

ACTS

November/December 2013

Born to Die-Part 2

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by Kim Newberg

ACTS

ADVOCATING CHRIST THE SAVIOR

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Contact Us:

GENERAL COUNCIL CHURCHES OF GOD (Seventh) DAY, Inc.,
Headquarters Meridian, Idaho
Church of God Publishing House
1827 W 3rd ST
Meridian ID 83646-1653

Phone: (208) 888-3380 Fax: (208) 888-6670

Web: www.actsforgod.org

E-mails: adminasst@kogpublishing.org

editor_acts@hotmail.com

prayer_acts@hotmail.com

orders_acts@hotmail.com

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.

President's letter



Is your fear of other people stronger than your love for Christ? Do you hold off on expressing your faith? Do you ignore opportunities to proclaim that you know Jesus? If so, don't feel all alone, Peter denied Christ three times, after declaring that it would never happen.

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me (Luke 22:31-34).

Now Peter may seem to have good reason to, after all, he just might suffer the same fate as Jesus, but we see after the event has progressed that he is bitterly regretful of his decision. It seems that a declaration made in the company of those who agree with you is easier to make than a declaration in the presence of those who don't. I hope none of you have to make a decision as tough as Peter's; after all, he was in grave danger. The question is, how does that make our cowardice look when the most we are subjected to is possibly a little ridicule?

When you think about the cost that has been paid by Christians in other countries because of their faith, not to mention the ways we have let down the One who died for our sins, it should make us weep as Peter did. Oh, it's no big deal to proclaim to believe in Christ. There is no fear involved in making that proclamation here in the United States, most people will actually respect you more for that rather than look down on you. But, what about the times we have been given an opportunity to risk exposing our emotions to try to reveal Christ to someone? We can argue logically to someone, and try to persuade them that Christ is real, but when it comes to actually simply expressing why Christ is so real to us, it is much more difficult. How can it be so difficult to have an intimate talk about why Christ is our strength? Is it that we don't want to admit that we can't do it on our own? That to say we lean on a Savior is akin to admitting we are weak? We care more about how our peers view us than we do about how Christ gave himself for us? We're all talk, and very little walk.

Like Peter, have we denied our relationship with the most important person in our life? Not by outright denial, that would be hard too, but by the sin of omission. When we did not share Christ when given an opportunity too, did we really think the time wasn't right? We certainly don't fear for our life, not in this country. Is Christ no more important than that? Is our love for Him less than our love for the respect of man? Then we need to change, and we need to do it now.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 10:33). We must not deny Christ, neither in the big things, or the little ones.

Rodney Boone, GENERAL COUNCIL President

Born to Die

Part Two
By Ken Walker

Jesus was ordained by God to complete the plan of salvation that God had put into place even before creation. I Peter 1:20 explains to us that Jesus was *“Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”* When the time was right (Galatians 4:4) Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus then fulfilled His ministry here on earth.

Just before the events of Jesus’ trial and crucifixion Jesus explains His ultimate purpose on earth in John 12:27. *“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”* In Matthew 26:39-42 we find that Jesus was in agony over what He knew that He was born to do but He said God’s will be done.

“And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

At Jesus’ trial, with His life on the line, Pilate asked Jesus a direct question in John 18:37.

*“Pilate therefore said unto him, **ART THOU A KING** then? Jesus answered; Thou sayest that I am a king. **TO THIS END WAS I BORN**, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”*

This statement came about because Pilate had already asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews. In verse 36 Jesus explained the truth to Pilate.

*“Jesus answered, **MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”*

Jesus is pointing out the fact that He will receive

His Kingdom and glory at a future time. In Luke 24:26 Jesus explains to us *“Ought not Christ to have **SUFFERED THESE THINGS, AND TO ENTER INTO HIS GLORY?**”* We will show from the scriptures how this transpires in another lesson.

