

THE IMAGE OF GOD (LESSON 20)

Bible Study

1. What two things does God want us to have? **3 John 1:2**
2. In regards to health, what sides are there in the battle? **John 10:10**
3. According to Revelation 14:7, in the last days we are to give glory to God. What is one means of doing such? **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
4. Beyond perverting the ordinance of marriages and being overly concerned about building buildings, buying and selling, and planting plants, what else would people be doing in a perverted manner that would be repeated at the end of time? **Luke 17:26-30**
5. How can people avoid diseases? **Exodus 15:26**
6. What does God say about drinking alcohol? **Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 23:29-33; Isaiah 5:20-22, 24**
7. What are some Bible helps in overcoming habits? **2 Corinthians 8:12, Matthew 18:19-20, John 3:2, Romans 12:21, Romans 6:11, Romans 13:14**
8. What distinction did God place on animals at creation? **Genesis 7:1-2**
9. List some things that God would not have people consume: **Leviticus 11:2-23**
10. What is the meaning of Peter's vision regarding the sheet and the command to eat unclean animals (Acts 10:9-17)? **Acts 10:28**
11. When Jesus lifted the distinction between clean and unclean what was the focus (hint: it was not the animals, it was an action that Jesus did away with)? **Matthew 15:17-20**

12. Who is destroyed when Jesus returns? **Isaiah 66:15-17, 1 Corinthians 3:16-18**

What Group of People Does the Third Angel Reveal?

Revelation 14:12 opens up with, *"Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."* God has saints and will have saints right up to and including the second coming (Revelation 14:14).

In our previous lesson, we learned that saints are those that have chosen to be espoused to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2) especially through the ceremony of baptism.

This reminds me of the union with my wife. When we were dating, she served me a dish, which was all right, and being a gentleman trying to win her heart, I was polite about the meal. Then when we got married, she started making it more often, and I knew I had to do something. So, I lovingly went to her and said, "I know you're making me this meal because you love me and are trying to please me, but I must let you know that I really don't care for it enough to have it that often." She did not know and the same is with God. We may do things all of our life thinking that we are pleasing God, but in reality, we are not. This lesson may touch on some sensitive issues, but rest assured that you

are not being condemned or even thought less of because you may currently partake in these practices. Remember, Acts 17:30 says, *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent."* Pray to enter into this study with an open heart and mind, inquiring of those things that please God.

Where Does the Title of This Lesson Come From?

Genesis 1:26-27 says, *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* What does it mean to be in the image of God? Well, can one be overweight, have no energy, be not well kept, and yet represent the image of God? No, of course not.

Our loving Father is very concerned about your health. According to 3 John 1:2, we are told, *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* Notice it says *"above all things."* We should not be surprised to find that Satan is opposed to the "image of God." John 10:10 says, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it]*

more abundantly." Satan's ultimate goal is to destroy all knowledge of God. He does it by polluting the world, attacking religious beliefs, trying to reduce the Bible to fables, and very easily by destroying our bodies. He is quite satisfied in doing it slowly. This way, more are drawn to follow the same path of destruction. Jesus, on the other hand, gave us the principles of how to have a happy and abundant life. Those who are healthy definitely have more of an abundant life than those who are often seeing the doctor or living in hospitals.

Is the Health Issue a Revelation Topic?

Revelation 14:6-7 says, *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."* Part of the last day gospel, which all nations are to hear, includes the words *"give glory to Him."*

How does one give glory to God? Not only is it by rejecting sin and serving righteousness (Romans 6:13-18), but people can give glory to God or Satan through another means. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 asks, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not*

your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." We glorify God in our bodies. If we treat our bodies in a way that degrades them, then we are not glorifying God.

Think of it this way. If someone lent you a car, you would take very good care of it. Right? You would probably even treat it better than your own. Why? Because it is not yours. These verses reveal that these bodies are not our own, so we should also take good care of them. Besides, the Holy Spirit wants to dwell in us. If the temple, our bodies, is not in good condition, the Holy Spirit cannot dwell there.

How serious is this? Genesis 3:6 tells us, "*And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*" In not controlling appetite, this world was plunged into sin and death. That is very serious.

