

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

A Monthly Magazine

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He That Doeth Truth Cometh to the Light (John 3:21)

Jerry O'Donnell

Part 4 – Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God (Deuteronomy 31:26)

As we continue the true investigation of God's commandments, the origin, the intent of them, how long they are to exist, etc., we pick up the story exactly where we left off last time, where there were "two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18). We had covered the first four commandments, which is what divides most Christians today, and that is sad.

Christians are divided over worshipping God. Some say we worship the Father while treating the Son as a mere prophet, and the Holy Spirit simply emanating from the Father. Others, worship the Father and Son but again leave out the Holy Spirit as being some unrelated entity. Still others worship all three beings referring to them as the trinity, existing as one being but separating Himself into three parts at the given time, creating the belief that the God of the Old Testament was the Father, then pulling a piece of Himself off to

take human form, and breathing out His Spirit as the Holy Spirit. And finally, there is the Three Distinct Beings, giving a plurality to the One True God operating as the Godhead (Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9).

Next, we have Christians that use objects, like statues, to worship, making likenesses of people. Many even use symbols, usually a cross, around their necks and elsewhere to declare their Christianity.

Moving on to the third commandment, we have Christians that think as long as they do not take God's name as a swear word that they are alright not realizing taking God's name in vain includes calling oneself a Christian while living like the devil.

Finally, we come to remembering the Sabbath day and keeping it holy. Again, Christians are divided on this, thinking that it was instituted for the Jews when Moses was given the Ten Commandments, but as was pointed out last time, Exodus, chapter 16, was an attempt to have the people recall the commandment prior to its being written down, insinuating that

it has always existed all the way back to creation week of which the words in the written version of the commandment explicitly state such to be accurate with the words "For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:11). But many Christians pull verses from the Bible insinuating without a commandment that the day was changed to Sunday. The first implication is that of Jesus' resurrection being on a Sunday. Another is the long-winded Paul in a farewell sermon in which he preached until mid-night. Some point to breaking of bread happening in particular on a Sunday. Of course, there is the apparent anti-Sabbath verses like not judging others regarding the Sabbath days – not day, but days. Then there is the adoption of calling Sunday the "Lord's Day" when the only use of that phrase reveals no specific day of the week being identified (Revelation 1:10). But then, if all else fails, we have many Christians treating the commandment as a command that

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For Bible Believing Christians**

declares which day we attend church allowing the other twenty-three or twenty-two hours of the day to be used as we please. This does not take into consideration all of the Christians that just totally ignore the Sabbath, ignore going to church, and even ignore time with God, yet claim to be a Christian.

As we stated, Christians are very much divided on the first four commandments, many being indifferent because, well, they are saved anyways. There are an awful lot of unnecessary words contained in the Bible if that is all that mattered – just believe. We suggest that there is a greater expectation to the meaning of “believe” than a mere thinking in the mind, even more than just saying the words.

Moving onwards now with the last six commandments, which is the new material for this part, we have the honoring of father and mother that also covers authority figures as well, but, then again, Christianity becomes divided on the extent of even this commandment. Some take the commandments so literally that it destroys the spiritual intent. Even Jesus declared the spiritual intent in addition to the letter by expanding both the killing and adultery commandments.

Speaking of which, the next commandment is that of not killing, in which Jesus included “That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell

fire” (Matthew 5:22).

And speaking also of the adultery commandment, Jesus further stated, “That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:28).

That brings us to the eighth commandment regarding stealing. Does that include stealing other people’s time by always being late to appointments?

The ninth commandment regarding bearing a false witness against thy neighbor – many Christians do not include the teasing, the holiday lies, the lies to cover up a surprise, etc. They even permit the oxymoron statement of “white lies”. A lie tarnishes white, so there is no such thing as a white lie.

Then we have the illusive tenth commandment about coveting. Just how far does that extend? How far can one go into debt for items of desire, but not of necessity, before it is considered coveting?

All of these, no matter how convoluted Christians have made them out to be today, excusing this or that, changing this or that, or just ignoring it, ought to consider this one important thing that Moses recorded: “the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God” (Deuteronomy 9:10). This was separate from all of the additional laws written down and “Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book” (Deuteronomy 31:24). Clearly, there is a separation of two distinct set of laws. One is on tables of stone while the other is a book.

Further, God wrote the Ten Commandments while dictating the other laws.

