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EDITORIAL

"For We Walk By Faith"

There are a lot of things mentioned in the Bible which we have to accept by faith alone. No amount of reasoning can really explain them. They are just to be accepted by faith, because we believe in the almighty God and that the Bible contains His words, that is, the things God wants for us to know. For example, in the book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, it says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." God spoke and it was accomplished. At Genesis 2:7, after the Creator had created the universe, it says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostril the breath of life; and man became a living being." Now, how did God do that? Did He mix water in the dust to make a figure or an image? Or God called man in existence out of the earth? We just don't know. We do know the fact, however, that God created Adam, the first man, from the dust of the ground, and Eve, the first woman was created by God from the rib which the Lord God had taken from Adam's body, as the Bible records.

Likewise, in the sixth chapter of the book of Joshua we read the account of how God gave the city of Jericho to the Israelites, who were marching towards the promised land, after leaving Egyptian's slavery. The record there says that as they came near Jericho they found the city securely shut up. Yet, God told Joshua, "See I have given Jericho

into your hand." All they had to do, as God had commanded them, go around the city once every day for six days, with seven priests bearing trumpets of rams' horns before the ark, and on the seventh day they were asked to go around the city seven times, then the priests were to blow a long blast with the trumpets and the people were to shout with a great shout, and at that point God told Joshua, "then the wall of the city will fall down flat." And it did, as we read in Joshua's book, in its sixth chapter, when the people had done everything exactly as God had commanded. How did that happen? I can't explain. But I believe that it did take place, because I believe what the Bible says.

Also, in the fifth chapter of the book of 2 Kings, in the Old Testament, there is an interesting story of a commander of the army, who was afflicted with leprosy but was healed by the power of God when he had obeyed what he was told to do. At first, when he had heard God's command he was shocked, angered and became very furious, because he was told by God's messenger to "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." (2 Kings 5:10). It didn't sound reasonable and logical to Naaman. But later he repented, changed his mind, and went to do what he was commanded. "So he went down," we read in verse 14th, "and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean." Again, how did that happen? I can't answer. I do know and believe, though, that when Naaman believed and obeyed God's command as he was told to do, his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean, healed.

Have you heard about the apostle Paul? I am sure you have. He wrote almost half the number of books in the New Testament of the Bible. Do you know how his sins were washed away and he was saved and became a follower of Christ? He was, the Bible says, in the city of Damascus, when the Lord sent to him a certain disciple, Ananias, who came and told Paul: "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16). And Acts 9:18 says, ". . . and he arose and was baptized." Why was Paul baptized? To have his sins washed away. But how did baptism wash away Paul's sins? You see, I don't know, again. I believe that it did, because the Bible says so. I know also that Christ, when he was going back to heaven, had promised to save those who would

believe in Him and would be baptized. (Mark 16:16). Later, Paul in one of his epistles to Christians wrote that by being baptized they had put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27). Also, the apostle Peter in his first epistle reminded his readers about those who were saved from the flood in the ark through water, and then he said, "There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism . . . " (1 Peter 3:21). Again, how does baptism saves one from sin? No amount of reasoning can explain this. The Bible says so. It is just that simple.

The Law, Mechanical Music, and Miracles

J.C. Choate

As many times we have discussed what the Bible says about the Law, Mechanical music in worship, and Miracles, still some of our readers question what we say on these subjects. We have no objection to this in that it indicates that someone is reading and thinking about these matters. Since the religious world has taught falsely on these themes for so many years, it is understandable why there are those who have come to accept error as truth and truth as error. May be something can be said at this time to help some of you to get these Bible subjects turned around so you can see them as God arranged them.