Another example of the seriousness of this matter is recorded in Matthew 4:2, which says, "*And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*" Before Jesus did anything, He knew that He had to conquer appetite first. It took Him forty days to do so. For ourselves, if we want to conquer any habit we may have in our life, the first thing we need to conquer is appetite for then all the other things will follow.

Now, for those who may lack discipline, remember that

discipline is something you develop through exercising the will.

In regards to living unhealthy, Jesus told us that a historic event would repeat itself in the last days. Luke 17:26-27 states, "*And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.*" Is God saying that He was upset because they ate food and drank drinks and led ordinary lives? No. They perverted the marriage ceremony as well as their eating and drinking. They would even eat to the point of gluttony. Further, they would eat things that would destroy the body very much like people do today.

Another historical event was also identified by Jesus to be repeated in the last days. Luke 17:28-29 tells us, "*Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all.*" Now we know Sodom was known for their sexual perversions, but notice that eating and drinking is once again a concern. In fact, the wrong eating habits break down the sexual restraints. Because they were destroying their bodies, God had to stop this and He destroyed them. But notice how it applies to our time. Luke 17:30 tells us, "*Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*" God states that the eating habits, as

well as the other perversions in days of old would be repeated as the second coming draws nigh.

Now, how can we avoid diseases? Exodus 15:26 gives us insight by stating, "*And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I [am] the LORD that healeth thee.*" If we keep His commandments and listen to His voice recorded in the Bible, we can avoid much of the diseases today.

Again, what is interesting on this subject is that people take better care of their cars than themselves. They do all that is recommended in the owner's manual like getting the oil changed every time it is due. They will even keep it washed and waxed, yet, the ultimate machine is neglected -- their body. God gave us the Bible (owner's manual) for our own good. It is a matter of obeying it. The word BIBLE can be remembered as an acronym to mean that the Bible contains the Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

Is healthy living a life and death matter? 1 Corinthians 3:16-18 says, "*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a*

fool, that he may be wise.” God is quite clear. As were those in the days of Noah and of Lot, we too can be destroyed over this issue.

Can People Smoke To the Glory of God?

The obvious answer is no. It is true that the Bible does not say, “Thou shalt not smoke,” but it does not say, “Thou shalt not shoot heroin” either, and we know that such is sinful. True Christians follow Bible principles and the principle regarding smoking is found in Deuteronomy 29:18, which says, *“Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go [and] serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood.”* Gall and wormwood is understood to mean poisonous herbs. This is defined by Revelation 8:11, which states, *“And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.”*

Now, what happens to people taking part in these bitter roots? Deuteronomy 29:20 tells us, *“The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.”* Specifically, God will blot out from the Book of Life the names

of people poisoning themselves. Cigarettes are one of the most poisonous items one could ever introduce into the body. It contains 18 active poisons. 700,000 Americans die per year from smoking related diseases. It contributes to heart disease, poor circulation, strokes, emphysema, various forms of cancer, premature birth, and shortness of breath. Additionally, the carcinogens and toxins in cigarette smoke include cyanide, formaldehyde, radioactive element plutonium-210, ammonia, benzene, carbon monoxide, and arsenic.

Can People Drink Alcohol to the Glory of God?

It is the number one drug problem in the United States. \$43 billion a year is spent on lost work, medical expenses, and auto accidents. 95,000 deaths occur per year. 800,000 car crashes occur a year. 50% of all murders occur under the influence. 30% of all suicides also occur while under the influence.

Proverbs 20:1 clearly states, *“Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”* Keep in mind that the Bible does not contradict itself. Therefore, any apparent contradiction is in our own minds.

For instance, when the word “wine” appears in the Bible, people automatically think alcohol, but there are two types of wine mentioned in the Bible. Depending on the context, it either refers to alcoholic wine,

which this verse does, or to the NEW WINE, which is grape juice.

Here is an example of the alcoholic wine: Proverbs 23:29-30 says, *“Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.”* These verses describe people that have been drinking the alcoholic wine. Typically, you can notice them because they pity themselves and their speech becomes slurred. Fights typically break out, and their eyes are bloodshot.

Here is another example of alcoholic wine: Proverbs 23:31-33 states, *“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, [when] it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.”* We should not look at it let alone touch it or drink it. What happens when one does? Men will be flirting more with strange women and their language will become foul.

