

Have One Mind (in Christ) - Philippians 2:5

A Monthly Magazine

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Ye Shall Never Fall (2 Peter 1:10)

Jerry O'Donnell

The section in this publication regarding a sanctified or holy life, one free from sinning, just seems impossible, yet, there are numerous, even hundreds of verses directly and indirectly identifying the expectation that a true Christian lives above sinning. In fact, we are directly told that “sin shall not have dominion over you” (Romans 6:14), “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Romans 6:12), and “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:8-9). Even Jesus told people, “sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee” (John 5:14), “go, and sin no more” (John 8:11), and “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:48).

So, how do we rectify the situation? No one in their right mind can prove the Bible to be in error on the subject since there are numerous verses on the matter, and if we could throw away the Bible, what standard would we have for a Christian? Human standards? They are so faulty and arbitrary. In fact, most of Christianity is driven that way. It used to be that churches taught that God had standards. Today, churches cave in to social pressures.

Therefore, taking the Bible at face value, who is going to call Jesus a liar? No one in their right mind would do so. Now there is a glimmer of hope since Jesus said, “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). So, we, alone, cannot overcome sin, but “with God all things are possible”.

Now, is there something more practical? Is there something tangible? Sure, Jesus promises “unto him that is able to keep you from falling” (Jude 1:24) but for many, it does not seem like a reality. And when we see even ministers sin-

ning here and there, it really causes one to think the Bible sets the standard of holy living out of reach of people.

But that is not the case at all. If a person looks over the entire Christian body, and the Catholic believers, just about everyone believes they are Heaven bound while the same survey reveals that sin, indeed, is present in those individuals on a regular basis. Unfortunately, most are deceived, for we are told, “Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:14), and “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:22-23). Basically, of the one third of the world’s population who claim to be followers of Jesus, only a small amount is really following, and will actually even be saved.

**A Publication By Bible Believing Christians
For Bible Believing Christians**

The point is, one cannot survey just any Christian to match the Bible demand to live a holy life with the reality of what the majority of Christians are experiencing. The only ones to look at are those who are committed to God who “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matthew 22:37). They are often labeled with the names of fanatic, Jesus freaks, and goody-two-shoes, yet, they can tell you that sin is not allowed in their lives. Now, we are not saying that such people have stopped sinning and are not subject to sinning. What we are saying is that such people have removed the temptations from their lives, despite the criticism of their lives being boring; have so reduced the tendency to sinning to almost nil or nothing, since most sinning starts with temptation; but “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). So, we are not to be sinning, but if such a person trips up and sins, all hope is not lost. We have an Advocate, Jesus Christ. Now the use of the Advocate in this manner is not to confess our sins to, go back to sinning, stop for a moment, confess again, and return to the sins again. The use of the Advocate is for those who desire the real born-again experience but had a weak moment.

A real test to see where a person stands in relationship with God is to ask three simple questions. First, have you confessed all of your sins and desire to forsake them all, holding nothing back? Second, are you presently com-

mitting sin? Third, are you planning to participate in sin? If you answered “yes” to the first question, “no” to the second question, and “no” to the third question, you are then living that holy and sanctified life. Can you then claim to have achieved perfection? Of course not. Tomorrow, a strong temptation may take you down.

Now, let us jump to the main purpose of this article. All of that was just to establish the balance in the Bible expectation, and “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14) while “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” (Philippians 3:13).

And, here is the point. Peter declares that he has the outline of living the life without sinning. All we have to do is follow the instructions. First, 2 Peter 1:2 declares that God has given us His grace along with 2 Peter 1:3 telling us that God is providing us with “his divine power” for “all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness”. And these are “exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4). As a result, “if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:10).

What a promise! We will never fall into sin if we follow the outline! That should thrill the soul. We are about to find out the secret of living a holy life. We are about to find out the secret of stopping sin

from happening in our lives. Verses 5 through 9 is that outline.

