

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

A Monthly Magazine

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Parables Are Not Literal

Jerry O'Donnell

Establishing doctrine on a parable is building doctrine on a sandy foundation, and we know what Jesus says about such structures built on such shifting foundations as opposed to a more solid foundation: "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:24-27).

Just in those words of Jesus, we have proven our point already. None of us are probably house builders, so the best we can do, taking it literally, is to avoid buying a house or moving into an apartment that has a soft foundation and choose houses built on a more stable environment instead. However,

looking at Jesus' words literally, we must ask ourselves, "Do we really think that Jesus was teaching proper house development and purchasing decisions at that moment?" Of course not. Therefore, it is not literal, especially when He started off with the words, "whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him...", which clearly states symbolism. However, not all parables are that obvious or explained as being symbolic.

Now before we go any further, the purpose of this message is not to go through each of the parables revealing all of the symbolic details, but rather, we are going to biblically reveal that parables are symbolic messages containing spiritual lessons, but not doctrinal stances.

It should be noted that "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them" (Matthew 13:34). Even when there was not a large multitude, in public He would speak in parables, for instance, to a smaller audience, even that of the

Pharisees and teachers, Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). Was Jesus physically and singlehandedly able to erect another temple? What did Jesus really mean? "But he spake of the temple of his body" (John 2:21). As you see, the Bible immediately told us not to take it literally, except the Pharisees did, which is the mistake many Christians make today in regards to many other parables, such as "Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?" (John 2:20).

There are some parables that are obviously not literal, for instance, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:31-33). No one believes that literal sheep and literal goats will be gathered before Jesus. Even the phrase "as

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For Bible Believing Christians**

a shepherd” tells us that we are to take it for the intended spiritual lesson.

The literal parts of that parable have symbolism to them, for instance, “For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee]? or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee]? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?” (Matthew 25:35-39). Even the righteous in the story had a challenge understanding that it was not literal. Yes, there is literal hunger, thirst, being a stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned, but there was no literal King, or Jesus Himself, realistically being in that situation before each one of us. The parable itself explains a little of the detail, by Jesus saying, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me” (Matthew 25:40). So, physical people in that situation that are helped is as doing it to Jesus, which is the spiritual application, likewise, when such people are ignored, it is as if that person is ignoring Jesus, spiritually speaking (Matthew 25:45).

But did you know that, as Christians, we are not expected to spend all of our time meeting the physical needs of people? If that

were the case, then the gospel would never be spoken because there are more than enough needy people in the world that would deplete the resources and then some of those claiming to be Christian. All of our time and means would never be able to satisfy the demand. Even Jesus said, “ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always” (Matthew 26:11). There are symbolic words to each of those literal words of being hungry, thirsting, being a stranger, naked, sickly, and a prisoner, but again, that is not the purpose of this message. Just to give you a taste of such though, being naked is connected with sin. Just read the story of Adam and Eve when they sinned (Genesis 3).

We are just trying to establish that doctrine should not be built upon parables, yet there are parables that people build doctrine upon, or take too literally. For instance, “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish” (Matthew 25:1-2). Many recognize this to be a symbolic parable. The use of the word “likened” gives it away. The reference of only ten women cannot be taken literally or then all men are lost. However, several have attempted to say that this parable tells us half the church will be saved while the other half who claim to be Christian will be lost. Others say that if Jesus were really accurate, it would be more like nine were foolish and only one was wise. Other Christians say that ten were wise and none were foolish because we shall all go to

Heaven, according to Universalists. Jesus was not trying to teach a perfect ratio of lost to saved, but simply portray that there are two classes of people in the church, as both had lamps. We just do not want to be part of the foolish group. The rest of the details, once again, are beyond this message.

Let us jump, then, to the biggest of all misconceptions on parables, and from which a number of doctrines stem, depending upon the organization’s teachings on the matter. “There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 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

(Continued on page 4)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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.

Main Article	Page 1
Heavenly Health	Page 5
Recipe	Page 6
Natural Vitamins	Page 7
Holy Living	Page 9
Questions and Answers	Page 12
Bible Study	Page 14
News and Comment	Page 15
Natural Remedy	Page 15

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us, that [would come] from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him 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 saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:19-31).