THE LAW

All of the Bible is the word of God. That includes the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21). But the very fact that the Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament is an indication that one is old and the other is new. That means that we cannot anymore obey the Old Testament law than the people of that time could obey the New Testament law or the law of Christ. The Hebrew writer says, in speaking of Christ, "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal

inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth." (Hebrews 9:15-18). Then notice what he said as he continues in the next chapter, "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of the Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:9,10). Now after reading these passages of scripture, who will contend that we are still under the law of the Old Testament? Listen, God made a testament or will. It served its purpose and then he made another testament or will. When he made the new one then that made the first one old and no longer binding. The new one was sealed with the death and blood of Christ and that is why the old one is no longer binding. (Matthew 26:28). Now who would say he did away with the sacrificial system of the old law but the Ten Commandments are still binding? To do that means that you want to accept that part of it that you want to accept and reject the part that you don't want. But if you keep part of it then you must keep all of it. The fact is, though, you cannot keep any of it and obey God. Even to attempt to do so means that you are rejecting the sacrifice of Christ.

The question then arises, If the Ten Commandments are no longer binding as a law, does that mean that man is free to kill, steal, commit adultery, and so on? Certainly not, since Christ and the New Testament writers also taught all of these moral laws except for the commandments having to do with the day of worship, and in this case the Sabbath day, which came on Saturday, was replaced with the First Day of the Week, which is on Sunday. We read that the disciples met on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper. (Acts 20:7). Also, Paul commanded the Corinthians to give of their means on the first day of the week. (1 Corinthians 16:1, 2).

But to be sure we understand who made the covenant and with whom it was made, notice these words: "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord made out this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day." (Deuteronomy 5:1-3). Then he goes on to give the Ten Commandments and all of the other laws that were tied to

them. But to think there are those today who still want to hold on to that old law, reminds us of what Paul said, as he compared the testaments and concluded that whatever the Old Testament offered, the New Testament or the law of Christ offers so much more and is so much greater. But listen to what he says: "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away; shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious. Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away." (2 Corinthians 3:6-16). Now to those of you who are trying to hold on to your favorite part of the law, I wonder if you noticed that Paul is referring to you when he said that even to this day when Moses is read the veil is still upon their hearts so that they cannot properly see. He then says that when you turn to the Lord that that veil will be taken away since it is done away in Christ.

We could go on and on giving statement after statement from the scripture showing that Christ took the law away when he died on the cross and at the same time sealed his own law with his blood and made it binding upon all people everywhere as long as time shall stand. As a matter of fact, Christ said that in the judgment that we will be judged by his word. (John 12:48). Anyway, we will go on to the other matters at this time.

MECHANICAL MUSIC

There are those who cannot understand why we as members of

the church of Christ do not have mechanical music in our worship to God. That's the point, it is to God, and we want to worship him according to his wishes and not according to ours. In the New Testament, the law under which we live and the law we must comply with, we are told that we are to sing and make the melody in our hearts to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). The Hebrew writer says that we are to praise the Lord with the fruit of our lips. (Hebrews 13:15). Yes, I like mechanical music, and I have it in my home, but I also like many other things and I have a lot of things in my home that I do not take to worship and try to make those things a part of my worship. But didn't David and others use mechanical music in their worship to God? They also went to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship, offered animal sacrifices, and did many other things that are not done today by those who advocate the use of mechanical music in worship. The problem is, my friend, you want to do what you want to do and you try to justify it by going to David in the Old Testament period. That will not work, and you should know that. Please be honest with God and with yourself.

The very fact that you would admit that you can acceptably worship God by singing praises to God without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments of music is proof enough that Mechanical music is not a part of God's plan for acceptable worship. Do you know of any other command of worship that can be carried out or left off according to one's wishes? The point is, God expects us to do whatever he has asked us to do. Therefore, if we can worship one time without the use of mechanical music then why can't we worship all the time without it? Furthermore, if we can worship without it, then why not just leave it off altogether and not create division over it? Please think about that.

