

# What Is Wrong?

by Elder Greg Phillips  
Chattanooga, Tennessee

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15-16).

In our study of the seven churches of Asia we have, thus far, sought to find a standard for the church today. In those churches to which Christ pointed out faults, we have found warnings for us. We should examine ourselves to be sure we do not have the same faults. Today we have no group called Nicolaitans, whose deeds troubled the church at Ephesus, but we do have people who seek to bring the things of the world into the church. Though their names have changed over the centuries, their deeds have remained the same, and they trouble the church today. We need to be able to identify and deal with those who trouble the church, just as Christ taught the first century believers to deal with them.

In those churches in which the Risen Saviour pointed out no faults, we are shown the characteristics that are approved by our Lord, and should be striving to manifest their moral fiber. Like the church at Smyrna, we must be “faithful unto death” (Revelation 2:10). Like the church at Philadelphia, we must hold fast to what we have, “... that no man take thy crown” (Revelation 3:11). There is still an open door of opportunity set before them who have kept Christ’s word, and has not denied His name (Revelation 3:8).

While all of the messages to the churches of Asia are extremely practical, perhaps none fits the conditions in the America church as does the message to Laodicea, the church that had become lukewarm. Not only had this church vainly imagined herself to be self sufficient, she was blind to her own condition. “Because thou sayest, I am

rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17). As she thought she needed nothing that she did not already have, she rejected her constant need for Christ and His blessings. Jesus was, in fact, shut out of His Own church.

The Lord’s words, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot” (Revelation 3:15), could accurately address a great number of modern churches and an ever greater number of people who call themselves Christians. For the most part, we are lukewarm believers.

This same condition seems to prevail even more in much of Europe, where the fire for Christ and the gospel once blazed with great intensity. One of the remarkable exceptions is in Eastern Europe, where a vibrant Christianity has emerged in the midst of the suffering, persecution, and atheism of these Communist dominated countries. Many in these nations recognize their need of the Lord and diligently seek Him.

By contrast, in free Europe where there has been prosperity and democracy, the church is almost completely dead. The church has ceased to have any impact on the society. Atheism and humanism have taken over. Government and public policy is governed almost totally by philosophies that are antibiblical and even intolerant of the truth of Scripture.

In the United States, you find much the same thing. Government and the media, which too much affects the thinking of America, are, for the most part, liberal and intolerant of Christianity. Leadership in both Europe and the U.S. are working for a one world government while the populace is preoc-

cupied with their comfort and pleasure or the good life. The moral climate or condition of both free Europe and the U.S. is rotten to the core. According to a number of polls, if you compare the values, priorities, practices, and pursuits of professing Christians and non-Christians alike, you find very little difference on the whole.

Free Europe and most all of America has forgotten that they owe their freedom, their prosperity, and blessings to the preaching of the Word of God, to the reformation in Europe, and to the ministries of faithful preachers of the gospel.

It is a marvel that the church has flourished behind the Iron Curtain while dying in the West. The reasons are clear. Lacking any visible external threat to our faith, many in the free world have lost sight of the subtlety of the enemy and how he attacks, and the constancy of his hostility. We have grown careless and apathetic. We have become concerned more with our own comfort and well-being than with the command of Christ that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

People simply can’t stand prosperity. That is especially true of the people of God. In the example of Israel throughout their history, prosperity always led to apostasy. With freedom and prosperity come the temptation to trust in our blessings rather than in the Source of blessings. We become fat, comfortable, and self-sufficient. If we have plenty, we, like the Laodiceans, tend to think we have need of nothing. If we do not have enough, looking at the wealth around us, we tend to think that what we need is what others have—material blessings.

The problem is that men are putting their faith in the wrong thing, in their material world, in treasures on earth. Christ told us in no uncertain terms to

do the opposite, to lay up treasures in heaven. Paul instructs us in I Timothy 6:17-19: "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

God warned Israel in Deuteronomy 6:12 against forgetting the Lord as the source of their freedom and salvation. Nine times in Deuteronomy He tells them not to forget what the Lord had done for them, and 15 times He tells them to remember the Lord and His deliverance. Jesus Himself in the letter to the church at Laodicea warns and instructs us against the deadening effects of trusting in material wealth and the things of the present age rather than seeking a vital faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Laodicean church was a church that had lost its impact on the world because it had become occupied with the world and left the Lord standing outside. Certainly this church illustrates conditions of the church in the 20th century in a large portion of the world.

The language in which Jesus addresses this church is obviously figurative, but such images are familiar to us. We speak of one as being cold towards another, as having a cold or icy heart. The word hot would denote, of course, the opposite-- warm and zealous in their love and service. The state indicated here, then, is that in which there is little feeling at all, either for or against. There was a profession of re-

ligion, but no warm-hearted devotion. There was not open and honest opposition to him, no warm-hearted and honest love as he had a right to look for among his professed followers. Knowledge of Jesus Christ and what He has done for His people ought to warm the heart with love, and fill the soul with zeal in the cause of the Redeemer. There was in Laodicea only deadness and indifference to him and his cause. Too often, such is the case today.

As serious as this condition is, the remedy for it is really quite simple. Jesus said, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:18). "Gold tried in the fire" may mean pure and undefiled religion, or the grace or Divine influence which produces it. The Laodiceans had before imaginary riches; Christ alone can make them truly rich. White raiment represents holiness of heart and life. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (I Thessalonians 4:7). "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

The Laodiceans were commanded to "...anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Revelation 3:18). To anoint the eyes was to pray for the enlightening influences of the Holy Spirit, that they might be able to see their true state, and see where help lies.

The Holy Spirit's unction, like the ancient eye-salve's, first brings conviction of sin, then heals. He opens our eyes first to ourselves and our wretched

condition, then to the Saviour in His preciousness.

It is interesting that the most harshly rebuked churches of the seven, Sardis and Laodicea, are the ones in which alone are named no enemies from without, nor heresies from within. In their peace and prosperity, they had left the zealous love for Christ. Such is too often the case in the modern church.