Yet another verse referring to alcoholic wine is in Isaiah 5:20-22, which says, *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto [them that are] wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto [them that are] mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink.”* Today we hear a lot about a glass of

wine a day helps thin out the blood. Why take the risk of becoming an alcoholic when God provided green leafy vegetables, grape juice, and peanuts that will provide the same health benefits? Two out of every five alcoholics started out as light drinkers.

What will happen to those who partake of alcohol? Isaiah 5:24 tells us, *“Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, [so] their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”*

Now, here is an example of non-alcoholic wine: Isaiah 65:8 says, *“Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and [one] saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing [is] in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.”* Fresh grapes turned into pure grape juice is a blessing.

Even Jesus watched what type of wine He drank. Matthew 26:29 says, *“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”* Jesus drank from the fruit of the vine being pure grape juice.

Besides, could you see angels in heaven hung over drunk? On the new earth, will there be a Jack Daniel's distillery? No, of course not.

How enjoyable is pure grape juice? John 2:7-10 says, *“Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out*

now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare [it]. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: [but] thou hast kept the good wine until now.”

The wine or grape juice served at these feasts was usually prepared days in advance – similar to gathering the grapes on Monday and turning them into grape juice. After putting a lid on it, it is then stored. The same occurred on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Now, on Sunday, that which was prepared Friday (the best) would be served first. Then that which was prepared Thursday would be next because the taste buds of the drinkers would have become a little less sensitive by then. Thursday's wine would then be followed by Wednesday's, Tuesday's, and then Monday's. Jesus comes a long and creates wine that was like fresh grapes turned it into grape juice and served immediately. What a rare treat. It makes store bought grape juice taste stale.

What is the issue at hand? 1 Peter 1:13 says, *“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* God calls us to be sober, that is, most alert. Do you want Jesus to catch you off guard when He returns? 1 Peter 5:8 says, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the*

devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” Let us not give the devil even one advantage. What do you say?

Can We Take in Drugs To the Glory of God?

Just because the government legalizes certain drugs does not mean God is pleased. Take for instance caffeine. It is the most addictive drug in the world and yet it is a legal drug. Scores of people are hooked and can hardly get off of it. Almost all of them drink it for energy, which of course is the false type because the body is saying, “I need rest” and the person is saying, “Oh no you don't!” And then the body becomes over exerted and they wonder why they ache so much.

Caffeine can cause birth defects, breast disease, high blood pressure, depression, insomnia, tremors, nervousness, irritability, headaches, alters the brains neural transmitters, elevates the serum cholesterol, creates irregular heartbeats, creates breast lumps, increases the risk of tumors, creates digestive disturbance with heartburn, diabetes, hypoglycemia, overworks the heart, and provides peptic ulcers. Drink to the last drop if you want any of those items.

Ever try to withdraw from drinking such? It is not easy either. All of the drug withdrawal symptoms are present: the shakes, the headaches, being extremely tired, and being grumpy to name a few. But after a few weeks, a person will greatly improve. Lots of water helps.

How Do We Overcome?

Well, the world has a method to deal with breaking habits and God has His method. The worldly way starts with a

HABIT

and tapers off of it such as removing the letter "H". What do you have then?

ABIT

of it. The world will pat you on the back and tell you that you are doing fine and advise you to remove just a little more such as the letter "A" and what do you have?

BIT

of it. "Oh, you're doing wonderfully. Let's cut back a little more." And what do you end up with? You still got

IT

and is a lousy way to claim victory.

Now, let us review God's method:

1. 2 Corinthians 8:12 says, "*For if there be first a willing mind, [it is] accepted according to that a man hath, [and] not according to that he hath not.*" First be willing and accept our place in life. God will work with where we are.
2. Matthew 18:19-20 tells us, "*Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*" Get a prayer

partner or a prayer group.

3. John 3:2 mentions, "*The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.*" Just as God can perform miracles, believe that He will perform one in your life and remove that habit.
4. 1 Corinthians 15:57 states, "*But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Next, claim the victory and not serve the habit at all. "But I've tried cold turkey before!", people will say. No, this is not cold turkey. This is quitting by the power of Jesus Christ, which is greater than any habit. Amen? The difference is that quitting cold turkey is for self while claiming the victory from Jesus Christ presents a sense that Jesus is your companion, and that you do not want to commit the habit in His presence. And guess what? Jesus is truly always with you.
5. Romans 12:21 says, "*Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*" Replace the actions and thoughts that lead into this habit with good ones.
6. Romans 6:11 states, "*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" When being tempted with the habit, imagine being a corpse. How many cigarettes can a dead person smoke? None.
7. Romans 13:14 says, "*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof].*" One reason for failure in trying to overcome habits is that provisions are made for times of weaknesses. They stash cigarettes in all sorts of places. Do not only throw them away, but also remove them from the house where it is most inconvenient to get them. There have been cases where people became so desperate for a smoke that they dug through their garbage at 2:00 a.m.
8. Philippians 3:12-14 states, "*Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*" Even if you fail, persevere.

