

Heart Problems

Bill Brinkworth

Currently, there are many excuses available for most mistakes or problem in our lives. Psychologists many times blame a patient's problem on their environment. Social workers label many behaviors as peer-pressure related. Income, hereditary, age, and race are also some of the popular excuses for hardships.

Sometimes the above-mentioned excuses are legitimate; but many times, they are scapegoat excuses for the real source of the problem. The Bible often speaks of the heart as the origin of wickedness.

By "heart," the blood-pumping

organ is not what is meant, but more the center of thoughts, feelings, and our will. Not always are our evil thoughts generated by brain impulses. There is not one location where a surgeon could, under dissection, point to and identify as, "this is where lying comes from," or "this organ generates the desire to steal."

It is this "heart" that Mark speaks of when he writes, "... Do ye not perceive that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly ..."

Mark 7:1-19.

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Proverbs 3:5

V	R	N	T	V	U	N	A	C	K	A	G
B	W	R	R	R	S	M	Z	M	L	V	Z
E	H	G	A	N	U	V	E	L	M	E	B
T	N	B	U	R	A	S	Q	W	W	N	B
D	H	A	E	N	E	F	T	R	P	I	P
A	O	E	E	I	T	N	Q	I	U	H	W
L	N	O	T	L	B	O	I	A	V	T	N
T	M	P	L	T	T	O	Y	H	F	N	O
L	O	R	D	N	I	R	E	T	T	Q	D
G	D	Y	Z	U	S	V	A	Q	N	W	O
P	N	I	H	I	V	Y	K	E	B	H	U
L	A	N	W	I	T	H	X	Z	H	H	O

Words to Find:
"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

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The **Bible View**




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Second Chances

Bill Brinkworth

"Oh, I've heard that before," replied Gail.

"You did? When was that?" I had just spent 45 minutes telling her how to get saved; how she must know that she is a sinner; how she needed to believe that Jesus died on the Cross for her sins, and that she needed to ask Him to save her from a deserved Hell.

"Well, let's see. I'm 38 years old now, so I was about 30 when someone else told me I must ask Jesus to save me. But, there just wasn't time then, with raising the family and all. When I was 25, I heard on the radio how I needed to trust the Lord for my salvation. I felt that I really needed to ask Jesus to save me, but I guess I just put it off."

"Oh, yes," she continued, "when I was about 12, someone took me to Sunday School. I remember the teacher showed me how I could be saved. Other kids got saved, but, well, I guess I felt I could do it some other time."

"Well, Gail, you've heard the message before. God loves you

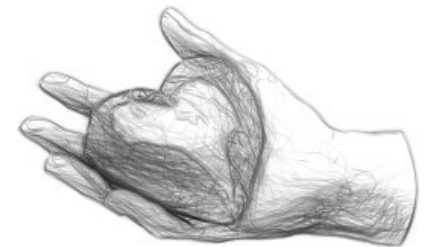
so much that He hasn't given up on you. He keeps trying. How about right now asking the Lord to save you?" I pleaded.

"I, I ... just can't. Maybe some other time. I'm just not ready yet!" She again evaded the invitation.

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A Hardened Heart

Bill Brinkworth



One of the most dangerous conditions for anyone to have, Christian or non-Christian, is mentioned in Hebrews 3. That condition is having one's heart hardened (Hebrews 3:8).

It is not referring to a problem with one's physical heart. It is referring to the spiritual part of a person that has determined not to

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Second Chances

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That evening, I learned quite a bit about how God works in people's lives. It was clear He keeps trying, again and again. Most people have heard the Gospel message many times, and each time they tell God "No," by not obeying, their heart gets harder and colder to the things of God.

Probably, when Gail first heard the Good News, she was tempted to make the most important decision for her eternity. For whatever the reason she said, "No."

Her heart stiffened against the calling of the Holy Spirit in her life. It got hardened even more the second time. By the time she heard the message the third time, it was rock hard, and by all appearances, it looked like it would never be softened again. She said "no" to God, just one time too many.

Since that night, I have observed that most of the people I have talked to about the Lord, have also "heard it before." Maybe they heard it from their grandmother, parent, friend, Sunday school teacher, or even read it from a Bible tract left in a public bathroom. Many that have put

their salvation off in the past will still make excuses to put it off again.

I marvel at the way God keeps on trying. He never quits on us – if there is an interest on our part. What matchless love and compassion God has for us. How sad it is to hear one, who has heard the story before, say "No," one more time.

One time, it will be their last opportunity. They will not have that "next chance." Many hope that they can be saved on their deathbed. It has happened. However, there is no guarantee that they will have that opportunity. Even if they have that last chance, there is no telling if their hardened heart may say "some other time" to God's invitation.

A Hardened Heart

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do what God had urged it to do. By refusing to do what God has shown it to do, it is directly disobeying God — a most serious situation!

To make it clear to the Hebrews, Paul reminded them what hard-heartedness cost their forefathers in the wilderness. While in the wilderness, the Jews had a wonderful opportunity to follow God to a land He had reserved for them. By day, God led them in His direction by going before them in a column of cloud that stretched from Heaven to earth. When it moved, they moved. When it stopped, they

stopped. At night, it changed to a column of fire. Although they had many proofs of God's helping them, they still doubted. Unbelief, the root cause of hard-heartedness (Hebrews 3:12), crept into their thoughts, and they doubted God.

This provoked God (Hebrews 3:8) and caused the Israelites to have many trials and tribulations. They missed many of the blessings they could have had, because their hearts were fixed not to believe or trust God. Because of their hardened hearts, a possibly six-day march to the land God had prepared for them took 40 years. None of the hard-hearted people ever got to see the promised land, although their offspring did. Their hearts of unbelief cost them much.

A hard-hearted condition can just as easily be obtained today. When God shows a person what salvation is, and that they should trust Christ as Saviour today; they are hardening their heart when they postpone the decision after hearing the invitation. When their heart is shown to do something, such as being saved, faithful in church attendance, praying, reading their Bible, tithing, being baptized, or telling others about salvation; their not doing it is a direct refusal to God. Slow obedience to a command, or justification in not doing as they are shown, is still unbelief and distrust.

Five times (in Hebrews 3:7, 12, 13, 4:7) Paul mentioned the key to not having a hardened

heart. The key is "today." When God shows you something or quietly speaks to your heart in conviction, it is imperative that you obey Him then! Not tomorrow! Not later! It should not be open to debate! Doing it when we want, and not when He commands, is a step in hardening one's spiritual heart.

Heart Problems

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Things entering into the body cannot make us do wrong, unless our "heart" is in such a state as it would allow our bodies to perform the sin. Although many under the influence of drugs and alcohol do wrong things, it is not totally what went into their blood stream that is at fault. Their "heart" was most likely in a tolerant-to-sin state to allow such a thing to happen in the first place.

If this were not true, then any one partaking of the sin of alcohol or drugs would have the same desire to fight, rape, curse, steal, and get into more sin. This, however, does not happen every time booze is swallowed. It is the already willing, desensitized-to-sin heart, that allows a person to sin further.

Nothing entering the belly can defile the man. There is not one un-Koshered pickle, third scoop of vanilla ice cream, or anything man puts into his mouth that he should blame as the reason for his wrongdoing. The source of sin generates from man's own "heart."

"Don't put off doing what the Lord has shown you to do today. You may not have another opportunity or another tomorrow!"

Trustworthy Christ

C. H. Spurgeon

There came to me the other day a young man who wished to speak with me about his soul troubles, and he began thus, "Dear sir, I cannot trust Christ."

I quickly answered him, "Have you found out some flaw in His character? Has He ceased to be trustworthy? Pray let me know all about it, for it is a serious matter to me. I have trusted Him with everything I have for time and for eternity; and if He is not fit to be trusted, I am in terrible shape."

He looked at me, thought and he said, "I will not say that again, sir; I see I have made a mistake. Truly the Lord Jesus is in every way trustworthy."

"Well, then," I said, "Why cannot you trust him?"

I let him think about that. A man is certainly able to trust one whom he regards as trustworthy. My young friend soon saw that at once, and asked me further, "But, may I trust Christ to save me? Is it wise to trust my soul with Him?"

I said to him, "Is not this the command of the Gospel, '..."

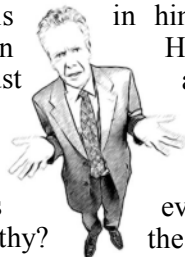
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house' (Acts 16:31)? Are you not warned that if you do not believe in him you will be damned?"

How can we doubt that we are permitted to do that which is commanded us of the Lord? I am to preach the Gospel to every creature, and this is the Gospel: '... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved'"

He said, "So, then, if I trust Christ, He will save me?"

I replied, "Certainly He will. He is the Saviour of all them that put their trust in Him. He says, '... and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out' (John 6:37). It is also written, 'He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him' (John 3:36). He that trusts in Jesus is saved."

He thanked me, and saying that he had found out the secret, he went on his way rejoicing. I told him the Gospel. He received it and trusted what Christ had done for him



"Stress makes you believe that everything has to happen now! Faith can assure you that everything will happen in God's perfect timing!"

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Come With Me

Bill Brinkworth

"And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." Gen. 5:23-24

In the beginning, before Adam and Eve's sin, God did walk with them in the Garden of Eden. However, their disobedience to God ended their morning fellowship (Gen. 3:8) with Him, as it is no longer mentioned in the Bible.

The generations following Adam and Eve were not godly. Sin was as a disease that spread amongst the people quickly. Evil was on the minds of early man continually (Gen. 6:5). Sin was so rampant and angered God so, that He would one day wipe out all the sinners, except righteous Noah (Gen. 6:8) and his family to start society all over again.

Years before the worldwide flood, however, a man purposing to obey all God showed him appeared on the scene. As wicked



as mankind was at the time, there was one man that ignored the lifestyles around him, and did not allow sin to interfere with his life. That righteous man was Enoch. He purposed not to participate in the sin others were committing.

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Return the Stick

C. H. Spurgeon

Some years ago, I was walking in the garden one evening. I saw a stray dog about whom I had received information that was in the habit of visiting my grounds, and that he did not in the least assist the gardener, and therefore his attentions were not desired. As I walked along meditating upon my sermon, I saw this dog busily doing mischief. I threw my stick at him, and told him to go home, but what do you think he did?

Instead of growling and showing his teeth to me, or hurrying off with a howl, he looked at me very pleasantly, took up my stick in his mouth,

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Come With Me

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The Bible tells us that Enoch “walked with God” (Gen. 5:24). For years, I assumed that this phrase meant that Enoch lived righteously, and God was pleased with him. Enoch was righteous; but a closer study reveals that God and Enoch, most likely, physically walked together.

With sin abounding all around, one man purposed to live a godly life. His testimony was so righteous, that God had personal contact with Enoch. Can you image what it was like to walk and talk with God Almighty? Enoch did, because he experienced it.

The fellowship between the Creator and His creation was so close that one day God carried Enoch away with Him, back to where God lived. Without dying, righteous Enoch immediately went to be with God (Gen. 5:24).

I do not know if a truly righteous man or woman would also have the same opportunity to walk and talk with God Himself

“Being a humble instrument in the hands of our heavenly Father, I desire that all my words and acts may be according to His will; and that it may be so, I give thanks to the Almighty, and seek His aid.” — Abraham Lincoln!

on this Earth today. I do know, however, that one living a God-fearing life and obedient to His commandments can experience God’s help and power on his life. It is possible to please God so much that answered prayers are common; one’s being used daily by one’s Creator is possible; seeing His daily provision and protection on one’s life can be seen, and that we can have the opportunity to give Him the praise and honor He deserves.

Is your spiritual walk with God so close, that He would make an exception and come to this Earth just to physically walk and talk with you? Most likely not, but it would be a joy and honor to have a close relationship with Him. That you can do, if you desire! God desires more Enoch’s and Noah’s. Live righteously and experience what it is like to have a close relationship with the Lord!

Return the Stick

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and brought it to me and then, wagging his tail, laid the stick at my feet. The tears were in my eyes. The dog had beaten me. I said, “Good dog! Good dog! You may come here whenever you like.”

Why had the dog conquered me? Because he had confidence in me, and would not believe that I could mean him any hurt.

To turn to grander things, the Lord himself cannot resist our

humble confidence in Him. Do you not see how a sinner brings, as it were, the rod of justice to the Lord, and cries, “If thou smite me, I deserve it, but I submit to thee?”



The great God cannot spurn a trustful heart. It is impossible. He would not be God if he could cast the soul away that implicitly relies and goes to Him. This is the power of faith, and I marvel not that the Lord should have chosen it; for believing Him is most pleasing to God.

Oh, that you would all trust Him! If God lifts his wrath against you because of your sin; run into his arms. If He convicts you of breaking His commandments, humble yourself to Him, confess it, and repent.

He desires you to fly to his dear Son. Trust at the foot of the Cross in His full atonement, and you will be saved, forgiven, and loved.

Blind Faith

Author Unknown

Walking down W Street one morning, I saw a little blind boy standing on the sidewalk, with his head bent forward as if eagerly listening. Stepping up to him, I said, “Shall I help you across the street, my little friend?”

“No, thank you. I am waiting for my father.”

“Can you trust your father?”

“Oh. Yes. My father always takes good care of me. He leads me all the time, and when he has my hand, I feel perfectly safe.”

“But why do you feel safe?”

Raising his sightless eyes, with a sweet smile and look of perfect trust, he replied, “Oh, because, my father knows the way. He can see, but I am blind.”

This little blind boy preached a sermon to me. Do we, with our hand in our Father's, feel perfectly safe? We are poor blind children, yet do we not often rebel against the way the Father would lead us, and seek to go another way, which seems best to us? Because we feel the thorns sometimes, and are pierced by their sharpness, we try some other path, which seems to our blinded eyes to lead to peace and rest. However, the Father can see, and shall we shrink from the path He has marked out in wisdom and love? The path He has for us, which though it be one of trial and suffering, will best fit us for Heaven.

“Faith is the firm persuasion and expectation, knowing that God will perform all the He has promised to the believer in Christ. This persuasion is so strong and complete that it assures the believer of possession, even NOW, of those things for which we exercise faith.”

— Oliver B. Greene

A Good Feeling by Being Obedient

Bill Brinkworth

“The like figure whereunto even *baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.*” I Peter 3:21-22

The doctrine of baptism is, and has been for a long time, a subject of much debate. To a Bible-believer, the subject is quite clear; one is saved, and then baptized by immersion. Others abide by the unbiblical christening ceremony believed to be encouraged by Constantine when he attempted to merge paganism with Christianity by mass-christening. Some even hold that baptism washes away sins.

This verse in I Peter 3:21 may give many the impression that baptism does “save us.” However, if the context of the verses is examined, it is clear that baptism does not have anything to do with being saved from the penalty of sin.

In parentheses, verse 21 clearly states that baptism does not put away sins (“the filth of the flesh”). However, baptism does give us a good conscience toward God. It makes us feel good that we have done what we are told (“good conscience”). The topic of having a “good conscience” was also brought up in the previous vs. 16.

Baptism does not save a person, but what does is obedience to God’s commandments. In Noah’s case, building the ark physically saved him and his family (I Peter 3:20). In our case, salvation is obtained by obeying God in trusting Christ’s death and resurrection (I Peter 3:21).

Before salvation, a believer has often run from obeying God and certainly did not do what God wanted him to do. After salvation, baptism is one of the first steps of obedience that a believer demonstrates to God. A believer can have a clear conscience in knowing that he is finally obeying God. He shows others, and the watching Lord, when he is baptized that he remembers that Jesus died, and rose again for him, and that Jesus is now his Saviour.

“BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INWARD FAITH.”

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Baptism

Bill Brinkworth

One of the few ordinances commanded in the Bible is that of baptism. This one act has caused much argument, division, and even many deaths in the past. Books have been written on the subject and serious study has been given to this subject..



There are three types of baptism spoken of in the New Testament. They include the baptism of the Holy Ghost, a non-water baptism dealing with Jesus’ burdens (Mat. 20:22, 23), and one where a saved person is submerged into the baptismal waters. Here are some of the many teachings from the Bible about the third type of baptism; the baptism of one who has been spiritually born-again:

One should be baptized because Christ commanded it: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

Matthew 28:19

Water baptism is symbolic of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. When it is performed for one that has had his sins forgiven by trusting in Jesus’ death on the cross for remission of his sins, it is a perfect picture of what Jesus did for him. When the one being baptized is lowered quickly into the water, it is a picture of Jesus’ death on the cross. When He is brought up out of the water, it is a picture of His resurrection.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

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Baptism’s Purpose

A. Hodge, 1871

Baptism signifies, seals, and conveys to one to whom he belongs. The act symbolizes “the

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Baptism

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✠ Baptism is not essential for salvation. In clear verses about salvation (as John 3:13, Romans 10:9 ...) baptism was never included.

When the man that died on the cross with Jesus was saved, Christ said he would see him shortly in "paradise." If baptism were required for salvation, he would not have gone there with Jesus. Also, Jesus Himself was baptized. The Saviour was certainly already going "home" and did not need commission of an ordinance to get him there. He did it because His Father commanded Him to, as should we.

✠ Baptism was performed only on people after they were saved; sometimes almost immediately. *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."* Acts 2:41

The Ethiopian eunuch was saved and baptized shortly thereafter: *"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest [the context was water baptism]. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus*

Christ is the Son of God. ... "
Acts 8:37-39

✠ The jailor believed: *"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house ... And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, Straightway."* Acts 8:30-33

✠ The early churches practiced it. It was performed in Jerusalem, the desert (Acts 8:36), by Paul, and members of the early church were baptized.

The Greek New Testament word for baptism is "baptizmo." The word means "immersion." The 102 times in the New Testament the word is used, it always indicates a saved person being put down into the water and brought back up. In most instances, it was performed in a river, sea, or nearby water source.

Baptism by sprinkling with water ("christening"), rather than submerging into the water, is not mentioned in the Bible. This unscriptural practice, by some accounts was performed as early as 150 A.D. and was widely accepted by Catholicism (by Constantine) in the early 300's A.D.. Over 100 years later, many believe sprinkling of babies was widely practiced. It is this unbiblical practice of "Christening" that many different religions have adopted as "baptism" and perform even to-

day.

The christening of babies violates the commands of God and does not portray the picture of what Christ did for them on the cross. All references to baptisms were to men and women, not infants. Not one christened baby ever knew what was happening to him, and certainly did not understand that Jesus died and rose again for him, which is most important to the one being scripturally baptized. No baby ever understood that he was a sinner. If a person was christened, they should still be baptized when they get saved, if they want to please the Lord.

Baptism does not add to salvation, nor does it "wash away" sins. If this were true, every rain or bath would cleanse a person from sin. It is an ordinance that shows other believers one is born-again and obedient to what God commands. It is boldly donning the uniform of a Christian as a testimony. Baptism is an early step a believer takes to show his obedience and willingness to obey God's commandments.

Baptism's Purpose

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washing of regeneration," and "the renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5), which unites the believer to Christ, and so makes him a participant in Christ's life and all other benefits.

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." I Cor. 12:13

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" Tit. 3:5

Baptism is a visible sign of our covenant to be the Lord's. It shows others we have accepted His salvation and desire to consecrate ourselves to His service. It is a badge of our public profession, showing our desire to be separate from the world, and our admittance in the family of believers. This badge marks us as belonging to the Lord, and consequently distinguishes us from the world (I Cor. 12:13).

"A man who knows that he is saved by believing in Christ does not, when he is baptized, lift his baptism into a saving ordinance. In fact, he is the very best protester against that mistake, because he holds that he has no right to be baptized until he is saved."

— Charles Spurgeon

"Obedience to God is the most infallible evidence of sincere and supreme love for him."

— Emmons

Don't be a Bucking Mustang

Michael P. Green

Have you ever seen someone break a mustang?

When a three-year-old horse, who has never had a saddle feels one on his back, it may be a frightening experience. Some horses will react with anger, rearing back and trying to get away — even striking out with their forefeet at their trainer. Their nostrils flare, their eyeballs roll, and they panic! Others will just stand there, trembling, and shake like a leaf. They will not move; they are so afraid. They do not know what is happening to them.

Immature Christians respond to trials like wild horses. Some panic and cry out to the Lord, "What's gone wrong?" Others just freeze and do nothing. Mature Christians are like horses that have learned to trust their trainer. They sense what is happening and respond to it by submitting to the hand of their Master, knowing that He will do them no wrong.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” Proverb 3:5

Stay in the Race

Michael Green

At a cross-country steeplechase exhibition, one horse suddenly shied away from a hurdle and ran into a barbed-wire fence. The results were disastrous; as the rider was taken by ambulance to a hospital, and the bleeding horse remained ensnared in the wire, until the slow process of cutting it away was completed.

The tragedy was sad; as it was a jump that was a low one, which the horse could have easily cleared. Apparently, the horse mistook the fence to be an opening in the course and an escape from the obstacle.

How we believers are often like that foolish horse! When faced with difficulties, do we look for the way out, rather than trusting in God's provision? Do we break away at the first opportunity of difficulty, only to find that we have become ensnared, and that our present difficulty is far worse than the one we sought to avoid?



The
Bible View



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Marvelous Manna

Bill Brinkworth

It was not long that the Israelites, freed from their many years of Egyptian bondage, started complaining about their situation. "... Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full ..." (Exodus 16:3), they cried and complained because of lack of food.

They had forgotten the years they had been beaten as slaves, lost all their freedoms, and were demanded to work building the Pharaoh's cities in the overpowering, Egyptian heat. Even their many decades of begging God for their freedom escaped their thoughts. All that was on their minds was their hunger, as they traveled in the desert wilderness.

God heard their cries against Moses and Aaron, their leaders (Ex. 16:2), for leading them in the situation they were in. However, the Lord provided for

their needs in a miraculous way, to show His people He would take care of them.

Each morning, as the dew lay upon their ground, the Israelites found their morning meal. The small, round morsel was white, about the tiny size of a coriander seed, but it tasted like wafers made with honey (Ex. 16.31).

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When There Was a Need

Dr. J. Campbell

- ✿ When Abraham's knife was lifted up, an angel appeared.
- ✿ When Lot was near destruction, angels interposed.
- ✿ When Hagar and her son were dying of thirst, the angel showed them water.
- ✿ When Moses was on the brink of the sea, the waters were divided.
- ✿ When Israel blew their trumpets around Jericho, the walls came tumbling down.

Marvelous Manna

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The old and young came out to gather what they could eat. The young took all their young bellies could hold. The hard-working men took a much larger portion to satisfy their appetites. Wives took what they needed, and perhaps what their young ones required. When all had taken their fill, none remained. God had rained just enough of the same "bread" (Ex. 16:15) that the angels on high did eat (Psalms 78:24-25), for each person under His care.

To teach His people to trust Him for their daily provisions, they were not allowed to save any of the food for the next day. Some tried to store it up, but found that it stank and turned to worms (Ex. 16:20). They had no other choice but to trust that God would provide for them every day. Good to His word, God provided this heavenly food for His people for 40 years.

More of God's miraculous

provision of the manna occurred on the Sabbath, the day the Hebrews were commanded not to work. The day before, Friday, God told them to gather what they would need for that day and the Sabbath. They were to do all the work of preparing the meal on Friday. Some boiled it. Some baked it.

It did not turn to worms, nor did it stink that Friday afternoon, or Saturday. God saw to it that they could obey what He commanded them and still have their hunger satisfied.

The Hebrews learned, although they often forgot, what Christians should also learn. We are not to trust in bank accounts, although we need to be wise, good stewards and save if we can. We are not to trust a government to provide, nor our parents or friends. The main direction we are to look for all our needs is toward Heaven.

It may be a little scary without having what we consider "security" for provision of what could happen tomorrow. The truth of the matter is that nothing is secure except God's help. Investments can go sour, and all can be lost. Money put away for a "rainy day" can be stolen. Welfare checks can stop on the whim of a new politician. Friend's help can vanish, as they tend their own needs. Our job may let us down, when economic downturns force layoffs. None



"You will find that God's provision is in favor of those that keep His laws, and against those that break them." — Beecher

of us has any promise that we will have our needs met, unless it is trusting in the Lord's provision.

As God taught the Hebrews wandering in the wilderness, the only secure provider is God. In that lesson, we see that He wants us to trust Him for our "daily bread" (Mat. 6:11).

He had also taught them that there is never an excuse to break His laws to meet our needs. Hunger is not an excuse to steal something to feed ourselves. Lying and deceitfulness are not options just so we can get money from someone to meet our needs. God can change the situation, so He can provide without our sinning and breaking His commandments.

Be it hungry Hebrews in the wilderness, a single parent that just lost her job, or a student looking for a way to pay his college tuition, the same God that provided in the past, can meet your needs today. If you are a Christian, call upon Him for His help, and wait patiently as He provides. God may not choose to use manna, but He can still provide for your needs in a miraculous way He knows is best.

The Raven Came

F. B. Meyers

A little boy, having read with his mother the story of how God fed Elijah by the ravens, sat on a wintry night in a fireless room beside a bare table. With a simple, childish trust, he asked his widowed mother if he might set open the door for God's ravens to come in.

"I feel sure they must be on their way," he said. The trustful mother granted the request.

The mayor of that German town, passing by, was attracted by the sight of the open door.

Entering in, he inquired of the reason. When he learned the reason, he said, "I will be God's ravens!" He relieved their needs then and afterwards.

"Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." Psalm 37:3



"We can be certain that God will give us the strength and resources we need to live through any situation in life that He ordains. The will of God will never take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us." — Billy Graham

"The cautious faith that never saws off a limb on which it is sitting, never learns that unattached limbs may find strange, unaccountable ways of not falling." — Dallas Willard

Who Should a ...

Continued from Page 1

✎ What is their personal life like? If the nominee's life includes acts of adultery, drunkenness, filthy language, dishonesty, lack of attending church, and other signs of wanton ungodly living, how can he be expected to make decisions based on biblical principles and standards?

✎ Where does he verbally stand on the things of God? Does He speak about his faith? If he is involved in a church or religion that does not concur with what the Bible teaches, he cannot be expected to make biblically correct decisions.

✎ What is the value of the nominee's word? Does he do what he says? Is he always changing what he says depending on who his audience is? Does his word mean anything?

✎ Is the politician more interested in being elected than in leading the country in a moral, bible-principled direction?

✎ Where does he stand on abortion? God is against the taking of the innocent lives of babies! Life does start in the womb: Gen. 25:21-23, Ex. 21:22-23, Jer. 1:5, Ps. 139:15-16. Any official that has such a low esteem for the taking of innocent lives should not be a person anyone would want voting on issues dealing with euthanasia, healthcare for those that are older, abortion, etc.

✎ Do they believe that each man

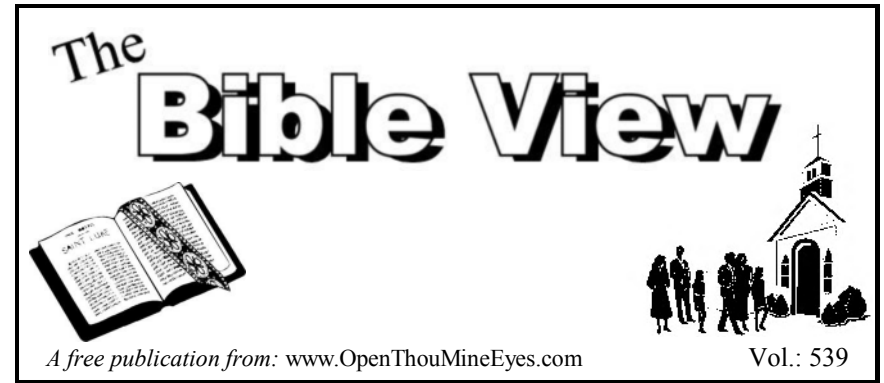
should learn the consequences of his wrong decisions, or do they think that other people (government's money) should help finance their mistakes?

✎ Where do the politicians stand on punishing crime? God punishes sin. Our legislators should also be strict on crime.

✎ Are they for things God is for and against the things He is against? Where do they stand on moral issues, loss of freedom by making more demands on citizens, obeying the existing laws (constitution, and other laws that are already on the books), getting the government to take the place of God (by allowing the people to turn to the government for provision rather than God)?

✎ Who are their associates? You can tell much about a person by whom they associate with. If one's closest associates have godless lifestyles, and are morally living improperly, one can assume that kind of lifestyle does not really bother the politician, and they would never cast a vote condemning it. A person that is truly against immoral lifestyles would not gravitate to people living immorally.

✎ What does the nominee's life show onlookers? If you voted for the want-to-be-leader, would you be picking a choice that abides as close to godly principles as the choice allows? Would Jesus consider voting for that nominee?



Who Should a Christian Vote For?

Bill Brinkworth

When one is saved, he should be for what God is for and against what He is against. We should be as Christ-like as possible.

With this in mind, if Christ were voting, (and He is through us, since we are His ambassadors — II Cor. 5:20), how would He vote? He would vote against those standing against biblical principles and vote for those standing for godly principles.

Since there are no candidates that make 100% of their decisions based on biblical guidelines, our vote should be for one that is the closest to using these guidelines. It is getting harder to determine who is lined up the closest to the biblical standard, and in some instances it is a matter of choosing the lesser of two evils. However, there are several areas of a nominee's philosophy,

life, and standards that should be examined before casting a vote for them. Here are several:

Continued on Page 4

Christian, You're Not Voting?

Bill Brinkworth

We have a wonderful country. Many gave their lives and others suffered great loss, so that we would have a country where we could have some control over the government. Our early forefathers knew what it was like to have the government control everything by dictatorships and monarchies. They designed our ruling body so that it would be fair and unlike any other system in the world.

Yet today many take for granted what was given to them. Many do not participate in maintaining the freedoms that they inherited. Exercising the right to vote is one way to do that. Here are some of the many excuses some give for not voting in an election:

Continued on Page 2

Christian, You're Not ...

Continued from Page 1

❖ **"It won't make any difference, so why bother voting."**

By not voting, you are not even trying to make a difference in the government. All those who can vote in this country have the opportunity to vote for whom they think will do the better job. As a Christian, we should have God's wisdom on what is right and what is wrong according to the teachings of the Bible. Its wisdom and insight into what pleases our heavenly Father should guide us through life's many decisions. By not trying to make a decision at the election polls, we are letting others, even the ungodly, make decisions for us.

The discernment a Christian has gained from reading and obeying God's commands should show him that adultery, homosexuality, human cloning, abortion, drugs, immoral behavior, and other sins are intolerable to God. The Christian's vote at election time can be a vote to show that he does not approve of a nominee's practice or philosophy of wrongdoing.

In 2000, the presidential race was determined by the close voting at Florida's polls. The Florida Supreme Court-ordered recount determined that President Bush had won the race by 493

"If we forget we are one nation under God, we will be a nation gone under!"

votes. Just a few votes did make a difference.

❖ **"I'm not even registered to vote."** We have a constitution that many countries dream of having. One of the rights it gives us is the right to vote (Amendments 15, 19, 24, and 26). The right to vote was fought for and not just given to us in America.

❖ **"God doesn't want me to get mixed up in government"**. Where did you get that idea? In the Bible, Jesus even said to give to the government what is due to the government. One of the unique opportunities we have to give our government moral stability is to vote. By not taking advantage of that right, you are not being the good citizen you are supposed to be (Luke 20:25).

The Word of God even commands us to pray, listen to, and respect our government: *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."* 1 Timothy 2:1-2 Also: Ezra 6:10, Romans 13:1

❖ **"God is in control, it doesn't matter what leader gets in."** God wants all to obey Him all the time. He wants us to choose a godly lifestyle and gives us freedom to do so. Unfortunately, most used their freedom wrongly, and that is why sin is rampant. If God had His

way, there would be no sin; but He is allowing us to make those decisions for now. Obviously, we are letting Him down by tolerating what He would not.

Israel's early history included a time when He was in control, but even then there were God-appointed leaders. Soon, men were picking their own officials without seeking His opinion. This is often happening today. A vote is our Christian opportunity that God has allowed us to have, to have a say in whom we want to rule.

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn." Proverbs 29:2 Also: Prov. 28:2

"God doesn't want me to stand up against the government that He put in office. If Christians did not vote, chances are His will was not followed in electing an official. He sometimes lets us get what we deserve by our improper choices or lack of influence. Besides, many in the Bible stood up to change what the government was doing. Moses stood against Pharaoh's ill treatment of God's people, Israel. Paul let all know he was a Roman citizen and had his rights under their laws. We are to stand up for the privileges God has allowed us to have.

"A man that stands for nothing, will fall for anything!"

"Corrupt leaders are elected, not by bribes, but by apathy!"

❖ **"I don't want to cross the 'separation of church and state' line."** The Constitution of America never said that we are not to get involved in politics. It does have a provision (First Amendment) to keep the government from intervening in the affairs of the church:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble ..."

Many of the framers of our early government were godly men. They did want godly influence to continue to make America a country God would bless.

God has given us a wonderful country. When a country drifts from godly principles, anarchy, mob-decision, and sin dominate its course. We have an opportunity to attempt to vote for candidates that think more in line with what God would want. Admittedly, it sometimes is an exercise in selecting the lesser of multiple evils, but isn't a Christian more qualified than an unsaved person is to make that decision? If we do not intervene, the world will go in a godless course. How will the ungodly know unless we, as Christians, show them what God approves or disapproves of by our vote?

Never Satisfied

Continued from Page 3

certain we can carry nothing out.” I Timothy 6:6-7

✿ Be happy with what you have, or what you are going through. No matter where you find yourself, be content.

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” Philippians 4:11-12

Anyone can complain. It takes no intelligence or character to do so, but there never is any gain in doing so. Grumbling also will never make one happy or change any situation. It will always make situations worse! However, being content and finding peace in any situation will help you find yourself happy with what you have and will guarantee a happier, more contented person.

Grateful for What She Had

Wermullerus, 1551

A dear little girl had been taught to pray specially for her father. He had been suddenly

taken away in death. Kneeling at her evening prayer, her voice faltered; and as her eyes met her mother's, she sobbed, “O mother! I cannot leave father out of my daily prayers. Let me say, thank God that I had a dear father once, so I can keep him in my prayers.” Many stricken hearts may learn a sweet lesson from this child. Let us remember to thank God for mercies and blessings past, as well as to ask for mercies and blessings for the future.

Some Murmur, Some Are Thankful

Trench, 1881

Some murmur when their sky is clear

*And wholly brought to view,
If one small speck of dark appear
In their great heaven of blue;
And some with thankful love are filled*

*If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's good mercy,
gild*

The darkness of their night.

*In palaces are hearts that ask,
In discontent and pride,
Why life is such a dreary task
And all good things denied?
And hearts in poorest huts admire
How Love has been their aid
(Love that never seems to tire)
Such rich provision made.*

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is a resource containing free: Sermon and Sunday school lessons, biblical-based studies, articles and puzzles, Bible View archives, and a daily devotional.



A Grateful Whale

Bill Brinkworth

A 45 - 50 foot humpback whale was rescued off the coast of San Francisco. The whale had become entangled with ropes, crab traps, and weights. The animal was so weighted down that he could hardly surface to get air. A rescue team was summoned to attempt to free the 50-ton behemoth.



Divers went into the water and discovered that at least 20 crab-pot ropes, each being about 240 feet long, and their weights were tightly wrapped around the whale. The humpback's tail was encircled four times by ropes. Twelve crab traps, each weighing 90 pounds, hung off the whale.

Soon four divers were in the water cutting off the entanglements with curved knives. The whale quietly waited and allowed the rescuers to free him. The diver who cut the rope from the creature's mouth remarked that the whale winked

at him as he did his work.

After realizing he was free, the animal swam to each diver and nuzzled him. It was as if the animal was showing a thank you to each one that had had a part in his new freedom. He certainly was appreciative to those that worked to free him.

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Never Satisfied

Bill Brinkworth

The people of Israel cried out because of their long bondage in the hands of the merciless Egyptians, and God delivered them. As God physically led them to a place He would give them to live, they still were not content with seeing the presence of the Almighty and His mighty deeds. They began to murmur and complain again. God was angered and sent a fire that consumed many (Numbers 11:1-2), because of their sin. Many died until the man of God

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A Grateful Whale

Continued from Page 1

Is it possible that that whale had more manners and appreciative courtesy than most people do? There are too many husbands that rarely thank their wives for all the important things they do to make their lives easier. Too many children never even think of thanking their fathers for working diligently each day to provide for their upkeep, nor do they even consider thanking their mother for her sacrificial efforts to provide a good home for them. Countless bosses are the topic of criticism and gossip, but are hardly ever thanked for providing a job for their employees. Teachers put in long hours in going the extra mile to grade papers and spend much of their time helping those that do not want to be helped and never hear any form of appreciation. Police put in long days trying to protect residents they do not even know, and face ridicule and threats from many that are breaking laws; but rarely do they ever receive any gratitude. The Lord, who gives us far more than

"If gratitude is due from children to their earthly parents, how much more is the gratitude of Christians due to our Father in Heaven?"

— Hosea Ballou

just our "daily bread", is also rarely thanked for all He does in our lives.

Many make our lives much more pleasant and safe. We owe them for their work and effort. It takes no intelligence or character to ridicule, judge, or criticize others. It does take an appreciative, grateful spirit to realize what we have and to thank others for their part in our lives. As the whale "thanked" his rescuers, there are many of us that need to do the same to those that have helped us.

Never Satisfied

Continued from Page 1

pleaded for God to stop His judgment.

Did they learn their lesson? Two verses later, they let the sin of discontentment again get control. They talked of all the good things they had in Egypt. They licked their lips over the thoughts of the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic they had in Egypt. They just were not happy with what God had given them.

It is not mentioned that they remembered the bad things in the land. It is not mentioned that they recalled their slavery, lack of religious freedom, lack of freedom to do what they wished, pain, misery, and suffering. All they could do was remember the "good times."

Sound familiar? Many get

their lives changed when they get born-again. God cleaned up many a dirty, ruined life. Drunks and wife-beaters have been changed to wonderful, respectable, sober, non-violent husbands. Liars and cheats have their lives completely changed, and their lives become lives of honesty. Their character becomes forthright and outstanding. Criminal lives become lives of outstanding citizenship. All lives become changed when they are saved and are obedient to God's commandments. They may not be perfect, but they are not the same lives they were before they were saved. They have so much to be content with, but then discontentment rears its ugly head. Complaining and dissatisfaction creep into their conversation. Soon, they are no different from the children of Israel. They begin to lust for the "good ole days."

Let the truth be known! There were very few "good ole days" before we were saved. They were days that sowed sin; whose consequences you may be still reaping to this day. They were days of committing sin that scarred your life and hurt others around you. It is amazing how a mind can change the memory of a perilous past into something that seems far better than it was. We do exactly what the people of Israel did.