MIRACLES

Does Jesus live today? He most certainly does? How do we know that he lives? Must he miraculously appear to each one of us to prove that he exists? I don't think you would answer that in the affirmative. Then why would you reason that miracles must be performed today to prove that Jesus still lives? Hasn't the Lord already come and proven himself by signs and miracles and wonders? Hasn't his existence, his death, burial, and resurrection, and his power already been attested to, proven, and confirmed. John wrote, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:30,31). Then Paul says that faith comes by hearing the word of God. (Romans 10:17). Again he said that all scripture is given by the inspiration of God and completely furnishes man unto every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16,17). Peter backs this up by telling us that the Lord has given to us "everything that pertains to life and godliness." (2 Peter 1:3). James says that we are to be doers of the word. (James 1:22). And John declared that we are to do the commandments of the Lord that we might have the right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city or go to heaven. (Revelation 22:14). Now if all of this be true, then why would we have to see a miracle or experience one, or why would Jesus have to continue to perform miracles up to this day, for us to be saved and to go to heaven? If one of these be true then the other is not.

But you may go to the book of Mark where Jesus is speaking to the apostles and read where he said to them "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth, and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:15-20). Now to whom was the Lord speaking here? As mentioned already, the apostles, but not to everyone. He promised that he would send the Comforter to them (John 14:26; John 16:13), that they, the apostles, should tarry in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8), and they did, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4). As evidence of that, they spoke in the languages of the local people and they performed miracles. (Acts 2:43). Who did this? All of the Lord's people? No, just those who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit or the miraculous power of the Spirit. Read again Acts 2:43 where it says that the apostles were the ones who did the miracles. Then in Acts 6 we are told that they had the power to lay their hands on a select number to give them the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, but they could not pass that power on to others.

So since we are not apostles, and the apostles did not give us the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, then we cannot do miracles today, and neither can anyone else. Does that limit God's power? Certainly not? God created the heavens and the earth and he created man from the dust of the earth, but he is not doing that today to prove that he is God. Our problem is that we want something exciting and all of that, but even then, those who claim to be able to perform miracles today are fakes and imposters. They cannot perform any miracles, at least by the power of the Lord. There is a big difference in healing someone of a backache, cancer, tumors, and other things that you cannot see, and in raising the dead, putting new arms and legs on, and giving eyesight to those who have been blind from birth. We must question the so-called miracle-workers of today since they do not do the miracles that Jesus did, and inasmuch as they preach things contrary to the scriptures, not to mention the fact that they are members of churches that we do not read about in the Bible. Those that know what the Bible teaches will not fall for such to be deceived and to end up lost.

Finally, "the signs that will follow" as mentioned in Mark 16, not only included healing the sick and speaking in tongues or other languages, but also that they would have the power to cast out devils, to take up serpents, to drink any deadly thing without being hurt, etc. While none of these things were to be done to put on a show, still they could be done. Now why is it that miracle-workers today only talk about tongues and healing the sick?. Why don't they also do these other things? And why don't they raise the dead, and do other miracles that would convince one and all that they were doing it by the power of God? Of course the reason they don't do it is because they can't do it. That doesn't prove God's weakness but it proves that they are fake healers. Even if they are sincere, they are deceived and they are deceiving others. Christ warned against these kind of people in that he said that they were false prophets who would shew great signs and wonders and "if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matthew 24:24). So my friends, believe the Lord. He and his word have already been confirmed. They do not have to be confirmed again and again and of course this cannot be done anyway by fake healers.

In Conclusion, let me encourage you to continue to read and study God's word. Forget about what man has said, especially if it is not in harmony with the Lord's word. If you want to know God's will, go to the

scripture, read it and study it, and then do what it says. Only then will you be right. Only then can you be saved.

Especially For Women

"To Be a Wife"

Betty Burton Choate

What does it really mean to be a wife? Young girls look toward the day of marriage with thrills and excitement. They have planned long toward that one particular day, with their parents. In many cases they have saved money and bought household things, carefully packing them away, waiting for that special day to come. Sarees, clothes, jewelry have been bought and kept for the bride's use. All of the attention seems to be focused on that one day and that all-important word: marriage.

