

The Greater Light

The End Time Messenger

'... Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed Repentance and Baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that THE GREATER LIGHT might come to them'
Message 53:3

In This Issue

Message 92	37
General Assembly	38
Tentative Schedule	38
From the Apostles	38
- Ashley Beckham	
Articles	39
What is Reverence?	39
- Leonard Draves	
Honor Your Father & Mother	42
- Ellen Draves	
Young Adults	44
- Karen Wilkin	
Junior	46
-Thresa Ray	
Primary	48
How We Should Pray	48
- Joy Draves- Dreher	

2021 General Assembly

June 27-29, 2021

“Go to the assembly in peace. Let your work be in love, for satan shall try to discourage, and seek to destroy. Many will come to seek for truth. Let there be no contention among you, for the Lord shall require peace at your hands.”

- Message 25:5



The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message
THE ASSURED WAY OF THE LORD, Inc.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND EUROPE

Articles of Faith and Practice

1. We believe in God the Eternal Father, who only is Supreme; Creator of the universe; Ruler and Judge of all; unchangeable and without respect of persons.
2. We believe in Jesus Christ the manifestation of God in flesh, who lived, suffered, and died for all mankind; whom we own as our only Leader, Witness, and Commander.
3. We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, which searcheth the deep things of God, brings to our minds things which are past, reveals this to come, and is the medium by which we receive the revelation of Jesus Christ.
4. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgression, and that as a consequence of the atonement of Christ "all little children are alive in Christ, and also all they that are without the Law. For the power of redemption cometh on all they that have no law; wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is under no condemnation, cannot repent, and unto such, baptism availeth nothing." (Moroni 8:22)
5. We believe that through the atonement of Christ all men may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel; viz.: Faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ; Repentance and Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; Laying on of Hands for: (a) Ordination; (b) Blessing of Children: (c) Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17); (d) Healing of the sick.
6. We believe in the literal second coming and millennial reign of Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the Dead, and in Eternal Judgment; that men will be rewarded or punished according to the good or evil they may have done.
7. We believe in the powers and gifts of the everlasting Gospel; viz.: The word of wisdom; the word of knowledge; the gift of faith; the gift of healing; working of miracles; prophecy; discerning of spirits; divers kinds of tongues; interpretation of tongues.
8. We believe the fruits of the Spirit to be love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.
9. We believe that in the Bible is contained the Word of God; that The Record of the Nephites is the added witness for Christ; and these contain the "fullness of the gospel."
10. We believe in the principle of continuous revelation; that the canon of scripture is not full, that God inspires men in every age and among all people, and that He speaks when, where, and through whom He may choose.
11. We believe that where there are six or more regularly baptized members, one of whom is an elder, there the Church exists with full power of Church extension when acting in harmony with the Law of God.
12. We believe that man must be called of God by revelation and ordained by those having authority, to enable him to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances thereof.
13. We believe in the same Church organization as existed in the time of Christ and His apostles. The highest office in the Church is that of an apostle, of whom there are twelve, who constitute special witnesses for Jesus Christ. They have the Missionary Supervision and the General Watchcare of all the Churches.
14. The primary function of the General Church, of which each Local Church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all the world.
15. We believe that Local Churches should govern their own affairs and that General Church officials should not dominate or interfere therewith. On invitation such general officers may, with propriety, give counsel and assistance. Local congregations are subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and must be governed thereby.
16. We believe The Church of Christ comprehends the true brotherhood of man where each esteems his brother as himself and wherein the Divine command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is demonstrated by the prevalence of social equality.
17. We believe that all men are stewards under God and answerable to Him not only for the distribution of accumulated wealth, but for the manner in which such wealth is secured. The primary purpose of stewardship is not the increase of church revenue or the mere contribution of money by those who have to those who have not, but to bring men to a realization of the common fatherhood and the universal brotherhood of man in all the affairs and expressions of life, and to maintain such social adjustments that each may enjoy the bounty and gifts of God, and be free to exercise his talents and ability to enrich the life of all.
18. We believe that men should labor for their own support and that of their dependents. Ministers of the Gospel are not absolved from this responsibility, but when chosen or appointed by the Church to devote their entire time to missionary work, their families are to be provided for out of the General Church fund. The admonition of Christ that ministry should not provide purse or scrip for their journey, but go trusting in God and the people, is applicable.
19. We believe that the temporal affairs of the General Church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the supervision and direction of general conferences of the Church. The temporal affairs of the Local Churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.
20. We believe that marriage is ordained of God, and that the Law of God provides for but one companion in wedlock for either man or woman. In case of a breach of this covenant the innocent one may remarry.
21. We believe oppose to war. Men are not justified in taking up of arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.
22. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, and in the restoration of the ten lost tribes.
23. We believe a Temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal Himself and endow His servants whom He chooses with power to preach the Gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue, and people, that the promise of God to Israel may be fulfilled.
24. We believe that New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land "unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, (Ether 6:6-8; III Nephi 10.1-4), which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."
25. We believe that ministry and membership should abstain from the use of tobacco, intoxicating liquors and narcotics, and should not affiliate with any society which administer oaths or covenants in conflict with the Law of God, or which interfere with their duties as freemen and citizens.

