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The Christian Courier



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Teach God's Word

As a child of God, you will learn to love His Word. It is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path. It has been given for your benefit, and despite opposition from the devil, the world and your own flesh, you must learn to cling to it with all your heart. The amount of time you spend in the Word will be a reflection of the amount of love you have for God.

As you read the Bible and listen to God speaking through it, you'll recognize that He desires His Word to be kept. He is asking you to obey His commands because He loves you. And if you love Him, you'll keep His commands because that is what He wants. He knows they are always best for you; if you keep them, you will be happy, and He will be pleased.

ALL THINGS NEW!

2 Corinthians 5:17

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

In writing on this subject, I hope to bring out a few points of which I am sure most of us overlook. I hope to ask several questions.

1. What is all things? [verse 18] "All things are of God,.." Does these two words have the same meaning? As to ALL: [2 Cor 6:14] "Be ye not uneaqually yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darknes?" [verse 16-18] "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. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separte, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Here we see the things brought out and most preachers teach that this is not to marry outside of the church, to which I agree. But there also are other marriages considered here. In our text we see all things. Does this not include the way we dress and where we go. Can we wear the same old shorts, pants, and swimsuits, and long hair on the men, short hair on women, dances, clubs, bridge games, and if there be any other thing which are the works of the flesh? Does not this scripture enclude these things in the all. Also in the 6th chapter and 14th verse, when it said to be not unequally yoked with unbelievers; is this not what unbelievers do? [Eph 2:1-2] "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:" (The prince of the power of the air is Satan) verse 3) "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; ans were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (lust of the flesh= things we liked to do) Does this not include all the things we liked to wear and places we liked to go? Is not the all things what Paul was describing here in [2 Cor 5:17 & 6;14?] Are we married to the fashions of this world so bad that we can't change our way of dress and the things we do? Or is it eaiser to sear our conscience with a hot iron? [1 Timothy 4:2] and say that this is not what it means? [Col 3:17] said; "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (To do in his name is to do by his permission) [Col 3:5-10] "Mortify therefore

your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate effection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communications out of your mouth. Lie not to one another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:" Does not these things include all things we do in word and in deed? (Which is actions) [Isa 5:7-8] "For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgement, but behold opression; for righteousness, but behold a cry. Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." When church people do these things and go and act as the people of the world, (dress and look like them) then they fall under the scripture and its teaching. [2 Peter 2:20] "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning." verse 22; "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again, and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." Does all things mean all or just what we want them to mean? If just what we want them to mean, then all things are not of God. Just the things we want to be of God, are of him; So brethren, it seems I am persursded that when it said all things have become new, that he means just what he said.

Yours for true worship and true Christian life.
Lloyd Treat - 13 N Bock - Broken Bow, OK. 74728

One of the most exciting aspects of obeying God's laws is seeing the wonderful results that follow. From the smallest child to the oldest adult, the keeping of God's commandments brings great blessings and lasting rewards.

The rewards of obedience are strong proof that God's laws were meant for our own good. Not only will your life be fulfilled each day, but you'll find that others will benefit as well. Through the wisdom and knowledge that we gain by keeping His commandments, we are able to show others what God is like. The Bible tells us that this brings great joy to His heart.

HOW BRIGHT DO WE SHINE?

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father just as you are in me and I in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." [John 17: 20-23] (NIV)

From Jesus' prayer in the garden.

UNITY! WHY? "So that the world may know you (God) have sent me (Jesus).

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort of his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing...." [Philippians 2: 1-7] (NIV)

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life." [Phil 2; 14-16].

How bright do we, as God's children shine....how is the church growing....how is your congregation growing...how united are we?

Your brother in Christ

David McCay, Rt 1 Box 72, Lorenzo, Tx. 79343
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Editor's personal note: I would encourage Brother David and all of us to take the 6th and 7th verses of the NIV and compare them with the King James Bible. I find that the NIV plainly teaches that Jesus Christ, the Son of God did not even consider being equal with God and deminishes himself to nothing, thys losing his very influence in instructing others in righteousness, and therefore denying his Diety and that he is the Son of God. (ie who being the very nature God, did not consider equality with God someting to be grasped, but made himself nothing." This is just my personal view of these verses, and I do believe we have to try every spirit to see whether they are of God or not. I don't think this NIV quotation is in the best interest of our Lord Jesus Christ, ourselves, or in the Gospel.

