

ACTS

ADVOCATING CHRIST THE SAVIOR

DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011



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ACTS

ADVOCATING CHRIST THE SAVIOR

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Statement of Beliefs:

1. The Bible to be the inspired Word of God, God the Father is the supreme Deity, Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, and the Holy Spirit is the promised Comforter.
2. In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ; His virgin birth; His sinless life; His miracles; His vicarious and atoning death; His bodily resurrection late on the Sabbath day; His ascension to the right hand of God in heaven; and His personal return to establish His kingdom and rule this earth in great power and glory.
3. The only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus and obedience to our Lord's command to be baptized (immersed) in the Name of Christ for the remission of sins.
4. That by faith we may receive healing for our bodies.
5. The Scriptures enjoin the observance of the Ten Commandments, including the observance of the Seventh Day Sabbath (commonly called Saturday) to be observed from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday.
6. The Lord's Supper and foot washing should be observed once a year at the proper and appointed time.
7. In the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, the just to eternal life and the unjust to eternal death.
8. The dead are in a state of no consciousness.
9. The true church organization taught in the Bible is local autonomy and that the Bible name for the church is THE CHURCH OF GOD.
10. That the tests of Christian fellowship are the Commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.



Greetings in Christ! I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I had a great first Thanksgiving spending time with my new family and getting to know each of them better. It's great to spend time with family, and more and more, I feel that each of you are a part of my family.

And we are all part of the family of God, but even more than just recognizing that fact, I have gotten to know several of you better through letters we have received. Thank you for telling us that you appreciated a specific article or subject. I have made it a point to try to write each one of you back, personally, although some of the letters sit unaddressed right now. Receiving those letters warms my heart and helps me know that the Word is getting out and touching people through the *ACTS*. Thank you! I hope you all continue to write in and let us know how we are doing, and how *ACTS* is helping you.

This month, we have some important topics to discuss. Our world is changing and has changed so drastically but through a mountain of subtle changes leading us away from God-fearing attitudes and actions, to Godless communication in our daily lives. Both articles speak about these changes, looking at it from different angles.

Ken Walker takes us right to the root of the problem and lays out the effects of living godlessly in his article "*The World in a Spin*." He shows us the cause-and-effect relationship between how the world lives and the way God disciplines the world. We must make sure we are not part of the world and be careful to not fall in the common behaviors that Ken lists in his article.

Aaron Henderson writes his article about one of the common websites for people of all ages: *Facebook.com*. He states that it is harder to tell the difference between Christian's and Non-Christian's because it is an area that most of us do not allow God to shine through us. He says it could be one of the greatest tools for encouragement and evangelism if we used it that way. We need to be sure to have God in everything we do.

I hope you enjoy these articles as much as I did; they really made me stop and think about my daily actions and interactions with others. Hope it does the same for you!

God bless and I hope to hear from you soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Moore'.

Craig Moore, Editor of *ACTS* Magazine



THE WORLD IN A SPIN

By Ken Walker

In the March issue of the *Acts* magazine we began to look at the issue of "*Cause and Effect*." We specifically looked at some of the social issues that we are seeing in our modern society and the root cause of the problem. "*Cause and Effect*" covers all areas of life including our everyday language. Our society has created new words and redefined old words. New words would include words such as nature-deficit disorder, mouse potato and psychache.

A redefined term is "*SPIN*." When something is in a spin we would normally think of something twirling or twisting. Now we have created a new twist on the old term, spin. In modern usage when I put a "*spin*" on something, it means that I use my thoughts and words to influence the listener's thoughts and conclusions. Right or wrong has nothing to do with the facts that are dealt with. If we are putting a spin on a subject the only thing that matters is to get the audience to come to the conclusion that we want them to reach. We say that this is "*putting a spin on it*." In our minds this makes it all right even if it makes the people believe in a lie.

If we simply said that what we are doing is lying and making people believe in a lie, that would be unacceptable to most people. Therefore, we use the term "*Spin*" and that seems to make lying acceptable to us as a society. Lying is even glorified to the point that someone who is very good at lying (twisting the facts) is called a "*spin doctor*." To a Christian nation, that should be very disturbing to see that lying is socially acceptable.

However this is not new. A study of history will show us that men have used this technique to dominate societies and religions for centuries. Take religion for example. Power-hungry men have realized for thousands of years that if they can control religion, they can control the people. Consequently throughout the centuries many men have put their own spin on the Scriptures that were given to us by God. This has created many false religions and false Christ's, and we are affected today, right here and right now.

Our society is ripe for this kind of manipulation. We have become addicted to instant and easy gratification. In practical terms this means that we want to be able to get all of our information quickly by simply looking at the television or computer screen. This way we can be fed our information quickly without having to work for it. This philosophy has a very serious side effect. Since this philosophy is now basic to our society we also use this instant gratification desire when we want to learn about God. With no deep study, prayer and meditation to verify facts about doctrines and scriptures, we become easy targets for the crafty "*seducer of men*" (See 1 Timothy 4:1).

