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

A Monthly Magazine

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Last Days

Jerry O'Donnell

When we think of the last days, we mostly gravitate to persecutions, followed by the seven last plagues, and the second coming. Oh, we may throw earthquakes and pestilences in there, too, but have you performed a Bible search on the phrase "Last Days"? Do not worry. It will not be that long of a Bible study. There are not too many verses that contain that phrase. In fact, two of them can be eliminated right away because they are used in the context of past recent days, like in Hebrews 1:2, which says, "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son…". And then there is Jacob's announcement in "Genesis 49:1" regarding his children: "…I may tell you [that] which shall befall you in the last days". Although, a deeper study of the words of Jacob may reveal a spiritual and prophetic application for the actual last days, it just does not match the obvious statements about the explicit experiences of the "Last Days" as revealed in the remaining six references.

So, let us proceed with the verses that speak obviously of the last days.

2 Peter 3:3-7 states, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." We see that people are not concerned about the second coming primarily because they are chasing their heart's desires. The word "lusts" to us is a strong term, but in reality, it is anything that we put before God. We can lust over a great career, a nice life, etc. It does not have to be over sinful objects. Also, we learn that the attitude of people in the last days is that there is no sign in sight that anything different is going to happen. Sure, wars break out and cease unexpectedly. Sure, there are natural disasters that happen from time to time, but they have always been happening. This is why the very last days are described as "sudden destruction" (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

James 5:1-3 says, "Go to now, [ye] rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon [you]. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." In the last days, wealth would be sought after. There is nothing wrong with building up a savings account or accumulating wealth in general, but when it becomes a driving and controlling aspect of the life, that is when we have crossed the line. Societal expectations play a big role in this. Gold and silver purchases are pushed as if the "no buy, no sell" will not apply with that type of investment. Speaking of investment, it is expected that in retirement that a couple should be traveling the world taking one to two week vacations every month. To achieve this goal, people need a certain amount of money in their retirement package by the time they reach a certain age. What such experts fail to reveal is that a large

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For Bible Believing Christians

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number of such people are strapped with debt to achieve that deposit every paycheck, lose a good portion of their gains because 401K goes up and down depending on the financial markets, and a lot drop dead before they really can enjoy it. Oh, and all the aches and pains that prevent such enjoyment is to be factored into that equation. But that is the atmosphere of the day. In fact, recently, the president announced during the reopening of the government back in November that 401K has never been stronger. True or false, such bubbles precede crashes. Again, "when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them" (1 Thessalonians 5:3) is a principle as well as a predicted event. A 401K account may be protected from losing one's investment, but it certainly does not protect the gains over time. So many people on the verge of retiring have experienced stock market crashes that brought their earned retirement packages back down to their original investment levels. Now what are they supposed to do as they have just entered into retirement and their nest egg is already depleted because of the large "dip"? Well, God says stop chasing financial dreams and be a steady worker for Christ and, practically, prepare to have to work beyond the age of 62, 65, etc., if you are physically able to do so.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 tells us, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." In summary, there will be a whole host of sinners that will come into the church for they are the ones that would try to be showing "a form of godliness" and not the world. And when we have churches and denominations that refuse to use the word "sin", we have come to complete fulfillment of these things. And when churches put such practicing sinners into position, knowing full well that they are not repentant of their activities, we are beyond expectations of the corruption that would come into the church.

Acts 2:16-21 as well as Joel 2:28-32 basically informs us of, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: and it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Though Peter applied the partial fulfillment in his day (Acts 2:16-21), it has a greater application in our day. The sun, moon, and other signs have reached their fulfillment in the various dates of the past. When we think of the last days, many think of the beginning and ending of the signs all happening in our lifetime forgetting that to God, "that one day [is] with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8). The last days are not the past fifteen, twenty, even forty years. The last days began at the end of the 1700s due to certain given timelines, which is not our topic today, and continue forward. In either case, that is a long time

(Continued on page 4)

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The mission of *Have One Mind (in Christ)* is to encourage the desire of "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat" (2 Peter 3:12), "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15), and to "abideth in the doctrine of Christ" (2 John 1:9) by following the words of Jesus, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

Editor and Founder

Jerry O'Donnell

About Have One Mind (in Christ) Ministry

This ministry is founded upon the necessity of raising the standard higher and higher. It is a non-profit, volunteer group of Christians who love God's Word and love people so much so that we do not want to see a single person lost.