It starts with 2 Peter 1:5 stating, “giving all diligence”. This is where most Christians fail. If a Christian is serious about getting rid of sin, they have to give all diligence and not make allowances. In other words, we need serious discipline in our lives. Jesus said, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). But what do most Christians do? “I’ll be careful what I watch, but my favorite program is something that I just can’t give up. I know there is foul language in it, but that’s reality!” That, my friends, is NOT giving ALL diligence. So, we did not get very far before we realized that there is hardly a Christian able to overcome sinning. As soon as people say, “Oh, we’re just having fun”; “Oh, the use of my foul mouth is just when I am upset at idiots”; “Oh, my taking things from the office is not going to amount to anything”; etc., the process of stopping all sinning is over. It will never happen. Sin will always exist in the life. Just as Jesus stated, we are to deny ourselves the entertainment of the world, the easy way out, overall, the way of society. To be diligent is to be “a peculiar people” (1 Peter 2:9). We are not going to fit in with society.

Now, continuing on past the words “giving all diligence”, we come across “add to your faith virtue”. So, whatever amount of faith a person has, they are to add the serious desire for a virtuous life, a high moral standard of living. Settling for simply being a

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The mission of *Have One Mind (in Christ)* is to encourage the desire of “Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (2 Peter 3:12), “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), and to “abideth in the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 1:9) by following the words of Jesus, “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23).

Editor and Founder

Jerry O'Donnell

About Have One Mind (in Christ) Ministry

This ministry is founded upon the necessity of raising the standard higher and higher. It is a non-profit, volunteer group of Christians who love God's Word and love people so much so that we do not want to see a single person lost.

Subscription and Donations

Although we are volunteers, the cost of this publication is challenging to provide to everyone for free. So, we are asking for a subscription of \$19 annually for 12 issues, and if the Lord impresses you with the means to be able to provide a donation, we definitely would welcome such and put it to proper use, including helping to pay for subscriptions of those who cannot afford the cost. The publication is free online in PDF format.

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“good person” in general is not going to satisfy this step if we want to cease from sinning. We want to make sure there is no immoral entrance whatsoever. An allowance for little lies, a little nudity in what we watch, a little number of foul words in songs we like, a little gawking at the opposite gender, etc., all adds up to having spots of immorality ready to undermine our goal of not sinning.

Once that is the strong desire, each and every day we add to it “knowledge” (2 Peter 1:5). That is regular Bible studying that is happening, even on a daily basis. That is the only way we are going to become knowledgeable towards God and know the expectation that Heaven has for a true Christian who behaves. And it is said, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17), and “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Again, most fail because Christians rarely live like this. Most Christians criticize the Bible instead of studying it.

Now we move on to 2 Peter 1:6, which begins with, “And to knowledge temperance.” Temperance is more than just not drinking alcohol. It is not being a glutton. It is removing everything that injures the body, like smoking, while increasing that which is beneficial, like drinking enough water each day. Binge watching movies and TV programs is an act of intemperance. We ought to have a regular schedule, as best as possible, for sleeping, meals, and even exer-

cise. They say, “A sound body makes a sound mind”. When we lack in temperance, we become irritable. Everything bothers us. It is very difficult to live a holy life while fighting irritation. And once again, how many Christians are disciplined with their health? Very few. “Don’t tell me how to live!”, is the motto of the day.

Then add “to temperance patience” is the next step. Notice the sequence is like a staircase. We cannot be patient if we are intemperate. We cannot know how to be temperate if we are not into God’s Word. We will not have a desire to be into God’s Word if we do not desire a virtuous character. And we will not desire such a character if we do not have faith to begin with. We cannot go any further up the stairs if we are impatient, because being impatient undermines everything. In fact, impatience can be thought of as adult temper tantrums. That is not a good trait at all.

But, if we can achieve patience, which is much easier if we are getting our right rest, eating good quality and quantity of food, getting our exercise, and drinking enough water, we then enter into the life of godliness, for verse 6 ends with, add “to patience godliness”. That virtuous character we desired a few steps ago becomes a reality. Godliness is God-likeness, in character that is. We would “walk, even as he walked” (1 John 2:6), referring to Jesus. At this point, everything we go to do, we would evaluate against the Word of God – “would God approve this?”

Now in verse 7, add to “godliness brotherly kindness”. Truly we

“shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (Matthew 19:19). If we have compassion for souls, if we do all in our ability to reach souls, we are then expressing brotherly kindness. Brotherly kindness looks beyond the lashing out, the rebellion, the bad attitude and into the hurt, the rejection, the cry for help.