Please note the seriousness of this lukewarm condition. Jesus said, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:16). The image is intensely strong, and denotes deep disgust and loathing at the indifference which prevailed in the church at Laodicea. This church would be utterly rejected and cast off as a church if they did not repent. What was threatened to that church may be expected to occur to all churches, if they are in the same condition. There has been an abundant fulfillment of this threat. Not only has the church at Laodicea perished, many others in that condition have been spued out of the mouth of the Saviour. We can look at the records of the Primitive Baptists in modern times and see where numerous churches that were once flourishing have died. We can find as well churches today that are near to perishing simply because no one has the zeal to repent and seek Jesus Christ. All professing Christians, and Christian churches, that are lukewarm, have special reason to dread the indignation of the Saviour.

How many more churches will die before we awake to our own lukewarm condition and repent? "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

**"To the influence of this Book, the Bible, we are indebted  
for the progress made to civilization,  
and to this we must look as our guide in the future."**

**Ulysses S. Grant**

# Children of Belial

by Elder W. H. Durrence  
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What problems of our society trouble you most? Is it the economy, crime, drugs, alcohol, abortion, pornography, child abuse or the immorality that seems to permeate our society? Whatever the problem, most, if not all, can be attributed to a group of people identified in the Bible as the children of Belial. It may be a term with which many are unfamiliar, but it describes people found on the side of wrong.

The word Belial appears sixteen times in the Scriptures, generally with other words such as "man," "son," "daughter," and "children." Combined they denote men and women described as worthless, reckless, and lawless. Simply put, this terminology describes wicked people (I Samuel 30:20). We make such an assessment by taking the time to read and study the following scriptures: Deuteronomy 13:13, Judges 19:22, 20:13, I Samuel 1:16, 2:12, 10:27, 25:17, 25:25, 30:22, II Samuel 16:7, 20:1, 23:6, I Kings 21:10, 21:13, II Chronicles 13:7 and II Corinthians 6:15. For your convenience, I will point out a few specific examples.

In I Samuel, chapter 25, we read about a man named Nabal. He married a good woman named Abigail. The saying that opposites attract seems apparent in this case. Nabal was selfish and self centered, a "son of Belial" (I Samuel 25:17). David asked Nabal's help in supplying the needs of his men; but according to I Samuel 25:11, he would give no assistance at all. There are so many people like him in the world today. They are oblivious to the needs of others around them. They never reach out to help others. Their own needs, interests, and desires totally absorb them. The only person they ever consider is "old number one," SELF! Have you ever known anyone like that? If not, you will not have to go very far to find one because the world

is full of them.

Let us now consider another man very much like Nabal. We read in I Kings 21:1-14 about a wealthy king named Ahab. His neighbor on the other hand was a very common man named Naboth. Naboth owned a small garden spot adjoining the palace of Ahab. He eyed the spot with envy and offered to buy or trade for the parcel of ground. Naboth's family had owned the land for many years, therefore he did not want to sell it. Ahab was a selfish man, spoiled and accustomed to getting his way. When he could not, he went inside and pouted like a little child. His wife was even more vile, and she contrived a plan by which they might get Naboth's land. They hired false witnesses to lie about Naboth so that he would be put to death. Those hired, called "men of Belial" (I Kings 21:13), would do almost anything for money. They evidently had no qualms about the consequence of their actions: they cared only for material gain. Unfortunately, many in our society live by the same rules today. They sell themselves to do evil. If the price is right, there are no limits as to how far some will go for money.

We find a third example in I Samuel 2:11-26. Here is a story about religious leaders who were vain and vile. Let me quickly point out that through the ages, Satan has infiltrated the ranks of the saints, to position strategically those who will exert great effort to demean the cause of Christ. The two men of this passage had a God fearing man as a father, yet they did not even come close to measuring up to his character. Their father Eli was a priest of God. The only failure attributed to him was that he was too lenient with them and spoiled them rotten. Their duty was to function in the priest's office, but they only used the office for their own

selfish gain. Their evil conduct identified them as "sons of Belial" (I Samuel 2:12). In their greed, they stole from the people as they came to worship God. They achieved this by placing excessive demands on the worshippers. They also defiled the Tabernacle of God by the sexual activities that they engaged in with the women who attended the house of God. God did not tolerate their evil ways very long. They met with an early death. Holy responsibilities are not to be taken lightly nor the ways of God to be trifled with by scandalous deeds.

From these examples of the children of Belial, it is easy to understand why the word has come to mean: worthless, reckless, and lawless. What are they worth to society? Nothing! They make no contributions to humanity or to the glory of God. They never add anything positive. They live in the realm of negative forces that tear down and destroy all that is holy and good. They are reckless and not only endanger themselves, but anyone else who may be near at the time. So many innocent people suffer because of their reckless ways. Tragically, innocent, law abiding, God-fearing citizens who lead productive lives, are maimed and often die because of their lawlessness. It is certain the world would be a better place in which to live, were it not for the children of Belial. Unfortunately the children of God and the children of Belial must share the same space. They are ever in conflict because the children of Belial will not dwell peaceably with the children of God. The children of God cannot simply withdraw and allow them to destroy it all.

The children of Belial will never stop hurting and filling the world with misery. David said, "But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with

hands (II Samuel 23:6). Many of them become criminals and must be put in prisons to protect society from them. Some people simply do not understand this fact. They may have been separated from the children of Belial by some social or financial barrier, or they have not yet understood the teachings of the Bible. In their concern for the children of Belial, they have failed to be sympathetic to the victims.

The children of Belial probably will always exist in the world. They are no likely to change unless or until the grace of God touches and transforms them. They have resisted the laws of

God and men, refusing to live in subjection to them. They throw off all restraint and resist all authority, subject only to their own wills. An insurmountable number of cases overwhelm our courts. Our jails and prisons are filled to capacity. The number of the children of Belial seems to grow with every generation.