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know and a hard copy will be mailed to you.

Message 53.3, "Give ear, Oh ye people of the earth. Hear The Warning today. I speak The Words and Will of The Lord. Let all have Faith. Turn to The Lord and obey His Commands. Heed repentance and baptism that The Way of The Lord shall be among men. His Kingdom shall fill the whole earth. The hands must be laid upon all that **THE GREATER LIGHT** might come to them."

Message 53.10, "Yea, I have brought a Warning and few prepare for **THE GREATER LIGHT**, but be thou Faithful even all who hear, for The Lord's Will shall be fulfilled in all things. All have their work to do and the day comes when The Lord shall breathe upon The Chosen and they shall do His Work in Mighty Power for their love toward the brethren. All that offend and that do not keep His Commandments shall not be His in the Last Day. Moreover, it is Christ's Words that shall judge all men."

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It is the agreement of *The Quorum of Twelve of this Church*, that no Minister is to Ordain any man into *The Ministry* until said candidate has with all his heart and soul confessed he agrees with everything written in *The Articles of Faith and Practice*.

It is each Elder's duty to Seek Guidance from and to keep The Territorial Apostle informed of his works in the region he is laboring.

Secretary For The Twelve

FOREWORD

THE GREATER LIGHT, the official publication of *The Church of Christ With The Elijah Message, The Assured Way of The Lord, Inc.*, comes to YOU as an expression of a united people, whose only aim is to promote *The Cause of Christ* by spreading abroad to every nation, tongue and people, *The True Gospel of Christ* that through Obedience to His Laws we might be found worthy of *Eternal Life*.

In this publication, *The Record of The Nephites* is quoted many times. This Book was Revealed and Translated by *The Gift and Power of God*: the year 1829 marked the beginning of *The Restoration of all things*. It is history of the people who once lived in the region around *The Great Lakes*, some of whom are Ancestors of The Native Americans. Though it contains a Record of two other groups of people who once lived here, it is for the most part a Record of The People of Nephi.

The Messages so often mentioned in this publication are Messages from The Lord, brought to earth by His Chosen Servant, John

The Baptist, who comes to earth in a Glorified Body to finish The Work given to him of God; that of Restoring all things (Matthew 17: 11-13). The Angel first came in 1829, and Restored *The Authority of the Son of God*, that *The Church of Christ* might be Established as in The Days of The Apostles.

In 1927, The Angel Messenger again appeared, and on numerous subsequent visits, has brought to us *The Word of The Lord* that *The Church of Christ* might be set in Order, that a people might be Prepared to be *The Bride of Christ*. This is *The Elijah Message* so many have looked for, *The Midnight Cry* has been Proclaimed, *A Warning of Destruction*, but to *The People of The Lord*, a Message that Christ's soon Coming is near at hand. Fear God and give *Glory to His Name*, for *The Hour of His Judgement* has come. Awake those that sleepest and Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you *Light*.

We hope that whosoever reads these pages might make it a matter of Prayer and Fasting in Humility before God, that they may know for themselves, that God has again Spoken and Revealed *His Will* from Heaven. To this end, we Dedicate *The Greater Light*.

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Thank you.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST TODAY *To All People*

NINETY-SECOND MESSAGE

The Angel Messenger of the Lord came to me at 4:45 a.m., July 4, 1973 in my home at Independence, Missouri, and gave the following Message. The room was filled with light. He spoke calmly and slowly, as I wrote the words He gave. He left at five o'clock.

-W.A. Draves

1. "Behold, I come you at this time. Arise and write the words I shall give you. I am John the Baptist, a resurrected being. I am the Elias. My mission is one of love and peace. The powers of the adversary cannot hinder my Work.

