



JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER 1986 No. 113



Personally from Billy



In this issue you will find "GOD'S CONFUSION?", which looks at a problem we have in the religious world. Please read it carefully and

check the Bible references given. Study everything you can on this subject. I honestly feel that the division of believers over true Bible teaching does much harm, especially when a confused world looks on. Honest efforts should be made to find just what God's Bible really teaches.

Jesus Christ is our one and only foundation! We should respect Him and follow Him. And one way to do this is to obey His Word. We need to know the Word, not just "feel" or "think" it is this way or that way. That is a dangerous thing for religion! Better to know than to be sorry! . . .

May God bless you as you read.

In Christian love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Billy Leavell".

Billy Leavell



USPS (087-210)

Published quarterly by

East Frayser Church of Christ

2285 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, TN 38127

Second Class postage paid at Memphis, TN.

Postmaster:

send address changes to

LIGHT FOR THE DEAF

2285 Frayser Blvd., Memphis, TN 38127

GOD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS CONFUSION...
MAN IS!



A WHILE AGO WE LOOKED AT A VERSE THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE (1 CORINTHIANS 14:33) IT WILL HELP US IF WE STUDY WHAT PAUL WROTE TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH. IT WILL BE MOST EYEOPENING!

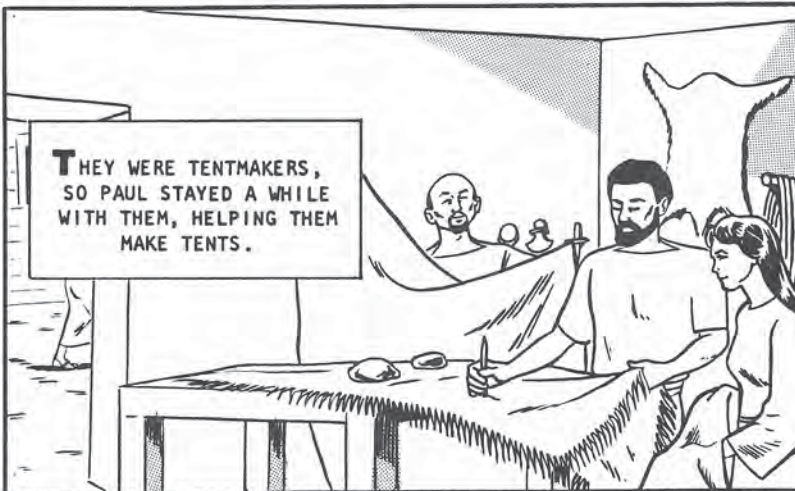
BUT FIRST, LET US LOOK AT THE BACKGROUND.

AS ACTS 18:1-18 TELLS US, PAUL LEFT ATHENS IN GREECE AND CAME TO THE CITY OF CORINTH. IT WAS ABOUT THE YEAR 52 OR 53 A.D.



WHILE PAUL WAS IN THE CITY OF CORINTH, HE FOUND A COUPLE NAMED AQUILA AND PRISCILLA.

THEY WERE TENTMAKERS, SO PAUL STAYED A WHILE WITH THEM, HELPING THEM MAKE TENTS.



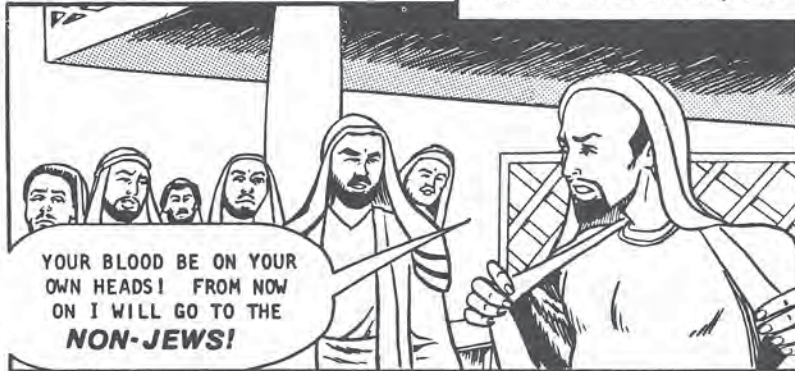
BUT ON THE SABBATH (SATURDAY) --THE JEWISH DAY OF REST-- PAUL WENT TO THE SYNAGOGUE (A PLACE WHERE JEWS MET TO WORSHIP)...