As dark as the picture is, all hope should not be abandoned. God did not give us such knowledge to cause our hearts to despair. Instead, He intends that we seek solutions. Let me make a few simple suggestions. First, we should thank God that He has in-

formed us so well about the problem. Second, we should always be on guard and take care to protect ourselves from their craftiness. Third, we need to trust God to keep us in His protective and providential care. Fourth, we ought to thank God for His wonderful grace by which we are made new creatures in Christ. Fifth, we should ever praise our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Sixth, let us live lives that glorify God and clearly manifest that we are not the children of Belial. Seventh, look toward heaven with great anticipation, for there we shall forever dwell beyond their reach.

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## *Grow in Knowledge* "From Suffering to Glory"

1. "For I reckon that the \_\_\_\_\_ of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

2. "Blessed are they which are \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven."

3. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the \_\_\_\_\_."

4. "If we suffer, we shall also \_\_\_\_\_ with him."

5. "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding \_\_\_\_\_."

6. "Ought not Christ to have suffered these \_\_\_\_\_, and to enter into his glory?"

7. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto \_\_\_\_\_, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."

8. "For our light \_\_\_\_\_, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

9. "Verily, verily I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice, and ye shall be sorrowful, but your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be turned into joy."

10. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the \_\_\_\_\_ ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world "

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# Abortion: What Does the Bible Say?

by Elder Bill Caraway

## FORWARD:

World wide statistics show that 1.5 million abortions are performed daily. The alarming rate of abortions should be of great concern to all of God's children. The term 'abortion' applies to a woman that is pregnant and loses the child she is carrying either from a natural, accidental or intentional circumstance. The intent of this writing is to address the intentional abortion of a child, and to search the Scriptures for related information. The Bible and other available documentation was used in the composition of this writing to help us understand the issue of abortion from a Biblical point of view. The prophet Hosea voices my concern, and states the real problem when he says in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

This writing is submitted in hope that it may assist or help someone come to a better understanding of the subject, and make a decision based on God's pure word rather than options of society.

"The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and **they** that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1).

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." (Psalm 34:19).

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy

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substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." (Proverbs 3:5-9).

## PERTINENT DEFINITIONS:

In order to better understand abortion, it is helpful to review the definitions of some key words surrounding the subject.

### PREGNANT:

Webster's New World Dictionary, Second Edition: Having (an) **offspring** developing in the uterus; that has conceived; with **young** or with **child**.

### CHILD:

Webster's new World Dictionary, Second Edition:

1. An infant, baby.
2. An **unborn** offspring.
3. A boy or girl in the period of puberty.

### EMBRYO:

Webster's new World Dictionary, Second Edition:

An animal in its **earliest stages development** in the uterus: the human organism up to the third month after conception is called an embryo, thereafter a fetus.

### FETUS:

Websters New World Dictionary, Second Edition:

1. The **unborn young** of an animal while still in the uterus.
2. In man, the offspring of the womb from the end of the third month of **pregnancy** until birth: distinguished from **embryo**.

### ABORTION:

Webster's Dictionary 1828 Edition:

1. The act of miscarrying, or producing **young** before the natural time, or before the **fetus** is perfectly **formed**.
2. The fetus brought forth before it is perfectly **formed**.

Webster's New World Dictionary, Second Edition:

1. Expulsion of the **fetus** from the

womb before it is sufficiently developed to survive; miscarriage: called criminal abortion when unlawfully induced.

2. An aborted fetus.

In all the definitions cited above, life and development are in progress in the child, fetus, embryo, young or offspring at the time under consideration. To perform an abortion on a fetus or an embryo in the womb before it is **sufficiently developed to survive** clearly indicates that the fetus has life and is in the process of growth at the time of the abortion. If the fetus has life when an abortion is performed, then surely we must conclude that the life of a child, fetus, embryo, young or offspring has been terminated. If the definitions cited from Webster's Dictionary teach that a child's life is taken when an abortion is performed, why is there so much confusion about this issue? Is it because some people would like to complicate the facts to the extent that they could justify or legalize abortion? Man has so confused the issue that the United States Supreme Court has ruled that it is legal to abort a child up to the sixth month (of pregnancy) of life.

A definition of murder cited in the same dictionary is: "the **unlawful** and malicious or **premeditated** killing of one human being by another; to kill inhumanly or barbarously." Surely the process by which an abortion is performed is 'premeditated.' The question then, is whether abortion is unlawful or not! Abortion throughout history has **never been lawful until now!** It has already been stated that the Supreme Court has legalized abortion, but does the Bible support the Court's decision.

WHEN DOES LIFE OF A CHILD BEGIN?

Leviticus 17:11 says, "For the life

of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." The inspired writer states **that life is in the blood**. Therefore, when one drop of blood is pumped through the veins of an embryo, it is an individual with life, even though it resides within another human being, the mother. Medical science has proven that blood flows through the veins of an embryo three weeks after conception; and they believe it to have started much earlier due to the development at that stage of growth.

II Samuel 11:5 says, "And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child." When Bathsheba conceived, she notified David that she was **with child**.

Psalm 51:5 says, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my **mother conceive me**." David teaches here that he was David at conception (not before but when conception was accomplished) and was already a sinner before God, not a sinner by practice but a sinner by nature, therefore an individual accountable to God.

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the **sixth month** with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; **be it unto me according to thy word**. And the angel departed from her. And Mary **arose** in those days, and went into the hill country **with haste**, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the **babe leaped in her womb**; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said,

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed **is the fruit of thy womb**. And whence is this to me, that the **mother** of my **Lord** should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for **joy**." (See Luke 1:35-44). Mary arose and departed with haste after conception, and when she arrived at the house of Zacharias, Elisabeth speaking by the direction of the Holy Ghost states that Mary is a Mother, and the fruit of her womb is the Lord. Then at conception, there is life and individuality. Elisabeth was in her sixth month when Mary arrived, and John the Baptist leaped for joy because he was in the presence of the Lord. At six months of development, John the Baptist had comprehension of being in the presence of his Lord, and he expressed this joy by leaping!

These Scriptures as well as others provide Biblical evidence that life and individuality begins at conception. The child is housed in the mother's womb for protection and sustenance. As he develops and grows, he reaches the point where he can live outside the womb, thence birth. After birth, the child is almost as dependent as before birth.

