

BIBLE MONITOR

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JULY, 2018

NO. 7

“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HEAVENLY REST IN ANTICIPATION

When I can read my title clear
To mansions in the skies,
I'll bid farewell to every fear,
And wipe my weeping eyes.

Should earth against my soul engage
And fiery darts be buried,
Then I can smile at Satan's rage,
And face a frowning world.

Let cares like a wild deluge come,
Let storms of sorrow fall-
So I but safely reach my home,
My God, my heaven, my all.

Then I shall bathe my weary soul
In seas of heavenly rest,
And not a wave of trouble roll
Across my peaceful breast.

—Isaac Watts

CULTIVATING THE CROP

There are many tasks involved in raising a productive crop. Good seed must be planted in soil prepared to provide a good place for germination. The weather must produce conditions that are conducive to germination, growth, pollination, and maturity.

The labor involved in raising a crop may not be as physically exhausting as in the past, but the farmer still has many concerns as he considers the prospects of his crop. He has financial cares along with specialized knowledge needed to raise a productive crop. He needs to be timely in the preparation of the soil, the planting of the seeds, the application of fertilizers and sprays, the harvesting of the ripe crop, and the proper storage of his harvest.

After the plant emerges there still remains weeks or months until the final harvest. During that time, the farmer will need to cultivate the crop. The quality of the soil will need to be maintained. The weeds and pests will need to be dealt with. Various pieces of machinery can be used to provide the best growing environment for the plants.

Cultivation is not only necessary when growing physical crops; it is also needed for a Christian's spiritual well being. Christians are often in need of the help and encouragement of fellow believers. Just as growing conditions for the field crops may not always be ideal; there are times in Christians' lives that

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are not ideal for their spiritual growth.

Like physical crops, the Christian has been through a time of planting and germination. First there was the hearing of the Word, then giving space to the Holy Spirit to deal with the heart and mind of that person to bring them to a time of decision concerning their choice for the course of their life. When the choice to follow the desire of the Holy Spirit becomes planted in the heart and life, there is a need for encouragement, edification and education.

Newly planted Christians may have a burst of growth right away before they face opposition of family or friends. They may not be prepared for the adversity that attacks them after their first belief. There may be temptations springing from old patterns of behavior. Their old associates may try to dissuade them from their new-found faith. There may be a lack of understanding of the Word and the requirements of the Christian life.

These conditions require adept cultivation by those charged with the welfare of the souls of the new plants. They will need to encourage them in

what is good as they face these various challenges. They need to be encouraged to study the Word to learn more about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They need to learn how to apply the lessons of the Bible to their own need. There must be some lessons on the principles and absolutes of the Word of God. As new Christians, they may need help blending into a new fellowship.

Those who do the cultivating need not only a knowledge of God's Word but also of ways of encouraging and equipping people for lives of service. They may become mentors to those who have a desire to serve. Mentors can warn and equip the new believers to meet the challenges that come with a dedicated life for Christ.

Cultivating these lives may require warnings concerning habits and attitudes that harm rather than promote Christian living. A new resistance must be built up to the activities and attitudes in the surrounding society. The dress and amusements of the surrounding world may need modification or elimination in the new believer's life.

If crops are not cultivated, the yield of the crop will be

affected by the presence of weeds and pests that damage and limit its productivity. Young Christian lives left to develop in an unfriendly world will end up wasted by the sins and attitudes of Satan's world. Those who care for the souls of new Christians need to be cultivating their fields

Farmers may be better known for their planting and harvesting activities, but without applying themselves to their cultivating

skills their yields will be affected. Although Christian leaders may be known for their preaching, teaching and leadership skills, they need to also develop their cultivating skills with their congregations. Their yield will be honored by God.

Have you planted? Are you cultivating? What will your harvest be?

M. C. Cook

I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Ps. 90:12

The nursery lights were dim. Music played softly and our little man had finally slipped away to the land of dreams. Yet, still I continued rocking, holding my baby close as his chubby, little hands curled around his teddy while he slept. There were times when I felt the need to soak in the moment, to not take even a minute of holding my child for granted and tonight was one of those times.

Time. Lately I've been thinking about it and I'm especially reminded of it or the lack thereof as I hear people say these words often, "I'm sorry, but

I don't have time." I hear friends say it in our conversations, as well as complete strangers that I pass as I shop for groceries.

Suddenly on contemplation, I realized much to my own shame, that I was also saying it, and many times it was done unconsciously. It was usually my kiddos that were hearing those words from me and they were the ones that suffered from my inability to deviate from my schedule. I knew how frustrating it could be to hear people say that they didn't have time for me and yet I was turning around and doing the same thing to others. It became clear that I was stuck in that rut when my son started taking my face in his hands and

then would say, “Mommy, look at me when I’m talking to you.”

