

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

A Monthly Magazine

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All or Nothing - Jerry O'Donnell

Too many people are playing around with salvation. Beyond the Biblical excuses for disobeying God, people are trying to serve two masters, despite Jesus saying, "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. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24).

The Biblical excuses have been shared numerous times but for those that are unaware, they include "I'm saved by grace and not the law", despite Paul stating, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2). Sin, of course, is defined by the Bible as, "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). And both writers are referring to the Ten Commandments.

The next excuse is being saved by faith and not by the law, despite Paul stating, "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Romans 3:31).

Another excuse is to be saved under the New Covenant, despite the Bible stating, "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" (Hebrews 10:16). And for those who say that this was for Israel (Hebrews 8:10) and not for us Gentiles, along with the fact that this was written for Hebrews (which we are not), then show us from the New Testament where else the "new covenant" is defined? Besides, every Christian is a Jew, an Israelite, etc. "He [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter; whose praise [is] not of men, but of God" (Romans 2:29). "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29). And those of the "new covenant" who disconnect from Jews, promote doing away with morality and allow disobedience.

Christians who do not want to keep the Ten Commandments, no matter which way they look at it

(grace, faith, new covenant, nailing the commandments to the cross, etc.), must realize the end result is the allowance of disobedience. Can Christians not recognize the game of Satan? Are many Christians so blind that they would believe that the same God who demands complete obedience, who kicked out Satan and the fallen angels from Heaven, Adam and Eve from the garden, would turn around and make it easier to live in sin after the cross to go to Heaven? What utter nonsense! Talk about needing to wake up! Satan has infiltrated Christianity, and just like He tried with Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), Satan is twisting scriptures using "Christian" ministers to do his deeds.

Parents even demand obedience from their children and correct them when they listen to friends to go into disobedience. Well, we have a whole lot of "friends" called pastors of churches coaxing everyone to live in disobedience towards the ultimate parent – God!

But as it was stated, moving on from the deception of using the

**A Publication By Bible Believing Christians
For Bible Believing Christians**

Bible to justify sinning, the focus is actually on all or nothing. It was already hinted at in the opening verse, declaring the inability to serve two masters. Serving one master is what is demanded from every Christian.

When we want to serve our selfish ways and look for the justification of doing it with carnal glasses on, feeding into the desires of the heart, scriptures and self-examination are tainted. Scriptures are interpreted in a manner that seems to give permission. In self-examination, we declare ourselves to be pretty good and think that if we say, "No one's perfect", that somehow God is going to be alright with it.

Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37). Another take on the words of Jesus states, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment" (Mark 12:30), where "strength" is in the list. And Mark 12:33 adds the word "understanding" to the list. The word "all" means "all" or nothing. In other words, either we give God all of what we have or we might as well indulge, because we are only fooling ourselves if we think we shall have eternal life if we are only giving part of what we have. Basically, in the end, we will have nothing.

All of our mind does not mean becoming a monk or nun and spending every moment in prayer. But all that we think must be with God in mind. So, when we do pray,

is it thoughtful or formality? But when we are at work or play, are we working and playing appropriately? Are we giving the job or task the best thought processes, or are we looking to cut corners so we do not have to think so hard? Are we thinking of ways to extend a bit of break time or even quitting early instead of giving the full time required? Some employment scenarios even involve lying, covering up, exaggerating, etc. In play, is lying involved?

Remember, a soul is not something we have, but what we became – "And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). If we are living and breathing, we *are* a soul. And when God "takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust" (Psalms 104:29). Upon death, they are no longer a living soul. So, the soul is our living human being; therefore, of all that we go to do, is it committed to God or selfishness? Are you chasing after more and more money so you can buy more and more stuff and go to more and more places? Or, are you satisfied in how you are getting by with all your needs being met and then giving yourself to family and God? God time is not about being a minister; it is time which includes Him every single day. But many work hard, long hours, sometimes more than one job, have leisure time where they absorb whatever is on television or streaming, and have no time for God. Well, maybe they give God time for church once a week, but

that is pushing it. That is not all of our souls.

All of one's strength simply means putting our best effort forward. It may include other things, but the main concern is when we take the lazy way out, look for the easy way of doing something that will not have the same good results as being done the right way, when we give below par effort, we are not giving all of our strength. Giving all of one's strength even goes beyond expectations so as to turn the completed task into a blessing. If the task is to vacuuming the house, why not dust as well?

