Pasture*

Psalm 23:1-6 (1) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
(2) He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
(3) He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
(4) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
(5) Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
(6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.
King David's life was a roller coaster of emotional highs and lows. He left us an example of passionate love for God and dozens of psalms, some of the most touching, beautiful poetry ever written. Psalms chapter 23 may be the most beautiful and most read chapter in the Bible. David was a shepherd before entering politics and therefore he was well disciplined in caring and protecting. King David was a man of contrasts. He was singlemindedly committed to God, yet guilty of some of the most serious sins recorded in the Old Testament. Jesus was singlemindely committed to God but was pure and the only sacrifice worthy of tackling sin and conquering it on the cross. King David was a great military conqueror, but he could not conquer himself. He allowed one night of lust with Bathsheba, and it had disastrous consequences in his life. Jesus had a fatal attraction for mankind costing Him His life and it had magnificent consequences in our lives. Turn with me to;
John 10:7-9 (7) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.
(8) All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but

the sheep did not hear them.
(9) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.
When one obeys from the heart the commandments of the Lord believing in the "faith of the operation of God" that transformed him, then one has access to all spiritual blessings in Christ. And new Christians; As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: (1Peter 2:2). *then eventuality to stronger meat. Let's turn to;*
Hebrews 5:12-14 (12) For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
(13) For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.
(14) But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
Jesus stated He is the bread of life, but the Jews had acceptance problems. However, therein is the goodness of God, one can chose to accept it or chose to deny it. I do not say it is any different today. When has there not been murmuring at the commandments of Jesus? Turn to;
John 6:41-44 (41) The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.
(42) And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?
(43) Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.
(44) No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
Jesus described Himself as the bread that came down from heaven. Those who eat this "living bread" will "live forever" and not die. Those who reject this living bread remain in a

dead state and will be cast into that Revelation second death. In truth, however, the concept of death as used in the Bible does not mean nonexistence; rather, it means "separation." In regard to physical death, the earthly body without the spirit is dead (James 2:26), but that person will take on another body. In regard to spiritual death, fear him which is able to cast both soul and body into hell (Matt 10:28). There is hope, Jesus Christ prevents separation from God. Islam is opposed to Jesus Christ, claiming God does not have a Son. However, Jesus explains His purpose truthfully, hear what the spirit sayeth in;

John 6:47-51 (47) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.
(48) I am that bread of life.
(49) Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.
(50) This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.
(51) I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

The bread He gives is His flesh. No need to worry about broken bones. Jesus is that spiritual bread, down from heaven, not up from the earth. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).*Turn to;*

Mark 14:22-24 (22) And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.
(23) And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.
(24) And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Why is the communion in its simple form not acceptable to

men? If one will observe each step as Jesus provided in His example, it is not difficult. However words are commonly used out of place. Men add or subtract to fit their own ideas. For instance, after Jesus blessed and broke bread, He gave it to them. Men say He broke it to get a portion for Himself. However, nowhere does scripture say or imply that Jesus broke a portion off for Himself, much less that He ate of it. Jesus did eat the passover, however to insert "Jesus eating" His own sacrifice is ludicrous. When has a sacrifice ever eaten of itself? The breaking was for the purpose of showing forth the Lord's broken body. It was a broken loaf that Jesus gave unto them and He established that fact and He even used undeniable words "this is my body broken for you." *Some use unbroken individual wafers, how could this show forth the Lord's death? Scripturally and historically there is one broken loaf and one cup for all to partake of in the communion of the Lord.* {For there is one flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ, and his blood which is shed for us is one. One loaf is broken for all, and one cup is distributed among them all; *(Anti-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1)*}
In the Jewish passover, an unleavened loaf is selected and broken into two parts. To them this broken loaf is emblematic of the coming Messiah. When Jesus broke the bread he was admitting that He is the Messiah. And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me (1Cor 11:24).
In each instance of scripture, the bread is broken before the instruction is given to eat of it. Jesus' body was, broken once for all when He suffered that cruel death on the cross.
The bread by necessity is, broken once for all, emblematic of the broken body of Christ. If, as man's doctrine dictates, there is no breaking of the loaf, then it could not be broken once for all. Somehow, some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling. In the late 1800's, the individual serving concept was introduced and many fled to that vain

jangling. Then in the early 1900's, leaving the bread unbroken was introduced and many fled to that vain jangling. Many times the Lord's people began to think they are alone, however there is still a remnant left. There is a remnant that still hold to 'in spirit and in truth' when they come together to 'break bread.'

Even under the banner of the Church of the Lord, many have forsaken His covenant and gone after the doctrines of men. Her teachers are ridiculed as being out of touch and being legalistic for following scriptural doctrines only, such as; "one loaf to be broken for all and one cup to be shared by all in celebration of the communion of the Lord." Her teachers are rebuked when they warn against unscriptural teachings such as "sunday school" or a "set apart clergy," or the "faith only doctrine," "sprinkling" or "instrumental music in worship." There are so many unscriptural doctrines that men fall prey to, coupled with an outright refusal to follow the commands of the Lord, that His sheep often feel they are alone. But we are not alone. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace(Romans 11:5).

