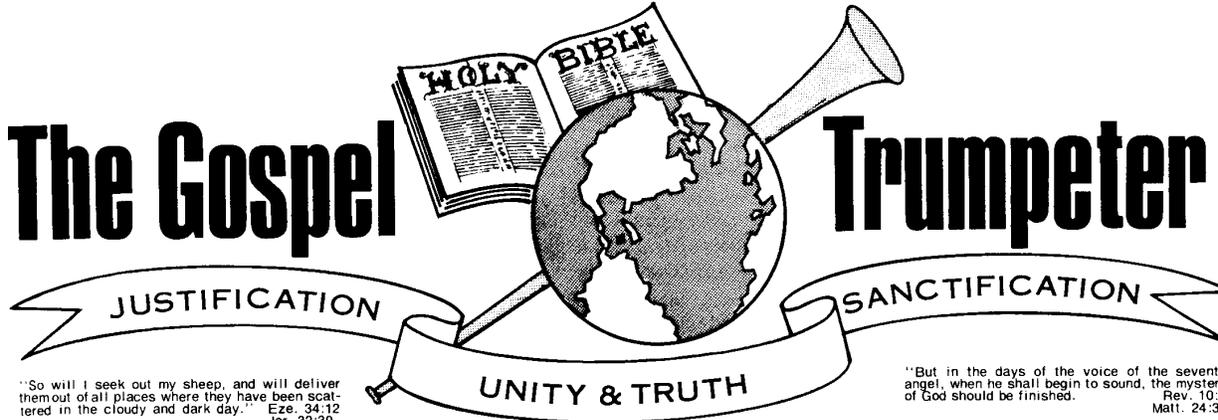


The Gospel Trumpeter



JUSTIFICATION

SANCTIFICATION

UNITY & TRUTH

"So will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day." Eze. 34:12 Jer. 32:39

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished." Rev. 10:7 Matt. 24:31

SOUNDING FORTH THE SEVENTH AND LAST TRUMPET

Vol. 49 July 2019 No. 7



Church of God Tabernacle in Newark, Ohio

***"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD."***

Psalm 122:1

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound,
who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

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This monthly religious journal is published for the benefit of the
Church of God universally. It is our supreme purpose to reach the
world for Christ through the printed page. Our burden is to reveal
the truth of God's Word to all mankind, to expose sin and error,
war against apostasy, and to eradicate the longstanding
traditions of men that have no biblical foundations.

Brother Roger L. Decker Editor
Workers Too Numerous to Mention

THE CHURCH OF GOD BELIEVES IN:

- A personal God (John 4:24)
- A divine Christ (John 1:1, 14)
- An infallibly inspired Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- Salvation from sin (Matt. 1:21)
- The new birth (John 3:3, 5-7)
- A holy life (Luke 1:73-75; Titus 2:12)
- Sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23)
- Unity of God's people (John 17:21, Eph. 4)
- Divine, physical healing (James 5:14-16)
- The ordinances (Matt. 28:19-20; John 13;
1 Cor. 11:23, 34)
- Eternal life (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43)
- The Trinity (1 John 5:7, 8)

SOME SPIRITUAL FACTS

PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH

- Jesus organized it (Matt. 16:18)
- On a good foundation (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11)
- Christ governs it (Eph. 1:22-23; Isa. 9:6)
- God admits members (1 Cor. 12:13-18)
- Sin puts you out of it (Rom. 11:22; Ex. 32:33)
- The saved only are members (John 15:2-6)
- Membership is offered to all (Rev. 22:17)
- Final rewards (Rev. 20:12-15; 21:3-4; 22:14)
- Bible name of the Church (Acts 20:28;
Gal. 1:13; John 17:11)

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material for any reason. Not responsible for unsolicited
articles or items.

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Vol. 49 July 2019 No. 7

Guest Editorial

*"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an
example of the believers, in word, in conversation,
in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."*

1 Timothy 4:12

BE A GOOD EXAMPLE

This world is full of spiritual darkness. Satan, who is the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), has blinded the minds of men and women. Many people do not know the right way to go; therefore, souls grope in a lost condition. There is a need for the saints of God to shine the light of the Gospel across their pathway. People need to see the way of salvation and deliverance from sin. Christ expects every saint to be a light and an example for others to see and follow. Honest hearts that see the light will come to Christ. In John 12:32 Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth [through men's lives], will draw all men unto me."

It would be well for each person who professes Christianity to examine himself to see if he is living a holiness lifestyle that pleases God. He wants His characteristics to be manifested through the lives we live. It takes Christ's indwelling presence to show godly love, goodness, and grace. Since men cannot see our hearts, they see the deeds of our lives. The things that we do and the way we conduct

ourselves affect those around us. When hearts are truly right with God, it will show on the outside. Our Christlike example may be the only Bible that some people will ever see.

We are to be examples in word (or in our talk). The words that we speak ought to reflect godly character. It is possible for a saint to become careless in his speech, failing to be on guard as he should. Without realizing it he can get involved in conversation that is unbecoming to a Christian. Our words influence others; therefore, it is necessary for our speech to reflect the right example. We ought to avoid any type of language that would be unholy. All who profess godliness must lay aside everything that is hurtful to our Lord.

Being good examples in conduct and actions is very important. Worldly people are often eager to say or to do something out of order. The places a saint goes and the things he does ought to be accomplished with Christ in mind. God wants His children

[continued on page 6]

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds.

Deuteronomy 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.

You Are Not Going to Get By



Brother Roger L. Decker

God's Long-Suffering

As long as there is a God working for us, there is also a devil who is continually working to shipwreck us so that we might be lost. We never want to get to the place where we feel like the Orthodox Jew in our Scripture reading, thinking that we are the only people that God has. In our Scripture text in Romans, Chapter 2, the Apostle Paul was writing to the Jewish people. He let them know that they had been privileged to have the goodness

of God, and that is true.

Throughout the Old Testament, you can read that God was so good to Israel and the Orthodox Jews. However, the Jews seemed to think that everyone was going to have to face the Judgment except them. Paul came against this argument by saying that they were treading on the mercy of God. In verse 4 of our Scripture text, he said, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee

to repentance?" In that one Scripture, Paul used three great words. In essence, he asked them, "Are you treating with contempt the wealth of His kindness, forbearance, and patience?"

The Apostle Paul started out by mentioning kindness, but in the King James Version it is translated as "goodness." Kindness comes from the word *chrestotes*, and it is an expression of a beautiful idea. There are two words translated for the word "good" in the Greek language: *agathos* and *chrestos*. They are

both translated as "goodness," but there is a difference in the word. The difference between them is the goodness of a man who is *agathos* may still rebuke, discipline, and punish at the same time he is good. An example of this was Jesus. He was *agathos* when He drove the money changers and the sellers of doves from the temple in the midst of heated anger. However, He was *chrestos* when He treated the sinning woman with loving gentleness who anointed His feet and also the woman taken in adultery. Paul was saying, in essence, "You Jews are simply trying to take advantage of the great kindness of God."

Next, the Apostle Paul mentioned "forbearance." They thought they were safe because God's judgment had not yet descended upon them, but He was not giving them freedom to sin; He was giving them an opportunity to repent and to amend their ways. A man or a woman cannot continue to sin without consequences. Maybe you will not be visited for a long time afterward, but if it is not under the blood, you can be certain that you are going to be visited for your sin.

Then Paul mentioned the word "longsuffering." The fact that punishment does not immediately follow sin is not proof of its powerlessness, but it is proof of God's patience. We owe our lives to the patience of God. Paul was letting the Jews know there was no favorite nation with Him. Romans 2:11 reads, "For there is no respect of persons with God." God has blessed some nations more than others. Some nations are more advanced and more developed than others, but God is no respecter of persons when it comes to sin.

Peter's Vision

Peter was probably the most prejudiced of all the disciples,

and he had to learn this lesson. There was a time when he thought that God's people were a special people and that God did not have much interest in any other people. We read in Acts 10:9-16: "On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.

"And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven."

There is one point that shows that Peter was already on the way to unlearning some of the teachings on which he had been brought up. If you read the Scriptures, you will find that he was staying with a man called Simon, who was a tanner. Acts 9:43 states, "And it came to pass, that he tarried many days in Joppa with one Simon a tanner."

Acts 10:5-6 states: "And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do." Peter was staying with a tanner. A tanner works with the dead bodies of animals; therefore, he was considered ceremonially unclean. His uncleanness made it neces-

sary for Simon the tanner to dwell on the seashore outside the city. No doubt, this tanner was a Christian, and Peter had begun to see that Christianity abolished those petty laws and taboos.