The instant gratification philosophy might work in some instances. However, it does not work with the study of God's words and doctrines. God said that we must learn a little here and a little there and build upon a solid foundation. Jesus told us this fact in Matthew 18:3 "*...Except ye be converted, and BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN, YE SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.*" Jesus taught His disciples this same fact. The Apostle Peter tells us, "*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that YE MAY GROW thereby.*"

We understand that children learn as they grow up. They do not come from their mother's womb spouting Einstein's, Theory of Relativity or Newton's, Law of Gravity. This comes through study. It takes time. We do not know and understand Algebra without learning to count first. This takes time. Time spent in study is the key statement here.

Isaiah 28:9-10 explains to us that this is exactly how God teaches us. "*Precept must be upon precept, line upon line... here a little and there a little.*" If this is how God teaches us then this is more than a suggestion. It is a requirement! The New Testament tells us "*to study to show ourselves approved unto God*" 2 Timothy 2:15. Would that scripture perhaps indicate that there is disapproval if we do not spend time studying?

"We must GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE" and this requires time (1 Peter 2:2 & 2 Peter 3:17-18). Notice that **time** is always a constant factor. Sadly, many people are not willing to commit their time to God. The true child of God understands that salvation is a life long commitment and a process with no shortcuts. In Matthew 7:21 Jesus tells us that only those who "*DO THE WILL OF THE FATHER*" (God) will enter into eternal life in the Kingdom of God! There are no shortcuts and this thought does not set well with our modern society.



In our fast paced society it can be difficult to find the time for deep study and meditation. Our modern society has bound us up in economic slavery. This is one of Satan's tools to keep us away from a relationship with God. Seven times Jesus said to us in Revelation 2 and 3 that the Kingdom of God will belong to those people that overcome this world and its problems. We all realize that our society is different than the society that Jesus lived in, but sin and the plan of salvation have never changed. The plan of salvation is the same now as it was in Jesus' time on earth and as it was at creation when it started.

Societies and lives do change with the shifting sands of time. In our present lifetime, technology has accelerated change to an almost daily occurrence. Changes are now coming towards us at a blinding speed. This was prophesied in Daniel 12:4. However, change is not always good.

We need and should desire consistency. For example, there is great comfort in Malachi 3:6. "*For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*" If God changed His mind or altered His word then we would all suffer the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah immediately. I am glad that God is consistent and never changes His mind as some modern Theologians have suggested to us. The same fact holds

true for our Savior Jesus Christ, "...the same yesterday, and today, and forever..." Hebrews 13:8. I am thankful that Jesus never changes. When this fact is understood then we know that the Covenant that Jesus sealed between God and us for our salvation can never, ever be changed. The plan of salvation was completed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I realize that many modern theologians are trying to teach and convince us that Christ changed the Covenant through Paul. However, I take great comfort in the fact that this same Paul taught us exactly how a Covenant functions. He said, "*Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, (testament) yet if it be confirmed, (by death), NO MAN disannulleth, or addeth thereto*" Galatians 3:15. Here we have God's unbreakable promise to us that the Holy Covenant of my, and your, plan of salvation can NEVER BE CHANGED or altered by any preacher, teacher, or theologian. It does not matter how many letters or titles that the theologian has behind his name.

Modern theologians teach us of an easy grace, a changed (and therefore changeable) Covenant, and a "*trust your own instincts*" relationship with God. With that kind of teaching is it any wonder that we have a confused generation of people claiming the Name of Jesus and going in a multitude of different directions, with each person claiming the truth of God? When we understand that fact it should not surprise us to see the growing number of agnostics and unbelievers pointing and saying, "See, I told you that there was no God that cares for us. God is just a figment of your imagination."

Many honest people claim to be Christians and read the Bible regularly. They believe, and rightly so, that it is God's revealed word to mankind. They believe that the words that are revealed in the Scriptures are alive and are meant to help us in our lives. This is also very true. In the Bible they read over and over how God spoke to His people throughout many different generations. "And God said" is repeated over and over again in the pages of the Bible to many different people covering literally thousands of years. With this great witness and testimony that we have from the Bible why is it that many people that claim to be Christians, live their lives today as though they believe that God cannot and does not talk to His people and still direct them today?

We now have a generation of believers in God, and there are many honest believers who have come to make decisions on their own without serious prayer and meditation in God's word for direction. They ask God to validate what they have already decided in their own minds. This confused generation of believers will pray, "Lord if this is not your will then stop me," and then march forward. The trouble is that they are usually marching to the beat of their own drum. Then when they invariably end up with their life in a mess, God gets the blame and the black eye and quite possibly loses another soul. Absolutely everybody must be taught this fact. To be a Christian means to let God have total control of our lives. This means that every aspect of our lives must be given to God.

Jesus showed us by example what God demands of our lives. We are to give the Father full control of our lives. Jesus said in John 5:30 "...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father..." Jesus' example for us goes farther for He told us in John 7:16-17 "...My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. If any man will do His (God's) will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." In John 12:49 Jesus tells us "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." In these passages, and many others, we find a clear teaching that we are to let God control our words and actions. The one and only begotten Son of God showed us by word and example what we must do. Jesus then told us to follow Him and His example. Should we do any less?