In the past there were men who came to the forefront proclaiming God's word being indifferent to their own persons or personal loss. To name a few were Barton W. Stone, Walter Scott, Samuel Rogers and Alexander Campbell. A lesser known preacher of the 1800 hundreds is Raccoon John Smith. One account of his kindly humor is related in this account. Once when he was holding a meeting, nearby a preacher of a different faith was also holding a meeting. One custom of that organization was infant baptism which Raccoon witnessed. The next day Raccoon saw the preacher who had sprinkled water on the infant without regard to its struggles and cries. Raccoon walked up and seizing him by his arm began to pull him toward the creek. What are you doing Mr. Smith said the preacher. I'm going to baptize you. I do not wish to be baptized he replied. It would do me no good to be baptized

against my will. Did you not baptize an infant yesterday against his will Raccoon replied? Again pulling the preacher toward the water he protested loudly and upon releasing him Raccoon told the crowd that had gathered, you have heard him say to be baptized cannot do any good without ones consent. Moving on, coming together on the first day of the week to partake of the communion was a very important item of worship for the early Church. It is recorded; And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight (Acts 20:7).
Some are opposed to communion every first day of the week. They say, scripture does not say "every" first day of the week. I have to agree the word does not say "every first day of the week." However to base faith on what the Bible does not say is in opposition to the faith that cometh by hearing the word of God. By faith the brethren of Acts 20:7 came together on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord's body and blood. Therefore if a congregation is not going to break bread on the first day of the week, where did that faith come from? Is a faith based on what the Bible does not say the pasture the Lord leadeth His sheep into? I suppose it is good that there are examples in history, of faith that cometh by hearing the word of God. That should not be necessary. However consider this example. **Tertullian (204 A.D.)** wrote: "The church of Christ composed of baptized believers, does meet each Lord's day to partake of the Lord's Supper."
This is the exact sentiment expressed in Acts 20:7 and during this meeting Paul also preached unto them. This is how one receives more spiritual food for the soul. Through teaching we learn about Christian attributes that should be instilled into each one of us. We learn how to love and not hate, however, because of our love for Christ we must reject anti-christ, such as Mohammedans who claim God does not have a Son, and that Jesus did not die on the cross. Christians

know about the suffering, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Son of God, Mohammedans God is not our God. Their god ascended out of the hellish pit (Rev 9:2-3). God's Son is declaired in;

1Corinthians 15:1-4 (1) Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
(2) By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
(3) For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
(4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The death, burial and resurrection of Christ are the fundamental facts of the gospel upon which all else is based. When one is baptized into Christ, one shares in the death, burial and resurrection of Him receiving remission of sins in that he is crucifying the old man of sin in baptism. Don't you see that Christ died to condemn sin in the flesh, and when one is baptized into His death, then sin is condemned in the flesh and one is raised in newness of life. Without baptism into Christ, there cannot be sin condemned in the flesh or newness of life. Turn your Bibles to;

Romans 6:3-6 (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
(4) 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.
(5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
(6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

We that were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His

death, burial and risen with Him, and in the process sin was taken away. There is no other way for that old man of sin to be eliminated. Those that share in His death, burial and resurrection can share in the communion of His body and blood just as the brethren in Acts 20:7. This is a memorial to Christ for the suffering He endured in His death, and His subsequent burial and resurrection. It is He that received authority to established the ordinances of baptism and communion and each of these ordinances were established by His will. To whom shall we go? Turn with me to;

Hebrews 9:14-17 (14) How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

(15) 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.

(16) For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

(17) For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Both baptism and communion show forth the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Born of water and of the spirit would characterize baptism into Him. His broken body and shed blood is immortalized in the communion. Jesus said; I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture (John 10:9). *We have learned that baptism is of faith that is the effect of belief in the word of God, therefore one can have faith in the operation of God whereby one is translated into the Kingdom of His dear Son, baptism is the catapult; (Col 2:12, Gal 3:27). Therefore when one by the grace of God enters into Christ, that person can go in and out and find pasture. The one that does not enter in by the grace of God is just OUT! He is OUT side the Church.*

He is OUT side the saved. He is OUT side the spiritual blessings in Christ. He is just plain and simple, OUT of luck. But that can change if the individual deems it so. Now the person that is in Christ can "go out" to pasture. That does not mean one leaves the safety of the shepherd, it simply means one may go out into the world to earn a living to sustain the flesh for example. To provide food, clothing and shelter for oneself and family. However be prepared, when one goes out into the world their actions and speech will expose them as Christians. Therefore;

Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: (Colossians 3:22).

The intention of the Lord is, regardless of ones position, one should do their job as to the Lord of Heaven. Paul is speaking of doing service of some kind to earn a living and that it should be performed to the best of ones ability. But one must do his service on two fronts, that is, a Christian must go out into the world to earn a living, but must not become a part of worldly deeds in the flesh that bringeth forth sin. Turn to;

2Thessalonians 3:7-12 (7) For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

(8) Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

(9) Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

(10) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

(11) For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

(12) Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with **quietness they work**, and eat their own bread.

Now concerning the death of Jesus, He had asked the Father to release Him from this cup. The Father gave Him a way out, He gave the Son a choice. He could have called 12 legions of angles to His defense. Now consider; **2Kings 19:35** And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. *A legion is generally considered to be six thousand. So let's do the math, 6,000 x 12 legions = 72,000 angels. Considering one angel slew 145,000 and Jesus said He could call 72,000 angels that would equal 10,440,000,000 enemies He could have exterminated. Earth's population January 2019 was about 7.7 billion. Jesus could have exterminated life on earth but He had a fatal attraction for mankind and He gave up this great defense. He accordingly has declared all men without distinction, who through faith, will heed, follow, and practice what faith contains. Faith in Christ is the effect of belief in His commands including baptism; only those who believe the testimony of God, by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are baptized into Him for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. Will you come and claim your salvation? Also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.*

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

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