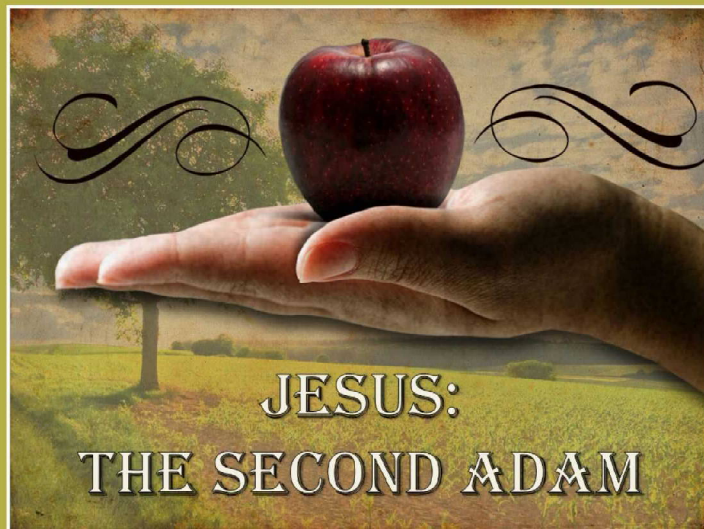


*Kirkspire*



JESUS:  
THE SECOND ADAM

1 Cor.15:47

NOVEMBER 2018

## CONTENTS

Word from the Pastor - <i>Rev. Isaac Johnson</i>	3
Answers to Bible Quiz No. 92	4
Health Hazards of Water Pollution - Part 2 - <i>Rajini Kantha Narendranath</i>	5
About Alcohol Addiction - <i>Paul T Vedamuthu</i>	7
John's Corner - <i>John H. Bala Singh</i>	14
Bible Quiz No.94 - November 2018 - <i>Usha George</i>	15
Purpose of Life : Part 15 - <i>M M Narendranath</i>	16
Kirk News	18

*Editor : Mrs. R. Chandy*



## Word from the Pastor

### COSTLY CHOICE

*For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.  
(Romans 5:19)*

Whenever I talk to someone about the urgency of responding to God's word, there are two types of responses. Some who understand the need to closely walk with God and others who say it is not so bad after all. The second group goes on to say, 'we are not so bad after all' and 'the bible cannot and need not be the only rule book to follow'. The second group's responses remind me of the deception that the first couple fell into. When satan deceived them in the garden of Eden, these were the words that he fed into their minds. God's word is not the final word, God's word should not be taken seriously and most importantly, God's word can be slightly deviated with no glaring and serious consequences. If only Adam & Eve knew that about 6000 years later, people would kill others on racial grounds, children will be sold for money and women will be abused in the most horrific manner and these will be taken as 'daily news' without any hope of justice, redemption or restoration, I wonder if they would have taken their 'one choice' even more seriously.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57) Where the first Adam failed, the good news of the gospel message is that Jesus Christ – the second Adam won. The Triune God made many choices for our redemption and here are a few to make us wonder, worship and weep in tears of joy.

1. God chose to give us the promise of redemption (Genesis 3:15)
2. Father chose to send His Son to the earth (John 3:16)
3. The Holy Spirit chose to fill Jesus at baptism (Luke 3:22)
4. Jesus chose to obey the Father every step of the way (Hebrews 5:8)

5. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus chose to go to the Cross (Matthew 26:39)

6. God chose to raise Jesus from the dead (1 Corinthians 6:14)...and so much more.

Every choice that every man makes every day has consequences. Some have temporary and trivial consequences. Others have eternal and dangerous consequences. CHOOSE TO OBEY GOD.