2. I come from the Lord's presence. Look to the Lord, this is His Work. I bring a Message from His Voice and His Will.

3. The Lord's people have see trials and afflictions but let all arise to a closer walk with the Lords. Come away from contentions and bring love and obedience in your lives. Continue in good works. The Lord has heard the prayers that are of the heart, and this Assembly. And I bring peace and an answer to the problems when it becometh a need.

4. There is none that have done right in all things. They have fallen short.

5. Where is that great love and the Spirit that mellows the heart, is it still among you? I say unto you, yea, let it do greater work. Qualify to be leaders of men. Do good to all mankind. Love always, hate and bitterness is not your mission.

6. He that loveth the brethren, loveth God also. The Lord will uphold him and

make him a blessing.

7. Follow the Pattern. Let all that come this Way be baptized into one Spirit. Teach and preach the same things in the way I have given you and it will be well.

8. The Church of Christ will never again be destroyed but will move on Her mission until Zion is established and the people redeemed from their sins— and the Lord come. The Kingdom and the Dominion shall be for the saints of the Most High.

9. A deception has gone out among the people and churches of mankind with doctrines of men with a cry to speak in tongues of unknown words. Such has no meaning but to harden the hearts of those that do so— making the authority I bring of none effect and will not be a part of them, neither will they receive nor obtain it.

10. There is no greater authority or gift, or gifts given to man than that which I bring of the Lord God, after the order of His Son.

11. Who is mankind to claim more than this? He that will not recognize the authority and power I bring, faileth, and his works will not stand the test in the end. Let this evil not be among you for it will not calm the soul nor will it save you.

12. There cometh a day when a true gift will be given. With great wisdom will it work a Work and convince, moreover convict but as yet is not among you in measure of saving grace.

13. Turn away from those things that divide and separate you one from another. The Lord knoweth the hearts and wherein powers of man and deception lies. Except such repent and cleanse their minds of these things they have no part of this Work.

14. I have brought and bring a Massage for mankind— that he may heed and conform to it; that he might be a part of the Lamb's Bride when He comes to make up His Jewels. I speak to fulfill the Word of God, to bring all the faithful in Christen-

dom together to one Fold, one Shepherd, one Spirit of God, one Baptism with power for remission of sins and traditions of man that cannot save.

15. The Lord will call many into this Way.

16. Be firm, fret not, hold the peace and your reward will be sure.

17. In time the quorum of twelve apostles will be filled. There are those in the Lord's reserve. Some will fail, others will take their calling when the Lord speaks.

18. Peace I leave with you and the Church. Lift you faith—the Way of the Lord is Sure. I will come again. Amen.”

2021 General Assembly

Location:

The Independence Masonic Lodge
120 South Pleasant St, Independence, MO 64050

Tentative Schedule

Sunday, June 27, 2021

10:00 a.m. Morning Service

2:00 p.m. Opening Assembly Service

3:30 p.m. Sacrament, Prayer/Testimony:

7:00 p.m. Preaching Service

Monday, June 28, 2021

10:30 Priesthood Meeting

1:00 p.m. Study

2:00 p.m. Membership Meeting,

3:00 p.m. Prayer and Testimony

7:00 Preaching Service

Tuesday June 29, 2021

10:30 Priesthood Meeting

1:00 p.m. Study

2:00 p.m. Preaching Service

3:00 p.m. Preaching Service

4:00 p.m. Prayer /Testimony Service

7:00 p.m. Preaching Service

8:00 p.m. Closing Service & Sacrament

Handmaidens of the Lord

Meets Monday and Tuesday at 10:00 am. If you wish to help, contact the Handmaidens Chairperson: Thresa Ray, 1231 South Spring St, Independence, MO 64055.

From the Apostles

Ashley Beckham

“For behold, thus saith the Lord God; I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth, I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.

Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm, or shall hearken unto the precepts of men, save their precepts shall be given by the power of the Holy Ghost.” 2 Nephi 28:30-31.

It would be well for everyone who reads this to read the 25th thru the 29th chapter of 2 Nephi, for there we find the prophecy of Nephi which relates and tells about the coming of Christ for the first time, the doing away with the Mosaic Law that was fulfilled with the sacrifice of Christ, the visit that He would make to his people here on this continent, their faithfulness for nearly 400 years, their fall and destruction, the bringing forth of the Record from out of the dust, the denial of it by many, the witnesses to it, the raising up of one mighty and strong like unto Moses to lead them to the Lord, the great abomination of many churches all preaching differences and many more things too numerous to mention here. All of these which we recognize as being given for our enlightenment in this

day and time, and which we can profit by if we will only be obedient and hear the words of the Lord as spoken by the spirit of Nephi.