From that parable, people believe in an immediate Heaven and Hell destination upon death. Today, everyone seems to go to Heaven immediately. Additionally, some believe in a place called purgatory over the fact that there is a great gulf fixed between the two places. Some even claim that it is better to be poor than rich. Overall, they ignore the Lazarus connection, the illogical literal references, if taken literally, like a tongue, which spirits do not have, and much more.

We know this is a parable because "without a parable spake he not unto them" (Mark 4:34), referring to Jesus speaking to those who were not part of being the twelve disciples. Privately, Jesus would explain certain parables as "his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field" (Matthew 13:36). Once to Jesus, "answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable" (Matthew 15:15).

Even simple statements of Jesus were misunderstood by His own

disciples: "Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, [It is] because we have taken no bread. [Which] when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake [it] not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade [them] not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" (Matthew 16:6-12).

This helps us with another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened" (Matthew 13:33). This is not about bread making, but the influence of doctrine. But why three measures? That is where personal study, or another message comes in, because detailing the parables is not the purpose of this particular message.

In conclusion, though, parables contain symbolism, and we compare scripture with scripture (Isaiah 28:9-10) to find those hidden meanings and then they are revealed, but "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are

foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Corinthians 2:14). And a person can easily see, if they are naturally minded, or not. If they insist on immediate life after death based upon the rich man and Lazarus parable, claiming that Jesus would not have spoken in that manner if it were not true, are missing the purpose of the parable, and other parables. Besides, why would Jesus compare Himself in such a way that one steward would say, "Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed" (Matthew 25:24)? Or why would He compare Himself to being "the unjust judge" (Luke 18:6)? Or why would prayer be represented as the judge troubled by a widow who wearied him to finally hear her case (Luke 18:2-5)? There are many questionable descriptions that do not fit God, actions taken that are out of God's character, and even time events that are not when they are to happen. Again, the little details are not the focus as it is a symbolic message.

Further, when literal Lazarus was literally raised before the "brethren", what story of heaven or hell did Lazarus tell? None. But those who persist in their literal interpretation of parables will insist that Lazarus had a memory wipe when he was raised, throwing more bad doctrine after another at the Bible that teaches something different than what they have been holding onto.

But what do you see? Do you let the Bible speak for itself?



Heavenly Health

In Search of Comfort

Comfort. People are searching everywhere for comfort – well, almost everywhere. When, as children, we fall down and get hurt we immediately seek comfort, usually from mom or dad, or whoever our caretaker is at the moment. Sometimes that person would try to comfort us with something like candy or a cookie or some other reward to distract us from our discomfort and then tend to our physical wounds, if there were any. So, sometimes the comfort we receive from another person could be inappropriate. Or it just might be the wrong being we turn to for comfort, and when we seek comfort from the wrong person or place, that can cause even more hurt further along in our lives.

As we grow older, we tend to fill these comfort vacancies in our lives ourselves with many things we do not even think about, such as habits, rituals, our appearance through clothing, hair, make-up, spending money on things we do not really need “just because”, food, partying, socializing, even with the wrong people, and sometimes with all its accouterments like drinking and drugs. And along with the socializing comes adopting some of the habits of those new acquaintances; many times even from people you have never even met, say like, on social media platforms of any kind. We do not even know the majority of those whom we have labeled as friends

in those groups, which some have as many as hundreds, or even thousands!, and yet many turn to them when they want, or need advice, and many times share intimate details of their lives and family members with them. Why is that? Is it because these people have displayed infinite wisdom in all matters of life? No. Most likely it is because we have already shared enough of our life situations with them that they can predict the direction of the conversation so we are convinced they “know” and care about us. And since we have already bestowed the title of *friend* upon them, they become our confidantes – one in whom we have “full belief; trust; reliance; fully assured”, according to Webster's dictionary. After all, what are friends for?