Subscription and Donations

Although we are volunteers, the cost of this publication is challenging to provide to everyone for free. So, we are asking for a subscription of $21 annually for 12 issues, and if the Lord impresses you with the means to be able to provide a donation, we definitely would welcome such and put it to proper use, including helping to pay for subscriptions of those who cannot afford the cost. The publication is free online in PDF format.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Article	Page 1
Heavenly Health	Page 5
Recipe	Page 6
Natural Vitamins	Page 7
Holy Living	Page 8
Questions and Answers	Page 12
Bible Study	Page 14
News and Comment	Page 15
Natural Remedy	Page 15

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ago from our perspectives. So, when we speak of the great Lisbon earthquake, the Dark Day, the blood moon, the shooting stars many generations ago, that does not mean that the signs have failed us. Three hundred years since the Lisbon earthquake is still such a small portion of the six thousand years to God. And in that time frame, we ought to see God's manifestation of true prophetic dreams and visions.

Now, the last two references to the term "last days' are found in both Micah 4:1-3 and Isaiah 2:2-4 saying basically the same thing. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, [that] the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." In the New Testament, Mount Zion is called something else as it is predicted that Jesus "gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (Revelation 16:16) and not the dragon, beast, and false prophet. Do compare the King James Version to modern versions to see the contrast between "He", which is Jesus, and "They", which points to the verse prior. Zion and Armageddon are references to entering into Heaven, specifically Jerusalem. Right now, it is not established but at the second coming, it very well will be as we "shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17) and go the "many mansions" (John 14:2) as Jesus promised: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also" (John 14:3). All nations indeed will flow into it. And those who know they are on the path to that direction will not hesitate to invite others "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob." That is where Jesus will then "teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths" and not human beings who are prone to making mistakes. Judgment will take place for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4, Daniel 7:22). And for those that think the Ten Commandments are no longer binding, think again, for that is what guides all life in Zion, in Armageddon, in Heaven, even the entire universe. And from the New Jerusalem, once sin and Satan are dealt with, His Word will continue to go forth and all will live in obedience without question, as so many do today. They see the truth in the Bible and look for excuses of why it ought not be applicable to them. Not so once the second coming, and even the third coming, happens. Yes, after the millennium is a third coming, but that is a whole other story. For now, this reference to the phrase "last days" in Micah and Isaiah was saved for the end of the message because, well, truly these will be the last days as we leave this sinful planet to go be with Jesus throughout eternity. What a day of rejoicing that will be.

But seriously, do you "Strive to enter in at the strait gate" (Luke 13:24), or are you carelessly just getting through life, figuring you are saved anyways?

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Heavenly Health

How Are We to Really Help Each Other?

I would like to take us back to visit the end of last month's article; specifically, to the question that heads the final paragraph on page 18 – *And how are we to really help each other?* So many thoughts on that topic kept swarming in my mind and heart after I thought I was finished with the subject made me consider how little time we actually spend in really helping others at any time in our everyday lives. Though there are the usual, maybe basic, ways of helping others with food, clothing, or money, those seem to pretty much satisfy the typical giver and definitely can be a huge help in many situations – we are certainly not attempting to discredit any method of helping others, as the helping of others is exactly what we want to promote. We each are presented with different opportunities to be the help someone needs. Deuteronomy 15:11 tells us, "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." This tells us the poor will always be among us, and we might have wondered why that would be; well, it is for us to learn the second part of that scripture and develop it into our characters.