And then we add to “brotherly kindness charity”. Charity, or love, is defined in the chapter of 1 Corinthians, where “Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7). That is a lot to digest, but it is easily unachievable if we reject Bible truth, enjoy being entertained by sin, are easily provoked, doubt God’s Word in the slightest, etc.

Now, “if these things be in you, and abound, they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:8). But that is just it. These things need to be fully engulfed (abounding). If they are, we will not lack or be barren, or even unfruitful. Many attempt a better life and fail. But, if all these things abound, all of our God-given efforts will be fruitful.

“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). Most Christians still cannot see that it is possible to eliminate sin.

They quickly claim, “Only Jesus is perfect!” Yes, because “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). However, remember, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9), so we can be declared perfect through forgiveness and then live a perfect life afterwards. “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 1:24).

And back to our opening verse, “rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:10). Again, “give diligence”. If we are not diligent about ridding our souls of sin, we shall be plagued by sin for the rest of our lives. On the other hand, if we are diligent, the promise is that we shall NEVER fall.

Now, all these things are not done to earn Heaven. Jesus earned Heaven for us. This is simply allowing the love to flow through us

and to “put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfil] the lusts [thereof]” (Romans 13:14). This is what is truly meant by having Christ’s righteousness where “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Will you give it a try?



Be In Health — 3 John 1:2

Behold, Thou Art Made Whole: Sin No More, Lest A Worse Thing Come Unto Thee (John 5:14)

After healing a man at the pool of water in Bethesda, Jesus told the man that he was completely healed but was to stop sinning or a worse thing would develop. The conclusion is that sin and health are connected.

Yes, people who break the seventh commandment on adultery, which includes all unmarried sexual encounters, do run the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, which is a serious health situation. Those that break the sixth commandment that one ought to not kill definitely affects health because the result of killing is death. But that is not what we are referring to. We are talking about sin in general.

Stealing is a commandment that does not appear to directly affect

one’s health, unless they are being shot at while trying to escape the scene of thievery, nor does having other gods before God, unless that god statue falls on them; yet breaking any of the commandments, which “sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4), does affect health. In fact, transgressing any and all of the commandments affect health. As we break them, we start down the path to become unhealthy, just like smoking. No one dies of lung cancer by trying a single cigarette, nor do they do so from smoking a whole pack. But over time, cancer will eventually form and illness will set in followed by a horrible death as the usual result.

Getting back to the commandments in general though, each transgression separates us from God. From there, steps toward depression and anxiety form. Of course, neither are sensed by the

sinner at this point. They think they are enjoying life fuller at the moment, but further transgression makes it easier to transgress even more, and every step in transgression leads to further and further going down the cold path of separating from God. Without a close connection with God, stresses enter into the soul.

There is the stress of people finding out and you having to deal with the negative repercussions. If the boss finds out that they have been stealing on time at work, the result may end up undesired, be it docked pay, something put in the file, or even being fired. If the spouse finds out that one has been committing adultery, the result would be a very unhappy marriage, especially if it goes all the way to divorce.

Simple coveting brings on great stress. When something is not needed but no matter the price, a

person just wants that item even though they cannot afford it, either credit is used and now they have to deal with the means to make monthly payments on high interest rates, or another source of income is sought after to make payments causing one to over-work.

And of course, the stress of lying, especially chronically, is very stressful. Trying to keep track of

what story was told to what people, trying to keep the truth from accidentally being exposed, is all more than the body can handle over long periods of time.

Creating unnecessary stress in one's life, which is exactly what sinning results in, is a serious hindrance to proper health. Headaches, various body aches, stomach issues, even lung issues, among many other issues, are all

the result of one sin or another, directly or indirectly. Therefore, the best remedy is to "go, and sin no more" (John 8:11).

See, Jesus did not tell just one person to "go, and sin no more", but that is the expectation once all of our sins have been forgiven through confession unto our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), Jesus Christ.



Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Raw Orange and Blueberry Cheesecake

Ingredients:

For the Crust:

- 2 cups raw nuts
- 1 cup dates or raisins
- A pinch of salt

For the Orange Cheesecake:

- 3 cups cashews
- 3/4 cup fresh orange juice
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1/2 cup melted coconut oil
- Juice of one lemon
- Zest of all the oranges you juiced
- A pinch of salt

For the Blueberry Layer:

- 2 cups blueberries

- 1/4 cup of the orange cheesecake mixture

Preparation:

To Make the Crust:

- Process the nuts and dates/raisins in your food processor until the nuts have become crumbs and the mixture sticks together when you press it. Press into the bottom of a spring-form pan and put in the refrigerator.

To Make the Orange Cheesecake:

- Blend all ingredients (except orange zest) in your high-speed blender until very smooth, then add in the orange zest with a spoon. Reserve 1/4 cup of this mixture for the blueberry

topping – pour the rest onto your crust and put in the freezer.

To Make the Blueberry Layer:

- Blend the blueberries and the 1/4 cup of cheesecake mixture in your food processor or blender until creamy but still with small pieces of blueberry for texture. Spread this over your cheesecake and keep in the freezer or fridge overnight. If you can wait — this is best after two days. Enjoy with garnishes of sliced oranges and blueberries.



Natural Vitamins

Peppermint

Peppermint is a wonderful plant. It can be used as an oil or mixed in food!

Inhaling peppermint help relieve sinus congestion, suppress appetite, clear out a foggy mind and, improve concentration and focus.

Adding peppermint oil to a roller bottle with Fractionated Coconut oil or Sweet almond oil and rubbing it on temples can help

open up airways and relieve headaches.

Adding peppermint to warm or cold water and ingesting can help relieve bloating and gas and relieve nausea

Peppermint oil is also antibacterial. Add it to your cleaners or mix it with tea tree oil for a great household cleaner.

In the garden, mix peppermint oil in a spray bottle and spray your plants to keep aphids away.

Adding the oil to cotton balls and placing them around your home where mice can enter keeps them out. And have pets? Dissolve Epsom salts in warm water and peppermint oil then spray your pet and carpets.

Here is a link I found helpful to learn more about the uses of peppermint: <https://www.littlehouseliving.com/uses-for-peppermint-oil.html>



Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

Romans 2:2 says, “But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.” So, God listed out specific sins in chapter 1 and then it is stated that anyone who commits such things will receive God’s judgment, yet, there are Christians who claim to have been saved and cannot be plucked out of God’s hand, forgetting that John 10:27 puts a condition on that promise, and that they can commit such things and still be saved. That is basically what such people believe who believe in “once saved, always saved”. That sounds more like the devil theory in which one verse or even two verses cancel out all of the other verses. We are up to 163 references in the Bible, many of

which are very explicit, that the expectation of a born-again person is “that ye sin not” (1 John 2:1), and “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin” as well as “he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9). And for those who think Romans 1 is for unbelievers, think again! 2 Timothy 3:5 describes people who appear godly while excusing away the divine power given to us by God to live a sinless life. This verse in Timothy follows the list of sins that would come into the church at the end of time (2 Timothy 3:1-4) and the one that connects us to Romans 1 is that of “without natural affection” (2 Timothy 3:3), referring to man with man and woman with woman. And such is not only in the pews, but many

denominations place them in pastoral roles as well as leadership roles! Romans 2:2 does not have an “except” clause either. It does not say, “... against them which commit such things, except if you are saved, then it is okay.” Any message that declares that grace permits sinning at any level is of the devil. “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2). God wants us to live a holy and sanctified life. So, do you commit such sins deceiving yourself that you are still saved, or do you see the call to come out of that nonsense and walk the walk that Jesus walked (1 John 2:6)?

2 Corinthians 5:10 plainly states, "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 [it be] good or bad." The good things that are done in the body are the holy and sanctified life. The bad things done in the body are the sinful life. All are judged in this manner. In fact, we are ALL judged in this manner. If we are doing bad, even after claiming to be saved, we are lost, for once again, there is no exception clause in that verse. It does not excuse Christians regarding the bad things they do. If they are still doing the bad things, they give evidence that Jesus is not in their hearts. We do not do the good to earn Heaven. Good is the fruit that flows from a saving relationship with Jesus. Good can come from a legalist's heart as well, thinking they are earning Heaven, and they shall be sadly disappointed. In either case, bad things coming from the heart is sinful no matter being a believer or unbeliever and shall be lost. Even Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). Producing both good and bad fruit means that the good fruit is legalistic fruit thinking it will offset the bad fruit, and therefore, it is actually all bad fruit. "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit" (Matthew 7:18). So, is your fruit good or bad?