At midday Peter went to the roof to pray. We know that those housetops were flat, and since the houses were small and crowded, people often went up to the housetop for privacy. They could eat there, pray there, and converse there. It was there that Peter had a vision of the great sheet being let down with animals on it and a voice telling him to "kill, and eat."

The Jews had strict food laws. You can find them recorded in Leviticus, Chapter 11. Generally speaking, the Jews could only eat animals that chewed the cud and whose hoofs were cloven. All others were considered unclean and forbidden.

Peter Perceived a Truth

When Peter had this vision, he was shocked and protested. He made the statement that he had never eaten anything unclean. He had always adhered to the strict rules of the Jews. However, the voice told him not to call unclean what God had cleansed. This happened three times, so there could be no possible mistake or dodging the lesson that he was being taught. Once Peter would have called a Gentile unclean, but now God was preparing him for new visitors who were going to come into the church.

In this passage the most amazing things were happening. Again, let us remember that the Jews believed that other nations were outside the mercy of God. In fact, the Jews thought there was no need to even pray for them. The really strict Jews would have no contact with the Gentiles, nor would Peter have any contact with the Jew who did

not observe the law. In particular, he never would have been a guest of a man who did not observe the law.

Look what Peter did. Some representatives of Cornelius' house were at the door, and knowing the Jewish outlook on Gentiles, they did not come any farther than the door. Peter asked them to come in and offered them hospitality. Acts 10:23 says, "Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him."

When Peter arrived at Caesarea, Cornelius met him at the door. No doubt, he was wondering if Peter would cross the threshold, and Peter came in. Acts 10:27 reads, "And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together." God was breaking down the barriers between the Jews and the Gentiles with the vision of the sheet being lowered. God, speaking to Peter, and the voice telling him to kill and eat. Peter refused, because he had never eaten anything common. Then, in essence, God said to him, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common."

God loves all people, and Peter, seemingly the most prejudiced of all the disciples, saw the love of God with his own eyes and was a witness to the fact that God accepts "whosoever will."

God chose Peter to go to Cornelius' house. After Peter saw the Holy Spirit fall upon Cornelius, the Bible lets us know that Peter perceived a Truth. Here was a man who was a disciple that walked with Jesus Christ. He was so prejudiced that he had to perceive a Truth that God accepts other people besides the Jew. Acts 10:34-35 reads: "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: [What was he saying? He perceived, or

learned, the Truth that God is no respecter of persons.] But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

God's Patience Will Come to an End

I think some people feel the same way the Jews did in the days of Jesus, but somewhere, sometime, there is going to be retribution for your sins. Sometime you are going to have to start paying the bill. God does not want to use severity, thank God. He would rather use goodness, but He is not going to let you keep trampling His goodness under your feet.

We do not have the patience and the long-suffering that God has, but even God's patience and long-suffering will come to an end. He does not want to use severity, but there is a limit even to God's goodness. Dear one, if there are things in your life that are not right, please take this message to heart. There is a limit to God allowing you to get away with it.

The parable in Luke 13:6-9 tells us: "He [Jesus] spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

This parable teaches that often the Gospel gives a person another chance. God is very kind to the one who falls, to the one who is bound, and to the one who has trouble believing. He is also very kind to the weak and to

the sinner, but this parable also makes it very clear there is a final chance. If you keep refusing God's plea time after time, there will come a time when God will shut you out because of the deliberate choice you make yourself.

Again, verse 9 reads, "And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." In other words, let me work with it a little longer, and if it does not bear fruit after that, cut it down. In verse 25 Jesus said, "When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are."

The Goodness of God Should Lead to Repentance

If there is not a drastic change in some people's attitude, they are going to be on the brink of severity. You do not want to enter into the severity of God. You do not want to take on God. Romans 2:5-6 says: "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds." Another translation makes this really clear. It reads: "Because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourselves, for a day of anger is coming when God's righteous judgment will be revealed; he will judge everyone according to what they had done."

What does the Word of God say about stubbornness? Some people are stubborn, and they like the way they are living. They refuse to give in. The Bible tells us in 1 Samuel 15:23, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,

and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

You would be wise to take advantage of God's goodness. Would you rather have severity than goodness? I would rather take goodness any day. If you are not saved, let the goodness of God lead you to repentance. Let this be the day that you give your heart to God. He loves you and wants the best for you. I would rather go to God, Who loves me and wants the best for me, and receive goodness.

You may think that because you have not done vile things or have not gone deep in sin, there is no need for you to repent. Why not come to Jesus before you get involved in vile things or before death finds you unprepared to face the Judgment? Why be on

the outside? If you enjoy being around church people, why not become one? Why not take the goodness of God? If you have not gone deep into vile things of the world, then you need God to assure you that you will not. God is not going to put up with rejection forever. There is a limit, and only God knows where that limit is set.

There were ones in the Bible who pushed God too far, and they paid a terrible price. Cain and Judas went too far. The Antediluvian world before the flood, King Saul, and King Ahab all pushed God too far. Let the goodness of God work the work that it is intended for. What should it do? It should lead you to repentance. Those who have a saved companion but are not saved themselves are living with the goodness of God right in their home.

If you are not saved, do not choose severity. Choose goodness and let it lead you to a real experience with God.

If you are troubled in your soul, this is God's will for you. Second Peter 3:9 reads, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." That is God's will for you. If you are troubled in spirit, troubled in heart, let the goodness of God lead you to repentance. Let the goodness of God lead you to a place where you are free from those things that hinder you. God knows and you know whether you are troubled or not. Whatever those troubles are, let the goodness of God clear it all up for you.

(Compact Disc TR-2028)

Where God's finger points, God's hand will always make the way.

[Guest Editorial—continued from p. 2]
to have liberty and freedom and to enjoy life. On the other hand, God does not want us to live loose, uncontrolled lives that would bring a reproach or a disgrace on His name or cause. How we live, the way we talk, and the places we go make a difference. In Titus 3:8 the Apostle Paul gave sound advice to Titus that is good for us yet today. He said, "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."

Another good example that

Christians ought to observe is charity (or love). Genuine love is in great need today. First, we are to love God with all our hearts, and then we ought to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). This should include those who are living in sin and those who persecute us and say all manner of evil against us. We are not to love the things they do, but we are to love and do good to the individuals. Jesus informed us in John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Following these godly principles may not be easy on the flesh, but it will show forth a righteous example.

The Lord's desire for each of us is to be a vessel of honor working to promote the Gospel, to help others, and to show the love and the mercy of God to the multitudes lost in sin. Will you be a good example that influences men and women to live godly lives found in Christ? The example that you live as a Christian certainly has an influence on those you come in contact with every day.

Selected

Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of

the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And

unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

Accountability



Brother Reggie Stegmeier

"Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

I want to focus on verse 9 of our Scripture text, which reads, "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not [of course, he was lying; one sin covers another]: Am I my brother's keeper?" What is accountability? Is it important to the child

of God? Accountability is the obligation of an individual or organization to account for his or its activities, to accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner. Having accountability is to account for one's actions in ethics and in government. It is his answer to ability, blame worthiness, liability, and the expecta-

tion of account given.

One of the tallest skyscrapers in New England is the John Hancock building in Boston, Massachusetts. When that structure of forty floors was built, they had all kinds of problems with the windows. During the stress of the freezing and the thawing of the New England winters, the windows actually popped out of

their frames and shattered, and people walking on the sidewalks below were showered with glass. Businessmen working at their desks suddenly found themselves seated a few inches from nothing, staring straight down at the street. The architects and contractors got together and finally decided to install an alarm system in each of the windows so that when they began to bolt and contract, the alarm system would let maintenance people know so they could make adjustments that would take the tension off the glass before it blew out and shattered.

I mention that story to say this: every one of us needs an alarm system that can help relieve the tension in our lives before we shatter or lose out with God. One of the best alarm systems available is for us to become accountable to one another. We are part of the brotherhood of Christ and the family of God, and we are responsible and accountable for and to one another. Often over the years I have called people and said: "Where are you? I miss you." Pastors do this, and we as brothers and sisters should do this. Sometimes you may get the response: "Well, it is none of my business. Am I my brother's keeper?" I often marvel at that response because those words were spoken by a murderer.

Why should anyone want to quote the words of someone who disobeyed God, committed fratricide, which is the act of murdering one's own brother? Questioning whether you are your brother's keeper is not good. We *are* our brother's keeper. We are responsible for one another. It is not that we are nosy, but we are concerned about one another. It is the same way in school. I am a teacher, and if I notice that a student is gone for two or more days, I begin to get concerned.

In the body of Christ, we need every member. When you

are not in a church service, the body suffers. Imagine having a service without the pastor and the song leader. It would not be as good.