Let us look at some other ways we might also be seeking to fill this deficit of comfort in our lives. Pets, and even inanimate objects that we form strong bonds with, such as a special teddy bear or other stuffed animal that we turned to in our childhood when we had a crisis. As adults, inherited keepsakes might fill the vacancy of the teddy bear; or any collectible items that might remind us of lost loved ones seem to be a big hit with those still searching for comfort. Certain popular holidays provide a huge comfort to multitudes, regardless of what the truth is about the history, or beginning, of that event, and the seeker knows it is not truthful, so

that adds another troubling twist – we are actually attempting to comfort ourselves with known lies, and we are OK with that. Comfort at any cost? Sadly, it would seem that way.

But how did we all get so caught up in this search for comfort which seems to run our lives, but that we do not really even recognize as such? When did we develop such a blinding deficit? Is it not like running out of gas in your vehicle and getting a red light on the dash warning us of its happening? That red light is clearly marked, so we know what it is for. So, then, are there no warning lights for running out of comfort and we have to go out searching for a fill-up somewhere, anywhere? Sometimes even in the dark?

We have no further to search, than our Bibles (Please read and study for yourself, John 14:16,26; 15:26; and 16:7), but sadly, I just learned from a quick online search that Bible ownership is dwindling:

“Recent data sheds light on the current state of Bible ownership. A 2021 report from the American Bible Society found that approximately **87% of American households** possess at least one Bible. This reflects a decrease from earlier studies where ownership rates were above 90%.”

But of that 87%, how many actually study; and of those who study, how many really get down to truth, and actually live those truths? In these truths is where we

find the comfort so many are frantically trying to discover through various decoys. We say we are Christians, but when we realize what it takes to be like Christ, we back away. He lived His life here on earth with no comfort, owning nothing, yet He loves us so much He went away so the Comforter, His Spirit, could come to us and be with us all the time, in every circumstance.

We do not need family heirlooms, or trinkets, or closets stuffed with clothing, or old worn out teddy bears from our childhoods to offer

imaginary comfort – we have already been promised authentic Comfort far beyond our understanding, from Jesus Christ our Saviour. So, what is stopping us from accepting the real Comforter? – All of the shallow sparkle and cuteness and sentimentality of the literal pile of false comforters we have put between us and our Saviour blind us from reality. It is time to give them all up to the trash heap, from which they came.

There is no way to have Heavenly Health without truth, and there is

no way to have truth while clinging to lies. It is truly time to clean house, brothers and sisters. Once we rid ourselves of the burden of the world's garbage, we will be able to find and enjoy true Comfort.

Matthew 11:29, 30, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light."



Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Vegan Custard

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups oat milk, full fat*
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar**
- 1 teaspoon pure non-alcoholic vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Whisk the plant milk and cornstarch until smooth.
2. Transfer to a medium pot and add sugar.
3. On medium heat, whisk until smooth.
4. Bring to a simmer and continue whisking for 5 minutes until thickens.

5. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla.
6. Place in a bowl with saran wrap to avoid a film.
7. Let cool.
8. If it is too thick, add 1/4-1/2 cup more oat milk.
9. Store in the refrigerator for 2-3 days.

Notes

*You may use another milk but it should be a richer milk with fat as it is best. You can use canned coconut milk but it will taste like coconut while being thicker.

**If you need to substitute the sugar, you could add a few tablespoons of pure maple syrup.

You can use coconut sugar but it will give the custard a brownish color.

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Corn starch is a ubiquitous ingredient in kitchens around the world. It is used as a thickener, a binder, and a dusting agent in countless culinary creations. It adds texture to soups, sauces, gravies, and puddings. It helps bind ingredients together in baked goods and dumplings. And it provides a crispy coating to fried foods.



# Natural Vitamins

## Benefits of Eating Rice

### General Benefits of Eating Rice

- **Good source of energy:** Rice is rich in carbohydrates, which are the body's main fuel, especially useful if you are active.
- **Naturally gluten-free:** Safe for people with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity.
- **Easy to digest:** Especially white rice, making it helpful during illness or for sensitive stomachs.
- **Low in fat and cholesterol free:** Supports heart-healthy eating when not cooked with excess fats.

### Brown Rice & Whole-Grain Rice Benefits

- **Higher in fiber:** Aids digestion, helps prevent constipation, and promotes gut health.
- **Supports heart health:** Fiber, magnesium, and antioxidants help lower cholesterol and blood pressure.