I realized that it had become a way of living for me to follow our culture in this mad race that we call life. I had forgotten how to worship God throughout my day. I had forgotten how to care for others in the same way that I cared for myself. I had forgotten how to truly listen...to others and to the still, small voice of God.

Donna Kauffman wrote in her book, *Treasured Meditations*, “Then I heard the Father calling to me – asking me to give my plans and dreams to Him. As *you lose your life* for Me, *you will find life*, He reminded me. I sensed in my heart that to lose my life would mean to learn more deeply of Him. He wanted me to deny *myself* and *my goals*... lay down my need to control and keep my world safe or comfortable. Learn contentment at all cost. Give sacrificially to others of my time and talents even if I don’t get anything in return. Spend...time at His feet. If I seek to save *my* life, and demand *my* way, I’ll lose my life. That’s what God’s Word says. If I rather *lose* my selfish desires in pursuit of Jesus, wanting to deeply know Him, then I will *find* life. ‘For whosoever will save his

life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.’ Matthew 16:25”

One of my sisters sent me a quote from Mark Buchanan one day, after we had been talking about this subject, and it really seemed to put words in some of the thoughts that had been swirling around in my mind. “Those who sanctify time and who give time away – who treat Time as a gift and not possession – have time in abundance. Contrariwise, those who guard every minute, resent every interruption, ration every moment, never have enough. They’re always late, always behind, always scrambling, always driven. There is of course, a place for wise management of our days and weeks and years, but management can quickly turn into rigidity. We hold time so tight we crush it, like a flower closed in the fist. We thought we were protecting it, but all we did was destroy it.”

Now I’m sure that most people have seldom felt as if they have time in abundance, but I think what Mark was saying is that God will give us the time we need to get the important things done if we are willing to give our time and schedules to Him. I

would look at it as tithing. When we are willing to give the first of our money to God, He always provides for us materially in some way or another and sometimes even far beyond what we would have imagined. Won't He do the same thing with our time?

It really doesn't seem, from a human viewpoint, that I will have more time later if I sacrifice my plans right now, but I do know that when I am willing to let go of my goals for the moment, that somehow, the important things always manage to be accomplished. Not only that, but I have come away with a greater sense of really living. Even though I know all this, it doesn't always come easy because of old habits that seem to be imbedded into my very being.

Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth writes about believing the lie of not having enough time. She says, "The Lord Jesus Himself was given only a few short years on earth to accomplish the entire plan of redemption. Talk about a long 'to do' list! Yet, at the end of His life, Jesus was able to lift His eyes to His Father and say, 'I have glorified thee on the earth: I have *finished the work* which thou gavest me to do.' (John 17:4)"

"In Jesus' words, we find a clue – a powerful Truth that sets us free from the bondage of hurry and frustration about all we have to do. Notice what work Jesus completed in the thirty-three years He was here on earth: 'I have finished the work *which thou gavest me to do.*' That is the secret."

"The truth is that all I have to do is the work God assigns to me. What a freedom it has been for me to accept that there is time for me to do everything that is on God's 'to do' list for my day, for my week, and for my life!" *Taken from "Lies Women Believe" by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, used with permission.

We have different seasons in our lives and what God has planned for us as teenagers is different than what He has planned for us during mid-life or even our older years. Some seasons we may have more free time than others, but we always have enough time to do what God has planned for us today.

I think I've finally come to the point where I really want to use my time more wisely than I have in the past. After all, I can see what happens when I take responsibility for my own time. Now, just because I know that

things need to change doesn't mean that they always do. Didn't even the Apostle Paul say in Romans 7, "...for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." Reading that verse makes it sound rather deplorable, but he goes on to say that even though it sounds like there is no hope of doing right, we can rest assured that there is, thanks to Jesus Christ!

When I've made a point to stop my work and go see what my son's "surprise" was, I have seen the pure joy and wonder on his face as he touched a woolly worm. I've also seen the tears in the eyes of a friend because I've dared to stop my rushing and

just give a hug. I've felt and seen the tender reminders of God's love for me when I have looked and listened for them.

God's glory is everywhere...if I look for it, I will find it, but I must choose to make the time. Only then will I begin to really see what this life that I am living here on this spinning sphere is all about.

Psalms 27:4, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple."

Sister Amber Carpenter
Peru, IN

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we *"study to shew ourselves approved unto God..."*

July 2018 Study Questions

July 1 – Heb. 13:15-25

In what situations do you find yourself giving God praise and thanking Him directly?

How is praise a sacrifice?

What is your attitude toward those in authority over you?