Choices, choices

Why would God want full control of His people? The answer is found in Jeremiah 10:23. "Oh LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Only God knows the way to safety and salvation for us. Only God knows the future and how to bring us into His Eternal Kingdom. Only God can perform the miracles that are needed to overcome the impossible situations that confront us in life's journey.

Look at our Old Testament pattern, Israel. They are our example to learn from as the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:1-11. God called His children (you and I)

out of Egypt, baptized them and headed them towards the Promised Land. You and I are on our journey to the Promised Land now. Israel found itself in a situation where they had no control at all. They were totally dependent upon God for everything, right down to the daily necessities of food, water, clothes and direction. With no food or water his or her survival was totally dependant upon God. Their destination was a problem since they had no maps or compasses. They were told of a "Promised Land" but could not see it. Israel did not comprehend what was happening.

They were so busy whining and complaining about their circumstances they could not see that God was teaching them about faith. Faith is necessary in our walk with God because without faith it is impossible to please God as Hebrews 11:6 tells us. Israel faced trials that they could not understand and tests that were beyond their strength and their physical ability. God led them through each of their trials. Israel could then look back and see (if they wanted to) how God protected and cared for them in every way. That is how we learn to trust in God. No matter what society we live in, we learn to trust in God by watching Him work in our lives. Israel was no different.



At that time the world was full of lawlessness. The world had rejected the God of creation and was SERVING ITS OWN IDEAS OF A GOD THAT PLEASED THEM. There was a great need for a shining example of faith and love to illuminate a very dark world. If Israel was going to be a shining light then Israel had to learn faith and obedience. The world needed to see a people under the full authority of a God of love. The world needed to see a people that trusted in God with every aspect of their lives completely. Therefore Israel, to learn this, had to be put into situations that they could not control. The trials that Israel faced, they could not handle by themselves. They had no knowledge or strength to deal with what their situation required.

God was building a living faith within them so that there would be no doubt when they came to the walls of Jericho

for example. God builds a living, growing faith in all of His children. Without faith in God how can we overcome this world? If we do not see God helping us in the little things then how can we have enough faith to trust God in the large trials that we might have to confront?

"If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"
Jeremiah 12:5.

Life here on earth is one long series of trials that we must overcome with our faith through God's help. Hebrews 10:38-39 explains to us, "...the Just shall live by faith..." This scripture means that we live in God NOW, and then ETERNALLY, through our faith.

Israel was to be God's witnesses of His grace, mercy, and boundless love to the entire world. Israel was surrounded by nations that created their own gods and religions. The gods of those other nations could not feed, water, love, communicate and protect, those who worshiped them. God wanted a difference in His people that the world could see at a glance. God's plan was for Israel to be a shining light to the world around them. Israel was not to worship in any way, shape, or form, like the people in the nations around them.

Israel was to show to the world a God that did love, feed and protect His people. The world was to see a God that communicated and PERSONALLY directed His people on their journey through this present world. The people around Israel were to see in Israel a God that answered prayers and provided for the needs of His people. The world was to see that some man did not make Israel's God out of wood and stone. The world was to see that Israel's God was alive and very real.

Just before his death Moses again explained the purpose of his rules and God's Laws to Israel.

"Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS...For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon Him for?" Deuteronomy 4:6, 7.

The plan worked. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness to get rid of the people who rebelled against God, we find the following testimony of the success of God's plan. Rahab, the harlot, by her faith saved herself and all of her family because she had heard of the living God and His miracles *and believed*. They were the only ones from Jericho that lived in the fall of the city. Rahab said in Joshua 2:11:

"And as soon as we had HEARD THESE THINGS, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you (Israel): for the LORD YOUR GOD, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath"
Read the account in Joshua 2:8-21 and 6:25.

This is still the way that God deals with His people and the world around them. Christians are supposed to be under God's full authority and control. Christians are to be God's bright light shining into a very, very dark world. In this life we face trials that we cannot survive without the miracle of God's divine deliverance. We face troubles that we cannot survive in our own strength. Christians are to be examples of God's love and mercy in the face of adversity. The world needs to see a people that are protected, loved and cared for by a living, loving God. The world needs to see in us, the light of God's love and deliverance when we are in the middle of the insurmountable trials that we face at times.

Is the world seeing God's divine plan in us, or are they seeing a group of people that claim to be children of God, and yet they go on living and acting in every



way the same as everyone around them? Is there no difference? Are Christians living the same life, after claiming the name of Christ that they lived before being saved? Are we going to fail to enter into God's Kingdom because of unbelief just as Israel failed because of their unbelief (Hebrews 3:19)? Remember that Israel had to wander for forty years until the people that did not believe died. What was left was a nation that believed in God.

We have choices to make as a nation and individuals because God made a promise to us. Jesus is coming back again very soon to rule here on earth for 1,000 years. Time as we know it will end. The picture that is prophesied for this world as we face Armageddon and go into the Kingdom Age is not very pretty. It will be a world wide catastrophic event (Revelation 11:15-19 and 19:19-21 and 22:14). The world will never be the same after that. That is God's promise to every man, woman and child that has ever lived.

A NATION UNGLUED

Most readers know that the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that the 10 Commandments cannot be displayed in government buildings and that includes courtrooms and courthouses. Judge Roy Bean made a very public fight to keep the 10 Commandments displayed but the United States of America soundly defeated him. We should ask ourselves, what does this have to do with an average person like me?