So, while putting more time in studying a little deeper into the topic of helping, one thing I noticed about Jesus' giving was that it is never documented that He said to someone seeking help, "I don't have time". That would have possibly been the most painful thing that could have entered the hearing of someone in need, even though His time was certainly at a premium. Flashback to the Good Samaritan stopping enroute to another destination, but putting a stop to his own plans to check on the man, beaten and left for death at the roadside, and actually going to great lengths to help the poor man. The Samaritan took time to stop, check out the man's condition, and offer his assistance to a complete stranger – but he did not stop there; he picked the bloody man up and set him on his beast after tending to his wounds, and took him to an inn and even there continued to care for him. And on the next day he left the man in good hands to be cared for and money to take care of his needs until he would be returning, at which time he would pay for anything extra the man had needed for his care. The Samaritan's giving had no ending, because it came from his character; that natural flow of refreshing water, it was not something he just decided to do in response to that particular incident, it was his nature to respond to need.

When pure Christian love is in one's heart, it springs forth spontaneously, without stopping to self-debate *do I have time for this*, or *do I want to get involved with this situation*, before taking any kind of action at all; just like the actions of the Samaritan. Compassionate help for the mangled soul lying by the roadside sprang from him as by immediate impulse. It is like refreshing water from the deep bubbling up in a natural spring from the earth. It is not something that even takes time to consider – but just goes into necessary action, taking care of what needs to be done, as naturally for us to do, as it was for Jesus.

Now, it may seem like we are changing horses in the middle of the stream, but rest assured, you will see a grand connection between helping others, and the next topic, that could change your life forever.

This seems to be the time of year when everyone is talking about fasting as a way of getting themselves back on track, re-establishing self-discipline, after too much self-indulgence over the past few months, etc.. But fasting has become like dieting, in that there are so many different ways it can be done, and each one seems to have stages you should understand so you get the most out of your fast – lots of rules to follow. Well, sure, if you are going to be depriving yourself of sustenance you want to get the ultimate benefit, the best pay-off, so to speak. And just what is the desired end result of most fasting? Well, a list of reasons given online include spiritual enlightenment, health benefits, cultural practices, mental clarity and detoxification.

Many side trips could be taken from each of those topics, but I think it is fairly accurate in its coverage so we will let that stand as is and move on to the main reason for even bringing fasting into the picture. Everyone will have an opinion to voice about their chosen fast, but sharing opinions is not our point; instead, let us see what the choice fast of Jesus is.

Turn to Isaiah 58:6, and onward a few verses, where God tells us right away about the fast He has chosen. It is not simply doing without bread, or even a meal or two, for where is the moral righteousness, or virtue in that act? There is none. You would simply go get another loaf of bread or another meal and carry on as usual. It is about breaking us out of our own bondage of iniquity through giving. The true fast is doing without in order to give to others – giving them your last meal which you have no hope of replacing for yourself. That last plate of food was it, there is no more. It might be a stretch physically for some people to reach that point of having absolutely no more, but we must do it spiritually. It may not even be about food. Let us say that you just made the final payment on a mini-van – it is finally yours. But a much-deserving individual you know of with young children is in dire need of a vehicle to get to work to support his family. Would you hand over the keys and title of yours to him, knowing there is no way you can possibly buy another one? You will have to walk. More people may be able to relate to this scenario.

The whole point about fasting that Jesus wants us to understand and apply in our lives is the principle behind the true fast, which is the *willingness* to give it *all* to another with nothing being withheld, and no assurance for any more for ourselves. Think of the widow who baked Elijah a cake with her last provisions for which she was prepared to die because of doing without herself in order to provide for him; we must all have that heart for others.

As we have stated before, giving is not a seasonal event – it is a 24/7 responsibility for those of us claiming to be Christians.

Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Vegan Apple Cake

Vegan Apple Cake

Ingredients

Cake:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup canola oil or melted coconut oil*
- 1 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1 teaspoon baking powder**
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg or ½ teaspoon of cardamom or possibly 1 teaspoon of all spice (all of which are cinnamon substitutes)
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 3 cups peeled and diced apples
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Caramel Drizzle

- 4 tablespoons vegan butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons non-dairy milk

Substitutes

* You may use canola oil or melted coconut oil or use any neutral flavored oil you like, such as avocado oil.