Accountability is a principle found in the Word of God. We find this principle in our Scripture text when God spoke to Cain and he responded, "Am I my brother's keeper?" The question could be phrased, "Am I accountable or responsible for my brother?" or "Is it my job to take care of my brother?" Ephesians 5:21 states, "Submitting yourselves one to another [or be subject one to another] in the fear of God." Another person translated it this way: "I choose to submit my life to the scrutiny of another person to gain spiritual strength, growth, and balance."

"Be Subject One to Another"

One of the quickest ways to grow is to allow someone else to reveal what they think about you to you. That is a hard position to be in. No one likes criticism. Do you like someone to criticize you? Initially, it is a natural thing to become defensive, but the quickest way to grow is to allow that.

In my music program, I hire judges that come into my classroom and work with my group while I sit in the back. They have sometimes said, "You need to change this" or "If I were you, I would do that." I want to know how to improve. I want to know how to be successful, and one way to do that is to be accountable to another.

First Peter 5:5 reads, "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility [or be humble]: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." In order to take criticism and critique, you have to be humble. If you are going to take

someone else criticizing what you are doing, you have to be humble about it.

Someone may say: "I have it all figured out. I know what I'm doing. I've been doing this for years, so just stay out of my business." That is not being humble.

Accountability begins with fathers being accountable to God and then to the pastor and to the house of worship. Accountability means asking another person for advice and then giving the other person the freedom to make honest observations and evaluations about you. Accountability implies that you are teachable and approachable. It is a requirement for every child of God.

First Peter 3:15-16 instructs: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ." Peter said to always be ready to give an answer. That is part of being accountable.

Accountability is a crucial ingredient in your growth as a Christian. Some discount this truth by saying that their life and their business is no one else's life and no one else's business. However, we are subject to one another, and we are our brother's keeper.

Sin Causes a Breach in Accountability

Cain learned from his parents, because his parents failed in this as well. Cain's parents had the same struggle, and no doubt, it was their failure to remain accountable that caused Cain to commit the grievous crime of fratricide. Adam and Eve committed sin when they ate of the tree that God said do not

eat of. We read in Genesis 3:8-9: "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"

God was asking Adam where he was. Again, we see God calling for accountability, but Adam and Eve did not pass the test. They were not honest with God, and the same was true with Cain. Sin caused a breach in accountability. Had Adam and Eve not committed sin, they would not have hid themselves, and God would not have asked Adam where he was.

I want you to notice that Adam gave an excuse in Genesis 3:12 and blamed his wife. In the next verse we read that Eve blamed the serpent. Today people do the same when they are brought into question regarding their accountability. If they are not honest, they will make excuses. God wants you to be honest.

Young person, if you are dishonest when your parents ask you where you were, you are going to start down a very dangerous road. You are going to get yourself in trouble. Your sin will find you out.

An honest person will own up to his shortcomings, but the liar makes excuses. Perhaps you have read or heard about a great man or woman who fell from grace through an unwise decision. Oftentimes if you trace it back, you will find that person failed to be accountable somewhere along the way. What that person did was done in the dark, or so that one thought, but it did not take long before his or her sin was found out. Some big name so-called evangelists have fallen into disgrace. Thousands were following those people, but there

was a breach in accountability that led to their grievous sins and crimes.

Those who belittle the idea of accountability are often loose with their spirit. They rationalize and justify their behavior, and they detach and isolate themselves from others, making decisions without consulting others. They lack authenticity and realness about their lives. They become defensive, proud, and unwilling to admit mistakes and failures. They hide major areas of their lives from others, which is always a red flag. They are intimidating, unapproachable, and secretive.

Isolation Is the Devil's Tool

When you are isolated, you are more susceptible to temptation. Young person, that is the reason it is important to stay together in large groups. You can have more fun when you are in a big group. One of the oldest tricks of the devil is to get you off by yourself. This is not just for young people; it is for saints of God in general. One of the quickest ways to become depressed is by isolating yourself. This is an important reason why ministers need to go to camp meetings and revivals. Also, there is always a danger of going too far along one line and becoming radical, becoming out of sorts, or compromising and losing out with God. Pastors need to be pastored too. It is important for pastors to get together because they learn from one another. They learn from the body of Christ when they associate with one another.

Isolation is one of the most powerful weapons the enemy uses to trap Christians. The devil uses this tool. He used it on Cain, and he was successful. Our Scripture reading states in verses 8-9: "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that

Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?"

Genesis 2:18 reads, "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone." We need to be accountable to one another. Verse 25 tells us, "And they [Adam and Eve, husband and wife] were both naked [*in the presence of each other*, the Amplified says], the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." We need to be transparent in our lives. Part of being accountable is being open between the husband and his wife, but also between one another as believers. We must be careful.

We do not operate the body of Christ in a haphazard manner. The Bible says that we need to be careful not to offend a weaker brother. You may think, "It does not bother me, so I am going to do it anyway." That is not the attitude we should have. We should always be thinking of others. We are accountable to one another.

Young person, I want to warn you about the importance of accountability. It will keep you free from the bondage of sin. An old adage says, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Accountability is the way to prevent going down the sinful path. It is good for the husband to be accountable to his wife. I am telling you how to live successfully.

Young person, the best place for you is at home. The reason your mom and dad do not like for you to stay over at someone else's house they do not know well is that they do not know what is going on there. They do not know what movies or television shows they watch. Maybe they partake of alcohol and drugs. Who knows the things that they are involved in? Maybe

there is filthy language or immorality in the home. Accountability is not something to hurt you; it is to protect you.

The Importance of Accountability

Accountability is a wonderful thing. No matter how old you are, you need to be accountable. When a pastor leaves, he tells the congregation where he is going because he is accountable. You should offer the same respect to him. You do not leave work early and not tell your boss where you are going.

When you are isolated and fail to be accountable, you are susceptible to temptation. You need to be accountable to your employer, your companion, your children, your brothers and sisters in Christ, your pastor, and most of all, God. This means giving an answer for your behavior. This means giving an explanation when you are absent. This means living life in the open, subject to scrutiny, and free of deceit, dishonesty, and shady behavior.

I will tell you a true story that I read. Back in the 1800s, a husband in a village in Pennsylvania, a part of the Quaker movement, was beating his wife. The other men in the village decided to take action. One man wrote that a group of men went to his house, removed all his clothes, and drug him through a field of thistles backwards. Then they told him if he continued to deal unkindly with his wife, they were not going to take it lightly. They were going to get upset the next time.

I am not saying that we should go to such extreme measures to hold brothers and sisters accountable. However, there are many benefits to recognizing your place in the body of Christ, and then realizing that you are accountable to one another. No husband should ever abuse his

wife, and no wife should abuse her husband. Ephesians 5:21 reads, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Obviously, if the husband in that story had the fear of God abiding in his heart, he would not have treated his wife that way.

People do not like the idea of being subject to one another. Cain did not like it either. Again, our Scripture text states in verse 9, "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: [This was a lie. When someone lies to cover up things, he is hiding sin.] Am I my brother's keeper?" The spirit that is loose today and running rampant in the lives of many people is this: "Give me my rights. It is my life. Stay out of my business."

If accountability is not important, then why do we, as parents, require it in our children? A good parent should require it. Today some parents are so lax that they let their children seemingly do any old thing, but not a good parent. Some children come home way past their curfew and fail to answer the phone, and then when they finally return home, their parents are angry, and rightfully so. Just as we want our children to be accountable to us, we must be accountable to one another, to the pastor, and most of all, to God. Hebrews 13:17 reads, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

"Two Are Better Than One"

Accountability helps in many ways. It helps in isolation and in not giving in to temptations and weaknesses. One of the best ways that you can protect yourself from weakness is to let someone

else know about it, maybe not in all the details, but in the fact that you are struggling in an area. Let someone hold you accountable.

Accountability also helps you to avoid extremes. Without someone who can give you an objective evaluation of who you are and what you do, you will have a difficult time keeping balance in your life. Husband, your wife can help you with this, and you should listen to her, and vice versa. If you are spending too much of your time in a certain area and neglecting other areas, your companion can let you know about it, and you should listen. Marriage is a perfect place for accountability as you and your companion face the mounting pressures of everyday life. It is much easier to face them with someone rather than on your own.

Young person, do not be ashamed of the Gospel. Although your friends do not understand, down deep, they really want what you have. They want the beautiful family that you have. They want the peace that you have. They want the wholesome, godly beauty that the Christian has. Some do not understand it, so they make fun.

The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." In the story of "Pilgrim's Progress," Christian had Hopeful as his good friend. As a Christian young person, I want to encourage you to encourage one another and to build one another up. A sign of maturity is being able to celebrate another's success. The best way to respond is to be happy for that person, not resentful. Resentment turns into bitterness.

Sometimes your schedule may become too cumbersome,

and your companion can help you lighten things up a little. Before you make commitments at work or out in the community, you should discuss it with your companion. When it comes to purchasing large items, you should discuss it with your wife or husband first to make sure it fits into your budget.

