

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

A Monthly Magazine

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“All Should Come to Repentance” (2 Peter 3:9)

Jerry O'Donnell

Please notice that “all” are to come to repentance. That leaves no one out. Of course, not everyone will respond positively to the call. In fact, this is why the second coming has not happened yet, for God “is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Now the first group that resists the call are those who reject submitting themselves to any being and that means that they are part of the negative group. That group is obvious. They outright reject religion. They outright reject the Bible. They go as far as to outright reject God.

But there is another group that is ever so subtle who are just as guilty. These are Christians who profess to have been saved but have returned to the ways of the world, even participating in sin or, at the very least, excusing sin in their own lives. “It doesn’t matter, I’m saved!” And that is the toughest group to get through that any sin is not alright with God.

If a person is truly saved, even born-again, 1 John 3:9 applies:

“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.” In fact, “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” (1 John 3:8). Now, we are not talking about an oops moment for “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), and then, “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).

We are talking about those, for example, who excuse their foul mouth. They do not even make an effort to clean up their chosen words despite being told “be ye holy in all manner of conversation” (1 Peter 1:15). These, for example, are people who excuse a vice here or there claiming that everyone has a vice of some sort.

Oh, people may have been excited, had plans of living a holy life, but after things settle down and reality sets in, they do not realize that “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:6). So, returning back to the old lifestyle, enjoying the things the world has to offer, etc. places one against God instead of in a saving relationship with Him.

It is like the parable of the sower and the seed, where “any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth [it] not, then cometh the wicked [one], and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world,

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and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matthew 13:19-22). All of the excuses of why a holy life is not experienced is found in that parable: a bit of being made fun of, lacking in love of the Word, and caught by the cares of the world along with fitting in. All these things draw Christians away from their original commitment.

When the call for repentance is made, we are to have "godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). We are not to declare repentance and then return to our worldly lifestyle that ought to be repented of again. We are to repent and live a different life. Everyone that claims Christ "should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26:20).

Now, some may claim "the gifts and calling of God [are] without repentance" (Romans 11:29) to mean that we get the gifts, especially Heaven, without repenting. That cannot be true because then why make a call? God's call is without repentance. In other words, He freely calls us while we are in a state of being unrepentant. But what is the calling about? "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13, Mark 2:17, Luke 5:32). If repentance were not required for accepting the gift of eternal life, then Romans 11:29 would simply read, "The gifts of God are without repentance" and that would negate the numerous verses that call sinners, you and I, to repentance.

As for the gift being without repentance, there is nothing we can do to earn that gift. Jesus provides

the gift freely by His own sacrifice for "the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). He has obtained the gift for us even without our response to the calling of repentance. Now, He offers the gift to us but it is not for everyone. That is why Romans 11:29 includes both the gift and the calling. In other words, the gift itself, like a ticket for a trip to the best location ever imaginable, has no connection whatsoever with our reaction of repentance. However, to go there requires a positive response to the calling, which is also freely being offered to us. And that calling is for us to be made ready to dwell with holy beings by repenting, the ceasing, along with godly sorrow, of our sins. And it is the "goodness of God" offering us eternal life with the full assurance of complete forgiveness of our sins which "leadeth thee to repentance" (Romans 2:4).

Is that not wonderful news? When we repent, we are sorry for sinning. But what do we do with the fact that we already sinned? We rely upon Jesus to make us "whiter than snow" (Psalms 51:7) and "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). What a gift! But if we are not repentant, then we reject the calling and we reject the gift.

Paul preached "to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance" (Acts 26:20). John the Baptist also preached "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matthew 3:8). Again, John

(Continued on page 4)



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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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Article	Page 1
Health	Page 5
Recipe	Page 6
Natural Vitamins	Page 6
Holy Living	Page 7
Bible Study	Page 10
Questions And Answers	Page 11
News And Comment	Page 12
Natural Remedy	Page 16

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(Continued from page 2)

preached, "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:8). Even the twelve disciples "went out, and preached that men should repent" (Mark 6:12).