During His lifetime Jesus had one objective. Mark 1:14 *“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,**”* Luke 4:43 tells us the same thing. *“And he said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.**”* Remember that Jesus told us in John 7:16 *“Jesus answered them, and said, **MY DOCTRINE IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS THAT SENT ME.**”* We know that God sent Jesus. Jesus also explains to us that God told Him what to say. John 12:49

“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.”

The Kingdom of God was a top priority for God and Jesus because the Kingdom of God is at the center of the plan of salvation as we shall see. Acts 1:3 tells us that after Jesus’ resurrection He appeared many times to His followers and spoke (taught) about things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. With these facts solidly in our mind we have to ask a question. “Since the message of Jesus was about the Kingdom of God why is it that the majority of the modern preaching is only about the “Blood of Jesus” washing away sins and goes no further?”

It is very true that Jesus’ blood is extremely important. The blood of Christ is the door to salvation! The blood of Jesus gives us access to salvation and the grace of God (Romans 5:1, 2). However, that brings up another very important question. “What are we to do with the rest of our life after our sins are washed away?” The ministry of Jesus teaches us how to live a righteous,

God pleasing life after His blood washes our sins away. Jesus also taught the penalty that happens to you if you do not live that way. Why doesn't that message get preached? Perhaps we need to take a closer look at the blood of Jesus, its meaning, and what it accomplished.

We know that Jesus was *born to die* (John 12:27). We know that Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world (John 18:36). We know that Jesus was born to be King in His own Kingdom, which is still to come (John 18:37). In Luke 24:26 Jesus tells us when the glory of God, that He was promised, was to be given to Him. *"Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and **TO ENTER INTO HIS GLORY?**"*

Jesus explains to us in a simple way exactly when God glorified Him. It was not before creation as many teach. It was **AFTER** His death and resurrection here on earth, as flesh and blood. It was after Jesus shed His blood at Calvary and was resurrected by God. The shedding of Christ's blood was **THE DEFINING MOMENT FOR THE HUMAN RACE** in its battle with Satan. The resurrection of Christ was God's promise to humanity that the plan of Salvation was in place, completed, and there can be no changes or turning back from what was instituted by the blood of Jesus.

What exactly did Jesus teach us that His blood meant? The majority of the Christian world will simply say that our sins have been forgiven. (Ephesians 1:7 and Colossians 1:14) To this we give a hearty AMEN! Christians should all sing the praises of being washed in the blood of the Lamb of God. Revelation 1:5,

*"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the **FIRST BEGOTTEN OF THE DEAD**, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto **HIM THAT LOVED US AND WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD.**"*

We are all in agreement with this statement. However, the question still remains; what did Jesus say about His own shed blood? Perhaps there is more for us to learn about our Master's blood?

Jesus talks about what it means for Him to

shed His blood in Luke 22:20.

*"Likewise also the cup after supper, saying; This cup is the **NEW TESTAMENT IN MY BLOOD**, which is shed for you" (See also Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24 and I Corinthians 11:25).*

What Jesus wanted us to know is that when His blood was shed, the New Covenant came into effect. A simple quick study of the original Greek shows that the same Greek word is translated covenant or testament. We could say that the **NEW COVENANT WAS IN JESUS' BLOOD** that was shed for us and that would be absolutely correct.

This means that we need to examine the New Covenant closely because Jesus has just told us that His death (shed blood) has put the New Covenant into effect with full force. That simple statement means that there is no salvation outside of the terms of the New Covenant.

*"How much more shall the **BLOOD OF CHRIST**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause **HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, THAT BY MEANS OF DEATH**, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are **CALLED MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL INHERITANCE**. For where a testament is, there must also of **NECESSITY BE THE DEATH OF THE TESTATOR**" (Hebrews 9: 14-16).*

Remember that God cannot die.

One more thought about our salvation from the Scriptures before we investigate the New Covenant more thoroughly. Hebrews 13:12 tells

*"Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people **WITH HIS OWN BLOOD**, suffered without the gate,"*

Then we are told that the Covenant that Jesus put into effect by His death and sealed with His blood will never change or go away.