Accountability is absolutely essential in a marriage. It is what keeps you faithful to your spouse. There cannot be any hidden secret areas in your marriage. What is hidden will eventually be known, and it could ruin your marriage and destroy your children. While your companion should be your primary accountability partner, you should be accountable to your brothers and sisters in Christ and to your pastor as God's mouthpiece. As a youth, you should be accountable to your youth leader and to one another. If you have saved parents, you are accountable to your parents. Of course, most of all, you are accountable to God. You are accountable for your actions.

The Benefit of Assembling Together

Accountability is what David lacked when he committed sin with Bathsheba. Soon the Prophet Nathan went looking for him. What was the Prophet Nathan doing when he went looking for David? He was making David accountable for his actions. At first, he tried to do it in a kind way through a parable, but David was not getting the message. Finally, Nathan said, in essence: "You are the man that I am talking about. Why did you commit this sin? Confess and repent." We know that David did that.

Accountability is what King Saul needed when he spared the best of the spoil instead of destroying it all as God's prophet,

Samuel, had instructed him to do. Accountability is what Adam and Eve and their son Cain needed so desperately. The Proverb writer said in Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." We are to be helpful to one another, and we do this through being accountable to one another.

While your mate should be your primary accountability partner, there is great benefit in getting sharpened by other Christians. Hebrews 10:24-25 reads: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: [The Amplified Bible says, 'Let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love and helpful deeds and noble activities.'] 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." It is difficult to do this if you are not at church. The Hebrew writer followed up the part about being accountable, stirring up one another, and considering one another with not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.

God has given the Christian the body of Christ, our brothers and sisters, to strengthen us, to encourage us, and most of all, to hold us accountable. Think how much easier it is to serve the Lord when you have your Christian brothers and sisters around you.

It is much easier to serve God when you have a brother or a sister around. This is the reason it is so dangerous and damaging to isolate yourself from a God-called pastor and a thriving Church of God congregation. You need your brothers and sisters in Christ. That is the reason it is dangerous to go off alone to college. You are not accountable to anyone, and you are setting

yourself up for disaster. You need to be held accountable.

We Need One Another

In closing, our Scripture text reads in verse 9, "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" Does the concept of being accountable to someone else make you uncomfortable? If you have nothing to hide, that should not trouble you. Some people have trouble working for others because they do not want to be held accountable for starting a job on time or for getting it done in a certain time frame.

John Donne said, "No man is an island entire of itself." Paul said in Romans 14:7, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." John Wesley said, "The Bible knows nothing of solitary religion." We must watch out for one another in love.

I like the song "We Need Each Other, Brethren." That keeps us accountable and keeps us on the strait and narrow road. That keeps us from getting too far to one side or the other. One songwriter penned:

*In a world filled with violence and
hatred,
Everywhere, wars and turmoil we
see;
God's people face daily this
struggle;
Only love will keep us free.*

*Oh, how sad to see some of our
brethren,
As they strive for earth's pleasure
and gold;
Become selfish and strive with each
other;
Love and kindness have quickly
grown cold.*

*Lord, give us true warmth and
affection;
When one fails help us rescue his
soul;*

"He's not heavy, for he is my
brother;"
Let us cry as we carry his load.

Dear Saints, let us vow to each
other:

"I will help, I will comfort and
pray;
I will stand by your side and
defend you
In this battle you're facing today."

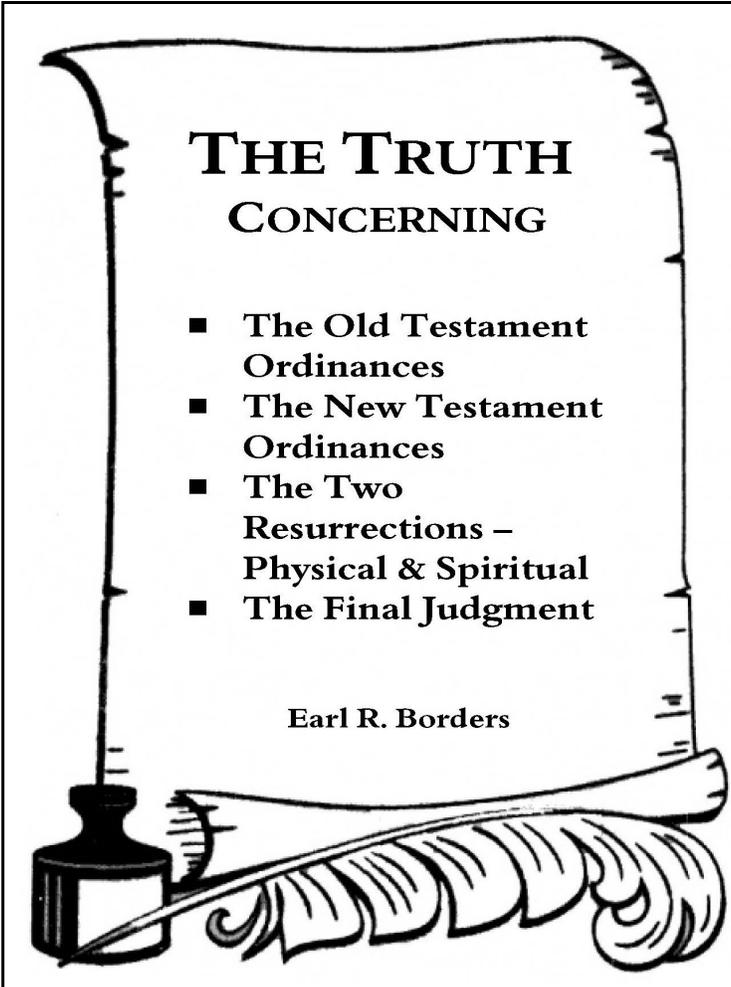
We need each other, brethren!

For only love will carry us
through;
Let us stand by each other,
brethren;
Take courage, be faithful and true.

Accountability is absolutely
essential in the Christian's life.
Young person, do not get weary
when Mom and Dad are always
wanting to find out where you
are. It is not that they are hard
taskmasters, but they love you

and want to be sure that you
never put yourself in a compro-
mising position. Never put your-
self in an isolated position where
the devil can get hold of you.
One drink or one cigarette could
be that link in the chain of sin
that binds you for the rest of your
life. It could start with just one
drink or one sexual act. It could
bind you for the rest of your life.

(Compact Disc TR-1961)



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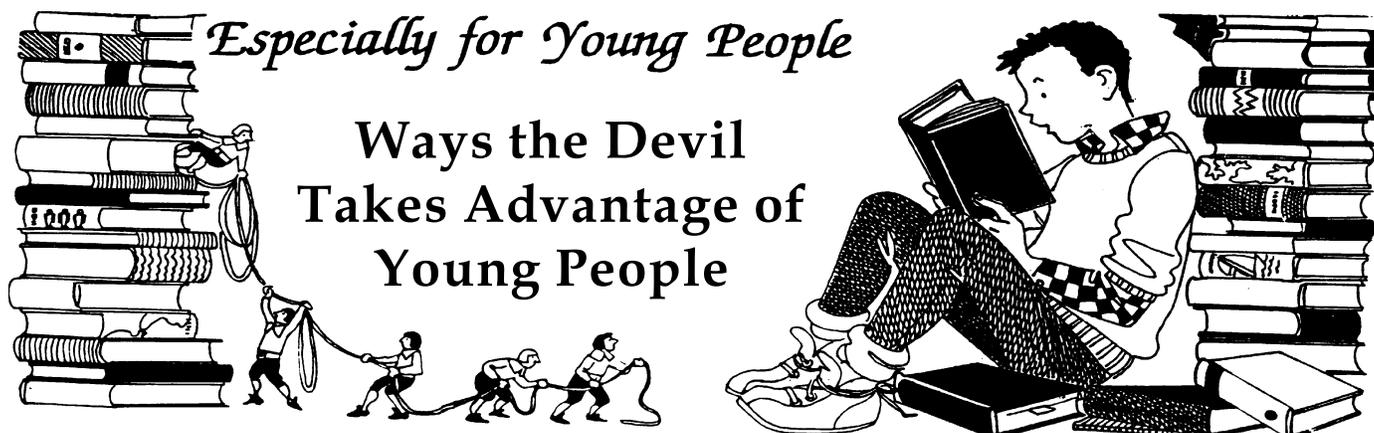
Earl R. Borders

Description:

The topics discussed in this book are, too many times, being totally discounted and denied. Feet washing, baptism, and the Lord's Supper are being taught as "hyper-spiritualized" (truths that have a physical or literal aspect being totally discounted and viewed as spiritual only). One of the more pronounced of these errant teachings is commonly called "The Anti-Ordinance Doctrine." This book endeavors to layout the truths of God's Word concerning: The Old Testament Ordinances, Water Baptism, Feet Washing, The Lord's Supper, The Physical and Spiritual Resurrections, and The Final Judgment.