But what about "after the marriage?" What does it really mean to be a wife?

If the marriage is a "love marriage" it means the continuation of growing together, of developing a deeper love and a more complete knowledge of each other. Faults and weaknesses will be discovered that were not readily seen before.

In an arranged marriage, the challenges are even greater because often the bride has suddenly become the wife of a stranger and member of a family entirely new to her. If she is happy about the marriage she will probably have a positive attitude and the couple will begin from the first day to build a good life together.

But for either type of bride, there are specific instructions in the scriptures for her guidance: The older women are encouraged to teach "... the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to

be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands. . . " (Titus 2:4, 5).

Ephesians 5:22, 23 gives instruction to wives: "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church. . ."

It is a wonderful thing that a woman is to be loved and protected and cared for by her husband. Verses 25-31 of Ephesians 5 teaches husbands to ". . . love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it. . . So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it. . . For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

If a woman truly loves her husband, or learns to love him, she will grow in all of the other areas of being a wife. In this scripture, the meaning of the word "love" is not the twittery excited feeling of emotional attraction, but rather it is the kind of love that seeks always what is best for the one who is loved. When a woman has this type of love, she will be conscientious about looking after her husband's needs. She will be aware of what makes him happy and she will try to please him. She will take the greatest care of his home, his children, his possessions, in order to show her love.

A woman who loves her husband will encourage him to talk of his work, his associates, his thoughts, so that she can share in all parts of his life. I Corinthians 7:3-5 says, "Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body but his wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self control. "

So, it is the wife's privilege and responsibility to love her husband, and, in loving him, to look after his physical, mental, and emotional needs. She no longer belongs to herself, or her family, but to her

husband, and her husband belongs to her. Together they must work to develop the pure and beautiful and selfless oneness God planned in marriage.

Tiresome Words

Buford C. Holt

"Ye have wearied Jehovah with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied Him? In that ye say, Everyone that doeth evil is good in the sight of Jehovah, and He delighteth in them; or where is the God of justice?" (Malachi 2:17). The prophet gave a wonderful lesson for the people of his day and for men of all ages. God was tired of Israel (His people) perverting His Word and had the prophet warn them. They were told God would no longer tolerate such perversions. Amos showed how the longsuffering of God had overlooked the sins of Israel but warned them that the leniency would end. "I will not again pass by them any more" (Amos 7:8). We should profit by their mistakes, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4). "Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come" (I Corinthians 10:11). It is evident that many have not profited by their example for they are walking in the way of disobedience and using words which Jehovah does not tolerate. Many have learned words foreign to the "old paths" and speak contrary to "sound words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Timothy 6:3). They have learned words which soothe the itching ears. By their smooth speech, they beguile the hearts of the innocent (Romans 16:18). They promise deliverance from sin but they are clouds without water. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them that are causing the divisions and occasions of stumbling, contrary to the doctrine which ye learned and turn away from them" (Romans 16:17). Many are more interested in numbers (having large crowds) than they are of following the Lord in all things. The apostles were instructed, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you" (Matthew 28:20).

Satan has been working for years giving careful instruction to cause people to become believers in themselves rather than the Lord.

If God grew tired of words foreign to His will under the law of Moses, what do you think He will say regarding the words which are foreign to the language of the New Testament? The man who set aside Moses' law died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be judged worthy who sets aside the law of Christ and counts the blood of the Son of God an unholy thing? Vengeance belongs unto God and He will execute the judgment as He deems proper. Man will not be able to alter God's judgment which will come at the last day.

Some churches have drifted from the stand they took twenty-five to fifty years ago. The voice of the people has been heard. Demands have been made for gyms, play programs, and gimmicks to take the place of hardwork. Organizations and more organizations have come about to claim the attention of the young people. Preachers no longer quote scripture for authority to do things which they advocate. It is time for a return to Peter's statement, "If any man speaketh, speak as it were oracles of God; if any man ministereth, minister as of the strength which God supplieth: that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (I Peter 4:11). The fear of losing numbers has created a new language in the church-one that says, "You are all right, God will not condemn you for that and besides we need you to teach a class, etc. etc." Where God has said, "Reprove; rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (II Timothy 4:2), the people want their ears scratched. They therefore, "heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts and will turn away their ears from the truth and turn aside unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4).