All of one's understanding can be summed up in John 3:19-20, which says, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd." Although God winks at our ignorance (Acts 17:30), to purposely remain in darkness is not with all of our understanding. We are to "grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [be] glory both now and for ever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18). This growth is done only through spending time with God, especially in the Word, for "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Jesus also told a parable on this matter. "And the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear" (Mark 4:28). If we are not growing

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Editor and Founder

Jerry O'Donnell

About Have One Mind (in Christ) Ministry

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

Subscription and Donations

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

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Christians, being “changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18), then we are not really Christians. We may acknowledge Christ and even attend church, but we still can be worldly and be lost. “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (1 John 2:6). So, we need to be increasing our understanding with God instead giving in to the distractions of the world, wasting our God-given time, which Satan does on purpose. That is one main danger of social media – a time waster.

In saving the most important for last, all of one’s heart, we see the motivation behind it all. Christians, believe it or not, are to keep the commandments. It is a convincing lie to think otherwise, as we have already addressed. But we do not just keep the commandments – that would be legalism – “I have kept the commandments and I deserve my reward!” Instead, Jesus entreats us, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23). A heart that says, “I know I should not do this but I really want to” may be in wrestling mode, but if it switches over to trying to figure out how to get both its own way and pleasing God, then that heart is divided, and that is not loving God with all of our heart. Judas tried that with the thirty pieces of silver and ended up betraying Jesus to the cross. The same is true for many others found in the Bible.

So, are you really giving God “all”, or trying to give God just the larger portion while dividing your

mind, heart, soul, understanding, and strength with other interests?

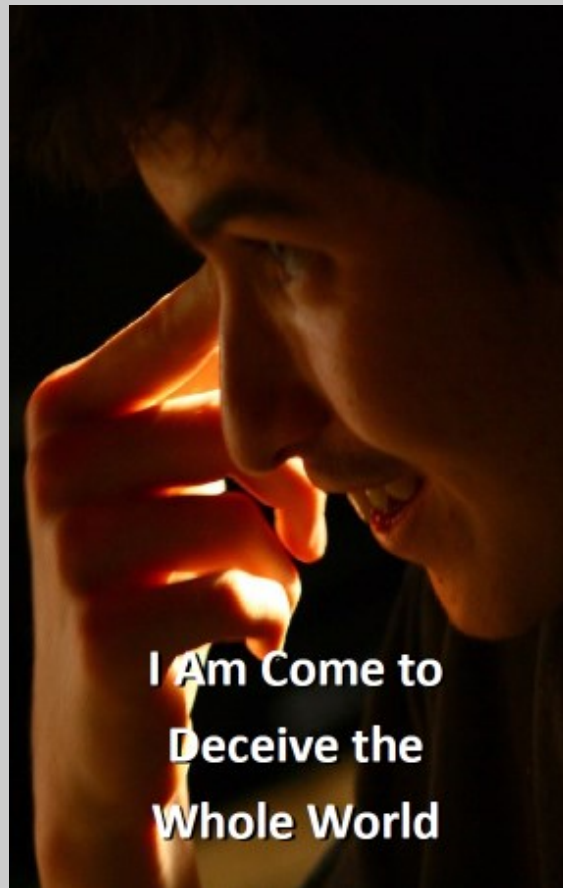


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How Satan, from his perspective, is distracting so many Christians while his agenda marches on.

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

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

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

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

Heavenly Health

What are You Really Wearing?

There are probably not many people reading this article who have not used polyurethane at one time or another to finish a floor or piece of furniture somewhere in their home. Polyurethane is also in insulation, foam furniture cushions, mattresses, carpeting and rugs, draperies and curtains. Actually, I am wording that incorrectly – polyurethane is not just *in* these products, it *is* that product itself. We have touched on some of these things in a past article and since that time I have been paying particular attention to fabrics which constantly touch our bodies – our clothing – and what effect those fabrics could be having on our health.

I have copied this fairly common line from *Page 2/6 Safety Data Sheet according to 1907/2006/EC, Article 31*, concerning polyurethane paint: *IF ON SKIN (or hair): Remove/Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/shower.* Well, I got to wondering, what if that clothing that you are told to “take off immediately” is polyurethane itself? Should I be wearing it? Is there any real difference in the items hanging in my closet from the substance I am painting my woodwork with? And what is it doing to my body?