Now, "the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). Here is the growing process of a Christian, where such a person is represented as "the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear" (Mark 4:28). There is constant growth being a Christian because we are not endowed with all the knowledge of the Christian lifestyle. As long as we keep to the spirit of repentance, and every time our ignorance is removed through the Word of God and we repent, cease from doing it anymore, then we stay in the saving relationship. When we refuse to repent over a new revelation, then we are no different than the lost.

With sin being wicked to God no matter how trivial we think the sin is (Genesis 39:9), "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought

of thine heart may be forgiven thee" (Acts 8:22). "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). "Repent, and turn [yourselves] from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin" (Ezekiel 18:30).

Jesus even told His followers, which is us today, "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). Did you catch that? Sins are to be remitted, repented of, ceased, in fact, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Romans 6:12).

To those who justify their sinning by claiming to be saved, Jesus said, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" (Luke

15:7). And "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10). In fact, Jesus stated clearly, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5).

As an example of what repentance is like, Jesus reminded everyone, "The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas [is] here" (Luke 11:32). What did Nineveh do? They put an end to their wicked ways and even "put on sackcloth" (Jonah 3:5).

What is the condition of entering the Kingdom of God? Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15).

Keep in mind, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Revelation 3:19), and "Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth" (Revelation 2:16).

So, are you stubbornly holding onto and excusing known sin in your life, or do you live in the mind of repentance causing you to cease from your sins by the power and grace of God?



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Be In Health — 3 John 1:2

Trust In God

What does trust in God have to do with health? The answer is not a single statement, but numerous.

First, let us start with the result of lacking to trust in God. Luke 21:26 states, “Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.” Basically, it results in heart attacks.

With all that is happening in the world and people being rattled by all sorts of things, heart attacks can easily occur even among the supposed healthy people. There are many natural stressors, but add runaway inflation, threat of nuclear war, threat of food shortages, the continued fight regarding COVID, skyrocketing fuel costs, etc., and people are going to go beyond being stressed.

Now, another thing we are told about in the lacking area of trusting in God is that state of being anxious. The King James Version of the Bible says, “Be careful for nothing” (Philippians 4:6), but that same phrase is translated as “Be anxious for nothing” in the New King James Version and some other versions.

If heart attacks are not the result of the lack of trust for some peo-

ple, anxiety certainly is taking its toll upon many others. The number of prescriptions written to deal with anxiety-ridden people is enormous.

Moving on to the second reason that trust in God is connected with health, as we turn to the positive, we are told that “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, ...” (Galatians 5:22). That peace is the trust in God. Despite the calamities all around, despite the ascendancy of atheism and materialism in this country making it harder and harder to live the Christian lifestyle, God’s people who trust in Him will be at peace through it all. They do not get worked up. In fact, they can be like Daniel, who was able to have a good night's sleep despite facing execution the next day (Daniel 2:1-19). In fact, Daniel is our example of being at peace no matter what law was passed, even the forbidding of praying to God (Daniel 6:1-28).

Third, even if we are careful about all that we do regarding health, some things are just out of our control. By watching the contents of the food to make sure it is acceptable to God, for “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31), in the hands of those preparing the food is a risk that something may not be right in the contents of the food and we not know it. This is

where, if all due diligence was performed, we leave it with God and do not stress over it.

Fourth, even if we are careful about all that is involved with being healthy, there are no guarantees we would not develop cancer or have some other deadly issue come upon us. We do not curse living the healthy lifestyle, but acknowledge that prior carelessness may have set in motion things that just could not be completely undone. Sometimes we just cannot control everything in our lives, like the air we breathe, the amount of sun we get, or even a peaceful night's sleep. Not everyone can just get up out of a smoggy city life and relocate to a cleaner environment, though it is highly encouraged and suggested that we strive to do so. Some can only find labor in health risk occupations, be it a coal miner, fire-fighter, police officer, etc.

Finally, the benefits of the health principles are not all about what we are doing. We trust to God that when we exercise, get fresh air, drink clean water, rest well, etc. that these things are indeed beneficial to the body. If God says it, we ought to trust Him and do it.



Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Pumpkin Pudding

Ingredients

- 1/2 12 oz. box silken extra firm tofu
- 1 cup pumpkin puree, canned
- 1/2 cup coconut cream, unsweetened
- 1/4 cup 100% pure maple syrup
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Instructions

1. In a high-speed blender, combine the tofu and pumpkin and puree until smooth. Add the coconut cream, maple syrup, and cinnamon and blend again until smooth and creamy.
2. Refrigerate pudding for several hours or overnight. Serve chilled.

Notes

If you prefer a sweeter pudding, add some coconut sugar to taste. Do not increase the maple syrup or the pudding might get too runny.

Silken tofu is an undrained, unpressed Japanese tofu that has a custardy texture. Silken tofu is often labeled soft, firm, or extra firm. The extra firm is the best consistency for this pudding!



Natural Vitamins

Sunlight

When it comes to vitamins, many are ready to pop a pill, eat in a certain manner, or put something in the mouth. But natural vitamins do come in other forms, such as from the sun.

Excluding those that are unable to absorb this vitamin from the sun, and there is a sizable number of people that can spend all day in

the sun and cannot absorb the vitamin D, the sun does provide to those who can absorb it an abundant amount of vitamin D, and it does not take long to get the daily dose.

A mere ten to thirty minutes upon exposed skin is all that is necessary. We are not encouraging people to uncover their bodies unnec-

essarily. The face, properly free from makeup, large sunglasses, and long hair hanging down in front, is a sufficient amount of the body to be exposed to absorb the vitamin.

Now, we need to be careful about the hype regarding vitamin D. It is claimed that during the winter, even on a clear day, the body can-

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not absorb the vitamin, therefore, it is recommended during the winter months to depend upon supplements. If every natural vitamin dependent person were to listen to all such hype of one deficiency or another, we would be popping an amount of “natural pills” so plentiful that we would end up replacing a meal. There are people that push the theory that our body cannot absorb this or that and we need to take a supplement for this, that, and the other thing. If one were to listen to every single person that pushes their favorite supplement, there would be no need for any other food. Yet, we are told “It would be well for us to

do less cooking and to eat more fruit in its natural state. Let us teach the people to eat freely of the fresh grapes, apples, peaches, pears, berries, and all other kinds of fruit that can be obtained. Let these be prepared for winter use by canning, using glass, as far as possible, instead of tin” {7T 134.5}. Powdered versions of vitamins or liquid concentrates is not the “natural state”. Though we do not say supplements ought to be avoided all together, we are just stating the fact that we need to be careful about the hype that goes with those.

For instance, did you know that when you get more than enough

vitamin D from the natural source that the body will not overdose? Potentially, supplements *can* cause adverse effects. And here is something else that is interesting about vitamin D. The body stores the excess, so during those winter months, like the dependency upon a battery only when the main electricity source is no longer supplied, the body draws from the excess.

And no, hiding behind windows in a car or home is not a method of absorbing the vitamin from the sun. Get out and get fresh air and exercise while you are enjoying collecting vitamin D.



Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

1 John 3:15 summarizes a few verses before and after by stating directly, “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” At any time reading verses 11 through 17, we could have pointed out the expected holy and sanctified life, but for now, we shall pick on verse 15 as it is the most direct. And yet brethren will attend the same church, sit on opposite sides of the church, and have bitterness in their hearts towards each other. Sisters do the same thing as well. Both think that they have eternal life because they are “saved”, but the Bible says they are not. They may have had eternal life before the incident, but as long as the incident is allowed to fester, they do not have it. So, outside of holding people to the doctrines, which even Jesus demonstrated such towards the Pharisees, is there any animosity in your heart, not only to a church

member but even a neighbor?

