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Must We Put Out Leaven?

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is fast approaching! Does God really expect his people to deleaven their properties in the 21st century? What does deleavening picture?

By Gregory Dullum

God's spring festivals will soon be here! Passover is the evening of April 7 and the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins the following evening at sunset.

Time to Deleaven

For weeks leading up to that time, we, in God's church, work very hard to get all leavening off our properties and out of our homes, cars and work spaces.

We usually start in the far corners of our homes and work toward our kitchens. Then we painstakingly go through the cupboards and read all the ingredients, looking for yeast, baking powder and baking soda.

We pause and wonder about ingredients that sound like leavening: autolyzed yeast, torula yeast, and host of other unfamiliar chemicals. In our house, we have used the adage: "If in doubt, throw it out." (For a list of leavening agents, see page 2).

Why Do We Deleaven?

The people in the world around us might do some spring cleaning at this time of year (fall cleaning in the southern hemisphere) but they don't remove leavening from their homes for seven days. So why do we do it?

The short answer is this: We put out leaven because leaven represents sin and putting leaven out of our properties pictures putting sin out of our lives.

Who Removes Our Sin?

Some have argued that CHRIST *removes sin from us* and it's IMPOSSIBLE *for us to do it ourselves*. If this claim is true, then why should we go through the deleavening process that pictures US DOING IT?

In his "Personal Column" in the May 3, 1994 *Worldwide News*, the pastor



NAPS photo

This month we're busy removing all leavening from our property prior to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. If we have dinner rolls in the house, we'll eat them up before Passover, which is April 7.

general of the Worldwide Church of God wrote, "Abstinence from leavened bread during these days serves as a physical reminder of our spiritual priorities and our belief that 'man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Matthew 4:4). These days help us to understand the truth that only Jesus Christ can 'get the sin out of our lives' through his sacrifice on our behalf."

Do we understand what he wrote? He said *Christ does it all* for us. His sacrifice removes our sins. It's as if Christ comes to our house with a big red Dirt Devil vacuum cleaner and does all our deleavening for us.

Less than a year later, on April 30, 1995, I sat in church listening to an audio tape of an evangelist who told us, "God puts sin out of our lives, we don't. It's a shame to think we can."

It's a shame that evangelist didn't open his Bible and preach the TRUTH to us. Let's see what the Bible says.

God's Command to Deleaven

How important is it to God that we de-

leaven?

To the ancient Israelites, God said, "Seven days shall you eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel" (Ex. 12:15).

What does it mean to be "cut off from Israel"? My marginal notes say, "Put to death." Putting out the leaven was a *life-and-death* matter to God when He revealed this feast to the Israelites.

How long was this to be kept? Until Jesus was crucified A.D. 31? Until the temple was destroyed A.D. 70? Until A.D. 1995? God said, "So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same day I have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance" (v. 17).

It was an EVERLASTING ordinance! Was it only for the ancient Israelites, or was this binding on the New Testament church?

New Testament Command

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Gentile church at Corinth: "Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore, purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor. 5:6-8).

These verses clearly show three things:

PUT OUT THE LEAVEN

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Put Out the Leaven

Continued from Page 1

1. Under the New Covenant, Christians must still put out leaven from their homes and keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

2. Leaven pictures sin.

3. *We Christians* are to do the purging! Christ didn't do it all for us.

Christ's Part

Yes, Christ *was sacrificed* for us, to *take away the death penalty* that our sins bring upon us. But He doesn't come to our door with a vacuum cleaner to clean our homes the weeks prior to Passover. He doesn't prevent us from sinning. Nor does He suddenly make it okay for us to keep sinning if we just believe on Him. It is *WE* who *must put forth the effort* to CHANGE.

What did Jesus tell the woman caught in adultery? Did He say, "Go in peace, I have washed away all your sins"? Did He say, "Believe in Me and you will have no sin accounted to you"? Did He say, "I will put away your sin"? No! He said, "Neither do I condemn you; go AND SIN NO MORE" (John 8:11, emphasis added). He told her to "Go and put away *your sin* YOURSELF." It was up to her to put away her leaven, her sin.

