



The Bible Banner

144,000



December 2019

IN THAT NUMBER

A one-legged school teacher from Scotland once came to J. Hudson Taylor to offer himself for service in China. "With only one leg, why do you think of going as a missionary?" asked Taylor.

"I do not see those with two legs going," replied George Scott.

He was accepted.

We are not to wait for great men or mighty men to undertake the work. Those who are numbered as Christ's disciples will be those who learn to master difficulties and overcome obstacles while claiming the promise,

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13

VEGAN LASAGNA

9 Lasagna Noodles*, cooked
 1 Extra-Lrg. Jar Spaghetti Sauce or add tomato paste & oregano
 1 can olives, sliced
 2-3 cups burger delight (See July 2015 issue.)
 1 block tofu, crumbled
 1 batch sesame cheese (below)
 Mix olives, burger delight, tofu, and most of the spaghetti sauce, reserving some sauce plain for the top. Place a little spaghetti sauce in the bottom of a 9 x13 pan. Layer 3 noodles and then half of the burger/sauce mixture topping with a little cheese. Repeat using up the burger/sauce mixture. Layer the remaining three noodles and covering with plain spaghetti sauce. Top with a generous portion of sesame cheese. Bake in oven at 350° F for about ½ hour just before serving.



*I typically use spelt or the Tinkyada brand of rice lasagna noodles

Sesame Cheese

½ cup sesame seeds (I use unhulled, brown)	¼ cup lemon juice
3-4 Tbsp nutritional yeast	1 ½ tsp salt
2 tsp garlic powder	½ cup olive oil (or less)
4oz. jar pimento OR 2 tsp paprika	1 cup water

Blend until smooth. This will take a while if you are using a regular blender.

Quotable Quotes

"Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand." (RH March 9, 1905)

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Heavenly Mindedness--*"Every opportunity to help a brother in need, or to aid the cause of God in the spread of the truth, is a pearl that you can send beforehand and deposit in the bank of heaven for safekeeping."* {CCh 272.5} Pick out something to use for a bank and something to use for "pearls" (like beads). Each time you or a family member "help a brother in need" or "aid the cause of God in the spread of truth," add a pearl to the "bank of heaven". At the end of each week, check the level of your heavenly "bank account."



Without Guile

"Today," said the professor of mathematics at a prestigious university, "I am giving two examinations—one in trigonometry and the other in honesty. I hope you will pass them both. If you must fail one, fail trigonometry. There are many good people in the world who can't pass trig. There are no good people in the world who cannot pass the examination of honesty."

The greatest Teacher the world has ever known is also looking for honesty, especially among the 144,000. Revelation 14:1-5 records: *"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him **an hundred forty and four thousand**, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. **And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.**"*

"No guile" is a tall order with no room for half-truths, "white" lies, or overstatements. *"An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. By a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood..."* {PP 309.3}

This means that Christians striving to be among the 144,000 must "tell it like it is". It sounds easy enough until you go to sell a car that has all kinds of problems. "No guile" means revealing to the potential buyers all the problems with the car. Or what should be your response if someone makes you a special casserole that tastes like dogfood and says, "How do you like it?" "No guile" cannot say "This is good." However, admittedly, tact must be combined with honesty.

I well remember once, to my humiliation, while our master bedroom was still under construction, the ceiling patch-worked and the furniture stacked in odd places, my husband leading one of our newly acquired friends up for his first look "while the bed was still made." I felt sorry for the friend who was now put on the spot and wondered how he could ever come up with something commendatory to say. But he did, while all the while remaining honest. "It is very different," he said. "No guile" in that answer.

But what about when everything is going wrong and someone simply asks, "How are you?" Remember under the "no guile" rule, "just fine" isn't truthful. I like the answer one of our friends often gives—"By the grace of God, go I."