First of all, we need to determine what polyurethane really is, so let us define that from Wikipedia:

“**Polyurethane** (/ˌpɒliˈjʊərəˌθeɪn, -jʊəˈrɛθeɪn/;[1] often abbreviated **PUR** and **PU**) refers to a class of polymers composed of organic units joined by carbamate (urethane) links.” And that is as far as I am willing to go down that chemistry rabbit-hole due to space and my own IQ. This is not a word you are going to ever see on your clothing labels anyway, but its derivatives such as elastane, Lycra (a Trade name), and spandex are all the same material and are hanging in almost every clothing closet in your neighborhood in some percentage due to their incredible elasticity.

This textile, elastane, is composed of a long-chain polymer, polyurethane, and it is known in technical circles as a polyether-polyurea copolymer. Elastane is an entirely synthetic fabric; no organic materials are used to make this substance, and it does not exist anywhere in nature.

While elastane was invented in the late 1950s, the story of this material truly begins in 1937 in Nazi Germany. Polyurethane was originally invented by Otto Bayer and his associates at the IG Farben plant at Leverkusen, and this substance was almost immediately made into a variety of plastics. The primary purpose of polyurethane was as a replacement for rubber, which was only available from certain types of trees and, therefore, was subject to

unexpected price fluctuations and was sometimes hard to obtain.

The Nazis used polyurethane for coatings on fighter planes, and it was also made into forms of specialty plastics called elastomers. Foam made from polyurethane remains a highly popular shock and heat insulator to this day, and this type of plastic is in wide use in a variety of other applications as well.

At the time, IG Farben did not intend to use polyurethane for apparel, but the DuPont Corporation essentially inherited the will of this legendary German company after World War II, and DuPont's pioneering research into the properties of polyurethane eventually led to the recognition that it could be used to make extraordinarily elastic fabrics.

Elastane's ability to withstand high temperatures was immediately noted by DuPont, and this substance's stretchiness made it an excellent addition to the various types of polyester that the corporation was currently developing. DuPont branded their elastane under the name "Lycra", and they immediately began putting this fabric made from a variety of toxic substances to use in clothing and industrial applications.

Since its inception, it has been widely understood that elastane is incredibly useful in a variety of

different applications. Unlike other synthetic fabrics, like nylon, this substance is not commonly made into plastics, but it is present in many different kinds of consumer apparel. It is important to note, however, that polyurethane, which is the precursor for elastane, is present in a number of different types of consumer, scientific, and industrial plastics.

Elastane is used in clothing whenever stretchiness is desired. For instance, this fabric is present in almost every type of form-fitting underwear for men and women; when this substance is used in undergarments, these garments can be designed on the small side with full knowledge that they will expand to fit the user's physique when they are worn.

It is common to see small amounts of elastane fabric used in practically every kind of boxer brief, panty, and bra on the market; while this fabric does not make up a large percentage of the end product, enough of it is included to provide stretchiness. If this substance is not present anywhere else in underwear, it is almost always present in the waistband.

Elastane fabric is also an important component in socks; even socks that are made almost entirely from wool contain at least some amount of spandex to help them stay on a wearer's feet. Everyday work socks and athletic socks almost always contain 5-10% elastane.

This material is incredibly popular in sportswear of every kind. Whether it is yoga pants, bike shorts, swimwear, hiking gear, sports bras, or any other type of

garment that is used during intensive physical activity, the form-fitting and elastic benefits of elastane make it an indispensable aspect of this type of garment.

The scope of the negative impact caused by elastane is debatable. Since the primary components of this fabric are formulated in a lab setting, acquiring the raw materials for elastane is not considered to be an environmentally degrading process.

A variety of occupational safety and consumer watchdog organizations have linked isocyanates, which are the raw materials used to make polyurethane, with childhood asthma and other respiratory issues. The presence of isocyanates has been mainly noted in association with polyurethane foam used in furniture, but it is reportedly not likely to be present in elastane or related materials, but I find that questionable since the production of polyurethane involves the use of a variety of toxic chemicals that are known carcinogens.

The main issue with elastane fabric from an environmental perspective is its biodegradability, or lack of; fabrics made with this substance do not break down over time in nature, and they gradually accumulate in the environment. While this article is not intended to get into environmental issues, it cannot overlook the fact that it has been reported that nearly 60% of the trash found in marine environments is composed of non-biodegradable clothing fibers, which means that elastane and similar fabrics contribute

significantly to the giant islands of trash that float through the oceans and the debris found in inland waterways.