To avoid non-productive murmuring and discouraging com-

plaining, here are some biblical truths that can help you avoid the downward spiral of discontentment:

🌿 Remember that we are naturally never satisfied. We always want more! We have to get control of what the flesh desires and let the spirit of God do the guiding.

"Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." Proverb 27:20

🌿 Let your thought-life and conversation never be about things you do not have or should not have. Thinking and talking about them then leads to the desire for the real things.

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5

🌿 Realize that the world and God owe you nothing. Nothing this world has to offer is permanent anyway! Even that big house you have is only a pup-tent, because, pilgrim, you are only passing through this life.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is

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"A man's contentment is in his mind, not in the extent of his possessions."

— Spurgeon

C T C X D E C D S H A P Q B C O Y Q G V
 B E S J A M E S A U E G V W S Q L W U L
 G V C Q J V S Y O N Z H Z J L H U L F N
 I O N R E S I D H B I D X J J A Y F D L
 G S D D H D B I C P V E T J S I R N X V
 X J X F O D I Y Z N L R L E W K L F J A
 F A U S A R X L S J L T M R C E L I C J
 R M W B H N W E V O M K H J Q D H C U O
 Y E X F A I Z M T Z N F M P A E H S O H
 X Z Z C Z H C L X M U Z L D E Z Z O E N
 H F I M R C L P U L X Z W O N S I T Y T
 E N S S E A D Q J A N Z C O N X O I B H
 S L A Q L I K J E Q P S S H O E E J M E
 S S B Q T O D N R C B M O B E X E J E B
 A A B R U H Q F E C A N G D M F H J T A
 N L A E B E V S M S P K O S I T U S L P
 A I R K H J Q O I S M E P A S V W J J T
 M S A A Q O D P A L H J T D R F A A I I
 A Q B B T F L E H A Y T D E D P N R Y S
 Q Z V L X G Q P Y R I B G J R F E Q T T

Words to Find:	Samson	Daniel	Paul
Joseph	Hoshea	JohnTheBaptist	Silas
Butler	Manasseh	Barabbas	Jehoiachin
Baker	Jehoahaz	James	Zedekiah
Simeon	Jeremiah	Peter	

A Lesson from the Chinese

Author Unknown

In the distant past, there were about 3,000 Chinese boys and girls in a certain area of New York City. During a period of eight years there were only two cases of juvenile delinquency. A legislature and court investigation discovered that Chinese percent-

age of delinquency was the lowest of any racial or sectional group. Chinese teachers were questioned by the investigators concerning the reason for this remarkable showing. What they learned should be broadcast throughout America. It was a precept they believed and followed: "The misconduct of the child is the fault of the parent."

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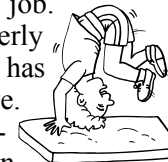


Child Training

Bill Brinkworth

The most important responsibility we will ever have is not paying our bills, getting a new house, or moving up the corporate ladder in our job.

It is rearing properly the children God has allowed us to have. If you are a Christian, your children are your main ministry (Psalm 127:3).



God should know best how to rear children; after all, He has reared billions of them. Our heavenly Father does know the right way, not necessarily the way suggested by child psychologists, child welfare workers, and teachers. He should be sought first in obtaining advice on rearing our children

God's Word has much to say about how a child should be reared. Here is some of the Bible's advice on rearing children:

Children should be trained. Nowhere in the Scriptures is the responsibility of training children

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How Old Ought I to Be?

Michigan Bible Club Beacon

"Dear Mother," said a little maid
 "Please whisper it to me,
 Before I am a Christian,
 How old ought I to be?"

"How old ought you to be, child
 Before you can
 love me?"

"I always
 loved you,
 Mother mine,
 Since I was
 tiny wee."



"I love you
 now and always will,"
 The little daughter said,
 And on her mother's shoulder laid
 Her golden, curly head.

"How old, my girlie, must you be,
 Before you trust my care?"
 "Oh, Mother dear, I do, I do.
 I trust you everywhere."

"How old ought you to be, child
 To do the things I say?"
 The little girl looked up and said
 "I can do that today."
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Child Training

Continued from Page 1

given to anyone but the parents. Others can assist, but it is the parents that are responsible for the child's training. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Children should obey their parents! Those assisting in the education of other people's children should remember this and never encourage a child to disobey or question their parents' authority.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." *Ephesians 6:1* Also: *Ex. 20:12*

Children should not intentionally be provoked to anger. Although, little Seymour may get mad when he is asked to do something, it should not be the parents intent to purposely offend or make him angry. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." *Colossians 3:21*

Children should be educated by reading and feeding on the Word of God and taught to follow its instructions. The thinking that, "I will not force religion down my child's throat; he can make his own decision

"O fathers and mothers, the ruin of your children or their salvation, will, under God, very much depend on you."

"Children need love, especially when they do not deserve it." — Hulbert

about 'religion'", is not biblical. If that is how the parent feels, then how is it they do not leave it to the child to decide if they go to school or not?

"... but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." *Ephesians 6:4*

Children can be saved at a young age.

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

II Timothy 3:15

Children should be disciplined and corrected.

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." *Proverbs 19:18* The longer discipline is put off, the more bent a child will be to do his own will.

"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." *Proverb 29:17*

Children that are undisciplined will bring dishonor and havoc to themselves and their parents.

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

*The uncondensed version of this study can be found at:
www.openthoumineeyes.com/lessons/training.html*

How Old Ought I to Be?

Continued from Page 1

"Then you can be a Christian too.

Don't wait till you are grown. Tell Jesus now you come to Him, To be His very own."

Then as the little maid knelt down

And said, "Lord, if I may, I'd like to be a Christian now," He answered, "Yes, today!"

Two-and-a Half Conversions

Author Unknown

D. L. Moody is said to have once returned from a meeting with a report of "two-and-a-half conversions."

"Two adults and a child, I suppose?" queried his host.

"No, two children and an adult," said Mr. Moody. "The children gave their whole lives. The adult had only half of his left to give."

SCHOOL — 1957 vs. 2007

Dr. Don Boys

Scenario: Jack goes quail Hunting before school, and pulls into school parking lot with shotgun in gun rack.

1957 - Vice Principal comes over, looks at Jack's shotgun, goes to his car and gets his shotgun to show Jack.

2007 - School goes into lock down, FBI called, Jack hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors called in

for traumatized students and teachers.

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.

1957 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies. 2007 - Police called, SWAT team arrives arrests Johnny and Mark. Charge them with assault, both expelled, even though Johnny started it.

Scenario: Jeffrey won't be still in class after disrupting other students.

1957 - Jeffrey sent to office and given a good paddling by the Principal. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2007 - Jeffrey given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADD. School gets extra money from state because Jeffrey has a disability.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover firecrackers from 4th of July, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle, and blows up a red ant bed.

1957 - Ants die.

2007 - BATF, Homeland Security, FBI called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, FBI investigates parents, siblings removed from home; computers confiscated, Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" — Isaiah 5:20

Safe in the Ark

D. L. Moody

When the voice came down from heaven to Noah, "... Come thou and all thy house into the ark, for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation," there was a minute when Noah was outside the ark, and another when he was inside. By being inside, he was saved.

As long as he was outside of the ark he was exposed to the wrath of God just like the rest of those at that time. If he stayed out and remained with the others, he

would have been swept away, as they were. It was not his righteousness; it was not his faith, nor his works that saved him; it was the ark.

We have not, like Noah, to be one hundred and twenty years making an ark for our safety. God has provided an ark for us, and the question is: Are you inside or outside this ark? Are you "inside" by being obedient to Him and by being saved? If you are "inside" you are safe; if you are outside with the rest of the world you are not safe.

What A Christian Has



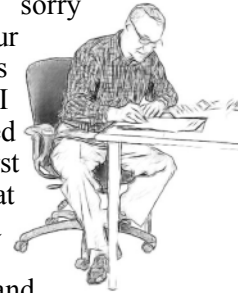
Words to Find:
 Bible
 Blessings
 Direction
 Fellowship
 God
 Grace
 Guidance
 Heaven
 Hope
 Inheritance
 Love
 Promises
 Protection
 Salvation
 Truth
 Wisdom



Dear Liberal Friend

Bill Brinkworth

I am so sorry about how our friendship has turned out. I was so excited when I first learned that you were a Christian.



Fellowship and friendship with another of like faith are very important to me. However, I quickly learned that your definition and my definition of being a "Christian" were completely different.

When one says they are a "Christian," I assume their thinking and lifestyle would be aligned with the Bible. Your "Christianity" is not what is described in my Bible. Matter of fact, most of the time you didn't want to discuss the Bible. When the conversation did lead to spiritual things, you quickly went on the defense and accused me of judging or argued the doctrine. We have spent more time discussing "what the Bible really means", as you keep saying,

rather than agreeing on the things of God.

My other friendships with Christians have never been this strained. It is has always been easy and perfectly natural for me and my other friends to talk about the things of God, because we are interested in them. You, obviously, are not.

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Farewell, Vain World

Journal Entry of David Brainerd, April 25, 1742

Farewell, vain world, my soul can bid adieu;

My Saviour taught me to abandon you.

Your charms may gratify a sensual mind,

But cannot please a soul for God designed.

Forbear to entice, cease then my soul to call;

'Tis fixed through grace — my God shall be my all.

While He thus lets me Heavenly glories view,
 Your beauties fade; my heart has no room for you.

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Dear Liberal Friend

Continued from Page 1

I may not have been saved as long as you have been, but I do know that the Bible teaches a Christian should live differently than the unsaved. You seem to be very comfortable dressing like the world, talking like the world, acting like the world, doing things the world does, going to places that the world goes to; and your philosophies are often identical to what the ungodly world thinks. It's hard to tell any difference between you and the unsaved. I am not comfortable doing many of those things, and I feel some of them are against what God teaches in his Book for us to do.

The consequences of worldliness and its sin are some of the things I got saved from. The world is losing and not heading for Heaven, but to Hell. I have no interest in thinking and looking like the losing side. I lived that way before salvation, and I certainly did not have the joy or peace I do now by obeying the

“Worldliness is a lifestyle that matches those of the unsaved, and it is far from having an appearance of a Christ-like, biblical-based, obedient-to-God life.”

Lord. I think it is far safer and biblical to be more like Christ.

Clearly, the Bible tells us to talk to others about Christ, so they also can be saved and have the promise of Heaven. Proverbs 11:30 says you are wise if you do this. You have ridiculed and tried all you can to stop me from doing this. No, I don't think it “is pushing God's Word down their throat” by telling them. If someone didn't tell me how to be saved, I would not be. I would feel very selfish if I didn't share salvation with others, and would be disobedient to God's biblical command if I didn't.

When I do witness to others, I quite often hear the word “hypocrite.” The unsaved world knows how Christians should live. They have seen so many that call themselves Christians, and see that they don't live the way they should. After seeing more living the wrong way, they quickly assume that all Christians are hypocrites and living the wrong lifestyle. I certainly am not perfect, and am still growing spiritually, but the people they are referring to are not people like me, but are people like you.

I love being saved. It is so exciting to know that Christ died for all my sins and paid the price for them so I could go Heaven. I owe Him so much. My desire now is to live for and serve Him. Your liberal theology and life-

style are doing much to harm and weaken the cause of Christ. It is giving those trying to serve and live for God a bad name and is hurting the testimonies of those that are trying to live right.

Sadly, I think it is time to part as friends. No, I don't think myself “holier than thou.” I know what I was, and that I can fall back into my old ways. I am concerned that your disobedience may rub off on me. Association with your unchristian lifestyle will also hurt my Christian testimony. My desire is to be more like “Christ”, and I want to have that reputation; so until your lifestyle becomes more Christ-like, our fellowship will have to stop.

Regretfully,
Bill

Immersed in Worldly Cares

Flavel, 1881

We keep ourselves in such a continual hurry and crowd of cares, thoughts, and employments about the things of the body, that we can find little time to be alone; communing with our own hearts about our great concerns of eternity.

It is with many of us as it was with Archimedes. He was so intent upon drawing his mathematical schemes that though all the city was in alarm, the enemy had taken it by storm, the streets filled with dead bodies, the soldiers came into his particular

“The one enemy that has taken the most soldiers of Christ out of spiritual warfare is worldliness! Do not be its next casualty!”

house, entered into his study, and plucked him by his sleeve before he took any notice of it. Even so, many men's hearts are so profoundly immersed and drowned in earthly cares, thoughts, projects, or pleasures, that death must come to their very house and pull them by the sleeve before they will begin to awake, and come to a serious consideration of things more important — like their eternal soul!

Stream of Worldliness

T. Adams, 1881

A river leads a man through sweet meadows, green woods, fertile pastures, fruit-laden fields, by glorius buildings, strong forts, famous cities; yet at the end it brings him to the salt sea where things are far from lush and green. The stream of the world carries one along through rich commodities, voluptuous delights, stately dignities, but after all this brings a man to death; after death it brings him to judgment, and then to Hell.

“If you can get along with the world, then you are out of step with God!”

— Dr. Harold Sightler

MISSIONARIES AND EVANGELISTS *found in the Bible*



Words to Find:
 Apollos
 Barnabas
 Epaphras
 JohnMark
 JohnTheBaptist
 Jonah
 Luke
 Noah
 Paul
 Phillip
 Silas
 Timothy
 Titus

The Atheist Went to Church

Dr. Harry Ironside

The evangelist Billy Sunday used to relate a story of a well-known village atheist who was seen running vigorously to a burning church building intent on joining with others in subduing the flames. A neighbor observing him exclaimed, "This is something new for you! I never saw you going to church before."

The atheist replied, "Well, this is the first time I have ever seen a church on fire."

Who can tell how many might be drawn to God if the people of

God were on fire for Christ and burning with zeal to win the lost?

Not Offered Anywhere Else

Author Unknown


A man, proud of his defiance of many of the teachings of God asked a young Bible student, "What does the church have to offer me that I cannot get elsewhere?"

The young, wise student replied, "The church offers you Jesus Christ, and He is not offered to you anywhere else in the world."

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The **Bible View**




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Reasons for Going

Bill Brinkworth

There are two categories of reasons for people's attending church: spiritual and unspiritual reasons. Here are some reasons for attendance that fall under those divisions:

Spiritual:

- ☞ "The Word of God is taught, believed, and practiced."
- ☞ "I grow spiritually at that church."
- ☞ "The Holy Spirit convicts my heart through the preaching."
- ☞ "It is where unsaved people can come and get saved!"
- ☞ "The church is a place where I can serve God."
- ☞ "The music glorifies and honors God."
- ☞ "There are good spiritual influences there."
- ☞ "It is a good place for my family to learn more about spiritual things."
- ☞ "It is where God wants me."

Unspiritual:

- ☞ "I feel good when I listen to the preaching, and don't feel guilty about anything."
- ☞ "It's a place to learn about

God, but they're not fanatical about it."

- ☞ "It's a good place to get clients for my business."

Continued on Page 2

I'm Outa There!

Bill Brinkworth

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." *Heb. 10:24-25*

Church is the place we should be hearing the Word of God and be strengthened in following the Lord. Our own Bible reading is one way we grow in the things of the Lord. However, God has ordained the local church to also assist us in our spiritual walk. It is there we get spiritual food God has given His appointed preacher to disburse to us. It is there many



Continued on Page 2

Reasons for Going

Continued from Page 1

- ☞ “It is a very modern church. They use the newest “bibles”, music, and popular books.”
- ☞ “Going there will make me look like a Christian, and people will trust me more in my business.”
- ☞ “Going there eases my conscience, and I feel like I am doing something spiritual.”
- ☞ “I can give money to them and count it as a tax write-off.”
- ☞ “It’s not a strict church. I can do anything I want, and no one says anything.”
- ☞ “It is the most popular church in the area.”
- ☞ “The services are always entertaining.”
- ☞ “It’s a good place to meet girls.”
- ☞ “The music is almost the same as I listen to at home; just a few of the words are different.”

Are your reasons for attending church “spiritual” or “unspiritual”?

I’m Outa There!

Continued from Page 1

can hear the Gospel and be saved. It is inside a church that we can find a place of ministry, and where we can serve God.

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” — 1 Corinthians 3:9

Going to church is the right thing to do, but many reasons keep people from heeding God’s command to attend. I certainly would not give the devil the credit all the time; sometimes our own natural flesh, which struggles at doing right, intervenes and keeps us from attending. Between the two, there are a lot of excuses and wrong decisions that people use and make to keep them out of church. Here are a few of them that keep too many from church:

Sin. Going to church and hearing from God’s Word, will remind many of their sin. To avoid conviction, they stay away from church; so they do not get Unpleasant reminders of their wrong doings.

Church hopping. They try this church; then that one; then go to another with a friend. Soon they find themselves out of their routine of faithfulness to the church God had led them to. In a short time, they are not attending any church.

Discontentment. Folks can easily find a reason for not being happy with their church. “I don’t like the way the preacher preaches. He screams too much,” or “They sing too much”. There is no perfect church; and if there were one, it



would not be perfect after we entered.

Hurt feelings. Probably the number one killer of church attendance is when folks get their feelings hurt and leave the church. “No one shook my hand,” or “No one even said hello to me. It is not a friendly church.”

Lack of understanding. Many do not have a clue as to what the Bible teaches. If they attend a church that does preach and practice the doctrines taught in the Bible, they do not understand it, do not like it, and leave. Many just go for the religious trappings of the denomination they were raised in, and do not realize that many “religious” practices are not biblical.

Pride. The old folded-arm excuse, “No one is going to tell me what to do!,” keeps many out of church. They have not figured out that the preacher’s message that got them indignant and wanting to leave was from the Word of God. Often, they leave not because of what the preacher said, but what God said to their heart.

Legitimate reasons. Legitimate excuses for missing church like sickness, or vacations can become a habitual reason for non-attending church.

Few excuses are acceptable that keep us from church attendance. We cannot please God, when we are staying home from church. Even the unsaved know where a Christian should

be on Sunday morning.

God started the church and sent His Son to die for it. The local church is important to God. Be at one this week! Be faithful in attending one that is teaching what the Bible instructs, and where you believe God has led you to attend.

The City Church

Author Unknown

*God bless the church on the
avenue
That hears the city’s cry,
The church that sows the seed of
the Word
Where the masses of men go by;
The church that makes midst the
city’s roar
A place for an altar of prayer,
With a heart for the rich and a
heart for the poor,
And rejoices in their burdens to
share.
The church that’s true to the call
of Christ,
Who wept o’er the city’s need,
And who sent His disciples to
labor for Him
Where the forces of evil breed.
The church that gives and the
church that lives,
As seen by the Master’s eye —
God bless the church on the
avenue
That answers the city’s cry!*

“The church is not a club of saints; it is a hospital for sinners.”

On The Other Side ...

Continued from Page 3

and of not being used of God, was viewed from a mountain of "I learned my lesson the hard way."

Lazarus. Lazarus had a lifetime of valleys: one after another. There was much that he never had. He never had decent clothing. He never had wealth; nor did he even have health.

His entire lifetime was one spent in poverty and unfathomable living conditions. Because of his ailments, he could not work. His sustenance was obtained by begging. He had little hope, until the day he heard about a loving God that loved even him in all his filth and squalor. It was He whom he then trusted.

Even though his life was still hard, it was his God that supplied his daily needs. Perhaps, if it were not for his pitiful condition, he would not have seen or known about a God that could get him through one valley after another.

Then one day, Lazarus' valleys ended forever. He left his diseased and lice-infested body behind, and found himself in God's paradise forever. Many of those that seemed to have it all when he was on earth, now glared up at him from their position in a dark, hopeless Hell. He found himself on an eternal mountain; one that would never end.

While in this flesh, each one of us will go through valleys. Some of these trials are allowed to help get us in the place where

God wants us; some, to give us a new start with a better life. Trials sometimes happen in our life that others may see how God helps us through the hard times. It is even possible that the difficulties are brought on as we defied what our God has commanded us to do. Sometimes they are just our portion in life. No matter the reason or the circumstances; there is still a God to be close to through that valley. The darkness that is seen during those times may only be the shadow of the next mountain God has ahead for us.

The full-length version of this article is available at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/articles/otherside.html>

Unscramble This Verse

el dtu rob	_____:
eb	__
od G	____,
eel b vie	_____
ni	__
oy ru	_____
ey	__
her at	_____
em	__
te L	____
ee i el vb	_____
ont	____
ni	__
l so a	_____

Now write the verse:

J _ _ _ I _ : I

The Bible View




Visit: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com

Vol.: 544

On The Other Side of The Valley

Bill Brinkworth

When standing in the valley of difficulty, we many times only see the trials and tribulations that surround us and do not see any hope for the future. After the ordeal is over, and we leave that place, there usually is a calmness in our life that does not leave any hint of what preceded it. The storm passed. Things changed. We are not in the pit of despair, but on a mountain on the other side of a difficult experience.



The hard times you are going through, or will go through, will one day pass. Hang on through them. Draw close to God through the difficulty. It certainly is not the time to shake your fist and be angry with God. Life has its trials. A great, all-seeing God can lead you through the trying experiences.

Hard times are not a modern

Continued on Page 2

Start Using Religion

Author Unknown

Jim happened to meet the preacher on the street one day, and during the conversation told him of all the troubles he had had during the past year. He wound up with: "I tell you right now, preacher, it's enough to make a man lose his religion."

"Seems to me, Jim," the pastor told him quietly, "It's enough to make a man use his religion."

Sunshine Through Rain

Author Unknown

Help me to see the sunshine through the rain.

What I count loss may somehow be gain.

*Help me to sing when I would cry
Knowing that thou art
standing by.*

"He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood. He who faces no calamity will need no courage. Mysterious though it is, the characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of trouble."

— Harry Fosdick

On The Other Side of ...

Continued from Page 1

situation. Everyone has had them. In biblical days, hard times came for:

Joseph. Joseph faced what seemed like a lifetime of tragedies after his brothers turned against him. After throwing him in a deep pit, they sold him into slavery. Later, he was lied about and thrown into prison.

There he interpreted the meaning of two men's dreams from his prison cell. He saw God had used him to reveal their meaning. The interpretations came true. One man died, but the other man's life was spared, and he was restored to the high government position as Pharaoh's butler; just as God had revealed it to Joseph.

Then one day the butler did remember, and Joseph was summoned to interpret another dream. It was the dream of the Pharaoh. After reliably interpreting the leader's dream, Joseph was rewarded for his assistance. He was given riches, power and was mightily used to help God's people. If he had not gone through all those hard times, he would never have reached a place of usefulness and plenty. Soon, all those valleys were shadowed, as he viewed them from a mountaintop.

Noah. Noah heard God tell him to do a difficult task, and he obeyed. The cost to be obedient

was not cheap. As he built a huge boat in an area where there had been no rain, he certainly must have faced ridicule by his neighbors.

Noah pressed on. He labored. He sweat. He did what he was commanded; then the rains started. The flood came. Perhaps he heard the screams of the once scoffing neighbors pleading to come in to hide in the ark's safety. However, he was safe within the bowels of the vessel where God had locked Noah and his family in. The valley of humiliation had passed. He was on the mountain of protection with a mighty God that he had obeyed.

Job. Job had a life of plenty. He heard about the one, true God and obeyed Him. He found obedience was easy. The closer he got to God, the more the loving God blessed him. Those around him could easily see the blessings. Life was good.

Then came the worst 20 minutes of his life, as one runner and employee after another came to tell him of his great losses. The past mountaintop of blessing was dwarfed by a vast, deep valley of difficulty.

However, this was the time to trust God. He knew he had never deserved the blessings in the first place. He had far more than any others did. Life was still good; although the shadow of past mountains was a distant glimmer from the valley where

he now found himself.

The valley got deeper. Illness piled upon his loss. Friends turned against him. Even his wife failed to support him. The sun finally came out. The trials were over. God saw that Job passed the test of tribulations with steadfast love and obedience. Job could still be trusted with valuables, houses, and authority. God's blessings returned after one trying year of agony. He now was given twice as much as he originally had been given. God was still good on the other side of the valley of hardship.

Jonah. Jonah was a prophet and was used of God. One day his obedience to God took a back seat.

Maybe there was convenient passage to go the wrong direction from God's obedience. Maybe he even determined that the cheap ticket or the convenient, empty seat on the boat to Tarshish was proof that it was okay with God.

He moved off the mountaintop of serving God after he boarded that vessel. The circumstances of ease stopped as a mighty God's wrath rained and blew on his vessel. The waves hammered the vessel. The sky blackened. Seasoned sailors panicked over the ensuing storm. Jonah was in a valley, and not alone.

He recognized he had not gotten away with his disobedience, and that the convenient circumstances were not God's will. Jonah knew who it was that was stopping him from his insurrec-

tion. After insisting on being thrown overboard to stop his raging God, the unwilling crew obliged. Jonah sank down into the dark, deep waters. The storm immediately ceased. The deck was crammed with instant believers. They knew it was not a coincidence. A great and powerful God had ended the valley of no hope for them.

For Jonah, the valley caused by his disobedience grew deeper and deeper; as the waters engulfed him. A strange feeling it must have been as a large, obedient whale swallowed the drowning man. Life still continued for Jonah, but now it was in the lonely, darkness of the whale's belly. In the valley of despair there was time to think. There was time to wonder why he had not first obeyed when he was told. There was time to know if he had to do it all over again, he would have obeyed.

After what seemed an eternity of loneliness and darkness, the imprisonment ended. The whale vomited Jonah out into shallow waters. He saw sunshine again. There was a second chance to do what he was supposed to do.

Jonah ran willingly to the awaiting city to warn them of their eventual doom for their wickedness. He had a heart about the matter then. He knew quite well that no one could escape the wrath of an all-seeing God, and that the price tag on sin was not pleasant. The valley of despair,

Continued on Page 4

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." — Job 14:1

“Hold the Fort, for I am Coming!”

D. L. Moody

I am told that when General Sherman went through Atlanta towards the sea, he left in the fort in the Kennesaw Mountains a little handful of men to guard some rations that he brought there.

General Hood got into the outer rear and attacked the fort. For a long time the battle raged fearfully. Half of the men were either killed or wounded. The general, who was in command, was wounded seven different times; and when they were about ready to run up the white flag and surrender the fort, Sherman got within fifteen miles. Through the signal corps on the mountain he sent the message, “Hold the fort; I am coming. W. T. Sherman.” That message fired up the men’s hearts, and they held the fort till reinforcements came, and the fort did not go into the hands of their enemies.

Mr. Philip Bliss has written the following hymn entitled, “Hold the Fort for I am Coming.” We need to hold our “fort” and not give up serving the Lord and doing what is right. Our Saviour is in command, and He is coming.

*Ho! My comrades, see the signal
Waving in the sky!*

*Reinforcements now appearing.
Victory is nigh!*

*Hold the fort, for I am coming,
Jesus signals still,
Wave the answer back to heaven,
By Thy grace we will.*

*See the mighty hosts advancing,
Satan leading on;
Mighty men around us falling.
Courage almost gone.*

*Hold the fort, for I am coming,
Jesus signals still,
Wave the answer back to heaven,
By Thy grace we will.*

*See the glorious banner waving.
Hear the bugle blow.*

*In our Leader's name we'll
triumph
Over every foe.*

*Hold the fort, for I am coming,
Jesus signals still,
Wave the answer back to heaven,
By Thy grace we will.*

*Fierce and long the battle rages,
But our Help is near;
Onward comes our Great
Commander,*

*Cheer, my comrades, cheer!
Hold the fort, for I am coming,
Jesus signals still,
Wave the answer back to heaven,
By Thy grace we will.*



Don't Be A Discourager

Bill Brinkworth

Moses and the tribes of Israel left their bondage in Egypt and were headed for a land God had promised them west of the Jordan River. They were all to cross the river, and before they claimed their new properties, they would have to fight the enemies there.

However, before they reached the promised land, two of the tribes, Gad and Reuben, traveled through a land they really wanted. It met the needs of their many flocks and appealed to them. They wanted to go no further and occupy the land they were in.

They went to their leader, Moses, and asked if they could have the lands of Jazer and Gilead, rather than what was on the other side of the river (Num. 32:1-4). Wisely, Moses advised against it, as he knew doing it would discourage others.

“And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here? 7 And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the

children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?” Num. 32:6-7

Continued on Page 2

Praise God!

D. L. Moody

There was a man converted here some years ago, and he was just full of praise. He was living in the light all the time.

We might be in the darkness, but he was always in the light. He used to preface everything he said in the meeting with, “Praise God.”

One night he came to the meeting with his finger all bound up. He had cut it, and cut it pretty badly, too. Well, I wondered how he would praise God for this; but he got up and said, “I have cut my finger, but, praise God, I didn't cut it off.” And so, if things go against you, just think they might be a good deal worse.



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Don't Be A Discourager

Continued from Page 1

Moses recited another instance where God's people were discouraged because of the actions of others. He reminded them of the impact the discouraging report of ten faithless and hopeless spies caused among Israel. Moses also recapped how their dissuasion of others angered God and brought on serious repercussions to His people (Num. 32:8-13).

The two tribes realized what harm their lack of helping the others would cause. They made a commitment, and kept their promise, to keep the land but support the others by faithfully joining them in battle. They committed themselves not to take possession of the land until the others had theirs.

Like the Gadites and Reubenites, our words, actions, or lack of actions can also discourage others: Christian and non-Christian alike. Our words, although many times meant to be helpful, can discourage others, from serving the Lord. "Why so-and-so says I'm

doing a lousy job teaching my Sunday school class, so I'll just quit," or "Well, if they don't like how I dress, I'll just stop going to church, or find one that lets me come as I want" and many other "suggestions" discourage more than we would like to know.

When the preacher is away on vacation and folks stay home because "Deacon So-and-so is going to preach today that deacon, who may have put a lot of effort into preparing for the sermon, will be greatly discouraged when attendance is low. The preacher will be very discouraged when only he shows up for church-wide visitation. Mid-week church service's drop in attendance may have the faithful few, that do attend, wondering if they should continue going to church on that evening.

There is a time to stand up for what is right, and speak out against wrong. Many times situations have to be corrected. Sometimes people do not know a better way unless someone shows them differently. No one likes correction, but we all need it from time to time.

However, some of us do correcting far more often than we should, and never realize the discouragement we cause to others that are trying to live and do right. We need to be led by God's Spirit when to say some-



"When God is your reason to live, you'll never have a reason to quit."

thing to others, rather than our own critical spirit. Many times it is not even our position to correct others. Usually, it is the Holy Spirit that should be doing the correcting and not us!

To know when and when not to correct someone or a situation is not an easy task. Our worldly flesh wants to do it too often. It takes great discernment to know when to speak out. Pray first! Ask the Lord's guidance in direction in what to say, or if one should even say anything. Ask Him to give the right opportunity if you are to say something about a situation. We can have more liberty if the Holy Spirit is behind the advice giving, then if we do it in our own strength.

Realize that others have feelings also. Kindness and gentleness certainly get more positive results than our own bluntness. Think how you would react if you were approached the way you are considering addressing a situation.

Also realize that participation or lack of it in social events, particularly in church situations, can affect others. Getting our minds and thoughts off our own desires, and considering others reactions, may also help us not be detrimental to others. Our goal should be to encourage others to live, and do as the Lord desires, not to hinder anyone from doing His will. Other's needs and their reactions should be of a higher concern to us than we often make them.

Living for the Lord and want-

ing to do right are often difficult in the world in which we live. Encouragement to do so is very limited. All need encouragement to do right. It is pleasing to the Lord when we encourage others! Are your actions an encouragement to others around you, even in your church, or are they a discouragement hampering the work of the Lord?

"I Have Nothing to Complain About!"

Bill Brinkworth

One of our favorite blessings in the nursing home ministry is L. We asked her the other day how she was, and she cheerfully replied, "Brother Bill, I'd like to complain about something, but I honestly cannot find anything to complain about."

Another time, when asked what she was thankful for she quipped, "I am so thankful for my health." She meant this from her heart, as she sat in her wheelchair receiving oxygen much of the day, and needing the care provided for her by the nursing home.

What a testimony she is to us that have so much more, but complain too often about our "little" afflictions.

"A word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than an hour of praise after success."

What Christians Have

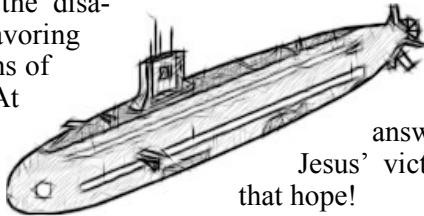


Words to Find:
 Bible
 blessings
 direction
 fellowship
 God
 grace
 guidance
 Heaven
 hope
 inheritance
 love
 promises
 protection
 salvation
 truth
 wisdom

There is Hope!

Author Unknown

Years ago a submarine sank off Provincetown. As soon as possible, divers descended. They walked outside the disabled ship endeavoring to find some signs of life within. At last, they heard a gentle tapping. Listening



intently, they recognized the dots and dashes of Morse code. The tapping behind the hull spelled out, "Is there hope?"

"Is there hope?"

This is the cry of humanity, and the resurrection is the answer to this cry!

Jesus' victory over death is that hope!

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The **Bible View**

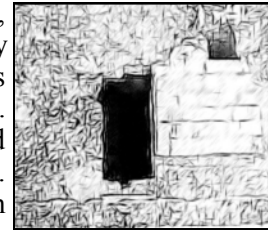



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He Arose: The Proof

Bill Brinkworth

In human history, there were many founders and leaders of false religions. Many have claimed to be from God. What separates them from the only One that was really sent from God, Jesus, is that somewhere their bones, or remains, still lie in a grave, but Jesus' do not. There are no remains of Jesus, because He is not dead. He has risen, and here is some of the proof, as recorded in the Bible:



What is believed to be Jesus' tomb.

☞ Jesus left His tomb on the third day after His death. The guarded, sealed tomb was emptied, despite man's attempt to keep Jesus' body in the tomb (Mat. 28:1-6, Mark 16:6, Luke 24:1-3, John 20:1-2). Jesus arose from the dead!

☞ Jesus was seen after His death by Mary Magdalene, Mary (mother of James, Joses and Salome), and Joanna (Mat. 28:1-10 Mark 15:40, Mark 16:9, Luke

24:10, John 20:15-17).

☞ Jesus was seen by 11 disciples (Mat. 28:16-20, Mark 16:14).

☞ Jesus was seen by Cleopas and another follower (Mark 16:12, Luke 24:13-31).

☞ Jesus was seen by ten disciples (John 20:19-23).

☞ Jesus was seen by Thomas (John 20:26-29).

Continued on Page 2

Not Just a Man

Bill Brinkworth

One of the many things that proves that Jesus was not an ordinary man is that His life did not end with His crucifixion. His life continued, and Luke 24 tells some of what happened after His death. The chapter reveals:

✠ Jesus rose from the dead and was victorious over death!

✠ Angels had announced Jesus' birth and also announced that He had risen (vs. 5-6).

Continued on Page 2

He Arose: The Proof

Continued from Page 1

☞ Jesus was seen by the disciples again at the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-14).

☞ Jesus was seen by His disciples as He ascended up to Heaven (Luke 24:33-51, Acts 1:4-9).

☞ Jesus was seen by Cephas (I Cor. 15:5).

☞ Jesus was seen by over 500 people (I Cor. 15:6).

☞ Jesus was seen of James (I Cor. 15:7).

☞ Jesus was seen by Paul (I Cor. 15:8).

These proofs are very important. They were given so that those that believe Jesus' death was payment for their sins may also live with Him. Because He lives, we can also! He is not dead. He has risen.

"But these are written [Jesus being seen after His resurrection], that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:31

Not Just a Man

Continued from Page 1

✠ He came back after His crucifixion and was seen by many.

✠ Jesus taught others, when He came back.

✠ Jesus had a different body, but He still remembered many things, talked, walked, and was able to discern oth-

"Jesus used a borrowed tomb, because He did not need it for long."

ers' feelings.

✠ He still knew Scripture (vs. 27).

✠ He still prayed and thanked God (vs. 30).

✠ He must have appeared different. He had talked and spent time with several disciples; but they did not recognize who He was until their eyes were opened, and they were given understanding that it was Christ they had been talking with (vs. 31).

✠ He just appeared amongst people. In several other places in the Bible, Jesus appeared in the midst of people without going through doors (vs. 36).

✠ Jesus still had the marks of His crucifixion (vs. 39).

✠ He was seen ascending back to Heaven (vs. 51).

Unfortunately there are many false religions, and their originators that have claimed to have done many supernatural things. None, however, can claim to have done what God's only Son

"Christianity begins where religion ends; with the resurrection."

has done. Jesus arose from the grave! He is risen!

Jesus Knows All About You

Bill Brinkworth

Jesus is omniscient (all-knowing). Many times, before Jesus was slain, He proved that He knew all. After His resurrection there are also many examples of His knowing all things. John 21 highlights several of them, including:

- ◆ That after His resurrection, He knew where to find his disciples (vs. 1).
- ◆ That Jesus' disciples had spent all night fishing, and had not caught anything. He visited them and instantly knew where the fish were (vs. 6), and told them.
- ◆ That the fisherman still had to eat, and what their needs were (vs. 9).
- ◆ That Jesus knew of Peter's weakness, and yet encouraged him to continue to minister to the many believers (vss. 15-17).
- ◆ What would happen to Peter in his last days (vs. 18).

There is nothing Jesus does not know about anyone. He knows our heartaches, sorrows, needs, fears, strengths, weaknesses, if we really are saved, and things we may not even know about ourselves. With all Jesus knows about us, He still loves us. What a wonderful Saviour He is!

"A best friend is one who knows all about you, and yet still loves you!"

Up from the Grave He Arose

Hymn by Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Chorus: *Up from the grave he arose;
With a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
Chorus

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!
Chorus

"Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" Acts 26:8

Why God Hates Sin

Continued from Page 1

The reason God wants all to keep away from sin has nothing to do with prohibiting us from any fun. His reason is that sin always hurts someone; that is why God hates sin so much. Getting involved in iniquity ruins marriages, robs people of joy, shortens lives, destroys and wastes futures, causes physical problems, short circuits proper thinking, and has thousands of other terrible side-effects. No wonder God hates sin so much!

There is also another very important reason why God hates sin. God knows that there is a terrible price tag on all sin. Unless one's sin is paid for by trusting only on the sacrifice of Jesus' shed blood, there is an eternal price for our iniquities.

Just as one works all week, and expects a wage for his labors at the end of the time, so will it be at the end of our lives. For the unsaved, the wage for their sins will be an eternity in hell. That is very sad news, but there can be good news. The good news is that there is a gift from God that will get all sinners, that believe and request it, an eternal life in heaven. That gift is receiving Christ as Saviour.

"Sin will NEVER satisfy! In the end, the happiness becomes sadness, the thrill becomes a nightmare, the pleasure becomes an addiction. Sin never keeps its promises."