When a person reads Galatians 3, it looks quite obvious that the holy and sanctified life of living according to the commandments is thrown out, but that is because many Christians do not under-

stand what Galatians 3 is all about. In fact, in verse 21, Paul pauses to ask, "[Is] the law then against the promises of God?" The answer is "God forbid". Seeing that Paul compares faith on one side and law obedience on the other, let Paul clearly state, "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31). That means Galatian 3 does not remove the obedience to the commandments as we are to actually establish the commandments, which is to live by them. As Peter said, "our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all [his] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:15-16). Those unstable in the faith, those with a bent to be inclined to remove the Ten Commandments, will wrestle the scriptures to their purpose. Galatians 3 is all about the law in relationship to justification. The law cannot save. Law-abiding cannot earn anything. There are no works that we can work to make up for a single sin. We must completely go by faith believing we are justified (Galatians 3:8, 11, 24). But there is another part to salvation. It is called the sanctified and holy life which we are expected to live by once we are freely justified, forgiven. So, do you wrestle Galatians 3 into the cancellation of all of the New Testament verses on the subject of sanctification, on obeying the commandments, and even doing away with Paul's clear statements on the matter, or do you

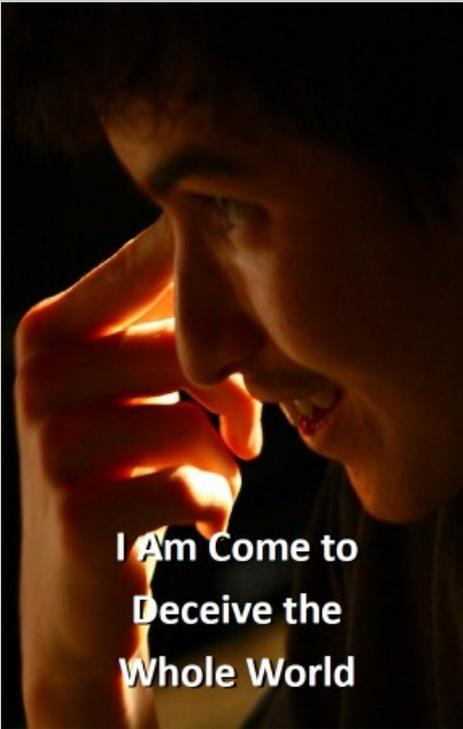
understand that Galatians 3 focuses on the justification part in which no law keeping can contribute to a sanctified life, but is expected thereafter?

When we receive the gospel, even the free gift of salvation, 1 Thessalonians 2:12 outlines our response to receiving it. "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory." This is the sanctified and holy life. Walking or living with the allowance of sinning is not walking worthy of God, but of Satan. And Satan does not care if we are mostly good. The simple commandment of coveting the throne of God, which caused the breaking of other commandments is what got Satan kicked out of Heaven. One disobedient act of eating the forbidden fruit is what got Adam and Eve kicked out of the garden, as they then started breaking other commandments. So it is with us. We think it is "just a little sin", but in reality, we end up breaking multiple commandments. They got kicked out of Heaven for what appeared to be "little sins". Do you really think we are going to enter into Heaven in continuing to break those commandments right up to the second coming to populate the perfect place of Heaven?

2 Thessalonians 2:13 says clearly and blatantly, "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth". In receiving salvation, in becoming saved, it is done through making us sancti-

fied, or holy. That is not just a declaration while we live unholy lives sinning here and there, especially since the verse continues with action on our part – “belief of the truth”. Jesus told us exactly how this combination of truth and sanctification works by saying, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). So, are you regularly in God’s Word wanting to become holy by discovering more and more of what a Christian ought to be, having “put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14) because “as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27)?

