

Kentucky District News

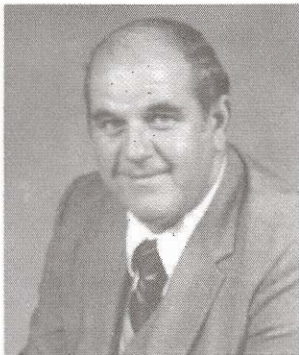
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408 Nicholas St.
Elizabethtown
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42701

CHRIST TEMPLE APOSTOLIC CHURCH



Pastor
David F. Aldridge



Kentucky District News



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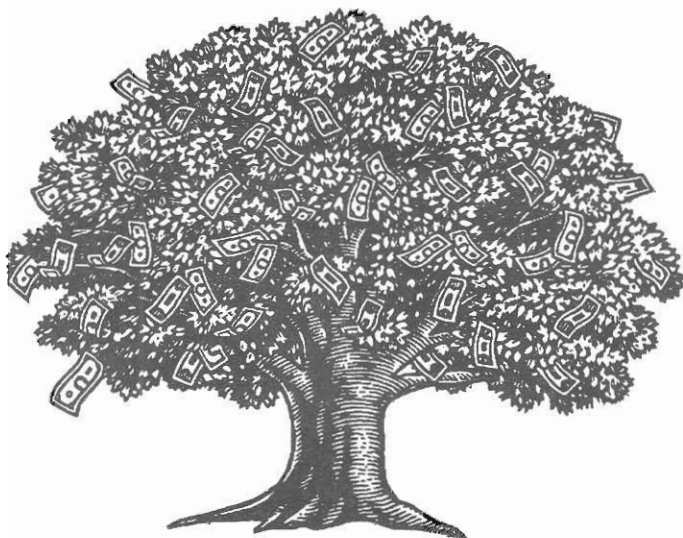
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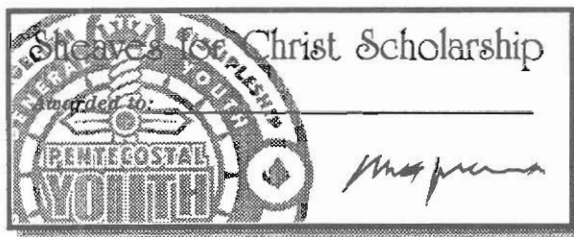
The fundamental doctrine of this organization shall be the Bible standard of full salvation, which is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

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The Blame Game

By Charles R. Grisham
The Apostolic Writers' Digest
Editor-in-Chief

Bro. Grisham is a familiar face in the Kentucky District. He has ministered to our constituency many times.

One of the oldest "plays" in life is that of blaming others. If something goes wrong on any level it's someone else's fault. It plays itself out in family life, in human relations, politics and even church life.

It surfaces in the political decisions, family decisions, sporting events, etc. Hindsight is always better than foresight. Everyone seems to know what should have been done — after the fact.

The phrases, "It's his fault" or, "It's her fault" or, "It's their fault" ring out ever so clear. Then there's "They should have known better" or, "I told you so;" or it goes on and on. It can become vicious or even devastating. It most certainly will be come demeaning. That is the nature of the blame game.

Pinpointing Blame

If the child goes wrong... "Well, it's your fault, I tried to tell you." If the car turns out to be a lemon... "Well, don't blame me, it was your choice." Or in church life, if someone goes wrong... "I could have told you so, but no one would listen to me."

I recall a speaker making reference to a football player who always had a way of blaming something or someone when things went wrong. If he missed a pass he should have caught, he would fake a leg cramp and limp off the field. The speaker called it "the loser's limp." That unwillingness to just admit it, "I should have caught that ball." At other times his gestures implied, "You threw the ball too far — out of my reach. It's your fault - I'm not going to take the blame."

This "Blame Game" mentality spoils the possibility for unity. It cancels out the team spirit so desperately needed for every day ordinary accomplishments.

The "blamer" begins to rejoice when others fail. They can't hardly wait to see another "I told you so" situation occur.

Let's Get Rid of It

In church life it will keep us from fulfilling our place. When something works out wrong, let's rally together to support those who already have enough to handle. There will always be enough blame to go around. No one is perfect. We all need each other.

When things go well, let's be careful to allow others to share in the victory. The Lord wants everyone to do well. He will have enough rewards to go around. There will be sufficient "Well-Done's" to recognize all the worthy.

The following ministers received license at the Kentucky District Conference held April 21-23, 1999, at Carrollton, Kentucky.