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Especially for Young People

Ways the Devil Takes Advantage of Young People

Romans 8:1-16 reads: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

I would like to share with you three things concerning the way the devil takes advantage of young Christians. These three things are false condemnation, being overly conscientious, and legalism. I have had experience with these things, because they were the biggest battles that I had in my young Christian experience. Sometimes I felt falsely condemned, feeling as though I had done something wrong when I had not. At times, I was overly conscientious. I was so concerned about so many small details that it bogged me down spiritually.

Legalism causes a person to feel that every word in the Bible has a direct meaning and an effect on his own life. This can get hold of young Christians and make it difficult to live for Jesus because they are living strictly by rules instead of by the Holy Spirit. I am not doing away with rules. Rules and laws are neces-

sary; however, there is a danger in legalism that will hinder rather than help.

When I was first saved, I began to experience some spiritual troubles. Soon I felt that everyone around me was doing well spiritually and no one else was having problems. I was self-conscious and I did not want anyone else to know that I was having problems. I let that bother me to the point that I would not open up and talk to anybody about my problems. I thought I could work them out on my own.

Eventually I became discouraged and quit. A year later I prayed through and was saved again. I learned a valuable lesson from my first attempt, and this time I did not let being overly conscientious slow me down. Thank God, I have stayed with the Lord ever since. I thank the Lord for how He helped me. I learned some hard lessons as a young Christian, and I would like to share a few of those lessons.

Paul said in Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Have you ever felt bad and did not know why? Perhaps you have thought: "I feel down today. I did not feel there was any life or spirit in my prayer this morning when I had devotions." The devil will tell you that the reason you feel bad is that you have done

something wrong.

Before I go on, I want to point out that you can go too far in either direction when living for God. You can be overly conscientious or you can be too loose in your living. You may think it does not matter what you do, how you live, how you treat people, or how you react, but living for the Lord is serious.

Has the devil ever told you that you have done something wrong and that is the reason you feel bad? I used to let that get me down, and it would bother me for days. I would pray and search my soul to try to find out what I did wrong. I would search the Bible and think over what I did the day before to try to pinpoint where I was wrong so that I could get it fixed. I was under false condemnation. The devil is a liar, and he will lie to you and tell you that something is wrong when there is absolutely nothing wrong.

One brother used to say: "Do you know when the devil is lying? Every time he opens his mouth." Every time the devil talks to you, you can be assured that he is lying. How can you know when it is the devil? One way the devil works is to tell you something is wrong in your life but not tell you what it is. That is the reason you do not feel that your prayers are getting through or that you are getting anything out of your Bible reading. When you go to church and kneel at the altar to pray, you may feel that you cannot get any help because the devil has convinced you that you did something wrong. He is lying to you.

If something is truly wrong, God will do some things about it. First, He will let you know something is wrong. Second, He will let you know what it is. Third, He will let you know what you need to do to take care of it. The devil does not do that. The devil will tell you that something is wrong

and cause you to feel condemned and cause you to feel that you have sinned. Nothing is wrong, but you feel terrible. Dear one, you need to pray about it. The devil does not have to get the victory over you; you already have the victory over the devil.

Romans 8:8-9 states: "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit." If you are living in the Spirit, you can live pleasing to God. God does not punish you when there is no reason for it. If He does chastise you, He will let you know what your sin was. Also, He will tell you what you need to do to correct it so that you can avoid making the same mistake.

Again, God is fair. He chastens you only when you do something wrong. If you have lived pleasing to the Lord, walking in the Spirit, obeying God's Word, and suddenly you feel condemned, that is not from the Lord. Young person, if you live long enough, you will have a lot of days when you feel bad. As you get older and experience more things in life, you will have days when things are not the way you want them to be. Sometimes prayer will feel like a routine, and you will not get anything out of your Bible reading. You will not always feel the blessing of the Holy Spirit of God come down on you as you read your Bible and pray. This does not mean that you have sinned or that you have done something wrong.

As we consider the thoughts of living in the Spirit and living to please God, consider what Jesus said. In John 8:29 Jesus said, "I do always those things that please him [the Father]." If you know you are doing everything that God has told you to do, you can say the same thing that Jesus said. Do you know what God's response to Jesus was? God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

God did not condemn Jesus. He did not say, "You are going to feel bad for the next few days because you have lived to please Me." Where would that come from? It would come from false condemnation. The devil is an expert at putting false condemnation on you when there is nothing to feel bad about. Has it happened to other Christians? Absolutely! If this is happening to you, you are not alone. Do not let the devil make you feel that you are the only one who is experiencing this.

When the devil falsely accuses you, you can bring it before God and say: "God, if I did anything wrong, I want You to show me, and I will make it right. If I need to go back and apologize to somebody, I will do it." When you do that, you are taking the necessary steps to get rid of false condemnation.

The Bible says that the devil will flee from you. This is one way to resist the devil. In James 4:7b James said, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." How can you resist the devil? You need to pray and ask God to put a rebuke against him. If you are not strong enough spiritually to resist the devil as you ought to, ask God to help you. That is what He is there for. You have Someone to whom you can go. First Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." You can cast your burden on the Lord. If your faith is not strong enough to take it all in, ask God for help. James 5:13a reads, "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray."

When I was a young Christian, I can remember early one morning working on a job site unloading some things off a trailer, and my mind was being afflicted. (Affliction is not always a physical affliction; sometimes it is an affliction of the mind.) I was being plagued with thoughts and doubts, one after another. I

thought, "How can I get free from this?" God brought to my mind what James said: "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray." I prayed and asked God to deliver me from that affliction, and He did. The devil had to flee. You can put the devil to flight. He is a whipped devil, because he has already been whipped by Jesus.

Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave so that you can have victory. He gave His life so that you can have life and have it more abundantly, not a life filled with condemnation. When you are under false condemnation and the devil is playing with your soul, it will feel as though you are in bondage. When the devil falsely accuses you and makes you feel bad when you have not done anything wrong, that is bondage. You will not have spiritual liberty to testify, to witness, or to pray freely. You will feel bound by false condemnation from the devil.

Again, Romans 8:15 reads, "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." If the devil is afflicting you and falsely accusing you, you need to bring it to God. You may say, "I don't know how to pray during those times." Romans 8:26 tells us, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." You might be under so much pain, so much grief, or such heavy accusations that you feel that you do not know how to pray. You may feel unable to word a prayer. You can still bring it to God in prayer. The Spirit understands the prayer that is in your heart, and He will convey it to Jesus. You can rest assured that the answer is on the way.

Young Christian, do not let

the devil get to you in this way. John 3:17 reads, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." That is plain enough language, is it not? Jesus did not come to condemn the world. Verse 19 states, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Where does real condemnation come from? It comes when you have done the wrong thing. When you have not done anything to displease the Lord, and you have done everything that God has told you to do, you can know that your life is clean.

Romans 8:33-39 reads: "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Who is he that condemns you? It is not God or Christ. The purpose of false accusations is to discourage you. If the enemy can discourage you, you will quit.

Jesus did not come to this world to condemn the world. He came so that the world through Him might be saved. You need to

be careful of setting up rules for yourself that God has not directed you to set up. This is where legalism comes in if you set up rules for yourself and say, "This is what I need to do to please God. I think God would be happy if I did these things." If you set up rules and something happens that you are unable to follow through with those rules that you set up, you will feel condemned.

When I was in high school, I used to skip eating lunch and go to the library. They had Bibles in the public school library, and I would get one of those Bibles and study the Word. That was a practice that I had. The one thing I was careful of not doing was making it a rule. There is a difference between making something a practice and making something a rule. If you make a rule, you will feel that it is something you must do, and if you do not do it, you are guilty of breaking a rule, so I made it a practice.

The time will come that things change in your life, and your practices will have to change to make room for the changes. For example, when I got married, things changed in my life. The practices that I had as a single man living for God had to change because I had my wife to consider. I had less time to spend in personal devotions with God than what I had previously arranged. Also, I had to begin devotions with my wife. Things get more complicated as life goes on. You should not set up rules and become legalistic in your living for God, because your life will change.

You need to be careful of personal convictions. First, do not put your own convictions on someone else. Second, as you grow in your Christian experience, God may lead you on to something greater. Now, God is not going to lead you to something that makes your life less

holy, but you need to be ready to change whenever God directs you to change.

Romans 14:4 reads, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." Do not allow the world or some self-appointed judge to dictate your spiritual standing with the Lord. Someone else might come along and put something on you and say, "If you were really a Christian, you would not do this" or "If you were really a Christian, you would not feel that way" or "If you were a Christian, you would not say that to me."

