



October 2015 NEWS LETTER

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“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the FIFTH DAY.” Genesis 1: 20-13

Dear Friends and Family,

Rodney and I request special prayer for his brother Bob who lives in Florida. He has just learned he has a mass on his pancreas. Also my daughter Lois still needs your prayers. It seems like everyone, or someone in their family, has serious problems of some sort. It seems no one is exempt from troubles. This is even more reason for all of us to be sure we have a right relationship with our Heavenly Father because He is the only one who can help us. We are not in Heaven yet and this world is full of trouble and sorrow because of sin which entered into it through disobedience of our original parents. The only antidote is Jesus our Lord.

Our Message for this month is: WORSHIP

JOURNEY FROM PATMOS (continued)

There was a man who just built a \$500,000 home in the country. They were a young couple with two lovely daughters, perfect health, and lots of money.

Just before the home was finished and they were ready to move in, he was driving down a road when a semi-truck started to pass another semi-truck, not seeing that he was coming from the other way. There was no place to turn at that juncture of the road as there was an embankment right beside him. He was killed instantly. He never got to enjoy his dream home.

I hope he was ready for the home above, don't you?

The best of homes are but temporary and filled with sorrow and tears.

I want to go to a place where there will be no more tears. The promise is that "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more pain, for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4). God wipes away even the sad memories of the past with the handkerchief of His love.

Many people have tried to make themselves a little heaven here on earth. Some have been lured to the beautiful islands with their graceful palm trees, green hills, bubbling fountains, fragrant flowers, and mild weather year around, fanned by gentle breezes.

The story has been told of a couple who had finally reached the time when they could look forward to retiring and enjoying life together. They began looking for the perfect place a little haven of rest where they could enjoy peace. They began looking for a peaceful island that would not be of interest to the greedy nations or have any strategic importance in time of war. They looked for an island that had never been the scene of warfare and had no warring tribes on it.

After a thorough search, they found just the right place and set up their dream home on an island in the South Atlantic. It was the Falkland Islands!

There is no place on earth that is free from the problems and troubles that sin brings. Our only escape is to look for that city "whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

Some years before World War II, another couple decided that they wanted to find security in this world. They had lived through World War I, and they could see that there was increasing tension in the world. They wanted to locate as far away from Europe and war as possible. Yet they wanted to remain in the British commonwealth, with the British laws of protection. So they settled on an estate on Guadalcanal..... the scene of some of the bloodiest battles during World War II!

Nearly 2,000 years ago, our Saviour promised to go prepare a place for us in heaven. He said there are many mansions there for us. It has been a long time since He left with the promise to return. And the signs all foretell that it is time for Him to come again. Yet, who is preparing? Who is really wanting to go there?

Daydream with me for a moment. Imagine that you are in heaven at evening time and you happen to come upon two figures. The one you quickly recognize is Jesus and the other is Gabriel, the highest angel in heaven. You walk behind them, unobserved, through heavenly beauty that is beyond description, for "eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

But the beauty tonight seems marred by the strange silence of the two. They have come now into that vast uninhabited part of the city. The homes that line its winding streets are lovely beyond words. The terraces, the lawns of living green, the rose gardens in bloom, would bring tears of joy to any child of God who, looking upon such beauty, could cherish even the faintest hope of one day possessing it.

At last Gabriel breaks the silence. "Master," he says, "all that has come from Your hand is good. These homes are no exception. They are exquisite as only You could make them."

"They would be beautiful," is the Master's reply, "if they were not empty." Again there is silence.

Gabriel speaks, "Master, when do You plan to bring them home?"

"Not yet," He replies. Then softly, with a look of yearning sadness, "No, not yet."

"But isn't it time to go for them?"

"Yes." And His sadness seems to deepen.

There is another moment of silence, and then "Master, You know, there is a housing shortage down there. Many have no homes. There is a continual clamor to find them. But the strange thing is that those who do have them seem to be satisfied with the old earth. They seem to feel no need of heaven. But, Master, the loveliest homes down there are only shacks compared to those that You have built."

"I know," the Saviour says. There is more silence, and this time the Master is the one to break it. "Gabriel, do you see those groups of people in all lands the ones that are praying?"