— Dr. Michael Brown

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23.

Sin Versus Leprosy

John Bates, 1871

- ◆ Leprosy was small in its beginning and spreading in its tendency; so is sin!
- ◆ Leprosy was loathsome and defiling in its nature; so is sin.
- ◆ Leprosy was incurable by human agency. The priest could teach the law concerning a cure. The leper could observe the law, but only the invisible intervention of God could effect a cure; so it is with sin.
- ◆ Leprosy was fatal in its consequences if uncured by God; so is sin.

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Payday will be Someday

Bill Brinkworth

"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." Eccl. 8:11

The small, but quick, ocelot exited his barred cage, and strutted down the penned hallway. Past the leopards



he went. A quick snarl stirred the dozing tigers, as he continued past their prisons.

Just before he got to the yard where he would bask in the sun, and attempt to chase darting birds, he stopped at the cage of an aged lion, hopelessly staring out through the bars from his cage. The small cat snarled aggressively at the 550-pound African killer, but there was nothing the King of Beasts could do from his captivity. After a while, the 20-pound South American predator moved on to

get his breath of fresh, outside air.

For months, the small, wiry bully daily passed the sedate beast. Sometimes the lion was growled at. Sometimes the small feline's quick swipes made contact with the lion, leaving small slices in the beast's thick coat. Blood was sometimes drawn, giving the smaller predator more confidence in his ability to attack his penned enemy; knowing that he was safe, as the lion was behind bars.

Continued on Page 2

Why God Hates Sin

Bill Brinkworth

When working with young people in the past, I often had to get them to deal with the sin in their lives. Sin was usually the culprit behind most problems they had. After discussing the wrongdoing they were involved in, and what the Bible said about it, I sometimes heard the remark, "Oh, God just doesn't want me to have any fun."

Continued on Page 4

Payday will be ...

Continued from Page 1

One day, as was his habit, the ocelot continued his attack on the beast. He snarled. He lashed out at the giant predator with his much smaller claws. However, on that day and unbeknownst to the aggressor, things were different. The King of the Jungle's cage door was open.

Without any warning to the smaller feline, the big cat quickly pounced, swiping his massive paws at the smaller enemy. It took one swipe, and the lion got his revenge, as clawed weapons swiped the ocelot's head from off his body. The little feline never knew what killed him.

A bloody, gruesome story, but it is not unlike what so many people experience. They believe, because they can get away with sin once, twice, and maybe for years, that they are then exempt from any repercussions from their sinful activity.



Payday for sin is often on another day!

Wrong! No one gets away with any sin. Lightning may not strike the child when he lied to his parent. A teenager may not have been thrown into jail when he did not get caught damaging another's property. One's short drinking binge did not land him in a rehab. A husband's peeking at pornography on the internet was not observed by his wife.

There are, however, always repercussions of sin; maybe not at the time of commission, but they will come. Sin has its wages — someday! If not in this life, there will be regrets in the

next.

One doing a long prison term usually did not get there from one crime. Most likely small sins desensitized his conscience, allowing him to do more and more; until one day he was caught.

A married man may have taken private, second looks at other women; maybe a glance or two at a friend's pornography. Before long, the wages of an adulterous relationship resulted in a divorce, breaking the hearts of the wife and children.

Lying lips may have told a little "white lie". Since there were no apparent repercussions, the sin was easier to commit the

second, third, and many, many more times. Years later the liar looked around and realized that he was friendless and lonely, because all those that trusted him had fled because of his dishonesty and deceit.

On and on the list of repercussions of sin can go. Each of us most likely has experienced the unwelcome, unexpected side effects of our own sins. We have also seen its wages in others' lives. No one gets away from sins consequences. There will be a payday someday for our sin. Flee sin now, while there is still an opportunity to escape regrets that may come too soon!

"Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy."

Proverbs 6:15

Seven Losses When a Christian Sins

Willmington's Book of Bible Lists

❁ The loss of light

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." I John 1:6

❁ The loss of joy

"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit." Psalm 51:12

❁ The loss of righteousness

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law ... 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of

the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." I John 3:4-10

❁ The loss of love for the brethren

"No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." I John 4:12

❁ The loss of fellowship

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

I John 1:6-7

❁ The loss of confidence

"And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God ..."

I John 3:19-22

❁ The possible loss of health and even physical life

"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." I Cor. 11:30

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Galatians 6:7

" You can make choices freely, but you cannot determine the consequences of those choices."

— Barbara Brinkworth

Do Not Yoke Up!

Continued from Page 1

together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" II Corinthian 6:14

The double-negative "not unequally yoked" can be somewhat confusing to our modern vernacular, but it simply means "do not be yoked together with



unbelievers". The yoke spoken of here is referring to the wooden implement that binds two farm animals together. It was common that two oxen or mules would be joined together with this device, so they could plow a field together. We are not to be going in the same direction as the world is going. We should not be plowing the same "field" as they.

We should not be yoked to unbelievers in marriage, business relationships, friendships, or other close relationships. When we are yoked together closely in such a relationship, we end up going the wrong direction. We are in the world, and we naturally may be in close contact with unsaved. That happens and is a

good opportunity to be a witness and an example to them, but getting into the position that we are going in their direction is what God is warning us against

A child of God is on the winning side. Why in the world would he want to go in the same direction as the losing side? We have a Leader that will take us in

the right direction. We should not be following those that do not know the way. We should be guiding others in the right



direction, not following their wrong pathways through life.

The Bible says there are two spiritual sides in this life: God's and the devil's (also called Belial). What can we possibly have in common with an unbeliever's thinking and goals?

"And what concord [agreement, union in opinions, sentiments, views or interests] hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." II Cor. 6:15-16

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There Are Accursed Things Among Us!

Bill Brinkworth

"Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you."

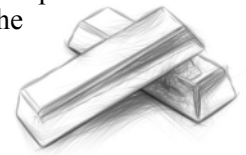
Joshua 7:13

Joshua and the people of Israel had seen God's hand in giving them the victory over Jericho. All marveled at how that mighty fortress collapsed with God's help (Joshua 6).

The leader's further instruction to the people was to enter the flattened city and not to spare any lives (Josh. 6:17, 21) of the enemy. All were to be killed. Israel was also strictly forbidden to take any of the riches of the city for themselves. All the treasures of the fallen city were to be given to Israel's treasury.

As Israel's army entered the city and did to it as they were commanded, one man could not

resist the temptation of all the valuables he saw, and took some for himself.



This man, Achan, took a Babylonian garment, silver, and some gold. He took it back to his tent and buried it there. The thief thought no one knew, but God knew of the man's disobedience.

Continued on Page 2

Do Not Yoke Up!

Bill Brinkworth

One of the principles that will distinguish a strong Christian from a weak one, when practiced, is taught in II Corinthians 6. Not adhering to God's teaching on this doctrine has ruined many Christian lives and testimonies. It is the number one robber of joy for a child of God. The doctrine Paul teaches here is the separation of a Christian from those who are not saved (II Cor. 6:14-17).

"Be ye not unequally yoked

Continued on Page 4

There Are Accursed ...

Continued from Page 1

Later, when a small, force of Israel's army went to attack the nearby, small town of Ai, they were easily defeated. Joshua and the people were horrified over the defeat and the death of some of their soldiers. The thrashing by a weaker enemy led Joshua to believe that God's hand was no longer with His people.

Joshua was grieved. He prayed, and God revealed that the defeat was due to one man's disobedience (Josh. 8:13). Because of one man's sin, all of Israel was guilty (Josh. 7:1, 11) of rebelling against what God had commanded them to do. One man's iniquity cost the lives of others; Israel's testimony was tarnished, and God's hand was no longer helping His people.

Later, with God's help, Joshua was able to discern who was responsible (Joshua 8:17-19). Achan was revealed to be the culprit. He confessed, and what had not been put into Israel's treasury was recovered. Because of the sin that cursed the people, Achan and his family were killed (Joshua 8:25). Many suffered

greatly because of one man's sin.

Today, that principle still applies. Others suffer great loss because of an individual's sins. Families are split up because of an adulterous parent's sin. Friends innocently riding along with a friend that commits a crime, often see jail time for being accomplices of the wrongdoing. New laws rob many of freedoms, because of others doing wrong. A family can get a bad reputation because of one misbehaving child. Whole communities have been looked down upon because of the behavior of some. Sin's tentacles often reach further than the one sinning.

In Joshua 6-8, one individual's sin affected all of Israel. Perhaps two million people suffered loss of God's guidance and protection! It was not a "little" sin.

With Achan's treachery in mind, and how it affected so many, imagine how the sins that are rampant today are harming nations. Although many are ignorant of God's commandments, and many refuse to obey the ones they know, God has not changed. What was sin in Joshua's day and biblical days is still sin today. What sin cost nations in the past is causing much suffering today.

God is aware of today's national tolerance of sins such as

abortion, sexual deviancies, acceptance of man-made religions, mockery of God and biblical morals, lessening punishments for crimes, reliance on government rather than God, attacks on Christianity, and scores of other "acceptable" behaviors. Although much of society accepts current immoralities, God does not. He did not tolerate it with Achan, and He will not put up with it today.

Because of Achan's transgression, Israel could not stand against a smaller insignificant enemy. Today we have small, terrorist cults creating great havoc on very powerful nations. Small minorities seem to have controlling power over vast majorities. Common sense is dumped for philosophies that have failed countless times previously. Nations that were once great are now cowering under pressures from small groups of radical extremists.

Why all the chaos? Why is sin prevailing and righteousness failing? As a nation was judged because of one man's disobedience after the Battle of Jericho, so are some being judged today for sin. No one person or country gets away with sin. There may be no thunderbolts being hurled from the heavens or earthquakes swallowing the sinning individuals, but unless sin is dealt with directly, God's helping, and protecting hand will be withdrawn

from many. It is far past time we learn the lesson that Israel learned the hard way, that unless sin is judged, halted, and repented of, many will suffer — even today!

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chron. 7:14

Do You Really Want What It Has To Offer?

J. Mason

If you love your soul, beware of what the world has to offer. It has slain its millions.

☼ What ruined Lot's life? The world!


☼ What ruined Haman? The world!

☼ What ruined Judas? The world!

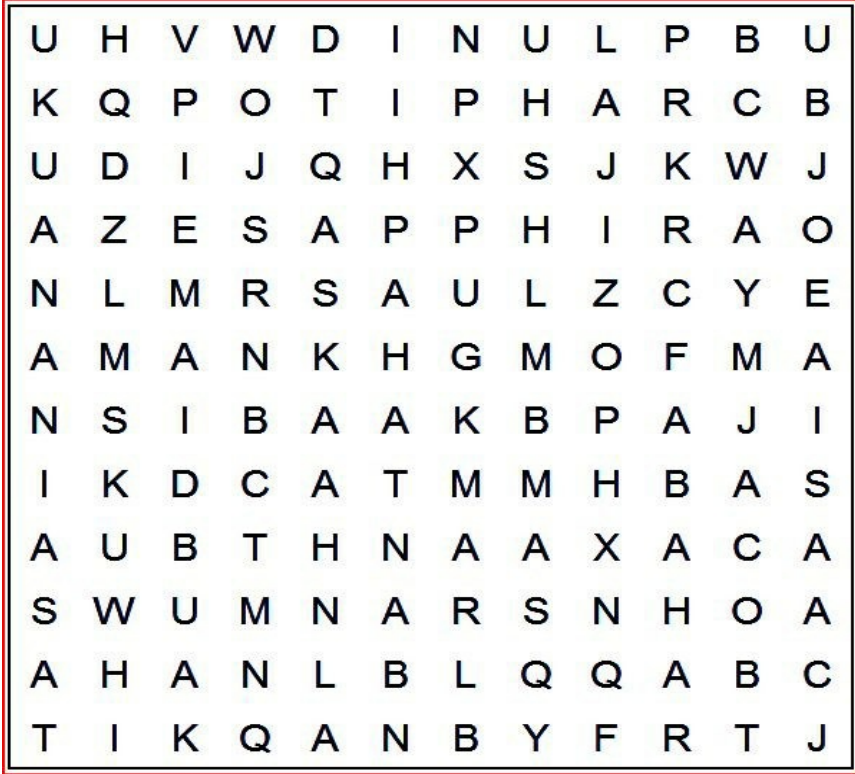
☼ What ruined Demas? The world!

And you really believe you can survive what the world will give you unscathed?

"The pull to have what the world temporarily has to offer has cost countless Christians, their joy, testimony, and futures!"

 Oil and water do not mix; neither do the saved and the unsaved.

Liars found in the Bible



Words to Find:
Abraham
Ananias

Isaac
Jacob
Laban
Michal

Rahab
Sapphira
Sarah
Satan

Saul

Three Will Know

Author Unknown

A Chinese convert, newly brought to the faith, was being tempted by one of his countrymen to cheat. Upon his refusal, his

tempter asked why he would not cheat.

“Because three will know that I cheated,” replied the Christian. “You will know, and I will know, and Heaven will know.”

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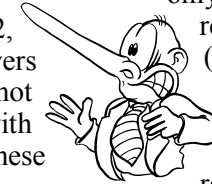
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Lies People Tell Themselves

Bill Brinkworth

In I John 1 and 2, John the Apostle covers areas that many are not completely honest with themselves about. These areas include:



✂ When Christians claim to be in fellowship with God, but are not!

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:” I John 1:6

Many times folks fool even themselves into believing that they can talk to God, He is listening to them, answering them, and they are in full fellowship even when they are involved in sin. They are lying to themselves.

It is impossible for a believer to have close fellowship with God, when there is sin in his life! God hates sins, and although people do not lose their salvation when they fall for sin’s enticement after they are saved, they certainly grieve Him (Ephesians 4:30). That grieving

will keep the sinner from having a close relationship with God. The only remedy for that broken relationship is to turn from sin (Acts 8:22), and again “... walk in the light ...” (I John 7). One should then live in the manner God requires.

Continued on Page 2

Troublesome Lies

Edited from Addison’s Article (1871)

Truth is always consistent with itself and needs nothing to help it. It is always easy to remember, and is ready to drop out of our mouths before we are aware. Very rarely are we embarrassed for telling it!

A lie, however, is troublesome. The liar cannot relax as he has always to remember to whom he has told what. Another lie is often required to defend the others.

Lying is much like a building built upon a terrible foundation. It continually needs propping up, supports, and an attentive eye on its stability. Usually the building will collapse, as will the fabrications of a liar. It is so much easier just to tell the truth!

Lies People Tell ...

Continued from Page 1

☞ When Christians claim to have no sin.

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:8

There are those that consider themselves sin-free. Christians are saved from sin, but not sinless. They often choose to sin.

☞ When a person, who claims to be a believer, does not keep God's commandments. John called that one a liar (I John 1:4). God's truth was not in him when he did not do the things that God had commanded him to do.

Going through life as a Christian, our ears, eyes, and discernment are often on others that claim the same faith. We are confused when we hear their profession of faith; yet clearly see that they are not living the life they are supposed to live. Although we scratch our heads at one that says one thing but lives another, the Holy Spirit through the Apostle's writing simply says "... the truth is not in them."

☞ When one claims to be a child of God, but hates other saved people. God says one that does not love the brethren "... is in darkness even until now" (I John 1:9). If one is saved, he should love the other members of the family of God. Real love puts up with a lot, is kind, does not envy, does not boast, is not prideful, does not cause one to

act improperly, does not get mad quickly, does not think the worst about another, is not happy when a person does wrong, believes people, has hope for them, and never stops (I Cor.13:4-8). Getting bitter, holding a grudge, and wishing bad things on others are not signs of love — no matter what one claims!

☞ When people love this world more than anything. They are also fooling themselves. "... If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15) — no matter what they say!

☞ Another deceiver is one that says Jesus is not the one God promised to come (I John 1:22). Some of the most popular religions, when examined, are deceptive in this area. Some even claim to be Christian, but say Jesus was just a good man, a prophet, a good example, but not God's only Son. No matter the cult's popularity and numbers, as far as God is concerned (and no other opinion really matters), they are liars (vs. 22).

There is much deception in this world. Sometimes people even deceive themselves. However, adhering to what God says in His Word and using it as a guideline make it possible to see what is of God, and what is not. If actions and words line up with the Word of God, then it is of

God. Anything opposing it is not of Him. God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33).

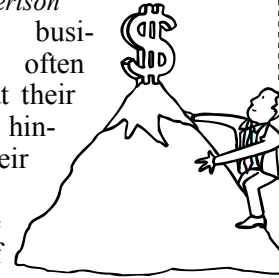
Reward of Honesty

Edited from an Article by

F. W. Robertson

Christian businessmen often complain that their honesty is a hindrance to their success.

They see the amount of money that



pours into the coffers of less scrupulous businessmen, while they have much longer to wait for their honest living to come.

Do you think that God is always going to reward honor, integrity, and honesty with this world's coin? Do you believe that He will pay spiritual excellence large amounts of money?

Now consider the price that the unmoraled, less scrupulous businessman is paying for his "success". Perhaps he is paying for his dishonesty by having mental degradation and inward dishonor. Maybe he has to take pills to sleep at night. His advertisements are all deceptive. His treatment of his workmen is poor. His cheap prices are made possible by inferior articles. Sow that man's seed, and you will reap that man's harvest. Cheat, lie, advertise dishonestly, be unscrupulous in your business transac-

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:13

tions, and money will come to you; but at what price?

If the price that he will pay is too much for you to pay, let him have his harvest, and take your own reward. Your reward will be a clear conscience, a pure mind, pride in what you are doing, no guilt, and God's hand of blessing. Will you part with that for his pittance? Then why do you complain? He will pay his price. Hopefully, you will not choose to pay his price also.

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." Proverbs 6:16-19

"As truth stretches, trust breaks!"

Ineffectual Prayer

Dr. J. Hamilton

Suppose that a man takes up his pen and a piece of paper, and writes at the top of it, "To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, the humble petition of So-and-so," but there he stops. He sits with the pen in his hand for half an hour, but does not add another word; then rises and goes his way. His petition was never properly delivered to the queen.

He repeats this process day after day — beginning a hundred sheets of paper, but putting into them no express request; sometimes, perhaps scrawling down a few sentences which nobody can read, not even himself, but never plainly and deliberately setting down what it is that he desires. Can he wonder that his blank petitions and scribbled parchments have no sensible effects on himself nor on any one besides?

Many persons pass their days giving blank petitions, or petitionless forms of prayer to the Lord. Every morning they bend their knee, and continue a few moments in the devotional attitude. They address themselves to the heavenly Majesty. They call on the "great and dreadful name" of God, and they go over a few words and sentences; but they are such incoherent and unfelt sentences as a child, who cannot write, would scrawl upon a piece of paper. Perhaps they even say nothing. They offer a meaningless, empty prayer. After this form of worship, they go their way, and wonder why their prayers are not heard or answered. Other people get answers, but they are not conscious that any prayer of theirs has ever produced the least effect.



Why Are You Coming to Me?

Bill Brinkworth

"And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, We have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim. 11 And the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, ... 13 Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. 14 Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation."

Judges 10:10-14

Israel found themselves facing many enemies. Being overtaken by their foes was imminent. It was then they turned to God for help.

God was not blind to the hearts and minds of His people. He knew that they were involved deeply in sin. They had gotten involved in the idolatry of their godless neighbors. Most of the time they were hoping those deities of stone and wood would help them through life's troubles.

They were trusting in false and man-made gods, rather than the only God in Heaven.

In time, when they realized their false trust availed nothing, they turned to the real God. He in turn, told them He would not help them. Since they were turning to the false gods in the past, He told them they should seek help from those deities.

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Reasons Why Prayers May Not be Answered

Bill Brinkworth

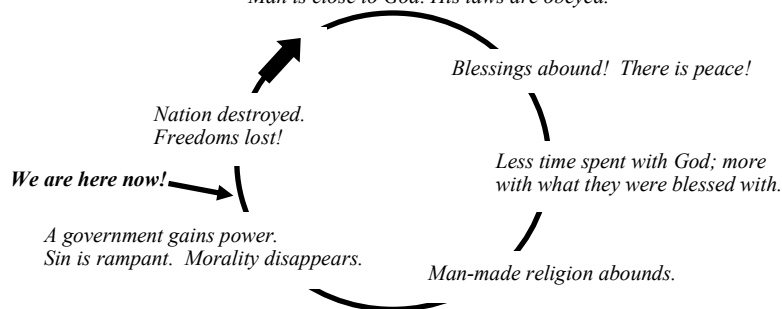
Many do not have what they need from God because they:

Do not ask Him. "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not." James 4:2

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The Spiritual Cycles of Mankind Throughout History

Man is close to God. His laws are obeyed.



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Why Are You Coming ...

Continued from Page 1

Many today are not much different than those Israelites. People spend most of their lives trusting in their own little gods on a daily basis. When a problematic situation arises, the first “god” many turn to for a solution is their own “wisdom,” strength, or problem-solving ingenuity. It often takes many failures before it is discovered that solving the problem themselves makes matters worse or does not really solve the situation.

Others gladly turn over an ever-increasing amount of taxes and blind trust to earn help from the government “god,” when they have unfulfilled needs. When times are hard, instead of praying to God in Heaven for food or employment, the first stop they make is at the government welfare office for food stamps or some other government assistance program. Not once had it entered into their minds to go their heavenly Provider first.

When life has thrown them a curve, and their health suddenly fails, it is not God they first seek for a cure, but a doctor’s or hospital’s intervention. By faith,

they obey whatever the medical “gods” tell them to do, and again forget to look towards Heaven for God’s guidance.

A child of God should go to Him as the first source of help to go to in time of trouble. The Lord may use government help or medical help to change your situation; but it should always be God’s direction that is sought first. It is easy to make a wrong decision, and make matters worse.

Avoid as much error as possible; go to the Lord. He has raised billions of children. His wisdom is always right, as He knows what is best. He also knows your past, your future, and what others are doing that may cause more problems. Do not guess what to do. If you are a child of God, then go to your heavenly Father first. He knows the right solution for your dilemma, and He will never mislead you.

Reasons Why ...

Continued from Page 1

🌿 **Ask improperly; often selfishly.** *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your*

“ **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual** *(adequate power or force to make a change)* **fervent** *(earnest)* **prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”** *James 5:16*

lusts.” James 4:3

🌿 **Are separated from God’s help because of sin.** *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” Psalm 66:18*

Also: *Lam. 3:44, I Kings 8:35, Jer. 11:14.*

🌿 **Ask the wrong “god.”** *“Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.” Isa. 45:20*

🌿 **Are praying for a situation in which God will not intervene.** *“Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.” Jer. 7:16*

🌿 **Are hypocritical:** *“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.” Mat. 6:5*

🌿 **Are not sincerely seeking God:** *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.” Mat. 23:14*

🌿 **Repeat the same prayer over and over without any meaning.** *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.”*

Mat. 6:7

The Religion of the World

Dr. Bonar, 1871

The tendency of worldly religions is to reject the blood and to glory in a Gospel, which needs no sacrifice. They want no “Lamb (*Jesus*) slain,” as is necessary, according to God’s Word.

Instead of trusting in Christ’s shed blood to cover their sins, they go “in the way of Cain” (Jude 11). Cain refused the blood, and came to God without it. He would not own himself a sinner, condemned to die, and needing the death of Another to save him. This was man’s open rejection of God’s own way of eternal life.

Foremost in this rejection of what is profanely called by some scoffers, “the religion of the shambles,” we see the first murderer. He, who would not defile his altar with the blood of a lamb, polluted the earth with his brother’s blood. Many also attempt to be accepted by God on their own merits and sacrifices, rather than trusting in the only offering God will accept — the sin-covering blood of His only son, Jesus.

“The Aediles, among the Romans, always had their doors standing open, that all who had petitions of them might have free access to them. The door of Heaven is always open for the prayers of God’s people to Him!” — *T. Watson*

Around God's Throne



Words To Find:
Angels
Beasts
Book
Elders
God
Heaven
Holy
Jesus
Judgment
Lightnings
SeaOfGlass
Seats

Christ Is Delighted in His People

C. H. Spurgeon



When Cyrus took a Greek ambassador through his garden, he challenged him to admire its charms. The Spartan approved of all he saw, but still his admiration was cool and critical.

"This garden," said Cyrus, "yields me more pleasure and satisfaction than you can imagine, or I can express."

"And why?" asked the visitor. "Because," replied the garden's master "I planted every tree in it myself. I planned all the paths, and all the flowers have I reared. No hand, but mine has dug the soil, tended the plants, pruned the trees, or done aught beside but my own." His toil and his trouble thus endeared the place to the king.

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The **Bible View**

A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 551

Unseen Happenings When One Is Saved

Bill Brinkworth

When one trusts Christ as Saviour, it quite often appears to be a quiet, sober event. Sometimes the person getting saved may shed tears of joy, as he calls out to God for salvation. Sometimes a person sharing the moment with the one being saved may become excited, but there is always a lot more happening than anyone could ever observe. Here are some of the events and changes that occur, when a lost person gains God's promise of Heaven:



He is in Christ. He is forgiven, and now has new priorities that include wanting to please his Saviour.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1

He has his eternal destination changed. He is not going to

Hell, but rather to Heaven. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* John 3:16

Continued on Page 2

How Can One Know He Is Saved?

Bill Brinkworth

A person can know if he is saved. If he has trusted in Christ's death as payment for his sins as the only way to heaven, he will see himself changed. He will see new things happen in his life.

Here is an examination of some of those new things:

A NEW belief. A saved person believes differently than he believed before.

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: ... *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the*

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Unseen Happenings ...

Continued from Page 1

He has a peace, that he never had before.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:7

He has a new spiritual Father and a large spiritual family. Many biblical references when talking about God refer to Him as “your” or “our” Father as:

“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” Mat. 5:45

“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.” Mat. 12:50

He can now pray and have his prayers answered.

“I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”

Psalms 40:1

His thinking will change. He will have the mind of Christ.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”

Philippians 2:5

Heaven rejoiced when he was saved:

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of

the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

Luke 15:10

He has his name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life:

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Rev. 20:15

How Can One Know ...

Continued from Page 1

Son of God.”

1 John 5:10-13

A NEW interest in God’s people.

“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He

that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” 1 John 3:14-16 The “brethren” are other saved people.

A NEW Master. A saved person is attentive and interested in obeying a new Master —



God!

“Jesus answered them, ... But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” John 10:25-29

A NEW Life. A saved person gets a second chance at life. He gets to start over; this time with God’s guidance and help.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

II Cor. 5:17

The new life may include things that one would never have suspected that he would do; as reading the Bible, desiring a ministry, being faithful to church attendance, etc. He will also find he no longer has a desire to do many of the wrong things he used to do, and even has a conviction about not doing them.

A NEW Trust. A saved person has a God that he can trust and rely on.

“For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to

keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” II Tim 1:12

A NEW fruit NEW interests

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance:

against such there is no

law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts”

Gal. 5:22-25

When the Spirit of God indwells us, there are some things He wants done in our lives and around us. These changes that we allow Him to do in us and with us are proofs of our salvation.

God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense

Christ Is Delighted in ...

Continued from Page 4

So, truly, Christ can say when he looks upon his people, “There is a fruitful bough. I pruned that. He was sick and long laid aside from business. He feared his family would starve. I was pruning him then; but I love the fruit that is on him now, because I know how it came there.”

“That plant yonder, which is blooming now and shedding such a sweet perfume of love; well do I recollect when it was drooping and ready to die. I came and watered it.”

The Master has much delight in the Christian that has allowed Him to mold and improve his life.

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” II Cor. 4:18

They Also Faced Trials and Tribulations



Words To Find:
 Abraham
 Adam
 Amos
 Balaam
 Barnabas
 Caleb
 Daniel
 Elisha
 Gideon
 Jacob
 James
 Jesus
 Job
 Joseph
 Lazarus
 Nathan
 Noah
 Paul
 Samuel
 Sarah
 Saul
 Stephen
 Uriah

I Won't!

Author Unknown

*I want to let go, but I won't let go,
 There are battles to fight,
 By day and by night
 For God and the right,
 And I'll never let go.*

*I want to let go, but I won't let go,
 I'm sick 'tis true;
 Worried and blue,
 And worn through and through,*

*But I won't let go.
 I want to let go, but I won't let go,
 I will never yield;
 What, lie down on the field
 And surrender my shield?
 No! I'll never let go.*

*I want to let go, but I won't let go,
 May this be my song,
 'Mid legions of wrong;
 That I may never let go.*



Not Much Has Changed!

Bill Brinkworth

The battles and challenges Christians face today are not much different than those early Christians faced; not much has changed. Although today's man sees himself far advanced from his early predecessors; because of man's consistent-through-the-ages sin nature, there are great similarities between what New Testament Christians faced, and what today's Christians are still experiencing.



Paul warned Timothy (I Tim. 6:20) to keep far away from the doubting, faith-challenging science that attempted to challenge what God would have His people believe by faith.

"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called." I Timothy 6:20

The "science" Paul referred to here was not so much the "science" we recognize today.

"Science" in I Tim. 6:20 referred to man's knowledge. It was intellectualism that challenged a Christian's faith and beliefs. This "knowledge" that so many believe is superior to what God's Word declares is addressed in the Bible as "fables" (I Tim. 1:4), "vain (empty and pointless) jangling" (I Tim. 1:6), "profane and old wives fables" (I Tim. 4:7), and "vain babblings" (II Tim. 2:16). God clearly wants all to know that man is not as smart as he thinks he is.

Continued on Page 2

What Did They Do?

- When beaten by the Jewish rulers for preaching Christ, what did the apostles do?
"And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." Acts 5:41
- After receiving "many stripes," with their feet made

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Not Much Has ...

Continued from Page 1

That we're-smarter-than-God attitude is still active today and is doing all it can to question and ridicule Christianity's principles and beliefs. Man's intellect still questions and challenges: creationism, existence of God and His involvement in His creation, that there is life after death, that God's Word is preserved and still with us, that God's way will "work" with modern man, and just about everything else a Christian believes.

New Testament Christians also had to deal with unbiblical religion, and their unbiblical traditions and false teachings as we do today.

"... ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do." Mark 7:8 Also: Mat. 15:2, Mat. 15:3, 6

It is the things of man mixed with God's way that water down the truths and power of God's commandments (Mat. 15:6). Man's ideas and philosophies that contradict what the Word of God teaches are what have always weakened Christianity. To make it even harder to live the Christian way, it is often those that call themselves "religious" or "Christian" that become the biggest stumbling block and enemy to the true Bible-believing and obeying Christian.

Man, then and today, still has to deal with immorality. Saints in Sodom and Gomorrah had to deal with homosexuality, as do today's Christians. False worship was just as big a problem in the Old and New Testament times as it is today. Idolatry was just as much a shock to Paul as it is to Christians today when they see many praying to idols; some of them even professing to be Christians.

Ungodly leaders have often been a hampering and discouraging force that opposes open practice of Christianity. Early Christians faced government's controlling arm under the Roman rule. It was this rule that martyred hundreds of thousands of Christians on the Roman cross, in their fires and by other hideous tortures. Old Testament saints also faced similar torment from the pharaohs, Shalmaneser, Sennacherib, Nebuchadnezzar, and countless other unrighteous rulers.

Many today have the opportunity to vote for government officials. The "rulers" that do get elected are quite often not leading their people in the way God would have them govern. Government's supporting of practices such as abortion, welfare without working, paying for illegitimate births, and birth-control and diseases contracted from sinful behavior are some

of the proofs of ungodly governmental control.

It is not much easier to live a godly life today, than it was in yesteryear. The world, and its often ungodly practices, beliefs, laws, and temptations have always been a barrier to those committed to obeying God. Very few times in history has the world been an easy environment to live the way God would have all to live.

It was, and is today, always up to the individual Christian to make the right decision, and the sacrifices to serve the Lord, no matter what it costs him; no matter how much opposition he faces in doing so. Hiding behind the excuse, "Well, it was easier for earlier saints and Christians than it is today" is not true. There always have been difficulties and challenges for those living God's way.

If you are a Christian, it is up to you to choose to live for the Lord and obey His commandments. Parents, teachers, peers and opposition to living a God-approved lifestyle are not excuses for living improperly. It must be your decision not to trust man's philosophies and traditions, but rather to trust God's way of salvation to get you to heaven. It must be your choice to walk the narrow way God has laid out for a believer; not the broad way of the masses that leads to destruction (Mat. 7:13). It must be your choice not to do what everyone else is doing, but only what the Lord would have you to do. The

decision to please God by obeying him must be yours. Whom will you obey — man or God?

"... choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

What Did They Do?

Continued from Page 1

fast in the stocks, what did Paul and Silas do while in prison?¹

"... Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: ..." Acts 16:25

- When Jesus was nailed to the cross, what did He say?
"... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" Luke 23:34
- Even when persecuted, what are we told to do, and why?
"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy" Luke 6:22-23
- What assurance is given that the child of God may bravely endure every trial and hardship of life?
"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28

¹*Bible Readings for the Home, Sothern Publishing Association, Nashville, TN, 1943, Page 574-575*

“If you can get along with the world, then you are out of step with God.” — Dr. Harold Sighler

Covet Not ...



Words To Find:
 bicycle
 clothing
 fame
 friends
 houses
 job
 money
 popularity
 things
 toys

Beware of Covetousness


C. H. Spurgeon

Beware of covetousness; for of all sins, this is one of the most insidious. It is like the silting up of a river. As the stream comes down from the land, it brings with it sand and earth, and deposits all these at its mouth; so that soon, unless cleared and dug out, it will block itself up, and leave no channel for ships to travel on. By

daily deposit it creates a sandbar which is dangerous to navigation.

Many a man when he begins to accumulate wealth commences to ruin his life. The more he acquires, the more closely he blocks his spiritual life. Instead of doing more for God, he does less; the things of this world get in his way. The more he saves, the more he wants; and the more he wants of this world, the less he cares for the world to come.

The **Bible View**

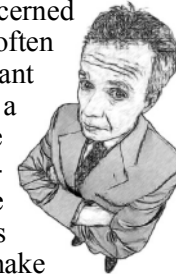


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Not As Important As You Think

Bill Brinkworth

Many are concerned about things that often are not as important as believed. As a Christian, we need to be concerned with the priorities God has set for us, and make important what He deems important.



Webster defines "vanity" as "emptiness; want of substance to satisfy desire; fruitless desire or endeavor; trifling labor that produces no good; empty pleasure; vain pursuit." Vanity is a concern for things that really are not that important. "Vain" is similar in that it is defined as "worthless, having no substance, empty, and unsatisfying." Many times there are vain interests in our lives, that get more energy and concern than they deserve.

Here is a brief study of what the Bible classifies as "vanity" and "vain" in hopes that more Christians will realize what is

truly important, and what is not important (vain) in God's eyes.:

What the Bible calls "vain":

Ideas, popular trends of the world are vain. "And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them." II Kings 17:15

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Our Important Testimony

Bill Brinkworth

One of the most valuable assets a Christian can have is his testimony. What others think of him is often what they see him do, how he reacts in certain situations, and how they believe a Christian should be living (although their view may not always be accurate). Paul gave some advice on how to preserve that testimony in Ephesians 5:1-14.

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Not As Important As...

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The “end justifies the means” philosophy is vain. “The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.”

Proverbs 21:6

The wages of sin are vain. “He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.” Proverbs 22:8

Love of money is vain. “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.” Ecc. 5:10

Foolish desires of youth can be vain. “Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.”

Ecc. 11:10

Nations against God are vain. “All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.” Isaiah 40:17

Good works for salvation are vain. “Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion.” Isaiah 41:29

False religion is vain. “For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain ...” Zech. 10:2

Prideful wisdom is vain. “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they

allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”

II Peter 2:18

Cursing is vain. God’s name should never be used lightly and without respect. “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” Exodus 20:7

Customs and traditions are vain, especially religious ones. “Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain ...”

Jer. 10:2-3

Philosophies of men are vain. “But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Matthew 15:9

Religion without Christ is vain. “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.”

I Corinthians 15:14

What Is Not Vanity:

Hard work is not vanity. “Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.”

Proverb 13:11

A godly stand is not vanity. “..., that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the

vanity of their mind,”

Ephesians 4:17

Fear of the Lord is not vanity. “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” Proverb 31:30

God’s creations are not vanity. “... God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.” Isaiah 45:18

The best word to define both “vanity” and “vain” is “emptiness.” No matter how much time and energy one spends on vain things, the results will be nothing of value. God has so much more to offer you than “emptiness”. Fill yourself with the desires of God. They will have value that will last forever.

Our Important ...

Continued from Page 1

sians 4. Some of his advice included:

☞ Do not live like the rest of world and put the wrong value on things that are really not that important (vs. 17-18).

☞ Do not lust after things of this world, and be consumed with greed for them (vs. 19).

☞ Do not let your conversation with others be about lust for this world’s things (vs. 22).

☞ Live a righteous life and strive to be a good example (vs. 24).

☞ Let your conversation always be honest, and do not lie (vs. 25).

☞ If you get angry, get it right with those involved before the sun goes down (vs. 26).

☞ Do not get close to sin, and allow the devil to destroy your testimony (vs. 27).

☞ Do not steal, but work hard for what you want (vs. 28).

☞ Be careful of the words you utter, making sure what you say helps others (vs. 29).

☞ Do not sadden the indwelling Holy Spirit by committing sin (vs. 30).

☞ Do not allow the sins of bitterness, violence, anger, and evil speaking to be part of your life (vs. 31).

☞ Be kind to others (vs. 32).

As hard as we try, there will always be some that see our example wrongly; no matter how we adhere to the above advice and other godly principles. Although it is impossible to please all the people all the time, we have a responsibility to try to have the best testimony we possibly can. Our example is not so much about what others think about us, but what others think about Christ from our example. We are often all the unsaved will ever know about Christ. Will they determine that they do not want to be a Christian because of what they observed in our behavior; or will they consider being one because of the way we live our lives?

“A man is rich based on what he is; not on what he has!”

To Judge, Or Not to ...

Continued from Page 3

Discern false teachers.

If their lives do not line up with the Scriptures; they are wrong. *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Matthew 7:15*

The first ones to holler, “Don’t judge me,” are many times the false preachers. The ones that are doing unbiblical things or living unbiblically need to be exposed. We are to discern, warn, and stay clear of those wolves!

Discern false teaching.

If the teachings are not from the Word of God, then they are not of God; and they will not produce anything good.

“Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ...”