Our Part Is to Repent

There are other words that mean the same thing as "to put out sin." One has six letters and begins with an "R."

Remember Peter's sermon in Acts 2? When he convinced people in the crowd that they were guilty of Christ's death, and they were cut to the heart and said, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (v. 37)—what did Peter tell them TO DO?

"Do nothing, because Christ has done it all for you"? "It is a shame for you to think you must do something. Just accept Jesus in your heart"? No! Peter told them to *put sin out of their lives!* He said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (v. 38).

Through the power of the holy spirit God *helps us* to repent and to change. But *we must make the effort* OURSELVES.

We Must Repent and Overcome

Another word that means "to put out sin" has eight letters and starts with an "O."

Jesus Christ sent messages to seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3. In those messages, does He tell those in his church to put out their sins with such commands as "repent" and "overcome"?

To the church at Ephesus, Jesus said,

WHAT IS LEAVEN?

Leaven is an ingredient incorporated into bread dough which causes the dough to rise through the release of CO₂ through either a chemical process (such as baking powder or baking soda) or through a metabolic process of fermentation (such as yeast).

The following ingredients are leaven: **leaven, leavening** (Some processed foods just say "leaven" or "leavening"), **yeast** (including wild yeast in sour-dough starter), **baking soda** [also listed as **sodium bicarbonate** (saleratus), **potassium bicarbonate** (potash), **ammonium carbonate** (baker's ammonium) or **ammonium bicarbonate** (hartshorn)], and **baking powder**.

Not leavening are: **autolyzed yeast** and **autolyzed yeast extract** (flavoring), **sodium phosphate** (used in cooked chicken) **corn meal** (corn flour in

tamales), **torula yeast** (a dead yeast used for its nutritional value or to add flavor), **crackerm meal** (type of wheat flour used in ravioli), **potassium carbonate** or **sodium carbonate** (found in dried Ramen noodle soups), **brewer's yeast** (a dead yeast used for nutritional value), **cream of tartar** (an acid often combined with baking soda), **tartrate powder** (a phosphate or sulfate powder usually added with cream of tartar), **alum** (a metallic double salt usually added with cream of tartar), **sorbitan monosterate** (flavor and texture enhancer), **polyorbate 60** (a preservative), **egg whites** (will cause dough to puff up but does not spread through dough as does leavening and is not leavening), and **steam or hot air** (such as in popovers or angel food cake—however, some store-bought angel food cakes have other leavening agents).

"REPENT and *do the first works*, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you REPENT.... To him who OVERCOMES I will give to eat from the tree of life..." (vv. 5, 7, emphasis added).

To the church at Smyrna He said, "He who OVERCOMES shall not be hurt by the second death" (v. 11, emphasis added).

To the church at Pergamos, He said, "REPENT, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them.... To him who OVERCOMES I will give some of the hidden manna to eat..." (vv. 16-17, emphasis added).

To the church at Thyatira, Jesus warned, "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed... unless they REPENT of their deeds.... And he who OVERCOMES and *keeps My works* until the end, to him I will give power over the nations..." (vv. 22, 26, emphasis added).

To the church at Sardis, He said, "I know *YOUR works*, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and *strengthen* the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found *YOUR works* perfect before God" (Rev. 3:1-2, emphasis added). Those in Sardis were told to REPENT (v. 3) and to OVERCOME (v. 5).

To the church at Philadelphia, Jesus said, "He who OVERCOMES, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more...." (v. 12, emphasis added).

To the church at Laodicea, Christ said, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and REPENT.... To him who OVERCOMES I will grant to sit

with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" (vv. 19, 21, emphasis added).

Jesus did NOT repent *for us*. He did NOT overcome *so we don't have to*. He set the example of overcoming the world with its evil pulls and temptations, and told us to follow his example!

Just as putting leaven out of their homes in ancient Israel was a life-and-death matter, putting out sin—which this pictures—is an ETERNAL life-and-death matter. We put out leaven to remind us that we must put out our sins. God will *help us* when we need help. But He won't *do it for us*.