Reflect for a moment: didn't God say that He would reveal line upon line, precept upon precept, etc.? Here we have such a great prophecy given in such plainness that none that read can misunderstand it. It is so filled with the spirit of truth that none who believe would ever deny it. You will find many more prophecies and many teachings of righteousness on thru the Record of the Nephites if you will but search it diligently and to those who are seeking more knowledge of the Lord and His ways, He will give more.

Not only do we find wisdom in the Record of the Nephites, but we find wisdom and council from God in many other ways. The New Testament is full of the love of Christ as he taught His precepts when He walked the shores of Galilee. Christ didn't preach all of his sermons or give all of His precepts in one day, but spread His mission out over a period of time, for it would be humanly impossible for a person to learn all of His ways in a few short days. So God also reveals to us over a period of time, revealing here a little and there a little as it seemeth to Him good, and will constantly reveal to man until Eternity.

Our Articles of Faith plainly state that we believe that the canon of Scripture isn't full, that God inspires men in every age and amongst all people. We believe in the principle of continuous revelation and that God speaks when, where and thru whom He pleases.

Yes, God will add line upon line, precept upon precept, giving wisdom to every generation, knowledge to every nation and spiritual instructions to those who believe in Him and are willing to bow their knee before Him.

In Joseph Smith's time, God revealed the Records from which I have taken this subject and by an angel gave instructions for the founding of the Church of Christ and revealed that a Temple should be built to Him. In our day, He again has revealed by an Angel the many fuller instructions for that Temple and by the same Heavenly Being He reestablished the Church of Christ.

If you will study and compare, you will find the Record of the Nephites is truly a great witness to the Holy Bible, and that many precepts, instructions and prophecies of both tie in together. We also find that the Word of the Lord help bind all together even more with added blessings.

Our God is an unchangeable God. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. If He revealed to the prophets of old and those prophesies came true, why shouldn't we believe in our time that God can and will reveal to us the same as He did in days of old?

Yes, the gifts of the Lord are beautiful and we should ever be watching and waiting, praying that He will continue to lead us by His Holy Spirit and reveal the right way of life to us. God has spoken. Hear Him today.

Articles

What Is Reverence?

Leonard Draves

Reverence is something we feel rather than something we do. It is difficult to describe in words. However, whenever you have *The Feeling of Reverence* it is usually shown by your *attitude* and *actions*.

We have often been told to be Reverent in Church. *Does this mean simply to walk and talk quietly when in God's House?*

One could do this and not be Truly Reverent. However, if you were Reverent you would also Act that way.

Reverence is an Emotion or Feeling within you. A Feeling of Wonder, of Awe, of Affection and one of Deep Respect. You may feel Reverent in the presence of the beauty and power made evident in nature, a beautiful sunset, a tempest of thunder and lightning, the mystery of the wonderful parts of a tiny flower, the glory of a bird's song, Niagara Falls, and so on. They all 'speak' *The Creator's* Praise. The Feeling of Reverence in The Presence of these should Lead to a Desire to Worship *The Creator* of them.

You may feel Reverence in the presence of a person of unusual achievements, or of a young baby. In both situations, there could be a Feeling of Awe and Wonder.

Reverence is one of the most Admirable Qualities a person can Reveal. Only a cheap, thoughtless person hesitates or fails to show Reverence.

Reverence Felt and Expressed helps one to Grow into Greatness of *Spirit and Action*. Reverence Leads one into *The Presence of God*, for *He is The Creator; The Power; and The Source* of all that Arouses The Emotion. Reverence Leads to Worship. Indeed, without Reverence, there can be no 'True Worship'.

I would like to draw your attention to The First *Three Commandments*. They should help each of us to Understand better what God Requires of us in The Way of Reverence and Worship.

Exodus 20:3, "Thou shall have no other gods before Me."

This Commandment Requires us to Know and Acknowledge God to be *The Only True Living God, and our God*, and to Worship and Glorify Him Accordingly.

This Commandment Forbiddeth The Worshipping and Glorifying of anyone but God. For we Worship no other. We give

Glory to no other. God is our Only Leader.

The words 'Before Me' in this First Commandment Teaches us that God, who Seeth All Things, Taketh notice of, and is much Displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

The Second Commandment, Exodus 20:4-6, "Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in Heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5. Thou shall not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I The Lord Thy God am a Jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the father upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

6. And Showing Mercy unto thousands of them that Love Me, and Keep *My Commandments*."

This Second Commandment Requireth the Receiving, Observing, and Keeping Pure and Entire, all such Religious Worship and Ordinances as God hath Appointed in His Word.

