

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

**August
16
2015**

HONORING GOD'S WORD

Jim Stauffer

Paul tells us to imitate God as His beloved children and to walk in love as Christ did by giving His life for our sins (**Eph. 5:1,2**). From what I gather out of conversations I over hear, this is the plan of the religious world. The cry that goes up when Bible authority is demanded is, "Let us be more like the Lord and just love one another." No doubt Jesus walked in love just as the passage we cited says. Now let us understand what walking in love is.

Jesus' walk in love was guided by the word of God because He first loved the Father, thus everything He said. Jesus cited the word of God spoken by Moses when He chastised the scribes and Pharisees for neglecting the care of their parents (**Mk. 7:10-13**). The reason it was sinful to neglect parents was not because it looked bad in society, but because it violated God's command (**Ex. 20:12**). It was not harsh or unkind for Jesus to point that out using the word of God as His authority.

Many who cry out for us to be loving like Jesus, only like the part of Jesus that suits them best. For instance some openly challenge Biblical miracles as just illustrations rather than factual occurrences. Jesus didn't. He used the story of Jonah to illustrate His own death, burial and resurrection because it was accepted fact among those who knew God's word (**Mt. 12:38-40**). The person who denies the miracles of the Bible cannot then consistently claim any portion of Jesus as his example.

Jesus believed in the verbal inspiration of the Bible. Some today discount this and say it is a book written by fallible but good men. Jesus said, **Mat. 5:17** *Think not that I came to destroy the law or the prophets: I came not to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass away from the law, till all things be accomplished.* Not even a punctuation mark will be avoided until all is fulfilled. He even based His argument on the tense of a verb. In teaching the Sadducees about the resurrection (they denied man would be resurrected after death), He said God currently *is* the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. All men who had died years before. (**Mat. 22:31,32**) His point was that though they had passed from this life they lived on and would be

resurrected as will all men in the last day. (**John 6:40**)

Jesus believed in Scripture and held it so dear in His heart He turned to it for strength in the face of temptation. Matthew tells us Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. When he had fasted forty days and forty nights Satan began to tempt Him. First, he challenged Jesus to turn stones to bread. He then tempted Jesus to try God by casting Himself from the pinnacle of the temple. Finally he offered our Lord all the kingdoms of the world if He would fall down and worship Satan. In each case our Lord, weakened physically by His fasting but strengthened spiritually by the meditation on God's word that attended that fasting, said, *it is written*. He not only referred to God's word, He quoted each passage as it applied to the specific temptation. (**Dt. 8:3; 6:16; 6:13**)

If we truly desire to be like Jesus, the starting point is to love, respect and obey God's word. This will mean we will have to reject many ideas that have been injected into worship and service of the Lord by men. We need to quote the passages that authorize or condemn an individual practice and follow the word of God. It is said of Ezra, a scribe in the law of Moses, who returned from Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem to instruct the people on how to properly worship in the newly built temple, *For Ezra had set his heart to seek the law of Jehovah, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances.* (**Ezra 7:10**) If we adopt his attitude toward the word of God we will *learn His righteous judgments.....walk in His ways.....seek Him with our whole heart.* (**Psa. 119:1-8**) We will become teachers and doers of His word and not the ideas propagated by men. (**Heb. 5:12-14; Jas. 1:22-25**)

Then we can know we have become the blessed man of the Psalmist. **Psa. 1:1** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night.*

The question facing us all is whether we can truly say we will follow Jesus by adopting His love for and willingness to abide in the word of God. He gave His life in order to keep and honor God's word. We must at the very least devote our lives to that same practice.

Because It Is Right

by Jim Everett

Reward incentive motivation permeates our society. People respond to rewards just like little puppies do. Some parents think only in terms of rewarding their children, and, they even reward them for being bad. When a parent says to a little child, "If you will quit throwing a temper tantrum, we will go get an ice cream as soon we get away from the doctor's office," he is rewarding bad behavior and the child quickly understands how to get what he wants. The "in thing" now in many churches is to offer physical rewards for being religious. That ranges from the "gospel of health and wealth" that says, "If you give \$100, God will give you \$1,000," to appealing to the fleshly appetites of entertainment to get people to come to "church."

Whatever happened to doing right because it is right? Surely, Jesus offers men rewards but those incentives have nothing to do with the sensual desires. In fact, he condemned those who followed him because they were fed -- *"Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life,"* (John 6:29). The reward for righteousness is eternal life with God. God expects right behavior, because he is holy and we must be like him to share in spiritual life (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Christians are committed to a way of life that is righteous, because it is the right way to live. Sometimes the righteous life may offer a material advantage but that isn't why the Christian lives that way. At other times, being righteous may be a difficult road and the righteous may be mocked and persecuted. The disciple of the Lord does right when people speak well of him and when they do not -- his motivation is doing right, because it is the right thing to do.