And that is why we work so diligently in these weeks leading up to the Feast of Unleavened Bread, to search out every form of leavening and put it out of our property.

The SABBATH SCOOP

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Who Is this God We Serve?

Our Loving Provider

God is rich beyond measure and He lovingly shares his wealth with us!

By Gregory Dullum

God is SO AWESOME that it is *impossible* for our limited human minds to *fully* comprehend Him. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to grasp what we can!

God reveals Himself to us through the Scriptures in ways that allow us to build a loving relationship with Him. He doesn't want to be a stranger. He doesn't want to be a far-off vague entity. He wants to be real, close-up and personal. He wants us to consider Him as our loving *Abba*, Father, our spiritual "Daddy" (Rom. 8:15).

The better we understand who God is, the more our love for Him will grow!

One of the primary responsibilities of a loving father is to provide for his family. "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8).

God, as our heavenly Father, is a loving Provider for ALL our needs. He began by providing us with a physical home.

Home

God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). Why? God is a spirit being; He doesn't NEED the *physical* universe! He created everything physical FOR US HUMANS.

When God made this planet, He provided fertile soil, weather patterns, and *everything* necessary for mankind to survive.

He made billions of stars in the vast canopy of space, not for Himself, but for us humans. They were to mark seasons, days, years and to give light on the earth (Gen. 1:14-15).

God provided a beautiful planet for us with everything we need physically. And yet, we don't have to live in caves. He provided the rock, the trees, the sand, the iron ore—all the raw materials we use in constructing our personal homes.

Clothing

Another thing a loving father provides is clothing. Our God has provided plants such as cotton and flax for the manufacture of cloth, along with animals, whose skins and fur are processed into clothing (Gen. 1:11-12, 24-25, 3:7, 21). God also made sure the planet contained the raw

ingredients we now use in the manufacture of synthetic fabrics such as nylon and polyester—most notably crude oil, which is a "blessing of the deep that lies beneath" (Gen. 49:25).

Food

A loving father "brings home the bacon." He puts food on the table for his family.

Our God created all the food we eat. "The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Ps. 145:15-16).

He didn't provide just one bland food—say, oatmeal—and stop creating. He blessed us with a wild, colorful array of fruits and vegetables that appeal to many different tastes, and created a certain number of animals, fish and fowl to be eaten (Gen. 2:29, Lev. 11:2-21).

Even in times of drought and famine, God provides food to keep alive those who fear Him (Ps. 33:18-19).

Generous Giver

God has been so generous, that his blessings have overflowed. He has provided for, not only those who diligently follow Him, but also those who rebel against Him: "...for He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mat. 5:45).

Wealth

God owns everything (Deut. 10:14, Ps. 89:11). All the gold and silver belong to Him (Hag. 2:8). But He doesn't keep his wealth to Himself. He shares it with us. We are told that riches and honor come from God (1 Chron. 29:10, 12); it is God who gives us the ability to get wealthy (Deut. 8:18).

Need a promotion or a raise at work? Take the matter to God. "For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Ps. 75:6-7 *KJV*).

A Father to Fatherless

God will provide for us if our human parents fail! "When my father and my moth-

er forsake me, then the LORD will take care of me" (Ps. 27:10). Orphans can pray to God for help that other children would ask of their human fathers. And God will care for them: "He is a father to the orphans, and he defends the widows. He gives the lonely a home. He leads prisoners out with joy, but those who turn against God will live in a dry land" (Ps. 68:5-6 *New Century Version*).

Correction

One thing we may not ask for is correction—but God will provide that, even if we don't ask for it! "For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights" (Prov. 3:12).

All Our Needs

God knows we are human and He is aware of our needs, sometimes before we recognize them. "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Mat. 6:31-33).

When we make following God the focus of our lives—like a sheep following a shepherd—God will provide for all our needs.

David wrote, "The LORD is my shepherd; I have everything I need" (Ps. 23:1 *NCV*). God gave David plenty to eat—"green pastures" and plenty to drink—"calm water" (v. 2). He gave David "new strength" when he was worn out and led him in the right direction (v. 3). God also gave David courage and comfort (v. 4).

