*Works of the Flesh**

Galations 5:19-24 (19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
(20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
(21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
(23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
(24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
In the beginning, the happiness of Adam and Eve continued as long as they listened to the voice of God, but disobedience brought despair, death and sin into the world. Pandora's box was opened and the works of the flesh were loosed. Eventuality the world became so corrupt by sin that the Lord determined to destroy it, however, Noah found favor because he walked with God. Only Noah and his family would God save from sin by the flood. To this end God commanded Noah to build an ark. Now here is the genius that should always be our guiding light, ***God's power is not limited****, He could have chosen other ways of saving Noah, but having selected this method, and having announced it, Noah had no choice but to disobey and be lost, or obey and be saved. For you see, it is not the province of man to legislate how he is to be saved. For Noah to have offered a substitute or made a change in any of the specifications would have been disobedience. But Noah, rejoicing in the infinite wisdom and goodness of God, and knowing his own limitations and helplessness, did not presume to do other than God directed, turn with me to;*

Genesis 7:1-5 (1) And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.
(2) Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.
(3) Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.
(4) For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.
(5) And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.
The Israelites did not, they murmured against God and against Moses. Eventually Jehovah sent fiery serpents among the people, they bit the people; and many died. The people confessed their sins, and asked Moses to pray for them. This he did; but instead of removing the serpents, God provided a remedy. Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a standard: and it shall come to pass that every one that is bitten, when he seeth it shall live. Moses obeyed: And it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked upon the serpent of brass, he lived. For the people there was no other way. For you see, this plan having been chosen and announced, left the people with no other choice but to disobey and die, or obey and live. No substitute on their part would do, and they offered none. Their case was too desperate to admit delay or experiment. Of course none of them thought the brass cured them. There was no blasphemous blatherskite present to call it 'snake salvation.' It was God's cure brought about in His own way. But it was a test of their faith. Evidently they could see no reason in it, but their confidence in God led them to obedience to the point where God healed them. They knew the cure came from God. Thus that which was a test of their faith became also a means

of strenghtening their faith. Had God commanded Moses to make a strong concoction of herbs and bathe the wounds with it, the people, thus cured, may have attributed the cure to the herbs and lost sight of God in the matter.
Let's turn to and read the account in;
Numbers 21:5-9 (5) And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.
(6) And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.
(7) Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.
(8) And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.
(9) And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.
When the Israelites had crossed the river Jordan into the land of Canaan, they at first realized they needed God's help. God had given them the land, yet they must by God's help drive out the inhabitants. The city of Jericho stood first in their way. It is a mistaken idea to suppose, as some do, that because God gives us a thing, we have nothing to do to gain possession of the gift. And Jehovah said unto Joshua, see, I have given into thy hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor. God had given him the city, yet He told him how to get it. They were to march around the city once each day for six days, and on the seventh day seven times. The priests were then to blow the trumpets, and the people were to give a shout unto God; the walls would then fall down and every man was to go straight before him and take possession of the city.

Then, and not untill then, might they have what God had given them. The whole procedure of taking the walls was a strange affair, and no doubt, after it had gone on for some days, excited a good deal of curiosity and discussion in the city. Human wisdom would never have suggested such a method of warfare. Every Israelite knew that their marching, blowing the trumpet and shouting could have no effect on the walls; but God did not throw them down untill the last act had been performed. A test of their faith? Yes, but their faith was sufficient for the occasion and; By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed about for seven days (Hebrews 11:30). *Turn with me to;*

Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

There was a captain of the armies of Syria, Naaman, who became obedient. In an expedition by his soldiers, a Jewish maiden had been taken captive and was servant maid to Naaman's wife. Though Naaman was a great man with the king, he was unfortunately suffering from the loathsome disease, leprosy. Though this Jewish maiden was a slave in a strange land, she was not bitter toward her captors, but was concerned for the welfare of Naaman and lamented his condition. We do not know the age of this Jewish maiden, but it is worthy of notice that she had been taught about God and His prophet, and, though amoung strangers and associated with people who worshiped idols, she was neither ashamed nor afraid to tell of Jehovah and His power. This Jewish maid said to the wife of Naaman, Would that my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria, then would he recover him of his leprosy (2Kings 5:3). *The report of the Jewess maid is made known to Naaman, and then to the king. Eventuality, after*

certain delays Naaman came to his sences and went to Elisha. This event is recorded in;
2Kings 5:9-14 (9) So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.
(10) And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.
(11) But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.
(12) Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.
(13) And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?
(14) Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.
Naaman's faith was so week that it came perilously close to not standing the test. Now surly no one thinks the water of Jordon cured Naaman. If such a view were true we would send all lepers to Jordon that they might be cleansed. ***Jehovah cured Naaman****, but not untill he obeyed. In every age of God's dealings with men, He has blessed them when they obeyed His commands. No doubt there are people who would have cried '****water salvation****' had they heard the command of the prophet to Naaman. Well let's fast forward to our day and time under the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Here we discover that Christ had commanded belivers to be baptized (Matt 28:18-19, Mark 16:15-16) so they could have their sins forgiven. You may be unable to see how baptism can*

have any connection with salvation, but if you earnestly desire salvation, and your faith is of the character that will bring you justification, you will trust God for the promise and rejoice in being baptized. Human wisdom would never have suggested such a method for salvation, but remission of sins cannot be had untill every act in the scheme of salvation that is contained within the gospel is accomplished. For people today there is no other way than the gospel as proclaimed by Jesus Christ, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. *This plan having been chosen and announced, leaves the people without any choice but to disobey and die, or obey and live. No substitute on anyones part will do, and true believers offer none. Let's turn to;*

