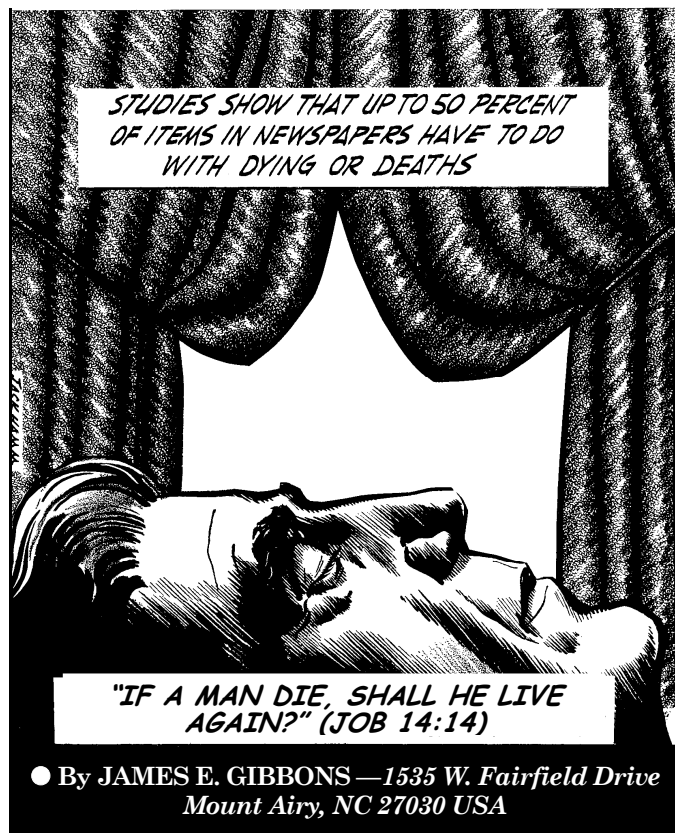


# The Sword AND Staff

*“Preach the Word” (II Timothy 4:2) • “Feed the Flock” (I Peter 5:2)*

## Life, Death and Life Hereafter



### I. LIFE AND DEATH OF MAN INITIALLY CONSIDERED

#### The Human Entity

**M**AN is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). God is spirit (John 4:24; Luke 24:39). He is called the father of spirits (Hebrews 12:9). (He is our heavenly Father, Matthew 6:9). Man is a spirit-being clothed with a physical body, spiritually bearing the image and likeness of his Father in heaven (which is spirit). We are told in Genesis 2:7, “And the LORD God formed man of the *dust of the ground*, and breathed into his nostrils the *breath of life [spirit]*; and man became *a living soul*.” A parallel verse to this, showing the composition of man, is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, “And the

very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole *spirit* and *soul* and *body* be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Here we have the spirit, soul and body highlighted as they are converged in being a human entity. God formed the body of man into which he “breathed...the breath of life [spirit].” Elihu, the one who spoke after Job and his three “friends” had finished (evidently speaking from common knowledge), said, “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life” (Job 33:4). As a result of the spirit coming into the body, the animated life of man came into being and is called the soul (although sometimes soul may be spoken of in the sense of spirit as the eternal essence of man). It seems originally man was created with the potential to live indefinitely in this physical body.

#### Human Life, Sacred and Astounding

Human life coming directly from God, and being created in his very image and likeness, is especially sacred. The Psalmist, contemplating man and the wonder of it all, said, “I will praise thee [God]; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” (Psalms 139:14—*an interesting psalm to read*). Although Adam and Eve had sinned, making us a fallen race, we are impressed at what Eve said with the birth of her first son. We read, “And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD” (Genesis 4:1). It was not just a routine, nor an insignificant, biological transaction that had taken place. “I have gotten a man from the LORD.” An amazing thing had taken place as human life was passed on in an offspring. And the life of the unborn is sacred, even in the inferior Old Testament order of things (Exodus 21:22-25). In view of the dignity and sacredness of life, and God being the author of it, how alarming

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—THANK YOU—

## Proverbially ***SPEAKING...***

***ACTIONS** speak louder than words.*

Christian is as Christian does, and Christian does as Christian is.

*To get anywhere you must first start.*

The Word of God will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from the Word of God.

*If you are in the dark, it is hard for you to see the bright side of things.*

Hope gives birth to patience, and trials nurture, cultivate and bring it to maturity (then patience sustains us in our lives as Christians).

*If you live just for today, when the day is gone, your life will be gone too.*

If there is not a sparrow that falls (Matthew 10:29-31) that does not escape the notice of God, rest assured that he is mindful of our situation and lot in life.

*Young person, you should only "date" someone fit for a mate.*

You are not a Christian unless you have become a Christian; nor are you a Christian unless you remain a Christian (and you can not remain a Christian unless you are a Christian).

*If we would continue, we must continue in prayer.*

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS



## UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE AND GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

**T**OO MANY PEOPLE when they approach the study of the Bible are like most when they are introduced to a computer and have their first hands-on experience in trying to use it. They are unduly intimidated. But really, this mental block is largely unwarranted, making learning harder than it actually is (and especially when studying the Bible). People see all of those chapter and verse divisions in the Bible, not originally part of the Scriptures, and it looks much like a dictionary without a plot to follow. And there is so much of this. It doesn't look inviting. They don't read it (but really this is helpful). In the meantime, in the context of the supposed church, they are dished out that which at times is little more than prefabricated pabulum following the guidelines of the International Sunday School lessons. Many do not even bother to bring a Bible to church. Its primary use is just for short devotional talks anyway (if used). Then a further roadblock of intimidation is experienced when we see "ministers" flaunting their "Doctor of Theology" degrees and being called "Reverend" and "Doctor" so and so (Psalms 111:9; Matthew 23:1-12). The implication is that a person must have such degrees to understand and to be conversant in the Scriptures, and the unscriptural "layman" hesitates to get down to business in serious Bible study. He feels it is beyond his reach, whereas serious Bible study constantly should be taking place in each Christian's life and in the context of the local church (Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 13:1; 1 Timothy 3:15). God has given us the Bible and a brain and he expects us to use both. After all, we are "disciples" (meaning, learners) of Christ (Acts 11:26; Matthew 28:18-20).