#### GOD'S WORK AND CONCERN WITH THE UNBORN.

"Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?" (Job 31:15).

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Psalm 139:13-16).

"Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; the LORD

hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name." (Isaiah 49:1).

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5).

"But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace;" (Galatians 1:15).

A brief description of how God deals with His children before they are born (naturally) is described in the above Scriptures. If God deals with them as individual children before they are born and reveals His actions to us through the Scriptures, **then we too should acknowledge the individuality of an unborn child!**

#### GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING LIFE AND DEATH:

"The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up." (I Samuel 2:6). God reserves unto Himself the right of life and death".

"And God spake all these words, saying, (v. 13) Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:1,13).

Exodus 23:7 says, "Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous **slay** thou not: for I will not justify the wicked."

"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." (James 2:11).

God set laws over man to instruct, guide, and direct him in the ways he should conduct himself. In addition to the laws, the penalties for the transgression of the law are also stated.

#### THE LAWS OF GOD PROTECT CHILDREN BEFORE AND AFTER BIRTH.

Exodus 21:22-25 says, "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief

follow, then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." These verses of Scripture set forth how God's law protects a pregnant woman and prescribes by law the penalty for anyone who injures that woman and harms that unborn child.

Amos 1:13 says, "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of the children of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have ripped up the woman with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border:" It is a transgression to kill a woman with an unborn child, and punishment is assured to those that do such things by the word of God.

Matthew 18:10, 14 says, "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. (v. 14), Even so if it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

The warning is set forth in many Scriptures, that to kill, abuse, misuse or mistreat innocent children of any age, whether before or after birth will be dealt with by a most Holy and Just God. God's justice will be administered in accordance with **His laws**, and **not the laws of the United States!**

SHOULD A CHILD CONCEIVED THROUGH RAPE OR INCEST BE ABORTED? "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin." (Deuteronomy 24:16).

Rape or incest is one of the most evil, humiliating and degrading acts a woman could ever suffer. The person which commits such a crime should be punished to the fullest of the law. If conception should take place as a result of such a crime, the woman and infant are innocent of any transgression of the law, but the man is guilty. To commit suicide or abort the child

would be to **punish the innocent**. The woman that aborts a child under such circumstances compounds the evil act by taking the life of an innocent child. It is understandable that a woman would not have a desire to raise the child because of the shame and terrible way it was conceived, but God's law is firm. Therefore it would be in keeping with the law to give up the child at birth for adoption.

SHOULD A DEFORMED OR RETARDED CHILD BE ABORTED?

"And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?" (Exodus 4:11).

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Romans 9:20,21).

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." (John 9:1-3).

If a woman is carrying a child and it is known that the child is malformed (mentally or physically), the hardship of caring for the child (mentally, physically and financially) throughout its life is a very great responsibility on the parents. Under such a responsibility, the temptation to have the infant aborted would try the love and godly fiber of the parents. To succumb to such a temptation and have the infant aborted would be to take an innocent life in order to relieve the burden of raising or caring for the child, that is to say, for the convenience of the parents.

SHOULD A WOMAN HAVE CONTROL OVER THE LIFE IN HER BODY?

There is a lot of difference between "having control over her body" and

"having control over the life in her body." A woman should have control over her body in keeping with God's law and the law of the land (where the law of the land does not conflict with God's law). The child that is housed in the womb is not part of the body of the woman. The child is a product of conception and is an individual receiving protection and nourishment from the mother as it grows. Much has already been said to prove that life and individuality begins at conception, therefore the infant in the womb of a woman is not "just a part of her body," but it is an individual depending completely upon the mother to provide all that is necessary for proper growth and development. Abortion is the intentional expulsion (killing) of the individual housed in the mother's womb which is dependent upon her. When a mother abandons a baby at birth, it dies, the mother is charged with abandonment and murder; but when she goes to a clinic and has the child killed and removed from her womb, it is said to be legal. God forbid!!! Consider the following Scriptures:

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3).

"Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezekiel 18:4).

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19,20).

IS ABORTION A CONSIDERATION FOR AN UNDESIRABLE PREGNANCY?

When a pregnancy creates a crisis for a woman, it is certain that she is in a dilemma as to what to do. To calmly determine what course of action she should take is the very best approach. To assist in that determination, she needs the very best information available, or her resolution may add to her

crisis. To rely on any thing less than God's instructions would be unwise. The verses of Scripture above, together with many other Scriptures, teach God's children how they should conduct their lives and the benefits they receive when they comply with God's instructions. It may be much easier to follow the advice of friends, doctor, relatives, or even the federal law, but when one makes a decision that concerns the life of another individual, that decision should be weighed by the infallible word of God. Consider the following Scriptures:

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts." (Proverbs 21:2).

"He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD." (Proverbs 17:15).

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12).

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." (Isaiah 49:15).

**CAN FORGIVENESS BE GRANTED A MOTHER IF SHE ABORTS HER CHILD?**

"Forgiveness as taught in the Bible embraces two phases: First, the eternal phase wherein God's children are passive! Jesus on behalf of God's children, and in accordance with God's will, accomplished all that was required of Him in order that their sins be put away (eternally from the Father), as far as the east is from the west (this phase of forgiveness is reflected in the first three Scriptures cited below under this heading). Second, the timely phase, wherein God's children are taught to repent of their sins (turn away from) in order to receive forgiveness (to relieve their guilty conscience in this life) from their sins (this phase of forgiveness is reflected in the last three Scriptures cited below under this heading).

#### **ETERNAL FORGIVENESS**

"In whom we have redemption

through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace"; (Ephesians 1:7).

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32).

Isaiah 43:25 says, "I, even, I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

#### **TIMELY FORGIVENESS**

Acts 13:38 says, "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins."

Acts 8:22, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."

I John 1:9, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**WHAT ABOUT THOSE THAT PERFORM ABORTIONS?**

The oath that a doctor swears to uphold states that he will do everything in his power to preserve life, yet many of them perform abortions without any thought of the oath or the life they destroy. These acts of abortion performed in privacy may not be known to anyone else, but all things are known by an all wise and Almighty God.