Certain types of undergarments, such as shape-wear and compression garments, are designed to provide firm support and sculpt the body. However, these garments can trap heat and moisture against the skin, leading to excessive sweating, skin maceration, and bacterial growth. Now, the term "wicking" comes up a lot in relation to elastane sportswear which offers near microscopic holes in the fabric supposedly for the skin to be able to breathe and to cool the wearer, but what percentage of the fabric is still in direct contact with the skin, interfering with the work of the pores? Rubber is not breathable. Prolonged exposure to a warm and humid environment may also exacerbate existing skin conditions like eczema and folliculitis, and we are not even touching the topic of dyes in this article which cannot be just washed out of rubber.

In all my research I could find no reference to a definitive study of any kind that has been done on long-term effects of wearing synthetic clothing made of questionable materials in direct contact with the skin, but in making our selections, let us rely on Biblical history and common sense, not worldly fashions and fads in choosing clothing for our God-given bodies.



Healthy and Delicious Recipes

Pizza Beans

Ingredients

- 1/2 White Onion, chopped
- 1 Red Bell Pepper, diced*
- 2 Garlic cloves
- 2 teaspoons Italian Seasoning*
- 2 15-ounce cans White Beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 15-ounce can Tomato Sauce*

Vegan Cheese*

Instructions

1. Sauté 1/2 chopped white onion, 1 diced red bell pepper and 2 garlic cloves until softened.
2. Add in 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning.

3. Add in 2 15-ounce cans white beans and 1 15-ounce can tomato sauce and 1 1/2 cups broth.
4. Simmer for 15-20 minutes, stirring often.
5. Top with vegan cheese. Serve with a toasted or crusty bread

Notes

- Add any type of vegetables that you would like on a pizza (spinach, green and red peppers)
- Instead of Italian Seasoning you can use Basil or Oregano to your taste
- Instead of tomato sauce you can use your favorite Marinara sauce or pizza sauce [See below for homemade]

- Vegan mozzarella or parmesan are good choices, but use what you want, or none at all!
- Serve with whatever bread you like, or even with rice

Pizza Sauce

Ingredients

- 1 12 oz can Tomato Sauce
- 1 6 oz. can of tomato Paste
- 1 TBSP Oregano
- 1 ½ tsp Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp Paprika

Instructions

- Mix all ingredients in a bowl



Natural Vitamins

Benefits of Eating Broccoli

1. Full of nutrients, including fiber, folate and vitamins A, C and K.
2. Great for heart health as it contains fiber, fatty acids and vitamins that help regulate blood pressure in the body.
3. Potassium-rich, making it excellent at promoting your overall brain, muscle, and nervous system health.
4. Loaded with essential vitamins and antioxidants, which help strengthen the immune system.
5. May be good for eye health as it contains carotenoids, lutein and zeaxanthin.
6. Contains an abundance of Vitamin K, which is essential for maintaining healthy bones, along with being rich in Calcium, but also is one of the best sources of Zinc, Magnesium, and Phosphorous, which help in maintaining a healthy bone density.

7. Helps control blood sugar and is also popular as a diabetic diet food because broccoli contains large levels of glucoraphanin.
8. Promotes brain health, being rich in antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids.
9. Helps in weight-loss because broccoli contains a large amount of fiber.
10. Contains isothiocyanates, including sulforaphane and indole-3-carbinol, which are chemicals that boost detoxifying enzymes and act as antioxidants, reducing oxidative stress.
11. May have positive effects on estrogen levels, which could help reduce breast cancer risk.
12. Supports a healthy gut with two key compounds of a rich source of fiber and sulforaphane.
13. Natural anti-inflammatory properties leading to a pain-free life; controls inflammation because it is rich in a flavonoid called kaempferol.
14. Contains cholesterol-reduction soluble fiber that draws cholesterol out of your body.



Be Ye Holy — 1 Peter 1:15

Acts 13:48 says, “And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.” Those that quickly read the Bible or listen to preachers who skip this verse without studying the Bible for themselves will miss the expectation to live a holy and sanctified life. A command does not always start out with “I command you...”. Here, it begins with glorifying the Word of the Lord. Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death” (John 8:51). “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him” (John 14:23). Jesus further said, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). Therefore, keeping or obeying the Word of God is to glorify it. To ignore, condemn, or

just be disobedient is not glorifying the Word, and the person doing so will be lost, for “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:8). So, are you obeying Jesus’ doctrines through His Word, or ignoring them?