** In the old Ten Talents cookbook is this recipe for Home-Made Baking Powder

- 1 part potassium bicarbonate
- 2 parts creme of tartar
- 2 parts cornstarch or arrowroot
- Sift 3 times or whiz in small nut grinder together till fine powder.

- **Note:** for best results add baking powder *last* to recipe stirring just enough to mix evenly. Bake immediately.

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F and lightly grease a 9 x 13 inch pan.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt.
3. Now pour in the oil, applesauce and vanilla and stir until combined. The dough will be very stiff, not like most cake batters. This is because the fresh apples will provide a lot of moisture as the cake bakes.
4. Fold in the diced apples and nuts. Use your hands if needed to get them incorporated.
5. Press the cake batter into the pan, evenly. Bake for 45-50 minutes, or until golden brown and a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Let the cake cool while you prepare the caramel drizzle.
6. Make the caramel drizzle: In a small pot on the stove, add the vegan butter, brown sugar and non-dairy milk. Heat over medium heat until the butter melts. Bring to a boil and stir constantly, being careful not to let the mixture overflow. Continue to boil for 2 minutes, stirring, then remove from heat.
7. After the cake has cooled for about 20 minutes, drizzle the caramel sauce over it. Let cool for 10 more minutes before serving. Enjoy!

Notes

- Substitute a gluten-free flour mix to make the cake gluten free.
- You can use walnuts or pecans, or leave the nuts out entirely.
- Serve with a dollop of vegan whipped cream or vegan vanilla ice cream, if desired.

📖

Natural Vitamins

Benefits of Beets

Beets are packed with nutrients and offer a wide range of health benefits. Here are the major ones:

1. Heart & Blood Pressure Support

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2. Improved Athletic Performance

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3. Anti-Inflammatory & Antioxidant Effects

- Beets contain betalains, which are pigments responsible for their deep red color. These have strong anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, which may help reduce chronic inflammation.

4. Liver Support

- Beets are high in betaine, a compound that helps the liver process fats and supports detoxification pathways.

5. Digestive Health

- High in fiber, beets help:
- Support regular bowel movements
- Feed healthy gut bacteria
- Improve overall digestive function

6. Brain Health

- Improved blood flow from dietary nitrates can also enhance oxygen delivery to the brain, which may support cognitive function—especially during aging.

7. Rich in Essential Nutrients

- Beets provide:

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⇒ Potassium

⇒ Vitamin C

⇒ Manganese

⇒ Iron (small amounts)

8. May Support Weight Management

- Low in calories but high in fiber and water, beets can help you feel full and satisfied.

9. Possible Cancer-Protective Properties

- Some research suggests beet antioxidants may help reduce oxidative stress and inflammation linked to cancer, though more studies are needed.

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Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

The parable found in Luke 19:12-15 shows the expectation of a true Christian. “He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this [man] to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.” Jesus has gone away but will come again after He receives His kingdom as prophesied in Daniel 7:14. The ten servants are all His servants as ten means “all encompassing”, like the Ten Commandments are. Everyone has been given responsibilities while Jesus is away physically, and that is to seek for other souls (Matthew 28:19-20). The message given is the gospel, but evidently it is not the gospel that simply teaches that Jesus saves. It teaches also that obedience is required (2 Thessalonians 1:8, Romans 1:16), for the reaction of worldly people that reject the gospel is that they do not want Jesus reigning in their lives, telling them what they can, and cannot do, and all Christians who even try to use the scriptures to do away with the commandments do so at the risk of losing their salvation. Trading is the act of sharing the gospel and seeing how many souls respond positively. The parable continues on until Luke 19:27, showing examples of several of the servants and is sufficient to tell every Christian that there are rules to follow, especially the Ten Commandments, and everyone ought to be active in trying to win souls, as the one that simply buried the gospel was cast out of the kingdom. The number of souls won is not as important as the effort, as two different servants gained ten and five, others respectively. So, does Jesus reign in your life by accepting the commandments (John 14:15), and are you actively seeking for souls?

John 17:14 states, “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” To not be of the world is living the holy and sanctified life. So, how much of the worldly ways is allowed in your life, or are you kept from all worldliness?