Editor

FALLEN FROM GRACE

[Galatians 5:4]

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." Those to whom Paul addressed this statement were members of the Body of Christ. [Gal 1-2]. "And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia." which means that they had been called out of sin into the service of righteousness, becoming the children of God. But they had allowed themselves to be swerved from the pure gospel, by false teachers in this particular case by the Judaizers, who were endeavoring to enjoin the law of Moses on christians. Paul thus affirmed that thewe christians who were children of God, who disobeyed the Lord by seeking to be justified by the law were severed from Christ and fallen away from divine grace. Will anyone who believes in the divine origin of Paul's message affirm in all good conscience that such persons as these will be eternally saved, yet having no vital connection with the Saviour and devoid of the grace of God? Also see [2 Cor 13:5] [Eph 2:8].

Some Who Fell Away

[Heb 6:4-8] "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned."

Of whom is the inspired writer speaking in this description of certian ones who fell away? Undeniably, children of God. Note his portrayal of them:

1. Once Enlightened: (Greek - Photisthentes - 'those who have been exposed to christianity, christians.' Note the word. Photis- a word we recognize as "photo" meaning exposed. Also "thentes" also known as 'thenses' or "light". Exposed to the light, (ie) Christ. [Heb 10:32] "....after ye were illuminated,..." [John 8:12] "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

2. Tasted of the heavenly gift: This too can be part of the statement "enlightened". Partakers of that light, the light of the world. [John 3:16] and [John 6:51] "the living bread which came down from heaven". Christians have "tasted" the living bread, yet they fall.

Greek: "geuo", "taste". [1 Peter 2:3] "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." Also known as 'experienced'. Actually known through experience. (see the preceeding verse too) [Heb 2:9] Which states that Jesus has tasted death for every man. He has lived, experienced death. (ie) tasted.

3.Made partakers of the Holy Spirit: Greek, "metochos". [Heb 3:1] "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling...." see [Gal 4:6] [Romans 8:9]

4. Tasted of the powers of the age to come: This refers to the miracles wrought in confirmation of the gospel---the gospel dispensation being the age to come in Hebrew phraseolgy. Those referred to here had witnessed these miracles; perhaps even performed miracles themselves. In any case, their faith in the gospel had been fully confirmed by miraculous power. Now notice what happened to these children of God. THEY FELL AWAY! Greek: 'parapesontas' "have fallen away", stating an accomplished fact. These people who fell away were not just ordinary backsliders who had stumbled or were overtaken with a fault.' They were completely apostate to the Gospel of Christ, who "crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to open shame." "whose end is to be burned." Can any description be any plainer that this of God's children who apostasize and miss heaven?

In Christian Love
Homer Bryant (Editor)

Proverbs 25:25
"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY"

PAYSON, ARIZONA

Dear Brethren:

Enclosed, please find money for the publishing of the Courier. We all are alive and doing well. If anyone is in the Phoenix area and need a meeting place, we are about 2 hours north in Payson. All are welcome anytime to come and worship with us. There are about 8 that meet here.

In Christian Love
John Shepherd & Adam Shepherd

[Philippians 2:6-7]

"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. But made himself of no reputatuon, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

We hope all is well with the congregations all over the whole country. We are fine here. My Family and I enjoyed the Colorado camp meeting last summer. We met many whom we had not met before, and some whom we had met. Enclosed is a donation to help with the printing of the paper, mailing, and newsletter. We enjoy the articles and news from other congregations.

In Christian love for all the brotherhood.

Robert N. Bearden, 2404 Liberty Church Rd., Temple, Ga. 30179
(404) 562-3888

Note: We need the location of a loyal congregation in the South Padre Island, Texas area. Notify Scott Yeakey, Rt. 2 Box 128, Seneca, Mo. (417) 782-2502. Need by first part of April, 1988. Thanks. Editor

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

LORENZO, TEXAS	June 18 - 25, 1989	JOHN McKINNEY
CEDAREDGE, CO.	July 2 - 9, 1989	CAMP
BELLFLOWER, CA.	July 2 - 9, 1989	DAN TEAGUE

ANY BAPTISMS? ANY RETURN TO THE CHURCH? NEW BABIES?

Thats all folks. I have no articles or letters for next month as of yet. I hope we receive some news and articles, or we won't have a paper next month.

Remember all those who need our prayers. Those who are awaiting operations, and those who have gone through operations, and also remember our elderly. And most of all remember the Great Love that our God bestowed upon us by sending His only Begotton Son to die for us.

Editor

The Battle Is Won in Prayer

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)