1 Timothy 1:19-20 describes two people that used to be in the faith but did not hold onto their faith and ending up in a lost state. “Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.” In fact, Timothy is encouraged of Paul in the prior verses to be careful and “war a good warfare” (1 Timothy 1:18), otherwise, he could end up like these two individuals. Therefore, holding onto faith and not making “shipwreck” of it is a work to be done once we receive the faith. In other words, we receive the gift from God and the result is to “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak” (Matthew 26:41), just as Jesus told us. The holy and sanctified life in addition to these verses are once again teaching



I Am Come to Deceive the Whole World

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that we are to “die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31) to those temptations or end up losing salvation. Salvation is something needing to be held onto and is not something we wear and cannot take off, even by choice. So, are you holding onto your faith by not giving in to temptation?

Titus 1:16 clearly addresses those that claim to be saved while allowing sin into their lives. “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.” Someone claiming to be a Christian while disobeying God’s commandments, doing the abominable thing, and being unprincipled in their deeds is a Christian in name only. Look up the word “abomination” in all of its forms

and the result will show what God calls an abomination. Eating God’s garbage disposal creatures is on the list (Leviticus 11, Isaiah 66:17). Another item that is an abomination is having marital activity between same gender couples. And there are many others. Those that do such things are unholy and unsanctified, therefore, the expectation is to cease from all such activities and be holy and sanctified. So, are you an “in name only” Christian, or are you a holy and sanctified Christian kept by the “divine power” of God (2 Peter 1:3) being “preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23)?

Hebrews 3:12-13 states, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living

God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." To "take heed", to not "depart from the living God", and to not become "hardened" are all key words of a holy and sanctified life, obeying the words of Jesus, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak" (Matthew 26:41). And if we were to give in to temptation, that would be the "deceitfulness of sin". In other words, we are not to sin. Even eternal life is based on an "if" ear-

lier stated. "Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Hebrews 3:6). This is similar to being told, "he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22). If we do not hold onto that hope and give into temptation and then sin, that means we are not enduring and eventually will be lost. For now, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9), but there is coming a time that we will not

be able to do that. It is called the close of probation where "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Revelation 22:11). So, are you giving in to the deceitfulness of sin by excusing away even the so-called "little sins", or are you taking heed and watching and praying to not enter into temptation being kept from falling (Jude 1:24)?



Study to Shew Thyself Approved Unto God

Repent! [Answers will appear next month.]

1. What two things follow repentance? Mark 1:15, Acts 2:38
2. What was John the Baptist's message? Matthew 3:1-2
3. What are those who repent to bring forth? Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8, Acts 26:20
4. What are we to repent of? Matthew 1:4, Acts 8:22, Ezekiel 18:30
5. What was Jesus' message? Matthew 4:17
6. Who are called to repent? Matthew 9:13, Acts 17:30
7. What is the consequence of not fully repenting? Luke 13:3, 5, 2 Peter 3:9
8. What is experienced in Heaven when a person truly repents? Luke 15:7, 10
9. What do we become when we truly repent? Acts 3:19
10. What do we have access to when we repent? Acts 11:18, 2 Corinthians 7:10

April 2021 Questions and Answers

Be Sober

Peter is addressing believers by saying "be sober". Satan already has the unbelievers. Therefore, Satan can steal away Christians if a Christian allows him. The following is a study that helps us stay in the protective care of God's hand and not choose to leave.

1. Who does Satan look for to entice to leave God's hand? 1 Peter 5:8 Those "whom he may devour"

2. What are we supposed to do? James 4:7 1) "Submit yourselves therefore to God." 2) "Resist the devil".
3. What do we need to put on to fully resist the devil? Ephesians 6:11, 13 "the whole armour of God"
4. What are the loins to be girt with? Ephesians 6:14 "truth"
5. What is the breastplate made of? Ephesians 6:14 "righteousness"
6. What are the feet to be shod with? Ephesians 6:15 "the

preparation of the gospel of peace"

7. What is the shield made of? Ephesians 6:16 "faith"
8. What is the helmet made of? Ephesians 6:17 "salvation"
9. What is the sword of the Spirit? Ephesians 6:17 "word of God"
10. What two things ought we practice often (several times a day)? Ephesians 6:18 "Praying" and "watching"



Questions & Answers

QUESTION: Why does God allow bad things to happen?

ANSWER: Actually, that is not the correct way to phrase that question. God is actually invading this planet with good. In other words, bad things happening is actually the normal life on earth. Good things happening are miracles of God.