Romans 2:17-29 discusses hypocritical Jews who teach the commandments while breaking them and applying spiritual circumcision to the Gentiles when they actually keep the law. All are considered Jews, either physically or spiritually. It is the physical Jews who are not hypocrites, and the spiritual Jews (Gentiles who keep the commandments) who are right before God and are living the expected holy and sanctified lifestyle. So, do you “do and teach [them]”, for “the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19), or do

you “break one of these least commandments and” “teach men so”, for “he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19)?

1 Corinthians 5:12 involves people judging, just as Jesus taught, though many, even of Christians, do not think Jesus told us to judge: “by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20) and “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). Now, to the Corinthians, “what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?”, and verse 13 tells us what to do with those who produce bad fruits: “But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person”, keeping in mind that wicked people are simply included with those who refuse to give up their sins (Proverbs 10:16). As a result,

there must be a standard to judge by. That standard must be consistent and unchanging for all time, so they are not simply church rules like no chewing gum during the sermon. No. It is more serious to be casting out members over. Basically, the standard, as it has been from the beginning of time, is the heavenly law known as the Ten Commandments, of which the originals are kept safe in Heaven (Revelation 11:19). Now, what fruit are you producing?

Colossians 3:11-12 tells us directly how a true Christian conducts himself, though it is not all exhaustive as proper Bible study

includes gathering all of the verses on the matter together (Isaiah 28:9-10). But even this list is quite lengthy and disqualifies many Christians today from Christianity. "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond [nor] free: but Christ [is] all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye." Also addressed is that there is no difference between Jew or non-

Jew (Greek). Therefore, the instructions given in Hebrews is not for Hebrews only, but for all, which is addressing a side argument that Christians try to excuse themselves from applying. All of the Bible is to be applied. Stop cutting it up and saying who it is for. The Bible is for the true Christian. Are you one? And, in the meantime, do you live by these principles, or are you a Christian in name only?

1 Thessalonians 4:9 tells us clearly, "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to

(Continued on page 10)

Who Is the Real Antichrist?



Who Is the Real Antichrist?

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

- This book walks through Daniel, Matthew, Thessalonians, 1st & 2nd John, and Revelation along with many other books of the Bible gathering **over 80 identifying marks** of who the antichrist is making it the most comprehensive book on the topic to ever poses.
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love one another.” So, if we say we are Christians but do not love one another, we are lost. Now, before one says, “Oh, I’m very kind to my brethren”, Jesus tells us what the standard is in loving one another: “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:39-40). The Ten Commandments tell us how to love God and love one another. Therefore, if we love one another, we shall not steal from them, or lie, or covet, or kill, even commit adultery or disrespect authority, especially that of our parents. Even Paul brings this list out in Romans 13:9-10. Now, how are you doing on loving one another?

2 Thessalonians 3:5 is also glossed over by most Christians. “And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.” And many Christians think they have “the love of God” when they “cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). Jesus said, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind” (Matthew 22:37). To love with all of the mind means that we would not even

think of a little sinning. With all the soul, we would not even allow sin in our life, for sinning is not “all”, but an attempt at both God and mammon. Then Jesus plainly states, “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:40). Therefore, if one truly loves God, he will have no other gods before God, including pastors, parents, friends, even ourselves in place of God’s ways through His Word, as many try to dismiss His commands. We will not have idols in our lives, including watching celebrities who perform on TV, movies, singing, and whatever else, or be chasing after wealth, etc. It means we would wear the name Christian properly and not act like the world. And, we will keep the Sabbath day holy, not just an hour at church. All day we would cease from our secular labors and activities. So, now, do you really love God, which is living a holy life?

1 Timothy 4:7 is not just instructions for a minister, “But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness.” All of us are expected to not listen to old

wives’ fables or superstitions. Instead, all of us should exercise that which is godliness, holy living, a sanctification life. So, are you given to such fables and superstitions, thinking they are harmless, or do you live your life to God?