Matthew 7:16-20

We can easily discern what is of God, and what is not of God; because if it is not of God, it will bring forth rotten spiritual fruit. A preacher I know warned his congregation of a television evangelist of the past. He urged people not to support the man; as the preacher was not teaching biblical doctrine. Many members got upset and left the church over that matter. It was years later that the preacher’s “prophecy” came true,

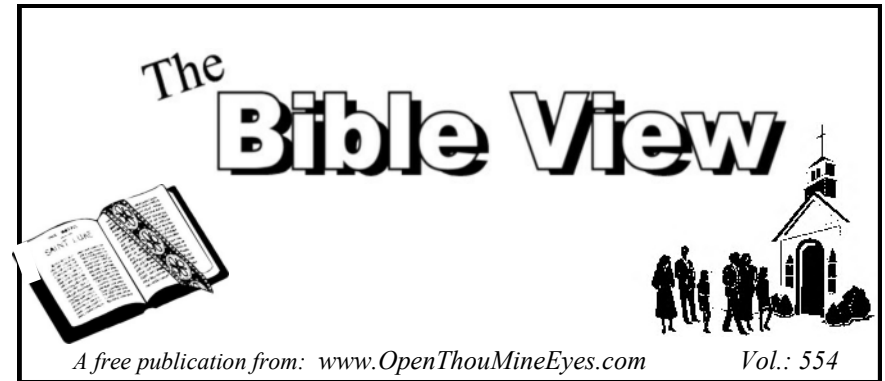
and the television evangelist was exposed and jailed. Because his doctrine was wrong, his spiritual fruit was also bad.

Discern that not all that say they are Christians are Christians.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matthew 7:21-23

The wrong-doers and Holy Spirit-convicted would certainly like to shut off any discernment against their wrong doing; but as the above verse tells us, Jesus lets the truth be known. Not every one that says he is a Christian is one. If the world were to recognize this, and purpose to really live for God, there would be fewer godless religions, and the church doors of those religions soon would close.

We are to discern; determine right from wrong. The next time Matthew 7 is hurled at you, and you are only discerning a spiritual matter in a spirit of helpfulness and not hindrance, continue to show them what the Lord wants them to discern. If we do not tell them the truth according to God’s word, who will?



How Dare You!

Bill Brinkworth

One of man’s natural tendencies is to judge others by his own measuring stick, usually himself. Paul, in Romans 2, strongly addresses this weakness.

“Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. ...

3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?”

Rom. 2:1-3

Most of the time when we judge others, we have or have had the same problem ourselves. It seems that those that have had the biggest problems, or are still having them, complain the loudest of another’s weaknesses. It is the ex-smoker that criticizes the loudest about another’s smoke he



is inhaling. An older man grumbles to a son about his child’s late hours of coming home, forgetting how his father used to rebuke him in his younger, carousing days. One that recently lied on his income tax form somehow is not convicted when he judges a worker that just lied to him. On and on our hypocritical judging goes.

. Continued on Page 2

To Judge, Or Not to Judge

Bill Brinkworth

One of the most abused verses against a discerning or a reproving Christian is Matthew 7:1. As soon as the one being rebuked senses a little conviction about their wrong-doing, the verse is usually misquoted (“Judge not, or you will be judged”) to thwart the reproof. When the Bible verse (even if it is misquoted) is heard, the Christian, who is usually only trying to share what the Bible says about the subject, silences his discussion, as he does not want to appear to be in error or sin also.

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How Dare You!

Continued from Page 1

God, however, knows the truth, and He remembers (Rom. 3: 3). For the born-again child of God, there is no eternal judgment for sins. All his sins are paid for and no longer remembered (Hebrews 10:17). All Christians, however, will be judged (Mat. 12:36, Gal. 6:7, Eph. 6:8, Col. 3:24 ...) for what they did or did not do for the Lord. It is called the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10), and it will involve reward or loss of reward (Rev. 22:12).

For the unsaved person, sadly the extent of their eternal judgment will be decided at the White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). That fearful condemnation will be at the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign on this earth. At that judgment, the lost will be judged according to their works (Rev. 20:14).

In light of our future day of judgment before an Almighty God who knows everything about us, (including real intents for doing something, what we did when no one else saw us, and all other dark secrets), our judgment of others seems so insignificant and embarrassing, on our part. How could we dare judge others with all we have done

**Reputation is what
man thinks of
us. Character is
what God knows
of us."**

wrong? We need to stop judging others, and leave that to the One who knows all.

To Judge, Or Not to ...

Continued from Page 1

What does the Bible really say about judging? *"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete ("mete" means measure), it shall be measured to you again."*

Mat. 7:1, 2

We learn here that if we are harshly or unjustly critical of others, we will be judged accordingly. Rather, we should try to help or restore those in sin.

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Gal. 6:1

When I was younger, I remember my mother's rebuking me for being critical of others. She pointed out that what I was most critical of was what I had the most problem with myself. I carefully observed that many times in my life, when I had been critical, she was right. The following Bible verses shed some truth on what my mother had taught me:

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the

mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye?" Matthew 7:3-4.

Matthew Henry, an 18th century Bible commentator, said eloquently about the previous verse: "We must not sit in the judgment-seat, to make our word a law to everybody. We must not judge our brother; that is, we must not speak evil of him ... We must not judge rashly, nor pass such a judgment upon our brother as has no ground, but is only the product of our own jealousy and ill nature. We must not make the worst of people, nor infer such insidious things from their words and actions as they will not bear. We must not judge uncharitably, unmercifully, nor with a spirit of revenge, and a desire to do mischief. We must not judge a man's state by a single act, nor of what he is in himself by what he is to us; because in our own cause, we are apt to be partial. We must not judge the hearts of others, not their intentions; for it is God's prerogative to try the heart, and we must not step into his throne; ..." Most of the time it is not our business to judge.

Sometimes our judgments are prejudiced or wrong. Many times I have made a judgment against a person or a situation, only to find out later that I had only half of the story. Usually, it was the wrong half!

"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Prov. 18:13

Although we are not to judge

people, we are to judge doctrine. *"But he that is spiritual judgeth all things ..."* I Corinthians 2:15. Is the Bible contradicting itself? Of course not! God is the ultimate judge of people, but we, with the help of the Holy Spirit illuminating the truth of the Word of God, should be able to tell right from wrong. This is the type of "judging" we need to do.

After Jesus said, in the previous verses not to judge, He tells us in the following verses in which areas we are to discern. People twist the truth around to shut out the Holy Spirit's conviction. Liberals many times have unbiblically knowledgeable Christians so afraid to stand up and discern what is not of God, that they do not stand at all. One of the reasons so much sin is going on in this world today, is because Christians are afraid to speak out.

According to the Scriptures, we are to:

Discern what is clean and unclean.

Discern what is of God, and what is not. Ungodly people are to be discerned and kept away from: *"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet ..."* Matthew 7:6 The dogs and swine spoken of here were understood by the Jews as ceremoniously unclean and lowly creatures. Jesus gave them a graphic picture of what He thought of the ungodly and blasphemers.

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He Regretted That Crop

Daniels

Two farmers in Kentucky were mad at each other. One of them had carefully kept the malignant Johnson grass out of his fields.



Meanwhile, a mischievous son of one of the farmers took a bushel of Johnson grass seed and scattered it over a 40-acre field one night in revenge in the other's field. In due time, the feud was settled and the neighbors became friends. The boy who planted the seed fell in love with his neighbor's daughter and married her.

When her parents died, and the administrator came to divide the estate, this boy was given the 40-acre field he had planted years previously. The last I heard from him, he was still digging Johnson grass, and regretted the day that he sowed the weed!

So it is with sin; in the end, we reap what we sow — and usually regret it!

What We Sow

Author Unknown

If we sow a thought, we reap an act;

**“You can't shack up
with the devil and
expect God to pay
the rent!”**

If we sow an act, we reap a habit;

If we sow a habit, we reap character;

If we sow character, we reap our future.

Ouch!

Michael P. Green

Lord Byron, a poet, spent his life in a mad search for pleasure. Moderns would say, "He tried to live it up." One day in desperation, he wrote:

*The thorns I have reaped are of
the tree I planted.*

They have torn me, and I bleed.

*I should have known what fruit
would spring
from such a tree.*

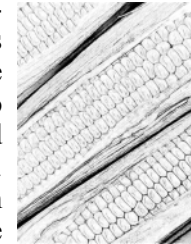
**“He who sows
thorns should not go
barefoot!”**



Reaping and Sowing

Bill Brinkworth

When a gardener plants corn kernels, he expects them to germinate and produce corn. Likewise, when he drops lettuce seeds into the soil, he assumes that he will one day reap a harvest of lettuce. It is the law of sowing and reaping, that all farmers and gardeners rely on.



Just as the agricultural law is always true, so is a similar law of reaping and sowing of the things of life. When one sows godliness, he will reap blessings and have God's hand on what "grows." When sin is sown, it also will produce a crop; but a very unpleasant one, that most regret.

Here are some biblical verses that teach principles about sowing and reaping in our lives:

Sinful seeds:

“Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity [Sin], and sow

*wickedness, reap the same.”
Job 4:8*

“He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.” Prov. 22:8

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Sins' Crops

Bill Brinkworth

“Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.”

II Sam. 21:1

The idea that “when I sin, it only affects me,” is not biblical. There are many scriptural examples that when a person sins, it affects others around them and even many in their own future generations. One such instance occurred to the people of Israel because of King Saul's sin.

The Gibeonites had tricked Joshua into sparing their lives (Joshua 9:3-27, around 1,451 B.C.). The tribes falsehood was

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Reaping and Sowing

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“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

Gal. 6:7-9

Godly seeds:

“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.” Hosea 10:12

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” Psalm 126:5

Sins' Crops

Continued from Page 1

soon detected, but only after Joshua's princes gave the Gibeonites their word that their lives would be spared. The dishonest Gibeonites and their future generations were sentenced to be servants to the Israelites because of their sin; but they were not killed.

Many years later, King Saul broke that promise and killed

“Sin wouldn't be so attractive if its wages were paid immediately!”

many Gibeonites (II Sam. 21:1, around 1021 B. C.). Although the pledge was made generations previously, God judged Israel by allowing a famine to occur in their land. They suffered from a leader's breaking a promise of by-gone days.

Others also encountered God's judgment because of the sin of:

- Idolatry and hating God:

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;” Ex. 20:5 Also: Deut. 5:9, Lev. 20:4-5 (Also for the killing of babies.), Isa. 65:6-8.

- Parent's sins:

“Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

Ex. 34:7

“Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out. 15 Let them be before the LORD continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.”

Psalms 109:14-15

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both

thou and thy seed may live:” Deut. 30:19 Also: Num. 14:18, Num. 14:33, Lev.26:39-40, Isa. 14:20-21, Jer. 32:18.

- Wickedness:

“How oft is the candle [their future] of the wicked put out! and how oft cometh their destruction upon them! God distributeth sorrows in his anger.”

Job 21:17

Although there are many more examples in the Bible, it should be obvious by the instances above that people often reap the consequences of another's sins. Sin hurts many people.

We also can see it in our own lives. Laws are made that restrict the freedoms of many because of the actions of a few. Teachers sometimes have to be stricter in their classroom because of the actions of some disobedient students. Security is often increased in a country because of the sin of others, and often those doing right have to pay for their lack of freedom with their own taxes. A country's leader can make decisions that hurt his own citizens, and sometimes even kill them. Sin always hurts the trespasser and many times, those around him.

However, sometimes others can receive God's blessings from the actions of a godly person or persons. People and countries were changed and saved by the actions of King David, Jonah, Paul, John, Peter, and other godly people. If our own Saviour, Jesus, had not stood up and done right, we would never have had

the possibility of going to Heaven. Many nations, including the United States, have been blessed, because of the godly stand its early forefathers had made. Future generations can reap good things from those that lived earlier by godly principles.

The wrath of God does not have to fall on all of those nations with ungodly leaders, or on those that have wickedness in their ancestry. The one thing that can override God's judgment on individuals, and even nations, is that people of the current generation can make right decisions. God's grace and mercy are often poured out on those that choose to live in accordance with God's will and way. Yes, we will quite often reap some of God's judgment on the sins of others and for leaders' ungodly decisions, but it can be limited if God's people turn and obey Him — individually and nationally.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” II Chron. 7:14

“Never forget or be fooled; one always reaps what one sows! If one plants a crop of sin, he will reap the harvest of some really rotten 'fruit'.”

Names for a Christian



- Words To Find:**
 Adopted
 Born Again
 Chosen
 Dead To The World
 Elected
 Forgiven
 Glorified
 Holy
 Immortal
 Justified
 Kings
 Loving
 Merciful
 New Creatures
 Obedient
 Patient
 Quickened
 Redeemed
 Saved
 Transformed
 Vigilant
 Workman
 Yielded
 Zealous

Jesus Cares

Author Unknown

*When you've met some
 disappointment,
 And you're tempted to feel blue,
 When your plans have all been
 side-tracked,
 Or some friend has proved
 untrue;
 When you're toiling and you're
 struggling
 At the bottom of the stairs,*

*It will seem a bit like Heaven,
 Just to know Jesus Cares!*

*Oh, this life is not all sunshine,
 Some days darkest clouds
 disclose
 There's a cross for every joy-bell,
 And a thorn for every rose.
 But, the cross is not so grievous,
 Nor the thorn the rose-bud ears,
 And the clouds have silver linings
 When we know that Jesus cares!*

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What Do We Have?

Bill Brinkworth

From time to time one hears a complaining Christian murmur, "I am a Christian. I can't do this or that." They sound like they do not enjoy being a Christian. They forget who they are, and what they really have. Romans 8 reminds us of some of the many advantages of being a Christian. When we are saved, the blessings include:



☞ We are not condemned (vs. 1) for the many sins we have committed. We are headed to Heaven and not Hell! "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." *Romans 8:1*

Matthew Henry wrote, "Paul does not say, 'There is no accusation against them,' for this there is; but the accusation is thrown out, and the indictment

quashed. Paul does not say, 'There is nothing in them that deserves condemnation,' for this there is; and they see it, and own it, and mourn over it, and condemn themselves for it; but it shall not be their ruin. He does not say, 'There is no cross, no affliction to them or no displeasure in the affliction,' for this there may be; but no condemnation. We are protected from the law's judgment on our sins because of Christ."

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The Keeper's Light

Author Unknown

A traveler visiting the lighthouse at Calais said to the keeper, "What if one of your lights should go out at night?"

"Never. Impossible!" cried the keeper. "Sir, yonder are ships sailing to all parts of the world. If tonight one of my burners were out, in six months I will hear from America, or India, saying that on such a night the lights at Calais lighthouse gave no warning, and

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What Do We Have?

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☞ We have the opportunity to be led by the indwelling Spirit of God. We do not have to follow the flesh that only wants to do what feels right to it, and leads us to commit damaging sin and the ruining of our life. We can follow God's perfect, safe guidance (vs. 5).

☞ Because we can follow the Spirit of God, we can please God (vs. 8). Before the Spirit guided us, we did not please God.

☞ We are "sons of God" (vs. 14). We are born into the family of God (John 3:3).

☞ We are adopted into God's family, when we are saved (vs. 15). He is our "Abba," our Father. There is no greater honor than to be able to call the Creator of everything "Father." We can, once we are saved!

☞ We are no longer bound by sin, we are freed from its control (vss. 15-16).

☞ The indwelling Spirit lets us know that we are different; we are children of God (vs. 16).

"If you live for God, you might miss some things: drunkenness, AIDS, divorce, jail, unnecessary grief, etc." — Barbara Brinkworth

☞ When we love God, we know that all that happens to us will turn out for our good and God's glory (vs. 28). There is no more need to be afraid, because God is for you (vs. 31).

☞ No person or circumstance can separate us from our loving God (vss. 35-39).

So, praise the Lord! If you are saved, you are on the winning side. We should not want to do wrong, sinful things, as they are not worthy of a child of the King! You have much for which to be thankful.

The Keeper's Light

Continued from Page 1

some vessel had been wrecked. Ah, sir! Sometimes I feel, when I look upon my lights, as if the eyes of the whole world were fixed upon me. Go out! Burn dim! Never! Impossible!"

What a lesson to the Christian! It is no romance which makes the Christian a spiritual lighthouse for the world, with the eyes of the whole world upon him. Let then, his example be full, bright, and clear. The moment he neglects it, and leaves his "lamps" (his personal testimony) untrimmed, some poor soul, struggling amid the waves of temptation, will be dashed upon the rocks of destruction for lack of a good, Christian testimony to show them a way to safety.



What God Desires to Do for Us

Bill Brinkworth

The Bible is a book of examples. We can see, in many cases, how God can work and bless our lives as He has done in the lives of others. Psalms 40 gives a glimpse of some of the things that God can do for us today, as He had done for King David many years ago:

- ◆ He can hear our desperate plea for help:
"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined [a desire to help] unto me, and heard my cry." Psalm 40:1
- ◆ He can deliver us from a terrible situation and change our lives.
"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." Psalm 40:2
- ◆ He can change our attitude and give us joy!
"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." Psalm 40:3
- ◆ He can do many, many wonderful things in our lives
"Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." Psalm 40:5

However, to receive God's hand of blessing, we must first trust in Him to meet all our needs!

"Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."

Proverbs 40:4

A Christian's "Clothing"

Spencer, 1871

They that put on the Lord Jesus (Romans 13:14) are "clothed" with a four-fold garment:

1. With a garment of Christ's imputed righteousness.
2. With a garment of sanctification.
3. With a garment of protection.
4. With a garment of glory.

The first "garment" may be called a winter's garment, because it covers us. The second, a summer's garment, because it adorns us. The third, a coat of armour, because it keeps us safe. The fourth, a wedding garment, because there is no admission to the Supper of the Lamb without it.

The first three may be called our work-day suits, because we must put them on all the days of our lives. The fourth is our holiday suit, because we can not put it on till the weeks of our pilgrimage through this life are ended and a new one begins in the New Jerusalem. We certainly are well-dressed!

Proverbs 3:5



Words To Find:
 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Safe in the Ark

D. L. Moody

The voice came down from Heaven to Noah, "... Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Noah was outside the ark, and in a short time after he built it, he was inside; and by being inside he was saved from the destruction of a world-wide flood.



As long as he was outside of the ark he was exposed to the wrath of God, just like the rest of the people. If he stayed out, and remained with them, he would

have been swept away, as they were. It was not his righteousness; it was not his faith; nor his works that saved him. It was the ark.

We do not, like Noah, have to be one hundred and twenty years in making an ark for our safety. God has provided an ark for us, and the question is, "Are you inside or outside this ark? Have you trusted Christ alone for your salvation?" If you have, then you are 'saved'; and you are inside; and you are safe. If you are not 'saved', then you are outside; and you are not safe.

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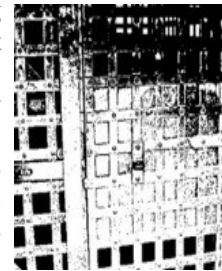
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What Must I Do to Be Saved?

Bill Brinkworth

"And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:30-31

After being awakened out of sleep, the jailer knew something unusual had happened, perhaps even miraculous. He instantly saw the gates, that were rusted from the dungeon's constant dampness and always difficult for him to even open, were all shook wide open by an earthquake. His first assumption was that while he slumbered, all his charges had escaped. If that were true, then the authorities would surely require his life for those of the escapees. To avoid their torturing him and the humiliation he and his family would receive, he immediately



purposed to end his own life.

Just as his thoughts were to become a reality, a steady, soft-spoken voice from the dank darkness broke the prison's silence by commanding, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here."

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Salvation Is a Gift

Salvation is not earned; it is a gift from God to all that will receive it:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." Rom. 5:15

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23 Also: Eph. 2:8.

What Must I Do to Be ...

Continued from Page 1

Immediately, captives' testimonies and lifestyles, offered a simple, but had-to-be true reason for what had happened while he slept; God had done a miracle by opening the gates for His people. In quick milliseconds, the keeper recalled his convictions over his own sins in the days past while he heard the imprisoned Christians quoting Scripture, singing hymns while they should have been fearing for their own lives; and their extraordinary behavior that made these captives much different than anyone he had ever observed. He knew God was involved in his prisoners' lives, and what had just happened in the prison; and the man immediately feared for his own soul's eternal destiny. Quickly, the frightened guard blurted out, "... what must I do to be saved?"

Many people, at one time in their lives, also had an encounter that no explanation could explain, except that they knew God was involved. Maybe it was an escape from a car accident that they know should have ended in their death, except a godly intervention spared their life. Perhaps, another natural catastrophe, violent situation, or another terrible event had its apparent outcome adverted at the last moment; and it was also clear that

only supernatural intervention could have altered what the obvious outcome should have been. It was at that time, perhaps for a very brief instant, like the jailer guarding over Paul and other Christians probably experienced, that their eternal destination became an immediate concern. Like the keeper, they too wondered, "What must I do to be saved?"

Perhaps at that instant, past "religious" exposure or training had them wondering, "If my doing good deeds will please God so He will let me go to Heaven, have I done enough?" Perhaps they even wondered if they had done all the deeds their religion required them to do, or if they should have done more "good" things. All man's reasoning and rationalizations are for naught, unless they line up with what the Bible declares is the only way to Heaven. That way was quickly revealed to the suicidal jailer by his godly captives, when they responded to the keeper's question, "... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ..." (Acts 16:31).

The only way anyone can get to Heaven is to believe that God's only Son, Jesus, died on the cross for their sins and paid the price for those sins with His own blood. His death is the only "good work" that will remove

one's condemnation for all his sins. It is ONLY this belief that will save anyone from a tormenting, eternal Hell. Have you believed on the Saviour's sacrifice for your iniquities, so that you might be saved?

Salvation — God's Gift

Harry Todd

*As you travel down life's highway
It's a broad road to destruction;
The Bible says that "All
have sinned"
And you must change direction.*

*Now you are helpless by yourself,
You are dead in trespasses
and sin,
God hates sin; Heaven is holy
Therefore you cannot enter in.*

*Someone must die because of sin,
It should be you and I,
But God loved the world
so much
He sent His only Son to die.*

*Now Jesus paid the sin debt
Upon dark Calvary's tree,
So you and I by simple faith
Are forgiven and set free.*

*By grace are ye saved
through faith,
Not of works or by any deed;
Salvation is a gift of God;
So of His Word you must
take heed.*

*He came unto His own
But they turned Him away,*

*Now you can be a child of God
By receiving Christ today.*

*Today is the day of salvation,
Tomorrow may be too late,
Behold! Now is the
accepted time,
Oh! Sinner, do not wait.*

Necessary and Enough

Dr. Harry Ironside

In a hospital ward, a lady missionary found an undersized and undeveloped little Irish boy, whose pale, wizened face and emaciated form burdened her heart for the boy. She spoke of his own soul's need, and he was made aware of his lost condition; insomuch that he seriously considered how he might be saved. Brought up a Catholic, he thought and spoke of penance and confessionals, of sacraments and church; yet never mentioning Christ Jesus and His atoning work. The two talked of what the Scriptures said, but he made no decision at the time for salvation.

The next morning the lady called upon him again, and found his face aglow with a new found joy. Inquiring the reason, he replied with assurance born of faith in the revealed Word of God, "O missis, I always knew that Jesus was necessary, but I never knew till yesterday that He was enough!"

"God paid the price; we keep the change (II Cor. 5:17)."

"You contribute nothing to your salvation, except the sin that made it necessary." — Jonathan Edwards

Sin as found in Romans I



Words to Find:

unthankful
 unrighteousness
 fornication
 wickedness
 covetousness
 maliciousness
 envy

murder
 debating
 deceit
 malignity
 homosexuality
 backbiters
 spiteful
 proud

boasting
 disobedient
 covenantbreakers
 unmerciful
 implacable
 lust

I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalm 101:3

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Trust God

It's an old, true story and should often be told:

One morning in George Mueller's orphanage, there was no food for the children's breakfast. The tables were set with empty plates and mugs. Mr. Mueller prayed, "Dear Father, we thank Thee for what Thou art going to give us to eat." Immediately there was a knock at the door. Opening it, he saw the local baker.

"Mr. Mueller," he said, "I couldn't sleep last night. I felt you had no bread for breakfast; so I got up at 2 o'clock and baked fresh bread. Here it is."

Mueller thanked him and praised God. Then a second knock came. It was the milkman. His cart had broken down out front, and he wanted to give the milk to the children.

It was a happy group who gave God thanks that morning. God never fails His child who trusts Him.

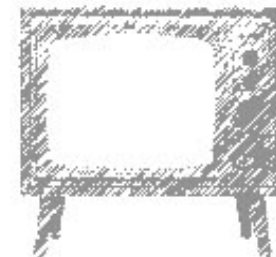
"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." John 14:13-14

The Church That Would Not Help

Dr. Ralph Yarnell

Once upon a time there was an average preacher, who pastored an average church in an average city. The church was always short on mission funds. One day a salesman approached the pastor with the following proposal.

"If you will give me the opportunity to speak to your congregation for 15 minutes, I will show you how to easily add \$10,000 to your mission program now and an extra \$1,000 each month, if the church members will cooperate."



The average preacher consulted with the average church board. They put it to a vote of the average congregation. They quickly accepted the proposition.

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The Church That ...

Continued from Page 1

A date and time were set, announcements were made, and every member of the church was urged to attend. The time arrived; the church was full, and the salesman began:

“Ladies and gentlemen, I represent a home training program. If you use our equipment, I guarantee you will quickly learn at least 32 things that will each give you a thrilling experience. Our equipment sells from \$100 to several thousand dollars, and \$20 each month from then on. Our equipment will teach you:

1. How to murder anyone you don't like
2. How to deceive
3. How to commit adultery
4. How to get drunk
5. How to use and push drugs
6. How to curse
7. How to have an abortion
8. How to display your nakedness
9. How to embrace Humanism
10. How to get a divorce
11. How to spread violence
12. How to enjoy vulgarity
13. How to be anti-God and anti-Christian
14. How to be anti-American
15. How to show hate
16. How to tell lies
17. How to be a thief
18. How to live immorally
19. How to have illicit sex
20. How to be a homosexual

21. How to show vengeance
22. How to become a gambler
23. How to commit suicide
24. How to be an arsonist
25. How to cheat others
26. How to be continually fighting
27. How to be a mugger and a rapist
28. How to commit hideous crimes
29. How to torture others
30. How to loot
31. How to riot
32. How to disobey both God and government.

“The 32 things are only the beginning of what our equipment will teach you. I guarantee it!

“Now by a showing of raised hands, let me see how many of you are willing to invest in our equipment? None? Can it be there is not one raised hand?”

“Now by the raised hand, let me see how many of you have a television or DVD player. Nearly every hand is raised.

“Evidently someone beat me to the sale, for I am selling TV's and DVD's. Now I promised this church an opportunity for \$10,000 plus more than \$1,000 each month for your mission program, if you would follow my suggestions. The suggestions are for each of you to sell your TV's and DVD's and give the proceeds to your church missions

program and for each of you to give the monthly cable charge to your church's program.

Now, how many of you are willing to follow my suggestions? Raise your hands please. Can it be not one hand is raised? Tell me why are none of you willing to help missions?”

“Wait, we don't want to be too hasty. There are some benefits of controlled TV,” said the pastor.

The salesman questioned, “Do you control the TV, or does it control you? Few, if any Christians can overcome the erosion of clear thinking, traditional values, and Biblical living caused by improper exposure to TV and DVD's.”

“There are still some good things on TV,” retorted a deacon.

“Yes, of course; even a stopped clock tells the right time twice a day.”

“I believe there is some good in everything,” added a Sunday School teacher.

“Yes, there is no doubt some good food in the garbage can, but we do not go there to get our dinner,” answered the salesman.

“Most of us have already signed a petition to the FCC to clean up TV,” said a choir member.

“Noble thought; but the Christian's job is not to clean up the pigpen, but to keep the pigpen out of our homes, lives, and our churches.”

“Let's be reasonable. There's nothing wrong with laughing at comedy and having a good time,” interjected the youth leader.

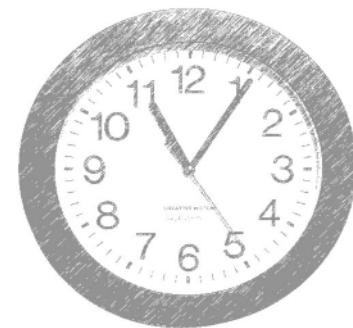
“Yes, but we cannot laugh our

**Every believer is
God's miracle.** — P. Bailey

life away or laugh when sin is glorified. Folks, the mission money your church needs is in your TV's and DVD's. The revival you need is in the disposal of that equipment.” The salesman ended his presentation at this point as no one really wanted to support missions or end their exposure to sin. The average church continued to wonder why they were always short of money for the missionaries.

The Clock Ticks On

Author Unknown



*The clock of life is wound but
once*

*And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will
stop*

At late or early hour.

*To lose one's wealth is sad
indeed.*

*To lose one's health is more.
To lose one's soul is such a
loss*

That no man can restore.



**ONE LEAK WILL SINK A SHIP; AND ONE SIN WILL
DESTROY A SINNER.** — W. Gladstone

Proverbs 35



Words to Find:
 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Wrath of God

Jonathan Edwards

The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present. The waters increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the higher the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty will be its course, when once it is let loose. If God should only withdraw His hand from the floodgate, it would immediately fly



open, and the fiery floods of the fierceness and wrath of God would rush forth with inconceivable fury, and would come upon you with omnipotent power. If your strength were ten thousand times greater than it is, yea, ten thousand times greater than the strength of the stoutest, sturdiest devil in Hell, it would be nothing to withstand or endure it.

The **Bible View**

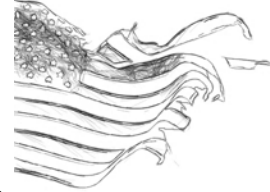



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Irreparable Damage

Bill Brinkworth

After reading I and II Kings, one sees that after King Solomon's death, the kings that succeeded him were often less than desirable. At least 26 leaders were remembered as: "...they walked in the sins" of another person, "... sinned and made Israel to sin ...", "... did evil in the sight of God...", or "... did worse than all that were before him." Bad leadership has always been a problem for any country, including Israel.



Of all the kings that wanted to lead their country in the direction God commanded, Josiah (II Kings 22-23) was the most determined to please God and have Him bless his country. King Josiah rebuilt the temple, so the country could return to proper worship of the one God in Heaven; and urged the priests to inquire of the Lord what must be done. When Josiah heard God's truths from the Word of God, he was convicted,

Continued on Page 2

God's Restraint

Jonathan Edwards

Sadly, in that time period, only six leaders were recorded as doing "... right in the eyes of the Lord ...", "right in the sight of the Lord", or even "... according to all his father (a godly man) did". Further investigation of those six reveals that not all of them did all that was right. They tolerated some sin to continue in their country, and did not halt all that was plaguing the nation. With early Israel as an example, we can see that godly leadership is rare.

The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string. His justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow. It is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood.

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Irreparable Damage

Continued from Page 1

repented of his sins, and was even more determined to remove sin from his country; so God's hand would be on it

The young king committed himself, and the people also agreed to obey God. He cleaned out idolatry from all over the country. Even the places of false worship were destroyed. Priests of false religions were killed. Houses of sodomites (II Kings 23:7) were destroyed. Witchcraft and occult practices (II Kings 23:24) were also "put away," along with many other practices that were abominable in the sight of God.

After all the "good" this king brought about in Israel, I expected to read that God was going to spare the country His due wrath, as He had done graciously many times in the past. Although there "... was no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might ..." (II Kings 23:25) God did not stay His hand of vengeance on the land; all because of the great wickedness of a previous king, King Manasseh (II Kings 21).

*"Notwithstanding the LORD turned **not** from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had pro-*

voked him withal." II Kings 23:26

Horried, I related that time in history to what is happening in so many countries today. Leaders, like the wicked King Manasseh, are also ignoring God's law. They are allowing false worship to continue, in many ways even giving it preferential treatment. There is no effort to turn to God. Abominations that are clearly forbidden by God are allowed and encouraged to continue. God is totally mocked, ignored, or forgotten.

Even more frightening is that even if a godly leader did take the reins of a country, and do all he could to turn the country to God, and even have results; it may be too late! Irreparable damage may have been done that has angered a Holy God! The sins of past leaders may have angered God so much; that no matter what moral and biblical changes are made, it may be too late!

What can one do, when God is so angered at what was done by previous leaders and the people? There is nothing that can be done, if it is anything like what happened prior to King Josiah's reign. A nation will reap what was sown by wicked rulers. Only God can turn His wrath away. We certainly cannot make Him.

"That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on

the unjust." Mat. 5:45 (Consequences often fall on the ungodly and godly, as rain falls on both).

If a nation finds itself in the hopeless situation Israel faced in II Kings 23, individuals still must not give up and succumb to what everyone else is doing. Christians must still stand for right and live righteously, and do all they can to change what is going on around them. Although nations may crumble, individuals can still determine in their heart to do what is right according to God's Word. We must do right, no matter what happens around us.

"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

Rom. 14:12

A Free Pardon

C. H. Spurgeon

A prisoner was taken out to die, and as he rode along in the death cart his heart was heavy at the thought of death, and none could cheer him of all the throng. The gallows-tree was in sight, and it blotted out the sun for him. But lo, his prince came riding up in hot haste, bearing a free pardon.

Then the man opened his eyes, and, as if he had risen from the dead; he returned to happy consciousness. The sight of his prince had chased all gloom away. He declared that he had never seen a fairer countenance in all his days; and when he read his pardon, he vowed that no poetry should ever be dearer to his heart than those few lines of sovereign grace.

Friends, I remember well when I was in that death-cart, and Jesus came to me with pardon. Death and Hell were before me; but I rejoiced exceedingly when I saw the nail prints in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side. When he said, "Thy sins, which are many, are all forgiven thee," I thought I never saw such loveliness before, and never heard such music in all my days. Nay, it was not mere thought; I am sure my judgment was right. Eternity itself shall never disclose anything to me more sweet. My pardoning Lord hath no peer nor rival. Oh, what a Christ is He who appeared to me, a guilty, condemned sinner, on the way to Hell! Blessed be His name. He bore on the tree my curse, and shame, and death, and I am free.

Curse of Sin

Dr. J. Parker

Oh, sin! How hast thou cursed us! Thou hast thrown up a barrier between ourselves and God; with thy chilling breath thou hast extinguished the light of our household joys. Thou hast unstrung our harp, and filled the air with discordant cries. Thou hast unsheathed the sword, and bathed it in human blood. Thou hast dug every grave in the bosom of the fair earth; but for thee we should not have known the name of widow or orphan, tear and sigh, sorrow and death; but for thee our hearts would not have known pain.

“No one gets away with any sin!”

History of Early ...

Continued from Page 1

- ✠ Andrew: "... He was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground."
- ✠ Mark: "... Mark was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria, at the great solemnity of Serapis their idol, ending his life under their merciless hands ..."
- ✠ Peter: "... Jerome saith that he was crucified, his head being down and his feet upward, himself so requiring, because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as the Lord was."
- ✠ Paul, the apostle: "...gave his neck to the sword."
- ✠ Jude: "He was crucified at Edessa ..."
- ✠ Bartholomew: "He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters."
- ✠ Thomas: "... preached the Gospel in Parthia and India, where exciting the rage of the pagan priests, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear."
- ✠ Luke: "... hanged on an olive tree, by the idolatrous priests of Greece."
- ✠ Simon: "... preached the Gospel in Mauritania, Africa, and

even in Britain, in which latter country he was crucified ..."

- ✠ John: "... banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. ... He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death."
- ✠ Barnabas: "... his death is supposed to have taken place about A.D. 73."

"And yet, notwithstanding all these continual persecutions and horrible punishments, the church daily increased, deeply rooted in the doctrine of the apostles and watered plentifully with the blood of saints."

Singing If You Can

Author Unknown

*God never would send you the
darkness
If He felt you could bear the light;
But you would not cling to His
guiding hand
If the way were always bright,
And you would not care to walk
by faith,
Could you always walk by sight.*

*Then nestle your hand in your
Father's,
And sing, if you can, as you go;
Your song may cheer some one
behind you
Whose courage is sinking low;
And, well, if your lips do quiver,
Be encouraged, God loves you so.*



So Great a Heritage

Bill Brinkworth

Christians today, both in America and throughout the world, have so much to be thankful and grateful for. Our faith, Bible, doctrines, and our freedoms were obtained by high prices paid by our Christian predecessors. It cost many of them their lives and much suffering; yet we take for granted what believers of the past had to pay dearly for, and place little value on our heritage.



It should be expected that Christians would face persecutions, as its leader, Jesus Christ the Son of God, also received much. His righteousness and exposure of false religion were so grievous to the followers of man-made worship that it was they that made sure that the Saviour was beaten, ridiculed, mocked, and nailed to the cross. If God allowed His Son to not escape the world's wrath and

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History of Early Christians

*Excerpts from Foxe's Book
of Martyrs*

- ✠ Stephen: "... He was cast out of the city and stoned to death."
- ✠ About two thousand Christians, with Nicanor, one of the seven deacons, suffered martyrdom during the "persecution that arose about Stephen."
- ✠ James the son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John: "... beheaded ..."
- ✠ Philip: "... He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified."
- ✠ Matthew: "... was slain by a halberd in the city of Nabadah."
- ✠ James, the Less: "... At the age of ninety-four he was beaten and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a fuller's club."
- ✠ Matthias: "... He was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded."

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So Great a Heritage

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hatred for the things of God, Christians should also expect it.

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; ...”

John 15:19-20

Most of us today have no clue as to what Christians before us had to suffer for their beliefs. We get upset if someone makes a joke about our faith or even scoffs at us. Here are some reminders of the sacrifices made by early Christians for their beliefs and godly lifestyles:

✚ The first followers of Jesus ran for their lives as they were pursued (Acts 8) for believing and professing that Christ was risen (Acts 4:2-3) and was their Saviour. It was not the unsaved, but the religious, that often initiated much of their persecution even before A. D. 30.

✚ Saul, who after he was saved was called Paul, participated in the killing of the first martyr for Christ, Stephen. He watched as the godly preacher was stoned to death.

To believe Jesus Christ was the long-awaited Messiah cost many much in the early churches. It cost them their belongings, reputations, livelihoods, imprisonment, and even their lives, as it cost Stephen.

✚ All of the apostles were persecuted for their beliefs and most died because of them. Paul, who once led the slaughter against Christ’s disciples (Acts 9:1, 2), faced imprisonment, beatings, stonings, and persecution (II Corinthians 11:25) after he was saved and became a faithful follower of Christ’s teachings.

✚ The persecution of Christ’s followers continued after the death of the apostles. Foxe’s Book of Martyrs gives many of the barbarous atrocities done against believers. He reports that they were tortured, boiled in oil, cut in half, thrown to the lions, burnt alive, mocked, enslaved, and other unimaginable atrocities.

What crime were they killed for? It was for the “crime” of believing, standing for, and following the teachings of God’s Word. In many cases, their demise could have been avoided by a simple, verbal recanting of what they believed. They did not even have to believe what they said. It would have sufficed their tormentors if they had just said

“That Jesus was not the Son of God,” “That they did not believe in the Word of God,” or “That the false ‘church’ that was persecuting them was the ‘one true church’” and their lives would have been spared. However, their faith meant everything to them, and they died for their convictions.