Romans 15:6 states how a Christian ought to think and speak. “That ye may with one mind [and] one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is not the allowance that everyone gets to think and say whatever they want, and still be a Christian. And ultimately, it is the Word of God that declares what we all should be thinking and teaching. And to do so is the expected holy lifestyle of a Christian, while thinking of the ways of the world, is not. So, what do you think and say regarding godly things? Whatever you feel like, or what are the standards of God?

Matthew 18:9 tells of the holy eyesight that a true Christian will exercise. “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.” Despite the nakedness of the world, the movies pushing nudity, the see-through clothing, along with

the bikinis that seem to be all over Hollywood, etc., a true Christian will divert the eyes. But if a Christian makes excuses of why they cannot divert the eyes, hell fire is the future. No, we do not physically pluck the eye out. This is a call to cut off viewing of nakedness, violence, that which causes coveting, etc. So, have you plucked your eye of approval [right eye] away from these things, or are you under the assumption you can look, but not touch?

John 17:16 tells us that Christians, who are expected to live a different lifestyle like a holy and sanctified one, do not participate in worldly activities. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." The world is into entertainment, getting ahead at any cost, politics, etc. We are to be interested in godly things, especially that of leading souls to Christ. So, are you of the world or of God?

Luke 21:16-17 has a strong implication that there is more to being a Christian than just believing to be saved. "And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and [some] of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake." Evidently, true Christians stand for something, and are unmoved from that stance because they are willing to die for it. Parents and relatives displaying hatred for one another on a Christian show – that it is not merely just being a Christian in name only that brings on the hatred. Jumping to the conclusion, for true Christians to draw so much hatred, including the potential of death, are Christians "in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:18). In other words, they live the holy and sanctified life, obeying the Word of God (John 14:23), keeping the commandments (John 14:15), and are unwilling to compromise (Ephesians 6:13-18). So, are you one of the true Christians, or merely in name only, wiling to hate those true, "obedient" Christians?

Romans 15:14 tells of the expected holy and sanctified life of a Christian: "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another." To be full of goodness leaves no room for badness or sin. So, are you full of goodness, or just mostly?

Matthew 18:9 is for everyone including those that think they are already saved. "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." As David wrote, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; [it] shall not cleave to me" (Psalms 101:3), we are to avoid eye exposure to sin. That not only includes the nudity, or suggested nudity, but murders, thefts, and the other commandment breaking that is prevalent in movies and television. By only allowing that which is in our control to be pure, for we cannot control what is on billboards and in general shopping stores, we are living the holy and sanctified life. By excusing filth because it is on our favorite show or movie, because we like a little tantalizing, because etc., then we are in danger of hell fire. So, what are your eyes exposed to?

Luke 21:34 says, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares." The fact that it is possible for the "day come upon you unawares" for lack of taking "heed" means it is possible to lose eternal life. How is it possible? By getting caught up in the things of the world, even with simple "cares of this life", like placing a job that is needed in the way of spending time with God, be it daily prayer time, family worship time, or God forbid, His holy day, even simply church time, where a person is too exhausted from work that they cannot attend church. Surfeiting and drunkenness is not only literal. Binge watching shows is a form of spiritual drunkenness, resulting in surfeiting, affecting one's health, even feeling headachy. Even accepting the brainwashing material that causes one to question God's Word, His Bible, is a form of being drunk. So, do you keep yourself from worldliness, or are you taking sips of the spiritual wine the world has to offer, deadening the relationship with God?

John 17:16 is similar wording as other verses, but none the less, it

I Am Come to Deceive The Whole World

How Satan, from his perspective, is distracting so many Christians while his agenda marches on.