- **Helps with blood sugar control:** Slower digestion means fewer blood sugar spikes compared to white rice.
- **Rich in nutrients:** Provides B vitamins, magnesium, phosphorus, manganese, and iron.

### White Rice Benefits

- **Quick energy:** Digests faster, useful for athletes or after workouts.
- **Fortified with nutrients:** Often enriched with iron and B vitamins (like folate and thiamine).
- **Helpful during recovery:** Common in bland diets (e.g., for diarrhea or nausea).

### Specialty Rice Varieties

- **Black and red rice:** High in antioxidants (especially anthocyanins), which fight inflammation.
- **Wild rice:** Higher in protein and fiber than most white rice varieties.

### Things to Keep in Mind

- **Portion size matters:** Large servings can contribute to weight gain.
- **Blood sugar impact:** White rice has a higher glycemic index; pairing it with protein, vegetables, or healthy fats helps.
- **Arsenic content:** Rice can absorb arsenic; rinsing rice well and cooking in extra water (then draining) can reduce this.

### For Energy & Athletic Performance

- **Best choices**
  - White rice
  - Jasmine or basmati rice
- **Why**
  - Fast-digesting carbs = quick energy
  - Low fiber, so less stomach discomfort

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before or after workouts

- **Tip**
  - Pair with lean protein, like tofu
  - Ideal **post-workout** to replenish glycogen

#### For Weight Loss

- **Best choices**
  - Brown rice
  - Basmati rice
  - Wild rice
- **Why**
  - Higher fiber keeps you full longer
  - Lower glycemic impact (especially basmati)
- **Tip**
  - Stick to approximately ½ cup cooked per meal
  - Add lots of vegetables to increase volume without extra calories

#### For Blood Sugar Control / Diabetes

- **Best choices**
  - Brown basmati
  - Parboiled (converted) rice
  - Black or red rice
- **Why**
  - Slower digestion
  - Lower glycemic index than regular white rice
- **Tip**
  - Always eat with protein + healthy fat
  - Avoid large portions of short-grain white rice

#### For Heart Health

- **Best choices**
  - Brown rice
  - Red rice
  - Black rice
- **Why**
  - Fiber helps lower cholesterol

- Antioxidants support blood vessel health

- **Tip**
  - Cook with olive oil and add legumes (lentils, beans)

#### For Sensitive Stomach / Recovery

- **Best choices**
  - White rice
  - Rice porridge (congee)
- **Why**
  - Very easy to digest
  - Gentle during illness or digestive upset
- **Tip**
  - Combine with broth or soft vegetables

#### Bonus: Healthier Cooking Tips

- Rinse rice well before cooking
- Cook in extra water and drain to reduce arsenic
- Cool cooked rice and reheat later to increase **resistant starch** (good for gut health!)



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  2. *I Am Come to Deceive the Whole World*
  3. *Who Is the Real Antichrist?*
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## Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

Romans 16:19 tells of the expectation of a Christian after they “believe”: “For your obedience is come abroad unto all [men]. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.” So, do you live the holy life in obedience, doing that which is good and avoiding evil?

John 17:19 states, “And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.” So, is the truth, God’s Word sanctifying you, making you holy, or are you enjoying the entertainment of the world, being influenced into a lifestyle acceptable to society, etc.?

Luke 21:36 states, “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.” Again, Jesus tells us to “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation” (Matthew 26:41). To live a life watching out for temptation and praying for strength to resist it, is not only worthy of escaping the clutches of sin and Satan to stand before Jesus at the end of one’s life, as a saved being, but is the expected holy lifestyle of a Christian. So, are you watching and praying to avoid giving in to temptation, or are you simply careless, thinking it does not matter if you do, or do not?

Matthew 22:37-40 says, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” The Ten Commandments were not replaced by us now simply going by feeling of love for God and love for our neighbor, of which kind acts are usually mistaken for love. These two commandments are a summary of the Ten. To love God, we are expected to keep the first four commandments, even if we do not feel like it. The way we love our neighbors is by obeying the last six commandments. Upon baptism, none of us are automatically endowed with how to love. We were born selfish. Kind acts can be used to achieve selfish desires, so we have the Bible and the commandments to teach us to surrender our selfishness and be filled with true love, which is the holy lifestyle. So, do you truly love according to the Bible, or do you go on perceived love?