The New Testament was given with the intention of being understood. It is the climax of Spirit-inspired writings (the Old Testament) progressively given and spanning many years. It is what makes the whole Bible fit together as a completed message for all of mankind. The apostle Paul speaks of the gospel being "the *revelation* of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith" (Romans 16:25-26). Also notice Ephesians 3:1-6. The gospel is called a revelation. A revelation is that which has been revealed (disclosed, made known), with the intention of being understood. The Lord Jesus came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). Paul tells us that all have sinned and

come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), and consequently, all are lost. The Romans reference tells us that the gospel was/is “made known to **all nations** for the obedience of faith” (16:26). God would “have **all men** to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge [*epignosis*, full knowledge] of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4).

The Lord commanded in the Great Commission, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature [every human being]” (Mark 16:15). Matthew’s account states, “Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples, i.e. learners and followers, of] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world [age]” (Matthew 28:19-20). The world is made up of a diverse and wide variety of people who are at different intellectual levels. The message would have to be simple for them to understand. Disciples (learners) are to be made of all. Then after responding to the gospel this learning process is to be continued (and repeated), as the Lord said, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” “Teaching them to observe all things” commanded would involve what had just been commanded—going, making disciples, and teaching them to observe all things commanded. This is an unending, repeated and ongoing process that is to continue unto the “end of the world [age].” Obviously, the Word of God (and its teachings) are not all that complicated, for all are expected to understand, to put the teachings into practice and to share them with others.

To make more of a personal application, certain barriers are to be removed and certain positive actions are to be taken to expedite our learning the Word of God and his will for our lives. This all comes about when we are genuinely converted and hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6). Jesus told Nicodemus, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). The Word “see” can be taken literally, or a secondary meaning is possible—to perceive, understand, appreciate. Regardless, the spiritual will produce a driving impetus that makes us want to learn, whether learning the Word of God academically or as to how we should live. We want to know God’s will so that we can be pleasing to him. Without this spiritual prerequisite and driving force, the Bible may be uninteresting or even boring to us.

Specifically, let us notice some Scriptural admonitions that apply here. The apostle Peter admonishes new Christian, “Wherefore **laying aside** all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, **desire** the sincere [pure] milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:1-3). Negative spiritual barriers (notice them) are to be brushed aside as we “desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye [we] may grow thereby.” Like the newborn baby is ready for milk, that intense hungering and desire gets us into the Word of God. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (Matthews 5:6).

This illustration of the milk of the Word as seen in 1 Peter is extended in Hebrews 5:11-14 to include the meat of the Word. The Hebrews writer has some insightful lessons to make about Melchisedec and Christ, but his readers were not ready for them. He writes, “Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 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. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 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.” Notice, he says spiritual exercise is necessary to “discern both good and evil,” as well as to understand the Word. We take spiritual exercise by spending much time with the Word of God. Learning the Word of God, as a disciple, should be central in our lives. Evidence of our growth is seen as we progress from the milk of the Word to the meat of the Word. And all of the time our understanding is being accelerated.

Furthermore, listen to the apostle Paul. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2). Our bodies are to be presented as a living sacrifice as we are careful to not be conformed to this world. We become transformed by the renewing of our minds. And he says that by the **renewing of**

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# EDITORIAL COMMENTS...

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**our minds** we are able to determine “what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” “The renewing of our minds” means the same as to “have their [our] senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14). If we do not take spiritual exercise in the study, reading and putting God’s Word into practice, our understanding will be retarded. In fact, the apostle Peter says, “But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (2 Peter 1:9).

Really, the study of God’s Word is a very exciting experience. There are so many folds to the wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10). The Bible is a diverse library. We never want for new territory to explore and new things to learn. As a disciple, we will be studying the Bible all of the days of our lives (2 Timothy 3:15; Acts 20:32). Each new thing learned will just move us on to greater understanding, increasing our ability to understand. There is nothing boring about the Bible, and especially if we are hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

The apostle Paul expressly admonished young Timothy, “Study [give diligence] to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). In a similar vein, Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:17). The Bible is here for us to read and understand (and put into practice). Let’s remove the needless mental roadblocks and intimidation. God’s Word and his will for our lives can be understood—that’s why we have the Bible—and we are commanded personally to understand it. □



## EDITORIAL

# Byways

### HATEFUL, MEAN-SPIRITED AND UNLOVING!

**I NOTICED** that my neighbor’s house was on fire with flames beginning to engulf one end of the building. But no one was coming out of the house. Didn’t they know? Were they asleep? I must tell them before it’s too late! In desperation, I run and bang on the door, and cry out, “Your house is on fire! Get out of there while you can, before it’s too late!” In hostility, my neighbor rushes to the door and responds, “You unloving and mean-spirited person! I thought you were a good neighbor! How hateful can you get,

you intolerant hate-monger? How dare you speak that way, infringing upon my rights and insulting my human dignity?”

Two angels sent from God told Lot, the nephew of Abraham, and his family to get out of Sodom post haste (Genesis 19:1-28). That city given over to homosexual practices was going to be destroyed. The angels said to Lot, in reference to his family, “Bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it...Escape for thy life; look not behind thee.” Then Lot agitatedly said, “You hateful and mean-spirited persons! How dare you come here and speak this way to us? How intolerant and unloving can you get? How dare you infringe upon our rights and insult the dignity of the people of this city?” (Did he say these things? No!)

By now you probably have “gotten on” to where this little article is leading. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). There is a great Day of Judgment coming (Read Romans 1:18-2:11). It will be an awful and dreadful day for those who have not gotten their sin problem resolved. We read what is going to happen: “In flaming fire [Christ and the holy angels will be] taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:8; Matthew 25:31-33, 46). The Bible plainly teaches that homosexual practices are sinful and must be repented of like all other sins. In reference to Sodom (and Gomorrah), Jude wrote, “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh [homosexual perversion, which is against nature], are set for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude, verse 7; 2 Peter 2:6).

But there is hope. John 3:16 tells us, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” All kinds of sinners at Corinth, including those who practiced homosexuality, had taken advantage of this amnesty from heaven. First Corinthians 6:9-11 tells us all about this. “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [homosexual perverts], nor abusers of themselves with mankind [abusers of themselves with men], Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God, And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” Their sins were forgiven and are spoken of in the past tense. They were now right with the God of heaven.