This Scripture has always been a comfort to me, because I did not have to be beaten down because a sinner put judgment on me. The Bible says that a servant stands at fault before his own master. The world is not my master; God is, and I stand before Him. If my life is approved of God, regardless of what the world says, or even someone who professes to be a Christian, if I know that my life is lined up with the way God wants me to live, I do not have to let what someone else says bring condemnation or make me feel bad because my life is lived before God. I am responsible first to

Him.

Acts 24:16 tells us, "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." That is the way you need to live.

First Corinthians 4:3-4 says: "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord."

We are more than conquerors through Christ who strengthens us. You need to stand up straight in Truth for God and hold up your light for the world to see. Do not let false accusations or an over active conscience hold you down. Do not let legalism get hold of you and cause you to feel that you have to live by a set of rules and lose the real blessing of living for God.

Second Corinthians 2:14 reads, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place." Christ always causes you to triumph. You do not have to lose one battle. God can help you win every battle you face.

You do not have to cower down to the devil or bow down

to the world or to sinners. You can stand and live true and faithful to God. If something is wrong, bring it to the Lord. He will show you what you need to do to correct it. God's Spirit will witness to you that you are a child of God. Do not let the devil shove you around. Do not let your own thoughts cause you problems. You can bring them to the Lord in prayer. God understands your mind, and the Bible says He will give you a sound mind.

You can understand and know what the devil is trying to do, and you can keep the victory. There were times when I had to pray every few minutes because the devil came against me. I would pray and ask God to rebuke the devil. I checked my soul and knew that everything was as it ought to be and there was no sin in my life. Every time the devil came back, I rebuked him until he quit coming. The devil came to Jesus three times and tempted Him. After the third time, the Bible says Satan left Him for a season. You need to keep resisting the devil. Do not let the devil take advantage of you. Do not be ignorant of Satan's devices. May the Lord bless you.

Brother Paul Prinkey

David had a SLING,
Dorcas had a NEEDLE,
Mary had some OINTMENT,
Moses had a ROD.
Have YOU some SMALL TALENT
that you will dedicate TO GOD?

What Happens When the Sinner Dies?



Brother Larry Dishman

The Term of Man's Life

Before I was saved, many times throughout the day and lying on my bed at night, I used to think about what would happen if I died in the condition I was in. I knew that I had turned away from how I was raised, because I was not saved. I knew that I was not a Christian, and if I died, I would be lost eternally.

What happens when a sinner dies? Job was not speaking of man's soul in this verse, because once the soul of man is created, it lives forever. Job was speaking of man's flesh. He was reminding man of the shortness of time upon the earth that he has in this flesh. I have known of people

who have lived to be more than one hundred years of age.

When you are young, one hundred years seems like a long time, but as you get older, it does not seem that long anymore. It seems to me that the older you get, the more you realize that no matter how old you live in this life, it is really just a few days. Compared to eternity, you are here only a few days.

For every person who lives to be one hundred years of age, thousands die much younger. Thousands of teenagers die in automobile accidents, thousands die from drug abuse, and thousands more die from suicide, other accidents, and diseases. Death comes to every age.

How long will you live, sinner friend? You may say, "I'm going to live for a long time." How do you know that? How much time do you have, sinner friend? You cannot tell me that you even have one year to live. No person can say, "I know for sure that I have a month to live" or "I know that I have a week to live." You cannot even tell me for sure that you have one day or even an hour to live. You do not know, and I do not know. There is only One who knows, and that is God. Job knew that. He said in Job 14:5, "Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass."

God knows exactly how many months and how many days you have to live. The term of man's life is so fixed by God that he cannot die sooner or live any longer than God has determined that he should live. When God requires a man's soul, no one has the power over his own spirit to retain it for one moment. The Bible scholar John Gill in *The Gill's Exposition of the Bible* said the same thing. He wrote, "There is a boundary fixed for every man, which always remains where it is set, nor can any move it forward by any means whatsoever."

How much longer do you have to live? God knows exactly. He already knows the time of your death, my friend. The date is set, and the time is fixed. The day of your death could be tomorrow or even today. It could be a few weeks from now or a few months, but one thing is for sure, it is not far off.

Consider Your Latter End

Moses said in Deuteronomy 32:29, "O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!"

What is it going to be when you come to the end of life's journey? Is it wise for you to consider and think about your latter end? Yes, it is, friend. I ask you to think about the day of your death and how it might happen. If you are unsaved, what is going to happen to you when you die? The day you die, your soul will be separated from your body. The Bible makes that very clear. It says that when you die, your body will return to the dust and your spirit will go to God. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Your body will be either burned in the pagan manner of cremation or buried

beneath the ground in a Christian ceremony. However, your soul, or your spirit, will return to God who gave it when you die.

For the saved, it means they enter into the very joys of Heaven, but for the lost, it means that they will awake in a devil's hell. If you are lost, it will mean that your soul will return to God for judgment, and He will consign you to a place that you do not like to think or talk about, but it is a place that the Bible calls hell.

Friend, you have no ability or power to decide when your body and your soul will go in opposite directions. Ecclesiastes 8:8 states, "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death." It will be the same for you. When the day or the hour of your death arrives, perhaps in a few years, a few months, or a few days, you are going to have absolutely no power over that time whatsoever. Your soul will be rid of your body, and if you are unsaved, you are going to be sent to a burning, belching dungeon of pain and suffering throughout the ceaseless age of eternity.

What else is going to happen the day you die? All earthly relationships will end. This is made clear in the account of the rich man's death recorded in Luke 16:23, when Jesus said, "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments." Verses 27-28 read: "Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him [speaking of Lazarus] to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." Abraham let him know that was an impossibility.

In verse 26 he said, "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come

from thence." You see, the rich man was cut off forever from his friends and his relatives. He did not want his five brothers whom he loved to come where he was. Death separates you from every human relative and friend upon this earth.

Death Ends Your Earthly Plans

If you are not a Christian, you have no scriptural hope of ever seeing your saved loved ones again. That is the reason the rich man in Luke, Chapter 16, was so desperately alone in his torments in hell. Death will separate you forever from all your closest friends and all your most loved relatives. Yes, family is going to stand around your coffin weeping. Part of their sorrow will lie in the fact that they know for sure that when you left this world, you were not a child of God.

Your loved ones will be weeping because they will understand that they are never going to see you again, and you will never see them again. Think how lonely hell will be without your mother, without your father, without your companion, without your children, and without your closest friends. Think of the horrible loneliness for the sinner.

The day you die, all your earthly possessions will be stripped from you. The money you might have gained and saved will be fought over by greedy relatives or friends. Nothing will be left as a token of your life here on earth. Death strips you of all possessions. The Apostle Paul made this clear in 1 Timothy 6:7 when he said, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." On the day of your appointed death, everything you own will be taken from you in a moment of time. This rich man in Luke, Chapter 16, died. As far as his earthly possessions were concerned, Proverbs 11:4 tells us,

"Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death."

Sinner, when you die, all your earthly plans will end. No doubt, you have plans for the future, but they are going to be canceled when you take your last breath. On the day of your death, your plans will end abruptly.

Jesus gave this parable in Luke 12:16-20: "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself [he had plans], saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Friend, the man had great plans, but those plans ended suddenly that night. You might have plans and dreams of things that you want to do, but the day you die, your earthly plans, your dreams, and your hopes will suddenly come to an end, and you will face eternity without hope because you did not seek the salvation of your eternal soul.

The Hope of Salvation

What is going to happen the day you die? The day you die without Christ, you will die without hope. There is no more hope of your ever being saved. Hope will die on that day. I believe that every sinner still has hope. Things might be dark. You might feel that your life is in a terrible mess, but you still have hope in Christ. There is something inside that says: "I can change you. I can

save you. I can make a different person out of you."

You ought to thank God that you still have hope, because no one in hell has hope. There is no hope whatsoever for anyone who dies unsaved. There are no second chances once death overtakes you. Revelation 22:11 tells us, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still." If you die unjustified, filthy, uncleansed from your sin by the blood of Christ, you will remain in that lost state throughout the ceaseless age of eternity. There will be no means of your getting to Heaven. The hope of salvation in Christ will end for you.

I am glad that although I went into deep sin and got involved in lots of ungodly things, I still had a hope after all those times. Sin got me in a terrible condition, but I had hope. Remember, our Scripture text says, "Man that is born of a woman is of a few days, and full of trouble." Job 14:5 reads, "Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass." God alone knows how much time you have left. When a sinner dies, he is separated from the presence of God.

