

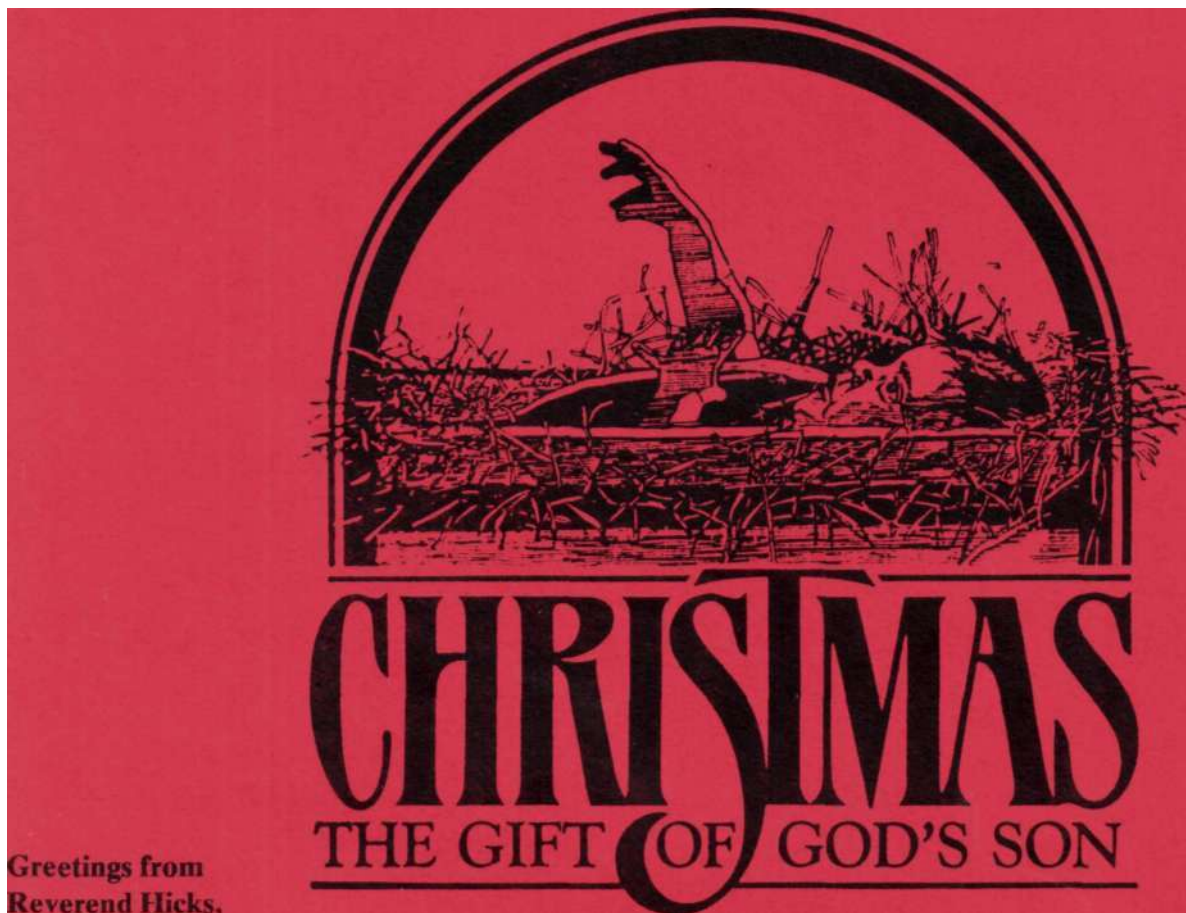
Issue 29 **C H R I S T F O R Y O U T H**

NEWSLETTER

Issue

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God gives four distinct seasons in the natural realm, and each season has its own particular purpose. Spring brings many evidences of new life and new growth. Summer is the time of continued growth of the crops, and autumn is when most crops come to the time of harvest, and their best seeds are preserved for the next planting time. Winter, when everything is covered in a white blanket of snow, is the dormant season for the plant world. A farmer who is not diligent to work when it is time to plant, to weed the crops in the summertime, and to harvest them in the autumn will be hungry during the wintertime, and he will have no seeds to plant when spring comes again.

In the spiritual realm, the LORD gives us spiritual seasons in which we are to "work" by diligently seeking Him. In this issue of "Christ for Youth" we shall learn how to seek the **LORD** in our spiritual spring seasons and winter seasons.