Jamaica Patois Wisdom - # 21

Jefferson David Tant | Roswell, Georgia, USA

The Jamaican Patois dialect is colorful, unique and humorous. It is my desire to share some of the philosophy shown in this mix of colorful phrases that are witty, as well as thought provoking. I hope the readers both profit and enjoy. In my quarter-century plus of teaching there, I have come to appreciate some things about their culture. - JDT

PATIOS - When di gal dem dress like prostitute, it comin like pig a roll ina mud. Mi we get attention from pigs mose of all dough.

ENGLISH - When a girl dresses like a prostitute, it's like a pig rolling in the mud. The girl will get attention, but mostly from pigs.

MEANING - When a girl dresses immodestly, she will attract attention, but mostly the wrong kind of men.

Why do some women/girls dress the way they do? I suppose there are various reasons, which would include comfort, fashion/style, to impress, to attract, to display,

etc. To display? Display what? Their body, of course! Why else do they wear low cut and/or tight fitting and revealing outfits that call for the world to "Look at me! See my beautiful body! Aren't my short shorts cute?"

I know not all women who dress immodestly have that foremost in their minds, but I wonder if they really look at themselves in the mirror before they leave the house. Or how about young girls that dress that way. Don't they have parents? Especially fathers, who obviously know how men think. Why would husbands or fathers want human pigs leering at their wives and daughters?

The women that I know would be highly offended if some man propositioned them. But if you have nothing to sell, then you are guilty of false advertising. I remember teaching a group of high school students at a summer camp years ago, and the question came up as to why girls wear revealing clothes. The answer the students gave was "Advertising!"

For years my wife and I have taken several young people with us to do mission work in Jamaica, where the rate of sexual immorality is off the charts. At times when a group of us are walking around town, we are approached and asked, "Are you Christians?" Why would that be suspected of us? Because we are dressed modestly, and most tourists are not so attired. And of course this sometimes presents an opportunity to have a discussion and/or study with the questioner.

Job made a covenant: *"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?"* (31:1). Obviously, we cannot help seeing an immodestly dressed woman, but men can choose not to stare and allow lust to enter their hearts. *"...every one that looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart"* (Matthew 5:28). Thus if a woman dresses in such a way as to cause a man to lust after her, she has committed sin herself.

So, ladies, you have two choices. Solomon wrote about a foolish young man, *"And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot..."* (Proverbs 7:10). And then Paul wrote about the fairer sex: *"Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness"* (1 Timothy 2:9-10). Not that it's wrong to wear jewelry or braided hair, but that women should emphasize good works more than appearance. Which do you choose?

There is nothing wrong with dressing nicely and being attractive, but a woman should be known for her godly life rather than by how much cleavage she shows. God said the wife is to "cleave" to her husband, not show her "cleavage" to all men.

Progress In Prayer

by Carl Witty

Almost every Christian will admit his or her need for more effective and consistent prayer. Prayer is the avenue by which we talk to God of the universe. That

we should have this privilege in an act of God's mercy and grace almost beyond comprehension! To have an audience with those counted great on this earth is the highlight in the life of many people; we can talk to our Father in heaven.

God communicated His will to us through the book of the word - His marvelous universe, and His word - the Bible (**Psalm 19**). We communicate with Him through our worship, the living sacrifice of our lives (**Romans 12**), and especially through prayer.

There is a sense of "oughtness" to prayer. Luke says that Jesus spoke a certain parable to His disciples, "*that men ought always pray, and not to faint*" (lose heart). Our efforts to pray ought always to remind us that we can grow in our ability (and enjoyment!) in prayer, and that such growth is to be expected and joy-enhancing. God certainly knows our needs - our real needs - better than we, and even before we ask. Yet, He wants us to ask (**Matthew 6:31-32; 7:7; James 4:2** - "*ye have not, because ye ask not*").

We need prayer as a means of expressing gratitude to a loving and benevolent God. Ingratitude toward the one who has given us so much is among the meanest things we can do. David (**Psalm 75:1**) cried out, "*Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks.*" This expression has gone from the lips of those with grateful hearts throughout all ages. Timothy is reminded by Paul that "*every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving.*" We should take nothing for granted, because we have so much for which to be thankful. Paul therefore teaches that we should "abound" with thanksgiving, **Colossians 2:7**.