Is God dealing with you? The people in hell will never again experience the presence of God drawing them to Him. That would be hell alone if that were all there was to it. In 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 Paul said: "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

Friend, do not accept this move in the religious world that tells people that hell will not last forever. That is not Bible; that is

human reasoning. Who shall be punished and with what? Those who do not know God and who obey not the Gospel will be punished with "everlasting destruction." Everlasting destruction is destruction that never comes to an end. On the other hand, the saints of God will receive everlasting life in Heaven throughout the ceaseless age of eternity. The same Bible that talks about Heaven being everlasting also declares that hell is everlasting. There is no end for the sinner. If you die without God, you are going to face the Judgment unprepared to meet God; that is sad.

Judgment Is Coming

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 reads: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." God is going to bring every secret thing into judgment.

Romans 14:10-12 says: "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:9-10: "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 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."

We can read throughout the pages of the Word of God that judgment is coming upon the sinner. That is what is going to happen when you die. What an

awful time it will be for those who are lost at that tremendous hour! Do you know why? The Bible says in Psalm 7:11, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." Sinner friend, although God loves you, He is angry with you because your sins put Jesus on the Cross, and He is offering you a way to be saved. God's righteousness demands that He judge the wicked and the unsaved. He would not be a righteous God if He did not punish sin.

The sinner's destiny is separation from God to a place called hell. Friend, where are you going? Have you given your heart and life to Jesus? The sinner goes to hell when he dies. Jesus said concerning the rich man that "in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments." Hell is ever increasing with more occupants. Every day more occupants arrive in hell, and the sad thing about that is, most people are going to hell and not Heaven.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Good Intentions Are Not Enough

Most people are trusting in what they *think* God wants them to do to get to Heaven or what they *think* is right. Few people realize that their opinions and their unbiblical beliefs do not matter when it comes to Heaven and hell. The sinner will perish unless he realizes that he is a sinner and repents of his sins and trusts Christ's death on the Cross. That is the only means for the payment of sins. Not once is it mentioned in the Bible that be-

longing to a church, doing good, having good works, being baptized in water, or being religious will get you to Heaven. Not one time does the Bible say that any of those things will get you to Heaven.

I will tell you what the Bible does say. Jesus said in Luke 13:3, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." He said in John 3:15-16: "That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

How is it with you if you were to die today? Sinner, do you realize what is going to happen to you if you die without God? If it just includes the things that I have mentioned, it is too serious to gamble with your soul. It is a serious thing when God speaks to your heart and you keep turning away and you keep saying no. Hebrews 3:8 admonishes, "Harden not your hearts." When you go to church week after week and God speaks to you, and you keep saying no, it is a dangerous thing because the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:7, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." You cannot mock God and get by. If you go on as you are and keep saying no, you are going to wait until it is too late to get saved.

Friend, hell is a place that is filled with souls that had good intentions. If you could go there and interview those poor souls, they would say: "I meant to get saved. I really thought I was going to get saved eventually." They really did believe that someday they were going to get saved. Few people enter hell saying: "This was my goal in life. I wanted to be lost. I wanted to go to hell forever and ever." No, back in the recesses of their minds, people hold out the hope,

"Someday I'm going to do the right thing." The devil does not care if you think that way as long as you do not do anything.

If the devil came to you and held out a contract and said, "I want you to sign this contract saying that you will never get saved," I do not think you would sign it, no matter what the devil had to offer you. However, the devil does not work that way. He is too wise for that. Do you know how the devil works? He says, "Ok, you can get saved, but just don't do it now." That is a trick of the enemy, because he knows how to lead you step by step past each opportunity. His goal is to get you to continue that trend until you turn down your last opportunity to get right with God.

Are you interested in your soul enough to pray and ask God not to let you die unsaved? Friend, you do not want to leave this world in a lost condition. You need to get saved before it is too late. Are you that concerned for your soul?

(Compact Disc TR-2060)

When a man
won't listen to
his conscience,
it's usually because
he doesn't want
advice from a
total stranger.

1 Samuel 15:18 *And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.*

19 *Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?*

20 *And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the*

LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

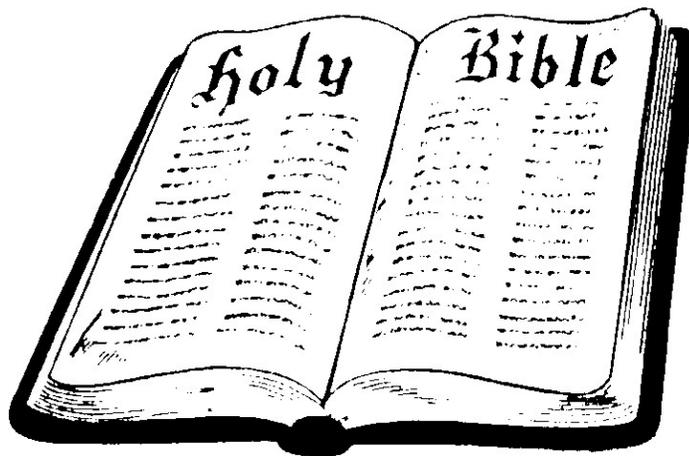
21 *But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.*

22 *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offer-*

ings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

23 *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

The Lord Despises Disobedience



Brother Irwin Seshier

Partial Obedience Is Not Enough

If you look up the word *disobedient* in the dictionary, you will find that it means "neglecting or refusing to obey." You do not have to look very far to realize that we are living in perilous times. People are bombarded on every side by every spirit imaginable. Some people think it is acceptable to disobey God in one area if they are making an attempt to please Him in other ways. Friend, you cannot do that if you want to please God. You must be obedient to His Word in

every way.

If you do not do exactly what the Lord expects, God is not going to be pleased with your life. You cannot say, "I did something for the Lord, so He will surely overlook this one thing that I want to do." That is not going to work. He is not going to overlook any wrong in your life. God has instructed you to do all His commandments. You cannot do as you please.

From the schools, to the streets, to the pulpits, we are living in a rebellious age. God has been good to people, yet they still remain rebellious in their hearts.

We read in 1 John 3:4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." Trusting in the Lord wholeheartedly will remove any type of disobedience from one's heart and life. Trusting God completely means having faith that He knows what is best for your life. I do not know what is best for my life. I need the Lord to direct me in what is right and to show me if something is wrong.

If you stray from the true way, disobedience is working in your heart. You need to trust God completely in all areas of your

life. Partial obedience will not work in your walk with God. Too many people want to pick and choose what they want to do when it comes to doing the things of God.

How do you measure up in church and Sunday school attendance? Sunday is a day reserved for worship. I do not have to think to myself, "Should I be there or should I not be there?" It is, "Lord willing, I will be there." There is no excuse unless you have an illness or if you have to work. It is needful to be in the house of God. Look at what is happening in the world today. More and more things are happening that did not happen twenty years ago. You should want to be in the house of God, and you should want to have the assurance that God is in your life. We are living in a godless society. The church needs to be strengthened more in this day in which we are living. It is time to draw closer to God. No true child of God wants to be disobedient to God.

Man-Centered Churches

When you go to the house of God, you should dress in the best clothes you have. That does not mean you should go out and run up a credit card bill to buy a nice suit or a beautiful dress, but I believe everyone should wear their best to the house of God. Today many churches advertise, "Come as you are." In other words, they are saying, "Dress however you want to." Sadly, many churches have gone from being Christ-centered to being man-centered. They have gone from being a house of prayer to being a house of entertainment.

Some churches play music that does not sound any different from worldly music, and they call it Christian rock, but it is not Christian. Where is the cultivation for souls? They say, "Let the

flesh feel good." They do not want to hear that they are not living right. Do you wonder why mega churches are so popular? It is because they soothe the flesh and do not put condemnation on sinful living. When it comes to the Day of Judgment, I want my soul to be right. I want to make sure that when I stand before God, He will say, "Enter in, good and faithful servant." The many times that you have attended a Christian rock concert is not going to matter at the Judgment.

Sad to say, instead of the church transforming the world, the world is transforming many churches. This is the reason there is no power in many pulpits anymore. Many preachers want to please the people. They do not want to ruffle people's feathers, so to speak, so the attendance will be up, because if the attendance is up, the offerings will be up.

Someone received an invitation in the mail some time ago inviting them to attend church services. The card read: "Our church has a ministry for the children and the youth from ages birth to eighteen. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. It is a casual atmosphere, so do not worry about wearing the right clothes. Come as you are. It is a place to make friends and to make a difference." That is sad! On the card was a picture of the pastor and his wife dressed in t-shirts. How disrespectful is that!

True saints of God love the narrow way. They want the preacher to preach it straight, because the road on which we travel is a narrow highway. Too many are traveling on the broad way, and that road leads to hell. We need to have it straight, saint of God. I thank God for pastors who preach the Gospel straight. The devil does not like holiness preaching. He will try to cause all kinds of problems every time

godly men stand behind the sacred desk. That is the reason you ought to lift up your pastor's hands at all times and pray for him.