Then there is a location distinction as well. “Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee” (Deuteronomy 31:26). According to Hebrews 9:4-5, we have the Ten Commandments referenced by the words “the tables of the covenant” and placed over them is the “mercyseat”. In other words, the Ten Commandments were placed directly under the mercy seat.

With the two sets of laws distinguished by who wrote them, material used, and location, the confusion that many Christians are susceptible to is the generic use of the word “law”. At the time of the writing or recording of the New Testament scriptures, the audience knew which law was being referred to at that moment. For instance, when they were told not to judge people on what they ate and drank in regards to certain days, they knew that the simple term “law” meant the “Book of the Law” in the side of the ark. When judgment of character was being discussed along with the encouragement to obeying the “law”, the audience once again, with little effort, knew that the writer was referring to the “Ten Commandments” under the mercyseat. Today’s Christians see the word “law” in the New Testament, especially in regards to the dismissing of the law, and apply it to the “Ten Commandments” without making the distinction between the two sets of laws. But

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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.

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now we are far into the future of our timeline, and we will table the discussion at this point to go into greater detail when we get to the time of the apostles.

Now that the Bible clearly delineates the two sets of laws, let us establish the purpose of each. The Ten Commandments, existing in Heaven before Genesis 1:1 ever happened [Part 1 of this article series outlines those details from the Bible], establish the expectancy of all of God's beings, angels and mankind alike. It is referred to today as the moral law. It is to reveal where we are sinning (Romans 7:7) and drive us to Jesus because "by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified" (Romans 3:20). The only one that can justify, forgive us, is Jesus because "the law was our school-master [to bring us] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24). The "was" does not mean the commandments are done away with. If we return to sinning, it is our school-master again teaching us that we are sinning. But that law cannot save us. Therefore, "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).

In regards to the "Book of the Law", it outlined everything that was necessary for the sanctuary service. Read all of Leviticus to get the understanding of these things, but in short, it outlined the various feast days, what was to be done on those days, what they were for, what type of animals were to be sacrificed, how the priests were to conduct themselves, and a whole lot more. In regards to the sanctu-

ary service, David wrote, "Thy way, O God, [is] in the sanctuary" (Psalms 77:13). The whole way or plan of salvation was outlined in the sanctuary service. Studied properly, we ought to be able to see Jesus throughout the whole process. Jesus is "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29), "a great high priest" (Hebrews 4:14), "the door" to the tabernacle (John 10:7), "the way" (John 14:6) to the mercyseat, etc.

Basically, God has been working with human beings from the beginning of the fall to save them. Jesus is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). This refers to the source of those skins that Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden with. The first animals that were slain to cover the sinners began the symbolism of sacrificing the animals. Jesus was not only the Lamb that was on trial and then crucified.

God gave to mankind the moral law of the Ten Commandments and a pointer to the future deliverer in Jesus by having people slay an animal, most often a lamb. The reason it is a mere pointer is because "[it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). Only Jesus can take away the sins of those before the cross as well as after the cross. Seeing that the pointer became insignificant in the world and almost completely lost by the time of the Exodus, that pointer was then expanded into a full live presentation of God's plan of salvation. Both the Ten Commandments and the "Book of the Law" were not intended to be owned by or attributed to just Israel. Israel was to be the teacher

of the world of God's morality for all mankind. And when mankind realized that they indeed had sinned, they had the living solution being acted out before their eyes in the sanctuary service. When done correctly, the Israelites did not have faith in the animal sacrifice to take away their sin; they had faith in the symbolism of what it pointed towards – Jesus, the ultimate Lamb.

However, the Israelites, instead of teaching properly, became exclusive. Being told from God, "Thou [art] my people" (Isaiah 51:16), was misunderstood and taken as, the nation of Israel have the saved people but all the other nations will be lost. They did not try to win them to keeping the moral law and become grafted in. They wanted to show the world how mighty they were instead.

Unfortunately, many Christian denominations continue to believe that misunderstanding attributing all of the Old Testament content to Israel of old and dismiss much of the Old Testament as not being applicable to all mankind, if not all of it, living only in New Testament scriptures.

As most of the restrictive environments experience, unconverted people tend to rebel. It did not take long after Moses and Joshua passed off the scene and entered into being ruled by judges for them to fall away. "Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way

which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; [but] they did not so” (Judges 2:16-17). There was a constant swinging back and forth. The Israelites would see what worldly attractions the other nations were practicing, give up the strict obedience to God’s commandments, even forsaking the sanctuary services. Oh, there were restoration processes implemented even “at the king’s commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD” (2 Chronicles 24:8), but they fell into apostasy time and time again. In other words, Israel did a very lousy job at witnessing, at telling the gospel story, at living the moral law of the Ten Commandments so much so that God had a name for the then split nation: “And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also” (Jeremiah 3:8).