*“Now the **GOD** of peace, that **BROUGHT AGAIN FROM THE DEAD**, that great shepherd of the sheep, **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE EVERLASTING COVENANT**” (Hebrews 13:20).*

If you will do a quick search in your Strong's Concordance for “everlasting” you will find that it is #166 and it means “ETERNAL”.

In Hebrews chapters 8 and 9 we find what God had planned to do *through* Christ in the New Covenant era. Hebrews 8 explains to us the general scope of the New Covenant plan that God brought into effect through Christ's shed blood. In Hebrews 8:13 we learn the fact that when God says that HE will make a New Covenant, He is also telling us that the Old Mosaic Covenant ended. In Hebrews 9 God teaches us that the rites, priesthood, ceremonies and sacrifices were only until Jesus put in effect God's better way (Hebrews 9:10). All of the rites, sacrifices, ceremonies, and earthly priesthood, were only to bring the people to Christ as Galatians 3:24, 25 teaches us.

HOWEVER, let us never forget the key fact that the **NEW COVENANT IS TOTALLY GOD'S COVENANT**. That is what Jesus put into place with His shed blood, and we know that God does not change. This New Covenant that Jesus put into place is found in Hebrews 8:8-12. It is the same Covenant, repeated almost word for word, that God promised to us in the Old Testament in Jeremiah 31:31-34. Remember that Jesus told us in John 7:16 that all of His (Jesus') Doctrines that Jesus taught us are God's Doctrines.

*“For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a **NEW COVENANT** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For **THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE** with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MIND, AND WRITE THEM IN THEIR***

***HEARTS** and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more” (Hebrews 8:8-12).*

In the passage in Hebrews 8 and Jeremiah 31 we find that God has given us a time that the first Covenant was made with Israel. It was made just after God brought them out of Egypt. That brings us to Mt Sinai. This is where the Mosaic Covenant (Book of the Covenant) was given and ratified with blood (Exodus 24:7, 8). However, there was another special Covenant that was made just before the Book of the Covenant was given and sealed with Blood. In fact, God called it His own Covenant, and the blood that sealed the Mosaic Covenant did not touch God's Covenant.

In Exodus 19:5 God said “...Now therefore, if ye will **OBEY MY VOICE** indeed, and **KEEP MY COVENANT**, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” In Deuteronomy 4:12,13 we find that the **TEN COMMANDMENTS** is what **GOD CALLS “MY COVENANT.”** In Exodus 19:6 we find that keeping **GOD'S PERSONAL COVENANT** is what makes us a holy people, and priests of God. (Also read I Peter 2:5.)

When Moses retells the experience that they had at Mt. Sinai in Deuteronomy 9:9-11 we find that the **TEN COMMANDMENTS** are again classified, as **GOD'S COVENANT** (verse 9) that **GOD** personally spoke (verse 10) and made with Israel. We find in verse 10 that God wrote the Ten Commandments with His own finger on the tables of stone thus continuing the fact that it was a personal Covenant with, and from God. The Ten Commandments that were written on tables of stone by God are the written version of the Ten Commandments (verse 10) that God **PERSONALLY SPOKE TO THE ENTIRE NATION** of Israel. We find God's spoken word recorded in Exodus 20. Moses brought the “Tables of Stone” down from the mountain at least 1 ½ months after the Book of the Law was sealed by blood (Exodus 24:8).

To put it simply, Moses went to God **BEFORE** going up for 40 days and nights on the mountain. At that time, BEFORE going up to receive the Tables of Stone from God, Moses wrote down God's instructions (Exodus 21 thru 23) in a book and sprinkled the Book and the people (Exodus 24:1-8). **THEN** Moses went up onto the mountain to see God and get the Tables of Stone with the Ten Commandments written on them (Exodus 24:12 & 18). The Ten Commandments were not part of the Mosaic blood Covenant! They were taught in the Mosaic Covenant but were never sealed with blood. It was a different Covenant. Think about it. There was no Mediator between God and the people of Israel at that moment. Each person stood and heard God personally with no one between them. Moses was standing there right with the rest of the people (Exodus 19:20-25) and listened to God.