God's Dress Standard

The world is straying further into the depths of sin every day. Are you awake to your true condition? Too many are walking in disobedience. If you are a child of God, you need to walk and dress as the Bible says, and then others will know that you are living for Jesus Christ. You need to keep your love pure before Him with every step you take. First Corinthians 6:19-20 reads: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

If your spirit is right, you will dress right. It is important how you dress. If your heart is right, you will not go to places where you should not go. God still has a standard, and He sent the Word of God to back it up.

It is important how you dress not only in the house of God but also wherever you go. It is easy to dress right for church, but how do you dress when you go out into the world? When it is hot outside, God's people still dress modestly. They do not wear tank tops and shorts. Again, it is important how you dress as a Christian. It is getting rare to see a woman wear a skirt or a dress. A woman dressed in modest apparel stands out. Too many women out there have the flesh on display. The first thing I think is: "You need to cover up. Other people do not want to see your body."

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:25-27: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave

himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." I am thankful for the Church of God. Too many are sprinkled with all types of impurities, but you will not find that in the true Church of God. She is holy and pure, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

Just as God wants His church to be glorious, so should a woman keep her appearance modest, not only for her husband but also out of respect for God who designed her. Too many people have no respect. They think, "Who cares what I wear?" God cares what you wear. If you do not follow what God wants you to do, you are in disobedience. Someone may say, "Everybody else is doing it." Not everyone dresses immodestly. God's people are a separate, peculiar people, and we are blessed of God. You should not question what God has said in His Word.

Church of God sisters do not need makeup of any form. Who are you trying to please, a boyfriend? You should want to please God first. When you please God first, He will supply the right boyfriend. You may say, "There is just no one here for me." Have you prayed about it? Young brothers should not go out into the world to get a worldly girlfriend. Are you seeking God's face with all your heart or are you going by the natural eyes? God has the right one for you somewhere. You need to seek God's face first rather than later down the road when you have made a mistake.

Serve God Consistently

When you seek God's face first, the beauty of Christ will

radiate through the life you live. The church has a beauty about her, and so do individuals who dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ. God will give you a natural beauty. However, you can be beautiful on the outside but have a nasty attitude or a critical spirit on the inside, and that takes away from your natural beauty. Sister, your desire should not be to look like the world or to run with the world. You are set apart. If you become a little lean in your experience, your desires will start to change. You will want to dress worldly. That is what the devil wants you to do. If you become worldly, you will lose your influence. When you went to work, and people saw how you lived when you were a child of God, and then you changed, what kind of influence is that?

Too many people think too much of themselves and do not care what other people say or think, but God cares. You are sending the wrong message. Where is the condemnation? If you really know what is right, you need to do right or God will not be pleased. Unfortunately, the fear of God has gone out of many people's lives, and they do as they please. That is disobedience. You cannot override what God's Word says and still be a child of God. How are you going to win your family when they see that what you are doing is wrong? How are you going to win your friends or your co-workers? By your actions, you can become a stumblingblock to others. Do not be deceived; God is not mocked. You need to be extremely careful of your actions. The Lord wants you to be consistent in serving Him.

The difference between a churchgoer and a Christian is commitment. A churchgoer is merely a spectator on the sidelines, but genuine Christians get

involved. Churchgoers are consumers, but Christians are contributors. Churchgoers want the benefits of the church without sharing the responsibility.

In the Book of Acts, you can read that the Christians were committed to one another. Acts 2:41-42 states: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." They knew what was important in their lives.

The Consequences of Disobedience

Your walk with Jesus Christ is more than just attending the church services and listening to the singing and the preaching. You are an ambassador for Christ out in the world. However, we also have a commitment to one another.

We read in 2 Corinthians 8:4-5: "Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

In the Old Testament we can read of what happened to those who became disobedient. God does not put up with it. He did not put up with it then, and He is not going to put up with it today. God wants to bless, but He is not going to bless where there is disobedience.

Lot got a direct order from God. What happened when his wife disobeyed? She turned into a pillar of salt. The angels told them to flee and not look back. She disobeyed the command. She looked back and viewed the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 19:17 says,

"And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

Verse 26 tells us, "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Individuals may not look back to Sodom and Gomorrah, but in their hearts some people have a desire to look back at the sinful things that they have left behind. If God has gloriously saved you, there is nothing to look back to. Your bridges have been burned. God has saved you and brought you out of the horrible pit of sin. You should not even think about going back. If you become lean in your soul, you will think there was something good back there.

In Numbers, Chapter 16, you can read about the disobedience of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. They rebelled against Moses, so God had enough and caused the ground to open up and swallow them, their houses, and everything that belonged to them.

Disobedience is still a rebellious act against God and His commandments. Disobedience is very consequential. In many cases, it may end up costing far more than the disobedient one ever thought. The consequences of disobedience are found throughout the Scriptures,

from Genesis to Revelation. Disobedience is leading the world to destruction through immorality, crimes, and other sinful acts. Disobedience brings not only spiritual destruction but also physical problems, emotional problems, and mental consequences. It decides where people are going to spend eternity.

God Requires Complete Obedience

Disobedience leads to bitterness, anger, and unforgiveness. Disobedience can lead you to have negative thoughts about the pastor. It can cause you to question the Truth of God's Word. Disobedience can also lead you not to love a brother or a sister as you ought and to always find fault. If you go to a funeral home, usually the funeral director will say, "Turn off all cell phones." If you go to a hospital, it has signs that read, "Turn off your cell phones." You may always keep your phone on, but you should turn it on vibrate. No one should play video games during a church service. As a parent, if you see your child do that during a church service, you ought to be man or woman enough to take away the phone.

God requires complete obedience to the will of God. Deuteronomy 11:1 says, "Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy

God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway." John 14:15 tells us, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

We read in 2 John 1:6, "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." Romans 5:19 states, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

The things of this old world are going to pass away one of these days, and you need to remember what your purpose is here on this earth. If Jesus tarries, you are going to die physically one of these days. On the Day of Judgment, you will be evaluated and rewarded according to what the Lord has entrusted you with. You need to be in complete obedience to God and His Word. You must not be a disobedient child. It is time to draw closer to God. Do not live another day in disobedience. If the Lord has pointed things out to you in this message, you need to say: "Lord, I am going to measure up. I do not want to live another day in disobedience." God can fill every need in your life.

(Compact Disc TR-1742)

Labor Day Meeting

MEDINA, OH

September 1 & 2

Special Service & Labor Day Meeting: Church of God, 6745 Wooster Pike, Medina, OH.

Please note that the Labor Day services have been moved back to Monday.

Service times: Sunday 10:30 a.m. and Monday 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

All services will be followed by a meal.

For further information contact: Pastor Mike Miller

Telephone: 269-447-4227

Camp Meeting
July 10-14

**Ninth Street Church of God
of New Castle, Indiana**

invites you to attend Camp Meeting at

Central Friends' Campground

5601 E County Road 650 S, Muncie, Indiana 47302

The first service begins Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

Two services Thursday-Saturday 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 a.m. only.

Three meals will be served Thursday - Saturday, including a continental breakfast.

Two meals will be served Sunday: a continental breakfast & dinner after the morning service.

Snack stand will be open after each evening service.

Air-conditioned dining hall. Age appropriate activities during non-service times.

Lodging is available on the campground. Campers & tents are welcome.

Please make reservations in advance, if possible.

Please bring your own bedding & towels.

We Welcome Everyone!

For lodging reservations contact: Sister Michelle Gingerich @ 765-808-8705

For further information contact: Pastor Allen Polston @ 765-521-8284

Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting *Canby, Oregon*

July 22-28

FIRST SERVICE — MONDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

Two Services Daily
10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



We Welcome Everyone



We extend a cordial invitation for you
to come and worship the Lord with us!

For reservations contact:

Pastor E. David Stegmeier
552 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR

Telephone: 503-266-9297

***(Please make reservations
in advance, if possible)***





*A Cordial
Invitation . . .*

to attend the
Fall Camp Meeting
August 4-11

Three Services Daily

10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. (teaching service) 7:00 p.m.
(The first service begins at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday)

Holy Ghost Preaching * Inspirational Singing
Children's Services * Divine Healing

MEALS reasonably priced (full-time evangelists and pastors [with spouses] half-price). LODGING—free-will offering basis. Bring your own bedding, if possible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date Needed _____

____ Number in family
____ Number of rooms needed
____ Number of beds needed

____ Number for boys' dorm
____ Number for women's dorm
____ Number for girls' dorm

Send Reservations to: David L. Bush
725 N. Cedar St.
Newark, OH 43055

Call (740) 345-1213
for reservations

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