First, we need to understand some basic facts about the 10 Commandments. They are God's eternal Covenant Law. The 10 Commandments are God's Holy Constitution. They give us rights and freedoms. The 10 Commandments are also one of the requirements for our salvation. Jesus taught this fact in Matthew 19:16-19. A man asked Jesus how he could obtain eternal life (salvation). Jesus answered him directly in verse 17 when He said "*...if thou wilt enter into life, keep the Commandments.*" Jesus was speaking of the 10 Commandments as the next verses plainly tell us.

God wants us to have eternal life (2 Peter 3:9). To help us receive this gift of salvation God personally writes the code of conduct that is required for our salvation in our brand new heart that He also gave to us. All of this is part of the terms of the New Covenant that Jesus put in place at Calvary. Hebrews 8:10 and 2 Corinthians 3:3 tells us that God writes the 10 Commandments in the "*new heart*" that we receive from Him when we are saved. God has always been and will always be our ever-present help in our time of need.

Jesus was teaching us how to enter into eternal life through the New Covenant when He told us that we must be born again (John 3:3). To be born again is a requirement of the New Covenant just like repentance

is. Our old life of sin and sinful ways must stop. Our old life of sin is crucified with Christ as Romans 6:6 tells us. This happens when we become saved in Christ through repentance. We must never forget that our salvation process begins with repentance and ends with the salvation of our souls at the 2nd coming of Christ (1 Peter 1:7-9).

Let us look at our salvation process as God describes it for us. Just as Christ rose from the dead so do we rise to newness of life (Romans 6:4). When we leave our old man of sin buried in Christ's death, we are born-again in Christ. We now have a new life. The old man of sin is gone. When we are born-again we become a new creation in Christ with a new heart and mind (2 Corinthians 5:17-18). God then installs in our brand new heart the code of conduct that is required in the Kingdom of God. The God of love does all of this for us to help us to overcome the sin of this world.

Is the world seeing God's
divine plan in us,
or are they seeing a group
of people that just claim
to be children of God???

As a code of conduct, the Ten Commandments are to be obeyed in this world that we now live in and in the world to come. The 10 Commandments will never change in any way, shape or form. They are eternal. In this world the 10 Commandments define what sin is. We find this in Romans 3:20 & 4:15 & 7:7 & 1 John 3:4. Since the 10 Commandments also define righteousness and holiness as God defines it, then we understand that the 10 Commandments also tell us how everyone WILL act in the Kingdom of God that is to come.

Obedience to the 10 Commandments also fulfills the "TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS" of love (Romans 13:8-10). This is a very important point that Jesus emphasized. Jesus explicitly told us in Matthew 5:17 that He did not come to destroy, or to do away with, the Law.

Our proof that this is an extremely important point that Jesus emphasized is found in the teachings of the Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul testifies to us that he was the LAST APOSTLE to see Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:8, 9). Since Paul was not one of the original apostles that lived and learned at the feet of Jesus how did he learn so much? Jesus personally taught Paul. Listen to Paul's testimony in Galatians 1:11, 12. *"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but BY THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST."*

What was the doctrine that Jesus taught directly to the Apostle Paul? *"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."* Just so that there is no confusion over what Law that Paul was talking about listen to the Apostle clarify what he means in Romans 13:8-10.

"Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. (What Law?) For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE LAW."

It cannot get any plainer than that.

If God's 10 Commandment Law were done away with at Calvary, as we are currently told by modern theology, then we also have no sin in this world. Romans 4:15 makes a very plain statement that if there is no Law then there is no sin. That statement should make us ask the question, "If there is no sin in this world then why do we hear about so much murder, rape, robbery, adultery, slander etc.?"

The Bible very clearly explains that sin came into this world with the first man Adam (Romans 5:18-19). That means that God's 10 Commandments came in at creation also (1 John 3:4). The Bible also tells us that sin will be here until death is swallowed up in the victory of the eternal Kingdom of God that Jesus brings at His 2nd coming (Revelation 22:12 and 1 Corinthians 15:54-57). God gave us His holy 10 Commandment Law to help us

in many ways. If they are obeyed they will also keep our societies from self-destructing. When we look around at our Nation now, we can see that it is in the process of self-destruction. As a Nation we have thrown God away and ignored His Law. God's 10 Commandment Law is as fixed in this universe as the Law of Gravity is. We can deny that neither the 10 Commandment Law nor the Law of Gravity will ever affect us, but that does not do away with the consequences of disobedience to either law.

As an example to illustrate this, the Empire State Building is a grand piece of historic American real estate that stands 1,472 feet tall. If you should choose to climb to the top of the Empire State building in New York City and jump off, you could deny the fact that you are under the Law of Gravity and that it does not affect your life in any way shape or form for about 9½ seconds. Then you will absolutely suffer the consequences of such a rash decision. It does not matter whether you want to believe or not. You can deny the validity of the Law of Gravity all you want. The consequences of disobedience are there and in the case of God's Covenant Law the consequences are just as real and they are eternal.