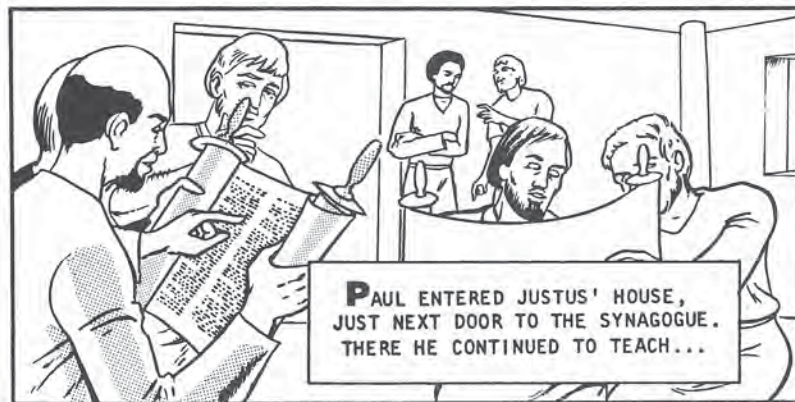
HERE HE ARGUED WITH BOTH THE JEWS AND THE GREEKS.

JESUS IS THE **CHRIST** PROMISED BY GOD ALMIGHTY!

THE JEWS SPOKE AGAINST PAUL AND HIS MESSAGE, SO...



YOUR BLOOD BE ON YOUR OWN HEADS! FROM NOW ON I WILL GO TO THE **NON-JEWS!**



PAUL ENTERED JUSTUS' HOUSE, JUST NEXT DOOR TO THE SYNAGOGUE. THERE HE CONTINUED TO TEACH...

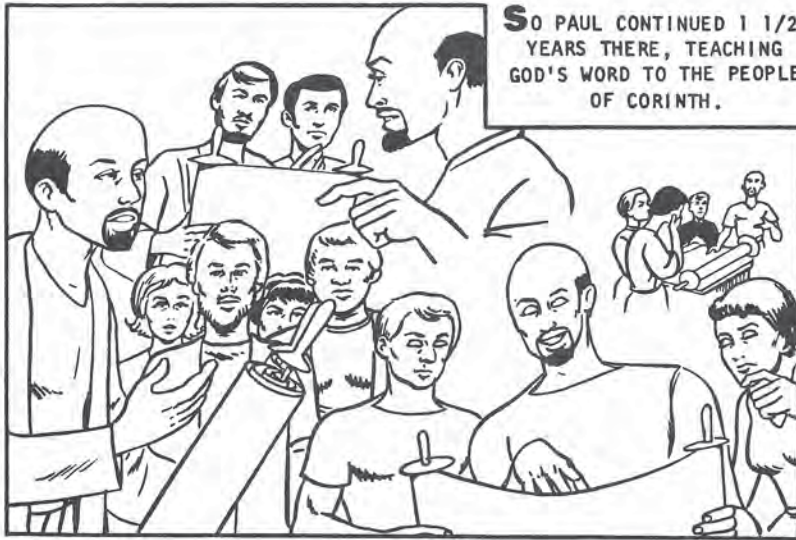


EVEN CRISPUS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE SYNAGOGUE SERVICES, BELIEVED AND ACCEPTED THE LORD JESUS!



BY NIGHT THE LORD JESUS SPOKE TO PAUL IN A VISION...





SO PAUL CONTINUED 1 1/2 YEARS THERE, TEACHING GOD'S WORD TO THE PEOPLE OF CORINTH.

THE JEWS WERE ANGRY ABOUT PAUL PREACHING CHRIST IN CORINTH, SO THEY BROUGHT A **LAWSUIT** AGAINST PAUL!



THE JEWS BROUGHT PAUL BEFORE GALLIO, DEPUTY OF ACHAI A (GREECE).

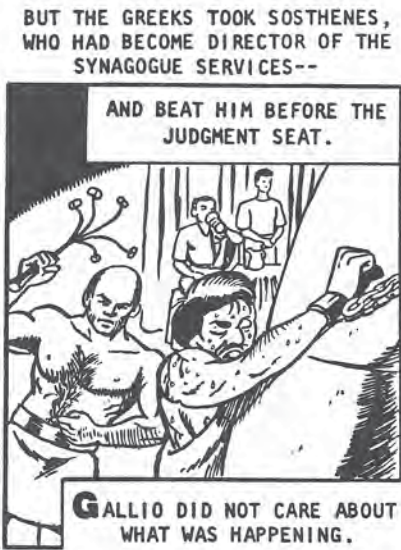
THIS MAN PERSUADES PEOPLE TO WORSHIP GOD IN A WAY THAT IS AGAINST THE LAW!