However, concerning the New Covenant, many people teach that this Covenant is only for the Israelites. It is true that the Bible specifically tells us that in Hebrews 8:8, 10. We can also add to that thought that Jesus said in Matthew 15:24 *"... I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."* That makes a pretty convincing argument until we look at the total picture. Briefly, the promises of salvation and the Nation and Kingdom of Israel were promised to Abraham: Romans 15:8 confirms the fact that this was God's plan.

*"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, **TO CONFIRM THE PROMISES MADE UNTO THE FATHERS.**"*

We will look closer at these facts later.

The Old Testament tells us specifically that the Messiah was to come to Israel. It even explains that the Messiah would be riding on a donkey (Zech. 9:9 KJV says ass). In Daniel 9:24-27 we find a specific prophesy for the time that Jesus would appear, and exactly what the Messiah would accomplish and when He would die.

*"And he (the Messiah) shall **CONFIRM THE COVENANT** with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he (the Messiah) shall cause the sacrifice and the*

oblation to cease..." (Daniel 9:27).

With the Scripture just quoted we run headfirst into another of Satan's clever twisted Doctrines that the majority of Modern Christianity agrees with, and teaches. Satan has fooled Christianity into believing that this verse is all about the FUTURE ANTICHRIST. Now, Christians are taking this wonderful prophesy of our Lord Jesus and are giving it to the anti-Christ (Satan). They are not even thinking that the real anti-Christ has been here for many, many years and is leading millions to their death with his false Doctrines. It would take another study to show you how this fantasy came to life and entered into mainstream Christianity.

According to the Scriptures in Daniel 9 Jesus was allotted 7 years to confirm the Covenant with Israel but we have just read that Jesus was cut off after 3 ½ years (the middle of the week). Jesus' ministry is confirmed by the Bible and history that it was 3 ½ years long. The Apostles carried on for the next 3 ½ years to the Israelites per Jesus' instructions in Acts 1:8. The 3 ½ years ended with God's miraculous sign to Peter in Acts 10:45 and that completed the 7 years (the last week) that Daniel 9 spoke of. Notice that it is the same Holy Spirit and Gospel that Jesus gave to Israel.

If we want to hold to the belief, as many do, that the New Covenant of our salvation that Jesus gave us with His blood was only for Israel and Judah, then we also have to come up with another way for the Gentiles to be saved. That would mean that there are 2 separate ways of salvation—and you will **not** find that fact anywhere in the Bible. Paul tells us in Romans 9:24 that God has called Jew and Gentile alike, which means that we are, all of us, saved the same way under the same rules. In Romans 11:16-18 Paul tells the Gentiles that they are grafted into (saved by) the Gospel that Jesus gave to Israel and sealed with His own blood. Therefore, the New Covenant that Jesus sealed with His blood is the only way to salvation.

Knowing this, did Paul and the other Apostles teach the New Covenant? Paul confirms that he is a minister and teacher of the New Covenant in II Corinthians 3:5, 6;

*“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us **ABLE MINISTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**; (covenant) not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”*

God set the Apostles and followers of Jesus in place (I Corinthians 12:18) and gave them power to teach the New Covenant. They taught that God’s Laws were written on our hearts as the New Covenant promised in II Corinthians 3:3,

*“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, **WRITTEN** not with ink, but **WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD**; not in tables of stone, but **IN FLESHY TABLES OF THE HEART**.”*

Here Paul explains that the Holy Spirit writes God’s Law in our hearts when we are converted, just as God promised in Hebrews 8:8-12.

The Holy Spirit is a witness to us that the New Covenant is in effect as we find in Acts 2:38, Acts 5:32, Acts 15:8 and Romans 8:16. It is confirmed in Hebrews 10:15-17,

*“... **THE HOLY GHOST IS ALSO A WITNESS TO US**: for after that he had said before. **THIS IS THE COVENANT** that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, **I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR HEARTS AND IN THEIR MINDS WILL I WRITE THEM**; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”*

These passages tell us that the New Covenant was put into motion by Jesus’ death. The Holy Spirit that we have in us is a witness to the fact that Jesus died and put into effect the New Covenant. It is part and parcel of our salvation; therefore, we need to understand what Law (s) God is talking about.

