



The Bible Banner

December 2014



The Path of Truth

In the 1800s, sailors dreaded the Pelorus Sound off of the coast of New Zealand. It was full of treacherous currents and concealed jagged rocks. Many ships were lost in this region.

Then in 1871, as a ship was having trouble going through these waters, a porpoise jumped out of the water. At the suggestion of the captain's wife the men followed it and safely got through the rough area.

From that time on Pelorus Jack, as they called the porpoise, guided many ships through the water. As soon as he saw a ship he leaped out of the water, and was always greeted by a cheer. For forty years he guided ships.

During those years only one ship struck the rocks and sunk. A drunken passenger shot at the porpoise and nicked him.

For two weeks he was missing and when he returned to work Pelorus Jack refused to guide that ship, and it soon sunk.

We too have rough waters of life to pass through. But if we follow Jesus Christ, the Truth, we need not sink into sin. Are you following the Guide?

Gluten Free

Southern Johnny Cakes

2 cups non-GMO cornmeal (make sure it is very finely ground)

1 tsp salt

3 Tbsp olive oil

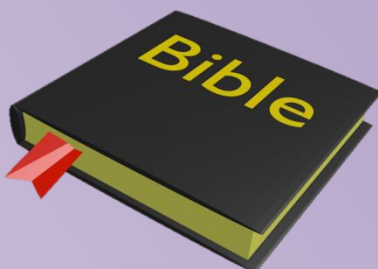
2 Tbsp sucanat

½ cup soy or nut milk

Mix all these ingredients together. Add 2 cups boiling water.

Add to make a fairly soft batter, but one that will hold its shape. If too thick, add a little extra water. Drop by large spoonfuls onto ungreased griddle and flatten to ½ inch thickness or less. Turn over when it is lightly browned around the edges then cook the other side. Serve with

applesauce or maple syrup. Tip: Make sure the cornmeal is VERY fine—like flour and the water is BOILING or this recipe will not work. If it fails you may add flour to desired consistency.



Quotable Quotes

"There's no better book with which to defend the Bible than the Bible itself."—Dwight L. Moody

AGAINST THE CURRENT

Two summers ago our family was privileged to take a canoe trip upriver to a lake where we camped for a few days. It was the first canoe trip we had ever taken like this and the children had been preparing for weeks, making meals and dehydrating them so that we could have healthful food to eat while we were camping. We carefully weighed everything that we would take because we did not want to overload the canoes and have them sink, and we didn't want to have to leave anything necessary behind either.

Despite the most careful preparation however, nothing prepared us for the journey. The park ranger at the starting point told us that because of the recent rains, it was going to be quite difficult to paddle our way upstream. This turned out to be a severe understatement of the actual facts. Although the beginning of our journey was fairly peaceable, we started coming to sections of the river where the current was so strong that it took all of us (three in each canoe) to get past each point. Each time one of the canoes was able to pass a point it gave us courage to go forward. Then we came to a bend in the river to the right. In order to make the turn, we needed to keep to the right, but the current was so strong it continued pushing our canoe to the left shore. We had to try repeatedly to pass this bend in the river, but finally one and then the other canoe made the turn and passed this point of tribulation.

No sooner had we somewhat recovered from this hard spot however, than we encountered what was to be the hardest stretch of river. Although all of us were paddling as hard as we could, we were actually moving backwards because of the force of the current. Again and again we were pushed back to the same spot only to have to begin again trying to pass this point of tribulation. It became very discouraging to realize that we had been paddling for probably half an hour and we were still in the same place, and had not made any headway during that time. Though I really don't know how, by learning the pattern of the river, praying, persevering, and paddling as hard as we could, we did finally make it past that tempestuous point and were able to enjoy perhaps our most memorable camping trip ever situated in a beautiful location by a lake reminiscent of the "Sea of Glass" mentioned in the Bible.



The lessons from this trip are distinct. Nowhere in the Bible is the way to heaven pictured as the easy way. Like paddling upstream we are to "*Strive [struggle] to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*" —**Luke 13:24**. Jesus told his disciples, "*If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*" —

Matthew 16:24. "*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*" —**Luke 14:27**.

Many today feel like they are paddling upstream. Following the Biblical route often means going against the current of popular opinion. Sometimes going the "right" way seems impossible. Some will not endure long to bear the cross against a steady current of opposition, and the opposition will wear

them out completely. It is far easier to pass down with the current than to row upstream. But let us be reminded that it is by the way of the cross, the current against us, that the crown lies.

