# Fruit of the Spirit of God

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# Words to Find: Faith Gentleness Goodness Joy Longsuffering Love Meekness Peace Righteousness *Temperance*

Truth

#### Reminders

Bible Expositor and Illuminator

"Sometimes I think I am not a Christian," said a boy one day. "I don't seem to have the same interest that I had when I joined the church. It isn't easy for me to remember God"

"What about the time when vour father was away from home so long? Was it hard for you to remember him?" asked the minister slowly.

"Not a bit," said the boy. "We had letters from him and kept thinking about him and talking about him, and looking forward to the time when he'd come home. No, there wasn't much chance to vou're right. A fellow needs all forget him."

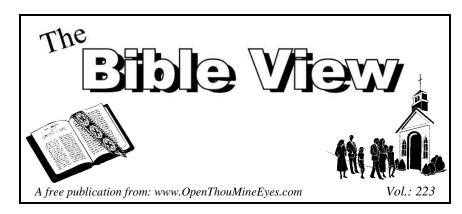
"Suppose there had been no in a world like this." Suppose your father's letters.

name had been dropped from the conversation," said the minister thoughtfully.

"That would have made a difference," answered the boy slowly.

"Well, don't you see it is the same with God? We can't see Him. It isn't to be wondered at if we forget Him when we allow so many other things to crowd in upon us. But God has given us His Holy Word that is something like vour father's letters. He also gave us His house where the members of the family can meet and talk about Him"

"I see what you mean, and the reminders of God he can have



## Finished

Bill Brinkworth

To understand God and His will more fully, we must first understand that some of the things He has done or promised in the past are finished. What He has done other times, may not happen today.

## **Creation is finished!**

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." Genesis 2:1

After God's six day work of creating the universe,

putting all the stars and in planets and place, creating the Earth and all that lives on **4** it. He had it recorded that His creation c

was finished. There will be no more new creations put into outer space; although some may "burn out" or change. There will be no more species of plants or animals created; although many

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# Why He Lost His Pardon

Florida Baptist Witness

A man named Samuel Homes, who was in the Frankfort, Kentucky jail was undergoing punishment for murder. He received a visit from an old school friend. Lucien

Young. The Kentucky legislature had recorded some years previously its appreciation of Young's bravery in rescuing several lives from a wrecked vessel. Young, moved by Homes' condition, made an appeal to Governor Blackburn for Samuel's pardon. The governor, remembering Young's bravery, relented and signed the pardon for Young's sake.

With the document in his pocket, Young hastened back to the prison to tell the good news to his friend. Before telling him that he had the power to make him a free man, Young started a conversation. After talking awhile about other subjects, he finally asked his

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## **Finished**

Continued from Page 1 more may still be discovered for the first time. Man or beast will not change into something different. God's perfect creation is finished.

God may not deal with people of today as he has dealt with them in the past! No longer will He destroy mankind as he did in the time of Noah. Although God still supplies our daily needs, most of us will never eat of the daily manna as did the children of Israel as they fled Egypt. The church and Christ's sacrifice replaced the need for a temple and priests to present sacrifices on our behalf. Although God still performs great supernatural feats in individual lives and for nations, most of the time, he will not deal with circumstances the same way as He has done in the past.

#### God's Word is finished!

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

Deuteronomy 4:2

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"

Revelations 22:18

God made sure all we needed to know was recorded in the written word preserved for the major languages. Today, English speaking people have His Word exactly the way He gave it to the prophets, scribes, and other men of God. It is preserved in our King James Bible. There is no need to have a modern scholar tell us something that God had "forgotten" to say, or something He had preserved incorrectly in their new translation. What He said thousands of years ago is finished, and nothing is to be added or taken away from it.

#### Jesus' work is finished!

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost." John 19:30 Also: John 17:4

Man's only way to heaven was finished when Christ died for all of our sins on the cruel cross at Calvary. The price was paid for sin that day, when the blood flowed out of God's only son. There is nothing we can do to earn our way to heaven. There is no religious task we can do that will keep us out of Hell. There is also no one that can say certain words that will absolve us of our sins. All that was necessary for our salvation was completed when Jesus died.

There are, however, several things that are not finished.

Some prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. All the prophecies about the Messiah's coming were fulfilled when Jesus came and died. Although all of what was predicted about the Messiah thousands, and even hundreds of years before His birth came true, there are many prophecies about man's last days on this earth that are yet to come true as God's Word says they will. We are still waiting for the promises of His coming and His calling of His own out of this world. We are still waiting for the judgments God promised on the inhabitants of this world to be fulfilled. Those prophecies are vet to be finished.

Lastly, one thing that is not finished is your life. If you are reading this, you still have the opportunity to be saved and miss hell. You still have time to do what God commands you to do. However, one day you will not have the opportunity you have today. You will not be able to look out of the flames of hell, change your mind and be saved, because your life has ended.

Have you trusted Christ's finished work on the cross as the only way to Heaven, or are you still putting your trust in what your religion says, or what you think you must do to please God? Have you done what God has spoken to your heart to do for Him, or made the changes to your life that He required? One day it may be too late; as your life will be finished here on this Earth.

# Why He Lost His ...

Continued from Page 1 buddy, "Sam, if you were turned loose and fully pardoned, what would be the first thing you would do?"

The convict very quickly responded, "I would go to Lancaster, and kill Judge Owley and a man who was a witness against me."

Young uttered not a word, but turned mournfully away, went outside the prison wall, took the pardon from his pocket, and tore it into fragments.

This is the story as it was told in the Richmond Register. Holmes lost his pardon simply because when he was forgiven, he would not forgive. He had no repentance with which to meet pardon and no godly sorrow with which to respond to proffered mercy.

# No Easy Path to Glory

Author Unknown

It takes a little courage And a little self-control, And some grim determination If you want to reach a goal. It takes a deal of striving, And a firm and stern set chin, No matter what the battle, If you're really out to win.

There's no easy path to glory,
There's no rosy road to fame,
Life, however we may view it,
Is no simple parlor game;
But its prizes call for fighting,
For endurance and for grit,
For a rugged disposition
And a "don't know-when-to-quit."

Don't try to change God's message. Let His message change you.