Matthew 5:48 are words of Jesus that many ministers wiggle, twist, ignore, excuse away, because they cannot handle the direct meaning of the verse. “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Yes, none of us can be perfect “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), however, after coming to Jesus, being born-again, we can “go, and sin no more” (John 8:11) being perfect from that point forward relying upon Jesus “to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 1:24). In fact, God says, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not” (1 John 2:1). That is the desire of God that we do not sin. Sin is rebellion and selfishness, the qualities that resulted in Satan being kicked out of

Heaven. Do you really think we can practice rebellion and selfishness taking them into a pure and sinless environment called Heaven?

Mark 12:30-31 says, “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.” Keeping the Ten Commandments is the expected holy and sanctified life. For those that wonder how we have these two commandments and then jump to the Ten Commandments, Isaiah 28:9-10 tells us to gather all verses on the matter and using these two commandments of Jesus, we search for similar discussion, where Matthew’s version also includes the statement, “On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:40). The two commandments summarize the Ten that reveal how we love God, by keeping the first four, and how we love our neighbor, by keeping the last six. So, are you keeping the commandments revealing your love, or are you just pretending to love God and your neighbor by making up the rules of which you think constitutes love?

Luke 6:47-49 tells us that it is expected of a true Christian to be constantly hearing God’s Word in the form of the Bible today and do what is in there, otherwise, suffer great loss as we are represented by the houses being built. “Who-soever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.” So, are you building your house to endure and to remain standing since “he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Mark 13:13)?

John 8:31 says, “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed.” True Christians continue, obey, follow Jesus’ Words, which come to us today in the form of the Bible. So, are you continuing in them or doing your own thing instead, yet claiming to be one of Jesus’ disciples?

Acts 18:25 states, “This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.” The “way of the Lord” is the way Christians are to live, which is the holy and sanctified life. If we are not living the way of the Lord, we are not a Christian. We may claim to be so but that does not make us so. Now, do you live in the way of the Lord or do you live according to your own way, even the way that is acceptable to society?

Romans 6:12 says, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.” If we are still knowingly committing sin, then it reigns. The lust of it is simply the desire for it. It does not have to be drooling, craving, urges to be lust. Therefore, those who let sin occur are not living the holy and sanctified life, realizing we are to “Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14) making it a salvation issue. People will be lost by not resisting sin while allowing sin to exist in their lives. It really is a choice to sin or not to sin. So, does sin reign in you, or do you “Submit yourselves therefore to God” and “Resist the devil,” so “he will flee from you” (James 4:7)?

Ephesians 4:32 states, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” That is part of the expected holy and sanctified life. And as Jesus’ parable about the two debtors tells us that “if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15) so the lack of forgiveness on

our part will cost us eternal life. So, how kind, tenderhearted, forgiving are you?

1 Timothy 5:8 states, “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” And we are told, “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). That makes the lack of being responsible a salvation issue. That also means being responsible is the way of being holy and sanctified. So, how responsible are you?

Hebrews 10:26-27 says, “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.” That is any choice to give in to sin that we ought to recognize that Jesus’ sacrifice does not cover automatically. The sin is not just overlooked. We are to repent, confess, and receive forgiveness. Therefore, the expected holy and sanctified life is “that ye sin not” (1 John 2:1). So, are you carelessly thinking that once you “believe” that there is no amount of sinning that can keep you from entering Heaven ignoring this verse, or do you see how we are to cease giving in to sin by the divine power of God that He is willing to provide to live the expected godly life (2 Peter 1:3)?

The holy and sanctified life includes not being envious and striving against people, for James 3:16 states, “For where envying and strife [is], there [is] confusion and every evil work.” Participating in evil is unbecoming of a Christian. It aligns with the devil, and when he is finally dealt with, all those aligning

themselves with him will also meet the same fate. So, are you doing an evil work by striving and envying, or are you acting upon the belief, “he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous” (1 John 3:7)?

1 Peter 3:17 contrasts a Christian to a worldly person. “For [it is] better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing” (1 Peter 3:17). Well doing, the holy and sanctified life, leads to eternal life while evil doing leads to hell “For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Keep in mind that “evil doing” is not evil all the day long while “well doing” is doing the right thing all the day long. So, are you “well doing” or “evil doing”?