*Rev. Isaac Johnson*



Answers to Bible Quiz No. 93 – October 2018

**A Dentist's Quiz (King James Version)**

1. "The children's teeth are set on edge" – Jeremiah 31:29
2. The Mosaic Law – Exodus 21:24
3. Take away their power of doing mischief – Psalm 58:6
4. When the children of Israel gorged themselves on the quail – Numbers 11:33
5. Solomon – 1 Kings 10:22-23
6. No – it is "with the skin of my teeth" Job 19:20
7. The Song of Solomon – Song of Solomon 4:2
8. Daniel – Daniel 7:7
9. The parable of the tares – Matthew 13:42
10. Locusts – Revelation 9:8

The winners are:

- 1. Dr. (Mrs.) Sujatha Elizabeth Prasad**
- 2. Mrs. Aruna Asir**
- 3. Mrs. Peace Rani Sudhakar**
- 4. Mrs. Victoria Basker**
- 5. Mrs. Minnie Devadoss**
- 6. Mrs. Indira Rajanayakam**

Hearty congratulations!

*Usha George*



Medical Corner

## Health Hazards of Water Pollution-Part-2

“Doctors treat but Jesus heals”

### EFFECTS OF WATER POLLUTION ON HUMAN HEALTH

There is a greater association between water pollution and health problems.

#### BACTERIAL DISEASES

##### DIARRHOEA

Untreated drinking water and fecal contamination of water is the major cause of diarrhoea. Fever, abdominal pain, nausea, headache are major symptoms of diarrhoea. Good hygienic practices like washing hands after visiting the rest room can prevent this disease. Disease Cholera is caused by water contaminated by cholera germs. Cholera bacteria produce toxins in digestive tracts. The symptoms of Cholera are nausea, vomiting and watery diarrhoea which leads to dehydration and renal failure. Anti-cholera treatment is used to treat this disease.

##### TYPHOID

*Salmonella* bacteria are found in contaminated water and it results in inflammation of intestine and often death occurs. Specific antibiotics are prescribed for Typhoid.

#### VIRAL DISEASES

##### HEPATITIS

Hepatitis is a viral disease caused by contaminated water and infects the liver. Jaundice, loss of appetite, fatigue, discomfort and high fever are symptoms of hepatitis. If it persists for a long time it may be fatal and results in death. Vaccine is available for hepatitis and one can develop immunity.

##### ENCEPHALITIS

Encephalitis is an inflammatory disease spread by bite of infected mosquitoes. Culex mosquito lays their eggs in contaminated water. Symptoms are headache, high fever, muscle stiffness, convulsions.

However in severe cases coma and paralysis results. No vaccine is available for this disease.

### **POLIO**

Sore throat, fever, nausea, constipation and diarrhoea and sometimes paralysis are symptoms of poliomyelitis. Vaccine is available for this disease.

### **GASTROENTERITIS**

Gastroenteritis is caused by different viruses which cause vomiting, headache and fever. Symptoms appear 1 to 2 days after infection. Sickness can be dangerous among infants, young children and disabled persons.

### **PARASITIC DISEASES**

#### **AMOEBIASIS**

Some parasites can cause diarrhoea, loose or watery bowels, stomach cramps and upset stomach. It can affect the immune system and it is the cause of diarrhoea and vomiting in humans. This amoeba affects stomach lining. This parasite undergoes cyst and non-cyst form. Infection occurs when cyst found in contaminated water is swallowed. Symptoms are fever, chills and watery diarrhoea.

#### **GIARDIASIS**

Giardiasis is caused by a parasite which injures Cells of intestinal lining. *Giardia* is resistant to wintry temperature and disinfectant. Sometimes it is known as travellers' disease. People suffering from giardiasis have symptoms of bloating, excess gas, watery diarrhoea and weight loss.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Water pollution is a global issue and world community is facing worst results of polluted water. Major sources of water pollution are discharge of domestic and agriculture wastes, population growth, excessive use of pesticides, fertilizers and urbanization. Bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases are spreading through polluted water and affecting human health. It is recommended that there should be proper waste disposal system and waste water should be treated before entering in to river. Educational and awareness programs should be organized to control the pollution.

*Dr.Rajinikantha Narendranath*

## ABOUT ALCOHOL ADDICTION

WHO HAS WOE? WHO HAS SORROW?

WHO HAS STRIFE?

WHO HAS NEEDLESS BRUISES?

WHO HAS BLOODSHOT EYES?