"Yes, Master."

"They are My people, Gabriel. They are faithful to Me. They keep My commandments. They love My words. They tell others about Me. They pray, 'Even so, come,

Lord Jesus.' " The Master hesitates. Then He continues, "But, Gabriel, sometimes when My people feel that I am about to come for them, I detect a worried look on their faces, as if. . . "

The Master cannot say what is on His heart. Gabriel knows, and turns his face, for he has no answer for his Lord.

A few moments pass and the angel turns again, his face expressing the love and admiration that are in his heart. "Jesus," he says. The Saviour's face lights up as Gabriel addresses Him. He loves to be called by the name that in a special way, expresses His mission to a fallen world. "And thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Gabriel pauses an instant, and as he looks at the nail prints in His hands, clasps both wounded hands in his own, and continues, repeating again that matchless name. "Jesus, You gave so much for them." He says no more, for even an angel cannot find words adequate to express such infinite love.

The tears, that a moment ago were stealing down the Master's cheek, now flow unchecked. His disappointment is so great that its intensity cannot be described. At last, motioning toward the empty mansions about Him, He finds words: "Gabriel, don't they want to come home?"

Friend, there is nothing imaginary about the disappointment that cuts at the Saviour's heart. It is more real and intense than I have pictured it. Mansions are waiting for you and for me. They are standing empty, waiting to be filled with people joyful, loving, active people. Smiles and laughter, peace and adventure will fill those homes and streets someday.

Friend of mine, don't you want to go home? Our prayer for you is that you will seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, so that you may enter that heavenly city. * * *

BIBLE QUIZ

Prophetic History from the book of Daniel ..con't)

Note: *In past studies and quizzes we have studied about the beast nations which have ruled the world. Pagan Rome, the last of the four to rule the world was in power when Jesus was alive on earth. Since there are only four beasts prophesied to rule the world it stands to reason that any power coming out of the forth would be an extension of it.*

1. What are some of the characteristics of the fourth beast? Daniel 7:7

AN ADMONITION

Answer: _____

2. This beast had ten horns. What came up among them? Daniel 7:7

Answer: _____

Note: *Aggressive beasts use their horns as weapons this is where their power lies. A horn is a power or also a nation.*

3. What came up among the ten horns? Daniel 7:8

Answer: _____

4. What are some of the characteristics of this little horn and what did it do? Daniel 7:8, 19-25

Answer: _____

Note: *It is interesting to note that the fourth beast had ten horns (Nations) which it controlled. There were originally ten nations in Europe and Rome, through the Pope, has controlled them for hundreds of years. This little horn is a little nation which is 'more stout' (stronger) than its fellows.*

What is the smallest sovereign nation in the world? (taken from Yahoo Answers)

Answer: The Vatican City, or Holy See, is the smallest sovereign nation in the world. Surrounded completely by the city of Rome, Italy, it was granted independence in 1929 by Benito Mussolini. Its area is a meager 0.44km², or .17mi². Its population of 783 consists almost entirely of members of the Catholic clergy, including the Pope, and the Swiss Guard. Its head of state is the Pope,

5. What will be the outcome of this nation? Daniel 7:26,27

Answer: _____

6. What makes this beast nation so powerful? Revelation 13:4

Answer: _____

7. Who is the dragon? Revelation 20:1-3

Answer: _____

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE WHO RELY ON HUMAN REASONING INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE COUNSEL FROM GOD? Proverbs 1:24-26

“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;”

As we ponder the solemn words of warning addressed to Israel, (God’s people) we are in imagination brought before the great white throne, where in the presence of the assembled universe, every man will be judged according to the deeds done in the body.... {ST, August 18, 1881 par. 9}

None then to pity the folly of those who have despised and forsaken God. None to relieve their distress. They have forsaken their true and loving Friend, to follow the path of convenience and worldly pleasure. They intended at some time to return to God. But the world, with its follies and deceptions, absorbs the attention. Frivolous amusements, pride of dress, indulgence of appetite, harden the heart and benumb the conscience, so that the voice of truth is not heard. Duty is a despised word. Things of infinite value are lightly esteemed, until the heart loses all desire to sacrifice for Him who has given so much for man. But in the reaping time they must gather the crop sown. .. {ST, August 18, 1881 par. 10

“Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me; for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord; they would none of my counsel; they despised all my reproof. Therefore they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.” Proverbs 1:28-31)

WHAT IS THE PROMISE TO THOSE WHO LISTEN TO GOD? Proverbs 1:33

“Whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.”