This Second Commandment Forbiddeth The Worshipping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in His Word.

The Worship we bring to God should be very different. Unlike the early Hebrew people, with Moses at Mount Sinai, we need no image, for we Know that God is Forever Present with us. *We can feel His Presence and His Love*. We Respond to that Love with *Praise and Gratitude*. We want to do the things He Wishes. So in Worship we Listen for *His Voice*. God Speaks to our Hearts telling us *His Will*. There should be Gladness and Joy in our Worship. For We have *The Fullness of The Gospel* and *The Truth* Given to us by *The Only Living God*.

Do not be misled by the word 'Jealous' in This Commandment. It is not the human jealousy which we think of as an ugly thing. God's Jealousy is the disappointment

of a Great Love in seeing His Children turn away from what is best.

Jesus Talked to a woman once about Worshipping. John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that Worship Him must Worship Him in Spirit and in Truth."

The Third Commandment is found in Exodus 20:7, "Thou shall not take The Name of The Lord Thy God in vain; for The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain."

This Commandment Requireth The Holy and Reverent use of God's Names, Titles, Attributes, Ordinance, Words and Works.

We are forbidden in all profanity or abusing of anything whereby God maketh Himself Known.

The breakers of This Commandment may escape punishment from men, yet The Lord our God will suffer them not to escape His Righteous Judgment.

We must never use God's Name or Works Lightly or Irreverently. We must never say false or untrue things. We must never profess to Love and Follow God in Words alone, but we must be Wholehearted and Sincere in all we Profess.

In John 13:34, we read, "A new Commandment I give unto you, that ye Love one another; as I have Loved you, that ye also Love one another."

We shall think of how Jesus Loved all people as we Measure The Way in which we should Love.

We have to look for evidences of it in something more than Words. *Actions and Attitudes are The Tests of Love.*

Let us think of Jesus' Life and ask what His Acts and Attitudes show about The Love in His Heart.

I know we all feel that we will never be able to Keep God's Commandments Perfectly, however, we must try to Keep them to The Best of our Ability.

We are Grateful and Blessed to have

Latter Day Revelations from God, through John The Baptist to Help us Live Rightly and Reverently. All through The Messages, God Tells us to Hold to *His Truths* and to Shape our Lives by *His Words*. If we can do this, and let Love Dwell in us, His Love will be made more Perfect in us. If we can do this, we will Stand in *The Day of Judgment*.

We will be punished for our sins, and for our *Lack of Reverence*. We may feel that people are foolish to forget that God had Promised to Bless and Help us, if we would only Obey *His Voice*. But are we any less foolish when we let 'self' come before *The One and Only True God*?

Message 52:3, "There will be those that contend against *The Word of The Lord*. They shall be accursed, for unto them The Lord will Show no Greater Thing. Those that are not *Humble and Forgiving, Obedient to The Truth*, shall fall by The Way."

If we are Reverent, and if we have Love, both working together, we will be Called '*Delightful and a Peculiar People*', for we shall be Called '*Righteous*'.

Message 52:14, "...Let not your goings displease Him, nor become shameful in disobedience and justification in evil doings and that against The Gospel Law. Betray not one another, but Love your brother. Some have been untrue to their fellows; their end will be sad for in their Hearts they Know The Better Way, yet fail to Obey. Blessed be those that are True, for they shall Shine Forth in Brightness in Peace of God..."

Jesus gave us not only a *New Commandment*, but a *New Way of Life*. Where there is indifference, neglect and hate, Jesus would Substitute *Sympathy, Understanding and Love*. If the people of the world would Adopt *Jesus' Way of Life*, how Changed everything would be. There would be no actions of those done on September 11, 2001, in New York City, Washington D. C.

or Pennsylvania.

If only all who Claims to be *Followers of Christ* would Keep *His New Commandment* in mind and try to Obey it, they would have *Power* such as never before known to mankind.

Jesus puts *The Emphasis on Love*, and through that Love, may we all be found Reverent!

Honor Your Father and Mother

Ellen Draves

The fifth commandment that the Lord gave us is “Honor thy father and mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” Exodus 20:12.

Some people may read this and think it is a reward. The reason for this is that if you build a society based on children honoring their parents the society will survive. On the other side of the coin a society that does not honor their parents is doomed to self destruction.