Israel ended up being scattered (Jeremiah 50:17), whereas, Judah was taken into captivity (Jeremiah 1:3) into Babylon, where we get the stories of Daniel. All of this that comes to us in the form of the Old Testament, which is not to be used for mere historical facts but serve as an example of what God thinks when infractions occur against His commandments, not Moses’ commandments. God sends prophets of warning, revealing prophetic foresight, and then executing judgment: “The LORD [is] longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clear-

ing [the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation]” (Numbers 14:18).

After coming out of Babylonian captivity, one would think the lesson of needing to obey the commandments would have been learned, but it was not. Especially regarding the Sabbath day, many infractions occurred.

First, we have the teaching of history to the released captives: “Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant” (Nehemiah 9:13-14).

Second, we have commands that were declared: “And [if] the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, [that] we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day: and [that] we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt” (Nehemiah 10:31).

Third, measures were then taken because of their persistent breaking of the commandments: “In those days saw I in Judah [some] treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all [manner of] burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the sabbath day: and I testified [against them] in the day wherein they sold victuals. There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold on the sabbath

unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem. Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said unto them, What evil thing [is] this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day? Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath. And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and [some] of my servants set I at the gates, [that] there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day. So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice. Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do [so] again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no [more] on the sabbath. And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and [that] they should come [and] keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, [concerning] this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy” (Nehemiah 13:15-22).

But as they say today, a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. Further measures were going to be needed that would lead a nation into the opposite direction – all law and no mercy, but more on that next time.

To be continued...



Be In Health — 3 John 1:2

Avoid Too Much Sleep - Proverbs 20:13

The verse actually states, “Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, [and] thou shalt be satisfied with bread” (Proverbs 20:13). Other similar verses in Proverbs include the twice repeated, “[Yet] a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man” (Proverbs 6:10-11, Proverbs 24:33-34).

Although these verses point out the physical consequences of sleeping in every day more towards a financial relationship, there is another hidden, physical consequence that we want to address. Now, when a person is exhausted and needs a little more sleep, the Bible does not condemn that. The Bible also does not condemn healing sleep for illness or bodily injury. The habitual sleeping in, hitting the snooze button numerous times, allowing just enough time to get out of bed and

into the office so as to maximize the amount of sleep possible, etc., are all of the things that are being addressed.

Making better use of one’s time helps many to maintain their job and even be energetic enough to tackle a few hours of overtime or pick up hours elsewhere to not only meet the bills but pay down any outstanding debts. But all of that is still primarily a financial result and does not directly address the health issue.

The problem with loving sleep and getting more than what is actually needed results in a similar issue of not getting enough sleep. There is peak time that the body is balanced in sleep. Everyone has their own peak, keeping in mind that it can vary from six to nine hours. Age also is a factor in the peak amount of sleep one needs per day.

Getting beyond the needed amount is a serious matter. According to several medical outlets,

a person getting too much sleep is at risk of developing diabetes.

Another complication, again, according to medical outlets, is that of obesity. Observation included people who did not eat late at night and also participated in getting enough exercise, therefore, the amount of sleep was the main factor.

The body itself can become damaged by staying in bed too long. Many people have suffered from back pain, frequent numbness in the body that was pressed more into the bed as opposed to other body parts, even neck pain.

Of course, that means that those who oversleep are also susceptible to having more headaches than normal and some more intense than normal.

People who oversleep continuously usually have more of a depressed attitude towards life. As lack of sleep also contributes to poor attitudes, the fog of too much sleep does the same thing.

With all of the ailments contributed to too much sleep, we would not do our job if we did not warn against heart disease, as well as lung issues.

Finally, the last consequence to having too much sleep is that of death. The life expectancy drops significantly among those that continuously sleep in.

So, though sleep is important, keep it balanced.



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 2. *I Am Come to Deceive the Whole World*
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Ingredients

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Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

Romans 2:13 tells us, “For not the hearers of the law [are] just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.” So, only those that keep the Ten Commandments are justified, are forgiven. And “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer [shall be] abomination” (Proverbs 28:9). Keeping the law does not save us, for “by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). How it works is that we are to be obedient to the Ten Commandments. That is the outline of what a true follower of God is, however, “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Now we need to go to Jesus in which, “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). That is justification in action. It is for those who are doing what Jesus would have us to do, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15), but have fallen short as we have knowledge by the commandments of what sin is. For those who are completely careless regarding the law, it is not for them to be justified so that they can continue to be careless. So, are you keeping the commandments being justified where you have fallen short, or have you totally dismissed the commandments and are lacking justification, the gift necessary for entrance into Heaven?