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:13).

"Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen." (Deuteronomy 27:25).

"But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it." (Jeremiah 22:17).

"It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and be cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." (Luke 17:2).

**WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD?**

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Romans 12:2).

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10).

Proverbs 24:11-12 says, "if thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9,10). "In meekness **instructing** those that **oppose themselves**; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." (II Timothy 2:25,26).

**SCRIPTURAL CONSIDERATIONS.** "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3).

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." James 1:5-6.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16-17.



"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." II Timothy 2:15-16.

"Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD." Jeremiah 17:5

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is." Jeremiah 17:7.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" I John 2:1.

CONCLUSION:

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Revelation 4:11.

"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." I Corinthians 1:30-31.

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# Come Apart for A While

by Elder Edward McIntyre  
Fitzgerald, Georgia

*Mark 6:30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. 31 And he said unto them, **Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.** 32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.*

*Luke 9:10 And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. **And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.***

The above verses refer to the same incident where the Apostle had been

sent out on a mission by Jesus and have returned, gave the report and were tired. Jesus, knowing this "carries" them into a desert place to rest. A time to rest, regroup, meditate and to restore their tired bodies. It has been said that The Lord's servants never tire of serving but do get tired and weary of body in serving,

We are living in times of rush, hurry, impatience and stress, and so often we fail to take time to rest in the Lord. We become so involved with worldly things that we get too tired to pursue spiritual things, things that will cause us to have a closer walk with our Savior, Jesus Christ. Many places in the Bible we are told to be still, stand still, to wait, to be patient, to think upon, and simply take time to rest and hear the things of the

Lord.

If Jesus had a concern for the disciples needing to go aside for rest in that day, I would think He would advise us today to come aside and rest. Why? That we too would be refreshed and ready to go forth in service that would honor Him.

Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

May God bless us to come apart for a time of refreshing and rest that we may be energized for service in "His Kingdom."

May God bless you to come apart with Him today for rest.

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# Hidden Message

ML HVIEZMG XZM HVIEV GDL NZHGVH: ULI VRGSVI SV DROO SZGV GSV LMV ZMW OLEV GSV LGSVI LI VOHV SV DROO SLOW GL GSV LMV ZMW WVKRHV GSV LSGSVI BV XAMMLG HVIEV TLW ZMW NZNNLM.

KEY

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

# Life After Death!

by Elder Don McWilliams  
(Deceased)

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell." Song of Solomon 2:11-13.

What a glorious time spring is for us. That which to the natural eyes appears to be dead suddenly springs forth with new life. Hidden from our eyes all through the winter was life deep within waiting for the proper time to come forth.

On several occasions Jesus would

tell His disciples, "My time is not yet come." I believe there was a precise time and instant that Jesus was to die on the cross, the time corresponding with certain ceremonies in the temple assuring that there would be witnesses to the vail being torn from top to bottom. The dying of the law dispensation and the casting away of the adorning leaves of ceremony were over, but that which was to come forth, (Jesus), would be the ultimate in beauty. Although to the natural man there is no beauty that we should desire him, yet, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away;

behold, all things are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17).

As Jesus arose from the dead to give God's children the assurance that some day we also will come forth a glorified body from the grave, we can find each spring a reminder in the flowers and trees that even though they appeared dead, yet life springs forth again. I feel Jesus might have said, "Look at those things that appeared dead, and remember Me who was dead and am alive forevermore.

Think on these things! (Philippians 4:8).

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## QUOTES YOU SHOULD KNOW

(From our Founding Fathers and Forefathers)

### John Adams

Signer of the Declaration of Independence and 2nd President of the United States

"It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue." (1776)

### John Quincy Adams

6th President of the United States

"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity."

"The law given from Sinai was a civil and municipal as well as a moral and religious code; it contained many statutes...of universal application-laws essential to the existence of men in society, and most of which have been enacted by every nation which ever professed any code of laws...Vain, indeed, would be the search among the writings of profane antiquity...to find so broad, so complete and so solid a basis for morality as this Decalogue lays down."

"The laws of nature...of course presupposes the existence of a God, the moral ruler of the universe, and a rule of right and wrong, of just and unjust, binding upon man, preceding all institutions of human society and government."

### Samuel Adams

Signer of the Declaration of Independence

"Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a people whose manners are universally corrupt." (1749)

# Precious Treasures!

by Bro. Richard Lee  
Waycross, Georgia

Matthew 6:1-18 teaches us how we can be rewarded openly by our Heavenly Father. This scripture also tells us that man can reward us. We see here that being rewarded by man or by God is determined by how we do these deeds, and by what motivates us to do these things.

This next passage of scripture warns us to be aware of where we store our treasure. Matthew 6:19-21 says (v19) "Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal: (v20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and thieves do not break through nor steal (v21) For where you treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Jesus has told us here to decide where we want our heart to be. Do we want our heart to be focused on earthly things? Instead, we are told to lay up treasures in heaven. The question we must find an answer to is, how do we lay up our treasures in heaven, so our hearts will be in the right place. I am not sure if our heart follows our treasure or if our treasures will be where we focus our heart. Jesus said to lay up our treasures in heaven so I think this is the part on which we need to focus.

Jesus teaches in Matthew 6:1-18 that we will be rewarded openly by our Heavenly Father not just because of what we do, but because of how and why we do it. The three things reviewed in this text are giving alms, praying, and fasting. All of these things are good deeds, things that are taught in God's word that we must do if we want to serve God. But we can see a very sharp contrast in the reward depending on what motivates us to do these things. If we do deeds to be seen of men, the reward will be of men, which is really no lasting reward. It will be a treasure that will quickly be taken from us by moth, rust, or by thieves. If we do this good deed in secret or to glorify our worthy God, then

our Father who sees in secret will reward us openly. This is a treasure that cannot be taken from us nor can any other man benefit from this treasure. It will be your reward, your treasure. The value of the treasure will depend on the purity of our heart.

We can see that the only way to invest our time wisely so that God will be glorified and we will benefit from it is if we give ourselves to God's service. When we do that, He will give us the things we need. In Matthew 6:33 we read, "(v33)but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." In Matthew 16:24-28 we read "(v24)Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (v25) for whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (v26) For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (v27) For the son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. (v28) Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming into his kingdom."