Real Christians believe all of the Bible. They believe a great Day of Judgment is coming for all of mankind. Moved by this, they are driven by concern and love to share the gospel message with others. The apostle Paul wrote (2 Corinthians 5:10-11,14), "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad." Then he says, "Knowing therefore the **terror of the Lord**, we persuade men..." Then he goes on to further say, "For the **love of Christ** constraineth us" to share this good news of salvation with all of mankind.

Christians believe that homosexual practices are wrong. The Bible is emphatically explicit on this. Yes, Christians abhor this perverted and unnatural lifestyle. But, really, for them to not speak up and warn those who indulge in such perversion is the opposite of love and concern. Remember our fictitious "house is burning down" scenario in the first of this article. Totally, it is the opposite of being hateful and mean-spirited. As Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..." And "the love of Christ constrains us" to speak up.

"Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Remember John 3:16. God would "have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4; Acts 2:37-39). There is hope. Be thankful that someone cares. □



## Life, Death and Life Hereafter *(Continued from Page 1)*

that millions of babies have been and are being aborted in our society today! There is a great day of judgment coming!

### What Takes Place in Death

Man was created and placed in the beautiful garden home of Eden. He was given a prohibitive law, which had a positive and negative aspect, so that he could exercise himself in the capacity of being a free moral agent. We read, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). After Adam and Eve sinned, God said to man, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis



3:19). The physical part of the entity would be disengaged, with the body going back to the elements. But Ecclesiastes 12:7 lets us see the larger picture of what takes place in death. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

### Further Thoughts about Death

From this we see that death is a separation, not annihilation. The spirit is separated from the body in death, thus taking life from the body. The spirit goes back to God. Death being a separation is verified by James 2:26, where James is dealing with the subject of works. It reads, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." When Stephen was being stoned to death in Acts chapter 7, he cried out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (7:59). Upon saying this, he "fell asleep [died]" (7:60). In raising Jairus' daughter from the dead, Christ said, "Maid, arise." "And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat [food]" (Luke 8:54-55). Initially, when Adam and Eve sinned, they died spiritually (were separated from God). Then after many long, hard and toilsome years, they died physically (Genesis 5:5; 3:19), with the spirit returning to God. (The tragic story is subsequently repeated with each successive generation—"and he died" [Genesis 5:8, 11, 14, 17, 20, etc.]—with the exception of Enoch, 5:24 [and later Elijah, 2 Kings 2:1-11]. Then the apostle Paul sums up the situation by saying, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," Romans 5:12). And, as we can undeniably attest, the earth became one big grave yard ("as it is appointed unto men once to die," Hebrews 9:27).

## II. BELIEF IN LIFE AFTER DEATH BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRIST

### Early Impressions

Although we don't understand all that is involved, there is mention of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden and the possibility of man partaking of it and living indefinitely (Genesis 3:22-24). But man's fallen state after eating of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 2:17; 3:19) and that of subsequent generations was one of death ("and he died," Genesis 5:5,8,11,14,17,20) with the chain being temporarily broken one time in those early days by Enoch (5:24). "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." Hebrews 11:5, in commenting on this, says, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not

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# Life, Death and Life Hereafter *(Continued from Page 5)*

found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." At an early time in man's history this implied the reality of life beyond this earthly existence.

(But, more specifically, a continuing struggle and climaxing victory over the serpent [Satan], and thus sin and death, had been spoken by God with the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden in the veiled prophetic words of Genesis 3:15. Finally, the "seed" of woman would be involved in bringing about this triumph. "And I will put enmity between thee [Satan] and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise [crush] thy head, and thou shalt bruise [strike] his heel." Notice Galatians 4:4 and the use of the Genesis terminology in Romans 16:20, showing us the spiritual significance of the expression.)



## He "Was Gathered to His People"

Then intriguing references are found throughout the book of Genesis in speaking of death, which we are at a loss to fully understand. When Abraham passed from this life, we read, "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and **was gathered to his people**" (Genesis 25:8). Of Isaac it is said, "And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and **was gathered unto his people...**" (Genesis 35:29). Later Jacob died in Egypt, but had expressed a desire to be buried back in Palestine in the cave of Machpelah (Genesis 49:29). On his death bed, having pronounced the prophetic blessings about his sons, "he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and **was gathered unto his people**" (Genesis 49:33). Being "gathered unto his people" seems to mean more than just being buried with them in the same graveyard. Jacob was "gathered to his people" before his body was taken back to Palestine to be interned in the cave of Machpelah. Likewise, an earlier reference stating that Abraham would "go to his fathers in peace" does not mean that he would be buried in the same graveyard with them. "His fathers" died and were buried in the East country (countries) before he came into Palestine. Could there be a clue to understanding this in the parabolic language Jesus used when

speaking of Lazarus being in Abraham's bosom? (Luke 16:22). This was beyond death. Perhaps Christ best implements our understanding of all of this when he, in his rebuttal of the Sadducees (Matthew 22:23-33), refers to the burning bush experience Moses had with God. Here the LORD God had said to Moses, "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Matthew 22:32). Jesus explained this by saying, "God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." When God says, "I am the God of," it is in the present tense (not "I was the God of"). God was still their God and it is implied that they still were very much alive, though their spirits had been separated from their earthly bodies hundreds of years before. God is not the God of annihilated entities no longer in existence. Luke's account augments our understanding even more, with his fuller version of the Lord's statement. "For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: **for all live unto him** [including those who have passed from this present life being still alive in a different situation]" (20:38). Although cloaked in obscurity (the Savior had not yet come), there was life beyond the grave.

## Job's Unanswered Question

During this benighted period of time another matter gets our attention. A man named Job was personally going through the most awful ordeal. It seemed that he had mercilessly been left at the disposal of the devil. In the midst of unspeakable sufferings and trials, which he could not understand, he was having to deal with the perplexing questions of life and death. In anguish of soul he cried out, "If a man die, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14). Earlier in this 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Job he vents his feelings of anguish, beginning with, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not" (14:1-2). Then he ponders, "For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?" (14:7-10). That brings him to the distressful question that we have noticed, "If a man die, shall he live again?" At this point in time he did not have a clear cut answer to this question, but he hoped and believed that he would. "All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (14:14). He makes more of an affirmative statement later in

Job 19:25-29. But the answer had not been explicitly given yet, only anticipated.