And yet in the Bible, hope is given. One has gone before to show us that it is possible. Jesus said, "*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" —

John 16:33. Upon those who have the endurance of the saints, those who continue to paddle against the current, a blessing is pronounced. "*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*" —**James 1:12**. When we reach our goal on that "Sea of Glass", it will be worth it all.



The Love of Many is Waxed Cold

*Are we suffering persecution, trying God's commands to keep?
Are our spirits crushed within us? Do we oft in silence weep?
From the world naught else we look for; we expect its coldest frown;
But when those we love turn from us, how we sink in sorrow down!*

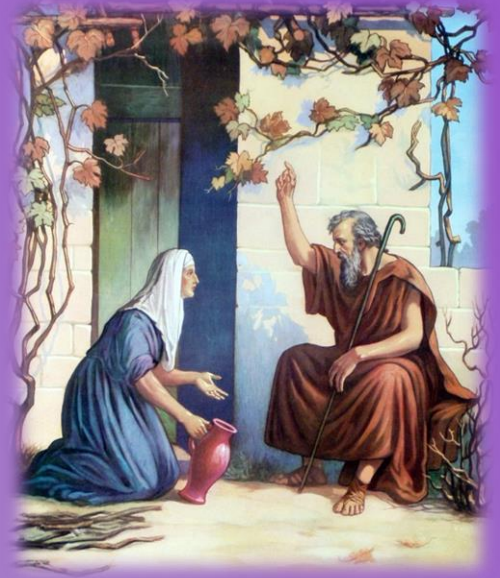
*Where we've felt God's image planted, where in union we have prayed,
Where our faith has gained the victory, and we knew from Heaven our aid,
Oh! what change has cooled the fervor; what could mean this cold retreat?
Lord, let thine in union ever, and in love, each other greet.*

*God's own searching eye is on us! Jesus feels our every grief!
He'll not leave his own thus wounded, but will bring them swift relief;
Making known our every duty, teaching where he'd have us go,
Saying, Fear not! I'll be with you, and all needed help bestow.*

*Though you see your bread withholden, find no place to lay your head;
Cast your all on Heaven's protection: God to life can raise the dead!
Who the widow's oil replenished? Who kept good her needed store,
When Elijah shared her morsel, having naught to purchase more?*

*If we blindly hug earth's treasures, where shall we a shelter find?
Soon the plagues will be upon us! all then on the altar bind.
Do you say 'tis on the altar? By the fruit it will be known:
God is searching out his people, and is sealing for his own.*

*Let us fear lest we offend him, and he pass our dwelling by:
He will have a holy people, whom no plague can e'er come nigh.
Haste to get thee disentangled! Haste to get from bondage free!
Lose not for this world's possessions, life and immortality! –Rebekah Smith*



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PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate watchfulness. When there is snow on the ground it is a good time to play the tracking game. Have someone go for a walk in the snow. After a short delay to allow the first person a head start, a second person has to try to find them by following their footprints. This concept may be improvised using rocks and sticks to point out a trail where no snow is available. See what lessons you can learn about following the path of truth and Jesus' footprints. Here are a few we learned:

- You need to learn the distinctive footprint of the person you are following. Jesus footprints bear the mark of self-sacrificing love. *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* **John 15:13**, also **Psalms 22:16**
- Those who follow must walk the same path, under logs, through bushes, etc., or they will get lost. Those who follow Jesus will also be self-sacrificing. **Matt. 16:24, 4:19**
- When you lose the trail, go back to the last place you saw a footprint. When your life is falling apart, go back to the point where you last saw the Light. *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* **John 8:12**



Study to Show Thyself Approved

Revelation 14:7 "Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and **give glory to him**; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

What does it mean to give glory to God?

1. God does not give his glory to anyone or anything else.

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my _____ to graven images." **Isaiah 42:8**

2. Glory must go to God and His Truth, not to man

"Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy _____ give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake." **Psalm 115:1**

3. Often men glory in their wisdom, strength and riches, but we are ONLY to glory in the fact that we know God.

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that _____ glory in this, that he understandeth and _____ me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." **Jeremiah 9:23,24**

4. Glorifying God is connected with giving the glory due his name.

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." **Psalm 29:2**

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an _____, and come into his courts." **Psalm 96:8**

5. We can take God's name in vain by calling ourselves Christians and disregarding his law (lying and stealing).

"Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither _____ nor _____; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain."