In a college’s collection of ancient Bibles is a Bible with fire-scorched pages. It was plucked out of the flames that burned its owner. He had refused to denounce his faith in Christ and in His Word, and was burnt to death because of it. Today his Bible is preserved as a reminder of what Christ and His Word meant to some, and how many died for reading it or making it available for others to have.

With the freedom that most have today, professing Christians cannot even live for Christ; yet alone die for Him. It is very easy to attend a nearby church; yet there are countless excuses told for their not attending. Most households contain at least one copy of the Word of God; yet few have even bothered to read it. Baptistries are now heated and always available; yet few follow the Lord in believer’s baptism. Although we are quickly losing our religious freedoms in the States, it is still possible for a believer to obey the Lord’s command and tell others how to go to Heaven; yet even fewer do it.

What does your faith in Christ mean to you? Does His Word mean so much to you that you not only read it faithfully, but that you would not sway from its teaching, even if it cost you your life? Does the price Christ paid on the cross for our salvation mean so much to you that you are living for Him no matter what it may cost socially or monetarily; or does the slightest possibility of someone’s thinking less of you make you hide the fact that you are even a Christian? Do the truths found in His Word mean so much to you that you share it with others no matter the cost in time, money, or others’ opinions of you?

We are nearing an end of an era where many can share and live their faith in Christ with others without paying a high price. Because many have not stood up for the beliefs and freedoms they had, the ungodly are taking those freedoms away from them.

For most of us, compared to what our predecessors have paid for their religious convictions, the cost to us has been minimal. That fact may change in the near future. Will you be willing to pay the cost, no matter what it is, for your faith? Many say they will die for their faith, but for most of us, God only requires that we live for Him. Are you living boldly for Him today?

“Sincerity is the salt of the sacrifice. Without it the offering can never be acceptable to God.” — Spurgeon

“You cannot win without sacrifice.” — Buxton

Getting Right with ...

Continued from Page 1

👉 **A friendship should be for ALL times**, not just when things are going well.

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Proverbs 17:17

👉 **No matter what is done to us, we still should forgive others; no matter how many times we feel wronged.**

"... Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." Matthew 18:21 Also: Luke 17:3-4

👉 **Love those that wrong you; do not hate them!**

"Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth ...Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him." Proverbs 24:17-18

"... Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"

Matthew 5:44-45

👉 **Return unkindness and ill treatment with kind, Godly forgiveness.**

"Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not ..."

Romans 12:14-16

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing

thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:20-21

👉 **Getting even should not be on the Christian's agenda!**

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. ... avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Roman 12:17-19

👉 **God has forgiven us.** We should forgive others.

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Colossians 3:13

👉 **An unforgiving attitude will come between you and the Father.**

"But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Mark 11:26 Also: Mark 11:25-26, Matthew 6:12-15, Luke 6:36.

Why Revival Was Blocked

D. L Moody

I remember one town that Mr. Sankey and myself visited. For a week, it seemed as if we were beating the air; there was no power in the meetings. At last, one day, I said that perhaps there was someone cultivating an unforgiving spirit.

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The Bible View



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Vol.: 561

"Let's Go Out to the Tree"

Bill Brinkworth

The argument became very heated. One red-faced teenager



shouted at the other, "It's your fault. You started it. You're the one that ..." On and on he blasted the other young man and proceeded to scream that it was the other's fault.

Stopping his opponent mid-sentence, the other teen screamed back. He too stood his ground, "No, no. You're the one that started it. You did ...," and on he went with his side of the story.

Back and forth the squabble went, each accusing the other. Neither backed down or tried understanding the other. Each figured, if they would get louder than the other, one would give in and back down; neither did. The predictable next step in the argument happened; nose to nose, one pushed the other.

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Getting Right with Others

Bill Brinkworth

It is always sad to see a once flourishing relationship replaced with little or no communication, much bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness. Unfortunately, many have to shamefully hang their head and admit that a relationship in their lives is not what it should be, or what it once was. It could be a family member, spouse, or acquaintance.

Sadder, over time the reason for the separation may have even be forgotten; but still someone does not talk to the other or a grudge is still held. It is easy to come up with excuses as to how we are justified in saying or doing what we did to the other. Whatever the justification, the result is still the same, and a relationship has been shattered.

It is important to work on and repair any damage in any relationship. Here is some of what the Bible says about resolving our differences:

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“Let’s Go Out to ...

Continued from Page 1

“It’s a fight! Fight! Fight!” watching classmates announced to others, so they too could see the boy-against-boy confrontation.

“Alright,” I broke in doing the teacher thing. “Break it up. Break it up,” as I stepped in to separate the scrappers. “Alright. Who started it?”

The answer was exactly what you would expect, “He did,” explained one.

“No, he did,” retorted the other, and so the bickering continued.

It was obvious that the disagreement was nowhere near being solved. “Com’ on, boys. Let’s go out to the tree and talk,” I suggested. Off we went to separate the two from their on-looking peers and to hopefully solve the crisis, under the spreading branches of an old oak outside the classroom.

I let one tell his side of the story first, demanding the other keep quiet and just listen. He did well, except for some obvious body language; and then it was the other young man’s turn to tell his side of the story. After both sides were heard, it was quite clear that after the half-an-hour discussion ended, that not one of the boys was going to concede and do anything to remedy the problem. Neither was willing to forgive or forget.

Finally, I turned to the one, who usually was the most sensitive and understanding, and said, “Look, this is going nowhere. No one is willing to try to fix the situation. Someone has to go first, and try to smooth things out. Someone has to realize, that unless pride is forgotten and one does not worry about being right, this situation will not be solved. No one will win anything but hard feelings! Will you be the one to go first? Will you be the one to admit that perhaps you could have handled this a little better, and that this disagreement is not worth your being bitter at each other? It usually takes two to disagree.”

The boy thought about it, scuffed the dirt with his shoe, looked down and contemplated the situation. Finally, he saw that someone had to go first, unless he wanted this disagreement to never end. He did want it to be resolved. He looked the other boy in the eye, and said, “I am sorry this got out of hand. Yes, I should not have lost my temper”

The other, quickly followed suit. “Yea, I handled it wrongly, too. I shouldn’t have....” The wall of bitterness, pride, and selfishness had been broken down. Shortly, the two were talking and playing ball together like nothing had ever happened; all because one humbled himself and went first.

How many disagreements have never been gotten resolved, all because one never gave up their pride and had the courage to go first? One’s pride may have been preserved in not working out the problem, but what was gained? A friendship may have been lost or permanently weakened, and an unresolved bitterness grew and festered; all because the one was waiting on the other to fix the controversy.

Relationships are not easy; be it between man and woman, parent and child, or between friends. There will come a time when there will be disagreements. How will they be handled? What does an unresolved conflict accomplish? Is one’s being right in a disagreement really worth the loneliness, the loss of friendship, the festering bitterness, and lack of trust for future relationships?

To resolve issues, someone usually has to go first and attempt to change the situation. Disagreements rarely resolve themselves.

It does not matter who did what in the end. One has to humble one’s self first. Many times, when one breaks the ice, the other will follow. When it comes down to it, all of us usually have done something wrong to have a disagreement ensuing.

In getting the matter right, it is not necessary to rehash how you have been wronged. That vicious circle will never end. It is time to admit your wrong in the situation. If we all look hard,

there is usually something that we could have not said or handled differently in the confrontation. Start there in the restoration of a relationship. Do not be concerned with what the other did, but be concerned with what you did wrong. Get that part right with the other person, yourself, and the Lord. The other person may do the same thing and admit he was wrong. He may not. Our concern should only be that we do the right thing. We have to answer for ourselves, not others.

The Bible tells us that we should get matters resolved as quickly as possible (Ephesians 4:26). The longer they fester, the more damage is done. I am sure there are many that are long past the time that they should be heading out to the old oak tree.

Why Revival Was ...

Continued from Page 4

The chairman of our committee got up and left the meeting right in view of the audience. The arrow had hit the mark, and gone home to the heart of the chairman of the committee. He had had trouble with someone for about six months. He at once hunted up this man and asked him to forgive him. That night the inquiry-room was thronged. The chairman, from that day forward, became one of the best workers I have ever known.

He who forgives, ends the quarrel.

“Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:” — Ephesians 4:26

Do What Jesus Did

Bill Brinkworth

While on this earth, Jesus did many things we as Christians are expected to do. He was our example. If we are saved and want to live Christ-like, we should follow Jesus' leadership. John 17 shows us that Jesus:

- ◆ Asked the Lord for power over the flesh (John 17:2), even though, unlike us, He was sinless. We may be saved, but we can still be tempted to sin, because we are not perfect. With the Lord's help, we can resist daily temptations to do wrong.
- ◆ Showed the world, by His testimony, that there was one, true God (John 17:3, 6, 12). We also can be the light that shows a sin-darkened world that there is another way — God's way.
- ◆ Gave God the glory for all that He did (John 17:4, 7). We too can show the world how good God is, and how He is alive and still working in the hearts and lives of man by living and acting godly.
- ◆ Finished the tasks that God gave Him (John 17:4). We are saved to serve and not to just sit. God desires each and every one of us to do something for His honor and glory.

- ◆ Told the world what God wanted them to know (John 17:8). We can tell the world what God wants them to know according to what is recorded in the Word of God.
- ◆ Prayed for those He encountered and had a burden for them (John 17:9). God has allowed us to cross the path of many. We can have a burden for them and pray for their needs.
- ◆ Still had a burden for those He ministered to, even though He knew He was leaving this world (John 17:12). This action shows that His desire for others was heart-felt, and not just emotional or skin deep. Our concerns for others should also be deeply ingrained in us. It should be our goal to encourage and help others get closer to God.

Jesus' example is certainly not what the natural man or the world encourages us to be. Our sinful flesh and the self-centered world constantly promote self-satisfaction and self-concern. Jesus' example was certainly not that way. Making our Saviour our example, we can have a life that pleases God and meets the needs of others.

“Character is only as strong as the weakest part.”



How to Have Change in Your Life

Bill Brinkworth

At one time, many have had some desire to change something about their lives. Perhaps it was a flaw in their character, morals, or lifestyle that had



them concerned about how it was or would affect their lives. It may have been a drinking or smoking problem, lying, deceitfulness, lack of living the way the Lord would have them live, adultery, or a host of other self-induced problems in their lives that has them distressed.

The problem bothered them so, that they did make an attempt to stop the habit, spiritual, or behavioral problem. Too often, they were successful, but only for a short time. This added to their situation and more guilt crept in, making matters worse. They tried again, and failed. Soon they saw no hope of altering, and just ignored or accepted what was wrong in their

life, and never attempted to change it again. They had lost hope they could get the victory over what was discomforting to them.

Others, however, saw their weaknesses, sin, or something that had to be changed in their lives, and although they may have struggled, seemed to get the victory over what they felt compelled to change in their lives. What is the difference that would cause one person to fail over a

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A New Captain

*Edited from an article by
C. H. Spurgeon*

There was a poor man about sixty years old. He had been a rough sailor; one of the worst men in the village. It was his custom to drink, and he seemed to be delighted when he was cursing and swearing. He came into a church, however, one Sunday and heard preaching about Jesus weeping over Jerusalem.

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How to Have Change ...

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weakness and another to triumph over what was handicapping his life?

Although not applicable to every situation, the story of a problem in Nehemiah's life sheds some light on biblical principles that, when applied, can cause one to have a change that can be lasting.

Nehemiah was a cupbearer for a king. When Nehemiah heard how the center for his Jewish worship, Jerusalem, was destroyed, in shambles, and not being used to worship God, he was broken-hearted (Nehemiah 1:4).

One of the first needed attitudes to change any situation is a genuine, broken-heartedness for what needs changing in one's life, as did Nehemiah. The usual "Oops," or "I'll not do that again" may not be strong enough to cause a permanent change. A nonchalant attitude is usually one that will only temporarily change a situation. An earnest heart-wrenching conviction, on the other hand, is a first step in a permanent change.

The second step in his desire to rebuild Jerusalem was he went to God. During his mourning for what had happened and his weeping over the terrible thing that had happened to the worshipping of God, he prayed; he fasted; he did all he could to get hold of God for His help. Nehemiah earnestly sought God's intervention in a situation he was

confident that only He could remedy.

Likewise, when we have problems, the first ear that should hear of our needs is not our friend, family, neighbor, or any listening ear, other than God's. He is the one that can change all situations.

Thirdly, Nehemiah admitted the problem. He admitted that he and his people had sinned, (Neh. 1:6-7) causing the people to stray from worshipping and allowing their place of worship to get in the condition in which it was. To get a real change in one's life, one first must be honest with himself and God. Confess honestly your sin; and do not justify it because it was the teacher's, parent's, friend's, or someone else's fault. Admit what sin was committed, and sincerely want to change what caused the situation in the first place.

Next, the convicted Nehemiah remembered what the Word of God said (Neh. 1:8-9), and trusted in its promises. Today's sinner also needs to read, know, and do what the Bible says. It is God's roadmap through life. If it is not followed, one will usually make wrong turns, and often regret that God's way was not followed.

Lastly, and one of the most important steps, is Nehemiah put "feet to his prayers." After doing all he could to get back in fellowship with God and get his heart right, he had to do the work

to make a difference.

Too many are sorry for the situation they usually got themselves into, but fail to do anything about it. They wait around for some sign to drop out of Heaven with a note from God saying, "It's all better now, my son. Go and play." It usually does not work that way. Work is usually involved to get to where we need to be. Often that work is harder, the longer we put off getting right with God.

In Nehemiah's case, he went to Jerusalem, surveyed the situation, and got those that still wanted to do right and worship God His way and were willing to work. Together they rebuilt that mighty city, faced political and physical hardships and confrontations (*If you think you have confrontations read Nehemiah to learn of what he faced*), but the work was completed and worship again was started.

In our case, the work may involve admitting to others our sins, so we can get it right with the one we wronged, making it more difficult to go down the same wrong road we went down previously. It may involve dissolving friendships with the wrong people, stopping a sin or habit "cold turkey", apologizing to people, or even confessing a wrongdoing to authorities or friends. It should also include confessing it to God.

The road back to where one should be is usually very difficult and costly. The high price builds character and humility.

One often pays such a high price to return to doing right that the price will instill permanently the value of doing the right thing; so it does not happen again. Doing the right thing or getting back to doing what should be done should be important to one that is on the wrong road. It may be hard to turn one's life around, but the principles taught by Nehemiah's example worked for him; with God's help, they will work for you, also.

A New Captain

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The man thought, "Why did Jesus Christ ever weep over such a wretch as I am?" He thought he was too bad for Christ to care for.

At last he came to the preacher, and said, "Sir, sixty years have I been sailing under the standard of the devil. It is time I should have a new owner. I want to scuttle the old ship and sink her altogether! Then I shall have a new owner, and I shall sail under the colors of Prince Jesus."

Ever since that moment, that man has been a praying man and has walked before God in all sincerity. Yet, he was the very last man you would have thought would be saved and converted. Somehow God does not choose just the "best" men. He will also take the filthiest and the vilest, and fashion them into glorious beings; making them saints. Whereas they were sinners; He then sanctifies them, and makes them holy.

Philippians 4:13



Words to Find:
 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Destiny of Holiness

Oswald Chambers, Edited from *Mu Utmost for His Highest*, Sept. 1

The preaching of the Gospel awakens an intense resentment, because it reveals that I am unholy. It also awakens an intense craving. God has one destined end for mankind through holiness. His one aim is the production of saints. ... He did not come to save men out of pity. He came to save men because He had created them to be holy. The Atonement He gave is the way God can put me back into perfect union

with Himself, without sin's shadow, through the death of Jesus Christ.

Never tolerate through sympathy with yourself or with others any practice that is not in keeping with a holy God. Holiness means unsullied walking with the feet, unsullied talking with the tongue, and unsullied thinking with the mind. Every detail of our life is under the scrutiny of God. Holiness is not only what God gives me, but what I manifest that God has given me.

The **Bible View**

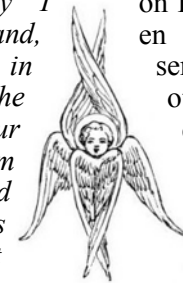



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Holy, Holy, Holy!

Bill Brinkworth

"2 And immediately I [John] was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. ... 8 ¶ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever," Revelation 4:2-9



about what God has created, than we do. We only see what is here on Earth. They look about Heaven and see creatures, including seraphim, cherubim, angels, and other glorious things, that we cannot even imagine. However, they were not praising God for all that is in His Heaven.

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Holiness

Dr. T. W. Jenkyn

Holiness, in the Scriptures, means a hallowed state. It is a full, entire, and impartial consecration to the service and the use of God. It is a definite separation and dedication to His purposes and pleasure. To not be in this state would be diverting our sacred purpose to which we should be devoted.

"Real holiness has love for its essence, humility for its clothing, the good of others as its employment, and the honor of God as its end." – Emmons

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Holy, Holy, Holy!

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Those creatures glorifying God most likely know more about the universe God has created than we do. They must know that all the stars are more than our limited human minds can image. It most likely would not surprise them to know that the largest star we know about is VY Canis Majoris, which is estimated at over 1,800 times the size of our large sun. Yet, all those amazing stellar creations were created by God in one day. However, they are not singing His praises about His wonderful creations.

They certainly must know about God's patience in allowing earth's inhabitants many opportunities to come to and obey Him. They also must know how so many curse His name, and openly rebel against their own Creator. Those creatures know of the Almighty's wrath, that He can release when it is time and necessary. Yet, with all they know about what God has done for all those in Heaven and here on Earth, they are not praising Him for His character.

In both instances, in Isaiah and Revelation, they praised Him for His holiness. "... Holy! Holy! Holy! ..." cried the Heavenly host. Of all the wonderful

things those creatures must know about Him they are most impressed and respectful of God's holiness! There is no sin in heaven, as God cannot be near such wickedness, so those singing God's praises do not sin, yet they praise God for His holiness!

Holiness is important to God. That is why He also desires us to be Holy. We certainly will never be as holy as our Creator, but Christians should still strive to live a holy life. It is expected of us to flee and avoid sin and emulate our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our goal should be to please God by making our life as holy as we can. Living a holy life is possible, or He would not expect it of us!

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:15-16

"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God." Lev. 20:7

Personal Holiness

Dr. T. W. Jenkyn

Personal holiness is the first and foremost tribute, which we owe to the Holy Spirit to be used by our Master. We are to offer Him no other service until this is given.

***The* essence of true holiness consists of conforming to the nature and will of God."**

— Dr. Lucas

Pharnaces, said a Roman historian, sent to Caesar a present of a royal crown, while he was openly rebelling against Caesar's throne. Caesar returned the gift with the message, "First of all yield obedience, and then send presents." The spirit and the truth of his message is addressed by the Holy Spirit to every Christian and to every church. He desires our obedient heart before our worldly "sacrifices" and offerings.

Reasons Why the Believer Should be Holy

Edited from 500 Bible Readings, Marsh

- Because of what God is. *"The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." Ps. 145:17*
- Because of what He has done. *"Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy." Lev. 19:2*
- Because He commands it. *Lev. 19:2*
- Because of His relationship to us. *"Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God." Lev. 20:7*
- Because of His choice of us. *"And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and*

have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine."

Lev. 20:26

- Because of our relationship to Him.

They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy."

Lev. 21:6

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Hymn by Reginald Heber

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

What Forgiveness Did

Edited from an article by Dr. Guthrie

In the garrison town of Woolwich over 175 years ago, a soldier was about to be brought before the commanding officer for a misdemeanor. The officer hearing the case exclaimed, "Here he is again. What can we do with him! He has been before us many times, and nothing seems to turn him around!"

The sergeant-major apologized for intruding and said, "There is one thing that has never been done with him yet, sir."

"What is that, sergeant-major?"

"Well, sir, he has never yet been forgiven."

"Forgiven?" shouted the colonel, "See the long list of accusations against him?"

"Yes, I see, but the man is not before you yet, and you can cancel it."

After reflecting on the matter, the colonel ordered the man to be brought before him. When the prisoner was asked what he had to say regarding the charges brought against him he replied, "Nothing, sir. Only that I am very sorry for what I have done."

After making some suitable remarks, the colonel concluded, "Well, we are resolved to forgive you."



"When God pardons sin, he consigns the offenses to eternal forgetfulness."

The soldier was struck with astonishment. Tears ran down his face, as he wept. The colonel felt deeply, when he saw the man was humbled. After thanking the colonel, the forgiven soldier left.

For two more years the soldier remained in the army. Not once during that time were there further charges brought against him, or was fault found in the man. Mercy triumphed. Kindness conquered.

Such is the same mercy given to any that will humble themselves before the Father. With a simple, sincere admittance of sinnership and trusting on Christ's gift of eternal life, one can likewise be forgiven and have a new and different life.

Sin, the Deceiver

Edited from a poem by Keach

*Sin is composed of nothing but
subtle wiles.
It fakes and flatters, and betrays
by its smiles.*

*'Tis like the panther, or the
crocodile.
It hides its sting, seems harmless
as a dove.*

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We're All Sinners

Bill Brinkworth

His friends whispered as loudly as they dared, "No, Avijit. Do not go up to those people. They do not want you there. Stay with us."

Avijit walked on towards the settlement, ignoring his friends' pleas. "I'm not like you," he muttered "They will take me in and help me."

As he approached a woman laden with wares she had just purchased at the bazaar, she shrieked as she gazed at the boy approaching her. "Stand back," she warned. "Don't get any closer!"

"But," he tried to present his case, "I am not as bad as the others," he pointed to the three that stood at the outskirts of the city, watching what would happen.

"Still, you are a leper!" reminded the woman.

"But Ketak's fingers and toes are disfigured," he pointed to a distant figure of a young girl wrapped in tattered rags. "Look at mine. They are straight and strong." He showed the woman

his young, brown fingers. They were not affected by the dreaded disease.

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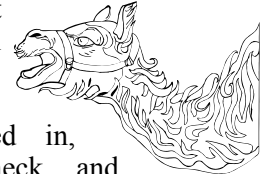
Sin, the Tyrant

Edited from an article by John Bate

An Arab miller was one day startled by a camel's nose thrust in the window of a room where he was sleeping. "It is very cold outside," said the camel, "I only want to get my nose in to warm it."

The nose was allowed in, then the neck, and finally the whole body worked its way into the abode. Soon the miller began to be extremely inconvenienced at the ungainly companion he had obtained in a room certainly not large enough to hold both. "If you are inconvenienced, you may leave," said the camel. "As for myself, I shall stay where I am."

Thus is the ploy of sin. In slithers just a little bit, and soon a whole life is inconvenienced and plagued by its dominance.



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We're All Sinners

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"Maybe not, but still you have the cursed disease. Stand back." She said as she also took one step backward.

"But, my sores are not as bad as Badal's," he pointed to another figure looking on from afar. "See, they are a lot smaller," he pointed to the sores on his face and ears.

The woman shrugged as she looked at the disfiguring mass of sores spread across the young boy's face and body, "But still you have leprosy. If you get any closer, I could also get the disease. Stand back. Stay with your own kind, so we don't get it," and she quickly scurried away.

No matter how Avijit compared himself to others, the truth of the matter was that he still had a contagious disease. He was still a leper and was a danger to others around him. Many compare their sins to others in a similar manner. They know what they have done, but they justify their iniquities as not as "bad" as others' deeds.

They compare themselves to the convicted thief behind bars and justify, "Yes, I have stolen pens from work, but I'm not as bad as that man that robbed a bank."

"It's easy to tell a sinner from a saint — a sinner is always the one you ain't!"

The truth whispers back, "Ah ha, but you are still a thief."

"I may lie to keep myself from getting in trouble with my parents; but I'm not as bad as that person that lies all the time."

Again the truth speaks softly to the conscience, "But you still are a liar!"

Stumbling for an example to clear any suggestions that they are guilty of being "bad", justification fires back, "But, I am a good person. I'm not as bad as others!"

The small, soft voice of conviction answers back, "But sinning only once still qualifies you as a sinner. Do not compare yourself to other sinners. The penalty for sin is Hell."

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." II Cor. 10:12

Unfortunately, it is "human" to compare ourselves to others. It is not our measuring tool that matters, however. It is God's judgment that matters, and He says no sinner can go to heaven. Since we are all sinners, the prognosis is not good. However, because God loves us, He gave us a way to have our sins forgiven and forgotten. That way is to recognize you are a sinner, and believe that Jesus has paid for your sins with His blood at Calvary. All we need to do is

admit our sinnership and trust Christ's death is sufficient to pay for our sins; and then we can have God's promise of heaven one day. All sin can be forgiven, and we can have our name written in heaven's "Book of Life"!

"... in no wise enter into it heaven any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Rev. 21:27

Curse of Sin

Dr. J. Parker

O Sin, how hast thou curst us! Thou hast thrown up a barrier between ourselves and God. With thy chilling breath thou hast extinguished the light of our household joys. Thou hast unstrung our hap and filled the air with discordant cries. Thou hast unsheathed the sword, and bathed it in human blood. Thou has dug every grave in the bosom of the fair earth. But, for thee we should not have known the name of widow or orphan, tear and sigh, sorrow and death. But for thee our hearts had been untorn by a pang, and our joy pure as the ecstasies of heaven.

Deceitfulness of Sin

Modified from an article by Henry Smith

When a man sins, he thinks within himself, "I will do this no more." Soon another sin rears its tempting head, and after falling for its "bait", the partaker of the

sin again lowers his head in defeat and shame promising never to do it again. The lesson is still not learned, and after another sin is committed, again it is promised "never to do it again."

That is the way of sin to spur a man forward in its involvement in it. Each time iniquity is committed the man is left feeling farther from God, less good about himself, and tormented by his own conscience.

Sin, the Deceiver

Continued from Page 4

It hugs the soul, and hates, when it vowed to love.

It plays the tyrant most by gilded pills,

It secretly ensnares the souls it kills,

Sin's promises they all deceitful be:

Does promise wealth, but pays only poverty.

Does promise honor, but only pays us shame

And quite bereaves a man of his good name.

Does promise pleasure, but only pays us sorrow.

It promises life today, but pays death tomorrow.

No thief so vile, nor treacherous as sin,

Whom fools do hug, and take much pleasure in.

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" Romans 5:12

A Worldly Christian

C. H. Spurgeon

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Mat. 6:24



conduct in the world? Why, his religion is a fetter to him there. Any mention of God or His commandments, especially any expression of guilt, makes the world uncomfortable around him, and they also do not trust him.

The world will not have him, and the church will not have him; he wants to go between the two, and both despise him.

No man can serve God and mammon, because there is not enough life in the heart to serve the two. Alas! Many people try this, and they fail both ways.

I have known a man who has tried to let some of his heart run into the world, and another part he allowed to drip into the church,

and the effect has been this; when he came into the church, he was suspected of hypocrisy.

"Why," they said, "if he were truly obeying the Lord, could he

have done yesterday what he did, and then come and profess so much today?" The church looks upon him suspiciously; or if he deceives them, they feel he cannot be trusted because he has not given all his heart to the Lord.

What is the effect of his

God's People in the Wrong Places

W. J. Morrison

✿ A backslidden believer: Abram in Egypt (Gen. 12:10).

✿ A silenced witness: Lot in Sodom (Gen. 14:12).

✿ A lazy saint: David on the housetop (II Sam. 11:2).

✿ A seduced prophet: The man of God in the old prophet's house (I Kings 13:19).

✿ A discouraged worker: Elijah under a juniper tree (I Kings 19:4).

✿ A disobedient servant: Jonah in the whale (Jonah 2).

✿ A miserable disciple: Peter before the fire (Luke 22:55).


"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

Galatians 1:10

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The **Bible View**

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How to be Happy

Bill Brinkworth

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."



Psalms 1:1-3

One of the most popular "wisdom" Psalms in the Hebrew's book of praise is Psalms 1. The first three verses give God's recipe for happiness.

God's method is far from what the unsaved world would think would bring joy and less conflict in one's life. To be "blessed," or "happy," as it means in this verse, should involve heeding His advice.

God's simple guidelines first involve one's discerning who are the godly and the ungodly. When one has read and understood what God's Word, the Bible, says and teaches, one will often observe the godly and the ungodly by their character and actions. Their "fruit" (Eph. 5:9, Gal. 5:22-25), as the Bible often calls their lifestyle, may not honestly reveal if a person is a child of God or not; but it will spotlight if they are living a righteous life and could be a godly influence in your life.

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Don't Yoke Up!

Bill Brinkworth

One of the principles that will distinguish a strong Christian from a weak one, when practiced, is taught in II Corinthians 6. Not adhering to God's teaching on this doctrine has ruined many Christian lives and testimonies. It is the number one robber of joy for a child of God. The doctrine Paul teaches



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How to be Happy

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After it is discerned who is living a life not pleasing to God, God commands that we “*walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly*”; do not heed their advice (counsel)! If a popular television personality, who has been married multiple times, gives marital advice it would be wise not to heed it. When an acquaintance, or even a politician, has had multiple instances of not being truthful, it would be safe to ignore anything he promises or says. One that has repeatedly been seen involved in sin would also be one whose advice should not be heeded. If a Christian wants to be happy, it quite often has to do with following godly advice that one certainly will not get from unrighteous sources!

Not only should we not take the ungodly’s advice, a Christian should not even “standeth in the way of sinners.” Do not be around them. Put a distance between you and them. This is why many parents should forbid their children from spending time with playmates that would be bad examples. They should know that any exposure to wrong behavior could expose one to suggestions to do the same.

“Ultimate success depends on loving things above more than things below!”

Once a seed of sin or wrong conduct is planted in one’s mind, it is almost impossible to erase it. Not being around those that are doing wrong, may protect one from even being tempted by sin.

The third piece of godly advice involves not even sitting with the scornful. God commands us not to sit down and get comfortable with those that laugh, ridicule, or disdain the things of God. Their scoffing and scorning godly philosophies could alter one’s trust and walk with the Lord. Instead of filling one’s mind with poisonous scornfulness, God tells us to saturate our minds with what He has preserved for us in His Word.

Trust God’s Word. Delight in it, and think on it (“meditate”) all the time. When faced with a decision, contemplate, search, and obey what God’s Word says to do about the situation. In doing so, one will not be as the unstable, ungrounded, uncertain ungodly.

One that is obedient to what God shows one to do will be “... like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” The happy Christian will have a firm foundation that will be able to endure life’s tests and trials. He will not be likely to fail or fall when the going gets rough. When the world around him is

confused and unstable, the obedient man will have God’s hand of blessing and protection on him and will be strong in adversity and prosper. He will be “blessed”!

Don’t Yoke Up!

Continued from Page 1

here is the separation of a Christian from those who are not saved (vs. 14-17). “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” II Corinthian 6:14

The double-negative “not unequally yoked” can be somewhat confusing to our modern vernacular, but it simply means “do not be yoked together with unbelievers”. The yoke spoken of here is referring to the wooden implement that binds two farm animals together. It was common that two oxen or mules would be joined together with this device, so they could plow a field together. We are not to be joined and going in the same direction as the world is going. We should not be plowing the same “field” as they.

We should not be yoked to unbelievers in marriage, business relationships, friendships, or other close relationships. When we are yoked together closely in such a relationship, we often end



up going the wrong direction. We are in the world, and we naturally may be in close contact with unsaved. That happens and is a good opportunity to be a witness and an example to them, but getting into the position that we are going in their direction is what God is warning us about.

A child of God is on the winning side. Why in the world would he want to go in the same direction as the losing side? We have a Leader that will take us in the right direction. We should not be following those that do not know the way. We should be guiding others in the right direction, not following their wrong pathways through life.

The Bible says there are two spiritual sides in this life: God’s and the devil’s (also called Belial). What can we possibly have in common with an unbeliever’s thinking and goals? “*And what concord [agreement, union in opinions, sentiments, views or interests] hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*” II Corinthians

“Oil and water do not mix neither do the saved and the unsaved.”

Virtues *as found in II Peter 1*



Words to Find:
 charity
 faith
 godliness
 kindness
 knowledge
 patience
 temperance

“I Won’t Marry A Corpse.”

Walter Knight

A fellow, trying to tell his sweetheart how much he loved her, exclaimed, “Why, I would die for you!”

Promptly the sensible girl replied, “It’s off! I don’t want to marry a corpse! I want someone living with me!”

The Lord Jesus does not often

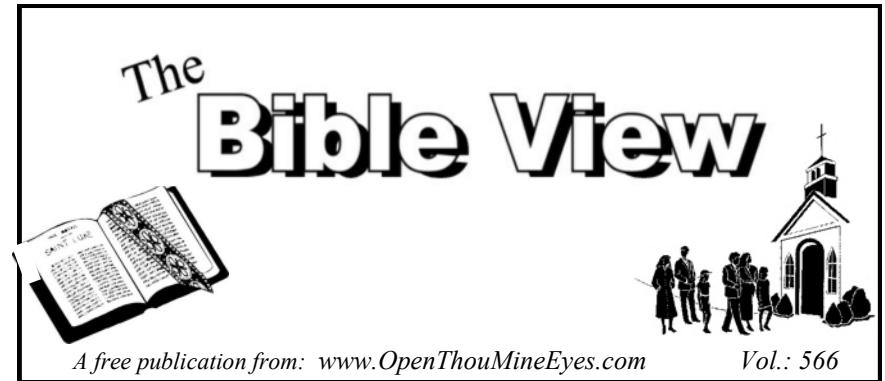
ask us to die for Him. He asks that we live for Him.

“*And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*” II Cor. 5:15

There is not a greater lack among God’s children than simple faithfulness, unwearied, continuance in well doing and a day-by-day living for Him and others!

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is a resource containing: Sermon and Sunday school lessons, biblical-based studies, articles and puzzles, Bible View archives, and a daily devotional.



“I Have ...”

Bill Brinkworth

King David certainly was not a perfect man. He sinned; he made mistakes, but he loved God with all his heart and purposed to live for and please Him. In Psalm 26, we read of six “I have’s”



that the King of Israel purposed to do with his life because of his loyalty to the Lord and His principles. They are:

1. “*Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: ...*” Psalm 26:1a
 The leader knew that his faith was not just a one-day a week exhibition, but that an attempt at doing right must be “genuine, pure, and consistent.” So much so did David know that his consistent character would be pleasing to the Lord, that he asked the Lord to “*Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart*” (Psalm 26:2).

2. “*... I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.*” Psalm 26:1b
 King David believed and obeyed what the Lord showed him to do. He knew his obedience would keep him from backsliding away from the Lord.

Continued on Page 2

“Mother, You Haven’t Lived That Life!”

Walter Knight

Dr. Philpot was called to the bedside of a dying girl. In life, she had lived for the sinful things of the Christ-rejecting world. The faithful minister did his best to cause her to see her need of the Saviour; pleading, praying, and quoting God’s Word to her. Seemingly, he could make no impression on the dying girl.

As a final effort, he called in her mother. The mother, with heart-breaking sorrow, also pled with the girl to accept Christ as her Saviour. The girl listened stonily, and then she said these

Continued on Page 2

“I Have ...”

Continued from Page 1

3. *“For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.”*

Psalms 26:3

David also obeyed the truths from the Scriptures.

4. *“I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.”* *Psalms 26:4*

To keep his testimony clean and pure, the king was very careful with whom he kept company. He knew that associations with certain people reflected what others thought of him.

To keep his character from being tainted, he kept away from people that were “worthless, fruitless, proud, showy, deceitful” (vain persons) and those that were hypocritical (dissemblers). He knew what people thought of him reflected on his testimony for the Lord.

5. *“I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.”*

Psalms 26:5

David had a tremendous disdain for sin, and kept as far away from it as he could. His attitude certainly did not show any toleration of sin.



“I would not give much for your religion, unless it can be seen. Lamps do not talk, but they are supposed to shine.”

“Our history is a better guide than our good intentions.”

6. *“LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.”* *Psalms 26:8*

The king may have hated the things God hates, but he loved the things God loved, especially the House of the Lord. He liked being around the people of God and places that honored Him.

David was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). Oh, if we would purpose with all our heart and actions to have such a testimony and desires as did the great king.

“Mother, You Haven’t Lived That Life!”

Continued from Page 1

indicting words to her mother, “Mother, you can’t talk to me now. You haven’t lived that life before me!” Ah, how great will be our accountability before God if we, by low, lustful living cause others to stumble into Hell because of our testimony.

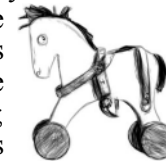
Imitators of Christ

Edited from an article by C. H. Spurgeon

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;”

Ephesians 5:1

Imitate God, not as slaves might imitate their master unwillingly, dreading the crack of his whip; but loving, willing imitators, such as children are. You do not urge your children to imitate you, but they do so even in their games. See how the boy rides his wooden horse as does his father; and the girl imitates



her mother, who takes care of her. You see the minister’s little boy trying to preach like his father; and you all see the tiny girl with a Bible in front of her and an ancient pair of spectacles upon her nose, saying, “Now I’m grandmamma.” They copy us naturally. They cannot help it.

Such will be the holiness of the genuine Christian. He is born from above, and hence, he lives above. His imitation of God springs out of his relationship to God. Holiness must be spontaneous, or it is spurious. We cannot be driven to holiness like a mule to his plowing. We must delight in the law of God after the inward man.

Be imitators because you do not wish for anything better than to be like your Father. Have no ambition in the world except for the aspiration to be holy, even as God is holy.

Orthopraxy

Author Unknown

Orthopraxy is “the belief that right action is as important as religious faith.” It defines a life that is living straight. Orthodoxy is thinking straight.

The two do not coincide at all times. Some think straight, but do not live straight. Others live straight, but do not think straight. Because these generalizations are true, some declare that it does not matter about one’s doctrine if his conduct conforms to the standards of “right.” But, why the emphasis upon one to the neglect of the other? Why not insist upon both at the same time — correct thinking and correct living? Why the folly of substituting the one for the other?

According to You

Author Unknown

*We are living a gospel
A chapter each day,
By deed that we do,
By word that we say;
Men read what we live,
Whether faithless or true.
Say! What is the Gospel
According to you?*

“A brief, expressive eulogy was pronounced by Martin Luther upon pastor Nicholas Haussmann in 1522. It was, ‘What we preach, he lived!’”