So, it is with every habit.

How About Food?

What was God's original diet? Genesis 1:29 says, "*And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which [is] upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which [is] the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*" God's original diet is

exactly what the Heart Association presents. Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and grains. Man lived well over 800 years before the flood when flesh meats were permitted. After the flood, man lived well less than 300 years.

Regularly, the news provides us with details in regards to meats. For instance, on September 9th, 2019, *Fox News* reported, "Study finds eating chicken linked to higher cancer risk." Eight deaths a day occur from eating chicken. Several hundreds of people daily report being affected from salmonella found in chicken. Also, according to the *American Medical Association*, 90% to 97% of heart diseases could be prevented by a vegetarian diet.

Is there a distinction between types of animals? Genesis 7:1-2 tells us, "*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. 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.*" Most of us were probably taught that all animals went on board Noah's ark two-by-two. That was only the unclean or non-eatables. The clean went on by sevens.

Then, what meat is considered clean and therefore may be eaten? Leviticus 11:2-3 states, "*Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These [are] the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that [are] on the earth. Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, [and] cheweth the cud (regurgitate), among the beasts, that shall ye*

eat." That includes cow, deer, and several other animals. But just in case people misunderstand, God gives a list of forbidden animals. Leviticus 11:4-8 tells us, "*Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: [as] the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he [is] unclean unto you. And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he [is] unclean unto you. And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he [is] unclean unto you. And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he [is] unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcase shall ye not touch; they [are] unclean to you.*" This includes bacon, ham, sausage, pork chops, and the like. Why? This is not a religious custom; rather, God created living garbage disposals to clean up the environment. God does not want us eating His garbage disposals. He placed some on the land, in the sea, and in the air. When they eat filth, the way it is processed internally determines if the poisons remain in the animal and therefore becomes unclean, or if the poisons pass through the animal and therefore are considered clean.

From *Reader's Digest* entitled *Must Our Pork Remain Unsafe?* "A single serving of infected pork -- even a single mouthful can kill or cripple or condemn the victim to a lifetime of aches and pains. For this unique disease, trichinosis, there is no cure. With no drug to stop them, the worms may spread through the

muscular tissues of the entire human system. One of two things then happens, depending on the intensity of the infection. Either death ensues or a successful effort is made by nature to throw an enclosure, or cyst, around each of the teeming parasites, which then become dormant although they remain alive for years. Do not blame your doctor. All that the best doctor can do as yet is to conserve the patient's strength and try to relieve painful local symptoms as they appear. What these symptoms are, the layman had much better not worry about. Trichinosis can simulate in some degree almost any other malady. Physicians have confused trichinosis with some 50 ailments, ranging from typhoid fever to acute alcoholism. That pain in your arm or leg may be arthritis or rheumatism, but it may be trichinosis: that pain in your back may mean a gall-bladder involvement, but it may mean trichinosis. Pork is often infected with trichina larvae, or worms. When a person eats infected pork, the hard cyst surrounding the larva is dissolved. The trichina worm then burrows into the intestinal wall and multiplies. These worms enter the bloodstream and are carried to other parts of the body."

I personally can attest to this because I have cysts throughout my body, which are quite painful. I have already had one removed because it started to grow outward creating a lump in my back.

The following is a Poem entitled *From His Tail to His Snout*.

Psalm 34:11 Do you, think, brother, that in God's great plan,

When He was prescribing the best food for man, That He made a mistake in leaving the swine out. For he was not good from his tail to his snout!

1 Corinthians 3:17 Oh, the carcass of an old dead horse or cow, Don't get too rotten for a dirty old sow; Though we holler a lot about boils and gout, We eat Miss Piggy from her tail to her snout.