Luke 24:47 says, “And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” Repentance of sins means sorrow for sinning, and effort to stop. Remission is a synonym regarding the action of stopping the sinning. And this is the true gospel message as it was the last words spoken after the

resurrection, and before ascending. So, are you living the holy life through repenting and remission of sins?

John 17:23 says, “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” To be made perfect is to have Christ in us, so that means that all of the people that claim to have Christ, but choose to allow the imperfection of sin into their lives are lying. To truly have Christ in us is to live the holy and sanctified life. So, is Christ really in you, or do you just claim He is in you while you make allowance for sin, which is the opposite of what the Bible teaches (Romans 13:14)?

Romans 16:25 says, “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.” That power is “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3). So, to be stablished according to the gospel is to be living in godliness, which is being holy, which is called sanctification. So, are you stablished in the power of the gospel to live a godly life, or do you excuse sin in your life as being normal and a typical lifestyle?

## ***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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**I Am Come to  
Deceive the  
Whole World**

**the agenda is already upon us and increasing in intensity.**

**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**

Matthew 23:12 says, "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." That means, every Christian sports player that ever says, "We are number one", or "I am the best", is not a true Christian. Even Christian celebrities tend to exalt themselves. In other words, it is not really possible to become famous and yet stay humble. Somewhere along the line, that person will exalt himself. It is part of climbing the ladder to fame. But are you careful to live the holy lifestyle in humility, or do you brag about achievements in your life?

Matthew 24:42 says, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Whenever Jesus says "watch", He means, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak" (Matthew 26:41). Remember, giving in to temptation is sin (Hebrews 4:15), and "the soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). Therefore, to be watching oneself to avoid temptations and giving into temptations is living the holy lifestyle. So, are you watching out for temptations, or do you figure that it really does not matter because you are saved anyways, permitting yourself to be careless in life without eternal consequences?

There are four stories that Jesus tells at the end of Matthew 24, and all of Matthew 25. Everyone is expected from the converted heart to be doing something

(Matthew 24:46). And those ministers that do not believe in works, not works of earning but works as in fruit, will attack the true followers of Jesus and live worldly lives (Matthew 24:49). The Ten virgins have a proper filling of the Holy Spirit as the “word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105). The servants with the talents are not to bury their talents in the earth or worldly living but use them to spread the gospel. The

sheep are faithfully tending to the needs of those who are needing help, while the goats are selfish. All four of these messages reveal the expected holy and sanctified lifestyle of a true Christian. So, are you avoiding getting caught up in worldly activities, are in God’s Word daily, looking for souls to win, and helping those in need?

Matthew 26:41 says, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into

temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak.” Temptation to fall asleep is not worth receiving the caution of “the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh is weak”. Yes, the disciples fell asleep while Jesus prayed three times, but temptation is about what the devil does to draw people away from God and is called sin. He dangles sin in a tempting manner. And sin brings consequences: “the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel

## Who Is the Real Antichrist?

### Who Is the Real Antichrist?



*All of the people and even an object at one point or another has been labeled as being the antichrist, but what does the Bible really reveal?*

- This book walks through Daniel, Matthew, Thessalonians, 1st & 2nd John, and Revelation along with many other books of the Bible gathering **over 80 identifying marks** of who the antichrist is making it the most comprehensive book on the topic to ever poses.
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18:4). The notion that temptation does not exist for Christians because they are saved, is a lie from Satan so as to cancel out the need to watch and pray. Jesus taught that “he that endureth to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 10:22), and not beforehand. So, are you living the holy lifestyle watching and praying to not enter into temptation, or are you careless in your lifestyle, risking loss of eternal life?

Matthew 28:20 says, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.” To observe is to obey the teachings. That teaching that is to be observed is the holy and sanctified life. So, are you

observing the Christian character that should have been taught to you, or has that teaching been hidden from you that may cost you your eternal life?