Revelation 12:17 speaks symbolically of the holy and sanctified life: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus

Christ.” “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10). And “the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:21). So, are you keeping the commandments of God and His Word as inspired by the Spirit of Prophecy?

Acts 18:26 states, “And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto [them], and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.” To the unstudied, the words “the way of God” may not trigger the thought that it is the holy and sanctified life, but it is, for the Bible says, “Blessed [are] the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD” (Psalms 119:1). We also see the way of God involves walking or obeying God’s law. Proverbs 1:15 tells us that Christians ought not to walk in the way of worldly or evil plotters. Proverbs 2:20 encourages us to “walk in the way of good [men]”. Isaiah 55:8 clearly reveals that “For my

thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD” and that is why we become converted so as “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (1 John 2:6). So, do you follow the way of God or your own way?

1 Corinthians 10:11 tells us of the time of Moses in comparison to today. “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” If the holy and sanctified life was not the expected lifestyle of a Christian, why would the example be pointed out for “our admonition”? That is because we are to live a certain lifestyle and anything short of it is fake Christianity. So, do you take to admonition those things that happened in the desert under Moses, or are you hiding your head in the sand claiming faith and grace does away with obedience to God?



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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.

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

How much faith do you have?

1. How do we develop faith?
Romans 10:17
2. What size faith do we need?
Matthew 17:20, Luke 17:6
3. What is impossible to accomplish if we lack faith?
Hebrews 11:6
4. Who lives by faith? **Hebrews 10:38, Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11**
5. What does faith have? **2 Thessalonians 1:11, 2 Peter 1:3**
6. With faith, what can we then overcome? **1 John 5:4**
7. What is a required connection with faith? **James 2:20, 2:26**

8. What is the relationship towards God's commandments, His law? **Romans 3:31, Romans 3:28**
9. What are we to be careful of regarding faith? **James 1:6, Hebrews 10:23**
10. What are we to do with faith, implying that we could lose it?
2 Timothy 1:13
11. Who are we to keep looking to regarding our faith? **James 1:6**
12. If we are faithful, what shall we receive in the end? **1 Peter 1:9, Ephesians 2:8**

2. What is the result of sinning?
Romans 6:23 "death"
3. What is dangled before people to lead people to sin? **Hebrews 4:15 "tempted" (temptation)**
4. Who is the ultimate being responsible for trying to lead people to sin? **Matthew 4:1 "devil"**
5. When faced with this enticement of the devil, what are we to do? **James 4:7 "Resist", 1 Corinthians 10:13 "escape" (take the escape that God provides)**
6. While putting up a fight against these attempts of the devil, what are we trying to not let happen? **Romans 6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign"**
7. How much effort are we to give against sin? **Hebrews 12:4 "unto blood"**
8. If we do give in to sin, thinking it is no big deal, who are we associated with? **1 John 3:8 "the devil"**
9. What do truly "born again" Christians not do? **1 John 3:9 "doth not commit sin"**
10. If temptation does overtake us and we sin, what hope is there? **1 John 2:1 "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"**

April 2022 Bible Questions and Answers

What Are Christians to Do with Sin?

1. What is sin? **1 John 3:4 "transgression of the law"**



Questions & Answers

QUESTION:

Being absent from the body, does that mean we are released in spirit at death to go to Heaven?

ANSWER:

These verses become challenging when a person is convinced that in us is a spirit that is trapped by our physical body and released at death to go to God. And this is primarily the direction every typical immediate life-after-death preacher teaches – Heaven is the destination. Hardly a preacher speaks of sending spirits to Hell. The only other place typically mentioned is purgatory.

1 Corinthians 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, [concerning] him that hath so done this deed,

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore [we are] always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Now remember, to understand these verses, it is a rule that scripture cannot contradict other scripture, based on 1 Corinthians 14:33. A second rule is that the understanding of such apparent contradictory texts needs to be worked out and not simply ignored, based upon 2 Peter 3:16. And a third rule is that we are to use all of the verses on a given topic that are provided – a precept or principle, an actu-

al line, or even part of a line, based on Isaiah 28:9-10.