THOSE WHO LINGER OVER WINE, WHO GO TO SAMPLE BOWLS OF MIXED WINE.

DO NOT GAZE AT WINE WHEN IT IS RED, WHEN IT SPARKLES IN THE CUP, WHEN IT GOES DOWN SMOOTHLY!

IN THE END IT BITES LIKE A SNAKE AND POISONS LIKE A VIPER. YOUR EYES WILL SEE STRANGE SIGHTS; AND YOUR MIND IMAGINE CONFUSING THINGS. YOU WILL BE LIKE ONE SLEEPING ON HIGH SEAS, LYING ON TOP OF THE RIGGING.

"THEY HIT ME," YOU WILL SAY "BUT I'M NOT HURT!"

"THEY BEAT ME, BUT I DON'T FEEL IT;

WHEN WILL I WAKE UP SO I CAN FIND ANOTHER DRINK!"

Proverbs 23:29-35

When you hear or see this word, and If you think that it refers to ONLY ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUGS, think again and it will change your opinion. Since we never say, Alcohol or Drug Addiction particularly, when we hear the word addiction, we automatically think that it should be ONLY Alcohol and/or Drug addiction.

There are so many addictions. "A loose definition of addiction would be this: **ANYTHING THAT WE DO MORE THAN WE ARE SUPPOSED TO IS AN ADDICTION.**" As humans, we all are supposed to do certain things as it's our responsibility and even duty in certain cases. Anything that makes us neglect or omit doing that instead is an "Addiction."

So if we analyse with the above definition, we would have to say that there are several things/actions that we do everyday which can be categorised as 'Addiction.' The following can be or become addictions. For example: SHOPPING, READING, RELIGION, INTERNET, SMART PHONES, and the list goes on and on. If we spend more time than we are supposed to on any of these activity/activities, it is an Addiction.

So what happens, if we are addicted to any one of these, we spend too much of time in the activity of our choice. By doing this, we neglect our regular work or responsibility, and this affects our normal / regular life. So IF that happens, we can say that we are addicted. These are

as harmful as Alcohol and/or drug Addiction. We do not realise this. The above mentioned addictions do not affect us physically as much as alcohol and drug does.

Once a guy was addicted to buying photographic equipment. This was during the days when people used films. So he collected so many photographic equipment in his Dark Room that he could not even enter the room. When he talked to his doctor about this, he advised him to stop buying the photography stuff. When he stopped that, he went into withdrawal. Usually, when people stop any of the habits that they are used to - for example drinking coffee (too much) or cigarette smoking, for years and when they stop that habit, they will have certain withdrawal symptoms. Withdrawal is our body asking for that 'stuff' which we have been taking for so long. Later on, we can see the withdrawals for so many different drugs as well as alcohol.

Even medicines that we take for our ailments do have side-effects. When that is the case, imagine putting any kind of chemical in our body! When we drink coffee the first thing in the morning and if we stop drinking coffee, we have what is called a withdrawal symptom. We get a head ache and we wonder how come we got it. The reason is that the body cells that got used to the caffeine are missing that. So it is sending signals to the brain and we have the headache. In the same way, smokers of cigarettes, when they stop smoking, they also have withdrawal symptoms. They are very irritable, get angry easily or they do not eat properly or eat too much. It can go either way depending on several factors.

When this is the case, how much more withdrawals will there be with a person who quits drinking alcohol or stops using drugs. We shall see that later with different kinds of drugs and the withdrawals for each one.

We use the word "**DE- Addiction**" very casually and loosely. To go in for 'De-addiction', one has to be addicted to some substance. If we see someone drinking a beer once, we can't say, "Oh! My God, this person is addicted to Alcohol and so he needs to be de-addicted." Since alcohol has been a part and parcel of certain cultures, there's something called "**SOCIAL DRINKING**" which is just taking something once in a great while, a little bit, socially. Social drinkers will know when to stop drinking and they know when to say "NO" to the alcohol.