The 144,000 cannot deny that there are bad things, persecution, or obstacles looming in the way; that isn't honest. However, as Christians with Christ by their side to help, they can be truthfully optimistic like Paul in his letter to the Corinthians. *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;"* 2 Cor. 4:8, 9

The guileless 144,000 will not be Christians in name only, for claiming to be a Christian while living like the world would also be a lie according to the scriptures. 2 Timothy 2:19b declares, *"...The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

And last but not least, "no guile" means the 144,000 will not be giving a "peace and safety message" instead of warning people of their imminent danger. "No guile" means no toning down of the sinfulness of sin. (Ezekiel 3:17-19; Isaiah 58:1; Jeremiah 6:13, 14))

The story is told of a distinguished minister from Australia who preached very strongly on the subject of sin. After the service, one of the church officers came to counsel with him in the study. "Dr. H.," he said, "we don't want you to talk as openly as you do about man's guilt and corruption, because if our boys and girls hear you discussing that subject they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about sin."

The minister took down a small bottle and showing it to the visitor said, "You see that label? It says strychnine—and underneath in bold, red letters the word poison! Do you know, man, what you are asking me to do? You are suggesting that I change the label. Suppose I do, and paste over it the words, 'Essence of Peppermint'; don't you see what happens? The milder you make your label, the more dangerous you make your poison!"

Thus "no guile" must be an essential element of those who give the final warning message to a sin-poisoned world. Since God's word is truth (John 17:17), the truth in the word of the 144,000 will be its echo—edifying, reproving, rebuking, exhorting.

"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it." 1 Peter 3:10, 11



Prophetic News Notes— Study Shows Most Bible Readers Still Prefer a Physical Bible

Despite the upsurge in technology, the internet, smartphones, and apps in the Bible readers' world, some things never change. From the time of Moses, prophets and then early Christians read from a physical Bible scroll. During the Dark Ages, the Waldensians carefully copied the coveted scriptures by hand. And amidst the Protestant Reformation, the printing press helped to spread copies of the Bible far and wide. Today, a physical Bible book, even in America, is still the most popular among Bible readers.

"A new Barna survey shows that 89 percent of Bible users in the United States read a physical version – a percentage that has remained steady the past eight years.

*Reading the Bible on the Internet (57 percent) and on a smartphone (55 percent) remains popular, but a Barna report said Americans' usage of a physical version is noteworthy."*¹

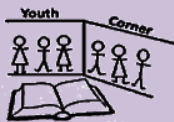
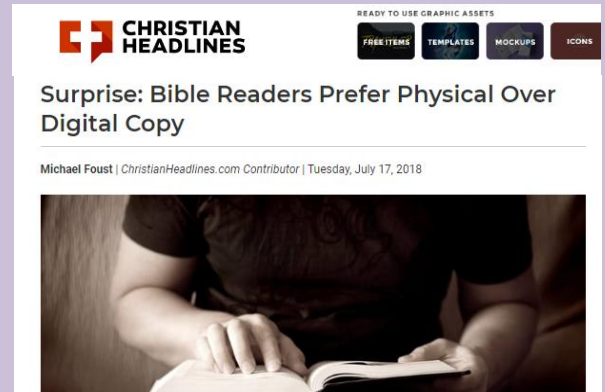
The Barna study states, *"For Bible users, the appeal of a print version of the Bible remains high at almost nine in 10 (89%). Little has changed in the preference for a physical copy of the scriptures in the last eight years since tracking began."*²

In addition, studies show, *"Overall, almost six in 10 U.S. adults (58%) believe that the message of the Bible has transformed their life, including three in 10 (28%) who agree strongly with this statement."*²

The Bible is indeed a transforming power, for God declares of it, *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."* Isaiah 55:11

¹ - https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/surprise-bible-readers-prefer-physical-over-digital-copy.html?utm_source=blueconic&utm_medium=contentrec

² - <https://www.barna.com/research/state-of-the-bible-2018-seven-top-findings/>



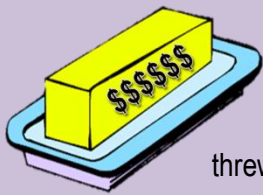
Buttery Barter

"... be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23

"Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you." Jer. 5:25

The trust department of a certain bank had in its employ four young men and one older man. In the course of time, it was decided by the directors of the bank that the older employee would receive a promotion. One of the young men would also be promoted to fill the older man's previous position.