2 Timothy 3:1-4 tells us that in the last days, there will be a list of sins openly practiced in the church, meaning, that they are not to be part of us. We know it is in the church because these sins have always been practiced by the general public, and specifically, verse 5 says, “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” The world never had a form of godliness, putting on their best church clothes with their noses stuck up in the air. Therefore, we are to avoid those sins, in fact, all sin. It is not permitted to be practiced among Christians. That means that Heaven will not accept such practicing sinners into Heaven, either. So, are you avoiding those sins by living the holy and sanctified life, or are you going along with the modern church movement and seeing nothing wrong with those sins and

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even believing that it is impossible to stop doing them?

2 Peter 3:9 is subtle with the call to a holy and sanctified life. It does not say that God is longsuffering for all of us to “believe”, but to “repent”. “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.” Repentance is a sorrow for sin (Psalms 38:18), a willingness to stop (2 Corinthians 8:12), a confession to God for forgiveness (1 John 1:9), a justification or forgiveness from God for a good confession (1 John 1:9), and then the expectancy not to do those sins again (Hebrews 10:26). That is repentance, and that last part is the expected holy and sanctified life. So, do you truly repent, or do you just daily sin, confess, repeat? Maybe you no longer even confess your sins, feeling all sure of yourself that you are going to Heaven, which is an even greater deception.

Revelation 3:10 states, “Because thou hast kept the word of my

patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” That means if we do not keep His Word, we shall not be kept during temptation, which is what Satan tries to use to entice God’s people to choose to leave God and enjoy sin over righteousness. And the whole world is involved, especially anyone simply claiming to be saved. Therefore, keeping the Word, obeying it, is the expected sanctified life of a Christian. Are you living by God’s Word, or by what you feel is right, or maybe you do not even care because you think you are eternally saved already?

If commandment keeping, which is the holy and sanctified life, were not expected of a Christian, then James 2:11 would be meaningless: “For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.” Clearly, this is referring to the Ten Commandments. Obviously, Christians are able to transgress the law. And, “sin is the

transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4), where “because he hath sinned, and is guilty” (Leviticus 6:4), keeping in mind that God “will by no means clear [the guilty]” (Exodus 34:7). So, are you guilty of sinning, even in the slightest, against the Ten Commandments, especially when preachers tell you erroneously that the Commandments have been nailed to the cross, or are you avoiding the guilt by confessing the sins and having Him be “faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)?

1 Peter 2:13 begins with, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme,” and 1 Peter 2:16 ends with, “as the servants of God” (1 Peter 2:16). As long as the ordinance of man does not conflict with God, for “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29); even if we disagree with the law, we are to comply. It may not appear as the holy and sanctified life, but the resisting of self, thinking, “This is a dumb law – I’m not going to follow it!” but choosing to follow it because we are servants of God is where holiness sets in. So, are you a natural resister to the stupid

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laws of the land, or do you find ways to comply with them as best as you can, short of compromising God's commands?

2 Peter 3:11 tells us at the end of the verse about the expectation for a Christian to be holy and sanctified: "[Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness." So, is your conversation (even including the bodily expression) holy and godly?

In Revelation 3:11, we are told that "once saved, always saved" is a lie. To "hold that fast which thou hast" means one has eternal life but we are to guard it so "that no man take thy crown", which means that it can be snatched away. So, take heed, because "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." What, exactly, are we holding onto? It is not just holding onto Jesus Christ, but according to verse 12, it deals with how someone can take our crown: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God,

and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and [I will write upon him] my new name." Through temptation into sin, we can choose to leave the protective hand of God and live like everyone else lives – carelessly sinning. So, are you resisting the ways of the world, even overcoming the sins by living a holy and sanctified life, or are you not overcoming, but periodically participating in sin and even excusing the existence of it in your life?

Matthew 12:50 says, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." These are not going to be people closer to Jesus in Heaven compared to Christians who do not do God's will, yet claim to be saved. It is only those who do the Father's will that go to Heaven, for Jesus will say to many Christians, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall

enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23). These Christians live in iniquity, which is the breaking of God's law, because sin and iniquity are synonyms (Revelation 18:5), and "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). Further, David said, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law [is] within my heart" (Psalms 40:8) where the new covenant is supposed to be: "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" (Hebrews 10:16). So, are you doing God's will in keeping the commandments, or disobeying them and being workers of iniquity?



