

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.

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THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Jim Stauffer

2 Tim. 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.* First we learn all Scripture is useful for teaching (doctrine) and instruction and that teaching and instruction will make us complete unto everything God has planned for us. **2 Tim. 4:2** *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.* Then we learn further Paul taught Timothy, a gospel preacher, to urgently teach *the word* because if you don't the people *will not endure sound doctrine.* Paul says in **1 Tim. 2:7**, he was appointed an apostle for this very purpose.

We, as children of God (**1 John 3:1**), who hope to enjoy the glories of heaven one day are in a covenantal relationship with God. This is not a 50/50 relationship such as a business venture might be. This is a covenant between a King (God) and His servants (us). He sets the terms of the covenant. He did, after all, create us originally and then following our sin, recreated us again through His Son Jesus Christ, **2 Cor. 5:17** *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*

Our covenant with God, while different from that of Israel and the Law of Moses, is similar in that God is the ruler and we are to be obedient servants. He sent His Son to die for us (**John 3:16**), to be the propitiation for our sins. He therefore commands us how to conduct ourselves in His service. Those commands and responsibilities are communicated to us in His word. This word is the doctrine of Christ (**2 John 9**).

The teaching or doctrine of Christ is given for a specific purpose. It is to arm us against the schemes of Satan (**Eph. 6:10**). It is for our protection against an enemy *that prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour* (**1 Pet. 5:8**).

We then must defer to the wisdom of God and not men (**Acts 5:29**). The Scriptures represent wisdom from above and will deliver the promise inherent in them if we will accept their instruction (**Jas. 3:14-18**).

It is imperative we then accept the instruction, the teaching, yes, even the doctrine contained in God's word.

Paul gives us a list of ones in **Eph. 4:3-6**. He says following this instruction will enable us to *preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* (**vs 3**). Then he says, *there is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all* (**vs 4-6**).

No one can look at the world today and try to put all the different faiths, bodies, baptisms, under the authority of the one Lord, Spirit and God. It is clear there is religious division throughout the world even among religions that claim to follow Christ. Their faith is different, they are members of different bodies, submitting to different baptisms which undeniably indicates they serve different Lords regardless of their claims.

There is one way to unite and *preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*. That way is to accept the teaching, that is the doctrine clearly spoken in the word of God.

We must learn again, if necessary, the responsibility of the child of God to support what he believes with book, chapter and verse. Jesus said, *Sanctify them in truth, thy word is truth* (**John 17:17**).

If you believe God's word is true and are honest with yourself, you will respond to this effort to provoke thought on your part and realize the oneness of this message, the doctrine of Christ.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: ADULTERY AND PURITY

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, you shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Furthermore it has been said, whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce. But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery." (Matthew 5:27-32).

If you want to pursue and promote lusts in your heart, opportunities abound. Ungodliness in TV shows, films, the *Internet*, magazines, books, etc., sadly, have become part of the fabric of American culture. It is that kind of world kingdom citizens must live in. And it is that kind of world that must be recognized and avoided. Jesus speaks to the dangers of lusts (sinful desires); wrong actions are condemned by Jesus; but so are wrong attitudes that can contribute to wrong actions. People listening to Jesus had heard the familiar *"thou shalt not commit adultery."* That did not stop many from shading the truth (as long as I don't commit adultery it is OK to look and lust). Did those who listened to Jesus forget another commandment—*"thou shalt not covet your neighbor's wife"*? Admiring physical beauty in another is one thing; there can be danger in lingering.

So, what are we to do? Jesus says to *"cut off"* the avenues of temptation. Is He saying to literally cut off a member of one's body? Would plucking out the eyes really eliminate the thoughts of one's heart? No! Jesus says: "As kingdom citizens be prepared to do the radical, necessary things to control your looking and your desires." To the Apostle Paul's words, we must *"put to death"* actions and attitudes that kill us spiritually (Colossians 3:5-11). Sin is bad and dangerous and must be dealt with severely.

Divorce in the 1st c. was common. Usually, it was women who suffered most from the capricious injustices of men. Moses legislated against the constant, arbitrary putting away of the wife; this was for her protection (Deut. 24:1-4). We must remember that *"from the beginning"* it was God's will that one man and one woman be joined together as husband and wife and in that new relationship they were to live until death. In recalling God's original intent for husband and wife, Jesus says that there is but one reason for *"putting away."* If a man divorces his wife and marries someone else, or if a woman divorces her husband and

marries someone else, the husband or wife commits adultery. Unfaithfulness on the part of either husband or wife is the single exception for the dissolving of the marriage relationship.

It matters not at all "what we have heard." It matters not at all what society *thinks* marriage is or should be. It matters not at all what the Supreme Court or our highest officials say or do regarding marriage, the home, persons in the home, and what is right and wrong. The only thing that matters is *"But, I say unto you."* Kingdom citizens always let Jesus have the last word.

Randy Harshbarger

Jump Start # 1676

Psalms 112:6 *"For he will never be shaken; the righteous will be remembered forever."*

His name was John, but most folks who knew him simply called him by his initials. He died forty years ago at the age of 88. He lived a full life. Among folks in the Midwest and Ohio Valley area, his name was well known. He preached. He preached and preached. For almost 70 years he preached. He never worked with one specific congregation, but rather, preached at different places each week. He preached in just about every state in the country. Although from a small village in Illinois, called "Fidelity," his name was known in California. It is said that throughout his preaching that he baptized over 15,000 people. I first heard of his name years ago from an old timer. He wanted me to write a book about this great preacher. At the time, I couldn't find enough material, mostly just stories that people told me about him. But today, sitting on my desk, is a ledger that contains 69 hand written sermons that belonged to him. His penmanship is very neat, much better than mine. I have been looking through this old ledger, and thinking about these sermons that he preached and what good that they might have done. I noticed above the titles of many of these sermons, he has placed a check mark or a circle. This was some code known to him, but I expect the checkmarks meant sermons that went over well and that he liked. The circles were not preached again. All of us preachers have our own sermons that would be checkmarks or circles. Some have more circles than checkmarks, but we are trying.