Whatever our need, God can fill it because He is the GREAT PROVIDER! "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philip. 4:19).

God is the GREAT PROVIDER! Let us be thankful for what He has provided—giving Him thanks daily in prayer (Col. 4:2), giving him honor with our tithes, offerings and firstfruits (Prov. 3:9), and living a life obedient to God that says "thank you" for all He has done (Jer. 7:23).

College Letters

Lessons of Life Learned at Ambassador College

Beware of friendly strangers on city buses.

Always take more money on a date or a trip than you think you'll need.

Monday, Jan. 6, 1975

Dear Mom and Brad:

I had the craziest day yesterday. It all started at 8:30 a.m. Grant Spong and I decided a long time ago that we would go to Disneyland for the [winter] break. Then he asked the Mystery Girl to be his date, and she accepted. But we still didn't know who she was yesterday, when we were to go. So Grant wasn't going to go without her. I had already asked Mary Hamilton to go with me. So I had to go, whether Grant went or not.

Sat. nite I called the bus lines and got info. Catch bus #7 at Fair Oaks and Green St. at 9:20. Get off at 7th and Spring at 9:55. Walk east on 7th to L.A. Street, where bus terminal is. Get on bus 58, and that would take us right to Disneyland. Leave terminal at 10:15, get to Disneyland at 11:37. It sounded so easy.

Chapter 1

Well, I got up at 8:00 a.m. I planned on calling Mary and tell her when I'd pick her up (at 8:30). But then I changed my mind. I figured it was too early to call, and wake everyone. So I figured I'd wait an hour. Bus 7 runs every hour, and 58 every 1/2 hour. Besides, MG hadn't called yet to reveal herself, and this would give her more time.

At 10 to 9, all the power went off in the dorm, because they are working on it. It's off again today, too. I had already showered, but hadn't shaved. So I had to use my Remain Overnight Kit, and shave in the bedroom by sunlight. **[Editor's note: My Norelco shaver needed electricity. My overnight kit had a plain razor in it.]**

At 9:15 I called Mary's dorm. Kathy Widmer answered. She said Mary wasn't there. I asked if she knew where Mary was. At first she didn't remember, but then told me at work. "Oh yeah," she said, "Mary said she was going to work from 8 to 10 today."

Then she told me about a note on her door. It said, among other things, "You will find me in the Auditorium [Mary works there]," and was signed the Mystery Girl. Kathy said she thought it looked like Mary's handwriting. I said it

probably was. We once suspected Mary of being her, but know she's not, now. I said she probably signed it that way just to be funny.

Well, curiosity got the better of me, so I went over and got the note. Then I went down the hill to the student center. I wanted to check and see if MG had left a note in Grant's box or mine (MG=Mystery Girl). As I came down the hill, I saw some notes taped to the Auditorium doors. So I walked over and read them. One was for me. It told me she was working downstairs, and would be up every 15 minutes. She said I might try calling.

So I went to the student center and tried calling. Some lady answered. "Mary?" I asked. "No." Isn't this 5843?" "No, this is 5648." I apologized and hung up. I couldn't figure out how I misdialed. So I tried again. The phone rang and rang. Finally, the lady answered again. "Mary?" I asked. "Who is this Mary?" she asked angrily. I explained what I was trying to do. It turned out she was Mrs. Elliott, wife of the guy in charge of the Auditorium. When no one answered in the Auditorium, the call was transferred to their home automatically.

I checked out mailboxes. Grant had a reel-to-reel tape in his box. I thought he might have got it from MG. So I was going to bring it to him. I went to the console and borrowed a pen and paper and wrote a note for Mary, telling her I'd be there at 10:05. Then I taped it to the door beside the other notes, and went back to the dorm.

Well, 10 a.m. came, and no sign of MG. So it was just Mary and I going. So I went and picked her up.

She had had a real hassle getting in the Auditorium to work. She didn't have the key, and called security, but they didn't have the authority to open the Auditorium for her. She finally did get in.

We didn't realize these early-morning hassles were foreshadows of things to come!