Proverbs 30:8, 9

6. Biblically, names were used to recognize character and reputation.

"A good _____ is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." **Proverbs 22:1**

7. We may God's name/character and reputation and DO NOT give glory to Him when we do not take care of our body temple.

"What? know ye not that your body is the _____ of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore _____ God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." **1**

Corinthians 6:19, 20

8. We give glory to God's name/character and reputation when we are thankful for his blessings and have faith.

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice _____ God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." **Luke**

17:15-18

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;"

Romans 4:20

9. We may give glory to God by ordering our lives and everything we do in accordance with his will.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or _____, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." **1 Corinthians 10:31**

"Let your _____ so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." **Matthew 5:16**

10. We may give glory to God by reflecting Christ to the world

"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who _____ the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, **to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the _____ may be of God, and not of us." **2 Corinthians 4:5-7**



Answers: 1. praise; 2. name; 3. glorified; 4. offering; 5. poverty, riches; 6. name; 7. temple, glory; 8.

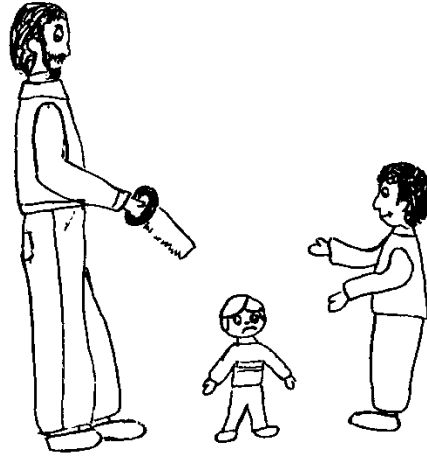
glorified; 9. drink; 10. commanded, power

Memory Text:

Colossians 3:9 "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"



Christian broke his mother's vase by accident. He told her he was sorry. Christian's mother was glad he said he was sorry.



Carnal disobeyed and played with his father's tools. He lost his father's hammer and blamed it on his little brother. He made Jesus very sad.

God's Amazing Creatures

The wings of the glasswinged butterfly are made so you can see through them. They are transparent. Their spanish name means "little mirrors". They travel from Mexico through Panama and Colombia. They also fly through Florida. Before they became butterflys they were just green caterpillars. The glasswinged butterfly is beautiful, but I know heaven will be even more beautiful. The Bible says the streets in heaven are made of pure gold, like transparent glass. (Rev. 21:21) I'm looking forward to going to heaven. Aren't you?



STOLEN BIBLE

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." Psalm 119:140

The story is told of a man named John who stole a Bible from an empty courtroom. He thought it would be worth a couple of dollars and he could sell it and get a bite to eat. However it was not so easy to get rid of the Bible as he thought.

First, he approached a woman, and tried to sell the Bible. But she just gave him some money, and told him to get something to eat. *"But oh, no, son,"* she said to him. *"I couldn't take your Bible."* He next approached a man, but the man would not even listen. *"Take these two bits and save your sermon for someone else,"* he told John.

On the street a woman met him who asked him to take some packages to her car three blocks down the street. John did this and when they got there she opened her purse and gave him a tip. Then she pulled a small Bible from her purse. *"See"* she said, *"I carry one with me, too. It certainly is helpful, isn't it?"*

"Uh... yes," John managed to stammer. He was quite uncomfortable.

Since he couldn't sell it, he decided to get rid of it another way. As he passed a public park he sat down on a bench to rest, and when he walked off, he purposely left the Bible on the bench. But as he walked off a helpful, little girl came running after him. *"Hey, Mister, you left your Bible!"* Finally, he decided that the only way he could get rid of it was to take it back to the courtroom where he had stolen it. But when he got there the janitor was locking the courtroom.

"Could you put this Bible in there," John asked the janitor. *"It came from there in the first place."*

"How did you get it then?" asked the janitor. John started to explain, but the janitor didn't want to hear his story. Instead he took him to the judge.

So John told the judge his story. The judge listened gravely, and then said, *"I think I had better sentence you, young man. I sentence you to keep this Bible."*

As the years passed John learned to love the book he couldn't get rid of. Do you love God's Truth?



ROMANS 5:8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."