What that simple illustration tells us is that any laws that God put into effect at creation are binding on us. With all of the knowledge and scientific discoveries that we have been making recently we are not able to change a single one of God's scientific laws that were put into effect at creation. Every "new" discovery or "creation" that man makes is made by using something that God has already created and placed here on the earth for our use. All we do is mix God's



different materials in different ways. Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 tells us that there is nothing new under the Sun. Space travel is a good example. The only way that we can shoot a rocket accurately into space to a far distant planet is that we know that the laws of this Universe that God created do not change. This is a fact that scientists depend

on constantly. We know years in advance exactly where a planet, like Mars will be. If we can't change the laws of science, then why do we think that we can change God's eternal moral Law, the 10 Commandments? All of God's laws are unchangeable.

Our unbelief does not alter God's holy Law, the 10 Commandments. The only difference with disobedience to God's 10 Commandments is that we have a longer period of time to wait before we suffer the consequences of our rash decision. Our life span is a lot longer than the approximately 9½ seconds that it takes to fall from the Empire State Building. We have a choice to make. If we choose not to believe in God's 10 Commandment Law the consequences of our decision, of whether to obey or not, will be given to us at judgment day. That fact is certain. It is a promise from God. Revelation 20:11-13.

THE RULE OF LAW

There are ungodly forces in this world, and specifically within our society, which have rejected God and everything about Him. Is it any wonder that they have used the courthouse to further their agenda? Our courthouses are the ultimate place where laws are enforced. Our courthouses are a symbol of law and order. Our courthouses are complete down to the judgment seat where justice should be rendered. Therefore, it becomes a victory for the anti-God forces to have God ejected from the courthouse. Think of the symbolism. God is ejected from the room that contains the judgment seat.

America uses sandblasting companies and other methods to erase the unchangeable law of God and any mention of God's name where ever they are engraved in stone or concrete around government funded properties. The same 10 Commandment Law that we are trying to erase from stone was once written in stone by the very finger of God. What a statement by our modern "Christian (?)" society that the 10 Commandments are now erased from stone by the laws of man. Does "man" think God has been over-powered and over-ruled? Since God is to be removed from our schools, textbooks, and government buildings by the laws of man, does that make man supreme?

Many well-meaning Christian people are accepting this action. It seems natural to them because they are taught that "we are not under the Law of Moses now, we are under Christ." The Clergymen teach that God's 10 Commandments are simply a part of the Law of Moses so this makes Moses the mediator of the 10 Commandments. However, Moses was not the mediator of the 10 Commandments, as we will show. That puts an entirely different "spin" on the situation.

There was no mediator between God and the people when God shared the 10 Commandments with Israel. Read it yourself in Exodus 20:18-21. Notice that after the people heard God's voice speak the 10 Commandments to them, they were scared. They told Moses to go and talk to God. The people did not want God to talk to them directly again. Moses did as the people asked and went into the thick darkness where God was (Verse 21). At this time Moses received the written version of the words that God had already spoken to Israel.

When God gave the 10 Commandments personally to the children of Israel, it was God's personal Covenant with the children of Israel. The Law of Moses came later. There was nothing or nobody between God and the people when God gave His Covenant Law, the 10 Commandments. Moses was an observer and a listener just like everyone else. God wanted Moses to get the people ready as chapter 19 tells us, but when God spoke His Covenant Law, the 10 Commandments, Moses was a servant just like everyone else. That is an important point for us to understand. There was no mediator between God and the children of Israel when God spoke the 10 Commandments. The Mosaic Laws came after God gave Israel His Covenant Law.

Moses reminded Israel of this fact in Deuteronomy 4:12, 13. Moses was soon going to die so he was trying to prepare the people to carry on, "*trust God and go into the Promised Land.*" This is what Moses said:

"And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And He (God) DECLARED UNTO YOU HIS COVENANT, which he commanded you to perform, EVEN TEN COMMANDMENTS; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone."

(continued on page 15)

Words of Jesus Ministry

Yesterday I watched as a neighbor attempted to teach his toddler son that a hot object should be respected. Several times he said, "That is hot" while steering the toddler away from the barbecue pan.

In Hebrews 5 it tells us the milk is for those who have accepted Jesus as Savior. They knew of His love, His grace toward them making knowledge of "hot" actions unnecessary.

We look forward to the time we shall naturally show the love and grace Jesus lived and taught but as long as we fail to walk that perfect way we need some milk to help us compare our actions and attitudes. There are many stages of maturity experienced by each Christian and the mature do not brag.

Humility does not excuse us from recognizing our Savior's approval. Maturity can be examined when placed alongside of three commandments: 1) Love the Father with all you are and have. 2) Love your neighbor as yourself. 3) Love each Christian as Jesus loves you.

Love for the Heavenly Father will cause a Christian to embrace and use the first four of the Ten Commandments as important guidelines for life, and love for the Heavenly Father and neighbors will cause a Christian to embrace and use the last seven of the Ten Commandments as important instructions for life. Love for fellow Christians will cause a Christian to study, cherish and use our Savior's words in the quest for the direction of the Holy Spirit. For any of us which exhibit less than perfect behavior, let us keep our Savior's word in mind that we may see the "hot-do not touch" issues the world around us offers.