Ezekiel 33:11 We couldn't eat the buzzard, we'd think it a crime, But how much more filthy is he than the swine; That we make into pie, or we cook him with kraut, And eat him or die, from his tail to his snout.

Isaiah 66:2-4 We cook him with cabbage or boil him with greens, With his mangy old hide we season out beans; With his scabs and his boils within and without, Sweet Piggy we eat from his tail to his snout.

Isaiah 55:2 On filth they feast, while in stink-holes they lay, And still for their carcass our money we pay; The preacher, professor, or the judge on his bench, Eat the carrion-eater, his filth and his stench.

Ezekiel 22:26 In the filth you can see him clear up to his eyes, His slimy old carcass all covered with flies; Most dead with cholera due to butcher, no doubt. We still think him good from tail to snout.

2 Corinthians 6:17 We eat the old grunter, we eat the young shoat. The fat that we fancied may be pus or bloat; It would smell as good, and as healthy, no doubt, As the hoofs and the hide, the tail and the snout.

Isaiah 66:17 We may like him lean, or we may like him best

fat, Just as well eat the dog, or else eat a cat; Just as well eat the buzzard, the owl or the bat, The lizard or the snake, the mouse or the rat.

Romans 12:1 Our most sensitive natures would almost run wild, If we handled the corpse of a man or a child, But we sit at our table and cram down our throat, With the greatest relish -- the corpse of a shoat.

Deuteronomy 14:8 God made him a scavenger, He says he's unclean. What other creature is as filthy and mean? If we eat his flesh, or touch his dead carcass, With sin and disease it surely will mark us.

Leviticus 11:7-8 'Tis sad, brother, although God's word is just, We eat the slop-eater for eat him we must; The direst of beasts we will not do without, But eat him we will, from his tail to his snout!

Matthew 15:8 Now we sing and we talk of God's love so divine, Like vultures, then feast on the dirty old swine. We might shun many ills, and diseases, no doubt, By not eating him - from his tail to his snout.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Yes, we worship the Lord, and pray and shout, But that old hog flavor we can't do without; For ham, bacon, and sausage, we go the whole route. And eat the whole hog from his tail to his snout.

2 Peter 2:22 In God's word we find he is classed with the dog, No matter how highbred he still is a hog. Though you wash him, or teach him if you will, He still will go back to his mire and his swill.

Genesis 1:29 We'd be better off if we obeyed God's command,

And ate vegetables, grain and fruit of the land. Then it wouldn't take half of the tonic and pills, To relieve all mankind of their swine-fed ills.

Genesis 9:5 You may think of fresh pork as a very rare treat, But our bodies are made of just what we eat, And the food he has eaten, the filth of the land, Goes into our body as food second-hand.

3 John 2 No wonder we are weak and heartbeats are slow. Sanitariums full, hospitals overflow, For we eat such unclean, abominable things, That are creeping, crawling, or flying with wings.

Psalms 119:105 God forbade us to eat these dirty old creatures, No matter what is the theory of preachers; If left to man's opinion -- we'd not know the right, But thank the Lord, in His Word there is light.

Luke 4:2-3 And now, my brother, you may no doubt recall -- Indulgence of appetite caused Adam's fall. Our Saviour was tempted on this point, no doubt, Then why do we eat from his tail to his snout?

Revelation 22:11-12 Now I've told you my story, recited my piece; If you can eat pork with your conscience at ease, If sin, filth, or disease, you care little about -- Keep on eating the brute, FROM HIS TAIL TO HIS SNOUT. AMEN!

What fish may we eat? Leviticus 11:9-12 says, "*These shall ye eat of all that [are] in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat. And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the*

waters, and of any living thing which [is] in the waters, they [shall be] an abomination unto you: They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination. Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that [shall be] an abomination unto you." Trout, salmon, bass, haddock, tuna, and others are fine. However, crabs, clams, oysters, shrimp, lobster, eel, and some others are not. I personally received hepatitis from eating lobster. God knows what He is talking about.

