "meditate"? It means to give thought to or to consider. When was the last time we actually "meditated" upon a Bible verse or a passage? How long has it been since we gave careful consideration (and I mean actually sitting down and doing nothing else but thinking) regarding a lesson from the holy scriptures? *"I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands."* (Psa. 143:5) Listed below are a few themes for our consideration.

1. The Purpose of Chastisement. *"Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee."* (Deut. 8:5) Have we ever wondered why God disciplines us? Basically it is for the same reason that our earthly parents have to correct us. However, God's chastisement also shows that we belong to him and that we are his children (Heb. 12:5-8). If the Lord did not discipline us, then it would mean he did not really love us! God chastises us for our own profit (Heb. 12:9-11). Did you ever think about that?

2. The History of the Past. *"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he*

*will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.*"(Deut. 32:7) God wants us to carefully consider the things of the past. History is a valuable teacher, especially to the Christian. We learn from our mistakes and not to repeat the same old sins. We may also learn from the wisdom and advice of the elders who have gained much experience through their years of history. A meditation of the past gives us hope for the future. "*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*"(Rom. 15:4)

3. The End of Life. "O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" (Deut. 32:29) I suppose as I get older I give more and more thought to this theme. What will happen after death? Is my soul ready for eternity? As we meditate concerning the end of our physical life, we must acknowledge that life is very brief. "*Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*" (Jas. 4:14) Friends, the time is growing so very short. Are we making preparations for eternity now?

4. The Blessings of Providence. God has done so many wonderful works in my life. He has blessed me above measure. Is this merely a coincidence? Did the events surrounding the story of Esther and the preservation of the Jews just happen? Although God is never mentioned directly in the book of Esther, we clearly see his hand in all matters. "*Only fear the Lord,*

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*and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*"(1 Sam. 12:24) May we never forget God's providence in our daily lives nor where our blessings come from (Jas. 1:17).

5. God's Wonderful Works. "*Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.*"(Job 37:14) This is a beautiful time of the year to "*stand still*" and meditate upon God's creation. Spring has arrived, the sun is shining, the flowers and trees are blooming, and the birds are singing. Everything we see, hear, touch, smell, and taste is a masterpiece work from the Lord! Ponder his glorious creation (1 Tim. 4:4,5)!

6. The Marvel of the Divine Interest in Man. "*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*" (Psa. 8:3,4) As we think about all the great and powerful works of God, man seems to be a small item in comparison. How insignificant we must appear at times! Yet, God cared enough about lowly

man to send His only Son as the ultimate sacrifice (John 3:16). The all-everything Father is patient with a sinner like me (2 Pet. 3:9). I'm not worthy of it; I don't deserve it. But I marvel in his interest for me!

7. The Disappointment of the Worldly Life. *"Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes."*(Hag. 1:5,6) Some people spend their entire life on material things (career, possessions, money, fame, etc.) only to be disappointed in the end. You can't take it with you! The soul is what matters most. *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"*(Matt. 16:26)

8. The Matchless Life of Christ. *"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."*(Heb. 12:3) Friends, meditate seriously on this one. The Savior of mankind appeared on this earth in the form of Jesus. He lived a perfect life, then offered that as a ransom for our sins. For our sake He suffered much. For our benefit He died and arose. Brethren, Jesus is our example to follow (1 Pet. 2:21-24). How did He deal with other people? Was He compassionate? Was He forgiving? Was He honest? Did He do good unto all men?

There are many things to consider in life. The Bible has certainly proposed a few ideas. But the most important thing is to keep meditating on God's word. That is the key to success.

RAY McMANUS

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who died at age 123 on Mount Hor?
2. How many times a day did Goliath taunt the Israelites?
3. Why were the Jews amazed at Jesus teaching at the Feast of the Tabernacles?
4. What apostle did Paul oppose because of his actions among the Gentiles?
5. What did Abraham's servant give to Isaac's future wife at the well?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What did Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah, and David have in common?      THEY WERE BROTHERS (1 Sam. 17:13-14)
2. How often did the Pharisee fast in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican? TWICE A WEEK (Luke 18:12)
3. Who put their cloaks on the colt Jesus rode into Jerusalem?      THE DISCIPLES (Luke 19:35)

4. Of the beings that Ezekiel saw in his vision, what parts touched one another?  
THEIR WINGS (Ezek. 1:9)

5. What was the name of Moses' wife?  
ZIPPORAH (Exo. 18:2)

## EXCUSES (& REBUTTALS)

1. I stay away from church because it rains. (You go to work in the rain.)
2. I stay away from church because it is hot. (So is the golf course.)
3. I stay away from church because it is cold. (It's warm and friendly inside.)
4. I stay away from church because I am poor. (There is no admission charge.)
5. I stay away from church because no one invited me. (People go to the movies without being asked.)
6. I stay away from church because I am rich. (That can be cured.)
7. I stay away from church because I have children. (God loves them.)
8. I stay away from church because there are hypocrites. (You associate with them daily.)
9. I stay away from church because I have company. (They will admire your loyalty, whether you bring them along or ask them to wait until you get back.)
10. I stay away from church because my clothes are not expensive or fancy. (It's not a fashion show.)
11. I stay away from church because the church always wants money. (So does the grocer.)
12. I stay away from church because I have plenty of time to go later. (Are you sure?)

-- COPIED --

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
April 30- - May 4	Chestnut Grove Church near Danville, KY	various speakers
May 7 - 11	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
June 3 - 7	Taylor's Crossroad Roanoke, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)



## IN THE MIDST OF A STORM

God has not promised  
Weather always pleasing,  
Summer without winter,  
Sunshine without freezing.

God has not promised  
Only happy days,  
Protection from danger,  
Fair skies always.

But He has promised  
His mercy sustaining,  
When winter lingers  
With its sleet and raining.

And God has promised  
In the midst of a storm,  
His strength will sustain  
And His presence will warm.

-- Peter Tanksley