After listing numerous differences between living as a Christian and getting buffeted by it, ridiculed, challenged, Paul writes to encourage Christians to follow his example (1 Corinthians 4:16) and then declares, “the kingdom of God [is] not in word, but in power” (1 Corinthians 4:20). If a Christian is a Christian merely because he or she has declared that Jesus is the Christ, have said merely the words “I believe”, that is not the gospel, and that is not salvation. “The gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16), “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel,” (Romans 16:25), “our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power” (1 Thessalonians 1:5), and “be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Timothy 1:8). And yet, churches and Christians will excuse the committing of numerous sins (2 Timothy 3:2-4) and “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Timothy 3:5). So, is your salvation just in word or “according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3)?

Ephesians 4:13 continues with the purpose of leaders in the church. The goal is “the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the ful-

ness of Christ.” We are to become “a new creature”, where “old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The “knowledge of the Son of God” is not to learn to know that the Son of God exists, otherwise, such a person would not be listening to church leaders for they have already acknowledged that they know the Son of God, but rather, as Jesus said, to be taught “to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20) for upon baptism, none of us were endowed with everything there was to know about being a Christian, Christ-like. And as the verse states, the goal is to become perfect, to develop a stature of the fullness of Christ, which is to restore “the image of God” (Genesis 1:27), which was instilled at creation. In other words, Satan continues to mar our images by having us sin. Christ came to give us what is necessary to get back to the original image, which is “to walk, even as he walked” (1 John 2:6), to “have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16), and “may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15). He has provided us with grace, which forgives us of our sins (Exodus 34:9), and power to live a godly life (2 Peter 1:3). So, are you becoming these things, or are you content with living a care-

less life without the adherence towards anything that was commanded to be observed by Jesus, thinking you are already eternally saved?

Philippians 3:17 is yet another verse that clearly teaches the expectation once one is in a saving state – it is the holy and sanctified life.

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” We are to walk, to live, a certain standard – the Christian standard, to be Christ-like in character. So, how do you live? Any which way you think, or do you “not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4)? “Jesus answered and said unto him, 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).

Colossians 3:3 reflects the words stated elsewhere. “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.” This is very similar to “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:11). When we decide to be a Christian, we are dead not only to sin, but dead to the pleasures of distraction in this world as well; which represents the holy and sanctified life that is expected of a Christian, otherwise, it is just mere words. A true Christian is not interested in the latest movies, TV shows, music, sporting events, partying, etc. We realize this world means nothing, and we simply use our energies to be in Christ through prayer and Bible study. We also do that which is necessary to live on this planet but we do not seek to have that corner office and climb

the corporate ladder. We are not caught up on the fashion trends, language and signing practices, etc.. We also seek to save souls where possible. We definitely do not go along with the unification of religions or what society is pushing, but promote the only way, which is in Christ. We respect all people and authority, trying to be peaceable, but without compromising. So, are you dead to all your wants, and are you serving the living God in all that you do?

2 Thessalonians 2:17 tells us what happens after becoming a Christian – “Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.” If we stay selfish, our profession of faith is false. If we keep our foul mouths, our profession is false. If we take advantage of others a little here and there, our profession is false. If we do not love our neighbors enough to share the Christian faith with them, our profession is false. Every good word and work is the sanctified and holy life. So, what do your words and works show? A mixture of good and bad, or all good? Let us face it, no one is all bad.

Why are Christian, and especially Christian, ministers hiding the truth about living the expected holy and sanctified life, in which we are told about “holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14)? Titus 2:14 is so very plain about the matter. “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Jesus died not for us to continue sinning but to “redeem us from all iniquity!” That means there is not a single sin that we cannot be liberated from, or delivered

from; those are synonyms for the word “redeemed”. Further, God is purifying, making perfect, cleaning up, making holy a people. Continuing to sin and excusing sin in one’s life is not becoming purified. What such people lack is the zeal to do good works or zeal in general. And yes, we are to stand out and not fit in to society, for we are to be “peculiar”. In hiding this verse from Christians, or Christians ignoring this verse means certain doom, therefore, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17)! So, will you stop sinning by the grace of God and become purified?