SEEKING THE LORD

**From the Desk of ...
Rev. B. R. Hicks**

The word *seek* in English means to go in search or quest of; to search for; to try to find; to look for; to try to obtain; to try for; to inquire for; to solicit; to aim at; to try to gain; to pursue as an object or end; to strive after; to endeavour to find; to examine; to make pursuit.

A *seeker* after the LORD is one who, in all circumstances, waits and watches for clearer understanding and new manifestations of the LORD in all things.

Let us examine the Hebrew word that is translated as *seek* in Amos, chapter five.

For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, *Seek ye me, and ye shall live:* (Amos 5:4).

***Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Beth-el* (Amos 5:6).**

Seek him that maketh the seven stars [Pleiades] and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into

***the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his Name:* (Amos 5:8).**

***Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of Hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken* (Amos 5:14).**

The Hebrew word for *seek* is *daw-rash*, meaning to tread or frequent, to follow for pursuit or search, to ask, to worship, to care for diligently, to inquire, to make inquisition.

In Amos' day, Israel's apostasy from God had reduced her into such a deplorable and desperate plight that nothing but an immediate return to Him could save her, causing her to live and survive as a nation. That is why the LORD exhorted Israel to be devout, sincere seekers of Him.

A person must seek God exclusively, for God will not tolerate or endure any rivals. We must abandon our false images and false gods [by consulting not the idol-oracles of our vain imagination] if we hope to attain new and clear understanding and manifestations of our LORD. The manifold false images and gods that we have in our heart cause us to commit numerous transgressions.

Great is the multitude of vain and vile images that lodge within our thoughts. Myriad are the idle, foolish, and vain words that have been spoken by us, and numerous are the instances in which we have indulged and gratified the lusts of our own sin-sick wills.

Our only hope is to return to the LORD, repent, and live. If we are to enjoy the life and protection of our LORD, we must forsake the lying vanities of the "Twenty-four Elders" or gods in our heart and seek to follow in the Footsteps of Jesus Christ.

If we seek perishing gods, we may expect to perish with them. If we seek the Living God, we shall live with Him.

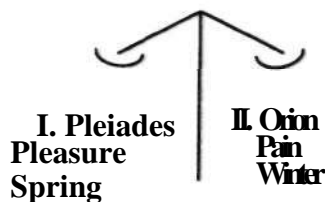
God is the Great, Omnipotent Creator Who gives life to His creation. Conversely, false gods (images and idols) are impotent things that bring death instead of

life. Thus, when spiritual death overtakes us, it **is a witness** that we have sought the vain and vile images **of our own** thoughts **and** opinions.

The **LORD** called Israel's attention to the *seven stars [Pleiades]* and **Orion, the stars that** faithfully obey His orderly arrangement **for** them as their Creator, Owner, **and** Master. The faithful obedience of these Stars **is** a witness against Israel's continual disobedience against the sweetness and Justice of His *Torah*, by the perverting His Justice with the bitterness of oppression and the wickedness of their idolatry.

A moral lesson can be learned from Pleiades and Orion in connection with seeking the LORD.

I. Pleiades — Pleasure — Spring



Pleiades is a cluster of Stars in or near the shoulder of the constellation Taurus. Since they appear about the middle of April, they are associated with the return of spring, the season of sweet influences. The Stars of Pleiades are bound together with such amazing, attractive energy that they draw our whole planetary system and Sun around them at the rate of 422,000 miles a day in an orbit which will take thousands of years to complete.

Pleiades picture our pleasurable springtime experiences in the **LORD**.

The LORD God is the Creator and Ruler Who makes Pleiades usher in the spring. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, the LORD is the Governing Cause Who commands our pleasurable experiences in Him, ushering in our spiritual spring.

If we will seek our Creator, Owner, and Master in our spiritual springtime, He will cause our life to be full of radiant hope and exciting expectations. If we will seek the LORD when our days are full of love, joy, and peace, the sweetness of His Presence will grow and increase in our heart.

We need to continue seeking the LORD when it is our springtime season so that the LORD can fill our heart with new Seeds of Truth and our soul with fresh Flowers of Truth. The sweet, fragrant influences of the LORD's spiritual spring change the barren condition of our heart to one of fruitfulness.

Natural springtime and spiritual springtime both come through the perpetual exercise of God's Sovereign Ruling Power. Just as God's Miraculous Power works wonderful change upon the Earth's image in the natural springtime, so also does His Miraculous Power work wonderful changes upon our heart and mind in the spiritual springtime.