Discipline is necessary in the home, school, church, government, or any other place where disobedience is found. When God had only two people on the earth, He exercised discipline. When the church was young, God punished the sin of Ananias and Saphira. We never offend God when we use words and actions which please Him. We should "not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's" (Deuteronomy 1:17). God said, "Them that sin reprove in the sight of all, that the rest also may be in fear. I charge thee in the sight of God and Christ Jesus, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing by partiality" (I Timothy 5:20-21; James 2:1-13).

Those who are not members of the church are lost and will remain lost until they obey the gospel. If we use words which cause the disobedient to remain in disobedience, we honor satan and dishonor God. We are contributing to their disobedience by not using words to encourage obedience.

We encourage all to humbly obey the Lord and be the salt of the earth and a light to those in darkness.

The Divine Challenge

W. Edwin Kearley

Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). As followers of Jesus, our mission in life can be no less than to carry the message of salvation to our fellow man.

But the reality is, there is much apathy in regard to personal evangelism. The state of apathy has several causes. I fear most of it is rooted in the effect Humanism has upon the church to rob us of our faith and zeal. The clamor for pep talks in the pulpit indicates a lack of spirituality. May we kindle in our hearts that great faith of the First Century Christians. Paul could say, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church" (Colossians 1:24). Also he said, "I bear branded on my body the marks of Jesus" (Galatians 6:17).

May we be spurred from our indifference by remembering how Israel lost the book of God. The temple was in disrepair. Josiah, the king of Judah, commanded the temple repaired. Recorded are these words, "And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the Lord; Hilkiah, the priest, found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses. And Hilkiah answered, and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord . . . And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothed . . . And the king commanded . . . Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for them that are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for greater is the wrath of the Lord that is poured

out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do after all that is written in this book" (II Chronicles 34:14-21).

We have plenty copies of God's word in our possession. However, unless we let the word penetrate our hearts and produce active faith, the effect is the same as if it were lost. Our society becomes engrossed in the pursuit of material goods and pleasure. It is not wrong to have material things and pleasure in keeping with principles of Christ. It is wrong for these to become more important than growing spiritually and saving the lost.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM IS AN URGENT NEED IN THE CHURCH TODAY. Imperative is the need in the church today for Christians who can and will talk to people about their souls and their need of salvation in Christ. We need the burning passion characterized in the person of Jesus and Christians of the First Century. We must divest ourselves of personal vain glory. Selfishness is perhaps the most cardinal sin. It is a great hindrance to the cause of Christ.

Solomon wrote, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: and he that is wise winneth souls" (Proverbs 11:30).

Every Christian must recognize the value of a soul. We must imitate Jesus. He said, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Also, "For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" (John 12:47). Though Jesus spoke to the multitudes, he never lost interest in the individual. He said, "Zaccheus, make haste and come down: for today I must abide at thy house" (Luke 19:5). Nicodemus came to Jesus by night. Jesus taught him he needed to be born of the water and the Spirit (John 3:1-5).

Let not one say, "I know Jesus did personal evangelism, but I can't do it." The cursing, swearing Peter became a great rock and power in the kingdom of Christ. The urgent need of the hour is for Christians who will say, "Here am I, send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

What is the emphasis of the New Testament? Jesus invited men to, "Come . . . and learn of me" (Matthew 11:28). His charge was, "Go and teach" (Matthew 28:19). Then he said teach again, "Teach them to

observe all things whatsoever I command you" (Matthew 28:20). The command was to "go". This command was passed on to all who would obey the gospel of Christ. That command cannot be obeyed by proxy.