The other kind of drinking is called 'addictive drinking.' People who are into addictive drinking "NEVER SAY NO" to alcohol. They actually do not know how to restrain themselves from drinking. These are also called 'problem drinkers.' Either they neglect their duty/



responsibility due to their drinking or they get into trouble every time they drink. One can be called an alcoholic, even if they drink only once a year, but get into so many issues on that day that they normally do not get into, then they can be called an alcoholic. De-addiction is a process that an 'ADDICTED PERSON HAS TO GO THROUGH' usually in a hospital setting and under the care of a physician. If a heavy drinker for many years decides for some reason to stop his habit, he should not suddenly decide so and stop drinking. It can be life threatening.

As mentioned above De-addiction is ONLY for problem drinkers and those who have had the habit for many years. Again it doesn't mean that if a person drinks for many years, he is an alcoholic. If a person drinks even for a couple of years he can become addicted and may need to be "Detoxed" in a hospital setting. After that process is done, then they can go for treatment or "Rehabilitation."

Rehabilitation usually takes time. Depending on the use of alcohol, it can be anywhere from 7 days to 28 days. Normally, it is said that it takes 28 days. A person enters treatment when they have decided to stop drinking or use of drugs.

If a person wants to enter the treatment process, the first step will be to sit with a counsellor specialised in Substance Use issues and complete an assessment. In this process the person who wants to get 'clean and sober,' has to inform the counsellor all the details of their drinking habits like when did they start drinking first, how much do they drink and how long (number of years) they have been drinking. The counsellors will also find out, from the report, if the person needs any detoxification. If so, the counsellor would first send the person to a hospital to get de-toxed. This can take anywhere from 3 to 10 days depending on how long they have been drinking and how much they are drinking currently.

There is something we call 'tolerance' level. A person who starts drinking initially, may not be able to drink much. If a person is able to tolerate much even during the first time or in the initial stages, it gives an indication that he could become an 'alcoholic.' So, depending on the history of his addiction to the substance, we put them in one of three categories which are "MISUSE, ABUSE AND ADDICTION". Again, in the addiction stage also there are three categories depending on their level of addiction. In the MISUSE and ABUSE levels, we recommend that they go in for an Intensive Out-patient Treatment Group. Of course in the addiction stage, we recommend In-patient treatment.

The Intensive Out-patient Stage consists of 8 weeks of treatment, which is three times a week for 8 weeks, and after that we recommend that they attend the Aftercare Program, which will be once a week for another 8 weeks.

So the symptoms of alcohol dependence would be:

**CRAVING: A STRONG NEED OR COMPULSION TO DRINK.**

**LOSS OF CONTROL: THE INABILITY TO LIMIT ONE'S DRINKING ON ANY GIVEN OCCASION. IN OTHER WORDS, A PERSON WHO HAS A DEPENDENCE WILL NEVER SAY 'NO' TO ALCOHOL AT ANY TIME.**

**PHYSICAL DEPENDENCE: WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS NAUSEA, SWEATING, SHAKING AND ANXIETY OCCUR WHEN ALCOHOL USE IS STOPPED AFTER A PERIOD OF HEAVY DRINKING.**

Serious dependence can lead to life-threatening withdrawal symptoms including convulsions starting 8-12 hours after the last drink. The Delirium Tremens (D.T's) 3-4 days later where the person becomes extremely agitated, shakes, hallucinates and loses touch with reality.

TOLERANCE: The need to drink greater amount of alcohol in order to get high. A person may say, "I can quit anytime when I choose to." But Alcoholism is not like a destination. It is progressive. A long road of deterioration in which life continuously worsens.

**SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL DRINKING:**

Depending on how much is taken and the physical condition of the individual as well as the gender, alcohol can cause:

Slurred Speech, Drowsiness, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Upset stomach, Headaches, Breathing Difficulties, Distorted vision and hearing, Impaired judgement, Decreased perception and coordination, Unconsciousness, Anemia, Coma, Blackouts (memory lapses - the drinker cannot remember events that happened while under the influence of alcohol)

BINGE Drinking: Consuming large amounts of alcohol in a single session, usually defined as five or more drinks during one session for men and four or more drinks at a time for women.