Why is it that honoring our parents is so important? One reason is that we, as children, need it. In this generation we have seen the consequences of growing up without a father. Fatherless boys are more likely to grow up and commit crimes, mistrust women and act against society in every other way. Girls who do not have a father to honor are more likely to seek the wrong men and to be promiscuous at an early age.

Why Should We Honor Our Parents?

It is the right thing to do.
Ephesians 6:1-3, “Children, obey your

parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

3. That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

We owe our parents our life and gratitude. They have sacrificed so much for us. We don't realize this until we become parents.

The Bible tells us that disobedience to the parents will be one of the signs of the end time.

II Timothy 3:1-2, “This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.”

Is this the society of today? The family is in trouble. We need to study God's word for solutions.

It pleases God to honor our parents. “Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” If you notice this verse says to obey your parents. And that is pleasing unto the Lord. This puts honoring your parents on a spiritual level.

Honoring our parents teaches us to respect authority. Ezekiel 22:7 “In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger; in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.”

Ezekiel 22:15, “And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee.”

Now go to Romans 13: 1-2, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God...

2. ...and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

We see the loss of authority for the parents in many ways- absentee parents, the abdication of authority promoted by per-

missive parenting styles, even government interferences with some aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. A prime example of this is that you should not spank your child.

Proverbs 13:24, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

We do not say that you should beat your child, but a little swat on the bottom shows the child that you are the one with the authority. Today's children have grown up with the idea that if they are swatted they are abused and therefore they can sue their parents. In this process they have now lost respect for authority.

The authorities that exist have been established by God. When you rebel against your parents, you are really rebelling against authority, and you are rebelling against God as the ultimate authority.

You are under God's protection when you honor your father and mother.

Proverbs 6:20-23, "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21. Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

22. When thou goest, it shall lead thee ; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

23. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life." . In Proverbs whenever it talks about the lamp going out, it means a person's life is being cut short.

We should live righteously. Proverbs 23:24-25, "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice, and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

25. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice. In Proverbs 27:11 Solomon says "My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me."

It helps you grow in wisdom when you

honor your parents. Look at Proverbs 4:1-4 "Hear, ye children, the instructions of a father, and attend to know understanding;

2. For I give you good doctrine; forsake ye not my law.

3. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live."

Parents are teachers of faith and morality. What God is to the world, parents are to their children. Parents have molded their children so their children will have the drive to serve the Lord.

We should listen attentively to what they tell us. Proverbs 23:22 "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old."

The key word is listen. It means to pay attention. As your parents age you should keep in touch with them. You should listen to them even thou some of the stories they have told you, you have heard several times. Every time we would go to Warrensburg, we would pass this barn. Mom would always say I went to many dances in that old barn. We would listen to her and just laugh without her knowing it. I would give anything to hear these stories now.

In Matthew 15:3-6, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees of his day for neglecting their parents. "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandments of God by your traditions?

4. For God commanded, saying, Honor thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6. And honor not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition."

The ancient Greeks believed that you should lose your rights as a citizen if you did not support your parents in old age. This occurred when you failed to provide for them.

Promises

God has attached great and precious promises to the fifth commandment. There are two of them. Exodus 20:12 “Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

Deuteronomy 5:16 “Honor thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”

Ephesians 6:2-3 “Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Simply put, your life will go better if you honor your parents. You avoid many of the dangers that can cut life short or cut off the enjoyment of life, and thus as a rule, they live longer and better. This is the way God designed it to be.

In conclusion this reminds me of the song “The Cat’s in the Cradle” by Harry Chapin. The song is about a man who is too busy to spend time with his son. The son goes to college and then starts working and is too busy to spend time with his father. The chorus says that the boy wants to grow up just like his father. And in the last chorus the father realizes that his son did grow up just like him.

Many of us have children and parents. How are you doing? Are you honoring them today. God commands us to do so.

Young Adults

Karen Wilkin

Some of you are in Junior High/Middle School and some of you are preparing to graduate this year. You have worked hard to get to this point in your life. You have gone through many challenges and experienced many ups and downs. I came across a writing on the wall at a store and it left quite an impression on me. It said, "It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived." (Helen R. Walton).

Jesus set the example before us to pave the way for us to understand without a doubt what paths will lead us in the right direction and which paths lead us astray. For example Luke 10:25-37 tells the story about the Good Samaritan. In verse 25 he is asking the question how he might obtain eternal life? In verse 27 he answered saying, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and will all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.” What a beautiful verse. We sure aren't left in the dark about how God expects us to love Him and our neighbor. Verse 29 he comes back and asks the question to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? This is when Jesus gives the parable about the Good Samaritan.