So, to all the Christians with foul language; all the Christians that claim to be saved but speak their own minds no matter the content even if it is offensive to God; to all the Christians that are not careful with their words; James 1:26 clearly states, “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion [is] vain.” To be in vain is to be lost. To bridle the tongue is the expected holy and sanctified life. So, what comes out of your mouth?

Matthew 5:21-22 tells us that Jesus expects all of us to be still obeying the commandments, which is the holy and sanctified life. “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”

The word “whosoever” is not the same as “just for the Jews”. It is not the same as “back before the cross”. It spans all followers of Christ and spans all times. Further, those that go by the “spirit of the law” should take note that in the words of Jesus, the commandment on killing got a whole lot more difficult. Simple wrong anger towards another human being, except in being angry towards lawlessness towards God as demonstrated even by Jesus and selectively excused by Ephesians 4:26, is condemnable to hell; yet Christians use foul words, use foul finger motions, and get upset with others over simple things like accidental situations, not paying attention to traffic laws, and other annoying habits. Jesus said, such, especially of Christians, “shall be in danger of hell fire”. So, are you in danger of hell fire, or are you keeping your

anger in check?

Jesus said, “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mark 8:34). Denying ourselves of selfishness, especially sin, is the holy and sanctified life that is expected of every Christian. In fact, we are to face temptations and stop giving in to them no matter how difficult the challenge. And, the thirdly, we are to always be following the teachings of Jesus, following Him instead of our own wills and Satan’s suggestions. Now, all of this is not to earn Heaven but is a result of being given eternal life. It is our response to the free gift. And then “Ye shall know them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16). “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and

in truth” (1 John 3:18). It is not enough to say we are saved – we must live it. So, how do you live?

In Acts 10:43, those who “believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” (Acts 10:43). Remission is not only forgiveness for sins, but being set free from them is called liberty, hence, the reason the commandments are referred to as “the law of liberty” (James 2:12), because as we obey the commandments, we are liberated from sin. This is why Jesus said, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). “Then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:18). So, have you received the remission of sins, the sanctified, or holy, life, or are you still stuck in your sins?



Study to Shew Thyself Approved Unto God—(2 Timothy 2:15)

The Sanctified

1. What is a synonym to the word “sanctified”? **1 Corinthians 7:14**

2. What is sanctification part of? **2 Thessalonians 2:13**

3. What is so important about being holy, being sanctified?

Hebrews 12:14

4. Who makes us sanctified? **Jude 1:1**

5. What do we receive to become sanctified? **Acts 26:18**

6. What instrument is used to

make us holy, sanctified? **John 17:17**

7. How much of us is to become sanctified? **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

8. During the sanctification process, what does the Holy Spirit lead us unto? **1 Peter 1:2**

9. How does the Holy Spirit lead us to do that? **John 16:8**

10. What are we called to be? **1 Peter 1:15, 16**

August 2021 Bible Questions and Answers

The Justified

1. What does justification bring? **Romans 5:1 “we have peace”**
2. Using the physical representation from the Old Testament through the ceremony of a peace offering, why do we receive peace when justified? **Leviticus 4:26 “make an atonement for him**

as concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him”

3. What does justification save us from receiving? **Romans 5:9 “we shall be saved from wrath”**
4. It cost the life of Jesus, our Savior, but how much does it cost us to receive justification? **Romans 5:16 “the free gift”**
5. What cannot justify us? **Romans 3:20 “deeds of the law”, 28 “deeds of the law”; Galatians 2:16 “not justified by the works of the law”**
6. Who are justified? **Romans 2:13 “the doers of the law shall be justified”**

7. What attitude are we to have to receive justification? **Luke 18:14 “he that humbleth himself”**

8. What does justification not permit? **Matthew 12:36-37 “every idle word”**
9. What will we not participate in once we are justified? **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 fornication, idolatry, adultery, being effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thievery, coveting, drunkenness, reviling, being extortionist**
10. What gives evidence of our faith regarding justification? **James 2:24 “works”**



Questions & Answers

QUESTION: How can I know if something is a sin?

ANSWER: The simple answer is by God’s Word. The more complex answer is in the evaluation of the specifics.