There is a period of Biblical history that is terribly misunderstood by most Christians. It took place at Mount Sinai with Moses, Israel and God. Almost the entire modern Christian world believes that the Ten Commandments

were given to Moses first and then Moses was to give them to the People. That is why most people believe that the Ten Commandments were simply part of the Mosaic Law. We can get a very clear picture of what transpired on Mount Sinai if we turn to Deuteronomy where Moses is reviewing with Israel what had transpired at Mt. Sinai 40 years before. In Deuteronomy, Moses has finished the job that God had given him to accomplish. As Moses speaks to Israel in Deuteronomy he knows that he is about to die. With the thought of his soon coming death in his heart Moses is trying very hard to instill the will to continue to live God’s way to a group of people that he had cared for and brought to the door of the Promised Land.

Moses reminds Israel that they, the entire Nation of Israel, had heard the voice of God explaining His Laws in Deuteronomy 4:12, 13:

*“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 DECLARED UNTO YOU HIS COVENANT**, which he commanded you to perform, even **TEN COMMANDMENTS**; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.”*

This tells us that the Ten Commandments are God’s Covenant. This Covenant of the Ten Commandments is totally separate from the Mosaic Covenant, as we shall see.

Moses tells the Israelites in Deuteronomy 5:22 that there was nothing added to the Ten Commandments (God’s Covenant) when they were given by God.

*“These words **THE LORD SPAKE UNTO ALL YOUR ASSEMBLY** in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: **AND HE ADDED NO MORE**. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.”*

What the Bible has clearly taught us in these Scriptures is that **GOD’S COVENANT OF SALVATION IS THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**. In the Old Testament God said many times that the sacrifices and oblations were a bother to Him.

Read and study I Samuel 15:22 & Psalms 40:6 / 51:16 & Mica 6:8 etc. What God did ask, was for them to “**OBEY MY VOICE,**” which meant to obey what He had personally spoken out loud to the whole nation at Mount Sinai. Just obey His Ten Commandments and then they would be, unto God, a Holy Kingdom of priests and kings (Exodus 19:5, 6).

The Mosaic Covenant was sealed by blood (Exodus 24:8) but the Ten Commandments were not sprinkled with blood. God’s Covenant, the Ten Commandments that were to be written on Stone and given to Moses had not been given to Moses at the time of the blood Covenant with the Nation of Israel. We find that in Exodus 24:12 God tells Moses to come up to the top of Mt. Sinai and there God would give him the Tables of stone with the Ten Commandments that had been written by the finger of God. Notice that this is after the Book of the Law and the people had been sprinkled with blood (Verse 8).

We now have the fact that the Mosaic Covenant had already been confirmed with blood (Exodus 24:8) when Moses went up to meet with God. While on the mountain we know that Moses spent 40 days with God before he came back down the mountain to the people of Israel. All of this proves beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the Ten Commandments are a separate Covenant from the Mosaic Covenant. Moses was also supposed to teach the Ten Commandments to the people (Exodus 24:12).

Did the Apostles understand the terms of the New Covenant and teach it? James calls the New Covenant (Ten Commandments) the “Law of Liberty,” obedience to it keeps us free from sin. (James 1:25 & 2:8-12) John understood and taught obedience to the New Covenant in I John 5:3: “*For this is the love of God, that we **KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS:** and his commandments are not grievous.*” Paul did in 1 Corinthians 7:19; “*Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the **KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD.***”

Paul knew what was necessary and he knew what the Commandments meant:

“Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath

fulfilled the 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”
Romans 13:8,9;

Paul goes on to tell us that “*Love is the fulfilling of the Law*” in verse 10. Fulfilled does not mean its need and use is complete. The Ten Commandments teach us how to know what love is and how to show our love. Love is always needed on this earth!