### **Patriarchal Anticipation**

In retrospect, the writer of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, looking back at the old patriarchs of long ago, seems to have a deeper insight into their thinking than we do. In that great chapter on the heroes of faith, he wrote, “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God” (11:8-10). Then we further read, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city” (11:13-16). Obviously, they had hope of life beyond the grave, although their knowledge was incomplete. The Savior had not come.

### **Unexpected Expressions of Hope**

During this span of time called the Old Testament, in the Psalms we find David extolling his relationship to God as his good shepherd. And, finally, these unexpected words appear, “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” (Psalms 23). Then Daniel in his marvelous prophetic writings from Babylonian Captivity anticipated another time of great trouble for the people of God, but encouragingly looking ahead, said, “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever” (Daniel 12:2-3). (Read Hebrews 11:33-40, and especially notice verse 35. “Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection,” and this was before the coming of Christ). It seems that in their dealings with God they had as-

surely come to a decided conviction that there was life after death. It was only left to the coming of the Savior to spell out the details and to fully confirm their assurance of this awakened hope.

### **The “Seed” and the Resurrection**

In keeping with the promise of the coming “seed” (Genesis 3:15) we read such Scriptures as Genesis 12:1-3 (and many other related Scriptures that follow—Genesis 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; etc.). Prophetic words of the book of Psalms (sometimes veiled in language almost obscure to our modern mentality) sets the stage for great things to come, and in the process of their being fulfilled the truths become plainly evident. Sometimes it involves language, not only having reference to the first David, but with a dual and spiritual reference and application to the second David, Christ (the type and anti-type harmoniously corresponding). In such Scriptures as Psalms 2, Psalms 16, Psalms 22, Psalms 118 etc. we find truths that are highlighted in the New Testament. We find one psalm, among others, that was effectively used by the early preachers in preaching the gospel; that is, Psalms 16:8-10. David writes, “I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [sheol]; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.” (Acts 2:25-32; Acts 13:35-37). In anticipation, it looked forward to the resurrection of someone from the dead, even before their body had time to decay. Obviously these words didn’t refer to the first David as would be explained in the New Testament.

### **Prevalent Conviction and Hope**

As the Old Testament age was drawing to a close, there seemed to be a settled conviction among believing Jews that there would be a resurrection and life after death (and with a lingering anticipation they looked forward to the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15). However, their society had been put into an upheaval by the cultural wars in the years that followed the conquests of Alexander the Great (and its subdivision among his generals). Two opposing schools of thought emerged among the Jews, the Sadducees and the Pharisees. The Sadducees largely imbibed the Greek thinking while the Pharisees staunchly stood for the old ways. In Acts 23:8 the apostle Paul pretty well summed up the state of affairs then when he says that “the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.” The

(Continued on Next Page)

# Life, Death and Life Hereafter *(Continued from Page 7)*

hypothetical case made up by the Sadducees of the woman who had successively been married to seven different brothers, and they die, as to whose wife she would be in the resurrection, typifies the ongoing clash between the two views (Matthew 22:23-33). What Jesus said to the Jews in John 5:39 ("Search the Scriptures [the Old Testament]; for in them ye think ye have eternal life...") fits in with the answer he gave to the rich young ruler, who asked him, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17-22). He was pointed to the Ten Commandments (the Jewish way of thinking), attesting to their belief in life after death. According to Paul, not only did they believe in the resurrection in spite of their incomplete Old Testament revelation, that string of promises that we find throughout the Bible of the coming one had been kept very much alive (that hope of the one who would crush the head of the serpent in victory over death). In his defense before the Jews, Paul plainly spoke of this. "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:6-8; 28:20).

### III. CHRIST, THE ANSWER TO IT ALL

#### Death Abolished: Life and Immortality Brought to Light

Now comes the answer. The New Testament constitutes the climax of mankind's long and agonizing experience with death, an experience somewhat mollified at times by a lingering hope and anticipation, finally bringing Genesis 3:15 and all of the Old Testament Scriptures to the most wonderful conclusion. The questions about life, death and life hereafter are finally and affirmatively answered in Jesus Christ. The four gospel accounts specifically tell us the wonder of it all. Almost like making a summary statement, 2 Timothy 1:10 says that Christ "***hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.***" Galatians 4:4 states, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of woman..." (Luke 2:1-20 pinpoints the exact time when this took place). The "seed" of woman (Genesis 3:15) ultimately implied a virgin

*(Continued on Page 10)*

# A Relationship of LOVE and CONCERN

IN THIS DAY AND TIME too many churches in their interchurch "fellowship" constitute a network of compromise wherein "a rising tide lifts all boats," thus impeding faithfulness to the Lord's cause. In such a context it would be better for local churches to exercise their God-given independence as local autonomous entities, being found faithful to the Lord, and in the meantime simply maintaining a restrained relationship of love and concern to the churches at large. □

## BIBLE QUESTIONS

### *(Random Questions Over the Bible)*

1. Who is the first man called a "prophet" in the Bible?
2. What son in the Bible was given a name meaning laughter after his parents in their old age laughed about the prospects of having a son?
3. Which tribe of Israel had a name which meant "son of my right hand," but was recognized for having men who were left-handed?
4. What finally happened to the false prophet Balaam who was hired by the king of Moab to curse the children of Israel?
5. From where did the Philistines come that Israel found entrenched in the Promised Land?
6. Which one of the judges of Israel was the son of a harlot?
7. What were the vows of a Nazarite?
8. Which judge of Israel was a Nazarite?
9. Besides this man, what two other well-known people in the Bible seem to have been Nazarites?
10. The writer in Proverbs says that "a good name is rather to be chosen" ("and loving favor") than what?
11. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle in the beginning of his ministry?
12. Of the "twelve disciples," which was the only one not from Galilee?
13. What were the names of the two sons of Simon the Cyrenian who bore the cross of Jesus (who seemed to have become Christians)?
14. What was the name of the man chosen to take the place of Judas as an apostle?
15. After Paul's conversion and return to Jerusalem, who stood up for him when others doubted his conversion?
16. Where in the book of Acts do we find its writer (Luke) first referred to?
17. Where is a Scripture that indicates when the term "brethren" is used it can also include women?
18. What was the name of the Christian brother who took the dictation from the apostle Paul in writing the book of Romans?
19. Speaking of the Law, which law did Paul say was the first commandment with promise?
20. Who is the only Christian mentioned by name in the book of Hebrews?