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

What a Woman Symbolizes

1. What female invites people to come? **Revelation 22:17**
2. How Christians are presented to Christ? **2 Corinthians 11:2**
3. Who makes themselves ready for the marriage of the Lamb? **Revelation 19:7**

4. What is Zion likened unto? **Jeremiah 6:2**
5. What is the symbolic definition of Zion? **Isaiah 51:16**
6. What activity is associated with backsliding? **First half of Jeremiah 3:8**
7. What term is applied to a nation, for example, Judah, that turns to pagan nations for their practices? **Second half of Jeremiah 3:8**
8. What does John see appear in natural beauty? **Revelation 12:1**
9. What does the woman arrayed in purple and scarlet practice? **End of Revelation 17:4**
10. What title does that woman have? **Revelation 17:5**
3. When we sin, what are we towards sin? **John 8:34 "servant"**
4. What is another word for being a servant of sin? **Galatians 5:1 "bondage"**
5. When servants of sin, what were we free from? **Romans 6:20 "from righteousness"**
6. What allows us to become servants of God? First part of **Romans 6:22 "free from sin"**
7. What are we made to become servants of righteousness? **Romans 6:18 "free from sin"**
8. Our old life of sin, symbolized by our old man, is to become what so as to be free? **Romans 6:6-7 "crucified"**
9. What does serving, or living in sin, lead to? **Romans 6:16 "death"**
10. What does living, or serving in obedience, lead to? **Romans 6:16 "righteousness"**

January 2025

Freed!

1. What was Jesus' mission? **Matthew 1:21 "save his people from their sins"**
2. What is the truth to make us? **John 8:32 "free"**



Questions & Answers

QUESTION: Is there any significance that Joseph was thirty when he was placed in charge of the land of Egypt?

ANSWER: According to Genesis 41:46, the Bible says, "And Joseph [was] thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt."

In addition, the Bible also states, "Take the sum of the sons of

Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers, from thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation" (Numbers 4:2-3).

And these directives point to Jesus, of course: "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was

opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, ..." (Luke 3:21-23). After the baptism, being about thirty, Jesus began His public ministry.

Joseph was placed as head of all the people of Egypt, being second in command. He was responsible

for their welfare as a nation. A priest doing the work in the tabernacle of the congregation was not to become such until the age of thirty. Now, Jesus remained in obscurity from the age of twelve through the time He was baptized at around the age of thirty. He then took on the responsibilities of the welfare of not only the souls in one nation, but “that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19). “He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world” (1 John 2:2). This is not universalism where everyone in the world is saved, but His sacrifice makes it possible for every single person to be saved if they choose to be saved.

As we know, the physical characters of the Bible had an imperfect type of Christ about them in their lives. So, the fact of Joseph being thirty is definitely something that was to identify a type of Christ along with his fidelity towards God (Genesis 39:9: “...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”) just like Samson’s strength reveals the might that God has, though he is imperfect because he did not possess self-control. David revealed God’s own heart, but was an imperfect type of Christ in that he was a bloody man and had sinned a number of times that the nation even found out about. We ought to know that Solomon was a type of Christ for the use of the wisdom he was given, but again, he was imperfect as he collected a thousand heathen women unto himself.

QUESTION: I try to do that which the Lord asks me to do, but things seem to keep getting worse, why?

ANSWER: Congratulations! You have gotten the attention of the devil. You do not think he is happy about your decision now, do you? He is unleashing everything that he is allowed to unleash to get you to take back that decision. God “will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able” (1 Corinthians 10:13). As with Job, the universe needs to witness, to observe, to see just how far you are willing to hang in there with your commitment. It is easy to say you are committed to God and even somewhat easy to offer little gestures here and there to reveal that commitment, but it is only under trials of fire that a person is refined in that commitment. You are the “gold tried in the fire” (Revelation 3:18).

Take a moment to ponder the universal situation. In a perfect sphere, an angel developed iniquity within himself despite being created to be perfect (Ezekiel 28:15). Again, in a perfect environment, about one third of the angels listened to Lucifer’s lies and ended up being cast out of Heaven. Yet again, in a perfect environment, Eve, “the woman being deceived was in the transgression” (1 Timothy 2:14), and then turned around and “gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Genesis 3:6). Keep in mind, God “will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time” (Nahum 1:9). For this to happen, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18). True

motives to the deeds are only revealed under trials and tribulations, in fact, “we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). If we can stay committed under whatever Satan can dish out, like to Job (Job 1:13-22, Job 2:7-10), then the unfallen angels and those of unfallen worlds will feel we can be trusted, despite the fact that God “knoweth the secrets of the heart” (Psalms 44:21). It is not enough for only God to know. It is important for the universe to know.