Acts 2:29-38 (29) Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.
(30) Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;
(31) He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
(32) This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
(33) Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.
(34) For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,
(35) Until I make thy foes thy footstool.
(36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

(37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
(38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
God is preparing us for eternal habitation with Him. In heaven His people will serve Him. Joyful, loving obedience will be there, but it must be learned here. Here we form our characters. God is seeking in His preparatory school to train us in the art of obedience, Thy will be done. *No one can sincerely make that petition to God unless he is willing for God's will to reign supreme in his own heart. No one in heaven will augue that some of God's commandments are non-essential. Such characters will not be there. Those whom will be there, are they who take advantage of the keys of the kingdom of heaven we read of in;*
Matthew 16:13-19 (13) When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
(14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
(15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
(16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
(19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

What is a key and what is it for? A key is a small divice that is incerted into a lock for the purpose of stopping movement or to allow movement or progress to the other side, as in a door or a drawer. Since the keeper of the keys has the power to open and to shut, the interpretation of the words of Jesus is, that Peter and the other Apostles opened the door of salvation on the day of pentecost (Acts 2). They were not given the power to forgive sins, but to proclaim the terms of forgiveness, hence the keys of heaven. That right and duty to proclam the terms of forgiveness is perpetual, it began with Peter and the Apostles and has not been recalled. Jesus said, I am the door, *Hence the need for the key, God expects believers to arrive to a point where they can open the door of salvation that upon hearing and believe, may progress and enter therein. Let's turn to;*

Romans 6:3-11 (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.
(7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.
(8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:
(9) Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
(10) For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
(11) Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God could have chosen other ways of salvation, but having

selected this method, and having announced it, we the people, have no choice but to disobey and be lost, or obey and be saved. Perhaps baptized believers can see no reason in it, but their confidence in God led them through obedience to the point where God forgave them. For you see, it is not the province of man to legislate how he is to be saved. To offer a substitute or make a change in any of the specifications will be disobedience. It is a mistaken idea to suppose, as some do, that because God gives us a thing, we have nothing to do to gain possession of the gift. Human wisdom would never have suggested such a method of salvation, however none will see the Kingdom of Heaven without first having been born of water and of the spirit (John 3:5). *Every person should know that their waving of hands, blowing the trumpet, or shouting hallelujah could have no effect on sin; and that God will not throw sin out untill the last act contained within the plan of salvation has been obeyed. No doubt there are people who have cried '**water salvation**' upon hearing the command,* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16); *but these words are from the mouth of Jesus Christ, who is our redeemer.* The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life (John 6:63), *says the redeemer. No one has the right to bind any doctrine on men that is not required by the Apostles, and no one has the right to delete any doctrine that is required by the Apostles. Now surly no one thinks the water of itself will forgive sin. If such a view were true we could simply dunk all sinners that they might be cleansed.* ***Jehovah forgives sin****, but not untill one has believed and obeyed according to God's word. In every age of God's dealings with men, He has blessed them when they obeyed His commands.*

There was a man blind from birth. When Jesus passed by He spat on the ground and made clay from the spittle with which He anointed the eyes of the blind man. Jesus then gave him instructions to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. Surely this

was an unheard of procedure, and so far as the record informs us, Jesus did not indicate what the result would be, or whether there would be any. He left him with the command to go and wash. If Jesus so much as furnished him a guide, the record is silent. However, the blind man had the spirit of prompt obedience. He went away therefore, and washed and came seeing. This was no water cure, or clay cure; yet there was clay and water followed by obedience which brought the cure. The Pharisees did not believe for a moment that the water and clay opened his eyes, for they asked him concerning Jesus. What sayest thou of Him, in that He opened thine eyes? And the man that was blind knew the power was not in the water or clay, for he answered, He opened my eyes. Now listen; Jesus says, He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16); *and every one who knows as much as those Pharisees or the blind man, knows that the water is not the saving agent any more than it was the curative agent in the blind man's case, yet there was water in the command. Remission of sin is no water cure, yet water is a requirement in the overall scheme of salvation (John 3:5, 1Peter 3:21), which is secured by faith in the gospel (Romans 1:16). Belief is the cause, trust, confidence. Faith in Christ, the effect. Therefore, only those who first believe the testimony of God unto faith, and by that 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 God assuring them of pardon. It is hardly necessary here to remark, that as the disciples of Christ are declared to be in a pardoned, justified, sanctified, reconciled, adopted, and saved state, they are the only persons in such a state. Are you ready to participate in the blessings of Christ? If so, then come and state your will. Also prayer request will be taken for other reasons, in either case come while we sing.*

This message approved by

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a minister for Christ
Revised; 09062019
'Works' presented to; NewcastleTx-Oct2015/
PineMtAr-Feb2016/WestvilleOk-March2016/
RinggoldTx-March2016/PleasentViewOk-March2016/
WestvilleOk-Nov2019/