With that in mind, we have at least seventy-eight verses declaring that people sleep unconsciously in the grave until the second coming. We have Job that declares certain events to happen before coming up out of the grave (Job 14:12-14). We also have the feast days of first fruits (third feast) and harvest (seventh feast) that represents resurrections, which are the only times people were, and are, taken to Heaven, where at the first coming, “the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many” (Matthew 27:52-53). They were resurrected for the “first fruits”. Then 1 Corinthians 15:23 confirms the first fruits and identifies the harvest feast – “every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming”. In fact, the topic of the resurrection would be null and void if simply a spirit needs releasing. And speaking of confusion, if a spirit were released to go to Heaven, then why would a glorified body recapture the spirit? Would it not fight to get out throughout the rest of eternity?

So, with all that which contradicts this 'spirit release' belief, how do we understand those verses then? First, 1 Corinthians 5:3 has nothing to do with going to Heaven, or for that matter, Hell. It is a statement that Paul made that it does not matter if he were there physically or spiritually (in prayer) in the pres-

ence of the Corinthians, the matter at hand has been judged.

Therefore, we move on to the other two verses. Now, these two verses in 2 Corinthians 5 have a key sandwiched in between. “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Another walk connected with this walk includes we “walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1), and we “walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16). Therefore, the word “body” referenced in 1 Corinthians 5 is that of sinning while the word “spirit” refers to living according to the spiritual life. This is confirmed inside the context of these questionable verses by reading verses 10 and 11, which says, “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. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”.

QUESTION:

Are we not eternally saved because “they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand” and “no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand”.

ANSWER:

This is a typical answer for those who brag about being saved. They believe that once a person commits

their life to Christ, with a simple acknowledgment and nothing more, there is nothing that can cause them to ever be lost. And many live a careless life. Basically, they “have a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof” (2 Timothy 3:5). And that is the power to stop sinning that they do not believe in.

By believing in this false theology, all of the scriptures about a holy and a sanctified life are tossed out (1 Thessalonians 5:23). All of the verses that are specific in identifying continued sinning, which excludes a person from Heaven, is cast away (Galatians 5:21). Even the statement of Paul, “I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31) is completely ignored. Of course, doctrines do not matter to such people despite being told “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:9).

But looking at the two, back-to-back verses, it does appear difficult to deal with. The Bible is clear, “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than

all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand” (John 10:28-29). Now, this is actually not as difficult as it appears on the surface.

First, note that no man is able to pluck them out of God's hand, however, it does not say that we cannot leave on our own accord. We do not give up our freedom to choose, therefore, the hand is open for us to choose to leave at any time we want, hence the Bible stating, “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:6). “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [it], to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them” (2 Peter 2:20-21). So clearly, we can choose to go back into the world and be lost, yet, so many of these wrong believers will cast people away by simply saying, “They were never saved to begin with.” Nonsense! “To have known the way of righteousness” is not a

thinking thing. It is the same as Mary saying, “I know not a man” (Luke 1:34). She did not experience the involvement with a man that would cause her to be pregnant. Likewise, to have at one point known righteousness is to have experienced righteousness.

Second, and the easiest way to refute this awful soul-destroying belief is to realize that the two verses quoted leave off the opener on purpose. The prior verse ends in a colon (:). That means it is actually part of the two verses. In fact, it declares that the two verses are conditional. What is the condition? “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:” (John 10:27). This is further understood by the words of Jesus, Who stated, “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 7:24). Therefore, to hear Jesus' voice and to follow Jesus is to live according to His Word or doing His Word. If we stop doing His Word, then the promises of John 10:28-29 cannot be claimed.

Basically, people love to claim the promises, but they do not want to practice the requirements.



News and Comments

February 28

People

Defiant Snake Island Soldiers Are Actually 'Alive and Well' Despite

Earlier Reports, Military Says

It used to be that news outlets would jump on news too early just to be first, and would get it wrong.