Well, we walked to the corner of Fair Oaks and Green. And we didn't know which side of the street the bus stopped on. In Mpls., the bus stops before the intersection. We finally saw the sign and found out in L.A. they stop after the in-

tersection.

The bus came, and we boarded for 25¢ apiece. But there wasn't one completely empty seat. So we had to split up. An old man (probably in his 50's) was real friendly and slid over and beckoned for us to sit down by him. Mary sat a row behind him and across the aisle. So I sat by him.

"Hi!" he said, and offered his hand. This struck me as kind of strange, because L.A. people just aren't that friendly to strangers. But I said hi and shook his hand.

"Do you play golf?" he asked.

"I've played a little," I said.

"I play with the pros," he said. I could smell whiskey on his breath, and realized he was drunk! "I played with Arnold Palmer," he told me. "I played with Sammy Davis, Jr. this morning."

I didn't know what to do. I decided to humor him. "Oh, you did? Who won?" He pointed to himself, smiled, and nodded his head.

He kept putting his arm around me and patting my shoulder. I was getting kinda scared.

He told me how he had made \$25 for winning, and one shot won him \$3. "I shoot straight," he said. I told him that was important.

He showed me his dirty, cut hands. "You know how they got so dirty?"

"Playing golf?" I asked. He nodded and smiled.

"You know why I'm wearing this heavy coat?" he asked me.

I asked him why.

"It's cold out there on the golf course in the morning."

"Yes," I agreed. "I imagine it is." I talked to Mary a little. She wondered what was wrong with him. I told her. She couldn't see everything that went on because she sat behind us. But she saw him put his arm around me, and heard most of our conversation.

Then the drunk said, "Look at me." I did, but didn't see anything different. I guess he got jealous, but I didn't understand at the time. He assured me he played with the pros. We rode on in silence.

"Have you thought about me?" he asked, muttering. Several of his teeth

were missing, and it was hard to understand him. I repeated what I thought he said. "Have you thought about me?" he asked again.

"Am I fed up with you?" I asked incredulously. I couldn't understand why he would ask me that.

He seemed to get angry. "Have you thought about me?" he asked a third time. This time I heard him but didn't understand him. I didn't realize he meant as to how much money I would give him.

"A little," I admitted. I had thought a little about him.

He held out his hand. "Good boy," he said, unclearly.

"Good-bye?" I asked. "Is this where you get off?"

"No, I get off in L.A."

I shook his hand anyway. I couldn't figure out why else he would stick it out. This time he squeezed hard. He seemed kinda mad. This may be it, I thought. But then I pulled my hand free. Whew! I didn't want a scene.

Finally, he asked me directly, "You have a quarter?" I had to think quickly. Yes, I had a quarter. But there was no way I was going to give it to him. He would see I had money and would probably ask for more. And I didn't want to pay for his whiskey.

"No, I don't," I said, thinking I had lied. "I don't have any money. But if I did, I would sure give it to you." I thought I lied to him, but as you will see later, I didn't!

Finally, the guy Mary sat beside left. So I slid back beside her, full of relief. We discussed him in whispers. Finally I saw a big sign that said SPRING STREET. I knew we had to get off at Spring, but I didn't know where 7th Street was. "This is where we get off," I told Mary. I just wanted to get off the bus. We went to the door. We had pulled the cord, and the bus came to a stop. But the doors wouldn't open!

I finally read the sign that said to push the doors. I did! I pushed in every conceivable direction. But they wouldn't budge! And the bus started up again!

Chapter 2

Well, the bus had to turn the corner before he'd let us off, I guessed. When it turned the corner, it stopped. I pushed the door. It snapped open and shut before I could get through. I pushed again, and it opened. This time I held it for everyone to get off. Well, now Mary Hamilton and I were on Spring. But we didn't know where 7th Street was. So we started walking one direction, but felt it was the wrong direction, so headed the other direction. We walked by the courthouse, that gave a sense of se-

curity. But I was weary of everyone we met on the sidewalk.