30. “And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by the other side.

33. But a certain Samaritan, as he jour-

neyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

34. And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

36. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?"

Well, this certainly gave them something to think about. Why do you think the first two men passed him by like that? What were they afraid of? Who were they afraid of? Or, were they just being selfish, uncaring, non-compassionate men? Why do you think Jesus gave this story as the example? I am not going to answer these questions for you. I would like for you to study/reread the story again and ask yourself these questions as you read it. Think deeply about the answers. I realize most of the answer is in the 37th verse but it is something you can personally question yourself about.

This Good Samaritan scattered some love by the good deeds he did for this man didn't he? By the good he had done, he could be judged as having a very good character and living a Christian life. Have you ever had an opportunity to help someone but passed up that opportunity? Only you know the answer to that question. What do you do if you see someone being bullied at school? What do you do if someone is picking on someone who cannot defend themselves? Maybe a student who is disabled or challenged in other ways? What do you do if someone is being harassed and made fun of? Are you willing to step up and out to come to that person's aid? Are you willing to help a person in need even if it means it could put you right in the middle

of a confrontation?

Let's face it, in this day and time helping others, defending others and being a "good neighbor" is not a popular thing amongst students, whether they be elementary age or High School age. It is not that popular among adults either. There is rudeness, hatefulness, sarcasm, and ugly actions going on all around us on daily basis. Sometimes it can be a real challenge just dealing with all the ugliness going on while driving, shopping or even playing. We hear experts saying this is all happening because people are becoming desensitized to compassion and caring about others. I believe that is true to a certain extent. However, I also believe it is happening because the very things needed in the schools and at home are not there anymore. They have taken Prayer out of the schools.

When I was growing up, The Ten Commandments were in every school hallway. Parents are not training their children at home to be respectful, kind and caring toward others. Schools used to teach children how to carry a positive attitude and have good attributes, and to be kind to others, but not anymore. You can make a difference, though. You can step out and step up toward spreading kindness and peace. Try to be one of those kind hearted people like the Good Samaritan was. In verse 37 he answered, "He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise."

The Lord would have us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. He would have us Love our neighbors as ourselves. While there is so much hate in the world right now, it is a chance for you to care about the kid who is sitting alone, the kid who is made fun of, the kid who is cast out because he/she is poor and/or have problems, academically.

What have you scattered this school year? What seeds have you sown? 2 Corin-

thians 9:6 & 7, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

These verses aren't just talking about giving money, it is referring to anything we do to help someone out.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew starting around the 35th - 39th verse it gives some pretty good detail about doing good for others. Then in verse 40, He sums it up with these words; "And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

See, it does not matter how big or how small of a good deed you do for someone else. If you do it out of love and care for that person, you do it unto Jesus. That is why it is so important that throughout your life, from the very young to the very old, to open your heart and have compassion for others, helping when you can and giving when you can. It goes back to the phrase I used at the beginning, "It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived." If you sow seeds of kindness, it shows in your life. If you sow seeds of encouragement, it shows in your life. If you sow seeds of compassion, it shows in your life. If you sow seeds of love for others, especially the poor, the needy, the weak and lost, it will show in your life. There is a real big Plus in doing all these attributes as you are building up and storing up treasures in Heaven! With the Lord, nothing goes unnoticed!

Let your light shine by "scattering seeds of love, kindness, goodness and mercy" to others and see what happens in your life. Remember, it's not what you **Gather**, but

what you **Scatter** that tells what kind of life you lived.

Juniors

Thresa Ray

Dear Youth,

How should we speak to others?

Proverbs 16:24 & 32 says: "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

32. He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

Wow! This is telling us that someone that is slow to anger and can control their spirit and actions, is better than the mighty-someone in a very important position, or mightier than a warrior that can take a city. We need to practice showing kindness in all we say. We need to control our temper and our actions.

Did you see the movie, "Bambi"? Remember what Thumper said. "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." What good advice!

In the Messages, brought by God's angel, John the Baptist, there are many verses that talk about how we should act and speak.

Message 91:13, "Be thou clean that bear the vessels of the Lord. Let your conversations be clean. Let realness of charity (love) rule your lives. Lift up a standard."

Here, God tells us that our conversations should be clean. We should not be talking dirty, saying swear words, talking ugly about someone or something. We need to be setting a good example for others. Living up to a higher standard. God wants us to let love rule our lives. If loved ruled in our lives, we would speak kindly of and to others and treat others kindly.