We have completed 703 postings of verses that point to the expectation that true Christians are not saved by just having Jesus forgive us of our sins upon our belief, but there is something called sanctification. It is the fitting up, making us holy so that we can live with beings who have never sinned. So, why are the vast majority of Christian preachers hiding 703 verses and stories of the Bible that show “the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Romans 1:16), and are not just a generic gospel. Even Paul stated, “our gospel

came not unto you in word only, but also in power” (1 Thessalonians 1:5), which Peter says that the power is “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:3-4). So, do you just listen to a gospel message, or the powerful gospel message that gives real victory over every sin?

*This will also end this section of the publication.*



## Questions & Answers

### Question:

Did God make the dinosaurs?

### Answer:

Evidence appears to be clear that dinosaurs indeed walked the earth unless the grandest of all satanic illusions has been taking place these so many centuries, as the large creatures that God buried have been, and are being, unearthed.

The Bible says, in regarding Jesus, “All things were made by him; and

without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3).

Could humans have cross-bred creatures? If that is the case, the creatures used were still originally created by God.

### Question:

Can you explain how God talked with Abraham on several occasions but did not speak to him regarding Hagar?

### Answer:

And let us add onto the question by another example or two – With David so close to God, why did God not tell David about the sins of polygamy? The same is true with Solomon and his choices for multiple wives.

In all honesty, we only have a guess, because the Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible do not reveal specific reasons why God did not warn these and others of their steps in the wrong directions. Now, this guess is based upon some principles we have in the Bible:

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil” (Ecclesiastes 8:11). “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment” (John 16:8). “And after the earthquake a fire; [but] the LORD [was] not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12).

By the power of the Holy Spirit, people are prompted to know what sin is and turn, like Joseph. They are prompted with the righteous path and “not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape” (1 Corinthians 10:13). But that is just it, we need to take the escape path. We need to declare, “how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9). Noah certainly did not take the escape path when he focused upon the depressing scene after the flood by getting drunk, and God certainly did not prevent it from happening, either. There was no voice, or restriction, whatsoever.

Unfortunately, many times, our mind quiets the Spirit so that we do not hear the soft voice, and we persist to the conclusion of the evil at hand seeking after the goal. Sometimes, we are so very justified in our good intentions that we do not hear the voice of God in those situations, either. God is not going to erect a brick wall, write on a wall, or even cause thunder to be heard on every action. He is going to prompt, and yes, in Abraham’s

case, it was very much audible in his relationship. I am certain that Abraham did not do everything absolutely perfectly.

Just as when we were converted, there was a learning curve, so Abraham was allowed to make his own mistakes. If, God pointed out every evil way in our lives instantly, we would not be able to handle it. Growing in grace is not instant. Sanctification is not instant, but a work of growth. “For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come” (Mark 4:28-29). That does not mean we continue sinning and it takes a lifetime to remove the sin, it means as we shed one sinful practice, it leads to shedding the next and the next. Light becomes brighter and brighter as we move closer and closer to the source. However, if we had it all revealed at once, it would be like coming out of a cave where we had spent days inside and walking right out into the noon-time, cloudless sky, facing the sun. We would be instantly blinded.

Remember, Abraham did not come from a perfect environment. He had a lot of learning to do and a lot to undo, and sometimes we learn best from mistakes. Unfortunately, the consequences can be long term.

People who used to use God and Jesus as curse words, quickly learn that saying the four-letter words are also unbecoming of a Christian. Then they learn about euphemisms, which is the kinder way of saying the same four-letter

words. Those, too, will be removed. Then they find out using everyday words inappropriately is also to be removed, like “oh, sugar”. Finally, they realize that getting upset over non-spiritual things, like every-day accidents, things not going as planned, etc., is the root to be dealt with. Most new Christians do not go right for the root of their sins right away due to blindness. They learn step-by-step until they make the crossover from looking at the fruit, to addressing the root, stopping the eyes from being on the physical results, to looking spiritually deeper.

So, in Abraham’s case, both Sarah and Abraham reasoned together and talked themselves into the situation. They probably discussed for a while until they were both convinced that such was in God’s plans, just like many Christians fail to see the superstition in their practices today, but think they are doing God service.