Insects found in the Bible



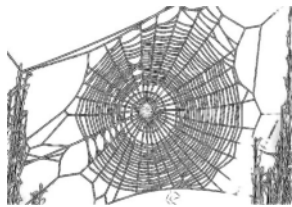
Words to Find:
 ants
 bees
 beetles
 cankerworms
 flea
 flies
 gnat
 grasshoppers
 hornets
 lice
 locusts
 moth
 palmerworms
 scorpions
 spiders
 worms



God Used a Spider

Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching

The story has been told of a believer, Frederick Nolan, who was fleeing from his enemies during a time of persecution in North Africa. Pursued by them over hill and valley with no place to hide, he fell exhausted into a wayside cave, expecting his enemies to find him soon. Awaiting his death, he saw a spider weaving a web. Within



minutes, the little bug had woven a beautiful web across the mouth of the cave. The pursuers arrived and wondered if Nolan was hiding there. On seeing the unbroken and unmangled piece of spider art, they thought it impossible for him to have entered the cave without dismantling the web; and so they went on.

Having escaped, Nolan burst out of the cave and exclaimed, "Where God is, a spider's web is like a wall! Where God is not, a wall can be like a spider's web!"

The Bible View



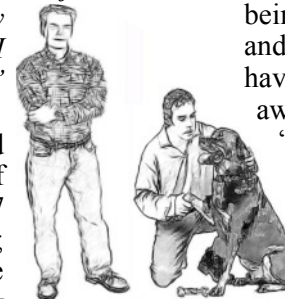
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Vol.: 567

Don't Mess With Me! I've Got Bodyguards!

Bill Brinkworth

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.
 Psalm 28:7



I cannot read the first part of Proverbs 28:7 without smiling; as it reminds me of a time in my youth. As a scrawny, 89 pound (when-soaking-wet) kid, I had to be careful who I said what to and where. It would not take much of a bully to teach me a painful lesson because of my sometimes big, provoking mouth.

One day I met a boy much bigger than I. He had a reputation as a tough and rough person, and people had to be careful what they said around him. We became good friends, and I hung around him at home and at school. He had a friend

that was also fairly large, and we also became friends.

I found that I was not so shy, quiet, and careful when I was around those two. Sometimes, with one on my left and the other on my right, I even found myself being brave, trying to be tough, and letting my provoking mouth have its way. I knew I could get away with it, because I had my "bodyguards" protecting me. Any one that wanted to shut my foolish mouth would have to deal with my rough and tough defenders. I certainly felt safe when in that situation.

Continued on Page 2

There Can be Safety!

Bill Brinkworth

When a Christian is living a life close to God, he will have guidance, security, and assurance when he needs it. Paul realized this closeness of God several times during his ministry. One such event was recorded in Acts 27:22-24.

Continued on Page 3

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Don't Mess With Me! ...

Continued from Page 1

Soon, I outgrew my “protection” and went on with my life. I went back to wisely watching what came out of my mouth. Then over thirteen years later, something wonderful happened in my life; I was saved!

It was not long afterwards that I started reading my Bible. I learned that I did have to watch what my unkind mouth said; but I also learned that since I now was a child of God, that I had protection all around me. I had no reason to fear, because nothing could happen to me that God did not allow or know about. I was safe and secure.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Tim. 1:7

I learned that:

- *“The LORD is my strength ...” Prov. 28:7* God will give me strength to face any trial or tribulation this life throws at me. A situation may look frightening and with no hope in sight, but He WILL give me the power to face and defeat my “Goliath” (I Samuel 17)! He has done it thousands of times in my life!
- *“...and my shield; ...” Prov. 28:7* Just like a soldier’s shield shunned any arrows, rocks, or spears thrown at him, the Lord will protect His own from what they face

in this life. He is the “shield” that will protect us when we drive down the road, from the plans of our enemies, from sin, and whatever can happen in one’s life.

- Not only do we have God’s protection, but also we have His heavenly host surrounding and protecting us. Angels do God’s bidding on Earth, and protect His own. I am supernaturally protected! *“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” Psa. 34:7*

- God knows the dangers we will be facing well ahead of time, and will protect us from dangers we may not even know are there! He is our “high tower” observer and defender!

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.” Psalm 18:2

It has been a long time since I had my “bodyguards.” However, I am safer and more secure than I have ever been. I have better protection. I have the Lord protecting me, and nothing can happen to me unless it is God’s will; and if it is God’s will, He will give me the strength and grace to face that

challenge.

If you are born again, you too can have that security. You can be “safe and secure” as an old hymn reminds us.

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

There Can be Safety!

Continued from Page 1

In this occurrence, an angel appeared to Paul. He told Paul that although the storm would destroy the boat he was in, he and the other passengers on the boat would survive (Acts 27:22). The prophecy came true.

Many times throughout the Bible, others that were close to God also had God’s guidance and assurance of future events. There were many prophetic assurances given to God’s people throughout the Bible. These include:

- God showed Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:19).
- God told Moses he would not see the Promised Land because of his sin.
- God showed Rebekah she would have twins (Gen. 25).
- God showed Peter how he was to die (II Peter 1:14).

God can give one walking close to Him assurance also about upcoming events these

days. Most likely it will not be through angels as was done for Paul, or via dreams as done with others. Today we are to live by faith and the instructions from the Word of God. Now a person is encouraged by a Scripture reading. Other times it is just an unexplainable peace of mind that encourages a person that God will work out a situation in a positive way. Often, it is circumstances that lead one to know that God is in charge of the situation, and that everything will be okay. No matter how God does it, He still looks over and often encourages His own.

Safe on the Tree

Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching

A vine clings to a tree, and in so doing, finds the protection in times of trial that preserves it. If a violent storm should arise and the vine is on the side of the tree away from the wind, the tree serves to protect the vine from the wind, which would otherwise tear it away and rip it into shreds. If the vine is on the exposed side of the tree, the wind serves only to press the vine closer to the tree it already clings to.

In the storms of our life, God will at times set himself between us and the fury of the storm and so protect us from it. At other times, he will expose us to the storm, so that its ravages may serve to press us closer to Him. No matter what happens, we are safe and protected!

A CHRISTIAN IS . . .



Words to Find:
 Adopted
 Born Again
 Chosen
 Dead To The World
 Elected
 Forgiven
 Glorified
 Holy
 Immortal
 Justified
 Kings
 Loving
 Merciful
 New Creature
 Obedient
 Patient
 Quicken
 Redeemed
 Saved
 Transformed
 Unspotted
 Vigilant
 Workman
 Yielded
 Zealous

God's Way

Bill Brinkworth

All the misinformation and beliefs of today that state there is one God, but many different ways to Heaven are not biblical. There is one God, and there is only one way to get to His heaven or to please Him. That way is clearly preserved for us in the Word of God. **JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION.** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:5-6

While most will nod their head in agreement at this verse, they do not truly understand what it means when Jesus says, "I am the way..." It means He is the only

way, and there is nothing else that can be added or can be done, only accepting His gift of eternal life.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:23

He is the way to Heaven; not by good deeds or works.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Most false religions (many call themselves "Christian") teach if your good works outweigh your bad, you will go to heaven. No one is righteous (Rom. 3:10), so our good works will not suffice in

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The **Bible View**



A free publication from: www.TheBibleView.com Vol.: 568

We Gained It All

Bill Brinkworth

From time to time many Christians lose sight of who they are in God's eyes. In I Peter 2, Peter gives us at least eight reminders regarding who the child of God really is.



He is chosen (vs. 9). As sinful as we have been, and even though we have let God down so many times, He has chosen us!

He makes up the royal priesthood. In Old Testament times there were priests picked because of the family they had come from – the tribe of Levi. Although there are to be no priests in this New Testament age that function as did the Old Testament priest, each believer is a priest. They can go directly to the Lord in prayer for themselves and others, as did the Old Testament priests. They can give their lives for the needs of others. We are born into the royal family of God and can boldly go to the throne room of God.

He makes up a "holy

nation" (vs. 9). With their sins all forgiven, in God's sight we are a holy people. We are not better than anyone else. We are not perfect. However, by the grace of God, in His eyes, we are holy.

He is a peculiar person (vs. 9). A Christian should think, act, and live differently than the unsaved. In the eyes of the unsaved, the Christian is odd because he is not living like the world and is doing his best to obey God's commandments.

Continued on Page 2

Christian in Name Only

Bill Brinkworth

There are many that claim to be Christian, but are not! They are heathen. Heathen are the unsaved, and those bound for Hell. Calling themselves Christians will not make them saved. Examine what the Bible says about heathen cloaked under the name "Christian":

Heathens are sometimes called Christians or God's people.

Continued on Page 2

We Gained It All

Continued from Page 1

He is a part of the “people of God” (vs. 10). A Christian belongs to the largest family in the world — the family of God.

He is a stranger in this world (vs. 11). “Strangers” in the Old Testament were gentiles that lived with the Jews. They were around the Jews, but they were not the same as they. They were tolerated, but they were different. The Christian, because of his adoption into the family of God, lives among the lost in this world, but does not quite fit in with them.

He is a pilgrim (vs. 11). A pilgrim is one who is traveling through a certain place without a permanent abode. The Christian is bound for heaven and just “passing through” this temporary life.

Instead of being envious of what the world is doing, and what they temporarily have, we need to remember a born-again person is a child of God. By God’s grace we have far more than we deserve. We are on the winning side. Let the lost follow our example, rather than our following theirs — the losing side. Be proud if you are a Christian, not indecisive and trying to live in both worlds.

“What did you have to give up to be a Christian? Hell!”

Christian in Name ...

Continued from Page 1

“... *That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.*” Amos 9:11-12 This verse is speaking of a time not yet come, but the principle applies to these latter days. Not all that claim to be children of God are children of God

Heathens pray.

“... *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*” Matthew 6:6-7 It is ironic that the outline for prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) that follows these verses is what many so-called “Christian” faiths vainly (without thought or meaning, empty of feeling) pray over and over again.

Heathens have religion also!

“... *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*” Matthew 15:7-9 There have always been those that believe themselves to be children of God, but were not. It was the religious that had killed Jesus and persecuted His followers.

Heathens can think God is using them. (But many times,

Satan the deceiver is blinding them, and deceiving them with false miracles from “God”)

“*Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*” Matthew 7:20-23

Heathens can go through religious routines and rituals.

“*Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth ... and you thrust out.*” Luke 13:26-28 They went to the house of God, but that didn’t make them His.

Many are religious, but lost. There is only one way to be a child of God — God’s way.

“The road to Hell is paved with good intentions.”

— Boswell

God’s Way

Continued from Page 4

getting anyone to Heaven. Giving, being kind, not stealing, not murdering, trying not to sin, helping the poor, reading the Bible, going to church, praying, and being a good person may be some of the right things to do, but they do not save one from Hell. No one can earn their way to Heaven. The way to Heaven has already been purchased for us. We have to accept what Christ did for us with His payment for our sins.

“... *we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ...*” Hebrews 10:10-12

He is the way and not rituals. Some practices may be biblical, but they will never get one to Heaven. These include: baptism (never does the Bible mention infant baptism), marriage, and communion. There is nothing you can do to earn salvation; it was all done and paid for by Christ’s finished work on the cross.

He is the way and not man-made religion. Man’s influence on God’s way of salvation is sometimes very subtle; but if we follow what is not God’s way, it will not get us to Heaven. If we follow a church’s way that is not biblical and trust it to get us to heaven, we will be horribly shocked.

JESUS' TITLES



Words to Find:
Advocate
Alpha
Author
Blessed
Captain
Christ
Deliverer
Everlasting
Faithful
First
God
King
Light
Lord
Mediator
Messiah
Mighty
Omega
Redeemer
Saviour
Shepherd
Truth
Way
Wonderful

Jesus Sees Our Sins

Caird

Jesus sees sin not only in our outward acts, but in the hidden source of evil, the hearts of man. No soft veil can disguise sin from Jesus' penetrating eye. He has no illusions from our words as He is the Incarnate Truth, and knows

our hypocrisy and vice. Wherever we think we have hidden our sin, Jesus still sees it. Our sin was to Him as if a mask were torn off, and a skeleton face was revealed in all its hideousness. Knowing and seeing all He has, Jesus still suffered for all sinners. Oh, what great love He has for the sinner!

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The **Bible View**




A free publication from: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 569

Out of the Scary Dark

Author Unknown

An Alpine traveler and his guide, while crossing a glacier, were forced into a crevasse where no human power could rescue them. At last, a small river was found that pierced the mountain of ice, which they followed into a dark, cold, and ever narrowing passage. It finally ended in the roaring gulf of a larger sub-glacial river. To plunge into its gloom and whirl seemed to be a leap into the jaws of death, but there was no other alternative.

The guide made the plunge, crying, "Follow me." They were tossed about the icy waters, and deafened by its roar, but in a few moments were swept out into the summer air and green vale of Chaumont. Jesus has passed through the sullen stream of death; and with Him we need fear no evil, but shall find our-

selves safely conducted to the summer-land beyond.

The Verdict

Edited from an article by C. H. Spurgeon

I have seen a famous painting entitled, "Waiting for the Verdict." What interest is displayed on every face in the courtroom! What fear and trembling are upon the countenance of the prisoner; in the faces of his wife and the friends around him. What anxiety is seen!

If a favorable verdict was given by jury and judge, the picture would have been painted much differently. If the prisoner was acquitted, what joy would have been seen around the courtroom.

It is not possible to bring in a verdict of "Not Guilty" for you and for me. We are undoubtedly guilty of sin and deserve the
Continued on Page 2



“ Turn your face toward the Son, and the shadows will all fall behind you.”

“Jesus used a borrowed tomb, because He did not need it for long!”

The Verdict

Continued from Page 1

worst punishment handed down from the most honorable, righteous Judge. Because of the substitution of Jesus’ death for our sins and God’s divine grace, the Judge will give those that are saved the verdict “There is now no condemnation”. What joy will be in the countenance of all that hear that from God’s declaration.

Don’t Just Display the Sword; Take It Out of the Scabbard

C. H. Spurgeon

When a man gets a sword, you cannot be quite certain how he will use it. If a gentleman has purchased a very expensive sword with a golden hilt and an elaborate scabbard, he may hang it up on his hall, and exhibit it to his friends. Occasionally, he may draw it out from the sheath, and say, “Feel how keen the edge is!”

The precious blood of Jesus is not meant for us merely to admire and exhibit. We must not be content to talk about it, and extol it, and do nothing with it. We are to use it in the great crusade against unholiness and un-

righteousness. The precious blood is to be used for overcoming our obstacles, and for holy warfare. We dishonor it, if we do not use it to that end.

What Christ Is to the World

Author Unknown

- ❖ The world’s Creator:
John 1:1-3.
- ❖ The world’s Example:
Mat. 16:24.
- ❖ The world’s Teacher:
Mat. 7:28-29.
- ❖ The world’s Master:
John 13:13.
- ❖ The world’s Saviour:
Luke 19:10.
- ❖ The world’s Lord:
Rom. 10:12.
- ❖ The world’s King:
Rev. 11:15.
- ❖ The world’s Light:
John. 8:12.
- ❖ The world’s Love:
John 3:16.

“Leonardo da Vinci took a friend to examine his masterpiece, “The Last Supper.” The friend remarked, picture is the cup!”

The artist quickly took his brush and wiped out the cup, as he said, “Nothing in my painting shall attract more attention than the Master!”

“It is a terrible mistake to understand Jesus as having been crucified by some especially bad people in the first century. Jesus was crucified by the highest reach of human religiosity, morality, and political justice.” — Albert T. Mollegen

Seeking Jesus

Mossell

*I sought Thee when my heart was low,
I found Thee and my hopes revived,
And all the world from me shall know
What comfort I from Thee derived;
All that I needed, all and more,
Thy presence did to me restore.*

*I laid my burden at Thy feet,
My head upon Thy tender breast,
Thy name of Love I did repeat,
And Thou didst understand the rest;
All that I needed, all and more,
Thy presence did to me restore.*

*I wept the sorrow of my heart,
And Thou mine eyes didst gently dry;
I sighed through fear that we must part,
But Thou didst whisper, “Ever nigh!”
It was enough, I asked no more,
Thy voice did all my life restore.*

*And now that life to Thee I’ll give,
With calmer trust and brighter*

*joy;
In Thee, and for Thee, I will live,
To do Thy will my sole employ;
Thus most secure to part no more
With that sweet joy Thou didst restore.*

Christ’s Last Will and Testament

Author Unknown

1. He left His purse to Judas;
2. His body to Joseph of Arimathea;
3. His mother to John;
4. His clothes to the soldiers;
5. His peace to His disciples;
6. His supper to His followers;
7. Himself as an example and as a servant;
8. His Gospel to the world;
9. His presence always with God’s children.

Jesus, the Protector

John Bate

I doubt not many of the Israelites, when they found that Moses or Aaron was the means of staying the plague among them, rushed to hide themselves under Moses’ or Aaron’s protective care. They rushed to God.

You that know Jesus to be such an effectual Intercessor with God, should you not run to save yourselves from the punishment of sin, by throwing yourselves beneath His gracious protection?





- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Words to Find: | <i>David</i> | <i>Isaiah</i> | <i>Nebuchadnezzar</i> |
| <i>Aaron</i> | <i>Deborah</i> | <i>Jehoshaphat</i> | <i>Pilate</i> |
| <i>Abraham</i> | <i>Eleazar</i> | <i>Jesus</i> | <i>Reuel</i> |
| <i>Asa</i> | <i>Eli</i> | <i>Korah</i> | <i>Samuel</i> |
| <i>Darius</i> | <i>Gideon</i> | <i>Moses</i> | <i>Saul</i> |
| | <i>Herod</i> | <i>Melchizedek</i> | <i>Solomon</i> |

“Lord, Teach America to Pray!”

Author Unknown

And as her flag unfurls on high
 Its starry splendor to the sky,
 May we, in grateful thanks to
 Thee
 Who gave to us this land so
 free,
 Preserve her freedom in Thy
 way.



Lord, teach America to pray!
 May our good land be true and
 just,
 Her motto e'er “In God we
 Trust.”
 May she be guided by Thy Word,
 Thy wisdom in her halls be
 heard.
 May all who love her plead
 today,
 Lord, teach America to
 pray!

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Vol.: 570

**Government of-by-for
 the People**

Dr. Earle E. Lee

How many forms of government did God ordain in the HISTORY of creation? God ordained three forms of government recorded in His Word, the Bible. In order they are:

☞ First, God ordained family government in Genesis when he created Adam and Eve, male and female, husband and wife and commanded them to multiply and replenish the earth. Family government involved husband, wife and children with parental responsibilities to govern the family. The family would raise children to become mature, respectful adults who in turn would marry and create more units of family government. (Gen. 1 & 2)

☞ Second, God ordained civil government as evidenced by the ten commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. These concise commandments dealt with man’s relationship to God first and established life principles for how each individual in society should

treat his fellow man, woman, and children. These principles formed the basis of the laws of the USA, which made our country great.

Continued on Page 2

A Dangerous Omission

Christian Herald



The closing part of Lincoln’s famous Gettysburg address reads, “We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” It is a wonderful ideal, but are we not in danger of omitting those two vital words, “under God”? A “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” may be little more than a form of tyranny, but government of the people, for the people under God, is a form of government that honors God, that submits to His righteous rule, and that is exalted thereby.

Government of-by ...

Continued from Page 1

☞ Third, God created ecclesiastical/church government in Colossians 1:18, “And he is the head of the body, the church...”, and verse 24, “...The afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church.” Christ started the church which exists today and gave specific governance principles for the church.

These three God-ordained governments can be best illustrated by three interlocking perfect circles with the church at the top, family and civil government side by side below that.

Here are distinct roles for each form of government that our founding fathers recognized in order to create government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In basic brief details they are:

☞ The family had authority and responsibility to govern the family with father and mother working together to raise and govern the children. Civil government and ecclesiastical/church government had no authority over the family other than to encourage strong families in their duties as the basic unit of good government and churches, but never to

usurp family governmental duties to themselves.

☞ Civil government had authority to provide national defense, protect civil liberties by rewarding good and punishing evil doers, and exercise capital punishment. Family and ecclesiastical/church government was to support civil government in its duties, but never to usurp civil governmental duties to them.

☞ Ecclesiastical/church had authority and responsibility to lead the individuals that made up the family to a right relationship with their Creator by understanding God’s purpose for their lives here on earth and after death. Family and civil government were never to usurp ecclesiastical/church governmental authority to themselves.

As the illustration above depicts the trinity of God-ordained government, patterned after the triune Creator God, it is clearly revealed by the interlocking of the circles that each of the governments work together to create harmony through government of the people, by the people, and for the people, while supporting each other’s distinct God-ordained roles.

In God’s order of establishing three governmental bodies, it is abundantly clear that individuals that make up family government

are and must be the individuals that are involved in civil and ecclesiastical/church government.

Christian family members that do not get involved by voting, and running for office in civil government and attending with active involvement in ecclesiastical/church affairs are failing to meet God’s ordained role of the members that make up family government.

May God grant each of you the wisdom to exercise your God-ordained role as an individual in the elections of 2018, and beyond; fulfilling your role in government of the people, by the people, and for the people that our founding fathers gave us to make our country the greatest country on the earth since creation.

“Only Way Out Is Up!”

Walter B. Knight

On a gray morning during World War I, the Prime Minister of Britain, David Lloyd George, stood grim-faced before his compatriots, members of the British Cabinet. The seriousness of the situation was evident upon the faces of all. Said David Lloyd George, “Gentlemen, we are fighting with our backs to the wall. The only way out is up; our only hope is God; let us pray!” When nations turn to

“Arguments seldom settle things, but prayer changes things!”

“America may die from the delusion she has moral leadership!”

— Will Rogers

God in their trouble, deliverance is not distant.

Lincoln’s Concern

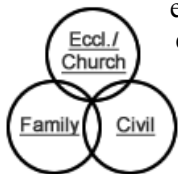
Baptist Standard

One day, when the Civil War was raging its worst, a minister said to Lincoln, “I surely hope the Lord is on our side.” Lincoln replied, “I am not at all concerned about that, for I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right; but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I, and this nation, should be on the Lord’s side.”

The Greatness of America

Author Unknown

About two hundred years ago, De Tocqueville of France visited America. Upon his return home he wrote, “I sought for the greatness of America in her harbors and rivers and fertile fields, and her mines and commerce. It was not there. Not until I went into churches and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the greatness of her power. America is great because she is good; and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”



“The things that are wrong with the country today are the sum total of all the things that are wrong with us as individuals.” — Charles W. Tobey

New Testament Churches



Words to Find:	<i>Corinth</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>Thyatira</i>
<i>Antioch</i>	<i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Philippi</i>	<i>Troas</i>
<i>Babylon</i>	<i>Galatia</i>	<i>Rome</i>	
<i>Berea</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>Sardis</i>	
<i>Colosse</i>	<i>Laodicea</i>	<i>Smyrna</i>	
	<i>Pergamos</i>	<i>Thessalonica</i>	

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Family Time

Bill Brinkworth

As Paul concludes his letter to the Roman church in Romans 16, he spent the whole chapter remembering Christians he knew in the ministry. He named 28 individuals and remarked what they had meant to him, or how they had been useful in the ministry. They were more than acquaintances to him. The people in a church were close to his heart.

Going to church for us should also be more than just nodding at people as they pass us in the aisle or shaking their hands as we see them in Sunday school. Church is where those of like faith and beliefs gather. It should be a place removed from the world, where we can be with our own kind — Christians. In that place, we are no longer a “peculiar” people as the unsaved see us. In that fellowship, we are with others of similar beliefs. We are with members of the family of God.



Church is a place where some hear the Gospel for the first time

and get saved. It should be a place where the Bible is taught, and people learn more about God’s Word. In church, Christians can hear what the Lord has laid on the under shepherd’s heart, and learn how they can be better Christians. It is a place where people can be burdened for needs they see or hear about and can get involved in a ministry themselves.

Continued on Page 2

The Devil’s Tactics in Today’s Church

J. Vernon McGee

When the Devil saw that persecution would not stop the church, he changed to a different tactic. He joined the church. He began to hurt the church from the inside. He still does that today. He attacks the validity of the Word of God, and he tries to discredit the Gospel. If that doesn’t work, he tries to discredit the man who preaches the Gospel.

“God wants full custody of His children, not just Sunday visiting rights.”

““Going to church is family time.”

— Charles Tobey

Family Time

Continued from Page 1

Church also is a place where we are among those of like faith. I know I cannot speak for all churches, as too many have too much of the world in them; but church should be a place where we can be far from godless living, and be closer to God. In church, we can be encouraged by other Christians. All week we are swimming against the current of the world. It can spiritually tire us out. Being around our own kind can reward us with advice, encouragement, or even seeing how other Christians handle their problems; so we can successfully run our own spiritual race.

Those Christians that are not faithful in church attendance miss the help and encouragement of being around their own kind. It is not just the preaching, teaching, church dinners, and special events that we need. We need to feel, for the time we are with others of like faith; that we are not alone in this world. We need to know there are others like us. No wonder Paul addressed many individually. They were important to him, because they were part of his spiritual family — the family of God.

“The church is to feed the sheep, not to entertain the goats!”

— A. W. Tozer

Back Seat Problem

Author Unknown



“I wonder,”
said good
Parson Jones
With a little
troubled
frown,
“If there is
any way to get

You folks seated farther down?

“You see I have to talk across
So many empty pews,
Before my voice can reach the
back,
I fear my point you lose.

“And then I feel so lonesome,
Way up here and you clear back
there,
It’s hard to feel you’re with me
When I come to God in prayer.

“I wonder if you folks are scared
Of what I’m going to preach
That you hurry so to park
In the farthest back seat?”

“Or do you fear the church some
day
Will suddenly catch afire?
Or do you want to slip out quick
If of my subject you tire?”

“I wish you’d come up closer
So I wouldn’t have to shout;
If you don’t, I’m going to have
Those back seats taken out!”

What My Absence in Church Did

Author Unknown

- It made some question the reality of Christianity.

- It made some think that I was a pretender.
- It made many regard my spiritual welfare and that of others as a matter of small concern.
- It weakened the effect of the church service.
- It made it more difficult for the preacher to preach.
- It discouraged the brethren, and therefore robbed them of a blessing.
- It caused others to stay away from church.
- It made it harder for me to meet the temptations I faced this week.
- It gave me a poor Christian testimony with those that know I am a Christian.
- It gave the Devil more power over lost souls.
- It encouraged the bad habit of non-church going.

Upper or Supper Room?

Author Unknown

The early church prayed in the upper room. Today’s church cooks in the supper room. Today the supper room, or the church kitchen, has taken the place of the “upper room”.

Play has taken the place of prayer, and feasting has taken the place of fasting. There are more full stomachs than there are bended knees and broken hearts. There is more fire in the range in the kitchen, than there is in the pulpit. When you build a fire in the church kitchen and the smells

permeate the building, it often puts out the fire in the pulpit. Ice cream awaiting to be eaten chills the fervor of spiritual life.

The early Christians were not cooking in the supper room the day the Holy Ghost came. They were praying in the upper room. They were not waiting on tables. They were waiting on God. They were not waiting for the fire from the stove, but for the fire from above. They were detained by the command of God, and not entertained by the cunning of men. They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, not stuffed with a stew or roast.

Oh, I would like the cooking crew put out, and the praying band put in. We need less ham and sham, and more Heaven; less pie, and more piety; less use for the cookbook, and more use for the old Book. Put out the fire in the kitchen and build it on the altar; more love and more life; fewer dinners and getting more sinners in the church. Let us have a church full of waiters on God, and a church full of servers, serving God.

“The Christian church is a society of sinners. It is the only society in the world in which membership is based upon the single qualification that the candidate shall be unworthy of membership.”

— Morrison

Romans 6:23



Words to Find:
“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The Ink Spot

Hare, (1796-1834)

The mind of man has been compared to a white sheet of paper. Whatever we write upon the writing material and every drop of ink that falls upon it makes a permanent mark. This mark cannot be rubbed out without much injury to the paper. Even while the ink may be somewhat fresh, it cannot be eliminated. Sometimes a bigger mess is made while attempting to remove the spot. Every ink speck embeds itself

into the paper. If we even try to write over it, we may make a deeper blot. If we try to scratch it out, the next letters which we write on the spot are blurred.

Likewise, every sin, however small we may deem it, affects our lives. Therefore, it is of vast importance that we should be very careful of what we “write” on our lives. Sin will harm all who allow its life-altering marks to soil themselves. This is why we are to separate ourselves from it and to avoid it at all costs.

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Too Close to the Jalapenos

Bill Brinkworth

A friend of mine graciously gave me a few fresh jalapeno peppers from his garden. We usually do not eat anything “hot,” but sometimes a recipe calls for them, and I thought it would be a good idea to have some handy for when they were needed.



I took those fresh peppers and cut them up very carefully for freezing. I knew the juice could be harmful if it got in one’s eyes or mouth, and made sure it did not get on my body. I did handle them with caution, and after bagging them, I washed my hands very carefully three times.

Much later, I washed my face. Not once do I recall getting a drop on my face, but when water got on my face, the pain began. Apparently, just the vapors of the “hot” vegetable got on my face, up my nose, and even down my throat. When rinsing my face, the waters activated the pepper’s juice and I had to deal with the agonizing pain for the rest of the day, and still felt some

of the pain on my face the next day.

Continue on Page 2

The “Harmless” Ivy

Spurgeon.

In the gardens of Hampton Court, you will see many trees entirely vanquished and strangled by huge coils of ivy. They are round about them like the strangling snakes around a victim. Every hour the rootlets of the climber are sucking the life out of the unhappy tree.



In its beginning, the ivy was a tiny, harmless appearing plantlet, only requiring a little aid in climbing. Had it been denied then, the tree would have never become its victim. The humble weakling grew in strength and arrogance; and at last it assumed the mastery, and the tall tree became the prey of the creeping destroyer.

The moral is too obvious. Sorrowfully, do we remember many noble characters which have been

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Too Close to the ...

Continued from Page 1

While dealing with the vegetable's side effects, I could not help but think how sin affects one's life very similarly to what I suffered from the jalapeno's juice. No, sin may not burn one's face or immediately cause pain, but one does not even have to be in direct contact with sin to reap the damage it can do.

One may not commit adultery, but watching suggestive television or movies can put lustful thoughts in one's life, changing how one thinks about being faithful in his marriage. Perhaps, one never would even think about doing anyone harm, but after years of seeing violence on television, killing the "bad guys" on a video game, or seeing it much in a family or work situation, it may be easier for one to act more violently when angry. Stealing may be one thing one would never contemplate, but after hearing of peers that shoplifted and did not get caught, it may now be considered a solution for one's getting what one wants. One may never imagine himself being involved in a certain sin, but continual exposure to it by being around those involved in the sin or seeing it repeatedly via different media may have one considering such a sin or changing one's thoughts to

"One leak can sink a vessel and drown all. One sin can sink one's life as easily."

"it's not that bad."

Sin is so dangerous that distant exposure to it can affect one's life. This is why God commands us not only not to commit it, but to stay as far away as possible from it. Any contact with iniquity can desensitize one to it, and may break down any mental barriers one has in being involved with it. Exposure to sin may not burn your face as did the jalapenos, but it may allow one to be one step closer to committing sin.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," II Corinthians 6:17 Also: Isaiah 52:11, I Thes. 5:22.

The "Harmless" Ivy

Continued from Page 1

ruined by their little habits. Drink has been one's ivy in many cases. For others it may have been dishonesty, laziness, or jealousy. Reader, see to it you are not involved in sin, lest the slowly-advancing iniquity overpower you. People who were murdered by slow poisoning, died just as surely as those who take quicker acting arsenic. Sin hurts everyone!

The Marks That Remained

Mursell

A father told his child that whenever he did anything wrong that the youngster should drive a nail into a post. He also told him that when the child did that which was good, that he could

pull one of the iron spikes out of the post. There were a great many nails driven into the post, but the child tried very hard to get the post cleared of the nails by striving to do right.

At length, he was so successful in his struggles with himself that every nail was drawn out of the post. The father was just about to praise the child, when, stooping down to kiss his son, he was startled to see tears fast rolling down the child's face. "Why, my boy? Why do you cry? Are not all the nails gone from the post?"

"Oh yes! The nails are all gone, but look at the marks that are left."

This familiar illustration reminds many of the damage their past sins have done to their lives. It is even possible to have those sins forgiven and forgotten as one calls on the Lord to do so. However, the havoc done by sin may linger the rest of one's life. That is why it is wisest never to get involved with sin in the first place. There will be no regrets when nothing regrettable has been done.

"I Can't Get Clean"

Mursell

In one of the grandest tragedies of a great English poet, there is a scene which is enough to make one's blood run cold. A woman, whose husband had made himself king of Scotland by means of several murders, and who had been the prompter

and partner of his crimes, came on stage. While in her sleep, she continually rubbed her hands, as though she were washing them. She cried, "Here's a spot! And another! Will these hands ne'er be clean? This blood I have soiled myself with will not come off! All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten its stench."

In her words, this is an awful truth. We can stain our souls with sin. We can dye them, and double-dye them, and even triple-dye them. We can dye them all the colors of Hell's rainbow, but we cannot wash them white. All the sweetest perfumes in the world will not mask the stench they have left on our consciences. All the fountains of the great deep will not wash away one little spot of sin. Its wage, and the guilt it often brings, can linger around much of our life.

The Queen of Scotland had been guilty of murder. The blood from the one she had part in spilling stained her conscience. It is not just the sin stain of murder that robs one of peace. Every sin soils the soul.

In that tragedy, the Queen said, "What's done cannot be undone." Consider those words. One cannot push back the wheels of time, and make yesterday come again; so as to do over afresh what was done wrongly. That which you did in the past cannot be changed. However, a Christian can confess it to the Lord, ask for forgiveness, and earnestly strive not to commit that sin again.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

Psalms 103:12

Christians Are ...



- Words to Find:**
Adopted
Born Again
Chosen
Dead To The World
Elected
Forgiven
Glorified
Holy
Immortal
Justified
Kings
Loving
Merciful
New Creatures
Obedient
Patient
Quickened
Redeemed
Saved
Transformed
Unspotted
Vigilant
Workman
Yielded
Zealous

Unchanged

Beecher

There are scores of men who live for the flesh. They live under the dominion of their senses, yet they often live with full knowledge of truth from God's Word. None know it better than they. There are men that have read every word of Scripture. Some are familiar with every ar-

gument and statement in theology. There are even men that have known and seen much of the power of God in revivals, but there is within them that fixed, rooted, toughened life of sin that refuses to yield itself to any power which can be wielded merely by the hands of men. Too often they die in their sins, unchanged by the truth they often heard.

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Robinson Crusoe's Change of Heart

Excerpts from The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe

Many of the older classic books had a spiritual lesson taught within their pages. The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe, is one of those. The adventures of Robinson, who was ship-wrecked in the mid 1600's, told of his life and how he survived much of the time alone on a deserted island.



Many rewrites of the book and movies leave out the most important theme — that he was disobedient to God and running from His will. Here are excerpts of what the character finally learned about himself:

“Why has God done this to me? What have I done to be thus used? My conscience presently checked me in that inquiry, as if I had blasphemed, and me thought it spoke to me like a voice: ‘Wretch! dost THOU ask what thou hast done? Look back

upon a dreadful misspent life, and ask thyself what thou hast NOT done? Ask, why is it that thou wert not long ago destroyed? Why wert thou not drowned in Yarmouth Roads; killed in the fight when the ship was taken by the Sallee man-of-war; devoured by the wild beasts on the coast of Africa; or drowned HERE, when all the crew perished but thyself? Dost THOU ask, what have I done?’ I was struck dumb with these reflections, as one astonished, and had not a word to say - no, not to answer to myself, but rose up pensive and sad, ... my thoughts were sadly disturbed, and I had no inclination to sleep ...

Continued on Page 2

Not by Argument

J. C. Jones

It is commonplace to think that an argument can convert a soul or change a person's actions. Conquer a man by arguing, and as a rule, you only confirm him

Continued on Page 3

Robinson Crusoe's ...

Continued from Page 1

"... and as the few books I had saved lay there too, I took out one of the Bibles ...

"... having opened the book casually, the first words that occurred to me were these, 'Call on Me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me.' These words were very apt to my case, and made some impression upon my thoughts at the time of reading them, though not so much as they did afterwards; ...

"... that I began to say, as the children of Israel did when they were promised flesh to eat, 'Can God spread a table in the wilderness?' so I began to say, 'Can God Himself deliver me from this place?' And as it was not for many years that any hopes appeared, this prevailed very often upon my thoughts; but, however, the words made a great impression upon me, and I mused upon them very often ...

"... But before I lay down, I did what I never had done in all my life - I kneeled down, and prayed to God to fulfil the promise to me, that if I called upon Him in the day of trouble, He would deliver me. After my broken and imperfect prayer ...

"JULY 4. - In the morning I took the Bible; and beginning at

the New Testament, I began seriously to read it, and imposed upon myself to read a while every morning and every night; not tying myself to the number of chapters, but long as my thoughts should engage me. It was not long after I set seriously to this work till I found my heart more deeply and sincerely affected with the wickedness of my past life. The impression of my dream revived; and the words, 'All these things have not brought thee to repentance,' ran seriously through my thoughts. I was earnestly begging of God to give me repentance, when it happened providentially, the very day, that, reading the Scripture, I came to these words: 'He is exalted a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and to give remission.' I threw down the book; and with my heart as well as my hands lifted up to heaven, in a kind of ecstasy of joy, I cried out aloud, 'Jesus, thou son of David! Jesus, thou exalted Prince and Saviour! give me repentance!' This was the first time I could say, in the true sense of the words, that I prayed in all my life; for now I prayed with a sense of my condition, and a true Scripture view of hope, founded on the encouragement of the Word of God; and from this time, I may say, I began to hope that God would hear me.

"Now I began to construe the words mentioned above, 'Call on Me, and I will deliver thee,' in a different sense from what I had ever done before; for then I had no notion of anything being called DELIVERANCE, but my being delivered from the captiv-

ity I was in; ... But now I learned to take it in another sense: now I looked back upon my past life with such horror, and my sins appeared so dreadful, that my soul sought nothing of God but deliverance from the load of guilt that bore down all my comfort. ... And I add this part here, to hint to whoever shall read it, that whenever they come to a true sense of things, they will find deliverance from sin a much greater blessing than deliverance from affliction....

"...I never had once the words 'Thank God!' so much as on my mind, or in my mouth; nor in the greatest distress had I so much as a thought to pray to Him, or so much as to say, 'Lord, have mercy upon me!' no, nor to mention the name of God, unless it was to swear by, and blaspheme it. I had terrible reflections upon my mind for many months, as I have already observed, on account of my wicked and hardened life past; and when I looked about me, and considered what particular providences had attended me since my coming into this place, and how God had dealt bountifully with me - had not only punished me less than my iniquity had deserved, but had so plentifully provided for me - this gave me great hopes that my repentance was accepted, and that God had yet mercy in store for me."

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

"Arguments seldom change one's mind. However, we still need to be the 'delivery boy' of the Truth, but it only the Holy Spirit that can do any converting!"