***(NOTE: Answers found elsewhere in this issue of the paper)***



# READERS'

## ...Response

**APOLOGY:** Please accept our humble apology for slowness in getting correspondence answered. "We" have no staff of secretaries, etc. to handle such, and this is done by the "editor" as time allows. Be it known that you are sincerely appreciated. ☐

### NORTH CAROLINA:

■ *"Please remove from mailing list..."*

### VIRGINIA:

■ *"Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*"Thank you for all the hard work you are doing for the Lord. The articles in THE SWORD AND STAFF are instructive and uplifting. I look forward to every issue. I pray God will give you strength and the Spirit continue to give you inspiration to continue the good work that you do for some time to come.*

*"Please add the following to your mailing list..."*

### KENTUCKY:

■ *"I appreciate your continued efforts with THE SWORD AND STAFF. Your articles are both timely and Biblically accurate..."*

### PENNSYLVANIA:

■ *"Enclosed is a small donation to help with expenses of THE SWORD AND STAFF. We appreciate all your work in getting out God's Message of Truth...  
"We pray for your faithful work."*

### MASSACHUSETTS:

■ *"Please update my mailing address so I may continue to receive THE SWORD AND STAFF. Thanking you and praising God for this wonderful work."*

### MICHIGAN:

■ *"Please send me 400 copies of the booklet, 'A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality'..."*

■ *"Thanks for your continued publishing of THE SWORD AND STAFF. It's worth reading. It is a good publication..."*

### INDIANA:

■ *"Please remove me from your mailing list." (E-mail)*  
■ *"I am interested in receiving a few copies of the little booklet: 'A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality.' I believe it would be helpful in pre-marital counseling as well as educating all of our people in the church about the importance of this issue and how it is destroying the witness of the church in the world, and bringing the downfall of our nation. Thanks." (E-mail)*

### ILLINOIS:

■ *"We have received your material for quite some time and have always appreciated it. It is such good spiritual teaching material. Keep up the good work so the Lord will continue to bless you."*

■ *"Thank you so much for THE SWORD AND STAFF. It's been of help in my studies and sermon preparation. I'd like to ask if you could send me the bound copies 1997-2010. I'm enclosing a check to help defray the costs for shipping and handling..."*

*"Gob bless you for the guidance and encouragement you give every time I read from your magazine."*

### MINNESOTA:

■ *"Please send us 50 booklets, 'A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality.' We would like to share these with many in our community.*

*"Thank you so much for putting this together."*

### MISSOURI:

■ *"Greetings in the name of our Living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*"I received the latest copy of THE SWORD AND STAFF in today's mail. I always look forward to reading your publications..."*

*"Thanks and God bless."*

### TEXAS:

■ *"Brother Gibbons, thank you for sending THE SWORD AND STAFF—It edifies. I would appreciate receiving a copy of each of the bound volumes you offer on page 16 of THE SWORD AND STAFF. Also, if you will, a copy of each of the booklets, etc. offered, plus a copy of brother Elliott's, NOBODY LEFT BEHIND... Thank you." (E-mail)*

### KANSAS:

■ *"I am writing to ask you to take us off your mailing list..."*

### NEBRASKA:

■ *"What wonderful teachings in THE SWORD AND STAFF...I wonder if you could send me 3 copies of the 2012, Volume 50, Number 3 titled, 'The Christian and Sound Speech.' I was taught at home and at Sunday School to never take the Lord's name in vain. Unfortunately, it is tooooooo loose today and I have always been appalled. Too many times I've heard it in the 'liberal' pulpit. And yes, I have a target for those three extra copies!!..."*

(Continued on Next Page)

## READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

### MONTANA:

■ "My parents sent me *THE SWORD AND STAFF*, several copies in fact. There is so much meat in one publication. I have to read it several times before I can go to the next one.

"I love God's Word and Mr. Gibbons brings out the best in understanding. Thank you so much.

"Please accept my contribution for the checked items on the opposite side, and any remaining to be used to further your work."

### OREGON:

■ "My body continues to get older, but my spirit continues to learn and grow. My father and mother sent me some of your lessons [booklets] and I was hooked. I have since ordered all of them and study each one carefully. I get so excited when I open a new lesson and begin the study. I can't begin to tell you how much it means to me..." (E-mail)

### PUERTO RICA:

■ "Greetings! Please send us the requested Tracts and Books [50 of everything] as soon as possible as we are working hard to campaign for Christ...Thank you and God bless."

### UKRAINE:

■ "Dear friends! Please send me *THE SWORD AND STAFF* by post." (E-mail)

■ "I received *THE SWORD AND STAFF* today. It is a wonderful newsletter. Thank you so much. I will enjoy reading your newsletter in the future.

"May God bless you." (E-mail)

### GHANA:

■ "Hello brethren in Christ, I want to request your free complimentary copy of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. Thanks a lot and hoping to hear from you soon." (E-mail)

### PHILIPPINES:

■ "May the LORD bless you and your ministry for him. Your materials were so beneficial and useful for our church, Bible studies, and preaching as well. The tracts were distributed to the members, but the volumes 27 and 28 to 45 and 46 were retained for the church library...

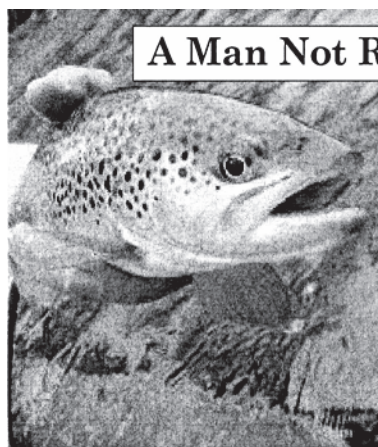
"God's Word gives us strength and courage to pursue our ministry here, with prayers.