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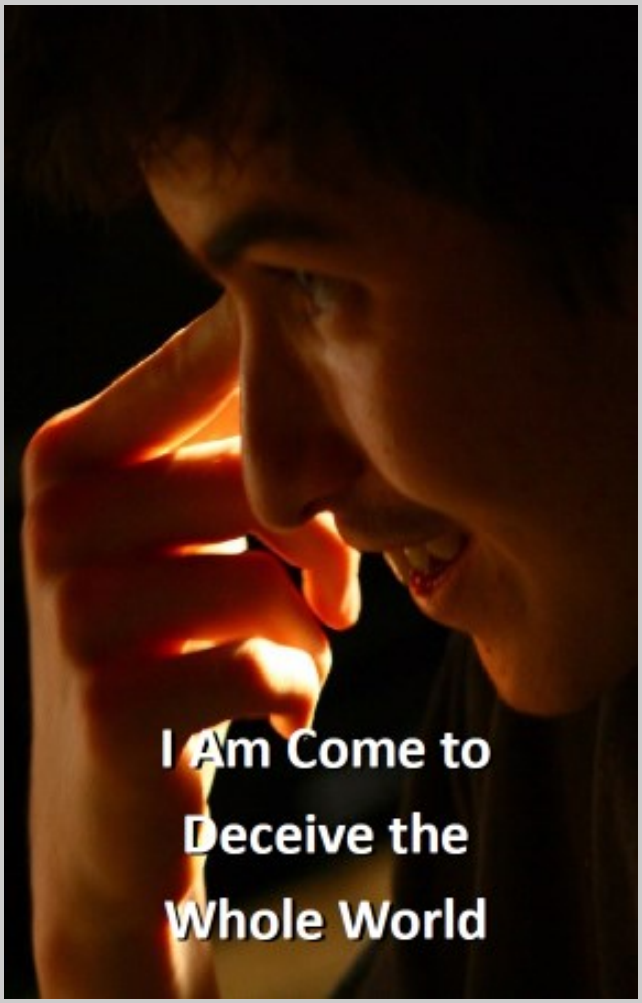

Do you think the attack on gas stoves is by chance?

Do you think high fuel prices are typical of up and down prices?

Do you think inflation is just the normal highs and lows over the economic timeline?

While people are distracted by sports, politics, Hollywood idols, etc., the march towards the agenda is already upon us and increasing in intensity.

is yet another verse that calls true Christians beyond just believing, but actually living like a Christian in the holy and sanctified lifestyle, because we believe a whole lot more in a Savior that really saves us from sinning. “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” So, are you of the world, pretending to be a Christian, or not of the world, and actually being a Christian?

Romans 16:17 tells us that to be right with God, we are expected to follow the doctrines, which include living in obedience that there be no divisions or offenses. “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” Avoiding any church member means that they are Christian in name only, and shall be lost. To live as expected is part of the holy and sanctified life. So, do you follow the Bible doctrine, one of the many divisions of Christianity, because of what your church believes above the Bible, or separate from all of that because you believe your own thing?

Matthew 19:17-19 states, “And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt love

thy neighbour as thyself." Jesus just told us that the Ten Commandments are required to be kept, and not just the last six, because no Christian would believe that we can now have other gods. There is not one set of rules for Jews and grace for Christians either, "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (Romans 10:12). And this answer was not because it was before the cross, but after the cross we were made under grace "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3), which was penned well after the cross. So, are you living the holy and sanctified life of keeping the commandments as a fruit or result of being saved, or have you been tricked into believing that the commandments have been done away with and will miss out on eternal life, as Jesus states, "depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23)?

Luke 21:36 tells us, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." To stand before the Son of man is to be allowed entrance into God's kingdom. Non-Christians or the unsaved are not going to watch out and pray, therefore, this is to the Christian proving that a person is not automatically eternally saved. The fruit of our character reveals our destination in the end, hence, "he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22). Elsewhere, Jesus tells us what to watch out for: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). We are tempted to sin. Seeing that "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), the expected holy lifestyle of a Christian is to keep the Ten Commandments. So, are you keeping them?

John 17:17 is the expectation that Jesus set for His followers. They hear the gospel (Acts 15:7), believe (Acts 15:7), repent (Mark 1:15), are forgiven or justified (1 John 1:9), and then, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17), which is to become "fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62) to dwell with holy beings throughout eternity. So, are you being sanctified through the Word or have you dismissed the purpose of the Bible in your life?