We sincerely hope each of you is accepting and witnessing of all that Jesus offers.

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"And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding"
Daniel 2:21. NKJV

The Lord's Supper Service



will be after sundown
April 17th, 2011



What's the Difference?

By Aaron Henderson

Lately it has become apparent I am having a harder time distinguishing between Christians and Non-Christians. You may wonder what I am referring to. Let me use one example that may or may not relate to you, *Facebook*. For those of you without a computer, *Facebook* is a website where folks may create a profile of themselves and share who they are. When you go on the webpage you can search for and access any friends you may have who have also created a profile. You are able to share information, talk online or "chat" to someone that is on the webpage at the same time you are. Most profiles include pictures of themselves, family, friends etc. For some just the thought of posting such information on the internet is scary enough. In the age of technology like cell phones, iPhones, Ipods, Ipads, MacBooks, and Pc's, we do a lot of our interaction electronically. That topic in and of itself is a subject for another article. With *Facebook*, it has definite benefits like immediate contact between friends and family, search and reconnect with friends you don't get a chance to see often, friends you haven't seen in years, see updated photos and comments and feel connected to their lives. As I made reference earlier to the time of technology, we are also in the age of information beyond any scale we have ever seen. The internet allows us to share with anyone and everyone. We have the best tool we have had in years to share Jesus Christ. We are able to write articles or post things about ourselves on pages like *Facebook* and let the world know we are believers in Jesus. Now we have come to the focus of the article. You may have thought I have an axe to grind with *Facebook* or the internet.

That is for another article.

What I want to focus on is our opportunity to be an example. When we are posting on the internet are we portraying Christ? When someone looks at our "wall" are we posting comments and photos that are appropriate for Christians or do we look like the rest of the world? Shouldn't we look different from the rest of the world? Let's look at what the Bible says about it.

Conformity: Romans 12:1-21

The first two verses give us the perspective we should have when it comes to serving the Lord and how we look in the world. The following verses support the example we should portray.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Putting on the New Self: Ephesians 4:17–32

When we put off the old and put on the new, we are to behave differently than our carnal nature wants us to behave. What attitude are we to portray?

"So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs,

that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Imitators of God: Ephesians 5

Are you paying attention to the things like speech and how you live? What kind of person are you portraying?

"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and

spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Appearance: 1Timothy 2: 9 & 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Do you consider your appearance to be appropriate? By the way you dress, are you causing another to stumble? Modesty does not only apply to women.

"I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God" 1Timothy 2:9, 10.

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved" 1Corinthians 10:31-33.

We as Christians need to shun the appearance of evil. We need to care about the example we leave with people. Does your profile say conservative Christian and

yet your photos and comment lines tell another story? Do not misunderstand; I am not suggesting exclusionism. We are to live in the world, but not of it. We are to let our light shine.

Let's step away from the internet world and apply this to our daily interactions and conversations. We need to react differently to the person that cuts us off when we are driving. We need to choose to not return anger to those who express anger to us. We need to conform to the attitude of Christ and think of others above ourselves. We are to be of wholesome talk.

Don't just see this writing as pointing out all the negatives, but as encouragement. Encouragement to look to the Bible and find the blessings you will receive when we conform to God and His will.

What is the difference between us as Christians and the rest of the world?

I encourage you to look!!!

Aaron Henderson is the Elder Chairman of the Marion Church of God (Seventh Day) in Marion Oregon. All Scripture is from the NIV.

[Works Cited](#)
(BibleGateway.com)

2010 OBITUARIES

Weston Carver

born March 28, 1924 in Marian Iowa
died: March 5, 2010 in Loveland, Colorado

Weston spent a lifetime in service for the General Council Churches of God (Seventh) Day, serving on church boards nationally and locally.

Pastor Kathleen Dyke

Of the Jamaican Council
Churches of God (Seventh) Day
died: May 4, 2010

Ollie Mae Helton

born April 30, 1923 in Bado, Missouri
died: May 5, 2010 in Nampa, Idaho.

Ollie was happiest planning, cooking and feeding her family and friends. She loved her church family and looked forward to Camp Meetings each year.

J.C. Eason

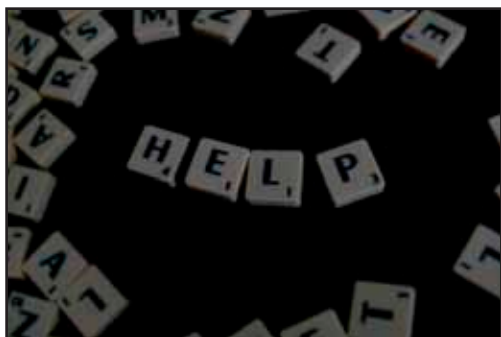
from Valdosta, Georgia
died: May 10, 2010

(continued from page 10)

Then in chapter 5 and verse 22 Moses tells us that "...*God added no more.*"

Now that we know the 10 Commandments are GOD'S ETERNAL COVENANT LAW, we should realize that this brings every man, woman and child, that ever lived on this earth under the authority of God's holy moral Law, the 10 Commandments. We shall all be judged by the 10 Commandments (James 2:10-12). A Christian needs to think about what they are actually saying to the world when they say that we are not under the 10 Commandments.