**LONG-TERM EFFECTS:** Many health problems are associated with this kind of consumption:

Increased on-the-job injuries and loss of productivity, increased family problems, Broken relationships, Alcohol poisoning, High Blood pressure, stroke and other heart-related diseases, Liver disease, Nerve damage, Sexual problems, Permanent damage to the brain, Vitamin B deficiency

which can lead to a disorder characterised by amnesia, apathy and disorientation, Ulcers, Gastritis (inflammation of stomach walls), Malnutrition, Cancer of the mouth and throat.

Alcohol acts differently on men and women. The tolerance level is lower for women. Whichever way we see it, Alcohol is a slow killer and with drastic effects. Sometimes, people may argue that if we consume it with care, nothing will happen. The nature of the beast is such that one cannot keep in control of their consumption. It's very subtle and the tolerance will definitely go up. People who are alcoholics are not bad people, but they are good people with a bad habit. So Alcoholism is accepted as a disease by the American Medical Association.

**ALCOHOLISM IS A BI-PSYCHO SOCIAL DISEASE SINCE IT AFFECTS US BIOLOGICALLY, PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND SOCIALLY.**

**Why is alcoholism called a disease?**

There are so many Diseases that we see on a regular basis. Some of the most common diseases are: HEART DISEASE, DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, LIVER DISEASE AND SO MANY OTHER DISEASES ALSO. Whatever illness (disease) does not make us to be AT EASE, IS A DISEASE. The American Medical Association calls these as diseases. So what would be a simple definition of a disease? SOME ILLNESS WE GET IN VARIOUS WAYS INCLUDING THROUGH PARENTAL GENES, BY OUR LIFE-STYLE ALSO WE GET SEVERAL DISEASES. We get these diseases and there is no cure for them. We can only arrest them. But eventually, our end comes through the disease we have. The AMA applied this rule to Alcoholism and found it to be true. Through the parental or grandparents' genes or through our life style habits we get the disease. Then we can only arrest it just like we do with the other common diseases. In other words, it does not completely go away. We can only arrest it. Later on from the complications that come due to that, we die. Not too long ago only, the AMA accepted calling Alcoholism a disease.

We said that Alcoholism is a **BI - PSYCHO SOCIAL DISEASE**. First it affects us biologically and then we are affected Psychologically and then we see the effects Socially also.

When we treat the disease, we start the other way. First the **SOCIAL CHANGE HAS TO OCCUR AND BECAUSE OF THIS, NATURALLY WE SEE A PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE AND THEN THE BIOLOGICAL CHANGE OCCURS NATURALLY AS THE TOXIC STUFF GETS OUT OF OUR BODY!**

When a person drinks alcohol, it gets mixed with the blood and travels through all the parts of our body, including the brain. It's absorbed in the stomach and most of the alcohol comes out as sweat as well as urine. Because of this, it's easy to find out if a person has been drinking due to the smell. The alcohol is also excreted through the pores in our body as sweat and so that also smells of alcohol, unlike the other drugs.

Alcohol is absorbed into the blood stream via small blood vessels in the walls of the stomach and small intestine. Within minutes of drinking alcohol, it travels from the stomach to the brain, where it quickly produces its effects, slowing the action of nerve cells.

Approximately 20% of alcohol is absorbed through the stomach. Most of the remaining 80% is absorbed through the small intestine. Alcohol is also carried by the bloodstream to the liver, which eliminates the alcohol through a process called "metabolising," where it is converted into a non-toxic substance. The liver can metabolise a certain amount at a time, leaving the excess circulating throughout the body. Thus the intensity of the effect on the body is directly related to the amount consumed.

When the amount of alcohol in the blood exceeds a certain level, the respiratory (breathing) system slows down markedly and can cause a coma or death because Oxygen no longer reaches the brain.