“Can we ever find a surer guide than the Lord Jesus? True religion is embodied in the WORD OF GOD and consists in being under the guidance of the Holy One in thought, word and deed. He who is the Way, the Truth and the Life takes the humble earnest, wholehearted seeker, and says, “Follow Me”. He leads him in the narrow way to holiness and heaven. Christ has opened this path for us at great cost to Himself. We are not left to stumble our way along in the darkness. Jesus is at our

right hand, proclaiming, 'I am the Way.' And all who decide to follow the Lord fully will be led in the royal path, yea more, in the path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in." R&H 3-29-06

"God speaks to us today, in the warnings, counsels, and reproofs given to ancient Israel. If we depart from him, our condemnation will be greater than theirs; for we have their experience as a warning, and all the instruction which God has given since their time. Many and varied are the idols which we cherish; idols that engross the mind and harden the heart, so that sacred things are not rightly valued. Oh that the lessons given to ancient Israel might so impress our hearts and affect our lives that we would fully turn from idols, to serve the living God." {ST, August 18, 1881 par. 12}

HALLOWEEN

Halloween, October 31st, is a night that is associated with black cats, goblins, witches, and ghosts; a night of children in deceptive costumes, trick or treating, and eating candy; and a night of parental terror, fearful of their children becoming victims of some twisted mind lacing candy with poison, placing razor blades in apples, and outright abduction of children.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

October 31st is nothing more than an outgrowth of Druidistic religious practices and classic pagan beliefs. Druidism was a religion of nature worship with mystic ceremonies to the sun god. They had two major feasts: May Day, the spring festival also known as Baal Fire or Beltaine, and the autumn festival known as Samhain, All Hallow Eve, All Saint's Day, and Hallowmas. The 31st of October was actually New Year's Eve for the Druids and signaled the end of summer and the beginning of winter in which they celebrated the great bounty of harvest from the sun god and placated the Lord of Death. It was their belief that on October 31 this Lord of Death would release the spirits of the dead of the preceding twelve months to spend a few hours at their former homes that evening to scare and trick their living relatives. These living relatives tried to escape the haunting of what they believed to be their recently departed family members by using crosses, pumpkins, bonfires, etc. Here's some background on their methods:

GHOSTS - It was believed that on Halloween ghosts (evil spirits) played tricks and caused supernatural happenings of an unpleasant nature to both humans and animals.

CROSSES - Since the Druids were sun worshipers, they associated the similarity between the shape of the cross and the reflection of the sun's rays on the water. They believed that the cross was a protection from supernatural powers, hence they used the cross around their necks, at the entryway of buildings, and even on their animals.

PUMPKINS - Pumpkins were made into jack-o-lanterns. The Druids believed that a grotesque face carved in the pumpkin with a lit candle placed inside would effectively ward off evil spirits.

TRICK OR TREAT - Trick or Treating is an old custom of the poor begging from the rich for a soul cake on All Soul's Eve, in return for which the poor promised to pray for the dead. If the poor received no cake from the rich, these rich people would be subject to both tricks from the poor and haunting from the evil spirits released that night. (This holiday was later 'Christianized' by the Church.)

FORTUNE TELLING - Astrology, predictions, and divinations (including opening up of animals' livers and intestines to determine the future) had their greatest popularity this night as most everyone was personally interested in their New Year's fortunes.

BONFIRES - Bonfires served several functions depending upon custom, tradition and location. Some were lit on hilltops in honor of the sun god. Others were lit to scare away the evil spirits who they believed were released this special night. Still others were the gathering places of the local people that night, as they would don grotesque masks and run over, around, and through the fire in hope of scaring the recently released evil spirits. Lastly, a few were considered to be the places that witches (women who sold themselves to the devil) would dance with goblins and imps while the devil would play castanets made from dead men's bones.