PAUL BEGAN TO SPEAK--

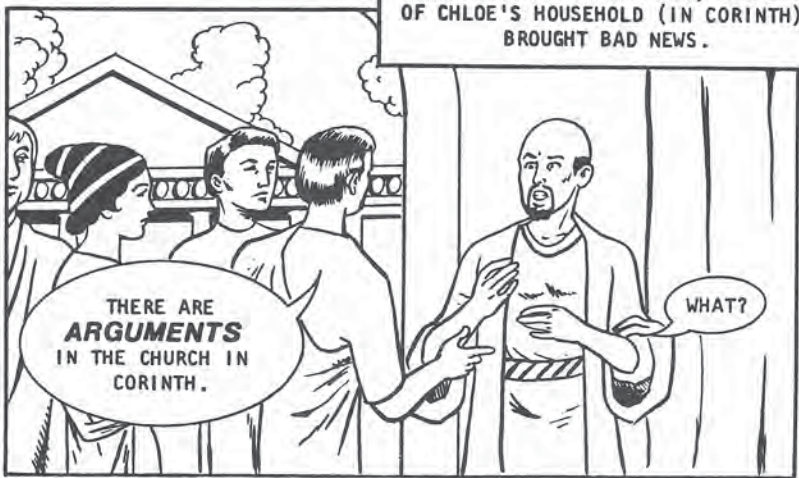
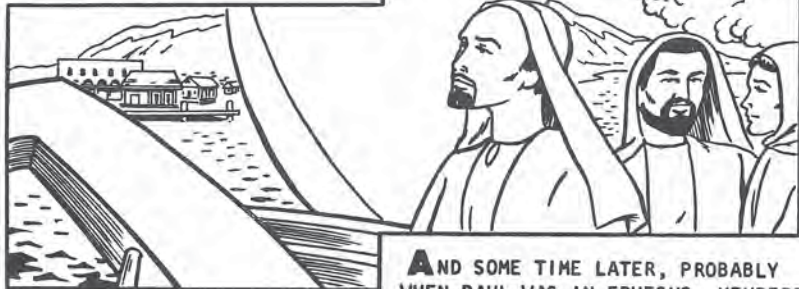
BUT GALLIO SPOKE.

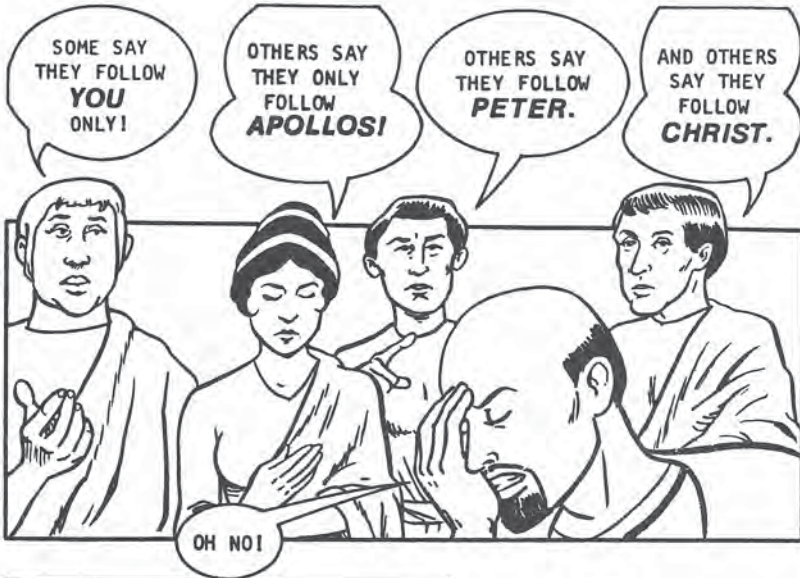


IF IT WAS A MATTER OF WRONG OR EVIL-DOING, I WOULD LISTEN TO YOU.



SHORTLY AFTER THIS HAPPENED, PAUL LEFT CORINTH...





So PAUL BEGAN HIS FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS...



Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

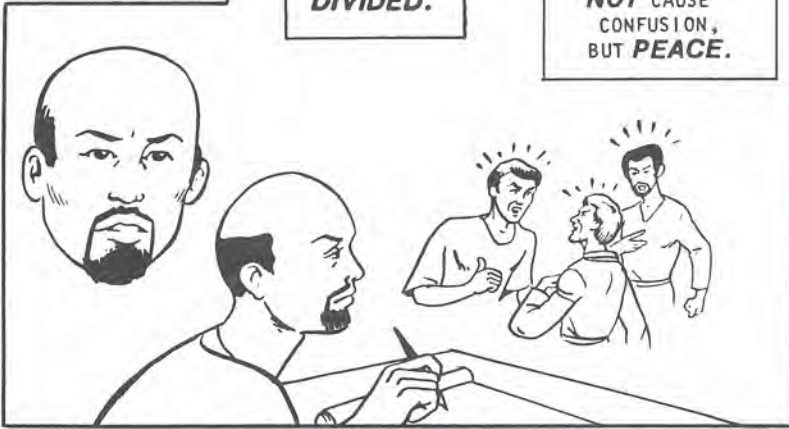
Is Christ divided?
1 CORINTHIANS 1:13

For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace.
1 CORINTHIANS 14:33

LET'S BACK UP A MINUTE SO WE CAN TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE HAVE JUST LEARNED.

FIRST, PAUL LEARNED THE CHRISTIANS IN CORINTH WERE **DIVIDED**.

PAUL WROTE A LETTER TO THEM, EXPLAINING THAT GOD DOES **NOT** CAUSE CONFUSION, BUT **PEACE**.



AND HOW COULD THEY GET THIS PEACE? BY BEING PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE **SAME** MIND AND IN THE **SAME** JUDGMENT!



HOW WAS THIS POSSIBLE? BY **UNITING** ON CHRIST, THE ONLY TRUE **FOUNDATION** OF THE CHURCH!

ONE WAY TO DO THIS IS TO UNITE ON CHRIST'S BIBLE.



IS UNITY OF
CHRIST'S
BELIEVERS
POSSIBLE?



For while one saith, "I am of Paul", and another, "I am of Apollos", are ye not carnal?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:4

WHAT DOES THE WORD "CARNAL" MEAN? IT IS THE KING JAMES TRANSLATION MEANING "FLESHLY".

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:13

THE MEANING HERE IS ACTING LIKE WORLDLY PEOPLE (SEE THE ENGLISH VERSION FOR THE DEAF), AND NOT LIKE SPIRITUALLY MINDED PEOPLE. SEE ROMANS 8:6!

NOW LOOK AT THESE QUESTIONS.

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5

HERE PAUL TRIES TO EXPLAIN THAT HE AND APOLLOS ARE JUST PLAIN **SERVANTS** OF GOD.

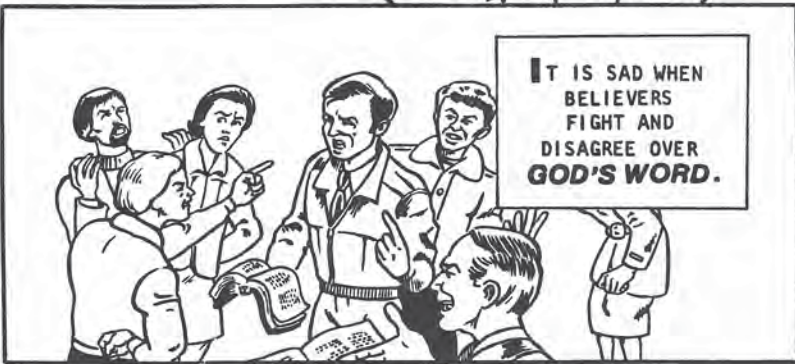
I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6