For instance, nowhere does the Bible say, “Thou shalt not smoke!”, nor does it say, “Thou shalt not look at porn!” But there are principles in the Bible that cover both. It is up to the rest of the Word of God to convict a person of how detailed those principles apply. Does the principle of not lusting after women cover porn, soft porn, nudity in movies, suggestiveness on TV, swimsuit models in mag-

azines, going to the beach to look at barely covered bodies? The intent of this list was to go from the obvious to the not-as-convicting in all people. There are Christians that subscribe to magazines with clothed but sexy models who see nothing wrong with their exposure. The fact that there is suggestiveness, independent upon the effect of my mind, in looking at those models, should be enough to say that such purposeful exposure is a sin, but not everyone agrees with that statement.

If one were to take a survey, quite a few Christians see nothing wrong with smoking while others see it as condemnable to hell. As for porn, many Christians who are familiar

with the words of Jesus will quickly state, “Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Matthew 5:28). That would cover the porn very easily, yet there are Christians still that think looking at nakedness, while not performing a sexual act, is fine to view. Let us face it, many movies have some glimpse of nudity in them these days, so is that a sin to view? All of those that make such allowance use the justifications that fall under the category of admiring beauty. Besides, it looks like the Bible just addresses men, so are women off the hook?

This is where serious Bible study reveals further principles. We have Ad-

(Continued from page 11)

am and Eve sewing fig leaves (Genesis 3:7), which was not enough of a covering in God's eyes. God provided them with coats of skin (Genesis 3:21), which covered much more of the body. Therefore, unnecessary body exposure would be sinful. Those who argue that Adam and Eve were naked in the garden, keep in mind that something covered them for "the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they [were] naked" (Genesis 3:7). Then we have Leviticus chapters 18 and 20 that outlines who, primarily, may not see another person naked. So, nakedness is to be something held in reserve instead of flaunted.

Those who claim if someone is willing to flaunt it, then what is the harm in looking, but not lusting? It is the placing of the image into the mind that once in the mind can never be erased. By collecting a number of these images, soon it will lead to lusting for more because of the Bible principle stating, by beholding it, we are changed (2 Corinthians 3:18). Purposeful downward path from purity is the sinful act.

Basically, to know if something is sinful or not is to evaluate it upon the direction it leads. If it leads towards God, then it is fine. If it leads away from God, it may not be an outright sin, but it is tending to sinning and true Christians avoid placing themselves in such paths. Further, we have to keep in mind that others who are weaker in certain areas are watching us. We are to set an example before them.

Of course, those who do not use the Bible as their standard will not know what tends towards God for it is only knowing God that we can understand if something tends towards Him or away from Him. Standing up for people's and

groups' rights may be noble, but which people and which groups God calls His own, or calls an abomination, determines if a person is really tending towards God in God's eyes and not our own.

Upon the honest seeker of knowing what is and is not a sin begins with the willingness to "live by... every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4) and believe "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). If people choose feelings, opinions, or teachings of humans without regard to the Word of God, then sin identification becomes elusive.

QUESTION: If Jesus paid the price for our sin, why do we still suffer the consequences of our sin?

ANSWER: Could you imagine the number of people who would experiment with sin if consequences were also wiped away at some point? Some would say, "I'm going to experiment with sex until I'm tired of it", only to get a serious sexually transmitted disease during that time, and then expect to be able to go to God and even say, "God, I will not participate in sexual activity unless it is with my spouse" and then have God remove the disease. If there were no remaining consequences, people would either re-indulge or try many other sins out. This in no wise would help God's plan of restoration (Galatians 6:1).

Too many people think that sin is not all that serious today. They indulge or excuse a little sinning here and a little there. Whole denominations have even nailed the Ten Commandments to the cross and won-

der why Christianity is so pathetic these days with greed, lusting, sexual activity, laziness, cheating, stealing, and the list goes on. We would not have so many Christians accepting abortion as a means of solving the position of not being ready to be a parent or already have too many kids.

Adam and Eve sinned. Subsequent people that have populated this planet have all sinned "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Most of those sinners continue sinning by choice. Sin clearly is causing all kinds of problems. The simple sin of coveting has led to murder, which deprives others of loved ones. The desire to feel good through drugs has led people to steal from others, depriving people of enjoying their own hard-earned efforts. And the list goes on.

Seeing all of this tragedy going on around us, why would any Christian want to contribute to it by continuing in sin? Therefore, the plan of restoration is to heal us of some of the consequences of sin now, but overall, to have us combat the sin problem by living in obedience perfectly outlined in His Ten Commandments.