The major Christian holidays are a strange blend of old pagan feasts and rites supposedly baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. And perhaps the strangest of all is the celebration we call Halloween. "among all the festivals which we celebrate today, few have histories stranger than that of Halloween. It is the eve of Allhallows – or Hallowmas or All Saint's Day – and as such it is one of the most solemn festivals of the Church. At the same time it commemorates beings and rites with which the Church has always been at war."

Halloween is the night of Satan, evil spirits, powers of darkness, lost souls, witchcraft, and black magic. Can any of this be of Christ? "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one." (Job 14:4) The entire concept of the Halloween celebration seems to rest in the notion that there is life after death, and that these 'beings' have spirits that can relate to the living. The Bible tells us that no one lives after he dies until the resurrection at the second coming of Christ."...there shall be a resurrection of the dead both of the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15). "for the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven... and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thess. 4:16).".....and they (the righteous) lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Rev. 20:4-5)

A turn of the century Christian writer, E.G. White, wrote that "truth is of God; deception in all its myriad forms is of Satan." "They, (Christians) have yet to learn.....to come out from the world and be separate."

"come out of her, My people... (Rev 18:4) and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph 5:11) "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial?" (2 Cor. 6:14-15). (The Gilead Institute of America)

HEALTH NUGGET

STATIN DRUGS

(NaturalNews) The statin drugs prescribed to over 100 million people around the world have now been exposed as cellular poisons that accelerate aging and promote muscle fatigue, diabetes, memory loss and more.

Scientists at **Tulane University** in New Orleans found that statin drugs – (which generate tens of billions of dollars a year for pharmaceutical companies)-- "deactivate" the stem cells responsible for cellular repair throughout the body. While statin drugs have been aggressively pushed by for-profit drug companies as "miracle" medicines, in truth they can lead to disastrous (even fatal) side effects in many patients.

As the 'UK (United Kingdom)Express' writes, such side effects include "memory loss, muscle pain, diabetes, cataracts, liver dysfunction, and fatigue."

"Statins make regular users become older faster," reports the Express, "leaving them open to long-term mental and physical decline..." The 'UK Express' adds: "Scientists have found the heart disease drug badly

affects our stem cells, the internal medical system which repairs damage to our bodies and protects us from muscle and joint pain as well as memory loss. ... Professor Reza Izadpanah, a stem cell biologist and lead author of the research published in the American Journal of Physiology, said: "Our study shows statins may speed up the aging process."

Statin drug side effects documented to include memory loss, muscle fatigue, cataracts and diabetes

The study, published in the *American Journal of Physiology - Cell Physiology* is entitled "**The Impact of Statins on Biological Characteristics of Stem Cells Provides a Novel Explanation for Their Pleotropic Beneficial and Adverse Clinical Effects.**"

The study abstract states that statin drug "side effects include memory loss, myopathy, cataract formation, and increased risk of diabetes." It also warns that "Statins also impaired the expression of DNA repair genes including XRCC4, XRCC6, and Apex1."

Doctors and drug companies have conspired for years to downplay the side effects of statin drugs, promoting the medications as "miracle" drugs that everyone should be taking. Some doctors even suggested statins should be dripped into the water supply like fluoride.

When patients experienced the devastating side effects of statin drugs -- memory loss, diabetes, muscle fatigue, etc. -- doctors simply put them on yet more medications for those symptoms. Statin drugs, in effect, became "gateway drugs" that led to expanding medication prescriptions for yet more high-profit drugs.

Heart industry doctors bribed to lower the limits of "high" cholesterol to push more statin drugs.

To expand the scam, the medical system conspired to redefine "high cholesterol" to lower numbers, instantly thrusting tens of millions of people into a state that demanded "treatment" with high-profit medications. These decision panels of the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology **were stacked with panelists who were bribed by pharmaceutical companies** to redefine high cholesterol in a way that generated the most profits. (As Natural News wrote in 2013:)

Doctors claim the new guidelines will limit how many people with low heart risks are put on statins simply because of a cholesterol number. However, under the new advice, one-third of U.S. adults would meet the threshold to consider taking a statin, more than twice the 15 percent of adults who are recommended statins under current guidelines.