Take for instance, a reformed criminal – upon release from prison, if that person moves into your neighborhood, will you not express a bit of caution towards them? They have to prove that they are reformed and not just to have put in the time for their crime, or even simply just stating in so many words that they are reformed. The universe is the same way. “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Now, if we are truly reformed and placed in the same situation as before, will we react the same way. Will we continue to lose our patience, for instance. Only a more severe trial that goes beyond the scope of our last failure will reveal that. It is not good enough to be successful in the exact same trial. It has to go further and further, deeper and deeper, closer and closer, for testing.

Now, with that in mind, in an attempt to encourage you to “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession

before many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12), let us reveal that you are in good company.

Jospeh was an obedient boy (Genesis 37:13) but was hated by his brothers (Genesis 37:4), sold into slavery (Genesis 37:28), falsely accused of fornication (Genesis 39:14), went to prison (Genesis 39:20), was forgotten in prison by the two men he prophesied for (Genesis 40:23), especially by "the chief

butler" (Genesis 40:21), until his elevated position (Genesis 41:40).

Look at David who suffered much before becoming king. He was forgotten by his own father during Samuel's visit for the anointing, being but a lad (1 Samuel 16:11), ridiculed by his brothers (1 Samuel 17:28), suffered from an attempt on his life (1 Samuel 18:10-11), was hunted down, not once, but twice (1 Samuel 24:1-8, 1 Samuel 26), lost his best friend (1 Samuel 31:2), and, of course, suffered

through the awful things that happened to several of his sons.

Of course, Jesus is the ultimate example of suffering much, despite the commitment to God the Father, so much, that it is too enormous to expound upon in this short article.

Jesus does say to you even now, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid" (Matthew 14:27).



News and Comments

December 4—ABC News

2 kindergarteners in 'extremely critical condition' after Christian school shooting

"The sheriff told reporters that authorities have identified the shooter and said that he may have targeted the school because of its affiliation with the Seventh-day Adventist Church." Targeting not only Christians in general, but the group identified to be most biblical in all their beliefs even by other denominations, along with the Catholic Church, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you" (John 15:18).

December 11—US Magazine

Christian OnlyFans Model Sophie Rain Made \$43 Million Last Year: 'The Lord's Very Forgiving'

Is this what modern Christianity has come to with "Just believe" and nailing the commandments and consequences for breaking

them to the cross? "The Lord's very forgiving, and he put me on here. He put me on Earth for a reason and I'm just living every day," she told People in an interview published Wednesday, December 11. "If this wasn't meant for me, I wouldn't be here right now." This is so wrong on many levels, and it all begins with her Sunday pastor teaching her to "just believe" and "let's socialize"! The Bible declaring "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" (Ephesians 5:3) does not mean that, despite being a virgin still, you can flaunt your body at will. Men and women both have the responsibility to clothe themselves appropriately. And the fact that she thinks that God is so forgiving in continuance of sin is a big lie: "The LORD [is] longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing [the guilty]" (Numbers 14:18). Grace is for those who

choose to repent, cease from sinning, etc. Grace is not an allowance to sin. And to then turn around and blame God for putting her there on OnlyFans means that she believes God is a celebrity agent recruiting people for a site primarily being known as a porn site. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:16). "God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]" (1 Corinthians 10:13). "Abstain from fleshly lusts" (1 Peter 2:11) and do not be encouraging it! To say, "If this wasn't meant for me, I wouldn't be here right now" is basically blaming God for her sinning.

December 19—Washington Post
They divorced 50 years ago. Recently, sparks flew. They just remarried.

What a wonderful love story. It is a sweet, heart-tugging love story. Too bad it is an abomination in the eyes of God. "And [if] the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth [it] in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her [to

be] his wife; Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that [is] abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance" (Deuteronomy 24:3-4). This also

reveals where if left up to us humans, we think certain things are acceptable, but God says, "For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 55:8).



Natural Remedies

Relief for head congestion

A very warm 20-minute foot-soak with a few tablespoons of simple, processed, yellow mustard added

to it will bring great relief to sufferers of head congestion. This

can be repeated as often as necessary.