In the beginning, "God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion" (Genesis 1:26). The rightful dominion belonged to Adam and Eve, a godly couple, however, after Adam and Eve sinned, this planet was handed over to Satan, and he took dominion of the planet.

This is recognized by the universal meetings held in Heaven allowing representatives or each inhabited planet to be present. Adam was not present to represent earth, but "there was a day when the sons of

God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them" (Job 1:6). For the benefit of all present because Satan was kicked out of Heaven (Revelation 12:7-8) yet, there he was standing once again in Heaven at this meeting, so "the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou?" (Job 1:7). God knew the answer. It just needed to be spoken out loud for the record and for all that were present. "Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it" (Job 1:7). This is repeated in Job 2:1-2 for the second gathering, again, just to make record of it.

What this means is that Satan has dominion upon the earth. He is "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). This is why we are still waiting for "God of heaven" to "set up a kingdom, which shall never be

destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people" (Daniel 2:44).

So, it is better to ask, "Why does God not interject more good into the world?" And the answer is because each of us has been "shapen in iniquity; and in sin did" our "mother conceive me" (Psalms 51:5). In other words, we are not born holy people. A few have been, like John the Baptist (Luke 1:41), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5), and even Samson (Judges 13:24-25). God does not force Himself upon anyone. It is all by choice (Joshua 24:15). That means that evil is allowed to happen with the only restriction being short of wiping out all hope and all life, hence, "God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able" (1 Corinthians 10:13). So, there is a checkpoint of evil allowed, but overall, evil is the way of

life. That evil may even be protected by law. In other words, just because it is legal does not make it right.

Now that the Bible texts have been supplied, let us plainly state it this way: Satan has dominion upon this planet by stealing it from Adam and Eve. At the cross, Jesus secured His future dominion upon this planet but that dominion is not now for “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36). Spiritually it is because “the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21), but in the interaction among people, sin still reigns. Now, “the devil ... knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Revelation 12:12). He knows that since the cross, his time is finite. One day and soon, it will end. It is called the second coming. In the meantime, “iniquity shall abound” (Matthew 24:12). And sin is getting bolder and bolder. What makes matters worse is that up through the 1950s, the church held sin at bay, but with the conversion of the church to the world, there is little to no check of sin. Sin is rampant in the church. The church is no longer safe from sin or for sinners seeking to overcome their sins.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 brings this fact out quite clearly by listing all of the sins that would come into the church in the last days. Basically, the last days would contain a powerless gospel. Preachers say that there is no way to completely stop sinning, therefore, you are saved

in your sins. Such people that teach and live that message contribute to the problem. God is being shut out even from Christian homes in this manner. Jesus even said, “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19).

Now, when a Christian or a non-Christian chooses to sin, God cannot force them to change their mind. It is called free will. When a true Christian crosses paths with a sin participating person, what we call bad things then happens when in fact it is the results of bad decisions. Basically, the innocent usually get hurt or even die. Even those that call themselves Christian have driven under the influence of alcohol, a sin that is condemned in the Bible by stating “Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1). While behind the wheel in the impaired state, they may run through a red traffic light and demolish a Christian family vehicle coming home from church on the cross road killing all passengers inside. That was not God allowing the bad thing to happen. It was the bad choice made by the person that became impaired.

If one were to argue, “Yes, but that Christian family could have been protected by God!” If God would put a bubble around every Christian, Satan would cry, “Foul!” How do we know? That is what Job 1 and Job 2 are all about, in fact, it is all of Job but you get the insight in the first two chapters.

Basically, Satan found this planet receptive of his rebellion (Revelation 12:7, 9). Satan wants to prove that His lawless ways are far superior to God’s rule keeping order. Every act of God is only by invitation. The ground rules do permit freedom of choice both ways, good and evil. And God certainly is going to respond with good when invited.

Overall, Satan causes the evil. God is not to be blamed. When Adam and Eve sinned, this race chose Satan’s way as a people. We did not inherit sin, but from the first sin we committed, we aligned ourselves with Satan. Do keep in mind, “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). That is why we need a Savior. And that is why it is ridiculous to be teaching that God’s law has been done away with, nailed to the cross, not a part of salvation. The issue is not between the way Jews were supposedly saved as opposed to Christians. We all sinned. We all need the same Savior. And a born-again Christian will not support the evil that is being perpetrated upon this planet, therefore, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God” (1 John 3:9).