By our own words we end up admitting that we are still under the authority of God's holy Law, the 10 Commandments. If there are no 10 Commandments, then we are condoning rape, murder, adultery, theft, idolatry, etc. It is God's 10 Commandments that defines these acts, as sin (1 John 3:4). How can anyone who names the name of Jesus as their Savior justify these sinful acts? They cannot! Therefore, it is to our shame that most of the people that make this statement call themselves Christians.



WHAT MUST I DO?

Many well-meaning Christians do not understand these Bible truths, so they hurt God with their words. Many honest Christians say that it is no big deal for the 10 Commandments to be removed since we are not under "that Jewish Law." Others Christians that do not understand say that since we are under the New Covenant we don't need to display the 10 Commandments because we only need to have them written upon our hearts. A statement like that shows clearly that we do not understand the scope and purpose of God's holy Law.

The 10 Commandments were made for everyone. God's intention has always been for the 10 Commandments to be very visible and a part of every day life. God taught this fact to Israel through Moses.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates" Deuteronomy 6:6-9. (See also Deuteronomy 11:18-20)

The unrighteous need to see the 10 Commandments so that they would understand what conduct in their lives was required. The unrighteous could then see the error of their ways and repent. "...*The Law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul...*" (Psalms 19:7). The righteous need the 10 Commandments to remind them of the error of their ways when they stray, so they will repent and walk with God. "*Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee*" Psalms 119:11.

We always need to remember that in the presence of every man, woman and child of the children of Israel, God personally spoke the words Himself—No mediator, No one between God and humanity. Then He wrote them on tables of stone, with His own finger, to show the permanency of the Covenant Law that was around before the Children of Israel came into existence, and the 10 Commandments will be here until sin and death are swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54-55).

The 10 Commandments, God's Covenant Law did not just start at Mt Sinai. The truth is that the 10 Commandments came to us from creation, from "*the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*" At first Adam and Eve did not know anything about sin. God told them that they could have anything in the Garden of Eden except they could not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). God told them that if they did eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, then death would enter into them. What were the results of Adam's disobedience? "*Wherefore as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world and death by sin...*" Romans 5:12.

When God told Adam that death would enter into him this means that sin entered also. We find this fact in 1 Corinthians 15:56, "*The sting (weapon) of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the Law*" to put it simply, death has no weapon or power over humanity except through sin, and 1 John 3:4 explains to us that sin is the transgression of God's 10 Commandment Law. Romans 4:15 explains to us that if there was no Law then there would be no transgression (sin). These scriptures tell us that sin and death are permanent partners. There cannot be, nor will there ever be, any separation of the two, sin and death. Death has no power over us except through sin and the "...wages of sin is death" Romans 6:23.

Are we a generation of believers that have made decisions on our own without serious prayer and meditation in God's word for direction?

With this thought in mind we understand that when Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, sin entered the world along with death. Adam changed immediately. He did not know he was naked until he ate of the tree. After eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Adam tried to hide from God, which he had never done before. After eating, Adam knew the difference between good and evil. Adam knew he was naked and different than before. Sin had entered this world through Adam. This means the 10 Commandments also came at that time because they are the only definition of sin that we have.

God told Moses to instruct the people on how to learn and use the Commandments and worship Him. If we think about what God told Moses to tell the children of Israel, it shows us that God intended there should not be any part of the day or night that we should not be reminded and taught about the 10 Commandment Law by which we are going to be judged (James 2:10-12).

What do you suppose God thinks when God sees us trying to erase the 10 Commandments from our buildings and our memories?

The anti-God forces are not just active in America; they are at work all over the world. They hide their identity and agenda behind good sounding names and phrases, like *equality* and *true freedom* for everyone. They hide behind humanitarian causes. What they are really trying to put in place is a humanistic, secular, Godless society.

God foretold this event and the reason for it in Revelation 16:13-16.

"And I saw THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For THEY ARE THE SPIRITS OF DEVILS, working miracles, WHICH GO FORTH UNTO the kings of the earth and of THE WHOLE WORLD, TO GATHER THEM...And he GATHERED THEM TOGETHER INTO A PLACE CALLED in the Hebrew tongue ARMAGEDDON."

IS HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF?

We all have heard the statement that history repeats itself. In our moment of history we have started once again down the path towards a godless, lawless society. History confirms that the path we are on as a nation is not pretty nor is it to be desired. There was a time in the very late 1700's that men tried to get rid of God. This event occurred in Europe. Men called it the AGE OF REASON. It started in the 1600's and culminated with the French Revolution. Let us briefly follow a nation that tried to eliminate the God of heaven from this earth as some are trying to do here in America.

The French became a lawless society. Sure they had the laws of man but that always has been subject to change without notice. The "*Law of the land*" was strictly according to the mindset of whatever man was in charge at that time. Unfortunately, we can see evidence of this in our own nation right now. History has shown, time and again, that man needs and absolutely must have laws that are above reproach, above himself and above his ability to

change them. Any time that humanity becomes a lawless society i.e.; a society without God's 10 Commandment Law, we invite catastrophe and catastrophe usually arrives.