Ordained:



Rev. Kenneth Scott

Local:



Rev. Robert Bell



Rev. David Flannery

General:



Rev. Johnny Cranor



Rev. Wayne "A. J." Dummitt



Rev. Kenneth Johnston



Rev. Wade Smith



Rev. Mark Lowe



Rev. Wayne Naylor



Rev. James Thornton



Rev. Richard Phillips

Not Pictured:

General — Rev. James Ruddles
Local — Rev. Stanford Medlock



Rev. Gerald Wallace

Who's Changing Who?



Remember the old Tarzan books? Remember the graphic images of half-naked savages clothed in loincloths dancing in the jungle? Their scantily-clothed bodies covered with artistic scars and pierced with bones and animal teeth! Reflecting those same uncivilized images were the early missionary slides of taking the gospel to the wild, untamed peoples of Africa, South America, Australia, etc.

The witch doctors were laughed at! Whoever heard of boiling roots? Of making a salve out of herbs? Or eating some exotic combination of plants to calm an intestinal or stomach disturbance? Such journalism giants as the *National Geographic Magazine* educated the more advanced countries about the Amazonian practice of killing one baby if twins were born to cannibal parents, due to the belief that one was a devil!

Voodoo? Black magic? Witchcraft? Get real! When an Indian medicine man, an African witch doctor, a voodoo practitioner was referred to, it would draw an immediate burst of laughter! But the years have come and gone. The information age has hit, and due to the invention of the micro-chip, information doubles every eighteen-twenty-four months! But have we progressed? Have we changed the primitive societies? Or have they changed us?

Take a look around you. One quick glance at *any* secular magazine will reveal the latest scantily-clad fashions! Body-piercing is popular on both coasts of America! What was hilarious in Tarzan's jungle is cool today! Boiling roots? Smashing leaves to make a salve? Herb medicine and natural remedies have become a national rage! Trendy college professors teach elective courses in human cannibalism, i.e. what-to-eat if you get stranded on a deserted island. The Amazonian native practice of baby killing pales in comparison to American mothers who kill 1.7 million of their own children every year by abortion!

Voodoo? Black magic? Witchcraft? No civilized culture would ever embrace such practices! **WRONG!** Go into any bookstore! The shelves are filled with how-to-literature from *The Satanic Bible* to *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*. So, it begs the question, as a society are we progressing? Or regressing? The media fills our minds with endless reports of rape, incest, disease, drive-by shootings, murder, embezzlement, betrayal, adulteries, teen-age sex, violence and so on, and so on. It makes you wonder about the *ascent* of man, doesn't it?

Doesn't it?

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

— Martin Luther

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VICTORY IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL

- Romans 5:3** *And not only (so), but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*
4 *And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*
5 *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

They say that every Christian finds himself in one of three places; he is either coming out of a trial, he is in the midst of a trial, or he is about to enter into a new trial. However, we must always keep in mind that the Scriptures promise us that all things will work together for our good. We must also remember that we cannot allow a root of bitterness to cause us to be angry at God or man. Remember, Satan has to first ask permission to even enter into a herd of swine! Satan cannot come against us without God's consent!

Our tribulations will give us experience, our experiences will produce the knowledge that helps us to teach and encourage others. Before Moses could lead Israel through the wilderness for 40 years he had first spent 40 years in the wilderness himself. Our experiences will then give birth to hope, our hope will give us the strength to continue against forces that seem impossible. When we have this hope we will have greater ability to be a witness to the unbeliever and then the mighty Love of God will begin to flow and touch the hearts of sinners. When we continue going forward in the service of the Lord we will eventually see our prayers answered.

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes. (Psalm 199:71). Trials and heartache are not enjoyable, but just as a loving mother will give a sick child a dose of bad tasting medicine, our God knows how to allow us to pass through a trial for our well being.

We look at the experiences of King David, he had to wait seven long years after his anointing before he actually sat upon the throne. These seven years of waiting were filled with trials and heartache. His own father-in-law sought to kill him. He had to feign himself as a madman in order to survive in a distant land. His only followers at the first were a group of base men and debtors. There was a time when even his own men were gathering up stones to kill him. His own son led his people into rebellion against him. His wife mocked him as he worshipped the Lord.

He groaned in the midst of his heartache, "My God, how long will you forget me? How long will you hide your face from me?" How often have we wept before the throne wondering where God is? How many times have we wondered what has become of all of the promises and dreams we hoped for?

David kept moving forward and we can read in Psalm 40: 1-5 that the victory and joy finally came and David lifted up his voice proclaiming, "I waited patiently

for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established by goings. He put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works, I would declare and speak of them, but they are more than can be numbered."

We can study the life of Moses, at times it seemed that the whole multitude of Israel, which numbered perhaps as many as 6,000,000 souls, was angry at him. How often did he think to himself, "is this the thanks I get for taking these people out of slavery?" Many times he must have been physically and emotionally drained from the multitudes. In the court of Pharaoh, Jannes and Jambres withstood him. Korah and 250 men rebelled against him. He went up to the mountain top and when he returned he found that all had backslid and gone back to their old ways. It appeared that all his work had been in vain.