In Matthew 23, Jesus speaks to His disciples and warns against following after the scribes and Pharisees. Verse 5 says "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments." Matthew 23:11-12 says "(v11) But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.(v12) And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

In the remainder of chapter 23, Jesus is rebuking the scribes and Pharisees for worshiping the gold rather than the temple that sanctified the gold, the gift rather than the altar that sanctified the gift. In Matthew 23:27-28

we read, "(v27) woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.(v28) even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

Too often we are like these scribes and Pharisees in that we want recognition for the things we do. We value our worldly possessions more than The Creator of all things. We focus on the way we appear to the world while on the inside we are filthy.

What is the point Jesus is making?

Where is your heart? What is your treasure? How are you going to lay up your treasure so it will be secure? We can't go around God and be able build or accumulate any lasting treasure. We must go through Jesus. We must serve God and He will reward with that really precious treasure! Remember, "...he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6 b).

The other question I had was how do I lay up treasure in heaven? Can I make Eternal Heaven a better place for me because of the things I do here on earth? The answer is a resounding, "No." I can't improve the Eternal Heaven. There will not be some people in the Eternal Heaven with more glory or blessings than another. However, God's word teaches about the kingdom of heaven where God comes down to dwell within His obedient children while they are living here on earth!!! This heaven is defined as righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, (Romans 14:17). This heaven called the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God is within you! (See Luke 17:20-21.)

Matthew 18:1-4 says "(v1) At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? (v2) And Jesus call a little child unto him, and set him

in the midst of them, (v3) And said verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted; and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (v4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

We should be able to see the com-

mon theme in all the above scriptures. We must serve God through serving His people, but none of the works we do are acceptable unless we go through Jesus. We are told to lay up our treasure in heaven, but we can't go around Jesus, we have to go through him. We can't come through Jesus unless our hearts are focused on Him

with an humble desire to do God's will in our lives. There is no room for vain pride in God's kingdom of heaven.

It is my desire that as God gives me ways to serve him and blesses me to help others, that I would be able to humble myself and be able to experience the great treasures in the kingdom of heaven while I live here on earth.

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## *Christian (?) Gossip*

I call it Christian gossip  
and it is deadly as can be,  
Listen to some thoughts I have  
and see if you agree.  
You've heard something about a brother  
and wonder if it is true  
So you ask another brother  
who's always been straight with you  
And through discussion and supposition,  
the story starts to grow.  
No one thinks to ask the brother, if the story's so.  
A sister comes to talk with me  
she's filled with much remorse.  
She thinks I might help her  
choose the proper course.  
Oh I wouldn't want to hinder  
as she travels on her way,  
So I ask a dear ole sister  
what she thinks I should say,

And the two of us agree  
the load is grievous to bear.  
We just tried to reassure her,  
she has friends who truly care.  
Sometimes we don't consider  
that others' lives are theirs to lead.  
But think somehow its up to us  
to point out what they need.  
If we'd make sure before we talk  
that our words are fitly spoken.  
Then gossip would begin to cease  
and fewer hearts would be broken.  
So if someone's really hurting  
and comes to you for aid.  
Be careful not to turn their woes  
into your own crusade,  
Encourage them to talk to God  
for He is waiting there,  
And He's our source of comfort  
when we go to Him in prayer.

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## *Answers to Grow in Knowledge*

- |                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Sufferings - Roman 8:18   | 6. Things - Luke 24:26              |
| 2. Persecuted - Matthew 5:10 | 7. Death - Philippians 2:8,9        |
| 3. Reward - Hebrews 11:25,26 | 8. Affliction - II Corinthians 4:17 |
| 4. Reign - II Timothy 2:12   | 9. Sorrow - John 16:20              |
| 5. Joy - I Peter 4:13        | 10. World - John 16:33              |

**“Our Lord approved neither idol worship  
nor idle worship, but ideal worship in Spirit and in truth.”**

# "Born of the Spirit" versus "Filled With the Spirit"

by Bro. Joshua Leach  
Blackshear, Georgia

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit;**" (Ephesians 5:18).

This article focuses on the difference between being *born of the Spirit* and being filled with the Spirit. There is a very clear difference taught in the word of God. We must rightly divide the word of truth to find out what these phrases mean.

Let's start with the phrase "*born of the Spirit*" which is the same thing as being "born again." In John 3, Jesus taught a man named Nicodemus wonderful truths concerning being born again. Jesus tells him that a man must be born again to see and enter the Kingdom of God. Nicodemus was confused and asked him how he could enter into his mother's womb a second time. Jesus told him that a man must be born of water and of the Spirit. A man must be physically born, a natural birth, (born of water), and he must be spiritually born (born of the Spirit). He makes a clear distinction between the two in verse 6 when he says, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

You see, although we are physically alive in the flesh, God must make us alive spiritually before we can see or enter the Kingdom of God here on the Earth. Being born again happens only one time in the life of a child of God. It is not something that we do ourselves or cause in any way. It is the work of God alone. Listen to what Jesus tells Nicodemus about being "born again" or being "born of the Spirit" in John 3:7-8. "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but

canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit." In the same way that we can't control the wind, we can't control being born again. Ephesians 2:1 states, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins". Being dead in our sins, He quickened us, or made us alive. We weren't just sick in our trespasses and sins. We were dead! It is the amazing grace of God that quickened us. Ephesians 2:5 states, "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" . Being born again is the work of God. 1 Corinthians 2:14 states that "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." We would not love God, desire to know more about God, or desire to serve Him if we weren't already born of the Spirit.

Being "filled with the Spirit" is different than being born of the Spirit because it can happen multiple times in one person's life and because it is a command for us to obey. Ephesians 5:18 says, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" This is a command from the word of God. We are told to be filled with the Spirit. How? How do we do that? Thankfully, the word of God is so beautiful and wonderful that it tells us.