At the time of the Revolution the French did not want anything to do with their former lives so the Revolutionists made sweeping changes. The tenth day became the Sabbath replacing God's seventh day Sabbath. The extra five days were made festivals dedicated to genius, labor, noble actions, reward, and opinion. Opinion is interesting because they were supposed to be able to say anything about anyone and anything, without any repercussions. However, remember that the rulers were chopping the heads off anyone who disagreed with them. This means that obviously there were consequences to expressing an opinion that disagreed with the Ruler, whoever he happened to be at that particular moment.

When the Revolutionists destroyed the sovereignty of the royalty on earth the Revolutionists then went after the sovereignty of God in heaven. The Commune of Paris declared that the revolution could not rest until it had dethroned the "King of Heaven, as well as the kings of the earth."

The Revolutionists decided to have the Bishop of Paris, Gobel, publicly lay down his office. The Bishop did this and the other clergy, Catholic and Protestant, followed his example. So it happened that on November 7, 1793 the abolition of the Christian religion was initiated in France with much dancing in the streets.

The churches in Paris and most other cities were closed. All visible symbols of God and religion were destroyed. They even went so far as to destroy any emblem of hope in the cemeteries. Over the entry to their cemeteries was hung a sign with the following statement "DEATH IS ETERNAL SLEEP." Since the world was to be set free by the guillotine, it was at this time that its name was changed to "the holy guillotine". It was during this period

of horror the French executed the rulers and noblemen of the nation, averaging 34 per day in Paris alone for a period of time. In France it was party time, *if* you did not lose your head.

The madness of the people led them to worship what was called "*the Goddess of Reason.*" On November 10, 1793 a grand festival and parade was instituted by parading a celebrated beauty (a lady of ill repute) through the streets on a throne carried by the men of the city. All of the bureaucrats and many of the commoners accompanied her in this procession. She made a stop at the Convention site where she was embraced and kissed by the President of the Convention. The President stated that France had embraced "*Reason... that animated image, the masterpiece of nature.*" At that time the Hall echoed with the cries of the multitude saying "*REASON FOREVER.*"

The "*Goddess of Reason*" was then transported and placed upon the altar at the Cathedral of Notre Dame that was now called the "*Temple of Reason.*" The other cities in France followed suit. The people said that neither the kings of the earth nor the King of Heaven could oppress anybody now.

The reign of terror was in full swing. The Revolutionists had gotten their wish. They were a lawless, godless society. A successive group of "*dictators*" ruled from the Convention Center. Whoever was the strongest at any particular moment seized the Presidency. Bloodbath after bloodbath followed each new dictator. It was so bad, that one of their own, Robespierre, said, "*If God did not exist it would behoove men to invent him*". Robespierre also met his fate at the guillotine after he had ordered the massacre of many of his comrades.

The simple fact is that
God does not simply go away!

History tells us that this terrible carnage took 3½ years to run its course. After 3½ years Christian worship was reinstated in France. The French also corrected the inequities of the Constitution that allowed these bloodbaths to take place.

Now, let us ask ourselves a question. Why would we, in America, with such a powerful cloud of witnesses to show us the folly of our current national direction, want to continue on our present course? Do we think that God just goes away and hides and pouts when He has been rejected by a society?

The simple fact is that God does not simply go away. The Bible is full of examples of God's judgment on societies that have rejected Him and have chosen to accept lawlessness. Have we forgotten Sodom and Gomorrah or the flood in Noah's time? Consider God's own chosen people, Israel. Look at what happened to them when they rejected God. Their punishments were very real and open for the entire world to see. These stories of destruction came about because each society rejected God's Law.

God is very patient with humanity but just as death and taxes come to everyone, so does God's judgment. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* 2 Peter 3:9.

The Bible tells us that in those societies that reject God every man becomes a law unto himself. Right now our society is saying the same thing when they say that there are no absolutes. If there are no absolutes then each man makes up his own rules of right and wrong and the

strongest will win and rule over the rest. A very sad commentary to this fact is the thought that now many honest people that claim the name of God and call themselves Christians are going along with this steady approach to a lawless society.

As individuals and as an organization we are commanded to shine the light of Bible truth upon some of the dark and confusing statements that are given to us as *truth* by modern theologians. Many modern theologians are honest people that have never been shown the "TRUE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AS GIVEN TO US BY GOD."

"Bible truth has no denominational walls, therefore our concern is to promote Bible truth and to seek the cooperation of all those who agree with us on basic truths so that we may better reach all honest people who are seeking to know God's will. Since there is much apostasy, old and new, from God's Law and the Gospel of Jesus Christ; our central burden is to present, with the prophetic messages, Bible lessons exposing errors and giving Bible truth on these matters. Our central objective is to warn everyone that we're facing Armageddon and Jesus' second coming. We are to try to call the people out of human traditions and back to full obedience to the Gospel of Christ." Frank M. Walker

It is sad the only handicap that God has in the battle against evil in this world happens to be God's own children. What are we going to do about this fact? Individually, and as an organization, let us pray and pay attention to the words of President Ronald Reagan.

"IF NOT US, THEN WHO?
IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?"

"We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His kingdom come."

Samuel Adams

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Can You... Count to Three?, By Russ McCrea

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