Please notice the Article in *Preventive Magazine*. "Why are shellfish so dangerous? Because they are many times more polluted than the filthy water they inhabit. Unfortunately they choose to live and love to multiply in estuaries along coastal regions. These estuaries are particularly subject to discharge of sewage, sewage effluent and other waterborne pollution ... the polluted aspect of their habitat is one danger. The fact that bivalve shellfish are filter-feeders compounds the danger. Oysters, for example, because of their way of obtaining and absorbing food, have been found to concentrate polio virus up to 20 to 60 times the level of the surrounding seawater. No other animal food offered on the menu of your favorite eating place would be served to you along with its feces. Yet this is the case with seafood. It is served whole; complete with its intestinal tract."

What birds may we eat? Leviticus 11:13-20 states, "And these [are they which] ye shall have in abomination among the

fowls; they shall not be eaten, they [are] an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray, And the vulture, and the kite after his kind; Every raven after his kind; And the owl, and the night hawk, and the cuckow, and the hawk after his kind, And the little owl, and the cormorant, and the great owl, And the swan, and the pelican, and the gier eagle, And the stork, the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat. All fowls that creep, going upon [all] four, [shall be] an abomination unto you." Basically, turkey, chicken, quail and the like are considered clean.

But What About...?

What was Peter told? Acts 10:9-19 reveals, "On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice [spake] unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, [that] call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. Now while

Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee." Notice that Peter doubted that this vision was to be taken literally. Why? Because prophets are subject to the prophets. If taken literally, then Peter would be contradicting Moses, Paul, and many others. What is the answer then for it looks quite clear that he was to kill and eat unclean animals? Acts 10:28 gives us the answer, "And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean." The vision was symbolic of accepting Gentiles into the Christian fold. He is basically being told not to call any man unclean.

How are we to receive food from God? 1 Timothy 4:4-5 says, "For every creature of God [is] good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." Notice which creatures may be accepted: those that are with thanksgiving, found in the Word of God, and prayed upon. All creatures that are not sanctified by the Word of God are not eatable. They are unclean.

Additionally, there is a guideline that was given by the Christian

church in the first century but it is totally ignored by many professed Christians. What is it? Acts 15:29 clearly states, “*That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.*” How serious is this? Leviticus 7:26-27 says, “*Moreover ye shall eat no manner of blood, [whether it be] of fowl or of beast, in any of your dwellings. Whatsoever soul [it be] that eateth any manner of blood, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.*”

How Does Satan Attack God’s Health Plan?

Mark 7:1-5 tells us, “*Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash [their] hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And [when they come] from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, [as] the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?*” At the time of Christ, Satan inspired the church leaders to deem all meats unclean unless the cups and utensils were cleaned in such a way making it look like a religious custom. So,

Jesus had to straighten out the mess. Mark 7:15-20 says, “*There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, [it] cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.*” Jesus told them that the cleaning of utensils and cups in the specified manner has no bearing on whether that food is clean (eatable) or not. Is that really what Jesus declared? Matthew 15:17-20 contains the same story and tells us, “*Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are [the things] which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*” Besides, remember who Jesus is addressing. He is addressing Jews. These people never had unclean meats in their possession, even as farm animals. So when he “*purged all meats,*” the issue to be

addressed was not to make an allowance that people can eat all different types of animals that they wanted but to strip away all those added pharisaical rules which were placed upon the original command that rendered clean animals (healthy) spiritually unclean because of the lack of certain ways they and the utensils were washed.

Is It Really That Important?

Romans 12:1-2 states, “*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.*” The will of God is for each of us to not eat the unclean food and partake of any other body destroying items. The way of the world is to take part in moderation and variety, or there is a pill for every ailment. The way of the world also destroys the body. God’s plan however gives life and more abundantly.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 says, “*And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye*

shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” A “Thus Saith the Lord” is to buck the tide and follow God’s divine plan. Will you do that for Him and for yourself?

When Jesus returns, what will happen to those who persist in eating unclean animals? Isaiah 66:15-17 says, *“For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one [tree] in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.”* God is quite clear. He will destroy them.

There are countries who have a staple diet of mice and rats, and they look at the United States as being sick for eating pigs. Yet, we have the same reaction to their diet. God says there is no difference between either one.

What does God say about those who will not enter into His kingdom? Revelation 21:27 states, *“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”* Unclean meats defile a person and eating unclean meats is an abomination to the Lord. Declaring all meats clean to eat is that lie.

Pray for the strength to overcome the greatest tool of the enemy – the appetite. May God work a great discipline in

your life and may you claim the victory over any habit you may have. It all starts with your willing heart.