What is most amazing to me, is that a few older folks remember him, but other than that, he is forgotten. For all the good that he did. For all those years of preaching, there has come a generation that has never heard the name J.C. Rody.

That makes us wonder about our verse today. How can a man who has only been gone for forty years be unknown to the majority of believers today? I think there are some things that need to be considered.

First, a person is never forgotten by God. The good

that we do is known and remembered in Heaven. Jesus called it, "*laying up treasure in Heaven.*" He said that even a cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple would not be forgotten in Heaven. The Bible is full of names, but there are many, many more unknown people than known people in the Bible. People like the servant girl who told Naaman's wife about the prophet in Israel. The little girl who Jesus raised from the dead. The four men who lowered their friend through the roof as Jesus was preaching. The woman at the well in Samaria. So many people, whose names are not given to us, but they are known by Heaven. God hasn't forgotten them.

Second, the good that we do is to the glory of God and the kingdom. It is not so that we are to be remembered. We don't name our church buildings after us. We don't build statues of us, so people will remember us. It's not about us. This is the distinction between God's people and people who live for themselves. They want to be known. They want to be remembered. The righteous want God to be remembered. We are simple servants who are doing what we are supposed to do. The glory belongs to the Lord who has blessed us and taken care of us and given us opportunity to do what we could. Without the Lord, none of this was possible. I expect men like J.C. Roady, would not want any recognition from us. To hear, "*Well done, good and faithful servant,*" from the Lord, is all that they ever wanted.

Third, like it says of David, in **Acts 13**, we serve the purpose of God in our own generation. I'm reading these old sermons. They are mostly outlines. To me, they are simplistic, and first principles. I could see using these in a class, but it's not my style of writing a sermon. They also seem long, a lot of points. But for nearly 70 years, these sermons worked. They built faith and taught many people the way of the Lord. We, each, serve the Lord in our generation. Someday, mountains of my sermons may be passed to some preacher. He'll look at those and try to make sense of them and wonder if they did any good. We each must work with our talents and find the best way that we can serve the Lord.

Fourth, it's easy to feel intimidated in the presence of a giant, even a good giant. I look at the old ledger that belonged to Roady, read some articles about him, and he was amazing in his day. What a powerhouse. Close to where I live, is the factory and museum of the world famous baseball bat, Louisville Slugger. I have been there multiple times. On certain days, you can put on a pair of white gloves and hold a bat that was used by Mickey Mantle. The bat. His bat. They have a mock home plate so you can get your picture taken holding an original bat. Holding this old ledger brings the same "wow" affect to me. All of us have wonderful things that we can do to help others in the kingdom. Our job is not to try to out do each other, but to simply do what we can. We are talented in different ways and in different areas. Some can write. Others can't. But those that don't can

certainly share what was written with others. Some can teach. Others can't. But they can invite folks to come hear the word taught. Some can cook. Others can't. But they can put the cooks in connection with those who need meals. Some give money so others can do what they do. It's all one big family. It's all one giant team that is helping each other get to Heaven. Help where you can. Do what you can. Don't feel less because you can't do what others do. Don't feel intimidated in the presence of a giant.

The righteous will be remembered forever. What a great statement. What a promise. It makes a person just want to get busy today doing something good for someone else.

It is interesting, that the man who preached J.C. Roady's funeral, just happened to be the very first preacher I remember in my life. His name was Loren Raines. He was as old as Moses, as I remember him. I have a few of his books. He was a good man. A connection. A giant circle. One big family.

Precious memories...

Roger Shouse

The Eighth Commandment

If the Sixth Commandment is not to steal another man's life and the Seventh is not to steal his wife, then the Eighth Commandment is not to steal your neighbor's property: *Thou shalt not steal.* (**Exodus 20:15**) Here God is establishing the right of personal property. This is consistent throughout Scripture. Abraham returned property to the King of Sodom in **Genesis 14** because it was his and to protect his own good name. In **Acts 5:4** Peter rebukes Ananias by pointing out his own rights of property in the land and its proceeds from its sale. Ananias was killed by the Lord for lying, keeping back part of the price for himself, an act he was free to do according to Peter, while saying that he had given the entire sum. It was the LIE that cost Ananias and Sapphira their lives, nothing else.

Paul expresses the Lord's will on this matter in **Ephesians 4:28**, "*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give to him that hath need.*" In the Lord's mind the man who eats from others' charity while he could be working and providing for himself is a thief. He further says in **2 Th 3:7-10**, "*For ...we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; neither did we eat bread for nought at any man's handFor even when we were with you, this we commanded you, If any will not work, neither let him eat.*"

Stealing another's property hurts his ability to provide for his own family. And there is no moral difference between stealing from the rich and stealing from the poor. A thief is a thief, period. And that is beneath human dignity.

Cleveland Reddinger

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

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

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SUZANNE WIMP CONTINUE IN
NEED OF PRAYERS FOR HEALTH.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
A STUDY OF PRAYER-RON PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: BOOK
OF ROMANS - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: GLORY COMES
TO GOD'S CHILDREN



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