What is the difference between a so-called Social Drinker and an alcoholic? As we mentioned that the blood goes through the brain, it forms a substance called ACETELDEHYDE mixing with the chemicals in our system and starts accumulating in the brain. When this starts happening, after a certain amount is stored, the person becomes alcoholic. No one can say as to how long it takes for a person to turn into an alcoholic. It may take a couple of months or it may happen after years and years of drinking too!

#### **WHY DO WE KEEP FOCUSING ON YOUNG PEOPLE?**

A young person's body cannot cope with alcohol the same way an adult can. Drinking is more harmful to teens than adults because their brains are still developing throughout adolescence and well into young adulthood. Drinking during this critical growth period can lead to lifelong damages in brain function, particularly as it relates to memory, motor skills (ability to move) and coordination.

According to research, young people who begin drinking before age 15 are 4 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.

## **WHY DO PEOPLE DRINK ALCOHOL?**

Various people will give various reasons for it. At what age do we start drinking and when do we become alcoholics? Several people may give several answers. There's no age limit to start. I have seen a ten year old American Indian boy who was a full-blown alcoholic. On the other hand, I have also seen people who have been drinking very regularly live for over 85 years too, and not become an alcoholic. An easy way to determine if one is an alcoholic is by observing their drinking habits. If a person knows when to stop drinking and says "NO" when the drink is offered, we can say that person is not an alcoholic, or the chances of that person becoming alcoholic is very slim!

Ethanol is metabolised to ACETALDEHYDE by alcohol DEHYDROGENASE (ADH), WHICH IS FOUND IN MANY TISSUES INCLUDING THE GASTRIC MUCOSA. ACETALDEHYDE DEHYDROGENASE (ALDH) WHICH IS FOUND PREDOMINANTLY IN LIVER MITOCHONDRIA. ACETATE IS USED BY THE MUSCLE CELLS TO PRODUCE ACETYL CoA USING THE ENZYME ACETYL-CoA SYNTHETASE, AND THE ACETYL-CoA IS THEN USED IN THE CITRIC ACID CYCLE.

**TO PUT IN LAYMAN'S WORDS, ALCOHOL WHICH IS TURNED TO ACETALDEHYDE BY THE ENZYMES IN OUR BODY BECOMES THE POISONOUS STUFF. WHEN THIS ACCUMULATES IN THE BODY, ONE BECOMES AN ALCOHOLIC. NO ONE KNOWS WHEN IT WILL HAPPEN - THE TIME LINE.**

Ethanol's acute effects are due largely to its nature as a CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DEPRESSANT, AND ARE DEPENDENT ON BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATIONS.

20-79mg/dL impaired co ordination and euphoria

80-199mg/dL Binge drinking: Ataxia, poor judgement, labile mood. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) defines the term "binge drinking" as a pattern of drinking that brings a person's alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 g/dL or above.

200- 299 mg/dL Marked Ataxia, poor judgement, labile mood, nausea and vomiting

300-399 mg/dL: Stage 1 anaesthesia ("black out"), memory lapse, labile mood

400+ mg/dL Respiratory failure, coma.

As drinking increases, people become sleepy or fall into a stupor. After very high level of consumption, the respiratory system becomes

depressed and the person will stop breathing. Comatose patients may aspirate their vomit (resulting in vomitus in the lungs, which may cause "drowning" and later pneumonia, if the patient survives). CNS depression and impaired co-ordination along with poor judgement increases the likelihood of accidental injury occurring. It is estimated that about one-third of alcohol-related deaths are due to accidents. Another 14% are from intentional injury.

The other common drug among school going and college youngsters is Marijuana (MA-RI-UVANA) and we shall talk about it later. In the meanwhile, if you have any questions about **ADDICTION** of any kind or have questions regarding alcohol, kindly contact:

*PAUL T VEDAMUTHU*  
CELL PHONE # 98400 97257.



### John's Corner

## LOVE

(Read Matt.5:43-44, Rom.12:19; John 13:34-35)

It's natural to seek revenge,  
One's ego to satisfy,  
But Christ taught a better way,  
Let His love be your reply.

"Love your enemies," said Christ,  
"And bless the ones who curse you."  
God His children will avenge,  
And give the wicked their due.