In the light of what the Bible teaches us, another question comes to mind. Why do we not hear this preached and taught in our modern world? With all of the knowledge that we have at our fingertips now, and all of the scholars with every letter in the alphabet behind their name to signify how much education and how smart they are, why do they not teach these facts to us?

We will look at the glory of our Savior, and when and how God gave it to Him, in our next lesson. We will close for now with this message about the wonderful blood of the man, Christ Jesus, and the New Covenant that He put in place for our salvation.

*“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath **COUNTED THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT, WHEREWITH HE WAS SANCTIFIED, AN UNHOLY THING,** and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”* (Hebrews 10:28, 29).

There is no salvation for us outside of the New Covenant that Jesus put into effect with His blood at Calvary. Once again; do we think that perhaps there is a lesson in these verses for us?

Ken Walker is the Ministerial Coordinator and Missions Director for the General Council. He and his family attend the Marceline, MO. Church. As an Evangelist and Teacher he has conducted Missions in Ghana, Nigeria and the Philippines.

JESUS; THE GREATEST TEACHER OF ALL, TEACHES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS

Text: Words of Jesus paraphrased and my comments in bold font, Keith Siddens.

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20: 16

Thou shalt not bear false witness.

Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matt. 12:35-37

A good man out the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things. and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things every idle word that men shall speak they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified. and by your words you shall be condemned.

Mark 4:24; Luke 8:17, 18

For there is nothing hid which shall not be manifested. neither was anything kept secret but that it should be known. Take heed what you hear; how you hear. With what measure you mete. it shall be measured to you.

Matt. 5:5, 7, 9

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Meek, Merciful, Peacemakers do not use false witness to accomplish their goals.

Matt. 5:14-16; Luke. 11:33

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. No man when he has lighted a candle, puts it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick; that they which come in may see the light, and it gives light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

False witness cannot live in light.

Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31

Therefore all things you would have men do to you, do you to them; for this is the law and the prophets.

Matt. 7:15. 16. 20; Luke 6:43-45

Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits.

Matt.19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20

You shall not bear false witness.

False witnesses may appear to be successful.

Matt. 24:11, 12

And many false prophets shall arise and deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall grow cold.

Matt. 24:24; Mark 13:22

For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets. They shall show great signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, the very elect.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:17

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matt. 6:9-21

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust corrupts, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust corrupts, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matt. 6:24; Luke 16: 13

No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and material possessions.

Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:22

From within, out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, ... covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, pride, foolishness

Luke 12:15

Take heed and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.

Luke. 12:33, 34

Sell what you have and give alms. Provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that fails not: where no thief approaches, neither moth corrupts. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.

We think of this as a suggestion; but it is a command for some.

Luke. 14:8, 11

When you are bidden to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room ... For whosoever exalts himself shall be abased, ...

Luke 17:10

We are unprofitable servants. We have done that which was our duty to do.

Following His rules does not give me the right to demand special privileges.

Matt. 20:25-27; Mark 10:42-44; Luke 22:25, 26

You know that the kings of the Gentiles, ... exercise dominion over them. And they that are great exercise authority upon them and are called benefactors. But it shall not be so among you. He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister. And whosoever of you will be chief, let him be servant of all.

Coveting authority is natural, but Christians submit willingly.

The Ten Commandments as given to Israel have been recognized as a good basis for moral values by many leaders. However, Jesus did not build His ministry on these laws; He went to the heart of the matter and used the concept of loving the Heavenly Father and fellowmen, with a special emphasis on loving other Christians as Jesus loves us. However, He referred to and taught the concepts of the Ten Commandments as a help in understanding His core values and the way to show respect for The Heavenly Father.

The *Teachings of Jesus* paraphrased is available in a concise format with very little commentary. This publication provides an easy read source for pleasure reading or study. Contact the Publishing house for more information.

Truths to Ponder...

