

January 2001

### **GOD CARES FOR YOU!**

By Mark Legendre

Have you ever wondered to yourself whether or not God really cares for you? Due to the circumstances of life that can sometimes be so overwhelming, we have all probably thought that to ourselves at one time or another. But rest assured, God Really Cares For You! The fact that He loved us enough to give His only begotten son Jesus to die for our sins on the cross is the strongest possible evidence of God's love and concern for each of us. The Bible says in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:7 that we should "Cast all your care upon him, for He cares for you." Knowing that Jesus Himself loved us and gave himself for us and our sins should forever remove all doubt about whether or not He cares for us. Our heavenly Father listens to our prayers when we speak to him. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:12 says that the "...eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto our prayers ..." God has the ability to not only hear our prayers, but also to respond to the requests that we make. Paul says in Ephesians 3:20 that God is "...able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..." Don't sell God short on how He might choose to answer your prayers. He is a God of great mercy and compassion and He truly cares for you. If you believe all that the Bible says, then believe this: FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD ..." (JN. 3:16) (AND THAT INCLUDES YOU AND ME)

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### **TO DISCIPLINE OR NOT?**

By Mark Legendre

In the last ten to fifteen years, I have heard more and more talk from the so called "professionals" who say that spanking a child is the absolute worst form of punishment that can be given. I heard one woman doctor who had the comment that when you spank a child you are teaching him two things; (1) That it is OK for big people to hit little people, and (2) That violence is acceptable in some situations. HOW ABSURD! Those aren't the lessons I learned when I received spankings while growing up. What I learned was that there was a difference between right and wrong, and when you do the wrong thing there are consequences to be received. I also realized that my parents loved me enough to discipline me and to teach me right from wrong. It is a lesson many children never receive because their parents don't care what they do. I have even heard some parents say they love their children too much to spank them. NONSENSE!

I am not against other forms of punishment, such as the loss of privileges, or the familiar "time out". But I refuse to accept the notion that every time a parent spanks a child that this constitutes "child abuse." Listen to the following

scriptures from the Bible about this subject.

Prov. 13:24: - "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Prov. 19:18 - "Chasten they son while there is hope, and let not they soul spare for his crying."

Prov. 22:15 - "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

Prov. 29:15 - "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

I don't know about you, but I believe that God is much smarter than man. Follow His counsel with your children.

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### **Can you figure this out?**

By Mark Legendre

The following is a riddle written by a woman in 1890 in California in response to a gentleman who had offered \$1000.00 to any one who could write a puzzle that he could not solve. See if you can figure it out.

*God made Adam out of dust, but thought it best to make me first. So I was made before the man, according to God's holy plan. My whole body God made complete, without arms or hands or feet. My ways and acts God did control, but in my body he placed no soul. A living being I became and Adam give to me a name. Then from his presence I withdrew, for this man Adam I never knew.*

*All my Maker's laws I do obey. And from these laws I never stray. Thousands of me go in fear, but seldom on the earth appear. Later, for a purpose God did see, He placed a living soul in me. But the souls of mine God had to claim, and from me He took it back again. And when this soul from me had fled, I was the same as when first made. Without arms, legs, feet, or soul, I travel on from pole to pole.*

*My labors are from day to night, and to man I once furnished light. Thousands of people both young and old, did by my death bright lights behold. No right or wrong can I conceive; the Bible's teaching I can't believe. The fear of death doesn't trouble me; pure happiness I will never see. And up in Heaven I can never go, nor in the grave or Hell below. So get your Bible and read with care, and you'll find my name recorded there.*

The Answer to this riddle is only one word with five letters in it. And it appears only four times in the King James version of the Bible. We will give the answer in next month's bulletin. GOOD LUCK!

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Proverbs 27:1 says, "Boast not of thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." If you have not obeyed the gospel, then don't wait to long; Do it today while you have the time and opportunity!