"To you all, thank you so much, and may God bless your job."

### AUSTRALIA:

■ "We received *THE SWORD AND STAFF* yesterday; thank you for your faithfulness.

"I do not leave it idle after we finish with it; we send it on to the Solomon Islands where it is very hard to get good material—and in turn they send on their thanks and appreciation." (E-mail) □



## A Man Not Right With God

is  
*Like a Fish*  
*Out of*  
**WATER.**

## Life, Death and Life Hereafter (Continued from Page 8)

birth, and now it had come to pass. God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ (Being "Emmanuel," God with us, Matthew 1:23). In doing this, he was God incarnate, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). At the same time, he was truly human. Not only was he the "Son of God," he was the son of man. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15). It was in the eternal plan of things "that he [Christ] by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). Then in his resurrection he conquered death, becoming the "firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15:20), never to die again. Jesus said to his disciples, "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19).

### "He Shall Save His People from Their Sins"

What the angel had said to Joseph, looking forward to the coming birth of Christ, explained his mission on earth, "And she [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Death is interwoven with sin (Genesis 2:17; Romans 6:23). In the flesh as a man Jesus lived a sinless life, hitting the sin problem head-on, thus nipping the cause of death in the bud. Therefore, we could be redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19). He could take our place, so to speak. The apostle Paul states that he "was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25). Consequently we

read, “For he [God] hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thus, we can cry out with the apostle Paul in jubilation, “O death, where is thy sting? Of grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

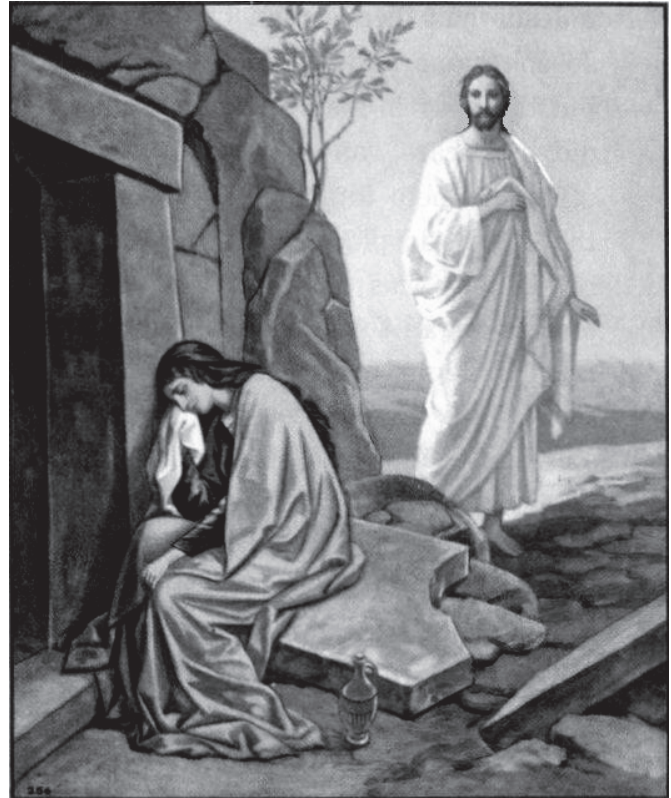
#### **Miracles, Climaxing in His Resurrection from the Dead**

While here Christ did many miraculous things, establishing his identity as deity (after his first 30 years of relative obscurity wherein he partook of life in every respect as a human being). These miracles showed his absolute control over nature, diseases and the spirit world. Among these miracles were three resurrections from the dead. There was the resurrection of Jarius’ daughter (Luke 8:41-42, 49-56), that of the poor widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11-17), and his dear friend Lazarus (John 11). Although these were temporal resurrections, they all anticipated his own eternal resurrection from the dead (finally and actually climaxing in that resurrection). Looking forward to that event, Jesus said, “I lay down my life for the sheep.” He went on to say, “No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again...” (John 10:15-18). In connection with the resurrection of Lazarus, Jesus said these monumental words to Martha, “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:25-26). Then nearing the end of John’s captivating gospel account, he gives these summarizing words as to his intent in writing, “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).

#### **The Temporal and the Eternal Aspects of The Resurrection of Christ**

The resurrection of Jesus was indeed a flesh and blood resurrection (with the eternal aspect coming about in his ascension back to heaven after 40 days). In him initially being raised from the dead in this manner proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that he had been resurrected. What the disciples were seeing was not a disembodied spirit, an apparition or an illusion. He had indeed come back from the dead in his human body. He said to his wary

disciples, “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat [food]? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of a honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them” (Luke 24:39-43). Likewise read John 20:24-29 and 1 John 1:1.



#### **Unanswered Questions and Mystery**

Although it is very plain that Christ resurrected in a physical body, there remains unanswered questions and an element of mystery in his appearances during the 40 days before he went back to heaven. This stands out in what he said to Mary Magdalene (John 20:17) and in the two disciples not readily recognizing him on the road to Emmaus and when finally they are there (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12). We see it when Jesus suddenly appeared in their midst out of nowhere when they had hurried back to Jerusalem (Luke 24:36-39). He even appeared in their midst when the doors were shut and locked (John 20:19,26). Some have explained this, saying that Christ was in sort of a transient “fluid” state, moving back and forth from the temporal to the eternal during this span of time. Others have said he was simply exerting his supernatural power as God in the flesh as these

(Continued on Next Page)

# Life, Death and Life Hereafter

*(Continued from Page 11)*

things miraculously took place, even as he had performed unexplainable miracles during his ministry. But the mystery remains (and so must it ever be when dealing with that which is beyond our immediate human experience).