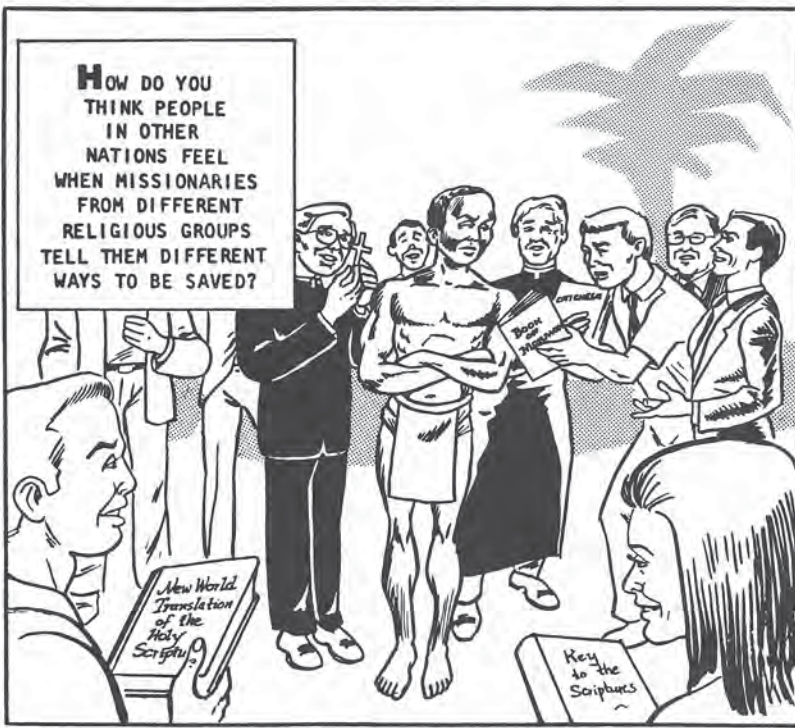
NOTICE HOW PAUL TRIES TO GIVE GLORY TO **GOD!**



THERE IS ONLY **ONE** CHURCH--
THE GROUP OF
PEOPLE THAT
CHRIST SAVES.

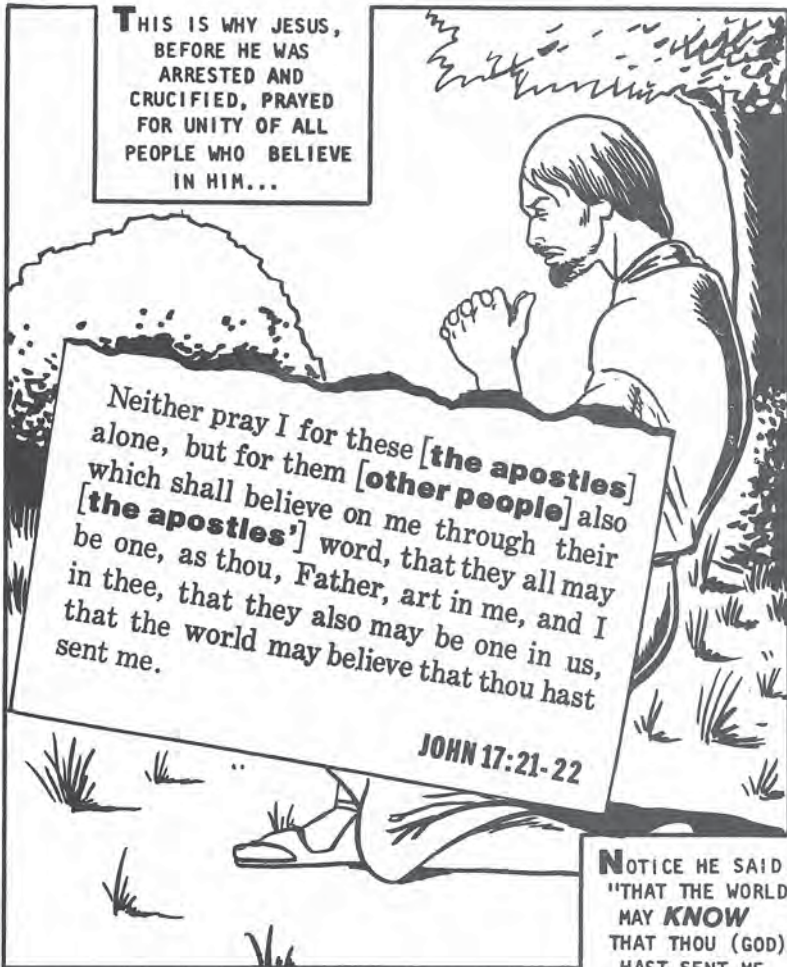


IT IS SAD WHEN
BELIEVERS
FIGHT AND
DISAGREE OVER
GOD'S WORD.



HOW DO YOU
THINK PEOPLE
IN OTHER
NATIONS FEEL
WHEN MISSIONARIES
FROM DIFFERENT
RELIGIOUS GROUPS
TELL THEM DIFFERENT
WAYS TO BE SAVED?