In the midst of the miracle of change that is wrought on the Earth's image in the natural realm and upon our heart and mind in the spiritual realm, may we

remember and give grateful honour to the One Who is the Cause and the Author of the change. While we are experiencing the sweet influences and pleasures of spring, let us learn to seek and to honour the Cause and the Author with our new energy. How Boundless, Magnificent, and Mighty is the LORD God and His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ Who governs and guides our seasons according to His Master Plan.

The LORD God created the Pleiades in the beginning and set them in order according to His Purposive Will. He continues to govern and guide them in their motions so they can minister their sweet influences to man in the springtime. God blesses man with all the goodness of His Creative Works both naturally and spiritually. Consequently, because of the LORD's Mercy, Goodness, and Grace, willing, submissive hearts are constrained, to seek Him by frequenting Christ's path to the Throne of Grace.

II. Orion — Pain — Winter Tempest

Orion, a constellation known as the "Great Hunter," is composed of about eighty Stars, located south of Taurus. Its rising is at the stormy season. The three bright Stars which form Orion's girdle never change their relative positions. Orion, the mighty giant of the skies that controls the winter season, was looked upon as being chained in the sky to perform his winter work, which none but the Almighty could unloose.

God's Mighty Power alone can release the Earth from the sterile bands of winter, changing the winter season into a springtime season. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, God alone can release the soul from its spiritual winter season of desolation and barrenness.

If we are faithful to seek the LORD God, our Creator, Owner, and Master, in the midst of our seasons of tempests and storms, He is faithful to loose us from our winter's sterile bands of pains and sufferings, allowing us to enter into a new cycle of beauty and fruitfulness in His Word and in His Spirit. We need to seek Him when our spiritual sky is filled with foreboding clouds of darkness, despair, and hopelessness, waiting patiently for the Creator to use His Sovereign Ruling Power which, in due season, changes our winter into spring.

Let us enter into our ship of life and face the storm, seeking always to do the Will of Christ Jesus.

Our faithful Owner and Master knows exactly when to visit us in the storm, just as He visited His Disciples, bringing His Holy Peace and Quietness in the midst of the storm.

The LORD God is the Cause of the storm, and the Son, Jesus Christ, is the Redemptive Effects in the midst of the storm. Therefore, the LORD can loose us from the chains of darkness and death in the midst of the storm, and Christ Jesus can minister His Redemptive Healing Effects to the flesh we discovered in the storm.

The Power of the radiant Light of the Sun of Righteousness turns our night into morning and our

winter into spring. When the Sun of Righteousness rises with healing in His Wings, our despair, darkness, and death give place to hope, confidence, light, and life.

As we seek the LORD in the midst of the painful winter storm and tempest, He moves our earth, the soil of our mind, closer to the Sun of Righteousness, changing our winter season into spring and causing the Seeds of Truth that He has placed in our heart to spring up with new life.

The Sun of Righteousness, as the Cause and the Redemptive Effect, brightens our perplexed mind, enlightens the darkness of our misunderstandings, and heals the cuts of the painful separation that we experience in this miserable, mortal life. The Righteous and Just LORD changes our circumstances and situations, as we seek Him in the midst of our winter seasons.

When the LORD Jesus appeared to His Disciples on that dark, stormy night, He did not change the night into day. Instead, He, Who is the Light of the world, brightened their night by quieting the storm. He left them with new, clear understanding about the manifestation of His Power to redeem.

Let us seek Him Who is able to darken our day of pleasure or brighten our night of pain, according to His Purposive Will. Let us seek God and give Glory to Him Who is the Cause and to His Son Who is the Redemptive Effect.

God, the Cause, creates all outward changes in our situations and circumstances in all our seasons so that Christ can minister

Redemptive Effects upon our soul which will stand as a mighty witness of His Omnipotence throughout Eternity.

Remember, God rules over all the changes of the natural Earth. He changes day to night and night to day. He changes spring to summer, summer to autumn, autumn to winter, and winter to spring. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, God rules over all the changes of our day and night circumstances and over all our spring and winter situations.

God uses all these changing seasons just as a natural potter uses the turning of his potter's wheel, to remold the clay of our flesh into a new, Holy Image of His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ.

The same Mighty God Who created Pleiades and Orion in the natural realm governs and guides them so that they, in turn, can govern and guide the Earth into new cycles of fruitfulness.