## An Eternal Spiritual Body Like unto That of Christ

We are not to confuse the eternally glorified body of Christ as seen in heaven, and consequently that of a Christian, with the earthly aspect of his physical resurrection. Christ was raised from the dead in a flesh and blood body, but it is plain that his body in eternity is a glorified spiritual body (not an earthly physical one). The apostle Paul makes this clear in 1 Corinthians 15, that great chapter on the resurrection. Here he says that in death the body “is sown a natural body; [but in the resurrection] it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body” (15:44). He goes on to say, “The first man [Adam] was made a living soul; the last Adam [Christ] was made a quickening spirit...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...And as we have borne the image of the earthy [our present bodies being like unto Adam’s], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [receiving a glorified body like unto Christ’s]. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption” (15:45-50). And in the same vein he wrote to the Philippians, “For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself” (Philippians 3:20-21). Meshing this truth in with 1 Corinthians 15, as we return there, we find Paul saying that “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (15:52-53; Likewise consider 2 Corinthians 5:1-4 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 along with these other wonderful Scriptures: Colossians 1:5, 27; Colossians 3:1-4; and 1 Peter 1:3-9). We know that Christ now has a glorious, eternal and spiritual body, not a flesh and blood body. (Perhaps this took place as he ascended to heaven, like we will be

changed as we arise to meet him in the air). But there is so much that we do not know. Even the Spirit-inspired apostle John wrote, “Beloved, now are we the sons [children] of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). There is life after death. Eternal life. □

## JOHN 3:16

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*



## Shaking the Apple Tree

“I STUDY MY BIBLE like I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest may fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf. I search the Bible as a whole like shaking the whole tree. Then I shake every limb—study book after book. Then I shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters. Then I shake every twig, or a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences and words and their meanings.” □

*—Attributed to Martin Luther*



## The “Ungolden Rule”

**MATTHEW 7:12** very appropriately is called the “Golden Rule” of the Bible. It reads, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” Luke’s account reads like this, “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise” (Luke 6:31). Indeed, these words spoken by our Lord constitute a great and wonderful statement in a class all by itself. Our human relationships would be greatly improved and revolutionized by taking heed to what he says here.

However, we are afraid that many of our relationships today are governed by what might be called the “Ungolden Rule.” In a prohibitive way Proverbs 24:29 addresses this. “Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.” Also notice Proverbs 20:22. There is nothing “golden” about getting even. Vicious, wild animals do this (Galatians 5:15). Human relationships are damaged and the dignity of man, who is made after God’s likeness, is brought low (James 3:9). As a counteractive impact for good, the beautiful admonition of Romans 12:17-21 comes to mind and should be taken to heart. □



## Morning Prayer

SO FAR today, Lord, I've done okay. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, selfish or mean. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm going to need a lot of help. Amen.—*Selected* □

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# BARBS

...with a POINT

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*A “HO-HUM” religion does not make you want to shout for joy.*

If parents can't say “no” to their children, their children won't know to say “no” to the world.

*You are not a Christian unless you have become a Christian.*

You may believe the truth, but if you hold it self-righteously, you are no better off than the scribes and Pharisees.

*The status quo is usually not the way to go.*

It is wishful, irresponsible “thinking” to believe that it doesn't make any difference what a person believes as long as he is sincere (1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Thesalonians 2:10-12).

*A person all wrapped up in himself makes a mighty small package.*

Shallow minded people when they get into deep subjects soon find that they are over their head.

*If you are afraid to rock the boat, you need to lay the oars aside.*

If we really hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6), we will not compromise and try to excuse ourselves for our shortcomings.

*If you think you are a big dog, you will likely “end up” being treated like a dog.*

“Pro-choice” should have been made before becoming impregnated by having engaged in an illicit sexual relationship; after what has happened is a little late to be called “pro-choice” (as life is aborted).

*When we walk with the Lord, there are some places we will not go.*

We wonder when some people are going to get past the “movement” mentality (as in “Restoration Movement”) and congeal into being simply Christ's church (and that alone, not into a denominational monument, while polishing the sepulchers of the leaders of such movements and not really intending to implement the truths they taught).

If you don't believe the Holy Spirit actually dwells in you, he doesn't (Ephesians 3:16-17), as faith is the means whereby he indwells Christians.

*To be the church of Christ we must be more than an “anti-denomination” denomination.*

People, who rely on their feelings as proof of salvation, and not the Word of God, have deified their feelings (and equate them with God).

*On the modern religious scene doctrine plays little part; it is more of a social relationship.*

In the New Testament we find evangelists (missionaries) returning to report to their home congregations, not returning to report to a national missionary society or convention (which was not part of their church structure).

*If we are holy internally, it should be evidenced externally.*

People who are arrogant and rude, thinking that they know it all, are a waste of time in trying to talk to them about religion and should be avoided (Proverbs 26:4; Matthew 7:6; Titus 3:9-11).

*The world respects holiness off at a distance, but up close they despise it.*

Christianity and patriotism are not synonymous, and churches make a grave mistake in thinking and acting like they are.

*Success realized, but unachieved, has a hollow ring to it.*

How can people claim to be children of God when they don't even know God, let alone being able to call him Father?

*When most people do their “own thing,” it mostly involves things (Luke 12:15).*

When parents backslide on the Lord, it is not only disastrous for them, but for their children.

*There is no right way to do a wrong thing.*

Those who have filled their cup of iniquity now will one day drink of the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God.

*Many who think they can't fall from grace may have never entered into grace.* □

### The Attitude of Many

“Please don't disturb me with the facts  
When I'm content in being lax.  
I won't take time to think, you see.  
If wrong, that's good enough for me.

—By James E. Gibbons



## ***The Reason FOR BEING ALIVE***

**IT IS SO SIMPLE.** The reason for being alive is to live. Otherwise why did God make us? We read, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7). And the fact that God made man in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26) indicates that we are miniature, living representations of Him. That image being a spiritual one, as responsible and intelligent beings, our lives are to glorify God as they reflect His likeness and attributes in godly living. But man forfeited life, and at the same time failed in accomplishing the glory of God, by sinning. And this is true of all, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Now that the Savior has come, died for us, and restored that living relationship with God, we need to again assert the reason we are alive is to live. In a world of sin and death, the sinless Christ has come so that “we might have life” and “have it more abundantly” (John 10:10; also notice John 1:1-4; 3:16; 11:25,26; 14:6). In becoming a Christian we are forgiven of that which causes death, sin (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2; James 2:26). We come up out of the waters of baptism to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:1-4). With the apostle Paul, being constrained by the love of God, we say, “... we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again” (II Corinthians 5:14,15).