Look to Christ and rest assured  
The just He'll always uphold.  
Show His love and you will draw  
Your enemies to Christ's fold.

*John H. Bala Singh.*

Bible Quiz No. 94 – November 2018

**An Archer's Quiz (King James Version)**

**Give only 1 reference where necessary.**



1. Who is the first archer mentioned in the Bible?
2. Who killed a famous warrior with a simple version of the bow and arrow?
3. Who gave a warning to his beloved friend, by throwing three arrows?
4. When Absalom was caught by his hair in an oak tree, who killed him with three darts?
5. What did David mean when he said, "happy is the man who hath his quiver full of them". Full of what?
6. Who asked his son to take his "quiver and bow" and kill a deer?
7. Did Moses, Hannah or Deborah say: "the bows of the mighty men are broken"?
8. Which tribesmen were the "mighty men" and "helpers" of David famous for their ability to shoot with the bow and arrow – both right-handed and left-handed?
9. From which Psalm are these words taken: "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day"?
10. Who said "Ye shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked" "with the shield of faith"?

Kindly send your answers to the church office by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

*Usha George*

## **Purpose of life: Part 15.**

### **Learning and Unlearning**

God's **timing** in the time line of events in planning for the sacrificial Lamb has lot of significance of it being "**before**" or "**after**" the creation of the world.

#### **Part 2**

In our earlier part 14 we said that some incidents get fixed in our mind in a manner that it becomes very difficult to get them dislodged or look from any other angle even if some revelations are made later in scripture that was contrary to our earlier belief.

We have been brought up to believe that Adam and Eve should not have failed God's test. But what we do not understand is that any one in Adam's place would have failed when the time period for test was for eternity. God need not test one to know the outcome. Being omniscient He would know the end from the beginning. Thus He would have known that they would fail. Then why should He command? To understand that we should "**unlearn**" what we learnt and "**learn**" to look from another angle.

#### **Learning itself is difficult:**

Some friends successfully hunted four deer in the Alps and hired a helicopter to carry them. The pilot opined that it would be risky to carry four deer and suggested that they leave one to avoid a disaster due to excess weight. But the friends persuaded the pilot to take all the four and as it flew the chopper lost altitude and crashed. As the pilot was wondering where they had crashed, one of the friends said, not far from where they crashed with four deer earlier!

#### **Unlearning is more difficult:**

Peter being a Jew considered himself a higher class and did not want to mingle with Gentiles (Acts 10:28). God in a vision told Peter not to call anything unclean what God called clean and instructed him to go to the home of Cornelius a Gentile (Acts 10:15). Yet we find Paul rebuking Peter later for not eating with Gentiles. (Galatians 2:11-12.)

Similarly, having viewed the "fall" of mankind from a certain angle for all these centuries we find it difficult to view it from any other angle. It is because we view the redemptive act of God as a remedial action



for Man's "fall". However the following Scripture passages would reveal that it was not a remedial action but God's preplan based on His foreknowledge.

*This man was handed over to you by **God's set purpose and foreknowledge**; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. Acts 2:23*

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **He was chosen before the creation of the world**, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 1 Peter 1:18-20*

From the above passage we note that Jesus Christ was handed over by God's set purpose and foreknowledge. Also, as a sacrificial Lamb, He was set apart even before the creation of the world and much **"before"** the "fall"!

One may wonder: as to what difference there is between "before" and "after" in setting apart the Lamb to be slain with respect to the creation of the world. If it is "after", then our present theology would make sense and we can blame Adam and escape from our responsibilities. But if it is "before", then we can be sure that God should have had a plan even through the "fall".

If at all there is one person who would know what would happen in future, it is God. If God, through His foreknowledge, had known for sure that Adam and Eve would not eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge He would not have planned for the Lamb to be slain before the creation of the world. If, however, He had set aside the Lamb to be slain even before the creation of the world, then one cannot presume that Adam and Eve could have remained obedient for eternity of time. That leaves us with a big question as to why God might **"knowingly"** go ahead with such a plan that culminated in the death of Adam and Eve and the **"fall"** of the whole of mankind. If we wish to understand this we must **"unlearn"** what we have learnt all these centuries.