Romans 16:18 reveals fake Christians. "For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." What they are happen to be those "which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine" (Romans 16:17). This doctrine is not the church manual. The doctrine is what is in the Bible. And I hate to point this out, but with thousands of Christian denominations, they all cannot be right but rather all of them are wrong except the one that is the closest to Bible doctrine. Somewhere, division was caused. Most recently, the Methodist church has split, or is splitting again over the position of people's relationships. They both cannot be right on this position. One is serving the belly that desires to get along with society while the other is not. Those that are trying to fit their church with society making it popular Christianity "serve not our Lord Jesus Christ" and will be lost. So, do you go along with what your denomination does despite divisions along the history that are unbiblical, or do you check the doctrines with the Bible and follow those that comply?

Matthew 19:18-19 reveals that Jesus expects Christians, His followers, to be obeying the Ten Commandments: "He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." And before someone says that Jesus only quoted part of the list, do you really need it all spelled out? God treats us intelligently and does not have to treat us like infants (Proverbs 25:2). Besides, when Jesus said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go [and] sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come [and] follow me" (Matthew 19:21), that falls under the second commandment of where objects get in the way of our relationship with God. So, are you living the holy life keeping the holy commandments (Romans 7:12)? 🕮

Questions & Answers

Question:

2 Peter 2:4 says, “God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell”. Where is that?

Answer:

According to Revelation 12:9, the Bible also says, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Therefore, the reference to hell is actually the earth. The face of the earth is more specific in answering the question.

And this answer makes sense because when hell burns, which it is not right now, the Bible says, “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them” (Revelation 20:9). The face of the earth will burn at that time.

As a side note not to be a Bible study, but the reason hell is not burning right now is primarily God does not work with the devil. If people went to Heaven and Hell upon death, that means Satan has the God given responsibility of keeping the lost burning in the confines of hell. Satan would be employed as a warden. Since when does the devil work with God on salvational matters?

Question:

Should We Obey Man’s Ordinances or Not?

Answer:

1 Peter 2:13 says, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme” while Acts 5:29 states, “Then Peter and the [other] apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

In both verses we have Peter speaking, so not only would we have the Bible contradicting itself, if it were a contradiction, but Peter himself would be caught contradicting his own words.

What happens is that many people read a verse and do not keep all of the context with it. The context itself resolves the issue. If we just compare those two verses, then it looks like a contradiction. But let us expand the text from 1 Peter, which actually finishes the sentence.

1 Peter 2:13-14 tells us, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.”

With the context, we see when we are to obey every ordinance. We are to obey every ordinance of a king or governor or any official, for that matter, when the laws punish evildoers and encourage those that do well, or live in obedience, to continue to do so.

Therefore, when the government tells people they must put poison into their bodies so everyone can feel at ease over an exaggerated crisis, we ought to obey God instead. When businesses are forced to cater to the gender mix-up, make something specifically that is contrary to religious beliefs, etc., we ought to obey God instead of man.

So, first and foremost, we obey God over any man-made decree. When man-made laws are enacted that punish the evildoers and reward the righteous, even if we personally do not care for the law, we are commanded to obey it as if it were from God Himself. But if a law is passed that is contrary to God, we are under no obligation to obey that law, in fact, we are obligated to resist compliance to it.

Question:

Why do many Christians feel it is their duty to keep calling us to a

higher standard? Is that not a personal relationship with God?

Answer:

According to the Bible, “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12). The process of “perfecting the saints” is the act of calling people to a higher standard. This is done on a general application basis, giving specific examples, but not to become investigators of personal lives. If personal lives do become public, and it is sin, then it, too, can be addressed, depending upon the situation and how it became public. Gossip is never an excuse to be used in rebuking sin, as gossip itself is a sin.

Also, the Bible specifically states, “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13).