By Sam Yakley

There exists a Supreme Creator, God, if you will. It is obvious to any honest person with any degree of humility that the things we see around us, indeed the very existence of mankind, didn't "just happen." Those who deny the existence of God boastfully and arrogantly think they are too intelligent to be deceived by such claims. To them we who believe in God are unintelligent and simple minded people. On the contrary, those who say the universe just happened, exhibit the height of silliness. Look around you, go out and look up at night, pinch yourself, look in a mirror... Then ask yourself if you believe, "*It all just happened?*"

God created all things, including mankind. We are His property. He obviously made man superior to all other creatures, giving us vastly superior thinking and reasoning abilities, and the ability to produce for ourselves food, shelter, and countless useful inventions. It is certainly reasonable and to be expected that God would have us live in a certain manner, within certain bounds.

If God desires that we live a certain way, we could expect that He would provide a means by which we could know what His requirements are. Some people would say, "okay God, speak to me (in an audible voice) and I will believe in you and obey you." This again exhibits an arrogant attitude. Such people want God to speak in the manner of their choosing, rather than pay attention to the manner in which God has chosen to speak.

So, God created us and we are His property and He desires that we live a certain way. It is then quite likely that someday we will have to give an account to Him of how we have lived. Some insist that this life is all there is, no afterlife and no account to give or judgment to face. How can they know that for sure? They can't. Just because they don't believe in something doesn't mean it won't happen. If you stand on the railroad track and say you don't believe in trains, it won't keep you from being run over when the train comes. You chose not to believe in trains even though the tracks plainly pointed to their existence. There is far more evidence pointing to the existence of God.

So what does God require of us? First of all: that we would believe in Him. "*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork*" (Psalm 19:1). If you had the power to create a living, breathing, thinking creature, would you be pleased if the creature said concerning you, "I don't believe you exist and I'm going to live the way I want to"? I doubt you would be pleased. God is likewise jealous over us because we are His creation.

What else does God want? He wants us to seek to know Him. If we believe in God, I mean really believe, and then we will seek to know more about Him, to know His will, and to have a relationship with Him. God hasn't chosen to reveal Himself to us visibly, bodily, or audibly. But when we in sincerity begin to search for Him, He will make Himself known to us.

So how does one begin to search for God? The main requirement is that we are sincere, honest, humble, and submissive. Pride and arrogance will get you nowhere with God. So I would suggest that you simply begin daily to talk to Him. "God, I know you're out there, and You hear me, and You love and care about me, help me to come to know You." I guarantee that talking to Him in this way, with sincerity, will make you feel something you have never felt before. You will begin to feel a presence which source has no other explanation than it comes from God.

Then you do what millions of others have done for centuries gone by: begin to read the Holy Bible. There is no denying that this book has helped reveal God to countless people. The evidence of changed lives and testimony of so many people is ample reason to explore this book. Imagine a conversation like this on Judgment Day:

“God, I searched for you, why didn’t you reveal yourself to me?”

“Why didn’t you look in the Bible?”

“Well, I didn’t know of any reason I should look there.”

So I would ask you, Dear Reader, “Do you really think that will be a good excuse?”

The authenticity and profoundness of the Bible is undeniable. How do you know that George Washington was the first president of the U.S.? How do you know that Columbus sailed to America? How do you know that the Roman Empire existed? Through historical records of course, written down and preserved from generation to generation. The Bible record is just as authentic as any historical literature. Ask any historian. It is a collection of literature written by numerous different men over a period of approximately 1500 years. There is ample evidence to the seeker that its writing was inspired by God. Any other book of a philosophical nature, written by so many authors over such a long period of time, would exhibit vast differences of opinion and teaching. But the Bible is a book of unity and consistency. It reveals how God has dealt with mankind through the ages, how we got to where we are today, how He wants us to live, and the ultimate destiny of us and planet Earth. It is God’s Word, His revelation to mankind.

I work as a CNC programmer at a machine shop in Grove, Oklahoma. I am completely a “lay” person. I attend the Church of God 7th Day and the Seventh Day Bible Church, both in Tulsa, Oklahoma, generally only one Sabbath per month each, as it is quite a distance to drive. I sing and play guitar, and am usually called upon to sing a “special” when in church. My wife, DJ, and I have been married forty years. Sam Yakley

To preserve: To keep something protected from anything that would cause its current quality or condition to change or deteriorate or cause it to fall out of use.