Regarding some of the consequences, smokers recover their taste buds, lungs, cells, etc. over time when they stop submitting to smoking. Those who become pregnant and do not want the baby are not going to be healed of their consequence. Those who have lived 50, 60, 70 years in eating, drinking, and living in a manner of which the consequence is now death through heart disease, cancer, and other ailments, are not, upon conversion experiencing even a real conversion, are not going to be healed of all their consequences, but rather will become the living preacher of

teaching what the consequence of sinning does so as to help the youth make different choices. Otherwise, everyone would live such a life of sin and then expect to be made completely whole in the end.

God is not magical.

QUESTION: What is lust? What does the Bible have to say about lust?

ANSWER: Stating it directly, it is anything that a person allows into their life that they just have to keep in their life that interferes with the relationship with God – “For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:16). Keep in mind that “every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James

1:14-15). It ranges from the simple level of coveting, where Paul stated, “I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet” (Romans 7:7) all the way up to what people typically consider lust; dismissing all other forms and that is the “cannot-live-without_____”, drooling and panting, and usually it involves the opposite gender. Proverbs 6:25 speaks to the high extreme by warning, “Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.” However, to the opposite end that people do not consider lusting, we hear, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Romans 6:12). We see that lust is simply not breaking the sinful habit, no matter how little the sin is.

Basically, what God declares is lusting is much different from what even Christians consider lusting. For

those who cannot control themselves around chocolate, God considers it to be lusting. As per Paul in Romans 6:12, keeping up with the neighbors through coveting what they have is a form of lusting. Even the simple desire for soft, gospel messages is a form of lusting, for 2 Timothy 4:3 states, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

In the desert, craving meat was a form of lusting. “And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust” (Psalms 78:18). Keep in mind that as Christians, we are told about that incident where the quails were provided to these lustful eaters to their death (Numbers 11:33-34), “Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted” (1 Corinthians 10:6).

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.

We are also told, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22). That includes raging hormones up through

the "get-rich-quick" schemes to wanting anything they see no matter how impractical, etc.

As you see, lust is any continued distraction away from God and His expectation for us. He expects us to

use our funds and our time wisely. Many obsessive hobbies can fall into both a waste of money and a waste of time.



News and Comments

June 25—LA Times

Supreme Court rules no right to sue for some wrongly labeled as terrorists by credit agency

They are gearing up to be able to "call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness" (Isaiah 5:20). If a credit agency, like the social media corporations, looks upon certain religious beliefs as unfavorable, it does not matter if that religious person would hurt no one, credit agencies, like in China, can just label that person however they want without risk of a lawsuit.

June 30—The Hill

Vaccination disparities could lead to 'two Americas,' Fauci says

And this is the attitude of the process to set up the Image of Revelation 13 so much so that not only will one side – the vaccinated, pressure the other side – the non-vaccinated, the Image will involve one side – those in favor of the Image, to want to kill the other side – those with the Seal of God. "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Revelation 13:15).

July 1—Reuters

Facebook asks: Are your friends becoming extremists?

Combine this with "Biden Administration Asks Americans to Report 'Potentially' Radicalized Friends and Family" (Breitbart, June 15, 2021), and we have yet another effort to get society ready to fulfill Matthew 24:10, "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."

July 2—Yahoo News

NYPD hunting for man involved in apparent broad daylight sexual assault of woman: Video

The boldness of crimes these days just shows that we are as the days of Noah. "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man [was] great in the earth, and [that] every imagination of the thoughts of his heart [was] only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11).

July 3—NY Daily News

Vatican seeks to combat 'myths and disinformation' about coronavirus vaccine, vows all-out effort to tackle vaccine hesitancy

Why does a religious organization have interest in the vaccine push? Could it be part of the fulfillment between the religious organization

that influences the world being connected with the predicted deception through the pharmaceutical industry? "By thy sorceries were all nations deceived" (Revelation 18:23) – the word "sorceries" being the Greek word "pharmakeia". And 2 Thessalonians 2:4 tells us about the religious power involved as anti-christ: "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." There is definitely an agenda going on.

July 6—The Washington Post

Biden announces door-to-door outreach, outlines other strategies to boost vaccinations

Only an agenda pressures people to participate. Watch what continues to unfold, because the Mark of the Beast is sure to follow the path. This spirit is practicing the fulfillment of "cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Revelation 13:15). If you do not participate, you will be forced, and if resistance still continues, death eventually.

July 7—The Guardian

FBI infiltrates militia-style group formed under 'Bible study' cover

The bigger concern is the tarnishing of legitimate Bible study groups. The reactionary government, mostly on the left of the political spectrum, will not hesitate to try and shut down all legitimate study groups, at the very least, place them in a bad light. "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). We need to make sure true Bible study groups do their best to stay above such prospects of being labeled for anarchism, but do consider, "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).