We know that the law is still binding because Satan uses the “man of sin” (2 Thessalonians 2:3), also known as antichrist, to perpetrate his lawlessness.

QUESTION: Does God hear the prayers of unbelievers?

ANSWER: Technically, He hears all prayers. Will He answer those prayers? On a limited basis He will. Every sincere prayer of an unbeliever to be saved, for enlightenment, seeking to get to know God, will be answered for "him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast

out" (John 6:37). To come to Jesus is seeking salvation.

The prayers for a new job, new home, new car, a sports team to win, etc., usually goes unanswered by God unless through certain situations God can use the answered prayer to draw that person unto Himself.

In general, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer [shall be] abomination" (Proverbs 28:9). So, if there appears to be answered prayer, it is probably being answered by another source – the devil.



News and Comments

February 24

NY Daily News

Israeli government to share names of unvaccinated people

Add to that article, BBC reports "Coronavirus: Spain to keep register of those who refuse Covid vaccine" (12/29/2020). Add to that EuroWeekly report "Galicia paves the way for fines of up €60,000 for anti-vaxxers" (2/23/2021). This is but a trial run for when "no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:17). Vaccines or the lack thereof is not the Mark of the Beast, but it certainly shows how easily a non-financial object can be used to determine ability to buy, sell, travel, enter into businesses, etc.

March 2

Catholic News Agency

Pope Francis: World could face a new 'great flood'

Pope says we could face a new "great flood". Let us suppose the world ignores the climate. Will

such a flood come? Pope says, "yes". God says, "I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth" (Genesis 9:11), and repeats that promise by saying, "I will remember my covenant, which [is] between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:15).

March 3

Business Wire

Universal Peace Federation: Millions of participants from 150 countries joined the live online broadcast of the 5th Rally of Hope

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

March 5

Life Site News

Canadian pastor: Neither 'fine' nor 'jail time' will stop believers from in-person worship

HaveOneMind.com

- Read the news articles before they are published.
- Read both our books for free online:
 1. *What Does It Mean for the World to Have One Mind?*
 2. *I Am Come to Deceive the Whole World*
- Read this monthly publication days before it arrives in mailboxes.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

March 10

Jamacia Gleaner

Christians too must obey the law, says health educator

Not when the two conflict. Then the Christian response is, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

March 22

Life Site News

The world demands its freedom back: Anti-lockdown protests sweep the globe

The world is being setup to demand an easier solution to the lockdowns, masks, and maybe even the vaccines, therefore, they are being primed for the Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:17).

March 26

USA Today

Rutgers University will be the first in nation to require on-campus students get COVID vaccine for fall semester

So, the "no buy, no sell" (Revelation 13:17) begins for accessing college. This is yet another industry preparing to turn

away people from purchasing their product unless they carry the mark of their compliance, in this case, it is just the vaccine. What will it be like with the real Mark of the Beast?

March 29

CBS News

Lil Nas X releases

Society is on a rapid pace to hell... literally. 1 John 5:19 says, "[And] we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness."



ConvertingTheSoul.com

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. (Daniel 6:10)

Let's face it, if we are serious about getting through Babylon, we need to take Daniel's example and also be praying at least three times a day.

To help direct one's thoughts on a subject, this website offers three Bible references a day: morning, afternoon, and evening.

MORNING—Sequential verses from the Old Testament and a mini study.

AFTERNOON—Random biblical message without restriction to any particular part of the Bible.

EVENING—Sequential verses from the New Testament and a mini study.

Why the Bible is So Important!

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Luke 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed [are] they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John 14:24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

John 8:31 If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed;

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Acts 17:2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that

they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Romans 10:17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

2 Thessalonians 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

1 John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

Revelation 19:13 And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.



Natural Remedies

Potato Poultice for Burns

Grate clean potato with skins on. Place directly on skin, securing in place with bandage. Change dressing as heat is being drawn out, about every

30 minutes. Can also be used on stings, bites, boils, etc. For severe burns, moisten grated potato with half as much, or a little more, Aloe

Vera, either fresh or bottled gel. Spread mixture on gauze and place on burned area. Change same as above.