THIS IS WHY JESUS,
BEFORE HE WAS
ARRESTED AND
CRUCIFIED, PRAYED
FOR UNITY OF ALL
PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE
IN HIM...



Neither pray I for these [**the apostles**]
alone, but for them [**other people**] also
which shall believe on me through their
[**the apostles**'] word, that they all may
be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I
in thee, that they also may be one in us,
that the world may believe that thou hast
sent me.

JOHN 17:21-22

NOTICE HE SAID
"THAT THE WORLD
MAY **KNOW**
THAT THOU (GOD)
HAST SENT ME
(JESUS)"!

THIS THEN SHOWS US HOW
IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US
TO AGREE TOGETHER--



CHRIST
THE
FOUNDATION
(THE ROCK GOD CHOSE)

AND WE MUST AGREE TO
STAND ON **CHRIST**,
OUR ONLY FOUNDATION OF
FAITH, AND TO SUPPORT
HIS **BIBLE**.

**WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
IF ALL CHRISTIANS
WERE UNITED?**



Behold, how good and how pleasant
it is for brethren to dwell together
in unity!

PSALM 133:1

**IT WOULD INDEED
BE PLEASANT--**

**AND WE WOULD ALSO
ANSWER JESUS' PRAYER
FOR UNITY, SO THE
WORLD WILL KNOW GOD
SENT JESUS!**

**BUT-- WE MUST RESPECT
GOD'S WORD. WE MUST
OBEY THE LORD AND DO
WHAT HE WANTS.**

**THIS IS A VERY
DIFFICULT THING,
BECAUSE MANY
BELIEVERS THE
WORLD OVER WANT
TO HOLD TO THEIR
OLD TRADITIONS
AND BELIEFS.**



**BUT BECAUSE JESUS PRAYED FOR
UNITY, IT CAN BE POSSIBLE!
WILL YOU JOIN US IN COMING
BACK TO CHRIST AND HIS BIBLE?**

30 A.D.



2000 A.D.



Christ's Teaching will never change!

What is Christ's Church?

People...

... who believe and obey Christ. ACTS 2:47,

5:14, 6:7 MATTHEW 28:18-20

... who are saved on earth. ACTS 2:47,

EPHESIANS 5:23

... whose names are written in the Book of Life.

DANIEL 12:1, PHILIPPIANS 4:3, HEBREWS 12:43

... who are in Christ. ROMANS 6:3,

GALATIANS 3:27, 28, EPHESIANS 1:3, 2:13

... who have the promise of Life forever.

HEBREWS 9:15, 10:23, 36-37,

COLOSSIANS 3:24, PHILIPPIANS 3:20

ARE YOU A PART OF CHRIST'S WONDERFUL CHURCH?
IF NOT, WHY NOT LISTEN TO THE LORD'S CALL TODAY?

(2 CORINTHIANS 6:2)



Bible Puzzle

What is Jesus' Message for You?



FIND EACH NUMBER'S LETTER AND
YOU'LL FIND JESUS' MESSAGE!

- 1-A 9-N
- 2-B 10-O
- 3-C 11-R
- 4-D 12-S
- 5-E 13-T
- 6-H 14-U
- 7-I 15-V
- 8-M 16-Y

--

7

--	--

1 8

--	--	--

13 6 5

--	--	--	--

15 7 9 5

--	--	--

1 9 4

--	--	--

16 10 14

--	--	--

1 11 5

--	--	--

13 6 5

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2 11 1 9 3 6 5 12

WHERE IS THE ABOVE MESSAGE BY JESUS FOUND?

___ IN JOHN 14:6 ___ IN JOHN 5:15 ___ IN JOHN 15:5

Suffering can be **POSITIVE!**

by **Cliff Holladay**

Some people may act very negatively when suffering comes their way. They may make statements like these:

"God is punishing me!"

"I am tired of fighting against temptation. I am now going to follow wherever my pleasure leads me..."

"If there is a God, why did He let this person die that I loved so much? I prayed to God that this person might live but he died. I don't believe in God any more."

We then overlook the fact God's only Son went through deep suffering that we may never face. Jesus met every kind of temptation that we face. Yet He did not turn away from God His Father. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

If we analyze (study) human suffering, we may be able to come up with some reasons why we suffer.

First, suffering may strengthen our faith in God and humble us as His children. This can be seen in the story of Job.