After considering the merits of each, one of the four younger men was selected for the new position. He would also receive a substantial increase in salary. It was decided to notify him of the promotion that afternoon at four o'clock.



At the noon hour, the young man went to a nearby cafeteria for lunch. As it happened, one of the bank directors also chose that particular cafeteria for lunch and was positioned several customers behind the young man in line. Yet unnoticed by the young man, the director observed the young man select his food including a small piece of butter. This butter he flipped on his plate, and immediately threw some food on top of it to hide it from the cashier. In this way, the young man lied to the cashier about what was on his plate.

That afternoon, the directors met to notify the young man that they had intended to give him a promotion. But that instead, because of what the director had seen in the cafeteria, they must now also discharge him from his current position. A bank cannot have as part of their trust department one who would lie and steal.

Little sins, like a little slab of butter, can make a big difference. Today, God is looking for 144,000 who are worthy to fill His "Trust department". *"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads... And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."* Revelation 14:1, 5 As you strive to be among the 144,000, remember: character is who you are when you think nobody is looking. Don't barter away your heavenly promotion for a "slab of butter."



Salt Remedies

“Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.” Mark 9:50

Salt is a very useful natural remedy since it is readily available almost everywhere around the globe. The following are just a few ways that we, or our friends, have used salt in our natural remedy regime.

Sore throat remedy -- “Gargling with salt water when you have a sore throat may help relieve some of the pain and irritation,” says Daniel McGee, MD, a pediatric hospitalist ... in Grand Rapids, MI. “But don’t overdo it—one teaspoon of salt in eight ounces of water should do it.”¹

Salt Glow-- A salt glow can be used to improve circulation, for frequent colds, for general weakness and low endurance, chronic indigestion, and muscle wasting. *“Because the treatment opens the body’s blood vessels and aids in circulation, those who suffer from diabetes, cancer, low blood pressure, epilepsy, chronic fatigue syndrome and many other conditions can benefit from occasional treatments.”*²

In fact, *“Natural remedies expert Dr. Agatha Thrash, M. D. observed that a person who has diabetes will find that the skin functions better as a storage depot for glucose following the meal, and the blood sugar level can be kept more constantly at a normal rate if a salt glow is regularly applied. Of course, exercising after a meal will also improve glucose levels in individuals who have diabetes.”*³

She also wrote, *“There are a number of uses for the salt glow, perhaps beginning with the usual type of non-serious disorders such as fatigue, tenseness, languor, or weakness. If you get up in the morning feeling unable to go to work, take a salt glow, and you will feel much better... Another good use for the salt glow is that of chronic indigestion. Many disorders of digestion such as constipation, heartburn, diarrhea, and other afflictions of the gastrointestinal tract can be normalized by means of a regularly applied salt glow... We once saw the parents of a 6 year old epileptic who suffered status epilepticus attacks bring him out of the seizure with a salt glow.”*⁴



While this is a useful remedy, you may want to avoid it if you have broken skin or a skin disease. It may also be applied just to the feet for a wonderful foot care remedy. For the full salt glow, all you need is some coarse salt (although table salt may be used in a pinch.) Moisten the salt just enough to stick to skin. Sit or stand with your feet in a tub of water in the shower or bathtub. (105° to 110°F or 40.5°C- 43°C) Get your legs wet with water from tub. Then apply wet salt and rub vigorously until skin is pink. Proceed in this order: legs, arms, chest and abdomen, back, hips and thighs. After finishing you may rinse thoroughly and dry with friction rubbing.