Then politics really set in so they were making up dirt on the other political party and fabricating news. Now, despite the implication that the facts were not re-

ported properly, news is, in fact, blatant propaganda. Fox News has been caught with fake photos of empty shelves; though they *are* pretty empty today, but CNN is notorious for fake news along with all other major networks. Unfortunately, we are not news professionals and do not have the resources to verify every article, so do take all news reports as suspect before accepting them as fact. Even video is reused, relocated, and even doctored content to push an agenda, but all content is manipulated in one form or another. We live in an age of misinformation done on purpose as never before seen on the scale it is today. "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth" (1 John 2:21).

March 2

The Advertiser

What is considered seafood? During Lent, alligator, beaver and more make the cut

What utter nonsense of mere human beings determining what is edible and what is not. Just because a creature spends significant time in water does not make it a fish. Why would a beaver be allowed but not a groundhog? They are close cousins. Just because the beaver swims in water, does that make it a fish all of a sudden? But what does God have to say about all of this? First, He declared what is and is not a fish in Leviticus 11 along with what is edible and not edible, which descended from Noah, of whom we are all related to. "Of every clean beast

thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that [are] not clean by two, the male and his female" (Genesis 7:2). Further, God foresaw someone coming along "Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats" (1 Timothy 4:3). Further, Ezekiel in prophetic vision of the future is told, "he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD'S house which [was] toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz" (Ezekiel 8:14). Is it a coincidence that the pagan celebration of "weeping for Tammuz" lasted 40 days prior to the celebration of Ishtar's celebration in Spring, which right around what many Christians call Lent.

March 3

Fox News

Virginia Democrats block bill to protect religious freedom against executive orders

The first amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." That means the constitution is superseded by states. Congress may not restrict religions but states do have the power unless explicitly stated in the individual state documents themselves. So, we see the party that tries to control even religion in this case. Overall, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29) no

matter what restrictions a party places upon us.

March 7

NBC News

Covid will 'probably' become a seasonal virus, like the flu, Walensky says

"CDC officials say it's increasingly likely the coronavirus will never truly go away, instead simmering at low levels and rising in the winter." The sad part is that it was always a flu like pattern but it seems at the end of 2019, there was an agenda to make it into a pandemic to issue the worldwide controls. Covid has been around well before 2019. 2020, 2021, and now 2022 is nothing short of an exaggeration. All they are doing is just returning Covid back to the rightful place it has always been – just a different category of cyclical illness (flu, colds, and Covid). "Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

March 9

In the Know

'Did My 2-Year-Old Just Remember How He Died in a Former Life?': Toddler Shocks Mom with Eerie Details of Being an Adult

No. There was no former life. For-

mer lives are not of God. In fact, "they are the spirits of devils, working miracles" (Revelation 16:14). It is a shame that the devil will even use a 2 year old. And by the way, that is what is being fed into the child's mind ... the remembrance of a former life that the devil witnessed and is now dictating to an innocent mind.

March 10

The Daily Beast

Russia Says Injured Pregnant Woman Is a Crisis Actor. She's Actually a Pregnant Blogger.

There is an agenda going on. Are the Ukrainians innocent? Are they pawns to cause the next world war? Is Russia simply just trying to annex the Ukraine and build back the USSR? Both sides are lying. Where the truth is, God only knows, but if we trust any of the media outlets, we certainly will fall prey to the final deception when the narrative is to accept the Image of the Beast but presented in such a way that only rebellious people are resisting and must die. "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:11). "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).

March 11

Business Insider

People are requesting 'fox eye' surgeries to look like Bella Hadid, but it can cause a lopsided appearance. Here's what you need to know.

1 Peter 3:3 states in general as well as specific examples, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning]...". People are willing to endure pain, spend money, and all sorts of things to simply attract people to themselves. The sad part is that God made them unique, but they selfishly are not just dealing with life's blemishes but completely changing the appearance into something God did not intend for that person. It is so sad that people idolize appearance so much.