To continue

*MM Narendranath*

## Kirk News



### Guest Speakers

**14<sup>th</sup> Oct 7 & 9am** Dr. Raj Kumar Songa spoke at the Healing Ministry Sunday services on "Redefining Success" based on Matthew 25:21, Psalm 127:2.

**28<sup>th</sup> Oct 6pm** Miss Maria Benjamin spoke at the Youth & Koinonia service on "The Binding" (on following God's leading in faith especially when God chooses not to fully reveal what the future holds) from Genesis 22:1-19.

**Monday Bible Study** The study of Ezekiel continued, led by Rev. Isaac Johnson.

**Friendship Club** The elder brothers and sisters went on their annual outing to Kosappur church on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. They had a special time of worship, singing and fellowship.

**Evangelism and Missions Movement's Fasting and Prayer** met on Thursdays with prayers for the church, evangelists, outreach areas and national issues. Please join us between 10.30am and 1.30pm on Thursdays as we petition the Lord with the day-to-day needs of the church, the nation and the world.

**Friday Prayer** Rev. Isaac continued leading the prayer group with the study of Proverbs.

**House Church** was held in the homes of Mr. & Mrs. Mark Alexander Mr. Joshua Chelliah & Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Chelliah and Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Ponraj.

**District Meetings** District 1 met on 14 Oct in the DCC hall.

We thank the Lord for the members who opened their homes in Christian love and fellowship.

**Sunday school** was held after the 9am services.

**Kirk Youth Fellowship** met for prayer and discussion on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. They participated in the church service at Tirupalaivanam on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a Bible Study on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct on 1 Thessalonians. On 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, KYF organised the Annual Outreach Youth Catalyst with the participation of youth from the outreach churches.

**The Kirk Men's Fellowship** met on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct Bro. Paul Balasundaram, with a background in corporate life and later as (former) Executive Director of Haggai Institute, spoke about Leadership and God's Kingdom,

**Kirk Women's Fellowship** went on a retreat on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Monthly Night Prayer** was held on Friday 26 Oct.

**Other news:**

***Seminar on Biblical Financial Principals on Sat, 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018 between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm***

What does the Bible teach us about Money, Budgeting, Giving, Saving, investing, borrowing and how to get out of Debt? To find the answers to these questions come and be a part of this seminar. We encourage everyone to be take part. Please register yourself today (A nominal charge of Rs.200/- per head towards Lunch expenses). Good for couples, singles planning to get married, youth etc.

***Seminar on overcoming addictions*** Mr. Paul T. Vedamuthu, our member, will be speaking on the Topic: "SICK AND TIRED OF BEING SICK AND TIRED" – How to deal with addictions, which will be helpful for families as they deal with this issue. It will be held in SACCE hall on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov after the 9AM service, from 11 am to 1 pm closing with lunch. Registration is Rs.150 per person. Please spread the word.

***Junior Piano Recital*** The Junior Piano Recital for Children and Young Adults will be held on Saturday, 1st Dec at 6.30 PM in our church. The Recital is being organised with a view to encourage young musicians and appreciate musical talent that needs to be nurtured for use in God's kingdom. Children and young adults in the age group of 7 to 21 years, who can play the piano, and those appearing for the graded examinations, are invited to participate. Besides Piano, those who play solo instruments such as Violin, Flute etc., can also participate. For details please contact Shanthakumar (Mobile No.98400 85392 / 99404 85647)

**Obituaries**

**Dr. (Mrs.) Prabhavathi Vizia Kumar**, M.B.B.S. (Guntur Medical College), D.A (London), our member, passed away on 30th September 2018 aged 84 years. The funeral was held on 1st October in Kakinada (A.P). We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

**Mr. E. Thomas Mathew**, our member, passed away on 7th Oct 2018, aged 79 years. The funeral was held on 11th Oct in The Kirk. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.



Kirk Women's Fellowship Retreat - October 20th 2018