Heat cramps—are the result of dehydration and low salt levels. Symptoms include painful muscle cramps and spasms usually in the legs, arms, and abdomen. *“Some factories have virtually eliminated heat cramps in their workers by supplying salt-enriched fluids... Make your own salt solution by mixing 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon table salt dissolved in a quart of water.”*⁶

Salt Water Flush— Indeed, this remedy will clean out your colon, but it may also cause nausea. If you are set to undergo a colonoscopy many have found this remedy will clean out your system as effectively as the pharmaceuticals. One morning, in 30 minutes, drink 2 quarts of warm water mixed with 5 tsp of real sea salt. Add the juice of 2 lemons for flavor, if desired. (Sip it, don’t just guzzle it down). Don’t plan on running errands or exercising for a few hours after drinking the salt water. You’re likely to have multiple, urgent bowel movements. So, you shouldn’t venture too far from a toilet. Caution: This remedy may not be recommended for those with certain conditions.

Nasal Congestion—Use a nasal irrigation device to rinse out the nasal passages with saline water. *“To make your own saline mixture, combine about 16 ounces (1 pint) of lukewarm water (distilled, sterile, or previously boiled) with 1 teaspoon of salt... Put the mixture into a clean Neti pot*. Tilt your head over your sink at a 45-degree angle. Place the spout into your top nostril and gently pour the solution in. The saline water will flow through your nasal cavity into the other nostril and out. Blow your nose to get rid of remaining water. Repeat the steps on your other nostril.”*⁵ This simple remedy has worked well for many people. One friend had a headache for days from congestion and just couldn’t seem to get well. She tried this saline solution with a nasal irrigation device in the shower. A bundle of mucus came out and she was able to get better from there on out.

Admittedly a small, but salty remedy, but *“Who hath despised the day of small things?...”* Zech. 4:10

*Note: This use of the term “neti pot,” which has come into common use for a pot used for nasal irrigation, does not imply we recommend its connection to yoga nor its mystical Hindu or pagan connections.

1-- <https://www.thehealthy.com/home-remedies/old-time-home-remedies/> 2-- <https://spacecoast.edu/blog/the-many-benefits-of-a-salt-glow.html>

3-- <https://wildwoodhealth.com/blog/salt-glow/> 4-- Agatha M. Thrash, M.D. <https://www.ucheepines.org/salt-glow-a-good-home-remedy/>

5-- <https://www.webmd.com/allergies/qa/how-can-i-make-my-own-saline-solution-for-a-neti-pot> 6-- <https://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/heat-cramps>

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STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED – Following the Lamb

"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth." Revelation 14:3,4

Jesus Christ is the Lamb *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* John 1:29 *"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"* 1 Peter 1:19