July 10—The Washington Examiner

Activists hang 'God Bless Abortions' banner on massive Arkansas Jesus statue

Galatians 6:7 says, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Sin is so blatant today. There is no respect in the world. But, God will be moving upon the whole world soon. And eventually, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:8).

July 12—BBC

Jovenel Moïse: Foreign hit squad killed Haiti's president, police say

Who killed the Hattian president is a cover-up for the real story. Just a few months ago, the administration of Haiti was stated by Reuters, "Haiti, yet to begin vaccinations" (June 9, 2021). We ask, when does a coincidence become an agenda? In Africa News, January 27, 2021,

"President Magufuli warns Tanzanians against Covid-19 vaccines" and then mysteriously dies of COVID. We are told of the second beast in Revelation that a nation that has influence over all other nations would "causeth the earth" (Revelation 13:12). The context is to worship or obey the first beast, but until that worship is pushed forward, we have practice runs in which, if a nation objects to the agenda, remove the leader. That is what is being practiced. And we know that "by thy sorceries were all nations deceived" or "by thy pharmaceuticals were all nations deceived", as the word sorceries is the Greek word "pharmakeia".

July 23—The Hill

Cases of the plague confirmed in Colorado, including in the death of a 10-year-old

On top of that, "More than 200 people in 27 states now being monitored for monkeypox" (The Hill, July 23). Basically, Matthew 24:7 states, "and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

July 26—Newsweek

New 'Medical Freedom' Law Bans Requiring COVID Vaccination to Access Public Spaces

At least he has the "Resist the devil" (James 4:7) part down pat. It is the devil that forces people to comply and not listen to reason.

July 27—Daily Advent

The six surprising benefits of drinking alcohol

"Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1).

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called" (1 Timothy 6:20). Although this type of article, which appears quite often in one form or another, may express some benefits, though those benefits are usually found alternatively in non-alcoholic content as well, but that, of course, does not fit the agenda of pushing alcohol. There are benefits and drawbacks to everything. Eating animal waste has benefits, but we do not see such on any restaurant menus, neither is it in high demand. And if one thinks that we just became disgusting by suggesting the eating of animal dung, realize that alcohol is made from dead, rotting, decaying plants. Technically, there is no difference. By the way, the "Wine" that people see encouraged in the Bible to be drunk "is found in the cluster" (Isaiah 65:8), which we call grape juice or non-alcoholic wine. So, do not be telling us that Jesus made alcoholic wine or Paul recommended alcoholic wine to Timothy instead of water (1 Timothy 5:23). He recommended grape juice instead of water.

July 30—Market Watch

Biden wants local, state governments to pay newly vaccinated people \$100 each

By these actions, there is definitely something in the vaccine or a purpose of the vaccine as part of the agenda. To now offer payment to get the vaccine after the number of other tricks promoted on the matter were offered means that some entity higher than our own government is pulling the strings. "The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her" (Revelation 18:3). And that would be the antichrist behind the scenes.

July 30—Idaho Statesman

The Idaho Way: Thanks a lot, anti-vaxxers, now we're back to wearing masks again

What happened to allowing people to have freedom? Why are anti-vaxxers to blame? Why are they not fighting back the agenda and misinformation because it is all exaggerated if not a lie? Even the vaccine is a lie. The notion that everyone else has to be vaccinated so a vaccinated person can have their vaccine work is ridiculous. It started with blaming anti-vaxxers with the measles, claiming herd immunity is necessary, a new invention of the agenda, and scaring people to hate those that treat their bodies like the temple of God (at least some are trying). Others may be involved in conspiracy theories. "If any man defile the

temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy,

which [temple] ye are" (1 Corinthians 3:17).



Natural Remedies

Apples for Heartburn

We've all heard that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away", well, that daily apple can also keep heartburn away. Avoiding foods like sodas, tea, coffee, meats, and anything fried is a good way to prevent acid reflux in the first place, but apples have pectin, a soluble fiber that's really great at absorbing excess stomach acid. The fruit also contains two types of acid, malic and tartaric, that

work to beat back any digestive juices that might flow up from your stomach. Apples like red or golden delicious apples that are sweeter than the tart granny smiths, are the ones you want since sweet apples are more alkaline and work at a cellular level to restore pH balance in the stomach and prevent GERD, which is gastroesophageal reflux disease.