Second, when we have won a victory over suffering, we may be able to strengthen a weak brother in Christ or to bring someone to the Lord.

Third, suffering may be a way to discipline us and to keep us directed toward the Lord. (Hebrews 12:6-11)

Fourth, through our suffering we can feel sympathy toward others and not just pity.

We may be able to find certain answers to why some people suffer. But whether we find the answers or not, the questions still remains: "What will I do if suffering comes into my life?"

You see, the answers to why are not really as important as what action will I take in my life if I meet suffering in my life.

Will I live my life with an attitude of defeat? Or will I find victory because I have faith in God? (1 Corinthians 10:10-13) Which will we say?

"I am defeated."

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

"For when I am weak, then I am strong." (1 Corinthians 12:10)

What will be your answer?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

We thank Cliff Holliday for his fine article on suffering. Below is a list of Scriptures that deal with the problem of suffering. We recommend you carefully study them. We also recommend reading a modern translation, such as the English Version for the Deaf, so you can understand God's Word as you study.

2 Timothy 3:12

1 Peter 4:12-19

James 1:2-8

Psalms 37:1, 2

(also see rest of this Psalm.)



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

The answers given on this page are the responsibility of the Editor. Questions may be sent to *Light for the Deaf, 2285 Frayser Boulevard Memphis, TN 38127*

We are using some questions from a reader in a recent letter sent to us. We thought you would like to see these questions and the answers we give.

Sex is disgusting.

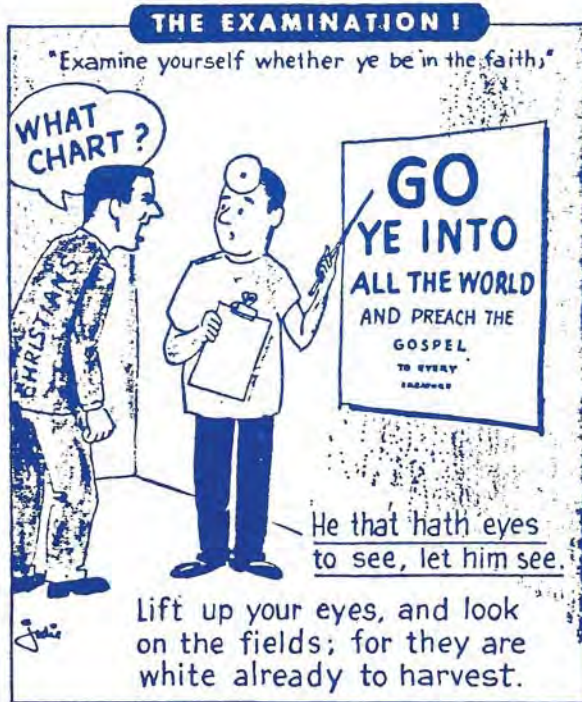
We must be careful not to have the wrong idea of sex. Adultery and other kinds of sexual sin are wrong. But if you are sorry for your sins and decide never to do them again, you can be forgiven. See 1 Corinthians 6: 11 (compare with verses 9-10), and also Titus 3:3-5 and Hebrews 10:22. Sex in marriage is beautiful. The Bible encourages husbands and wives to enjoy sex with each other. See Proverbs 5:15-20 and 1 Corinthians 7:2-5. But remember, God intends for sex to stay in marriage!



Can God destroy your body if you have sex?

Remember, sex in itself is

not wrong. It is beautiful and right if it is between husband and wife. But if you try to get sex outside of marriage, then it becomes sinful and wrong. When a person does sexual sin, God does not do the destroying of the person's body. Notice Romans 1:26: God **left** these sinners alone. He **let** them do the shameful things they wanted to do. It doesn't mean God doesn't care. Yes, God cares! And He is sad about these sinners because He loves them all. But if they refuse to listen to Him, then He will leave them alone. He will let them mess up their own lives. Now notice the last part of Romans 1:27. It says that homosexuals punish themselves. How? They receive punishment in their bodies for the wrong things they did. This means diseases that pass from body to body in sexual intercourse. Homosexuals are not alone, men who sleep with many different women can get diseases also. This way their bodies are destroyed, but it is the sinners who punish themselves, not God.



Second Class Postage
Paid at Memphis, Tennessee

2285 Frayser Boulevard
Memphis, Tennessee 38127

ARTHUR L. WILSON
LOT 68 HILLVIEW TRL CT.
BROWNSTOWN IN 47270