A prayer that he made went unanswered, "Lord, I want to see you!" "No, Moses, no man can see my face and live". And so, after all of his faithfulness and labor, Moses went to the grave with his prayer unanswered, he was not allowed to see God's face. He was not even able to enter the promised land himself, he led Israel to the border and was only permitted to longingly gaze upon the promised paradise.

But wait, we read in Revelations that God has all of the prayers of the saints, our prayers don't die away. Let us fast-forward the story 1500 years. We find Jesus on the mountain with James, Peter and John. Jesus is changed before them, his face shines like the sun, and his clothes are as light, and all of a sudden, Moses and Elias stand before Jesus.

Moses' prayer lay dormant for centuries, then suddenly Moses is standing before Jesus, he has now entered into the promised land, and now he beholds the face of his God! His prayer seemingly forgotten through the ages is now answered! We must keep praying and believing, because someday the answer will come.

Paul, a mighty man of God, experienced his share of heartache. He was often in jail, he was whipped, in perils of death, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked,

he spent a night and day in the sea, he traveled by foot, he was in peril of rivers, in peril of robbers, in perils of his own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the desert, in perils of the sea, and in perils among false brethren, many times in fasting and thirst, in watchings, cold and nakedness, and above all the care and concern on his heart for the Church.

One day as he sat in a cold, dark prison cell, perhaps with rats scampering near his feet, and after all he suffered and continued to suffer, he was able to write the words, "In all things give thanks!"

As his end draws near, and he sits writing to a young preacher, perhaps he reflects back upon his many trials, and perhaps his mind is wondering what kind of heartache is in store for this sweet, innocent young man? He tells him, "...Endure afflictions, do the work that God has called you to, for I am now ready to be offered up, I have finished my course, it is time for me to leave this world behind, but there is a crown that waits for me, there is coming a day when the nailed scared hands will lovingly place it upon my head! Not only me, but to all those who keep on going!" He was unable to predict with detail the trials that lay in store for the young man, but we were able to predict a happy ending!

When we consider Joseph, we can see that he also suffered much. He was cast into a well by his own brothers. His own flesh and blood sold him into slavery. He ended up in a country far from his home. He was falsely accused. Had he yielded to temptation he might not have ended up in prison, but he would have also walked out of the pages of history forever. He was imprisoned as a result of his integrity! How many days while in prison did he wonder to himself, "My father is a wealthy man!, Oh, why can't he come and rescue me! After he was finally freed, how many times did he look out across the desert longing for home?"

Just before his death he petitioned the children of Israel to take his body from Egypt, knowing that the time would come when God would take his people home to Canaan. He had always longed for home. The centuries passed by and Israel was lead from Egypt by the mighty hand of God. Joseph's body was brought to a place that his father had purchased many years before. A place where Jacob had dedicated an altar to "El-elohe-Israel", meaning, "Mighty is the God of Israel!" And indeed He was a Mighty God, after all of the afflictions were done, Joseph finally returned to his home.

There will dawn a day in which trails and afflictions will be over, a day in which the Church will finally go Home.

John Guidry, Pastor
Iglesia Pentecostal Unida de Mexico
Nuevo Laredo, Mexico

Principles in Applying Scripture

It is essential that all Scripture be diligently studied and accurately applied. Each application must be in harmony with total meaning and message of Scripture, not from an isolated verse taken out of context.

We are to "study to show ourselves approved unto God" as workmen who do not need to be ashamed, knowing how to "rightly divide" the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

A. Working Through The Text:

Before any application of Scripture can be made, there must be a thorough understanding of what the text is actually saying.

- ❖ Why was it written?
- ❖ To whom was it written?
- ❖ What were the conditions at the time?
- ❖ What is the precise meaning?
- ❖ What related scriptures explain it further?

Studying to show ourselves "approved unto God" goes far deeper than learning all the facts of the text.

B. Meditating On The Text:

Only as we meditate on large sections of Scripture will we begin to see the underlying principles of application to daily living. David testified, "I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation" (Psalm 119:99; John 5:39; Acts 17:11).

There is only one interpretation of any particular scripture, but there are many applications. These open up worlds of meaning in life.

C. Discovering Principles In The Text:

After a section of Scripture becomes a living part of our thinking and we put related passages together, we begin to see underlying principles within that Scripture which can be applied to our lives.

A good illustration of this is found in I Timothy 5:18 and I Corinthians 9:7-14. Paul was emphasizing the right which ministers of the Gospel have to expect a living wage. To support this he used what first appears to be a verse out of context (Deuteronomy 25:4), but he goes on to explain the underlying principles in it which have universal application (verse 10).

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