Likewise, the LORD God, *El Shaddai*, creates our spiritual Pleiades (called pleasurable springtime circumstances) and Orions (called painful wintertime circumstances) in the spiritual realm, and He governs and guides these seasons so that they, in turn, can govern and guide us into new cycles of fruitfulness in Christ Jesus, as we seek Him.

However, if we do not seek the LORD in all our circumstances, the soil of our mind and heart will remain unopened and unprepared to receive new Seeds of Truth and

too hard and cold to allow the old Seeds of Truth to spring up into new forms of beauty and fruitfulness. Thus, we will remain barren and unfruitful if we do not allow God to plow up the soil of our heart and mind in the proper season, and we will come forth out of our winter season the same as we went in.

If you are wise, young people, you will seek your LORD while He may be found. Do not pass through your Pleiades seasons of pleasure and your Orion seasons of pain unchanged. Do not come out of them the same as you were when you went into them. I implore you to yield your heart and mind to Jesus Christ, the Potter, so that you can come forth as a bright, new, and shining Image of Jesus Christ. •



It's Time to Do Some Growing!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

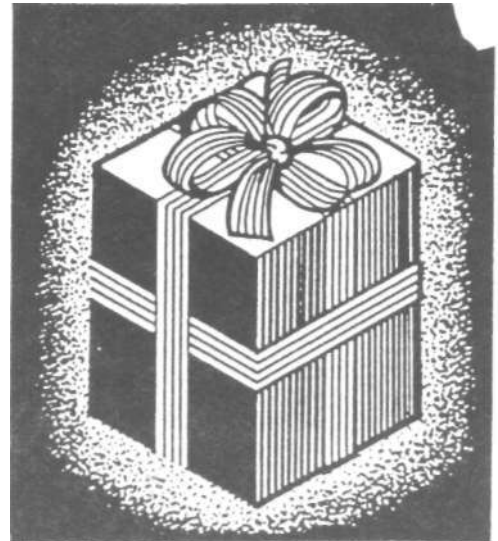
Dear Staff:

I just wanted to say a great big thanks for such a great newsletter. I pray that God returns a special blessing to you at this special Holiday Season.

Truly the LORD is so good to us and is the Great Shepherd. Continually watching over each of us. Just as the shepherds watched over their sheep we know the LORD is keeping each of us. Thanks again and a Merry Christmas.

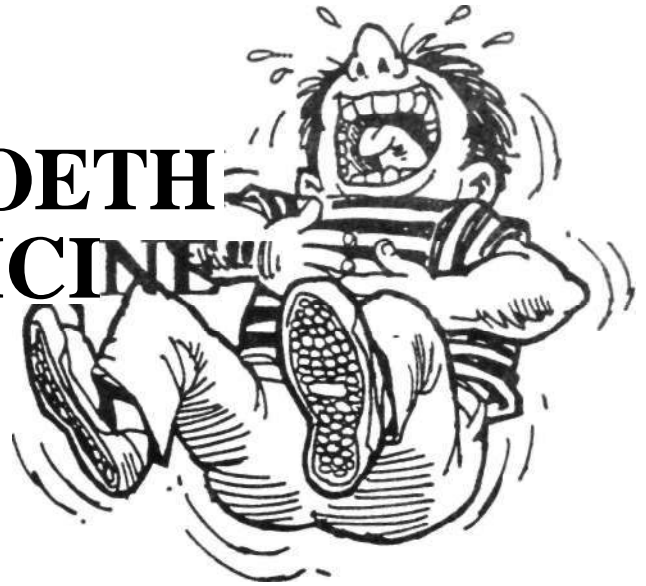
Jordan J.

If you have given
With a desire to receive
Something in return,
Then you haven't given,
You've traded.



PROVERBS 17:22

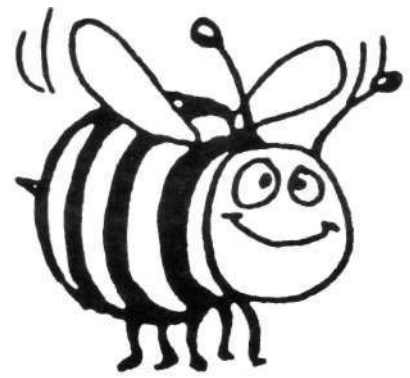
"A MERRY HEART DOETH GOOD LIKE A MEDICINE"



"NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS ON THIS JOB."



DEAR AUNT



Dear Aunt Bea:

My Mom and Dad say that I have to pay tithes on the money I make on my paper route. How old do you have to be to start paying tithes: I'm eight years old.