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

Jesus' Words Are Spiritual and Not Literal

1. How did Jesus speak to the public? **Matthew 13:34**

2. What did Jesus tell the Jews to spiritually do? **John 2:19**

3. But what did Jesus mean literally? **John 2:21**

4. Who spiritually sowed good seed? **Matthew 13:24**

5. Who really is the sower of the Word of God? **Matthew 13:37**

6. Who spiritually sowed spiritual tares? **Matthew 13:25**

7. Who literally are the tares? **Matthew 13:38**

8. Who literally inspires people to be wicked and attack God's Word? **Matthew 13:39**

9. What spiritual time were the tares to be separated from the wheat? **Matthew 13:30**

10. What time did Jesus say it literally will be for the separation? **End of Matthew 13:40**

Answers for December 2025

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

1. Where (What) did Jesus pronounce (in) **Matthew 5:9** (upon peacemakers)**? Blessing**

2. What was pronounced to the earth at Jesus' birth? **Luke 2:14 peace, good will toward men**

3. What does peace lead to? **Colossians 1:20 reconcile**

4. When reconciled to God, what are we by faith? **Romans 5:1 justified**

5. What are we to teach? **Acts 10:36, Romans 10:15, Ephesians 6:15 peace by Jesus Christ, gospel of peace**

6. What two actions are connected with peace? **1 Peter 3:11 eschew evil, and do good**

7. What is sown in peace of them who make peace? **James 3:18 fruit of righteousness**

8. What does the God of Peace accomplish in us? **Philippians 4:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:23 keep your hearts and minds, sanctify you wholly**

9. What are we to follow peace with? **Hebrews 12:14 all [men]**

10. How are we to be found? **2 Peter 3:14 without spot, and blameless**

News and Comments

November 5—Bolde

15 White Lies We Spin About Our Weekend To Appear Cooler Than We Are

Exodus 20:16 says, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." There are no such things as "white lies". As soon as the truth is distorted, it is mixed with the darkness of sin. Gray is a better color describing a mixture of truth and error, which still breaks the commandments. Besides, in looking over the list, it appears that bragging is the root cause of the lies, which is a type of pride, and "Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

November 9—The Cool Down

Experts urge people to fish and eat crab species putting entire fishing industry at risk: 'An animal of unacceptable intelligence'

They may be experts at identifying and managing crabs, but "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (1 Corinthians 3:19). "And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which [is] in the waters, they [shall be] an abomination unto you" (Leviticus 11:10). And no, Jesus did not clean it up, nor was Peter's vision a command to eat such creatures. A crab is the same physical crab since the beginning of time. Jesus did not change their digestive systems. These creatures are not spiritually unclean. They are physically unclean. They contain poisons that are actually harmful to human beings.

November 21- Minnesota Reformer

Young girls were sexually abused by a church member. They were told to forgive and forget.

Christian forgiveness does not replace consequences for actions. So many Christians get this wrong. To simply say, "I forgive you" and now everything continues without consequence is not biblical at all. God Himself "will by no means clear [the guilty]" (Exodus 34:7). Jesus said, "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Repent is a ceasing from the sin. And Zacchaeus serves as an example of activity that happens after true repentance. "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore [him] fourfold" (Luke 19:8). If a person robs a bank and asks for forgiveness, the robber does not get to keep the money. A victim that can come to forgiveness does not prevent the rapist from facing charges. Forgiveness and justice are not opposites, but steps in the process of righting the wrong. Forgiveness does not replace justice, but justice follows forgiveness, if forgiveness occurs. The victim may, or may not, offer forgiveness. In either case, even God exercises justice.

Natural Remedies

Excess Mucus Control

Pineapple is naturally rich in bromelain, which is an enzyme that helps break down and thin mucus so it is easier for your body to clear. Ginger is a natural expectorant, which can ease congestion and help you cough up mucus from the lungs. High in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds, Spirulina helps calm irritation in the respiratory system and supports immune function. Spirulina can help reduce the triggers that lead to excess mucus, making it valuable for controlling healthy mucus levels. A combination of these three ingredients in your blender can keep mucus levels in the normal range. Try combining 1 Tbsp Spirulina powder, ½ cup fresh pineapple, ½ Tbsp minced ginger root, and ½ cup water for mucus relief when congestion shows up.

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