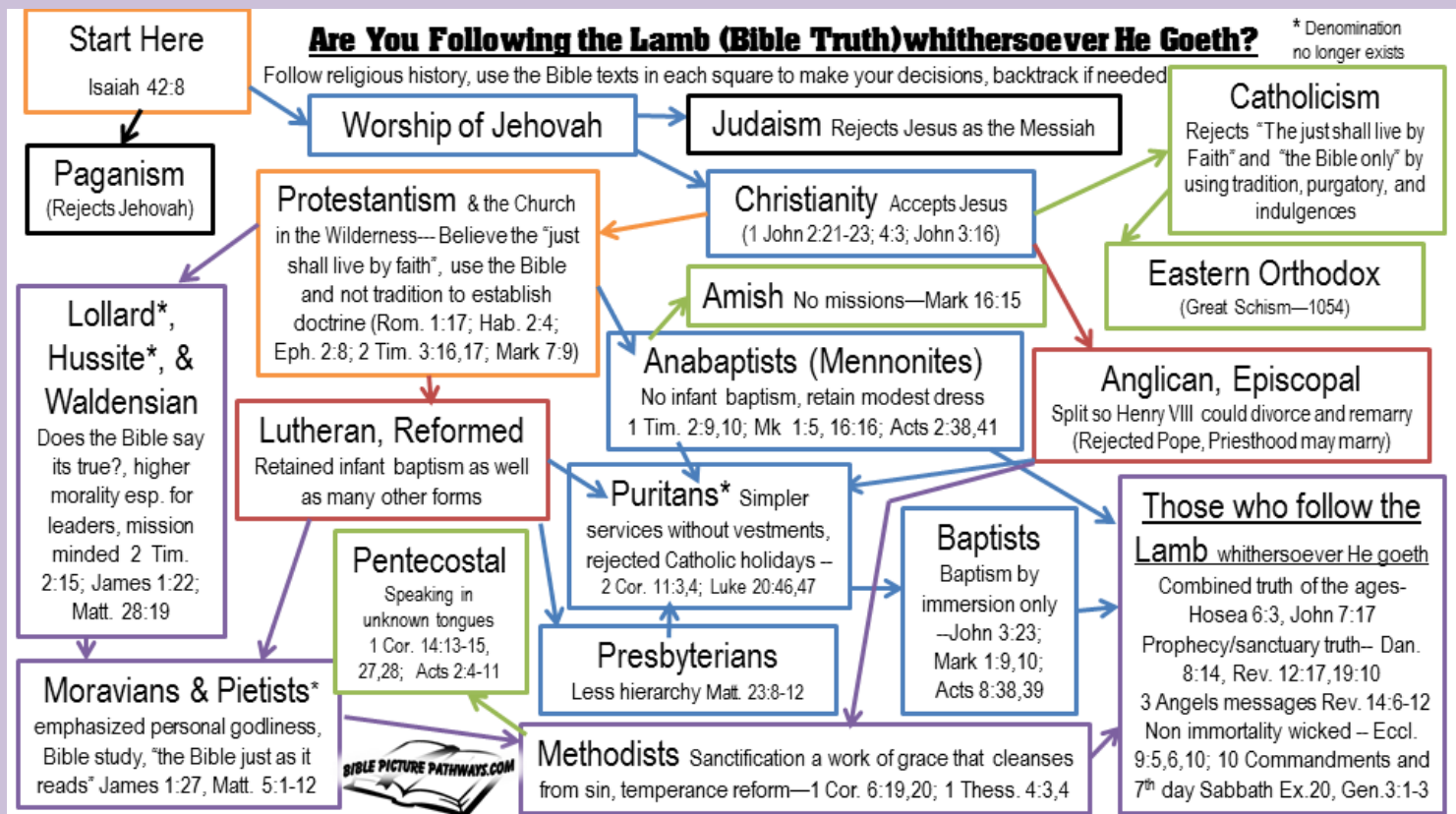
Following the Lamb includes following Truth as revealed in God's Word *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6 *"Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name."* Psalm 86:11 *"I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me."* Psalm 119:30 *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."* John 17:17

Those who follow the Lamb will recognize the voice of God in His Word. *"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."* John 10:4 *"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."* John 10:16 *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:"* John 10:27

Those who follow the Lamb will not harden their hearts *"For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture... To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:"* Psalm 95:7, 8

Those who Follow the Lamb will take up their cross *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."* Matt.16:24

Those who follow the Lamb will be Missionaries—*"He saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Matt. 4:19



"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Proverbs 4:18

Despite their "bad name", skunks are quite cute little creatures, especially the babies. Skunks, or polecats, as they are sometimes called, live all around the world. Some are spotted and others are striped. Skunks eat berries, eggs, and insects. When a skunk feels threatened or scared by a person or another animal, it may stomp the ground and chatter its teeth. If the predator refuses to leave, up goes the skunk's tail, and a horrible scent will be sprayed at the enemy. This scent may spray up to 15 feet or 4.6 meters (that is about as long as a car) but the smell can go a mile or 1.6 km before disappearing. Skunks will be a lot more fun in heaven where they won't spray, don't you think so?



Contributed by Mr. Crisaffi Jr. to Tehachapi News

Which of these things will you find in heaven? Which will you not find in heaven?



2 Timothy 4:8

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Isaiah 11:6

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

Revelation 21:4

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."



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