Not by Argument

Continued from Page 1

in his error.

Last Monday, I was looking at a picture which bore the title, "Conquered, but Not Subdued." The young lad in the painting was evidently conquered by his mother. There he stood, with his face half turned towards the wall. One could see there was determination in his mouth, defiance in his eye, and anger in his nostrils. He was conquered, but not subdued. Drive a sinner in argument to a corner, so that he cannot escape, he most likely will not change his ways.

You have all seen sheet lightnings. They flash. They dazzle, but they never kill. Arguments after all are only sheet-lightnings - flashing, dazzling, enlightening, but rarely changing anything.

I say nothing against giving logic. Have as much of it from the pulpit as you can and personal encounters; but logic will not save or change too many.

God can never save you by argument. Too many would even rebelliously defy the Almighty in a direct debate. However, one can be changed and wooed when spiritual knowledge is taken by the Holy Spirit and convicts one's soul. It is His revelation, delivering, and reasoning to one's situation and soul that will result in any change.

FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED. Romans 10:13

The “Little” Sins

Continued from Page 1

It is almost invariably through “little” things. He failed to take notice of “little” things, and they accumulated into greater obstacles. He allowed himself the “little” things, and thus formed a strong habit. He relaxed in the “little” things, and thus in time loosened every bond. Because it is a “little” thing, he counted it of little importance, utterly forgetting that little parts make up a whole. Because it is only a small “pebble”, against which his foot strikes, he made light of the hindrance; not caring that he was contracting a habit of stumbling, or of observing that whenever he trips there must be some diminution in the speed with which he runs the way of God's commandments, and that, however slowly, these diminutions brought him to a standstill.

Would to God that I could persuade you of the peril of “little” offenses! We are not half as much afraid of hurting the head against a rock, when we only hurt the foot against a stone.

There is a continued temptation not to turn-around when faced with the “little” road-blocks of temptation and sin. We indulge in the “little” things, forego “little” strictnesses, omit “little” duties; and all with the idea that what looks so light cannot be of real danger.

Because of these “littles”, tens of thousands perish. If they do not come actually and openly to a stand against them, they stumble, getting more and more careless, nearer and nearer to indifference, lowering Christian standards, suffering their religion to be peeled away by inches. They often persuade themselves that they can spare, without injury, such inconsiderable bits, and not perceive that in stripping the bark, they stop the sap.

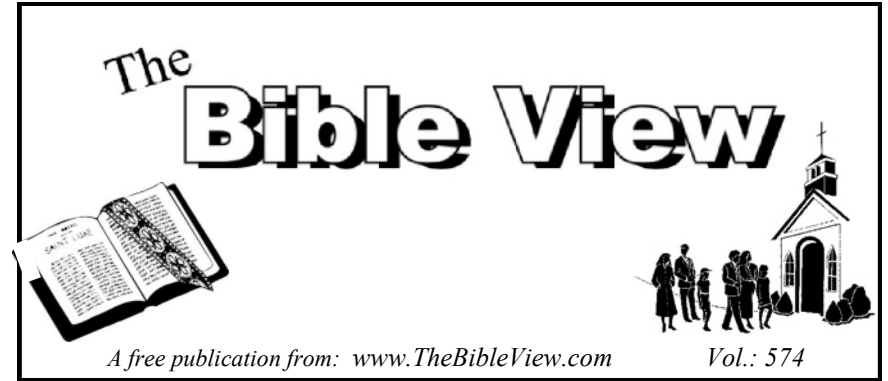
Lost Fellowship

Charles Spurgeon

I once asked a Christian how long it was since he had enjoyed fellowship with Jesus. His reply was, “I feel sorry,” said he, “you have asked me that question. Had you asked me whether I continued in prayer, I would have said, ‘Yes’, for I do constantly pray. Had you inquired whether I endeavored to walk honestly and uprightly before my fellow creatures, I should have said, ‘Yes’, thank God, I hope I have not slipped with my feet ; but when you say, ‘How long is it since you really have had fellowship with Jesus?’ I blush to own that many a day has passed since I have known this high privilege.”

Is that so with you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ? If so, it is very, very sad.

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Blow on the Embers

Bill Brinkworth

To supplement our heater, we use a wood stove. With the right fuel, it produces a roaring fire, and with the damper set just right, a load of wood will burn most of the night and heat the house.

After a night-long burn, the fire seems to have gone out by the morning, but there are still embers. After some poking and attention is given to them, they will easily ignite new fuel and continue to burn the rest of the day. At first there seems to be no hope of re-kindling the night's fire, but, after the burned out ash is pushed aside to expose hidden embers, kindling is laid on top of them, gently blown on; and it is not long until a blaze results from the revived embers.

A born-again child of God can likewise lose the “blaze” for the Lord he once had. There may

have been a time when prayer, church attendance, Bible reading, and other spiritual activities were a priority. Slowly, however, the fervent, spiritual-fire burning and encouraging lifestyle was reduced to a smoldering, hardly-remembered ember.

Continued on Page 2

The “Little” Sins

Edited from an article by Melvil

There is many a man who, for a time, gave steadfast attention to religion, and walked with care in the path of God's commandments, but after a while, declined from spirituality, and drifted far from obedience to God. How does it commonly happen that man falls away from the struggle for compliance to God's commandments? Is it ordinarily through one powerful and undisguised assault that he was turned from the faith, or over one huge obstacle that he was not to rise again? Not so.

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Excuses for drifting far from God will not stand!”

Blow on the Embers

Continued from Page 1

If one is truly born-again the embers are still there. The embers never completely went out. There is no loss of salvation, as some suppose is the reason for no spiritual activity and more involvement in sin. The Bible does teach once saved always saved (II Tim. 1:9, Eph. 2:8-9, John 10:28-29). Since salvation is still there, if one is really saved, there may be just an over-covering of "ash" from sin's participation.

Involvement in sin will not chase the indwelling Holy Spirit away. It will, however, grieve Him enough that He will not speak or move in one's life until the sin is repented of. It is the Holy Spirit that does a work in one's life. It is He that speaks to one's heart, does the convicting resulting in changing one's life, and is responsible for spiritual growth in one's life. When the Holy Spirit is no longer working, it is His refusal to work that often reflects our non-spirituality.

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Eph. 4:30 (Also: Prov. 28:13, I Thes. 5:19,).

Like the seemingly defunct fire, a saved person can once again be the spiritual person he was, or even be closer to God than he was before. There is hope in rekindling spiritual fires again!

The first necessary step to get back to where one once was spiritually or to have any spiritual growth, is to want change! One can feel guilty all they want, or be depressed about one's condition; but if they do not want to change, nothing will ever be altered in one's relationship with God. The fire in my stove would never be re-started unless I wanted it to be. A person has to desire an alteration before anything will change. As much as others want a person to change, their efforts will not be long-lived or not result in any modifications unless the person himself desires to change.

Secondly, the person himself must know what made the spiritual fires cease burning fervently. Was there not enough fuel to keep it burning? Was there no Bible-reading? Was there no prayer life? Was there no spiritual food to feed on? If one feeds fleshly desires with

worldliness, how can one expect the spiritual part of one to grow? Whatever part of us that is fed the most is the one that grows!

Another reason spiritual fires could be gone out is sin over-covering the embers. Sin will quench any desire to live for God. It will sadden the Holy Spirit so much He will not be able work in one's life. The only remedy is to admit (confess) what one has allowed to hamper his relationship with the Lord, ask the Lord to forgive him for his transgression, and, with God's help, purpose not to err that way anymore (Psalms 51:2). If an attempt to get closer to God again results in failure, one can just start all over again. He is a second-chance God, and third chance, and fourth

After this truth is realized the Lord is faithful and just to forgive and forget, and one can get back to where he should have been in his relationship with the Lord. Once again, the Holy Spirit will blow on our "embers" and a "blaze" can be resumed.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9 (Also I John 1:7.)

and having on the breastplate of right-eousness; ... 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"

Eph. 6:11-18

The Christian's care should be to get his armor speedily repaired. An unworn, haltered helmet is next to not having a helmet at all. Grace in decay is like a man bound to his bed by sickness; if some means be not used to recover it, little service will be done by it, or comfort received from God's grace. Therefore Christ gave the Church of Ephesus, to whom John wrote, this counsel,

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent, and do her first works." Rev. 2:5 (Also Acts 26:20)



"There can be no doubt in any man's mind, nor in any man's heart, that God is our sustenance and our strength. Each of us must believe wholeheartedly and fiercely in the power and the glory and the strength of God. Thus, it would be more proper to say that each man must seek the companionship of God. God awaits

— Harold K. Johnson

Repair the Armor

Salter, 1878

"... Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

**The winds
cannot blow
down a tree
that is
rooted in God!**

Armor Up!

Continued from Page 3

spiritual, we need to protect ourselves spiritually. This is done by:

- Being filled with the truth from the Word of God. It is the only thing that will shed real light on where the battle is, and what it is actually about (Eph. 6:14). One cannot be full of truth, if one does not read God's word!
- Purposing in your heart to live righteously; no matter what happens in your life (Eph. 6:14).
- Walking in the way the Gospel commands, not altering your direction just because everyone else is walking in the opposite direction (Eph. 6:15).
- Letting faith and trust in what the Word of God says lead you and protect you from what you may think will happen (Eph. 6:16).
- Having a new mind in Christ when you are saved (I Cor. 2:16). Let holy thinking and decision making guide you (Eph. 6:17).

All the above are spiritual "armors". One defensive weapon in a Christian's arsenal is his

Man's law cannot make moral what God says is immoral!

knowledge and use of the Word of God (Eph. 6:17). Obedience and the following of God's commandments, recorded in its pages, will be how we are delivered from spiritual challenges and battles.



The other defensive weapon a Christian has is his ability to reach the throne room of Heaven in prayer. Since it is a spiritual battle, it takes our spiritual Father to fight and get involved in our dilemmas (Eph. 6:18).

There is a daily, spiritual battle going on. Too many have been wounded and are out of service for the Lord because they never armored-up for the spiritual war that is all around them. God knows best as to how we can survive and win no matter what is happening around us. The only way to win is to daily put on our spiritual armor.

The **Bible View**

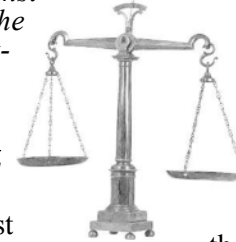


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For Better or For Worse!

Bill Brinkworth

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12



Since the first man and woman were in the Garden where God placed them, there has always been a battle between good and evil. Sometimes the battle is personal; sometimes it is on a much bigger scale, as when it involves large groups of people or even nations.

None of the combatants in any of the battles have been totally righteous and without sin. Rarely has a country ever had a leader that was 100% sold out to God and obedient to His commandments. All the leaders were just like us — sinners. In most of the confrontations, there was usually one side more unrighteous than the other was. The upcoming election in America is no exception.

Proverbs 28 points out many

of the opposing philosophies in personal struggles and the clashing of governing forces. Many of the battles are actually spiritual battles involving:

Guilt vs. Confidence. A person that is living by his own rules, principles, and opinions will not have total peace. They often make wrong decisions, and see situations, obstacles, and people differently. Many times they have their own personal agenda, and it may not be for the benefit of most people. There are often guilt and lack of confidence in what they are doing.

Continued on Page 2

Armor Up!

Bill Brinkworth

Finishing his letter to the Ephesians, Paul reminds them of one important fact that all should never forget. We need to remember that there is a daily spiritual battle going on. We cannot see the enemy, or whom the battle is against, but it constantly rages.

The battle is not between people that we think are the reason for our many conflicts. The root

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For Better or For Worse!

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However, one that has some grounding in biblical morality and knows what is right in God's eyes will stand up often against overwhelming odds that he discerns as unrighteousness.

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion." Prov. 28:1

Immorality vs. Morality.

Even though many may think biblical commandments no longer apply to "modern" man, they do! There will usually be many that feel comfortable doing wrong, and if they have their will and way will bring a country to destruction. Sin NEVER prospers anyone! However, the bold stand of the few that understand biblical principles, live by them, and boldly proclaim them can preserve a nation from being destroyed. There will often be a struggle between the two groups.

"For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged." Prov. 28:2

"They that forsake the law [the laws of God] praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them." Prov. 28:4

“

No enactment of man can be considered law unless it conforms to the law of God."

— Sir William Blackstone

Spiritually blinded vs. Spiritually discerning. Those following their own rules and ways think they know what they are doing, but they are just "shooting in the dark". Their ways usually result in failure and hurt many. Those that wholly follow and obey God's commandment, found in His Word, will make more righteous decisions because God is never wrong!

"Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things." Prov. 28:5

"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." Prov. 28:9

"Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession." Prov. 28:10

"The prince that wanteth understanding [does not know what he is doing] is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days." Prov. 28:6

"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." Prov. 28:26

Shame vs. Rejoicing. When the unrighteous, wicked rule and reign there is shame, uncertainty, and failure. However, when righteous principles are honored, there is peace among the people and the people are happier.

"When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden." Prov. 28:12

"Whoso keepeth the law is a

wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father." Prov. 28:7

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" Prov. 28:13

"Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once." Prov. 28:18

Easy Money vs. Hard Work. Often to gather votes or popularity, many are offered free handouts as an incentive. However, according to the Bible, hard work gives more reward than a temporary bribe.

"He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough." Prov. 28:19

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent." Prov. 28:20

There never will be a perfect governing force. Even the godliest biblical leaders sinned and made mistakes. Today's government will never be any different. Government will never be perfect until Jesus rules man during the Millennial Reign. Meantime, in governments where people have the opportunity to pick their

"Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."

— Abraham Lincoln

leaders, it will always be a choice between evil, and not so evil. If you have an opportunity to vote for a leader, make sure that it is for the one who adheres most closely to godly principles. God's ways always work! Man's do not! Do not shirk your responsibility to vote!

Armor Up!

Continued from Page 1

goes beyond those we do not get along with, or those who seem to be making our lives miserable. We struggle "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

A "principality" is a supreme power, and can be the territory of a prince. Since Satan is the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2), and is the author of much spiritual wickedness, it is he that is often the instigator of many of the troubles we face. With this in mind, we need to remember our battle is not against our parents, a person we work with, our neighbor, a political party, or someone in church. Our battle originates spiritually, and it is often stirred up by satanic forces.

Because it is a real battle that we as Christians fight almost daily, we need to protect ourselves the way God says to. Our protection is not locking ourselves in our room and keeping away from everyone; and it is not by being nasty to those that are not treating us right. Since the battle is

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Titus 3:7



Words to Find:
 "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

"My Grace Is Enough for Thee!"

C. H. Spurgeon

One evening I was riding home after a hard day's work. I felt much wearied, and sore depressed, when swiftly, and suddenly as a lightning flash, the text came to me, "My grace is sufficient for thee." When I reached home I looked the verse up in the Bible, and it came to me in this way, "My grace IS sufficient for thee". I said, "I should think it is, Lord", and burst out laughing at my minutes of doubting or forgetting that His grace was all I needed. His grace was enough for anything!

I never fully understood what the holy laughter of Abraham was until then. It seemed to make unbelief so absurd. It was as though some little fish, being very thirsty, was troubled about drinking the river dry; and the mighty Thames River would say, "Drink away little fish, my stream is sufficient for thee". It seemed like a little mouse in the granaries of Egypt, after the seven years of plenty, fearing it might die of famine. Joseph might have said then, "Cheer up, little mouse, my granaries are sufficient for thee".

Little faith will bring your soul to Heaven, but great faith will bring Heaven to your soul.

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God's Grace

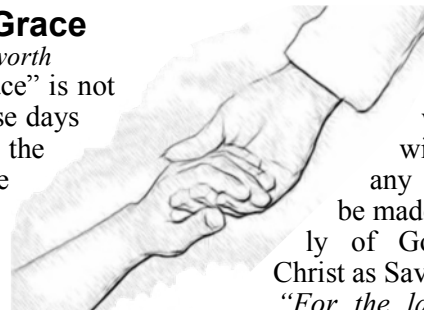
Bill Brinkworth

The word "grace" is not used as much these days as it has been in the past. Few take note that they are even experiencing it, but when needed, grace is one of the most important gifts anyone can receive.

Noah Webster defines "grace" as "the free unmerited love and favor of God; the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from Him; favorable influence of God". Without this undeserved gift from God, we would be most miserable; which may explain the sad, without-hope condition of many. Too many are missing "God's grace" in their lives!

To understand more clearly about "grace", this brief word study on the subject may help you know what it is we can or do have:

We can only have God's grace because of Jesus. We cannot receive God's grace be-



cause of anything we have done. Our good works and deeds will not merit us any grace. We must be made part of the family of God by accepting Christ as Saviour.

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." John 1:17

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" Rom. 3:24 Also: II Cor. 8:9, Eph. 1:7, Eph. 2:7

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Day by Day

D. L. Moody

A man can no more take a supply of grace for the future than he can eat enough today to last him for the next six months; or take sufficient air into his lungs to sustain his life for a week to come. We must draw upon God's boundless stores of grace from day to day; as we need it.

God's Grace

Continued from Page 1

It is God's undeserved merit (His grace) to us that any of us can be saved.

"But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Acts 15:11

"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Titus 3:7 Also: Rom. 5:15, Gal. 1:15, Eph. 2:5-8

A saved person has access to God's grace!

"... we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Rom. 5:2

Grace is a free gift from God!

"... through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think ..." Rom. 12:3

God's grace is still available when we are involved in sin. Fortunately, because of God's grace, we do not always get what we deserve!

"... But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"

Rom. 5:20

Just because we are not chastised by God every time we sin, does not mean we can sin whenever we want. It is His grace that often spares us from what we do deserve.

"... Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Rom. 6:1-2

Also: Rom. 6:14-17,

We are no longer held to obey God's Old Testament laws as a means to earn His favor.

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace ..." Rom. 11:6

One can lose God's grace!

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Gal. 5:4 Paul was addressing saved people that were also trying to obey the Old Testament laws. It is not saying one can lose his salvation. Also: Heb. 12:15.

If we are anything, we are what we are because of God's grace.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; ... but the grace of God which was with me."

I Cor. 15:10

God's grace will meet all one's needs and help one through any difficulty!

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to eve-

ry good work:" II Cor. 9:8

Also: II Cor. 12:9, II Thes. 2:16, Heb. 4:16

Grace is a gift we should desire for all to have. Many times the New Testament writers wished and prayed for God's grace for those to whom they were writing.

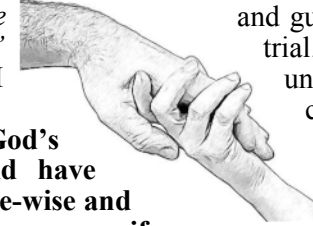
"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." Rom. 16:24 Also: I Cor. 1:3.

We enjoy God's grace. We should have mercy on others like-wise and extend grace to them, even if we think they do not deserve it.

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Eph. 4:29 Also: Col. 3:16

Some foolishly never give God's grace a moment's thought or mutter, "I can do just fine without God's grace." Before they even think such thoughts, they should wait until they suffer the loss of a loved one. It will be then that they will need God's grace to stand next to the coffin and help them through that heart-break. They should wait until they have a difficult time; it will

" We can only fully see God's grace from the foot of the cross! "



be then they would long for God's taking them by the hand and guiding them through the trial. They should also wait until confusion overcomes their lives, and indecision dominates their thoughts; it will be then they would wish for the comfort of God's grace helping them through the difficulty.

Grace is a gift from God we constantly need to get through our time on this earth. We do not always recognize its presence in our life, but His grace is one of the added blessings of being a child of God. We cannot successfully get through this lifetime without God's wonderful grace!

Invincible Grace

Leighton

Divine grace, even in the heart of a weak and sinful man, is an invincible thing. Drown it in the waters of adversity; it rises more beautiful; as not being drowned indeed, but only washed. Throw it into the furnace of fiery trials, and it will come out purer, and loses nothing but the dross; which our corrupt nature mixed with it.

"Grace means 'undeserved kindness'. It is the gift of God to man the moment he sees he is unworthy of God's favor!" — D. L. Moody

God's grace is the only cure for sin!

The Moravian Revival

Bill Brinkworth

One of the greatest revivals of God's people occurred at the Saxony estate of Count Zinzendorf. The young, Christian noblemen offered many Christians safety on his property. Many at the time were fleeing imprisonment, death, banishment, and torture for their beliefs. They fled to Zinzendorf's and called their new home Herrnhut, 'the Lord's Watch'.

On August 13, 1727 a great revival started. According to Oswald Smith, "They made the discovery that the Church could not save them; that there was no salvation in its creeds, doctrines or dogmas; that good works, moral living, commandment keeping, praying and Bible reading, could not avail; much less culture, character or conduct. They found that Christ alone could save; that He was willing and able to receive sinners at a moment's notice; that justification, the forgiveness of sins, the new birth, etc. were instantaneous experiences received the very moment a sinner believed on Christ; that salvation was through grace and by faith, apart from the deeds of the law; that when a man is saved he has peace with God, and that he receives the assurance of salvation by the witness of the Holy Spirit."

When these truths prevailed in their hearts, things changed! The Moravian brethren had stopped judging each other and were convinced of their sinfulness in God's eyes. Divisions and dis-

cord were halted. All were together in one accord. Prayer groups started and spread. Songs were written by the group and sung throughout the country. Hearts were broken and lives were changed.

Prayer groups started and got power from God. A prayer chain that ensued from this revival lasted over 100 years!

People had burdens to reach others with the Good News. The burden was so powerful that many went themselves to reach the world for Christ. The West Indies, North America, Greenland, Africa, South America, and most countries in Europe and Asia were reached by those that were stirred. The world was changed by God's people when they got revived!

If

*If all the sleeping folk will wake up,
And all the lukewarm folk will fire
up,
And all the dishonest folk will
confess up,
And all the disgruntled folk will
sweeten up,
And all the discouraged folk will
cheer up,
And all the depressed folk will look
up,
And all the estranged folk will make
up,
And all the gossipers will shut up,
And all the dry bones will shake up,
And all the true soldiers will stand
up,
And all the church members will
pray up,
Then you can have a revival.*



What Is Revival?

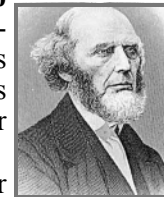
From an article by Charles Finney

Although many plead for revival today, their expectations of what one is come short of what a true revival is. It is not just more coming to church, getting more in one's Sunday school class, or more being interested in the things of God.

Charles Finney was a Presbyterian and Congregational minister of the Second Great Awakening. He lived from 1792-1875. Here are some excerpts of how Finney described what a true revival is:

☞ "The foundations of sin need to be broken up

... In a true revival, Christians are always brought under conviction.



They see their sins in such a light that often they find it impossible to maintain a hope of their acceptance with God.

☞ "Revival is a new beginning of obedience with God. The first step is a deep repentance: a brokenness of heart, a getting

down into the dust before God, with humility and a forsaking of sin.

Continued on Page 2

Do You Love Your Country Enough to Pray for It?

Bill Brinkworth



Most would admit the America of today is not the same America that flourished and was blessed of God in the past. There are those in government that are attempting frightening, unscriptural changes. There are others trying to "improve" it.

Government is not the solution that will change America the right way. Complaining will not change anything either. What has in the past, and what can change it today, is God's help!

If Americans will humble themselves, seek God's intervention and control of their future, America can once again be a strong, moral nation. In the past, when Americans joined each other

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What Is Revival?

Continued from Page 1

- ☞ **“Backslidden Christians are brought to repentance ...** A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God.
- ☞ **“Christians will have their faith renewed.** While they are in their backslidden state, they are blind to the state of sinners. Their hearts are hard as marble. The truths of the Bible appear like a dream ... But, when they enter into a revival, they no longer see ‘men as trees, walking,’ but they see things in that strong light which will renew the love of God in their hearts. This will lead them to labor zealously to bring others to Him. They will feel grieved that others do not love God, when they love Him so much. And they will set themselves feelingly to persuade their neighbors to give Him their hearts. So, their love for men will be renewed. They will be filled with a tender and burning love for souls. They will have a longing desire for the salvation of the whole world...
- ☞ **“A revival breaks the power of the world and sin over Christians ...** They have a new foretaste of Heaven, and new desires after union with

“A native of India, in the past, described the great revival they were experiencing as, ‘We are having a great re-Bible here.’ The church needs to be re-Bibled!” — C. E. World

God; thus the charm of the world is broken, and the power of sin overcome.

- ☞ **“When the churches are thus awakened and reformed, the reformation and salvation of sinners will follow.** Their hearts will be broken and changed. Very often, the most abandoned profligates are among the subjects. Harlots, drunkards, infidels, and all sorts of abandoned characters are awakened and converted to Christ. The worst of human beings are softened and reclaimed, and made to appear as lovely specimens of the beauty of holiness.
- ☞ **“When can a revival be expected?** A revival may be expected when Christians have a spirit of prayer for a revival. That is, when they pray as if their hearts were set upon it; when they go about groaning out their heart’s desire; when they have real travail of soul.”

Do You Love Your ...

Continued from Page 1

in prayer, God has turned this nation around. If you love this country, as I do, and want His Almighty help, please join with me in prayer for our nation.

A prayer chain of 24 hours, seven-days per week, continuous prayer for our country's revival will have unprecedented results. If you are a Christian, please join with me in prayer for our country immediately!

I have prepared a one-week prayer schedule at <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/prayerchain.html>. Commit yourself to praying at least 15 minutes each week for our country until 12/31/2018. Pick a time, that is convenient, and pray for our nation faithfully during that time. On the web site you can submit the day and time you will be praying for our country. Many have already committed their prayers! Let us continually bombard the Throne of Grace with pleas to God for our nation! **It is not too late for God to save America!**

“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”

James 4:2

“ALL IT TAKES FOR NOTHING TO CHANGE, IS FOR GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO DO NOTHING!”

“If you put-off sincerely seeking God’s will and way today when the Holy Spirit is speaking to your heart, tomorrow your heart may be too hard.”

It Started by Prayer

Gospel Herald

When Finney was conducting services in a certain place, a young woman came in from a neighboring town and asked him to go there and preach. “Her utterance was choked with deep feeling.” Mr. Finney told her he did not see how he could go, but he inquired of the place and found that it was a moral waste.

The young woman came the next Sunday, and “appeared greatly affected; too much so to converse, for she could not control her feeling.” The evangelist consented to go the next Sunday afternoon, and after his arrival at her home, he heard her praying in a room above. He remained in that home overnight, and heard her praying and weeping nearly all night. She pleaded with him to come again, and “at the third service the Spirit of God was poured out on the congregation.”

A spirit of prayer spread, and the revival that followed was so powerful that “nearly all the principal inhabitants of the town were gathered into the church, and the town was morally renovated.” This great spiritual movement was started by that young woman’s prayers.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” II Chronicles 7:14

Churches in the Bible

V L J J P T A C O B Z T T M E G F P A I
 L O A G O C W A Z K D S I N T R G U P C
 G X D B V T O B A A Y I I R O A K E F A
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 W L Y C Z T E U C Q B K D D E N U Q M R
 J O E E I P P I L I H P F R X D M K O E
 R C U A L Q K D T E T P F Z M F C Y S P
 O Q J V M T H E S S A L O N I C A K V X

Words to Find:
 Antioch
 Babylon
 Berea
 Colosse
 Corinth
 Ephesus
 Galatia
 Jerusalem
 Laodicea
 Pergamos
 Philadelphia
 Philippi
 Rome
 Sardis
 Smyrna
 Thessalonica
 Thyatira
 Troas

Spiritually Dead, but Didn't Know It!

Edited from an article by W. B. Knight

An annual church report was once given to its members. It read:

Additions to church during the year by profession of faith: 0


Additions by restoration: 0
Additions by transfer of letter: 0
Losses by withdrawal of fellowship: 0
Losses by death: 0

The report was closed with: "Brethren, we are holding our own! Pray for us!"

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No Church Is Perfect!

Bill Brinkworth

Every church has its good and bad members. The church that John was writing to in III John had several of both categories I am sure. However, the apostle wrote of three members in particular in his letter.



Two of the members were good representations of what a Christian should be. Gaius was the "well-beloved" (III John vs. 1). He was most likely a friendly sort that many loved. Many reports from the church told John how Gaius was a blessing in the church family (vs. 3, 6), and how he attended to the needs of other Christians (vs. 5). It was evident by his care and concern for the brethren that he truly loved the members of his church.

Another blessing in the church was Demetrius. He also had good things said about him (vs. 12).

These two were an encouragement to the apostle's heart. It is always good and encouraging to hear how people get saved, get their hearts and lives changed by the Holy Spirit's work, and go on to do much for the cause of Christ and people of God.

Continued on Page 2

Reasons for Going

Bill Brinkworth

There are two categories of reasons for people's attending church: spiritual and unspiritual. Here are some reasons for attendance that fall under those divisions:

Spiritual:

- ☞ "The Word of God is taught, believed, and practiced there."
- ☞ "I grow spiritually at that church."
- ☞ "The Holy Spirit convicts my heart through the preaching."
- ☞ "It is where unsaved people can come and get saved!"
- ☞ "The church is a place where I can serve God."
- ☞ "The music glorifies and honors God."

Continued on Page 3

No Church Is Perfect!

Continued from Page 1

People like those two encourage others by their proof of love for the family of God. They are sometimes part of the reason many stay faithful in church. They make others feel welcomed and make it a friendly atmosphere. However, even if we are saved we still have sinful flesh to contend with, and there will often be “stinkers” in every church. In this church of III John, there was one in particular like that. His name was Diotrophes.

Diotrophes had a terrible testimony in the eyes of others. This man, instead of showing the spirit of meekness the other two good members showed, exhibited improper Christian behavior. He was known for always wanting recognition (vs. 9). I can just imagine he was one of those that always had something to say. He was the one that got much of the attention and the glory. He even refused to accept John the Apostle, and any missionaries John sent to the church (vs. 10). This discontented man did all he could to talk poorly of John and his work. Diotrophes even had people kicked out of the church, that showed charity to anyone John sent to the church.

This type of man ruins the

testimony of any church. When man tries to get the glory, which Diotrophes was trying to receive, the Holy Spirit is grieved; and the work for Christ in a ministry can come to a screeching halt. That is one reason many of our once thriving churches are now spiritually dead and doing little for the cause of Christ. Men like this man, unfortunately, often become an excuse for many to leave a church.

In every ministry there are the two types of attenders and members. The good workers are the light in this dark world. They make the church work as a Christian family. The evil (vs. 11) should be ignored and not be the reason anyone leaves a church. If one does leave because of a “Diotrophes”, one can be assured that the Holy Spirit is not involved in the decision. If you have one or more of “Diotrophes” in your church, do not leave. Get your eyes and ears off of them, and keep them on the Saviour. He will never let you down, and He is the reason you should be attending anyway!



**“If you are seeing the obstacles,
your eyes are off the Saviour.”**

Reasons for Going

Continued from Page 1

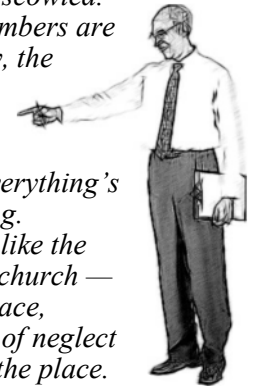
- ☞ “There are good spiritual influences there.”
- ☞ “It is a good place for my family to learn more about spiritual things.”
- ☞ “It is where God wants me.”

Unspiritual:

- ☞ “I feel good when I listen to the preaching, and don’t feel guilty about anything.”
 - ☞ “It’s a place to learn about God, but they’re not fanatical about it.”
 - ☞ “It is a very modern church. They use the newest bibles, music, and popular books.”
 - ☞ “It’s a good place to get clients for my business.”
 - ☞ “Going there will make me look like a Christian, and people will trust me more in my business.”
 - ☞ “Going there eases my conscience, and I feel like I am doing something spiritual.”
 - ☞ “I can give money to them and count it as a tax write-off.”
 - ☞ “It’s not a strict church. I can do anything I want, and no one says anything.”
 - ☞ “It is the most popular church in the area.”
 - ☞ “The services are always entertaining.”
 - ☞ “It’s a place to meet girls.”
 - ☞ “The music is almost the same as I listen to at home; just a few of the words are different.”
- Are your reasons for attending church “spiritual” or “unspiritual”?

It’s You!

*Sez I to myself, as I grumbled
and growled,
“I’m sick of my church,” and
then how I scowled.
“The members are
unfriendly, the
sermons too
long;
In fact, it
seems that everything’s
wrong.
I don’t like the
singing; the church —
a disgrace,
For signs of neglect
are all over the place.
I’ll quit going there, and
won’t give my dime:
I can make better use of my
money and time.”
Then my conscience sez to me,
sez he,
“The trouble with you is,
you’re blind to see
That your church reflects you,
whatever it be.
Now come, pray, and serve
cheerfully;
Stop all your fault-finding and
boost it up strong;
You’ll find you’ll be happy
and proud to belong.
Be friendly, be willing, and
sing as you work,
For churches are not built by
members who shirk.”*



**“If we ever found a
perfect church, we would
have to leave because
we would make it
imperfect!”**

Romans 10:9



Words to Find:

<i>with</i>	<i>and</i>	<i>that</i>	<i>the</i>
<i>That</i>	<i>thy</i>	<i>God</i>	<i>dead</i>
<i>if</i>	<i>mouth</i>	<i>hath</i>	<i>thou</i>
<i>thou</i>	<i>the</i>	<i>raised</i>	<i>shalt</i>
<i>shalt</i>	<i>Lord</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>be</i>
<i>confess</i>	<i>Jesus</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>saved.</i>

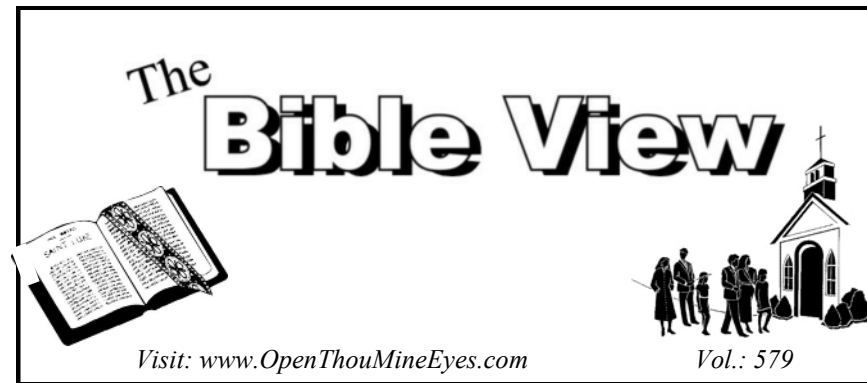
What Makes The Difference?

M. R. DeHaan

The difference between the sinner and the saint is that the saint hates his sin and pleads the blood of Christ, whereas the sinner loves his sin and goes back into it. The saint is like a sheep. It may fall into a mud hole, but it is not comfortable there and will

bleat until the shepherd lifts it out. Thereafter it will avoid that mud hole by a long distance.

The sinner is like a pig. It goes about looking for slime pits. When it finds one, it slides in with a grunt of glee and will squeal vehement objections if you try to pull it out. No sooner is it out, than it will return to the slime pit again.



How Can You Know You Are Saved?

Bill Brinkworth

A person can know if he is saved. If he has done what the scriptures say to receive salvation through trusting in Christ's death for his sins, he will see changes in his life. Here is an examination of some of the new improvements he will see:

A NEW belief. He will believe differently about how to go to Heaven, than before he was saved. He will believe and trust in God's way, not his or man's way.

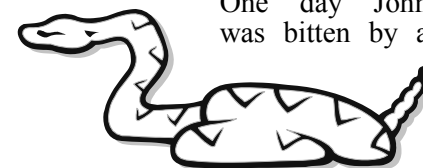
"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye
Continued on Page 2

The Helpful Rattlesnake

Author Unknown

Once there was a man who had three sons: Jim, John, and Sam. None of the family was interested in spiritual things. The preacher and church elders tried different means to get them interested in the things of God.

One day John was bitten by a



rattlesnake. After the doctor had done all he could, he stated that the only thing left for them to do was pray. They called for the church elders and asked the preacher to pray.

The preacher prayed somewhat as follows, "Oh, wise and righteous Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast in Thy wisdom sent this rattlesnake to bite John, in order to bring him to his senses. We trust that this will prove a valuable lesson to him and lead him to genuine repentance. And now, O Father, wilt Thou send another rattlesnake to bite Jim, and

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How Can You Know ...

Continued from Page 1
have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:10-13

A NEW interest in God's people.

"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." 1 John 3:14
The "brethren" are other saved people.

A NEW Master. A child of God listens and obeys his heavenly Father.

"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."
John 10:26-28

A NEW Life.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

The new life will include things that you never would have thought you would have done; such as praying, attending church, Bible reading, giving, and obeying God. You will also find you no longer have a desire to do many of the wrong things you used to do. You may even have a conviction about not doing them.

A NEW Trust.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

II Timothy 1:12

NEW fruit — NEW interests. Just as a healthy apple tree "proves" it is an apple tree by producing apples, a Christian "proves" he is a Christian by producing Christian traits.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Galatians 5:22-25

When the Spirit of God indwells us, there are some things He wants done in our lives and around us. These changes that we allow Him to do in us and with us, are proofs of our salvation.

The Helpful Rattlesnake

Continued from Page 1

another to bite Sam and a really big one to bite the old man? It seems that what all our efforts would not do, this rattlesnake has done. We conclude

"He that falls into sin is a man; that grieves at it, is a saint; that boasteth of it, is of the devil." — Fuller

that the only thing that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes. So Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes."

I certainly do not know if this is a true account. It is true, however, that the hard times, trials, and tribulations do get our attention and help us realize that we do need God's help. Those times may not always be of God, but they can often be just the right tool to help us realize that we are frail and do need to trust God for His guidance.

Ten Little Christians

Author Unknown

Ten little Christians, standing in a line,

One disliked the preacher, then there were nine.

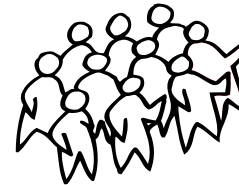
Nine little Christians stayed up very late, One slept on Sunday morning, then there were eight.

Eight little Christians on the road to Heaven,

One took a lower road, then there were seven.

Seven little Christians got into a fix,

One disliked the music, then there were six.



Six little Christians very much alive,
But one lost her interest, then there were five.
Five little Christians wishing there were more,
But they quarreled, then there were four.

Four little Christians as cheerful as could be,

One lost his temper, then there were three.

Three little Christians knew not what to do,

One joined the worldly crowd, then there were two.

Two little Christians — our rhyme is nearly done—
Differed with each other, then there was one.

One lone Christian won his neighbor true,
Brought him to church, then there were two.