Make an outline as you read Ephesians 5:18-21. Label Roman Numeral One (I.) and write "be filled with the Spirit". Notice that verse 18 does not end in a period. Instead, it ends in a semi-colon. This is significant because it means the sentence isn't over yet.

The sentence doesn't end for three more verses. These three verses tell us three different things we should do to be filled with the Spirit.

Verse 19 states, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" Now, continuing with your outline, label capital "A" (A.) indented just under Roman Numeral One (I.) with a paraphrase of verse 19 next to it: "speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs".

Verse 20 states, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;". Therefore, the next heading under "be filled with the Spirit" would be capital "B" (B.), "giving thanks".

There is still one more heading, but pause here and think about the first two headings. Why would speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs fill you with the Spirit? Why would giving thanks for all things fill you with the Spirit? Well, what are you thinking about when you are doing these things? You would be thinking about God! Not only that, but you would be thinking about the things God has done for you for which you should be thankful! This will push away all worldly thoughts and keep you close to God. Your fellowship with Him would grow stronger while you are speaking to yourself in singing, and while you are giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for your blessings!

Finally, capital letter "C" (C.) is found in verse 21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." This is a little different than the others ...and dare I say a little harder. It also may

require some more detail. Thankfully, the word of God provides that for us too.

The rest of chapter 5 and the beginning of chapter 6 both focus on how we are supposed to submit ourselves one to another. There are three subheadings that you should label one, two, and three. Indent under capital letter "C" (C.) and write number one (1.). Verse 22 says, "Wives, submit unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." It is important to note that the word of God also gives instruction to the husbands. Read verse 25, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself a ransom for it." Each of these three subheadings will have a counterpart to them. Ephesians 5:22-33 deal with the subheading "Wives, submit unto your own husbands..." Number two (2.) is found in Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Its counterpart is found in verse 4 where the word of God says, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Finally, number three (3.), "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ" (Ephesians 6:5). We are to submit to our bosses at our jobs, students to teachers, and to any person above us in position "as unto Christ". Verse 9 gives the instruction to the masters, "And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him."

What have we been talking about during these last few paragraphs? All of these scriptures pertain to how we can "be filled with the Spirit". Did you

make your outline? It is a beautiful way to visually see how simple and direct the word of God can be.

Isn't it beautiful how the word of God clearly tells us things to do to be filled with the Spirit? This is very different from when Jesus told Nicodemus about being born of the Spirit saying "Marvel not," and likened it unto the wind. We are given clear steps to follow to be filled with the Spirit. Being born again or born of the Spirit is a work that God has reserved unto Himself.

Let's look at a few instances of followers of Christ being filled with the Spirit, and notice some of the characteristics that result from being filled with the Spirit. First, look at Acts 4:31. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." Notice that when these disciples "prayed", God blessed them to be filled with the Spirit. Did they do something to be filled with the Holy Ghost? Yes, they did. Also, notice the result of them being filled was that they "spake the word of God with boldness."

Being full of the Spirit will give you great courage to boldly serve God in all areas of your life. It will drive away all fear of man. At the beginning of Acts 4, the word of God describes how the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Saducees arrested Peter and John for preaching Jesus. The next day, many rulers and high priests gather and asked them "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" Then verse 8 tells us that Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, began to boldly tell these rulers (who could have him killed) about Jesus and said, "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead,

even by him doth this man stand here before you whole." Peter spoke these words with great boldness and with no fear. Peter preached Jesus even to the rulers who put him in prison!

In Acts chapters 6 and 7, the word of God tells about Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost" who spoke truth with great authority and boldness to the high priests, calling them "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears" and condemning them for their sins. In Acts 7:54-60, after Stephen spoke, the word of God tells us how the high priests were so "cut to the heart" that they "gnashed on him with their teeth" and stoned him to death, but Stephen, "being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55-56). God blessed Stephen to endure major persecution while he was full of the Spirit! Being full of the Spirit, Stephen was enabled to even pray for those who killed him!

Read Acts 13:49-52 which tells us about Paul and Barnabas being persecuted for preaching "the word of the Lord." However, they simply "shook off the dust of their feet." Verse 52 states, "And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost."

There are many other examples of followers of Christ who were filled with the Spirit and blessed to do mighty things and endure terrible persecution because they had been filled with the Spirit. Brethren, we should serve God and pray every new day that God will fill us with the Spirit, and we should thank Him for quickening us when we were born again, born of the Spirit.

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

### SIGNER OF THE CONSTITUTION AND DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

**"ONLY A VIRTUOUS PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF FREEDOM. AS NATIONS BECOME CORRUPT AND VICIOUS, THEY HAVE MORE NEED OF MASTERS." (1787)**

# Bible Reading Calendar for June

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	II Chr. 1,2,3	John 12:1-9
2	II Chr. 4,5,6	John 12:20-50
3	II Chr. 7,8,9	John 13:1-17
4	II Chr. 10,11,12	John 13:18-38
5	II Chr. 13-16	John 14
6	II Chr. 17,18,19	John 15
7	II Chr. 20,21,22	John 16:1-15
8	II Chr. 23,24,25	John 16:16-33
9	II Chr. 26,27,28	John 17
10	II Chr. 29,30,31	John 18:1-23
11	II Chr. 32,33	John 18:24-40
12	II Chr. 34,35,36	John 19:1-22
13	Ezra 1,2	John 19:23-42
14	Ezra 3,4,5	John 20
15	Ezra 6,7,8	John 21

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Ezra 9,10	Acts 1
17	Neh. 1,2,3	Acts 2:1-13
18	Neh. 4,5,6	Acts 2:14-47
19	Neh. 7,8	Acts 3
20	Neh. 9,10,11	Acts 4:1-22
21	Neh. 12,13	Acts 4:23-37
22	Esther 1,2,3	Acts 5:1-16
23	Esther 4,5,6	Acts 5:17-42
24	Esther 7,10	Acts 6
25	Job 1,2,3	Acts 7:1-19
26	Job 4,5,6	Acts 7:20-43
27	Job 7,8,9	Acts 7:44-60
28	Job 10,11,12	Acts 8:1-25
29	Job 13,14,15	Acts 8:26-40
30	Job 16,17,18	Acts 9:1-22