Message 102:9, "Let all that come this

way be repentant and very humble, not ridiculing nor boisterous, but filled with love and peace. Let humility be your cloak and mantle.”

This verse in Message 102 tells us to be humble. That means we should not be bragging or putting others down just to build ourselves up. We should walk humbly before the Lord and be at peace with others.

Message 93:6, “Be harsh with no one...”

This means we should speak kindly. We should not be abrupt and hateful or rude. If you have a disagreement, you can discuss things in a civil, kind manner. Don’t let yourself get all worked up and lose your temper.

Message 118:7, “Be pleasant at all times and the Spirit will guide you in all Truth. As I speak to you, so speak I to all.”

Message 95:10, “...Love is your mission...”

Message 99:9, “Be very careful what you say, how you speak, and where you are, so is my Message to all.”

God wants us to be careful how we speak. We need to speak kindly and to use a nice tone of voice. Often the tone of voice can be even worse than the actual words spoken. We need to control that also. We need to control the actual words we say. Think before you blurt out something that you will be sorry for saying later. Be careful where you are also. Don’t go places that will put you in a difficult situation or a compromising situation that you should not be in. Don’t give in to doing something that is contrary to what you have been taught is good or pleasing to God.

Message 82:11, “Teach diligently the Doctrine of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. Let your conversations be in humility, for this shall be your power in winning your brother—whose mind is in the dark.”

If we tell someone about the Gospel of Christ, about the Angel Message, about

God’s Church set up on earth, but tell them in a boastful or with a better than thou attitude, that could totally turn that person away from this great work. We must speak with humility and love toward others.

Message 84:4, “Be wise in works and humble in your talk and the Lord will Direct in all things.”

Message 73:7, “Be not contentious. Speak the truth and be firm...”

God wants us to be the ‘peacemakers’. So He never wants us to be contentious or argumentative. We need to control how we talk.

Message 87:13, “...Be kind to all men and you will win favor with God and man. My mission is one of Love.”

What a blessing that is-- to find favor with God and we can do that by being kind to all men! Of course, you understand that means to be kind to everyone: man, woman, boy, girl, old or young—just everyone!

This reminds me of the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!

Matthew 7:12, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even so to them...”

You would not like someone speaking rudely, hatefully, or unkindly to you. You would not like someone being mean to you. So treat and speak to others the way you would like to be treated and spoken to. Showing humility and love is what pleases God and pleases others also. Be the person that God want you to be. Control how you speak and act toward others.

All through the Messages we are told to treat others kindly and to take the Messages to others in humility and love. When we do this, we will be representing Christ as He would want us to. We need to represent Christ in all we do and say whether at Church, at school, at work, at play, shopping – no matter where we are. People can then see the light of Christ in us and see

that we indeed do have something special in our life by our words and our actions.

Love to each of you. Everyday, work on being humble, showing love to others and speaking kindly to all.

Primary

How We Should Pray

Joy Ellen Draves-Dreher

Prayer should be an activity we do daily. *1 Thessalonians 5:17* says “Pray without ceasing.” But what does this mean? To pray without ceasing is to always have a prayer on your heart. There is always something going on in our life that we can pray about. Maybe you have a test in school you are worried about; a prayer can calm those worries. And there is always something we should thank God for, even if it is as simple as thanking God for the day. There is always something. But how should we pray? In the book of Matthew God has given us an example.

Matthew 6:5-13, “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

9. After this manner therefore pray ye:

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.

11. Give us this day our daily bread.

12. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

When we pray, we need to keep it sincere and natural. It should be part of who we are, our whole relationship with God. This pattern of praying that Jesus has given here is known as the Lord’s Prayer. It is a model of how we should pray. We could see this as a format on how to pray starting with praising our Heavenly Father, committing to Him our daily needs, forgiving others and asking for forgiveness, and to help not to do things we shouldn’t. Prayer should be a natural part of our lifestyle. Just like talking with a friend. We need to develop a prayer life that is a moment-by-moment relationship with God.

Prayer is not just a religious act done every now and then. No, prayer is a conversation with God anywhere, anytime and even all the time. When we’re happy, feeling sad, angry, or lonely we should talk to God.

So as you go about your day, whether it be doing the boring, ordinary things, or going off to school, playing sports – whatever you do, remember to always talk to God.

Happy Mother’s and Father’s Day.

Hope to see you all at the Assembly.