Two earnest Christians, each won one more,
That doubled their number, then there were four.

Four sincere Christians worked very late,
But each won another, then there were eight.

Eight splendid Christians, but nothing rhymes with 16 ...

In six more rhymes there would be 1,042, which would be quite a church full. If everyone would do their part, our church's attendance would be increased; but too many think, "Let George (or someone else) do it." George is worked to death. Please do your share in getting more people into church.

"Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things." — Beecher

The Blessing in Being Robbed

Matthew Henry

Bible commentator Matthew Henry, after being robbed, wrote in his diary the following: "Let me be thankful. First, because I was never robbed before. Second, because although they took my wallet, they did not take my life. Third, because they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.

Thankful for the Fleas

Illustrations for Biblical Preaching,
Michael Green

"Rejoice evermore."

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Corrie ten Boom, in The Hiding Place, related an incident that taught her always to be thankful. She and her sister, Betsy, had just been transferred to the worst German prison camp they had been to, Ravensbruck. On entering the barracks, they found them extremely overcrowded and flea-infested.



That morning, their Scripture reading in 1 Thessalonians had reminded them to rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks for all circumstances. Betsy told Corrie to stop and thank the Lord

for every detail of their new living quarters. Corrie at first flatly refused to give thanks for the fleas, but Betsy persisted, and Corrie finally succumbed to her pleadings. During the months spent at that camp, they were surprised to find how openly they could hold Bible study and prayer meetings without the guards interference. It was not until several months later that they learned the reason the guards would not enter the barracks was because of the fleas.

Never Happy

Stennett.

The discontented man is ever restless and uneasy. He is dissatisfied with his station in life, his connections, and almost every circumstance that happens to him. He is continually peevish and fretful, impatient of every injury he receives, and unduly impressed with every disappointment he suffers.

He considers most other persons as happier than himself, and enjoys hardly any of the blessings of Providence with a calm and grateful mind. He forms to himself a thousand distressing fears concerning the future, and makes his present condition unhappy, by anticipating the misery he may endure in years to come.



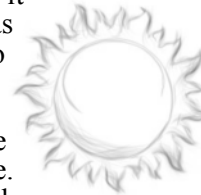
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Vol.: 580

Do You Appreciate What You Have Before It's Gone?

Illustrations for Biblical Preaching,
Michael Green

There is a fictitious story told of a day when the sun did not rise. Six o'clock came and there was no sign of dawn. At seven o'clock, there was still no ray of light. At noon, it was as black as midnight. No birds sang and only the hoot of an owl broke the silence.



Then came the long black hours of the afternoon.

Finally, evening arrived but no one slept that night. Some wept; some wrung their hands in anguish. Every church was thronged with people on their knees. Thus they remained the whole night through.

After that long night of terror and agony, millions of tear-streaked faces were turned toward the east. When the sky began to grow red and the sun rose, there was a loud shout of joy. Millions of lips said, "Bless the Lord, O my soul," because the

sun had risen after one day of darkness.

The very consistency of God's blessings sometimes seems to dull our gratitude. The wonderful thing about the mercies of God is that they are fresh every morning and new every evening. Let us remember to be constantly thankful to our gracious God.

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

Count It All Joy

Barbara Brinkworth

As a new Christian, over 37 years ago, a close friend encouraged me to read the Bible daily. Of course, there were many things I did not understand. As I read the Bible through each year, the stories in God's Word became more familiar. I looked forward to my time in the Scriptures.

Four or five years later, there was still one verse that made no sense to me. It was James 1:2, "My brethren, count it all joy

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Count It All Joy

Continued from Page 1

when you fall into diverse temptations.” How could one thank God for problems?

I had been through many testings and trials, since I had trusted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. During those times, there had not been a lot of joy going on. I had had to move from West Virginia to New Jersey to care for my ailing parents. My younger brother had died at the age of 36, and ten days later, my mother died. Within two more years, my dad died — unsaved. That was very hard to accept. Also, my oldest daughter was involved in a very serious motorcycle accident. Whew! Was I joyful during all these events? I think not.

Since God’s Word is true, what had I been missing about James 1:2? How could I accept and understand that verse? God had the answer, and he gave it to me as a present on my forty-second birthday. Here is how it happened:

I was at a Bible seminar with two friends, who were also sisters. The speaker at some point had discussed James 1:2. As always, I had listened, in vain, hoping to be able to apply that verse to my own life. During the next break, I was speaking to my friends about their mother, Dot. She had been through many trials recently, including the death of her husband and some serious physical problems of her

own. She was discouraged, to say the least. All of a sudden I found myself saying, “Wouldn’t you think Dot would see God’s hand working through her problems? Wouldn’t you think she would know God cares, and count it all ...?” I stopped mid-sentence. That was my answer to the meaning of James 1:2. It was not that I should be joyful for the trials, but rather joyful about the God of the trials.

Through the testings and temptations God brings into our lives, He teaches us how to live and serve Him better. He also reveals more about Himself to us in each diverse situation. As we see Him work through our trials, we are more assured of His love and care. We learn more of His character. Our faith is strengthened, as we see God working on our behalf in ways only He could accomplish.

Now, James 1:2 is part of my own personal arsenal to keep discouragement at bay. During times of diverse temptations, I am better able to trust God and count it all joy. I just wait and see how He will use the trials in my life for my ultimate good and His eternal glory.



Always Green

Illustrations for Biblical Preaching, Michael Green

An evergreen is always green despite the

**“ Be thankful
you’re still above
ground.”**

changes in weather around it. It is green in the heat of summer, as well in the cold of winter. So also our lives are to be characterized by an enduring thankfulness that is unaffected by the changes around us. When the heat of a pressured week or the deadly cold of pain strikes us, we should stand “ever green,” always thankful, regardless of that which surrounds us.

In Everything Give Thanks

Author Unknown

‘Mid sunshine, cloud or stormy days,

When hope abounds or care

“A little boy was asked by his father to say grace at the table. While the rest of the family waited, the little guy eyed every dish of food his mother had prepared. After the examination, he bowed his head and honestly prayed, “Lord, I don’t like the looks of it, but I thank you for it, and I’ll eat it anyway.” Amen.”

— Green

*dismays,
When trials press and toils
increase
Let not thy faith in God decrease
“In everything give thanks.”*

*All things we know shall work for
good,
Nor would we change them if we
could;*

*‘Tis well if only He command;
His promises will ever stand
“In everything give thanks.”*

*He satisfies the longing heart,
He thwarts the tempter’s cruel
dart,
With goodness fills the hungry
soul,
And helps us sing when billows
roll.*

“In everything give thanks.”

Memorial of Gratitude

*Illustrations for Biblical Preaching,
Michael Green*



A very poor and aged man busied in planting and grafting an apple tree, was rudely interrupted by this interrogation, “Why do you plant trees? You cannot hope to eat the fruit of them?”

He raised himself up, and leaning upon his spade, replied, “Someone planted trees for me before I was born, and I have eaten the fruit. I now plant for others that the memorial of my gratitude may exist when I am dead and gone.”

***“The brook would lose its song if we removed
the rocks.”***

A Butterfly Used to Answer Prayer

H. A. Ironside

“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”

Jeremiah 32:27

Evangelist Mr. H. P. Barker told an interesting story of a poor woman who was being pressed by a tradesman to pay an account which she knew she had already settled. He demanded that she produce a receipt. Quite certain she had received one, she hunted and hunted, but was absolutely unable to find it. She went through piles of papers and letters, but to no avail.

Finally, the tradesman came to her again and made a very angry demand upon her for immediate payment. In her distress, she turned to the Lord in earnest prayer, asking Him to bring the receipt to light. Then a butterfly flew into the room through an open window, and her little boy, eager to catch the beautiful creature, ran after it.

The frightened insect flew over to the wall on one side and down behind a trunk. The boy in his eagerness to catch it, pushed out the trunk, and there, behind it on the floor lay the missing receipt! Snatching it up triumphantly, the poor widow showed it to the tradesman, who went away discomfited. As his own handwriting declared, the debt had been paid.



Who can doubt that God who notes the sparrow's fall, and who would have us learn lessons from the ant and the coney and other small creatures, directed even the movements of a butterfly in order that He might answer His handmaiden's prayer!

Keep Praying

C. H. Spurgeon

You say you have been praying for a matter. Remember, the tree does not always drop its fruit at the first shake you give it. Shake it again! Give it another shake! Sometimes, when the tree is loaded, and it is pretty firm in the earth, you have to shake it to and fro. At last you have to plant your feet, and get hold of it, and shake it with your might, till you strain every muscle and sinew to get the fruit down. That is the way to pray. Pray until the mercy drops into your lap.

Christ loves for men to beg hard. You cannot be too importunate. That which might be disagreeable to your fellow-creatures, when you ask of them, will be agreeable to Christ. Oh! Get ye to your chambers, ye that are saved! To your bedsides, to your closets, and, *“Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.”* Isaiah 55:6

May the Spirit of God constrain you to pray. Jesus must hear you. The gate of Heaven is open to the sturdy knocker that affirms he will not take a denial.

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What Praying Really Means

Gleaned from Prayer: Asking and Receiving by John R. Rice

When one understands that God hears and answers prayer, then he can faintly perceive all the attributes and the nature of God. All the other qualities, attributes, or characteristics of God are implied when we understand that He answers prayer.

1. A prayer-hearing God is a living God. He is not an idol of wood, stone, or paper.
2. A prayer-hearing and prayer answering God is an all-knowing God.

Does God hear the cry of millions of His people in all countries, in all languages, and at the same time? Does He even know the hearts of the suppliants? Does He see their faith? Does He know the sincerity, or perceive the hypocrisy in the hearts of those who pray? Then He is a limitless God who knows all things!

3. If God is able to answer prayer, then He has all power in Heaven and on earth. If God answers prayer for rain,

then He must control the weather. If God answers prayer about crops, He must have control of the sun, insects, moisture, and even the germ of life in the seed itself.

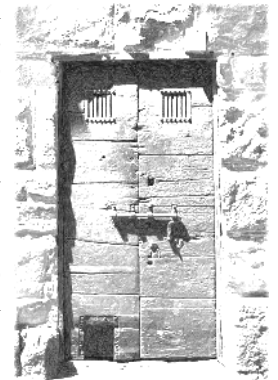
Does God answer prayer about health? Then God must have in His hand every corpuscle of the blood, every nerve, and every process in the human body!

Continued on Page 2

“But”

Bill Brinkworth

Peter's future did not look too promising as he lay in a dark, dank prison cell. Acts 12 describes his unpleasant position further by detailing that he was chained to guards on either side of him, was unclothed,



Continued on Page 2

What Praying Really Means

Continued from Page 1

Does God answer prayer about revival, or about the conversion of a sinner? Then God must have influence on the very souls and consciences and wills of men! If God answered the prayer of Joshua so that the sun stood still in its relation to the earth for a day (Josh. 10:12-13), then God controls the whole infinite universe. He answers prayer. He has infinite and limitless power.



4. If God answers prayer and has such infinite wisdom, then He himself must be the Creator
5. The God who answers prayer is a miracle-working God. To believe that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him means that one has faith in all that is ever claimed for God. If there is a God who hears and answers prayers, then His work is miraculous and supernatural.
6. If God answers prayer, then He is a God of infinite love and mercy! God knows that none of us deserves to have our prayers answered. We poor sinners deserve only

condemnation, forsaking, and punishment; but God loves sinners anyway! ...

... When one really believes that God is a prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God, he has the secret to the very heart of God, and can dimly see all the graces, powers, and majesty of the infinite God! A God who hears and answers prayer is a true God. Any "god" who does not hear and answer prayer has not the power and the grace to create, support the world, or to love, seek, and save lost sinners.

With these things in mind, we can understand how God longs to be known by the title, "O thou that hearest prayer!" and how no one can please Him and no one can come to Him, without believing that He is a God who hears and answers the prayers of those who diligently seek Him!

"But"

Continued from Page 1

was locked in a prison with other security outside his chamber, and was facing a death sentence from Herod. No one would have ever suspected he would leave that jail

" And Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

— Cowper

alive. Then a hopeful word came into the story. It is a word that usually indicates that things are going to change. The word is "but" (Acts 12:5), and the situation did change.

Things changed in Peter's gloomy situation, because those praying got God involved. The impossible was made possible. Guards were not disturbed; however, shackles fell off the prisoner. An angel got involved, and prison doors flung open on their "own" account. Out walked Peter, a free man!

Just as things got changed for Peter when others started praying, then things can change today when God's people also seek His help. Sick people have been cured by God's answering prayer. Fearful, dangerous situations have been changed to peaceable ones, when petitions were sent to our heavenly Father. Drunken, runaway parents have had their lives changed and salvaged by the prayers of their loved ones. Continuous supplications have gotten God involved in putting marriages back together. Prayer

" Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling person!" — D. L. Moody

prompted God to do miracles at jobs, to help financial situations, to mend relationships, fix broken things, and countless other "hopeless" situations.

For the Christian, calling on God in prayer can change any situation. It should be our first line of defense in battling the troubles we face in this life. There is always hope, when God is involved. There is nothing God cannot do, when a Christian calls on his Father for help!

"The Lord Heareth"

Walter Knight



A lifeguard sits all day on the beach watching for persons needing his help. All about him is the noise of hundreds of pleasure-seekers, talking, laughing, shout-

ing, and the waves roar loudly. There are noises everywhere.

"I don't see how," queried a man one day, "you can hear a cry for help when someone out in the water needs you."

"No matter how great the noise and confusion," replied the guard, "I have never had an occasion when I could not distinguish the cry of distress above all other sounds."

The gentleman went away thinking about this, and reflected that it is a lot like that with God. When a soul cries out for His help, amid the babble and storms of life, He never fails to hear.

"Prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue." — Green

An Opportune Time

Oliver B. Greene

Christmas is a depressing time for many people. An article written by a director of the California Department of Mental Hygiene warns: "The Christmas season is marked by greater emotional stress and more acts of violence than any other time of the year."

Christmas is an excuse to get drunk, have a party, get something, give a little, leave work, get out of school, spend money, overeat, and all kinds of other excesses. But, for the real church, Christmas is an excuse for us to exalt Jesus Christ in the face of a world that is at least tuned in to His name.

Jesus Came Anyway

Oliver B. Greene

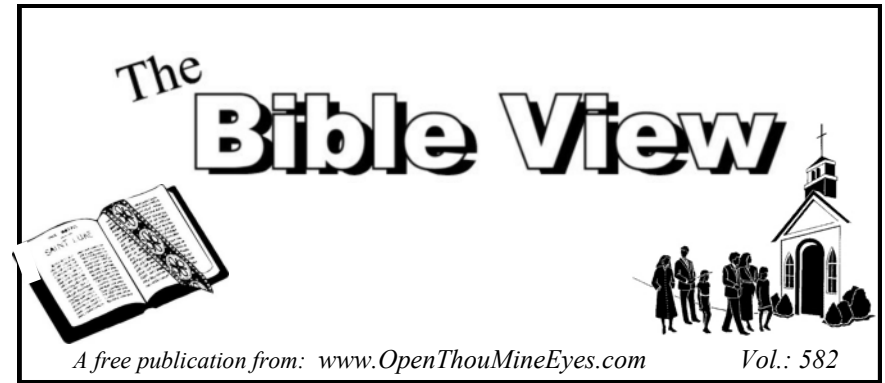


Sherwood Wirt captured the mood of that first Christmas in this description, which he wrote in a Christmas card: "The people of that time were being heavily taxed, and faced every prospect of a sharp increase to cover expanding military expenses. The

« *Selfishness
makes Christmas a
burden; love makes it a
delight.* »

threat of world domination by a cruel, ungodly, power-intoxicated band of men was ever just below the threshold of consciousness. Moral deterioration had corrupted the upper levels of society and was moving rapidly into the broad base of the populace. Intense nationalistic feeling was clashing openly with new and sinister forms of imperialism. Conformity was the spirit of the age. Government handouts were being used with increasing lavishness to keep the population from rising up and throwing out the leaders. Interest rates were spiraling upward in the midst of an inflated economy. External religious observances were considered a political asset, and abnormal emphasis was being placed upon sports and athletic competition. Racial tensions were at the breaking point."

In such a time, and amid such a people, a child was born to a couple who had just signed up for a fresh round of taxation, and who were soon to become political exiles. The child who was born was called, among other things, Immanuel, God with us.



The First and Last Time He Comes

Oliver B. Greene

The Lord Jesus Christ, whom we exalt especially at Christmas, is not just a baby in a manger. He is not a character in a children's story. He is far more.



The first time He came, He came veiled in the form of a child. The next time He comes, and we believe it will be soon, He will come unveiled, and it will be abundantly and immediately clear to all the world just who He really is.

The first time He came, a star marked His arrival. The next time He comes, the whole heavens will roll up like a scroll, and all the stars will fall out of the sky, and He will light it.

The first time He came, wise men and shepherds brought Him gifts. The next time He comes, He will bring gifts, rewards for His own.

The first time He came, there was no room for Him. The next time He comes, the whole world will not be able to contain His glory.

The first time He came, only a few attended His arrival — some. The next time He comes, every eye shall see Him.

The first time He came as a baby. Soon He will come as Sovereign King and Lord.

Was Jesus Born on December 25?

Rev. Alexander Hislop

Many Christian holidays have their true meanings and even the time they occurred altered by false religion's influence. Christmas, unfortunately, is one of those days. Although Christ was definitely born on this earth, and all the Bible says about Him is true, false religions and their effort to get people to accept their false teachings successfully merged their doctrines with those of Christianity. Here is some of the history behind how December

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Was Jesus Born on December 25?

Continued from Page 1

25th was adopted to be the day of Christ's birth, according to Rev. Alexander Hislop's The Two Babylons:

"... The festivals of [*Catholic*] Rome are innumerable; but five of the most important may be singled out for elucidation: Christmas day, Lady day, Easter, the Nativity of St. John, and the Feast of the Assumption. Each and all of these can be proved to be Babylonian. And first, as to the festival in honour of the birth of Christ, or Christmas.

"... How comes it that that festival was connected with the 25th of December? There is not a word in the Scriptures about the precise day of His birth, or the time of the year when He was born. What is recorded there implies that at what time His birth took place, it could not have been on the 25th of December.

"... At the time that the angel announced His birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, they were feeding their flocks by night in the open fields. Now, no doubt, the climate of Palestine is not so severe as the climate of this country; but even there, though the heat of the day be considera-

ble, the cold of the night, from December to February, is very piercing, and it was not the custom for the shepherds of Judea to watch their flocks in the open fields later than about the end of October. It is in the last degree incredible, then, that the birth of Christ could have taken place at the end of December.

"... the celebrated Joseph Mede pronounces a very decisive opinion to the same effect. ... At the birth of Christ every woman and child was to go to be taxed at the city whereto they belonged, whither some had long journeys; but the middle of winter was not fitting for such a business, especially for women with child, and children to travel in. Therefore, Christ could not be born in the depth of winter. Again, at the time of Christ's birth, the shepherds lay abroad watching with their flocks in the nighttime; but this was not likely to be in the middle of winter. And if any shall think the winter wind was not so extreme in these parts, let him remember the words of Christ in the Gospel, '... pray ye that your flight be not in the winter ... (Mat. 24:20)'. If the winter was so bad a time to flee in, it seems no fit time for shepherds to lie in the fields, and women and children

to travel in."

"... Indeed, it is admitted by the most learned and candid writers of all parties that the day of our Lord's birth cannot be determined, and that within the Christian church no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of till the third century, and that not until the fourth century did it gain much observance.

"... How, then, did the Romish Church fix on December the 25th as Christmas day? Why, thus:

Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the heathen, at that precise time of the year, in honour of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven; and it may fairly be presumed that, in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, giving it only the name of Christ. This tendency on the part of Christians to meet paganism halfway was very early developed; and we find Tertullian, even in his day, about the year 230 AD, bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the disciples of Christ in this respect, and contrasting it with the strict fidelity of the pagans to their own superstition.

"... Upright men strove to stem the tide, but in spite of all their efforts, the apostasy went on, until the church, with the exception of a small remnant, was submerged under pagan supersti-

"The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable."

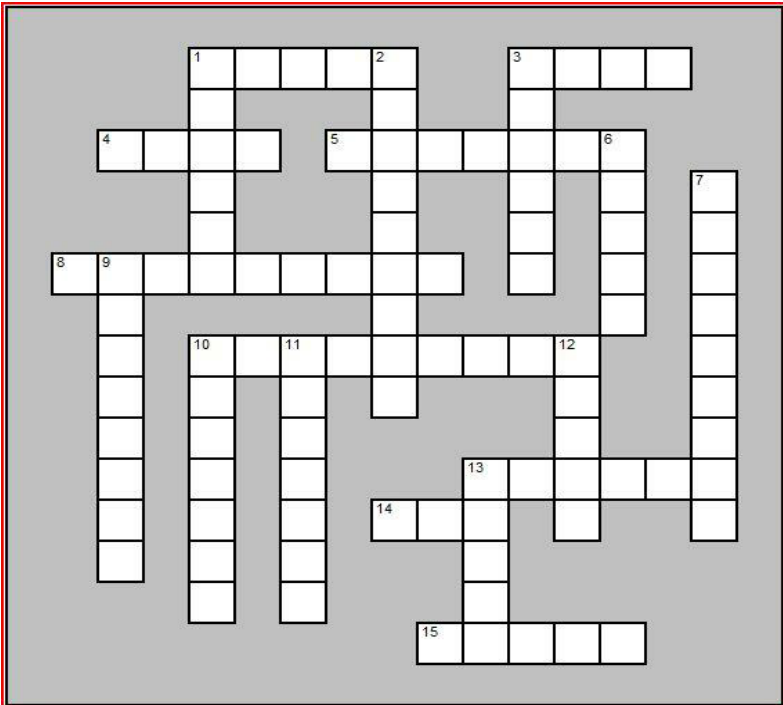
— *Ralph W. Stockman*

tion. That Christmas was originally a pagan festival is beyond all doubt. The time of the year, and the ceremonies with which it is still celebrated, prove its origin.

"Also, in Egypt, the son of Isis was born at this very time, 'about the time of the winter solstice'. The very name by which Christmas is popularly known among ourselves — Yule-day — proves at once its pagan and Babylonian origin. 'Yule' is the Chaldean name for an 'infant' or 'little child'; and as the 25th of December was called by pagan Anglo-Saxons, 'Yule-day', or the 'Child's day'. The night that preceded it, became known as 'Mother-night', long before (380–362 BC) they came in contact with Christianity. This sufficiently proves the real reason December 25 was selected."

"The message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible, spiritual world."

"Christmas is a time for 'giving up' sin, bad habits, and selfish pleasures. Christmas is a time for 'giving in' and surrendering to Christ, and accepting Him as King. Christmas is a time for 'giving out,' real giving and not swapping."



- Across:**
- 1. Saviour
 - 3. Joseph's espoused wife
 - 4. Many
 - 5. What angels said (2 words)
 - 8. City of David
 - 10. Baby clothes
 - 13. Shepherds reaction to seeing angels
- Down:**
- 1. Espoused husband
 - 2. Sheep watchers
 - 3. Feeding trough
 - 6. Why Joseph went to Bethlehem
 - 7. Many
 - 9. Engaged
 - 10. Redeemer
 - 11. Staying
 - 12. "___ to God in highest ..."
 - 13. Heavenly creature
 - 14. Place of lodging
 - 15. Herd of sheep

Answers at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/puzzle/Luke2.htm>

Keep Christ in Christmas

Author Unknown

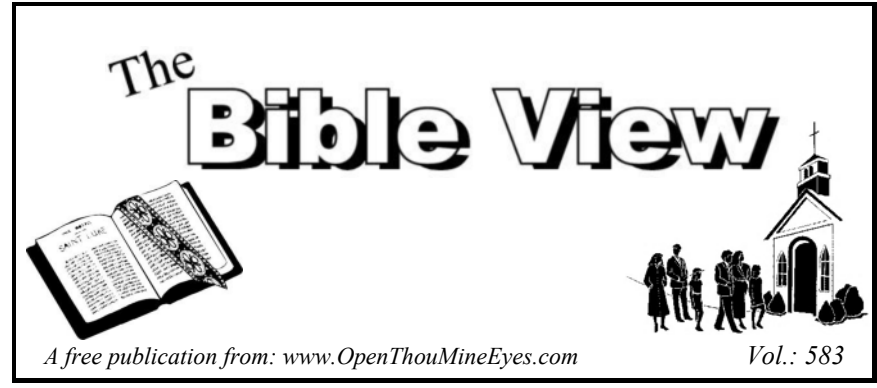
As now we celebrate His birth,
The coming of the Christ to earth,
May we, amid our joyous mirth,
Keep Jesus first in Christmas!

As chiming bells ring out
their lay,

And hearts are merry, light,
and gay,
Remember it is His birthday —
Keep Jesus first in Christmas!

Let's sing of Him in carols sweet,
Let's lay our best gifts at His feet
And make the season's joy
complete —
With Jesus first in Christmas!

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Vol.: 583

What Do People See in You?

A young abandoned girl was found sick and wandering the streets. She was brought to the hospital by some kind soul. There her body was not only healed, but a concerned worker told her that God loved her and had a way for her to go to heaven.



The child sat with open mouth as she was told how Jesus came to this earth as a babe, and died on a cruel cross for her sins. Eagerly, she accepted the invitation to trust Christ alone as her Saviour. Joy filled her life as she had a new-found hope and knew that she was deeply loved.

As a nurse came to give her scheduled medicines, the little girl asked her, "Do you know about Jesus, and that we are remembering His birth at Christmas?"

"Of, course, I do. Now con-

serve your strength," whispered the RN.

"You do?" questioned the child. "You look like you don't, and I was going to tell you about Him?"

"How do I look?" questioned the nurse.

"Oh, all sad and unhappy, like most folks. I figured if you had known about Jesus you would be happy?"

Oh Christian, do people see the joy of being saved in our faces, or do we look like the rest of the world that does not have the hope of a heavenly future?

God Gave

Bill Brinkworth

At a time when everyone is giving gifts to each other, it would do us well to remember what God has given us:

❖ God has given us everything we have: food, drink, health, ability to work, and a mind to think and accomplish all that we do. There is nothing that we have that God has not, one way or another, allowed us to have. Those that

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God Gave

Continued from Page 1
proudly proclaim they have “done it all themselves” do not understand that every breath, every heartbeat, and all that we do, are allowed by God. There is no such thing as a “self-made man”.

“And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.” Ecclesiastes 3:13

“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

I Corinthians 3:6

❖ God has given the gift of salvation to all that will accept His way of heaven. God has given His son, Jesus, to die and pay for our transgressions. All that accept Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for their sin can have the gift of salvation. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

❖ For those that are saved, God gave His gift of the Holy Spirit to them. *“... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38*
“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father

will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26

❖ For those that are saved, God has given them one or more spiritual gifts to serve Him.

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Romans 12:6-8

❖ For those that are saved, God has given us power over the many obstacles we face during our lifetime.

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matthew 21:22

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” I John 3:22

God is so wonderful to give us all that He has given us. None deserve His goodness. The least we can do is to give back to Him part of what He has allowed us to have. We should give to Him,



“The light that shined from the humble manger is strong enough to lighten our way to the end of our days” —Vita-Rays

not because we have to, but because we want to. God wants us to serve Him, obey Him, and live for him, because we love him. Do you love Him enough to give back to a giving God? No one can give more than our heavenly Father has, but will you give of your time, finances, and life to Him?

What Really Did Happen on the First Christmas?

Luke, as given by the Holy Spirit

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and

the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”

Luke 2:1-20

“Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season!”

Jesus Ministered in ...



Words to Find:
Cana
Nazareth
Nain

Sychar
Bethphage
Bethany
Jerusalem
Bethlehem

Jericho
Bethsaida
Capernaum
Caesarea
Sarepta

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The Reason for the Season

Barbara Brinkworth

Jesus is the reason for the season.

He's the One who makes the holidays worthwhile.

A babe that once was cradled in a manger.

Just the thought of Him will bring a happy smile.

Though born into this world as Adam's son,
He is God's only first begotten one.

He came to die upon the cross for me,
That through His blood from sin I could be free.

Jesus is the reason for the season.

He's the One who makes the holidays worthwhile.

A babe that once was cradled in a manger.

Just the thought of Him will bring a happy smile.

He was born in Bethlehem



beneath the star.
From there to Calvary was very far.
He gave His life to buy back sinful men,
So the redeemed could one day Heaven enter in.
Continued on Page 2

The Door

C. H. Spurgeon

You are not shut out of your Father's house, poor prodigal. The door is opened. You have only to stand and knock with a heart and desire for repentance. A door will be opened. Christ is that door. If you come to Christ you have come to God. If you trust only in Jesus, you will be saved. The door to the ark was wide enough to admit the hugest beasts as well as the tiniest animals, and the door into God's mercy is wide enough to let in the greatest sinner as well as the more refined moralist.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Rev. 3:20

The Reason for the ...

Continued from Page 1

Jesus is the reason for the season.

He's the One who makes the holidays worthwhile.

A babe that once was cradled in a manger.

Just the thought of Him will bring a happy smile.

This season will you give your heart to Him,
And let His Holy Spirit enter in.
He'll change your life and claim you as His own,
At life's end you'll have Heaven as your home.

Accept No Substitutes

C. H. Spurgeon

Suppose that a man had heard of a great physician who understood his ailment. He travelled a great many miles to see the celebrated doctor; but when he got to the door he was told the doctor was out.

"Well," he says, "then I must wait till he is in."

"You need not wait," they reply, "his assistant is at home."

The suffering man, who had often been disappointed answered, "I do not care about his assistant, I want to see the man himself. I am a desperate case, but I have heard that this physician has cured the like. I must, therefore, see him. No assistants

for me."

He was again told, "He is out; but there are his books. You can read his books."

"Thank you," replied the sick fellow, "I cannot be content with his books. I want the living man and nothing less. It is to him that I must speak, and from him I will receive instructions."

"Do you see that cabinet?"

"Yes."

"It is full of his medicines."

The sick man answered, "I dare say they are very good, but they are of no use to me without the doctor. I want their owner to prescribe for me, or I shall die of my disease."

"But see," cries one, "here is a person who has been cured by him, a man of great experience, who has been present at many remarkable operations. Go into the inquiry room with him, and he will tell you all you need to be cured."

The afflicted man answered, "I am much obliged to you, but all your talk only makes me long the more to see the doctor. I came to see him, and I am not going to accept anything else. I must see the man himself. He has made my disease a specialty.



He knows how to handle my case, and I will not stop till I see him."

Now, dear friends, if you are seeking Christ, imitate this sick man, or else you may be sure you will miss Heaven and His help altogether. Accept no substitutes! Accept and trust only Christ!

Plenty for All

Bridge, (1600-1670)

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

John 6:35

There is enough in Jesus Christ to serve us all. If two, six, or twenty men be athirst, and they drink out of a bottle; while one is drinking, the other envies because he thinks there will not be enough for him. If a hundred be athirst, and go to the river, while one is drinking, the other envies not, because there is enough to serve them all. Jesus is the great river of Living Water, and there is plenty for all!

Our Heavenly Vintager

Duvname, 1644.

We who were wild branches barren of all good fruit of holiness are through God's infinite mercy ingrafted into the true Vine, Jesus Christ. It is from Him that we receive all our grace and sap. We are enabled to bring forth the pleasant "grapes" of new obedience.

"If you can earn salvation by doing good works and deeds, then why did Jesus die?"

Yet, if we were left alone, and suffered to run out with uncontrolled liberty, we would be like the vine which is never pruned and return to our old natural wildness. We would bring forth no other fruit than those sour grapes of iniquity and sin. Therefore our heavenly Vintager, for His own glory and our good, often cuts away the superfluities of our licentious liberty, and prunes us with His knife of affliction. Being kept short of many of our carnal desires, we may become more fruitful in all holy duties.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:1-2

"This is the very essence of true religion – personally living with a personal Saviour, personally trusting a personal Redeemer, personally crying out to a personal Intercessor, and receiving personal answers from a Person who loves us, and who manifests himself to us." — Spurgeon

"The light that shined from the humble manger is strong enough to lighten our way to the end of our days." — Vita-Rays

I Am a Soldier!

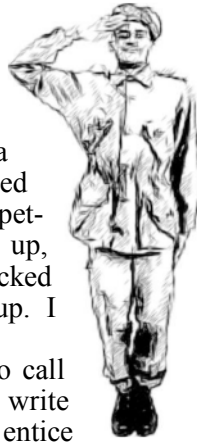
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youth, if He needs me to work with the adults, He can use me because I am there.

I am a soldier! I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up, or pepped up. I am a soldier!

No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me, or lure me. I am a soldier! I'm not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name, and building His kingdom. No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, candy, or give me handouts. I do not need to be cuddled, coddled, cradled, cared for, or be catered to. I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt badly enough to turn me around, and I cannot be discouraged enough to cause me to quit.

When Jesus called me into this army I had nothing. If I end up with nothing, I will still come out ahead. If I win, my God is the reason, and He will continue to sup-



ply all of my needs.

I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. The devil cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me. Governments cannot silence me, and Hell cannot handle me. I am a soldier! Even death cannot destroy me.

When my commander calls me from His battlefield, He will promote me to captain and then allow me to rule with Him. I am a soldier in His army, and I am marching and claiming the victory. I will not give up. I will not turn around. I am a soldier marching Heaven bound. Here I stand! Will you stand with me?

"You have received Christ; persevere in receiving him. You have come to trust him; keep on trusting him. You hang about his neck as a poor, helpless sinner; remain hanging there. Abide in him."

— Spurgeon



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The Old Suitcase

Bill Brinkworth

"Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." Acts 11:14
"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
Acts 16:31

"And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house." Acts 16:34

To be better organized, I put all my Gospel magic in various cases.

When I use the object lessons in various cases, I preach or teach to children, I always lug the cases with me. One particular case is certainly well worn, old, and the ugliest of them all. Because of its sentimental value, I just cannot get myself to throw out the 60-year old small, two-toned, brown, leather suitcase. It reminds me well of who I used to be.

Growing up, I had a very godly grandmother. She was my mother's mother, and she came to visit several times a year.

Honestly, and shamefully, she was not my favorite of our two grandmothers. There was something different about her that made me uncomfortable. She was a Christian.

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I Am a Soldier!

Author Unknown

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." II Tim. 2:3

I am a soldier in the army of my God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my commanding officer. The Holy Bible is my code of conduct. Faith, prayer, and God's Word are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity, and tested by fire.

I am a volunteer in this army, and I have enlisted for eternity. I will either retire at the rapture or die in this army, but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out, or be pushed out. I am faithful, reliable, capable, and dependable. If my God needs me, I am there. If He needs me in the Sunday school to teach the children or work with the

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The Old Suitcase

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Shortly after her arrival, the little suitcase was opened, and she pulled out several copies of a Sunday school paper she had saved and gave them to me. She would then lug out her old, battered Bible. It would start out on the nightstand next to her bed, but after her next morning's devotions, it would be left on a table in the living room, where she read it; and where its appearance would haunt and trouble me.

Every time she came, at least once her conversation turned to the things of God. Perhaps it was to correct something I had done wrong, or maybe it was, "Did you read those papers? What did you think?" Her godly presence in our house put an air of conviction on me. Things were not comfortable when she was there, even if she did not say anything about the Bible or religion. I now know I was not saved then, and that her godly life-style made me feel bad and guilty. Her presence brought tremendous conviction on me much of the time, without her having to say anything.

As I got older and after I got the polite welcomes out of the way, I made an effort to stay out of the house as much as possible when she was visiting. I also developed an attitude about her from something my father said. He roughly remarked, more than once, that she was "forcing her religion down our throats." Good, Dad gave me another de-

fense to keep me from having spiritual guiltiness; she was wrong; she was forcing her way of thinking on me. Still, her presence continued to make me uneasy. Things went back to "normal" when she and that brown, leather suitcase were out of the house.

All those remarks and advice she gave me somehow made it through the dark crevasses of my conscience, even though I tried to prevent her from invading it. For years, without even knowing it, I was being affected by her biblical influence; I felt guilty when I sinned. Her influence came to light at a particular Memorial Day parade.

I remember sitting on the steps of my rented home and watching the parade go by in Yardley, Pennsylvania. I recalled all the successes I had had already in my young life: I was married; I had property; I was the owner of a new truck; I had a young child. Everything seemed to be going so well. Then, I remembered thinking, "Grandmom was wrong. I did get away with sin!" Her persistence in trying to teach me God's way had, unknowingly to me, still stayed with me.

One year later to the day, everything had changed. Almost everything I boasted of the previous year was gone: house, marriage, property. All gone! Then I realized, "Oh, no. I did not get away with anything. Grandmom was right! I didn't get away with my sin."

It was not long until I realized my way did not work. I was in desperate need of the right answers. It was then I started reading my Bible. In a short time, I asked Jesus to forgive my sins. The old book that I used to run away from when grandmom came was now the source of the solution to my life's problems. I could not wait to get home from work to read more from the same book I had previously avoided much of my life.

As I read and learned more, my thinking and life began to change. The sinful things I used to do, lost their appeal; and one by one, dropped out of my life, or at least I worked on stopping them. Because, at that time, I was not in a good, Bible-believing church, and was not around strong Christians, I did not know what was happening to me.

I thought of calling grandmom. Surely, she would like to know about the changes in my life, and how I was reading my Bible; but I did not. Six months went by, and I still had not called her. Then I got my mother's telephone call. Grandmom had died and gone to Heaven.

With guilt in my heart, I went to the funeral. People at the funeral told how wonderfully my grandmom had served the Lord; how she had led many to the Lord, taught Sunday school for most of her life, had knocked on doors to invite people to church, and even visited her students. It even turned out that after she led a person to the Lord, she wrote

their name in a little book. People repeatedly requested to look into the little book. My grandmom had made quite a difference in many lives, including mine.

Then the preacher preached at the service. I had heard preaching much of my life, but his words were much different. I had never heard anything like it in my life; such truth, such power, so interesting! Then he did an unusual thing. He said that my grandmother would want him to conclude her "going home service" with an invitation to invite any listening with an opportunity to be saved and have the same promise of Heaven she had. After hearing the invitation, I finally realized what had happened to me; I had been saved. I learned right there at her funeral that I had done what God wanted me to do; I had trusted Christ as my Saviour. I was forgiven, and not forgotten by God.

It has been over 37 years since that funeral. Grandmom's in Heaven, and I have God's promise that I too can go there and see her one day. All this happened because my grandmom cared about my soul. She did not quit her godly influence, just because I was not interested at the time. In the end her perseverance, daily prayers, and efforts to get me to be obedient to God, paid off. "Thanks, Grandmom, for not giving up."

No, I do not think I will ever get rid of that old suitcase.