The justification for the panel having half its members with ties to Big Pharma: Ties between heart doctors and

Big Pharma are so extensive that it is almost impossible to find a large group of doctors who have no industry ties.

For many years, Natural News has taught readers that **statin drugs can cause nerve damage and other devastating health effects**. But the medical establishment, as usual, ignored these side effects and kept pushing more statins for profit, pretending no one was being harmed.

Just like with the vaccine industry, the statin drug industry is far more concerned with pocketing huge profits than protecting lives. Now, thanks to researchers at **Tulane University**, the science of what causes statin drugs to be so dangerous to human health is better understood.

If you're using statin drugs right now, get off them! Find healthier alternatives right here on Natural News: naturalnews.com

THE MIDNIGHT CRY

It was commonly thought by students of mien
That the earth was the court of the heavenly scene;
And when God's final purge was done
The world would end and Christ would come
To take His chosen ones to Heaven.
The blessed hope by God's promise given
Would soon be fulfilled, a glorious dream.

And so through the land went the cry of alarm
To every middlesex, village, and farm;
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door;
A word that shall echo forevermore.
"Behold, the Bridegroom comes, prepare!
Go out to meet Him, and His kingdom share.
Blow the trumpets and sound the alarm."

And so they waited with hopes built high
To see the sign of a hand in the sky.
Gathered in groups to watch and to pray,
Knowing that this was their final day.
At midnight the time was surely at hand
When God would show His glory, and stand
And deliver His people. He could not lie.

But Christ did not come, to their great dismay,
For they had misjudged the events of that day.
How great was the sorrow and weeping at midnight;
Where was the promise of heavenly light?
Clinging to faith through great disappointment, Back to
the Bible the faithful ones went, Knowing that God
would show them the way.

Listen, my brethren, of God's message to men,
The midnight cry will be heard again.
The three angels' messages soon will swell
As a loud cry of triumph, and warning as well;
Babylon is fallen, so come out my people, And share not
her plagues nor partake of her evil.

And the sign of His coming will appear in the sky,
A cloud of bright angels from Orion on high.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen. —
John McConnell
(Hope international)

FROM KATIE'S COOKBOOKS

Pumpkin Nut Cookies

½ cup vegan margarine softened
2/3 cup turbanado unrefined sugar or
Alternative dry sweetener (like sucanat)
½ cup silken tofu, mashed or blended with egg beater
1 cup pumpkin puree
1 ½ cups unbleached flour
2 tsp baking powder (without aluminum like Rumsford)
2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
1 ¼ cup rolled oats, regular or quick (not instant)
½ cup chopped pitted dates
½ cup raisins or currants
½ cup chopped walnuts (or pecans)
Preheat oven to 375°. Cream margarine with the sugar in a large mixing bowl. Beat in the tofu and pumpkin. In a separate bowl, mix the flour, baking powder, and pumpkin pie spice.

Stir these dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture. Add the remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly. Drop by rounded teaspoonsful onto lightly oiled baking sheets, leaving space between cookies to allow for spreading. Bake for about 10 to 12 minutes, until set and just beginning to brown. Remove to cooling racks.

Until next month.....

Remember God loves you and so do we.

Katie and Rodney Armstrong

Worship

wor·ship (wûr'shĭp)

1a. *The reverent love and devotion accorded a deity, an idol, or a sacred object.*

b. *The ceremonies, prayers, or other religious forms by which this love is expressed:*

2. *Ardent admiration or love; adoration: the worship of celebrities.*

3. *often Worship Chiefly British Used as a form of address for magistrates, mayors, and certain other dignitaries: example: 'Your Worship'*

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16

There are only two who are vying for your worship, God and Satan. Therefore, loving the world instead of God is a form of Satan worship.

I believe that true worship has been so watered down by paganism and worldly pursuits that the masses are worshipping Satan without realizing it.

As an example as stated in one of the definitions of worship; *Ardent admiration or love; adoration: the worship of celebrities.*

Television is a medium for the worship of movie stars, music stars, sports, etc. Now I have gone to meddling haven't I? Is this not the world?

I am not saying playing a ball game is wrong but if I had rather play ball or go to a ball game than worship God it is wrong. I read a survey in which children were asked if they had rather spend time with their dad or watch TV? 50% chose TV!