Here is a question for each of us:

“Do we “preserve” Christ within us?”



Daughters of the King

Winter Greetings from the *Daughters of the King*!

Hopefully everyone is working on projects for the upcoming Campmeeting in 2014. If you need fabric for projects, Marilyn Sheldahl has the fabric Toni McMillin donated to us, and it can be used for any project you might have. Call her if you would like to look at the selection.

Toni McMillin has paid us for the two quilts we made for her *Widows to Widows* program. A good help toward meeting the goals the DOK continue to support.

The officers elected at Campmeeting:

Becky Lincoln	President
Joy Syvanen	Vice President/Store Manager
Marilyn Sheldahl	Secretary/Treasurer
Kara Syvanen	Committee Woman
Mary Lou Molinar	Committee Woman

Ladies, young and old, if you are not a member and would like to join and/or support the *Daughters of the King*, we would love to have you join with us. Dues are only \$10 per year and can be sent to Marilyn at the Publishing House, **just be sure to note that they are for the DOK.**

Enjoy, and may you be blessed,
Becky Lincoln, President
bblincoln@ywave.com
360-458-4379

Tiny Acts

By Lynne Stewart

~The smallest gesture can make the biggest difference when done from the heart~

I have found that the unexpected, “Tiny Acts” for God, touch the heart more deeply than huge things; in so much that they are surprising when they happen, but in all honesty, they shouldn’t be.

If you’ve been raised in church, then small things that others do for one another may not even register, they are expected of you, but when a person comes into Salvation, knowing nothing of God or His presence in the lives of those that love Him, then it seems everything a believer does, out of the ordinary, is taken to heart more earnestly.

The other day, during Sabbath service, in a church we Minister at once a month, I was listening to the over-head music that was playing, praying, waiting for service to start when I walked a very young married couple. I noticed that instead of being promptly seated, both of them went straight to the Alter where the husband took the bottle of anointing oil, from off the Pulpit, anointed himself (which is not uncommon in the churches that we attend) but what he did next surprised me and humbled me at the same time. He then took some of the anointing oil and touched his wife’s forehead while saying a small prayer over her, and then.....he very gently anointed her “baby bump” that revealed itself, as she was around 5 months with child at the time.

Something about this Tiny Act of gentleness touched me so deeply that I started to tear-up. I couldn’t help but marvel at the fact that this child was going to have a better than average chance at a life of greater meaning, that the marriage between these two would stand the test of time and the commitment that they have towards the family, as a whole, would not be un-done by life’s trails. I was overwhelmed, first, in witnessing their desire for God’s blessings, in their service to Him and secondly, to see such love between two people, which resonated so strongly with God’s Spirit. As I sat there, still thinking about what I had seen, I started thinking about many other Tiny Acts that I had seen during my walk with the Lord, and there are many, but none struck me with such force as this one.

It seems that commitment, to God, to oneself and to each other, has become so diluted over the years. People are more apt to commit to SELF and not to others. Our world is filled with so much turmoil, overwhelming financial issues and sorrows, that life, in the hearts of many, has grown cold.

God’s Word reveals this to us in 2 Timothy 3:1-4,

“THIS know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves,

covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”

In the midst of knowing how the world is falling apart, the sweetness of seeing this act of love and devotion lifted my spirit; reassuring me that God is still working in the lives of His children.

Each of us are molded by God’s hand differently, no two of us will serve, love, or act the same in our walk for Him, for it is a personal walk. But for those who choose to serve the Lord, showing obedience to the laws and conditions which we commit ourselves to, will show that it is not just for one, but envelops us all—for the Word remains constant and unchanging; it is us that must change.

I long to see more of that change and commitment in the lives of God’s people; so that I may continue to witness these small happenings, which not only inspire and encourage me, but I believe also touches the heart of God.

I pray that your day is filled with Tiny Acts.... Lynne

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