We found 1st Street, so we figured we were walking in the right direction. Only 7 blocks to 7th. Mary said she thought 7th Street was a real dumpy area. She was right!

We then walked east on 7th Street to L.A. Street. We walked right by a porno shop. We had discussed this type of neighborhood. The old men ahead of us turned and looked. We looked away and hmm-hmmmed to each other. We had a private joke. No one else would know what was so funny about that porno shop.

We finally found the bus terminal and bought tickets on #58 to Disneyland. "Round trip?" he asked. I hadn't planned to, but decided it was better. We may not be able to buy them at Disneyland. So I got them. It cost \$3.60 for the 4 one-way tickets (2 there; 2 back). I didn't think it would cost so much. [Editor's note: I thought the bus to Disneyland would be 25¢ like the bus that took us from Pasadena to L.A. If you multiply these dollar amounts by four, you will understand them in today's dollars.]

Because we got off prematurely, and had to walk the extra distance, we had missed our bus. So we had to wait an extra 1/2 hour for the next bus. At least, because we were so early, we were near the head of the line waiting.

A black woman and kids were ahead of us. One little kid kept screaming his head off. And there was one big girl, plain and ugly, not really fat, but just a big build, waiting too. She had a suitcase. A big one. I'd hate to be traveling alone. Mary and I were "enjoying" these experiences together. They were good experience for us, but not really enjoyable.

Chapter 3

Our bus finally came, and because we were at the head of the line, we got a seat to ourselves. There was NO WAY, I decided, I would let anybody have my seat. I didn't want to endanger Mary's safety at all.

Well, this stupid bus took its long time to get to Disneyland. It went all over in the city and made all kinds of stops, and old men and women got off and on. At one of the first stops the suitcase got bumped over. The little black boy screamed almost constantly. And at one stop a young, long-haired guy and girl got on. The black lady slid over, and the guy told the girl to sit down. She told him to sit down, and she sat on his lap. Then

Fun Fact



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

The Latin name for Wednesday—*Dies Mercurii*—honors the Roman messenger god, Mercury.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

Wild Men, Wild Alaska by Rocky McElveen, Thomas Nelson, 2006, pp. 19, 21, 25-26.

Needing Each Other

"I quickly jumped out of the plane, but suddenly, and for reasons I still don't understand, I turned and gave Ralph my new Gore-Tex jacket for his flight back to get the last caribou. It was getting chilly and dark, and the wind was shifting....

"Time flew by. Where was Ralph? Where was the plane?..."

"My premonition had been right; we saw the horrible evidence of Ralph's crash but were thrilled to see him waving at us and signaling that he was OK.... Ralph had survived a crash and one terrible night....

"We greeted Ralph with happiness upon his arrival. I would have given him a bear hug, but I didn't want to cause more pain. The experience created a deep bond between us. Ralph knew that I had his back, and I had done all I could to ensure his safe return. This is a common phrase in many circles, but in the Alaskan wild it has a unique practical significance that wears down our foolish sense of self-sufficiency and compels us to rely on people other than ourselves. That is a great thing between men and not easily accomplished."

**Eccles. 4:9-12, Eph. 4:12-16,
Heb. 10:24-25**

Memory Scripture

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

—Mat. 6:21

College Letters

Continued from Page 5

they necked. Mary and I kinda groaned. Just what we needed.

The sun was hot beating in the window, and for a while we were behind a truck with a trailer of asphalt. It smelled so bad, we could hardly breathe. Mary kept telling me, "I can't breathe."

We finally stopped at Knott's Berry Farm. Mary nor I had ever been there. We though maybe we should get off here, and not try to go to Disney after all that had happened and all the weird people we had met.

The bus driver got off and made a phone call. We sat. And sat. And my back was sore from sitting. It had been about 2-1/2 hours since we got on the first bus!

He finally came back, and handed out little cards w/ pencils for us to fill out. He said something about company policy when there had been an accident. I filled in my name and address, etc. When he picked them up, we asked what it was for. He said the suitcase had hit someone's foot! GAG! What next?

Chapter 4

Disneyland was next. Almost. We stopped as close as Disney Hotel, way across the parking lot. We got there at 1:20, 3 hours after boarding the first bus!