In the New Testament epistles, the emphasis is placed on individual responsibility. The church can act only as individuals discharge their responsibility. Paul wrote of the Philippian church, "In the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life" (Philippians 2:15-16). In addition Paul said, "And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." (Philippians 1:14). We need more today who are not intimidated by the apathetic, immoral, and atheistic world. Paul's example helped others to overcome.

Jude, in addressing those "that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ" urged, ". . . earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 1:3). In the parable of the great supper, Jesus said the Master of the house commanded, ". . . go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled (Luke 14:23). The personal evangelist must have an impelling force from within before there can be a compelling force from his teaching.

All do not have the same office or the same innate ability to perform tasks (Romans 12:3-5). However, the Bible teaches with equal clarity that each individual is responsible for the ability he possesses. Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his servants and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talent; to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his ability" (II Corinthians 12:12-18).

(1) May we persuade you to become a personal evangelist? the great commission places personal responsibility upon me. The pronoun "I" can be found in it. The command was given to the apostles. They were commanded to teach those they converted to observe what they were commanded. Therefore personal evangelism is commanded of all Christians (Matthew 28:19-20). What great power for good is involved in the great commission!!

To be like Christ, we must be personal evangelist. Jesus said, "It is enough for the disciple that he be as his teacher, and the servant as his Lord" (Matthew 10:25). Jesus had a passion for souls strong enough to give his life for them.

(2) The primitive church should be our example. The church everywhere must be involved in personal evangelism if it becomes like the original church. When the church in Jerusalem began to be persecuted, we see the individual action of its members. Luke records, "And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem . . . Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." (Acts 8:1, 5). Let us notice the work of the scattered church. "Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus, and Antioch preaching the word" (Acts 11:19). We must develop and sustain the faith and zeal of the Jerusalem church.

(3) The followers of Christ have been called to "follow his steps" (I Peter 2:21). The Christian's mission is to "show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9). Unless one has a genuine concern for the eternal welfare of his fellow man, he cannot initiate the care of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(4) The convert to Christ feels a gracious impulse of his soul to reach others for Christ. He wants to share his joy with others. Too often the enthusiasm of the new convert is stifled by the dead indifference of those who were already members of the church. May we all return to our first love for Christ and his cause.

(5) Helping another find salvation from sin is the greatest work one can do for another. Feeding the hungry and clothing the naked is the responsibility of Christians. However, the grandest deed one can do for another is to bring him to Jesus Christ. Though a person may become extremely wealthy in material goods and dies without learning of Christ and obeying him, he dies a pauper.

(6) Being a personal evangelist is necessary in maintaining a vital spiritual life. Helping others in their salvation is bearing fruit. Jesus taught, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and

every branch in me that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit . . . If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:2, 6). Every Christian should be challenged by those statements. Of the heavenly Father's glorification, Jesus said, "Here is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8). Fruitlessness is a great cause of apostasy.

(7) We need to be soul winners because of God's desire to have all men saved. Paul stated God would "have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:4). Only as Christians become the medium of the truth to the lost can the lost become convicted to obey the gospel of Christ. The lost must be encouraged to study and believe the truth by those who love the truth. Paul wrote, "Now unto him that is able to do EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER THAT WORKETH IN US" (Ephesians 3:20). Also he said, "For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

(8) Joy in the heart of the soul winner is one of the greatest joys of the human heart. Paul called some of his converts "my joy and crown" (Philippians 4:1). John said he had no greater joy than "to hear of my children walking in truth" (II John 3). To lead one to the truth and observe him to continue in the faith and grow spiritually becomes to the Christian a great joy. Inactive members rarely enjoy their religion.

You can become a soul winner for Jesus! The gospel of Christ is the power to save the soul (Romans 1:16). You must become the messenger of Christ to the lost. Let Christ express his will through you. "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give the light" (Ephesians 5:14).