March 14

Rolling Stone

Michael Flynn Says Putin's Ukraine Invasion Is Disrupting Bill Gates' 'New World Order'

Although the article dismissed Flynn as a pet conspiracy holder minimizing his impact of the statement regarding Bill Gates and the New World Order, we do not believe the New World Order is the child of Bill Gates alone, but he is influential in the process. Despite what the media states, the Bible says that antichrist would work "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (Revelation 17:2) pushing towards the goal that "These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (Revelation 17:13). That

is the New World Order. In fact, antichrist works with "the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" (Revelation 18:3). On top of that, Revelation 18:23 states, "... by thy sorceries were all nations deceived", remembering "sorceries" in Greek is "pharmakeia". And what merchant is pushing pharmaceuticals? Bill Gates is the answer, but he is not the antichrist.

March 15

Complex

Woman Pleads Guilty to Spiking Her Employees' Energy Drinks With Colon Cleanser

God says, "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health" (3 John 1:2), but that does not give anyone permission to try and make others be in health. We are to provide information and live it ourselves. That is all.

March 17

UCI

New COVID variant spreads quickly in NJ. Here's what you need to know about BA.2

"See that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:6). Fear is the instrument people are controlled by. Jesus tells us not to be troubled.

March 19

Pehal News

Parasitic worms in your shellfish lead a creepy but popular lifestyle

If people would only obey God's health rules and stop eating the garbage disposals! "And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which [is] in the waters, they [shall be] an abomination unto you" (Leviticus 11:10). No, Jesus did not clean up the unclean animals nor give Peter permission. No, this is not just for the Jews as we are all related to Noah and Noah was told, "Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that [are] not clean by two, the male and his female" (Genesis 7:2). This a physical issue with creatures, so for health's sake, stop thinking that this forbiddance of unclean meats is spiritual.

March 20

Natural Blaze

Barcoding Nature: The Largest Global Land Grab In Human History

"Purchasing large swathes of agricultural land. Large investors, such as Bill Gates along with other large investors are making huge inroads into this area." What does Bill Gates and other elites know that we do not? Control the food supply, control the people. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12), and in this case,

the violence is soon to come. Keep in mind, the violent do not need to physically kill people with a gun or other weapon. Starving people, injecting people with who knows what, etc., are all violent acts upon humanity.

March 21

Natural Blaze

Was A "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" Ravaging The Food Supply On Your 2022 Domsday Bingo Card?

"There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Matthew 24:7). Pestilences do not have to be upon humans only. But does it seem odd to anyone that everything is being attacked all at once? With 21 states declaring H5N1 alerts and placing restrictions upon the poultry, yet price driving is not the way to affect grocery stores.

March 22

News Week

Joe Biden's 'New World Order' Comment Jumped on by Conspiracy Theorists

Popular media outlets are already dismissing the New World Order away as being just a conspiracy theory. The Bible confirms it though: "And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed" (Revelation 13:12).

March 24

NY Post

Biden warns of global food shortages as Russia-Ukraine war upends wheat supplies

Jesus did say, "... there shall be famines ..." (Matthew 24:7). Here they come on a more global basis. There ought to be no reason for the US to suffer like this being the "breadbasket to the world" but globalists made sure that all countries are dependent upon each other and here is the result.

March 31

News World Update

Boston-area school board blocked church's private school due to Christian beliefs, lawyers claim

The first amendment states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;..." Evidently the school board declared that they are not "congress", therefore, they can prevent the free exercise of religion. It used to be understood that all forms of government would adhere to the first amendment even if they were not "Congress", but with the latest attempts at pushing Christianity out, the respect has changed. "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Timothy 3:8).



Natural Remedies

Fennel for relief of shortness of breath

Fennel contains an expectorant property which can eliminate phlegm and relieve some of the respiratory disorders such as coughs, bronchitis, and congestion. Furthermore, it also contains iron which is essential for the treatment of anemia. Therefore, it

is no surprise to see fennel in the list of home remedies for shortness of breath.

How to use:

- Put a teaspoon of fennel seeds into some very hot water and

steep for about 10 minutes. Strain and add some honey, and consume 2 to 3 times per day.

- Also, you might take some roasted fennel seeds to chew for even quicker relief.

