

Letter from the Editor

This edition of the newsletter begins our 1st year of publication. Starting out with a mere 35 or so on the mailing list, there are now over 600 individuals and families, and it grows a little every month. We appreciate all of you who have helped with your support, your prayers, comments and questions, and your suggestions.

Our initial reason for beginning another newsletter was two-fold: (1) because we were coming into contact with Believers who, like Apollos in Acts 18:24-26, had a less than perfect knowledge of the way of Salvation. We, like Aquila and Priscilla, wanted to help them to correct some of the misinformation carried over from past religious associations; and (2), to help those just coming into the faith, to develop a good foundation to build on. New converts responding to Yahweh's calling sometimes believe that all they have to do is change their day of worship and the Name they call their Creator. But there is much, much more to conversion than that. This way encompasses a whole new lifestyle – a whole new way of living, thinking, acting.

According to letters we receive from readers, there has been quite a bit of success in this area. There is a deep hunger out there for Spiritual food, and it is my good pleasure to help fill that void. There are two Scriptures that seem at first glance to contradict each other.

(Dan 12:4 KJV) *"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."*

(Hosea 4:6 KJV) *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy Elohim, I will also forget thy children."*

On the one hand, He says knowledge will increase in the end-time, and on the other hand, He says His people are being destroyed for lack of knowledge. What is the answer? Is this a contradiction? Hardly. The meaning is clear – there is plenty of the wrong kind of knowledge. In fact, we are being overrun with “knowledge overload” about things, about gadgets, about perverted sex, about ways to keep our minds occupied with mundane useless things, while the important things in life – how to live at peace with our neighbors, how to attain eternal salvation, how to properly worship and serve our Mighty Creator and His Son, are almost totally neglected. And sadly, the religious teaching that is available to most people is MIS-information, being passed off as Christian gospel by well-meaning people. Here are some of the more common fallacies that are believed by millions of Christians, and too many of us who should know better. We will explore the truth of these from Scripture as we go along in this newsletter.

“The Trinity” (A pagan doctrine); *“Born Again,”* and *“Are You Saved?”* (false concepts of these two subjects); *“The hem of His garment”* (What was that hem, and what does it mean to us today?); *“Final Judgment”* (almost no one understands this subject); *“Baptism with the Holy Spirit and with Fire,”* (another badly misunderstood subject, especially by those who believe in speaking in “tongues.”); *“...and on His thigh a name written...”* Thigh? Could this be a mistranslation? *“Holy and reverend is HIS name...”* Should we mere men appropriate this Name to ourselves? *“This month shall be unto you the beginning of months...”* What month is He speaking of? Does Scripture show us His Calendar?

There are many other similar doctrines or practices that have sprung from equally misunderstood Scriptures, and we should strive to learn the truth of these fallacies so we can eliminate the errors and embrace the Truth.

Of special importance at this time is that last item – the calendar. Yahweh's calendar, not our “Roman Catholic” everyday calendar that the world goes by, but the one the Creator put in the sky for all men everywhere for all time. Is it hard to figure out? No. And why is it so important?

The answer to that is because Yahweh's annual Set-apart Holy Days are based on it, so it behooves us to get it right. Sadly, some have not. Different Assemblies use various ways of determining when this "beginning of months" is. But only one way is correct. Otherwise, we come before Yahweh at the wrong times of the year. More on that later, too.

I hope you had a profitable pagan year 2004, and wish for you an even better 2005. Shalom until next time. ~