**"BETTER IS A HANDFUL WITH QUIETNESS THAN
BOTH HANDS FULL TOGETHER WITH TOIL AND
GRASPING FOR THE MIND." ECCL.4:6.**

God Wants No Less than All our Heart

David wade

The heart of men is mentioned 830 times in the King James Bible. By using a concordance and investing about two hours, one can greatly bless himself by reading these passages. One fact really stands out; God desires no less than all your heart. Let us be impressed with the great truths found in some of these passages.

First, we should be impressed with the fact that the inclination of our hearts determines what we do with life. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

Furthermore, God knows our hearts, whether good or bad. "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, And according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:9-10). "For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). "For He knows the secrets of the heart" (Psalm 44:21).

God's word is given to direct our hearts in His paths. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6). "With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:10-11). "The statues of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:8).

If one refuses to heed God's revelation, he becomes guilty of all kinds of sins. "The fool has said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 53:1). "For Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man" (Matthew 15:19-20). "This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me, And in Vain they worship Me,

Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7; cf. Isaiah 29:13). "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion" (Hebrews 3:12-15).

In order to give our hearts totally to God, we must obey the gospel and live a faithful Christian life. "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Romans 6:16-18; cf. vss. 3-6; Acts 2:28). "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:22-23).

We must love God Supremely. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38).

We must love our fellow man, especially our fellow Christians. "And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourselves" (Matthew 22:39). "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (1 Peter 1:22-23).

We have touched only the "hem of the garment" on this subject. Surely, we must be impressed with the fact that God wants no less than all our heart.

A "GO" RELIGION

Winfred Clark

James, the half brother of the Lord, has spoken of "pure" religion James 1:27. He has told us what such religion is like. It is seen in purity of life and providing for the assistance of those in distress. Such a religion is a blessing to those involved and to others who have occasion to come in contact with them. If those who received this letter would abide by what James has to say, what a blessing they would be. Just think of the difference such would make.

It might do us good to take the little word "go" and see what sort of an effect this might have on our lives.

1. IT WOULD BRING ABOUT RECONCILIATION

Take a look at Matthew 5:23-24. "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." If this passage became the norm of one's life there would surely be a great deal of reconciliation. A person would be looking for ways to bring such about in the lives of people.

2. IT WOULD BRING A GREAT DEAL OF CONSOLATION.

Move over in the book of Matthew to the eleventh chapter and verse four. Here the Lord told the disciples of John, who was very troubled, to go and tell him what they have heard and seen. Jesus would let them know that such was based on what the Bible had to say of him. If they carry a Bible message back to John, such is bound to have it effect in a troubled heart. If they fail to "go" as they are told, John will be left in doubt and despair.

How often can a "go" religion help to bring consolation to hearts that are weary and worn from the cares of the day.

3. IT CAN BRING ABOUT SALVATION.

This is seen in the commission our Lord gave to those whom he had chosen Acts 1:2-3. Before his Ascension, he would tell them to "go" into all the world and preach the gospel; to every creature Mark 16:15. As a result of their preaching one might hear, believe and be baptised. That being the case, they would be saved and you have no less than the word of the Lord for such a promise. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Those are the words of Jesus. He is an authority about the matter. He knew what it would take and he would shed his blood to make it happen.

Yes, a "go" religion can make a great difference in the lives of people.

Why Are There Not More Christians?

Jerrie Barber

When a person knows the joy and peace of mind that comes from being a servant of Christ, it is hard to understand why everyone would not want the blessings that Christ has to offer.

But there are some reasons why people fail to submit to the will of Christ.

False teachers lead many away from the truth. We are warned of this in the Bible. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." (2 Peter 2:2). "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." (Matthew 15:14).

The passing pleasures of sin entrap others. To deny that sin is fun would be to lie. However, the pleasure of sin is only for a short time.

(Hebrews 11:24,25.) This short time of pleasure attracts many away from God. "He also that received seed among thorns is he that heareth the word, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." (Matthew 13:22).