We take seriously what the apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 6:20, “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”. Now with “purpose of heart” (Acts 11:23) we unselfishly live our lives for the glory of God as we go about doing good (I Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16). The good life is lived doing that which is good.

Yes, the purpose of being alive is to live, but so many people think they are living today who really aren’t. Being part of a society set on materialistic gratification, they live only for today when they are creatures of eternity (made after the image of the eternal God). Like the self-indulgent rich man, who said, “Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:15-21), they sell themselves eternally short. God again says, “Thou fool!” And many think they are living when they “live it up.” The moral life to them is boring; it is not the “good life.” But the pleasures of sin are but “for a season” (Hebrews 11:25), for the “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). The arch deceiver has done his work again. Like Eve, they have

forfeited life. There is no life in sin. Like a ravaging epidemic sweeping across the land and leaving a trail of sickness, disease and death in its path, sin has the stench of death all about it. Yes, the Bible speaks of being “dead in trespasses and sin” (Ephesians 2:1). How foolish to think of this as living.

Simplify things in your life (and keep them that way). The reason you are alive is to live and to live for God. Let your life be filled and lived with purpose. With the apostle Paul say, “This one thing I do” (Philippians 3:13f) as he followed the teachings of Christ who said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). Then you will know that “godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (I Timothy 4:8). Amen.. □



### ***The Twenty-Third Psalm***

The Lord is my Shepherd—that’s a Relationship!  
I shall not want—that’s Supply!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures—that’s Rest!

He leadeth me beside the still waters—that’s Refreshment!

He restoreth my soul—that’s Healing!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness—that’s Guidance!

His name’s sake—that’s Purpose!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—that’s Testing!

I will fear no evil—that’s Protection!

For Thou art with me—that’s Faithfulness!

Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me—that’s Discipline!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies—that’s Hope!

Thou annointest my head with oil—that’s Consecration!

My cup runneth over—that’s Abundance!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life—that’s Blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord—that’s Security!

Forever—that’s Eternity!—***Selected*** □

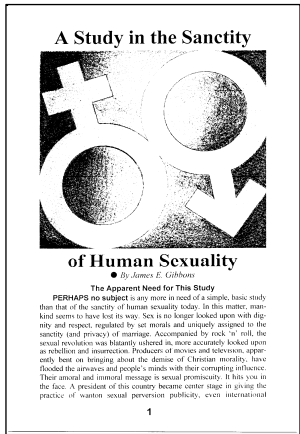


### ***Read and Heed Acts 2:37-42***

”**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? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized [immersed] 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 [Spirit]. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off,

even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:37-42).

***This Booklet Needs***



***Wide Circulation!***

This little booklet starts out with these words: "Perhaps no subject is any more in need of a simple, basic study than that of the sanctity of human sexuality today. In this matter, mankind seems to have lost its way. Sex is no longer looked upon with dignity and respect, regulated by set morals and uniquely assigned to the sanctity (and privacy) of marriage." Subsequently, society seems to be unraveling and coming apart at the seams (and the church is not immune in what is taking place). Cohabiting and the old immorality of fornication are commonly and, we are sad to say, unashamedly practiced. Now, it seems, that any way a person turns it is "in your face" with the homosexual agenda being pushed upon us. How unthinkable that even the president of the United States would endorse so-called same sex marriage. So many are brainwashed.

This little booklet, *A Study of the Sanctity of Human Sexuality*, needs to have a wide circulation. Yes, even among "church members." Somehow we need to turn the tide. Order a large supply of this booklet, and make a wide distribution of it. No charge. □

***THE DIRTY STORY***  
(Ephesians 5:3-5)

- It advertises your ignorance.
- It displays your lack of sense of decency.
- It indicates the state of your inner character.
- It typifies the meagerness of your resources of entertainment.
- It proclaims the coarseness of your idea of humor.
- It proves to your friends how greatly they may be disappointed in you.
- It nauseates those who love fun but hate dirt.
- It dishonors your parents, your children, your home, your friends, your business, your religion and your God.

It proves your unworthiness and accomplishes nothing but your own undoing.  
It makes you a moral and spiritual inferior in the presence of clean people.  
"For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).  
"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by they words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:37).—***Selected.*** □

***Modern Definition of "GIRL FRIEND"***

***Old Definition:*** The one you "date" before and leading up to marriage.  
***New Definition:*** The one you live with before marrying (if you ever do). (!!!) □

***I Resolve...***

- I RESOLVE** not to speak unless I have something to say;
- To think well before I speak;
- To be a sympathetic—not apathetic—listener;
- To regard every incident that touches my life as worthy of deepest consideration and courtesy;
- To remember at all times that the kind word is invariably the right word;
- To be generous with smiles, and never to bear a dour visage;
- To try to develop calmness and poise under trying conditions;
- To spend a part of each day in solitude, meditation and prayer.—***Selected*** □

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***Answers to:***  
***BIBLE QUESTIONS***

- 1. Abraham—Genesis 20:7 (however, Jude, verse 14, says that Enoch prophesied); 2. Genesis 17:15-22; 18:10-15; 3. Benjamin, meaning son of my right hand (Genesis 35:18—Judges 3:15; 20:15-16; I Chronicles 12:2); 4. Joshua 13:22; 5. Caphtor (thought to be Crete)—Deuteronomy 2:23; Amos 9:7; Jeremiah 47:4; 6. Judges 11:1; 7. Numbers 6:1-6; 8. Judges chapter 13; 9. Samuel (1 Samuel 1:9-11) and John the Baptist (Luke 1:13-15); 10. Proverbs 22:1; 11. John 2:11; 12. Judas Iscariot (Matthew 10:4; Acts 1:11; 2:7,14,37), Iscariot meaning man from Kerioth (which was in Judah); 13. Mark 15:21; 14. Acts 1:15-26; 15. Acts 9:26-27; 16. Acts 16:10 (This was at Troas; the writer refers to himself by saying "we"; 17. Acts 16:40; 18. Romans 16:22; 19. Ephesians 6:1-3; 20. Hebrews 13:23. □

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