We saw the tram coming to pick us up, and we waited. As we waited, we watched some little kids (about age 14) selling cigarettes to each other and smoking. One complained that 5¢ was too much to pay for one cig. But he was told 5¢ was the going price nowadays. "I got 30¢ for one once, but that was because he owed me a lot of back pay."

On the way to the main gate, Mary said she thought Big Sandy students were here today. I thought they had come one day last week (there is a group [from Ambassador College Big Sandy, Texas campus] out here for the break). We looked for the AC bus—and found it! I wished I had known they were coming out, I would have seen if we could come with them. Would have saved a lot of money, time, and experiences! We decided to try to get a ride home with them. For some reason, 7th Street at night did not seem too cool. We didn't know when they were leaving, though. We figured we'd check the bus at 4 p.m., and every 1/2 hour after that.

Well, we got in line, and I looked at the prices. \$12 for the 2 of us. I looked in my wallet. I only had a \$10 bill left! What now?

(To be continued!)



Growing Economic Crisis Threatens European Unity

"The leaders of the European Union gathered Sunday [March 1] in Brussels in an emergency summit meeting that seemed to highlight the very worries it was designed to calm: that the world economic crisis has unleashed forces threatening to split Europe into rival camps.

"An urgent call from Hungary for a large bailout for newer, Eastern members was bluntly rejected by Europe's strongest economy, Germany, and received little support from other countries....

"The traditional concept of 'solidarity' is being undermined by protectionist pressures in some member countries and the rigors of maintaining a common currency, the euro, for a region that has diverse economic needs. Particularly acute economic problems in some of the newer members that once were part of the Soviet bloc have only made matters worse....

"Within the larger European Union, fissures are growing between older members and newer ones, especially those that lived under the yoke of Soviet socialism. Some countries of Central Europe, like the Czech Republic and Poland, are doing relatively well. Others, including Hungary, Romania and the Baltic states, are in a state of near meltdown" ("Growing Economic Crisis Threatens the Idea of One Europe" by Steven Erlanger and Stephen Castle, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, March 2, 2009, pp. 1-2).

Before Christ returns to this earth, a union of 10 kings will arise in Europe. These are pictured by 10 toes on a statue in Daniel 2 and 10 horns on a beast in Rev. 17:12-14.

If these 10 kings will come out of the European Union, then there must be some kind of split that takes place. The EU currently has 27 members, not 10. The economic crisis could be a catalyst that causes 10 of the strongest nations to form a new union that could become the beast power.

The 10 toes of Daniel 2 are composed "partly of potter's clay and partly of iron" (Dan. 2:41). This shows that the union of

these 10 kings "shall be divided.... And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay" (Dan. 2:41-43).

In this economic crisis, we see that the European Union is not very united at all; it is indeed as if the members are like iron mixed with clay.

Meanwhile, the United States is being further weakened under socialist policies of U.S. Pres. Barack Obama and the liberal Democratic Congress. The same *New York Times* article mentions briefly, "President Obama has just announced a budget that will send the United States more deeply into debt but that also makes an effort to redistribute income and overhaul health care, improve education and combat environmental problems" (p. 1).

God is breaking the pride of America's economic power (Lev. 26:19). By pushing America deeper into debt, Obama is fulfilling the prophecy God gave to his disobedient people: "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail." The U.S. will need foreign banks and governments to finance the wild, unstoppable spending of the Democrats.

Quake Hits Costa Rica

"A strong magnitude 6.1 earthquake caused at least 20 deaths in Costa Rica on January 8, 2009, said the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The earthquake was centered 30 kilometers north of San Jose (the country's capital)...The quake damaged buildings and sent earth tumbling in the mountainous Central American country" ("6.1 Earthquake in Costa Rica," NASA's Earth Observatory/Natural Hazards Web site, p. 1).

"Earthquakes in various places" is a sign that we are in a time period Christ called "the beginning of sorrows" as we near the end of this age and the return of Christ to the earth (Mat. 24:3, 7-8).