Holding out

Dear Holding Out:

We should grow up learning to obey God's Word. In Malachi 3:10 it says "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it".

If you want God's Blessing on your paper route, honor God with your substance. The Bible says in Proverbs 3:9-10, "Honour the LORD with thy substance (like money), and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine (cause God will bless you)".

Don't give because your Mom and Dad say so, but give because God says so! And enjoy his Blessing for obeying.

Aunt Bea

Dear Aunt Bea:

One of my really close friends is out of church. I've had a burden for him ever since he's been out. I pray and pray, but it seems like it isn't working. Things just get worse. I'm scared he will miss it and I know he loves the LORD and this message. What do you suggest I do?



MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

Dear Making the Right Choice:

I suggest you keep praying and lifting up the promises of God. God DOES hear and DOES answer! Be patient and believe. God is not willing that ANY should perish! He cares about the desires of your heart as well as the soul of your friend.

Always remember, God knows what each person needs to experience and God's timing is different than ours.

Praise Him for His Headship! And hang onto Hebrews 11:6 and don't let go.



**Don't monkey around
with being in the
Bride of
Jesus Christ.**

sent from Presque Isle, Maine

Dear Aunt Bea:

Just recently my best friend's boyfriend was killed in a car accident. It changed many lives in our small town. He was really popular and had a lot going for him. But, He just drank too much and so did his friend who was driving him home and wrecked the car.

Nobody knows if he was right with God, but we hope so. The incident has gotten a lot of us thinking how fast we can die and never have a chance to make ourselves ready. Nobody can choose when to die. That's why we should always be right with God and pray and study. I just wanted to share this with other Youth so they can realize too, how fast accidents happen.

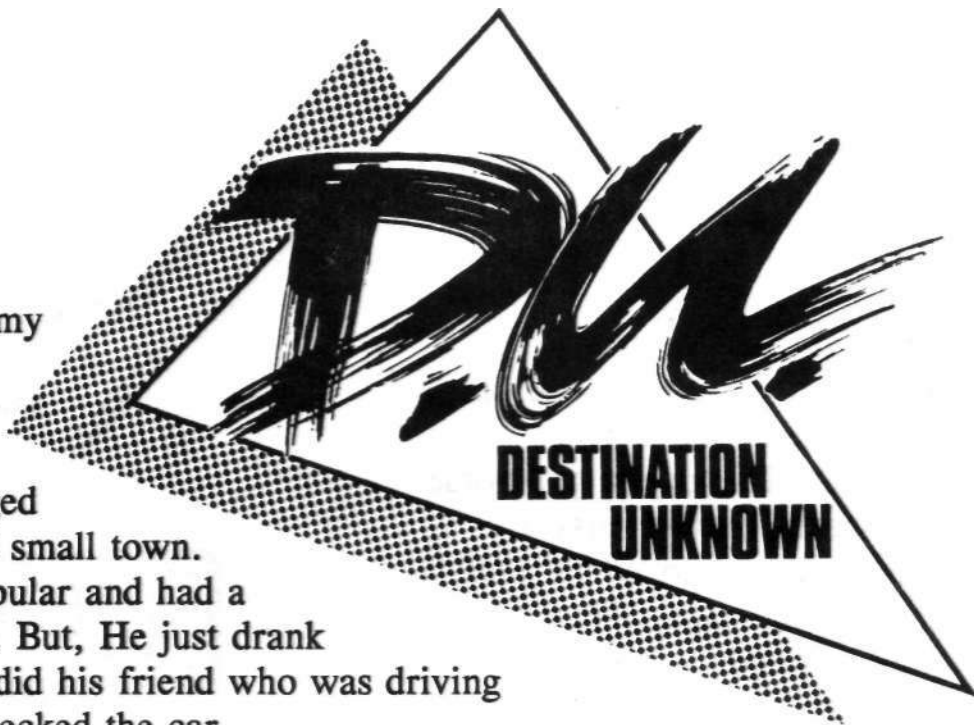
Thank you and God Bless,
CONCERNED

Dear Concerned:

Thank God for Jesus. Without Him we could not have peace of mind as is mentioned in Philippians 4:6-7. You are absolutely correct. None of us knows when it is time to go into eternity. Why take the chance? Why not live life to the fullest in Christ and enjoy the excitement of one day living in His presence?

We should ask the Holy Spirit to search our hearts daily. I live everyday for Him as if it were my last. You are wise in taking your commitment to Christ, seriously. I only wish there were more people like yourself. God Bless you.

Aunt Bea





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