I believe true worship is a total surrender of yourself and your will to something or someone. That 'someone' should be our Creator and Redeemer, Jesus and His Father. However, for most of the

world it is self worship. When we are self-serving who are we emulating?

We should be as dedicated to God as those who act as 'human bombs' are dedicated to Islam.

COULD MATERIALISM BE WORSHIP? WHAT IS MATERIALISM?

"ma·te·ri·al·ism (mə-tîr'ē-ə-lîz'əm).

1. *The theory or attitude that physical well-being and worldly possessions constitute the greatest good and highest value in life.*

2. *Concern for possessions or material wealth and physical comfort, especially to the exclusion of spiritual or intellectual pursuits.*

EGYPTIAN GODS

In Egypt there were many gods; a god for almost every occasion; A cat god, a god for the dead, a king god and a god of the Nile River. They worshipped frogs and birds and others which we do not have room to mention.

In Greece there were many gods and goddesses; also in Rome.

ROMAN GOD LISTS

JUPITER: The mighty king of the gods. Roman God of the Sky, thunderstorms, lightning, weather and air. Also god of law, order, justice, governance and strength. Most important god of the Romans and usually had the highest divine authority over other gods.

JUNO: Queen of the Gods and sister-wife of Jupiter. Goddess of Marriage and Women. Protector and Counsellor of Rome.

VENUS: Goddess of Love and consort of Mars. Divine mother of Aeneas, ancestor of the Romans.

BELLONA: Goddess of War, Conquest and Peace.

MINERVA: Goddess of Wisdom, Divine Counsel, Useful Arts and Crafts. Unlike her Greek counterpart, Athena, she wasn't a war goddess.

JANUS: God of Beginnings, Endings, Transition, Doorways and Keys.

VESTA: Goddess of the Home and the Hearth. Patron of Rome.

Mars: God of War, Spring and Justice. Patron of the Roman Legions and divine father of Romulus and Remus.

Just as there were many gods being worshipped in these pagan cultures, today many gods are also being worshipped.

Extreme hoarding is a form of materialism; it is an addiction. The more things people have the more secure they feel when our real security should be in our Creator God.

The tenth commandment is about covetousness. I believe covetousness goes far beyond desiring something which belongs to someone else.

BAKER'S EVANGELICAL DICTIONARY OF BIBLICAL THEOLOGY - COVETOUSNESS

COVETOUSNESS- Strong desire to have that which belongs to another.

It is considered to be a very grievous offense in Scripture. The tenth commandment forbids coveting anything that belongs to a neighbor, including his house, his wife, his servants, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to him. (Exodus 20:17).

Jesus listed covetousness or greed along with many of the sins from within, including adultery, theft, and murder, which make a person unclean. (Mark 7:22).

Paul reminded the Ephesians that greed or covetousness is equated with immorality and impurity, so that these must be put away (Ephesians 5:3).

A covetous or greedy person is an idolater. (Ephesians 5:5)

Covetousness is idolatry. (Colossians 3:5).

James warns that people kill and covet because they cannot have what they want. (James 4:2)

Covetousness, therefore, is basic to the commandments against murder, adultery, stealing, and lying. Those who accept bribes are coveting, leading to murder. (Ezekiel 22:12).

Coveting a neighbor's wife is a form of adultery. (Exodus 20:17).

Achan admitted to coveting a robe and silver and gold, so he stole them, which was a sin against the Lord. (Josua 7:20-22)

Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, coveted the property of Naaman so much that he lied to get what he wanted from Naaman the leper and was struck with leprosy. (2 Kings 5:19-25)

Proverbs warns that a covetous person brings trouble to his family. (Proverbs 15:27)

Thus covetousness is the root of all kinds of sins, so that Jesus gave the warning, "Be on your guard against all kinds of greed." (Luke 12:15)

Anything that we do in excess which is not necessary for our temporal needs can and may become a god. What do we spend more time and money on than we do for preparing ourselves and others for God's kingdom?

We all worship and all worship that is not directed to our Creator God is false worship. When we worship self we are emulating the god of selfishness - the god of this world.

Christians should and will emulate Jesus and do His works. How far can we go in following the practices and customs of this world and be safe?