Therefore, despite the audible conversation, God did not speak daily to Abraham and prevent every single sin, even though this was a pretty bad sin. Just as children learn from mistakes, some sinful, a parent cannot be following their child around preventing every single wrong choice, especially as they enter into teenage years. Can you imagine going with them wherever they go, every day, all day? The same was with the relationship between God and Abraham, though God did go, He did not thunder every right step and decision for Abraham.



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

## Come Out of Babylon

1. What are people called to come out of?  
**Revelation 18:1-4**
2. If we are not guided by God, what state are we in then?  
**Psalms 71:1**
3. How have people entered into such a state because they are unable to endure?  
**First half of 2 Timothy 4:3**
4. What type of teachers do these people turn to?  
**End of 2 Timothy 4:3**
5. What two things are these false teachers expected to speak or teach?  
**End of Isaiah 30:10**
6. Seeing that these teachers have the easy gospel, what does the

congregation deny?  
**2 Timothy 3:1-5**

7. What is that item that they are denying?  
**2 Peter 1:3**
8. What would such power allow them to escape?  
**2 Peter 1:4**
9. In listening to the true gospel, what does such an item lead to?  
**Romans 1:16**
10. Having victory over worldly attractions and activities acknowledges who to be greater?  
**1 John 4:4**

## Answers for January 2026

### Jesus' Words Are Spiritual and Not Literal

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

## parables"

2. What did Jesus tell the Jews to spiritually do? **John 2:19** "Destroy this temple"
3. But what did Jesus mean literally? **John 2:21** "his body"
4. Who spiritually sowed good seed? **Matthew 13:24** "a man"
5. Who really is the sower of the Word of God? **Matthew 13:37** "Son of man"
6. Who spiritually sowed spiritual tares? **Matthew 13:25** "his enemy"
7. Who literally are the tares? **Matthew 13:38** "the wicked [one]"
8. Who literally inspires people to be wicked and attack God's Word? **Matthew 13:39** "the devil"
9. During what spiritual time were the tares to be separated from the wheat? **Matthew 13:30** "the time of harvest"
10. What time did Jesus say it literally will be for the separation? **End of Matthew 13:40** "the end of this world"



# News and Comments

November 30

## People

### **Bride-to-Be Cheats on Fiancé During Bachelorette, Then Blames Sober Friend for Not Stopping Her**

The article has two main wrong thoughts being exercised, and prevalent even among Christians. Yes, a drunk bride-to-be engaged in activity she should not have done, and would not have done, probably, if sober. However, to turn around and blame others for her own poor choices is on her, and is not a friend's responsibility. Christians cannot claim, "The devil made me do it!" The second item is that one person, in the after discussion, said to let the bride-to-be alone, for it was her

last night to have fun. How wrong of a thought that is, yet many Christians fall into the same trap. "Oh, I see and believe that truth, but let me have one last enjoyment before committing to it." It is the same principle. There is no wonder why we do not know the day or hour of Christ's return, or our own personal death. If we did, we would sin right up to the end before becoming holy. So, with a marriage to be entered into, to say, "Let me enjoy myself before making the commitment official" shows the lack of actual true commitment that should have been made beforehand. The ceremony just makes it official, but in the eyes of the beholder and God, that commitment,

especially after agreeing to get married, should have already been entered into. Anything short of that is adultery, and grounds for separation, which, as the groom, in this case, has the right to move on, and away from this foolish woman. Though he has the right, that does not mean he has to exercise it, but would not be wrong to exercise it. Thank God that God is very merciful, but there is a limit, especially when we try "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness" (Jude 1:4), which is using grace to allow sinning. Let us not be found cheating on our husband, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2).



# Natural Remedies

## **Tired, Hurting Feet?**

What do foot-friendly shoes look and feel like? They are comfortable, with no pressure on the joints, pinching on the sides or slippage at the heel. "They should be wide, have a toe box with enough space for the toes, be

made of a breathable material, such as leather or canvas, and ideally have a heel no higher than 2.5 centimeters," says Emma McConnachie, who works with the Royal College of Podiatry in London, U.K. "Shoes with laces

that come up over the middle of the foot will provide the best kind of support."



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