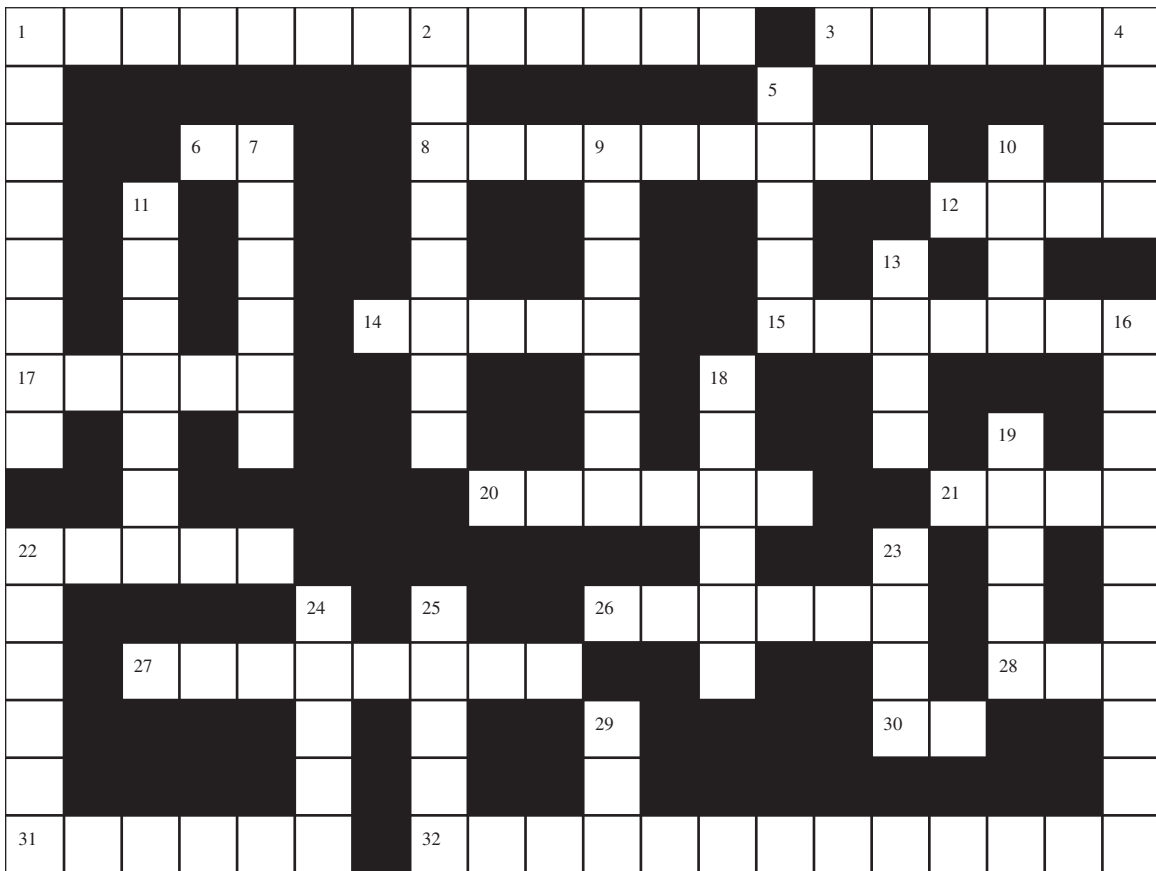
**ANSWERS TO  
CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
MAY 2013**

<sup>1</sup> R	E	A	<sup>2</sup> S	O	N	A	<sup>3</sup> B	L	E	<sup>4</sup> K	<sup>5</sup> N	O	W	L	E	<sup>6</sup> D	G	<sup>7</sup> E	
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<sup>34</sup> O	T	H	E	R	W	I	S	E		E				<sup>35</sup> P	L	E	A	S	E

# Crossword Puzzle

## ACROSS

1. "For consider him that endured such \_\_\_\_\_ of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." 3. "...let us lay aside every \_\_\_\_\_, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." 6. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let \_\_\_\_\_ go into the house of the Lord." 8. "for as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the \_\_\_\_\_ of one shall many be made righteous." 12. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' \_\_\_\_\_: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." 14. "...Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner \_\_\_\_\_," 15. "...And they parted his \_\_\_\_\_, and cast lots" 17. "...they gave to me and Barnabas the \_\_\_\_\_ hands of fellowship;..." 20. "\_\_\_\_\_ not the spirit" 21. "For whosoever shall \_\_\_\_\_ the whole law and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." 22. "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the \_\_\_\_\_, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind..." 26. "In whom all the building fifty framed together groweth unto an holy \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord:" 27. "...but now once in the end of the world hath he \_\_\_\_\_ to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." 28. "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin \_\_\_\_\_ unto death." 30. "Judge not, that \_\_\_\_\_ be not judged." 31. "Brethren, my heart's \_\_\_\_\_ and prayer for Israel is, that they might be saved." 32. "...for sin is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law."



## DOWN

1. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new \_\_\_\_\_..." 2. "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from \_\_\_\_\_." 4. "...Cursed is every one that hangeth on a \_\_\_\_\_" 5. "For as many as are of the works of the law are \_\_\_\_\_ the curse:..." 8. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the \_\_\_\_\_, and of the household of God;" 9. "If we say we have no sin, we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 10. "...\_\_\_\_\_ me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:" 11. "Then said Jesus, Father, \_\_\_\_\_ them; for they know not what they do..." 13. "Let this \_\_\_\_\_ be in you which was also in Christ Jesus:" 16. "Blessed is the man that endureth \_\_\_\_\_." 18. "...behold, all things are \_\_\_\_\_ new." 19. "If we suffer, we shalt also \_\_\_\_\_ with him:..." 23. "...if we \_\_\_\_\_ him, he also will deny us:" 24. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and \_\_\_\_\_, and joy in the Holy Ghost" 25. "O Lord my God, in thee do I put my \_\_\_\_\_..." 29. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is \_\_\_\_\_."