Most of Paul's letters begin with a prayer of thanksgiving. He continually reminds Christians to "give thanks" for a variety of things. He beautifully expresses this attitude in **Philippians 4:6** - "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*"

Christians certainly need prayer for help in times of need. We especially need Him in the moment of temptation, remembering the promise of **1 Corinthians 10:13**; "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*"

We pray for so many things: our basic needs (**Matthew 6:11**), the sick (**James 5:13**), the bold preaching of the gospel (**Ephesians 6:18**), the progress of the gospel in the hearts of men and women around the world (**2 Thessalonians 3:1**), and for "*all men; for Kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honestly*" (**1 Timothy 2:1-2**). Among the many statements that commend prayer, none is more appealing than **Hebrews 4:16**: "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*" This wonderful promise in Hebrews is based on the qualifications of Jesus as our High Priest. He can intercede on our behalf because he was tempted as we are, and is therefore merciful and faithful.

It is truly amazing to observe how much time Jesus,

the apostles, and early Christians engaged in prayer. Jesus prayed before all the major events in His life, including His baptism (**Luke 3:21**), the calling of the twelve (**Luke 6:12**), before Peter's confession (**Luke 9:18**), and at the transfiguration (**Luke 9:29**). The course of His life is marked by intervals of prayer: Before the conflicts with religious leaders (**Luke 5:16**), before giving the model prayer to His disciples (**Luke 11:1**), when the Greeks came to see Jesus (**John 12:27**), at the time of the raising of Lazarus (**John 11:41**), and accompanying other miracles (**Mark 1:41; 6:41; 7:34**). Jesus prayed earnestly for His disciples and for us (**John 17:6-19**). He thanked God for His food (**Mark 8:6**).

The apostles and the early church are seen in the scriptures in frequent prayer (**Acts 1:4,14; 10:9; 13:1-3; 16:25; 20:36**), and in many other passages. Jesus, the apostles, and early Christians viewed every incident in life as worthy of prayer. They truly prayed "*always*" and "*without ceasing.*" They used prayer to keep in constant contact with their heavenly Father. Will we learn from the abundant evidence the exceeding value of prayer? May God help us to progress in prayer.

~via **Teaching The Truth**; Madison, Alabama.

OUR BELOVED SISTER

Irene Francis Hurd 95, Lansing, Kansas passed away after a long illness on Friday, August 7, 2015 at her home. Funeral services were held 2:00 P.M. Thursday, August 13 at the Amos Family Funeral Home. Graveside service was 11:00 A.M. Friday, August 14 at the Dyer Cemetery, Dyer, Ar. followed by a memorial service at 1:00 P.M. Friday at the Edwards Van-Alma Funeral Home, Van Buren, Ar.

Irene was born November 28, 1919 in Dyer, Ar. to Earl and Ola Morse. After high school, Irene worked at the Wortz Cookie and Cracker Factory for 31 years retiring in 1981. She was a member of the Lenexa church of Christ.

Irene was preceded in death by her husband, Hays Hurd, two infant children, Buddy and Judy, son, Anthony W. Hurd and sister, Earldean Summers. Survivors include her son, Joe E. (Ann) Hurd, Lansing, Kansas; five grandchildren; and 19 great grandchildren.

I have placed this here for those who were unable to attend the funeral service. We loved Irene and will miss her here. A heavenly tabernacle awaits her.

2 Cor. 5:1 For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens. **2** For verily in this we groan, longing to be clothed upon with our habitation which is from heaven: **3** if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. **4** For indeed we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be unclothed, but that we would be clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up of life. **5** Now he that wrought us for this very thing is God, who gave unto us the earnest of the Spirit. **6** Being therefore always of good courage, and knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord⁷ (for we walk by faith, not by sight); **8** we are of good courage, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord.

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

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NEWS AND NOTES:

J.R. DANIEL, GRANT CLOTHIER,
AND JAN PATRICK CONTINUE ON
THE PRAYER LIST. JESSIE
GIBSON IS IN REHAB AT
NOTTINGHAM HEALTH AND REHAB

PAT CLOTHIER PASSED AWAY
LAST SUNDAY MORNING. A
MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS
CONDUCTED WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

BIBLE CLASSES: SUNDAY:
GOSPEL OF JOHN - RON PECK

WEDNESDAY: SCHEME OF
REDEMPTION - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY AM SERMON: WHO IS A
FAITHFUL SERVANT?



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10