Delay keeps people out of the body of Christ. I could not name the people that I have talked with about their souls who knew the will of God and planned to do it some day, but not yet. But God's word on the right time is always today. (2 Corinthians 6:2.)

Habits

Most of the time when we hear someone mention the word habit, we envision all sorts of bad things--and surely there are a lot of bad habits. But just because something may be described as a habit does not mean that it is wrong.

The dictionary defines habit in several ways. A habit can be a compulsive need or addiction, such as when a person uses heroin or cocaine--he must have it and will stop at nothing to obtain it. That is bad habit!

A habit may also be a particular practice or custom, such as a family exchanging gifts on birthdays. That is a good habit; it is an expression of love.

A habit is an acquired behaviour pattern that is regularly followed until it becomes almost involuntary. By definition, it is clearly evident that we are all creatures of habit. Most of the things we do each day are done because of various habits we have acquired over the years.

Christianity helps people in their continuing process of growth and maturing. Practically, that means that we constantly evaluate ourselves by the standard of Scripture. We need to exert every effort in the development of the good habits that will help us grow "to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ."

That also means that we work just as hard (or maybe harder) to break and rid ourselves of habits that serve no useful purpose, that detract from our character as God's people, and that inhibit us in our service to Him and others.

GOOD HABITS

1. The Bible should be the foundation upon which the Christian family is built. It is impossible to know how God wants us to live without studying the Bible. In the first Psalm, the source of happiness for that righteous man was "the law of the LORD" in which he habitually "meditated both day and night."

2. Prayer is that which naturally accompanies Bible study. Through the Scriptures God speaks to us. Through prayer we open our hearts to Him. The Scriptures inform us that the prayers of righteous people avail much. God expects us to come before Him in prayer, to confess our sins to Him, and to "cast our burdens on Him." The regular practice (habit) of prayer helps us to be humble, aids us in our spiritual development, and gives us renewed courage to face the world and defeat temptation.

3. Regular attendance to all services should be a very strong habit with God's people. There should never be any debate within ourselves as to whether or not we are going to be present. The times set aside for Bible study and worship ought not to be viewed with resignation--"It is our duty; we are obligated to go, so we will try to be there." Rather, they should be viewed as the greatest moments of the week, approached with unbounded anticipation. They are refreshing periods of joy and celebration when together we can praise and honour our God for His greatness and for the great things He has done for us!

BAD HABITS

Unfortunately, we must talk about those, too. We present the following not so much to scold as to encourage, thought and change. No one ever intentionally decides to have a bad habit. Most times it is just something we slide into, and then we're stuck with it. We said earlier that habits are behavior patterns. Often they are hard to acquire, but

once you have them they are even harder to break--especially bad ones. We all can be better. Think seriously about the next few points. As they pertain to you, determine to make the necessary corrections--to break the bad habit.

1. Poor Bible study. None of us intentionally fail to study; we just run out of time--right? Not really--it is just the bad habit of thinking we have all week to get it done and then never getting around to it. A few hastily written answers jotted down while sitting in the pew five minutes before class begins may save a little embarrassment during the discussion but is of no other value. Set aside a time during the week to study the assigned lesson and some time each day for personal meditation on the Scriptures.

2. Poor attendance goes hand in hand with the previous point. If you do not study and do your lesson, then why go to class? All kinds of excuses are offered here--but the real point is that it is not much of a priority with some. This is not only a bad habit but a serious condition that may lead to spiritual ruin.

3. Tardiness is a rut. It is completely unintentional, but we just get in the habit of not leaving in time, the result of the habit of not getting ready in time, because we didn't get up in time, because we didn't go to bed in time. Sometimes bad habits feed each other, and before you know it, we've created a monster. Just so you will know: "The getting-there time is not the starting time, neither is the starting time the getting-there time. If you get there at the starting time, you are late!"

Habits. We all have them. Let's be thankful for the good ones and encourage each other to develop more. Let's also kindly and patiently help each other to break the bad ones. After all, don't we all want to be the best we can be?

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