What expectation does prayer nurture?

What specifics could you tell someone if they asked you what work God was doing in your life?

Commentary: There are many last thoughts mentioned in these closing verses to the Book of Hebrews. But one thought stands out.

“Pray for us...” Are any of us so sufficient that we are not in need of prayers? Obviously not. But perhaps too often we are hesitant to ask for prayer as though our needs are of little importance. Let us together remind and be reminded to pray for one another and to ask for prayer. It is certainly one of those “well pleasing works” that the Lord is wanting to do in each of us.

July 8 – James 1:1-18

What trials or temptations are most common to you?

How often do you rejoice in this testing of your faith?

What makes you aware that you are being tested?

What is your first response when you lack wisdom?

What is the connection between learning patience and asking for wisdom?

How does temptation begin in us and what is its ultimate end?

What does verse 18 tell you about the origins of your relationship with Him?

Commentary: Oft times we struggle and chafe against the trials and temptations of life. Joy is the last thing that we even think of bringing into our experience of conflict. But joy has the ability to change our perspective of dread and frustration into one of learning and gaining. Faith tested is faith prepared for greater possibilities. Rather than temptations separating us from God they become the means that drive us closer to Him. His enabling strength provides greater confidence with which we face the obstacles ahead.

July 15 – James 1:19-27

Are you swift, slow, slow or slow swift, swift?

How well does your wrath work God’s righteousness?

How difficult is it to cooperate with God’s plan when you experience conflict?

What happens in your heart when you receive the implanted word? Why is meekness necessary?

What is involved in “doing the word” that is different than just “hearing the word”?

Does your tongue portray or betray your heart?

Commentary: James takes “no prisoners” when it comes to our behavior. Religious talk has always been cheap in comparison to lives lived in obedient faith to their Lord. Our emotions and tongues often process more quickly and react to circumstances on the basis of our flesh rather than on the guidance of God’s Spirit. In few words James exposes our failings. But if we are intentional in our faith walk to look longingly into the perfect law of liberty he is confident that in our doing (exercising our faith) we will experience God’s blessing.

July 22 – James 2:1-13

How often do you discover yourself judging others on the basis of appearances?

How often are you caught up by distinctions made by political leaders who often judge by the group?

How does faith transform our judging?

How does political expediency influence our faith?

How merciful is the law that guides your judgment?

Are you willing to be judged by the law you choose?

Commentary: Our faith and our politics often are at odds. Our culture is terribly insecure in spite of the many ways we are blessed. Fear is real but also easily exploited. A Christian woman once told me she went to bed every night with two men: Smith and Wesson. Is our faith fighting against the tide of personal and public perception of those we fear or flowing with it? Whether we show partiality to those we meet or support those whose policies promise us safe retreat we sin. We fail to love our neighbor as ourselves and thus become transgressors of the law. Our calling in Christ challenges us to show with deeds that mercy triumphs over judgment.

July 29 – James 2:14-26

What does James mean when he uses the word “works”?

Are works and faith opposites of each other?

How do you show someone your faith?

Do works sufficiently explain faith?

What is the content of faith?

What is the intent of works?

What are works not works of?

Commentary: So often works and faith are placed in juxtaposition a world apart from each other like the North and South poles. But more often works are seen as our own self effort to gain God's approval, to somehow please God. Then there are the works of the law by which we might be justified before God for our righteousness based on the law. Yet, James has just made it clear that if we fail to keep the law in one area we are guilty of it all. Neither seems to be James' meaning at all. Can we think of works as an expression of gratitude for all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus? Instead of us trying to please God we show God how pleased we are with Him. We acknowledge that we are responding to the impulses of His Spirit at work in us. He is transforming our hearts and minds so we do what we ought to do because we want to do it.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

A MAN PROUD OF HIS HUMILITY

The story is told of Benjamin Franklin who was trying to improve his life each week. He worked on a different aspect of his life each week to perfect it.

One week he worked on his humility and thought he had done a marvelous job until he met a certain Quaker woman. She looked at him and said, "Me thinkest thou art proud of thy humility."

I think we all can identify

with that. We become proud of our humility, which in fact destroys our humility.

Many people think highly of themselves. They are careful not to let it slip, but you can always tell someone who thinks they are the smartest person that they know. All you have to do is contradict them and you will find out pretty soon they believe they are right and everybody else is wrong.

Genuine humility impacts a person's prayer life giving dimension to our prayer life. The basis of humility is an honest look at our self: our strengths and weaknesses.

When we think we know it all, we have closed the door for God to show us anything new. We need to have an open heart and an open mind as well.

Some people have an overvalued sense of their importance. Nobody can really make a decision without their input. They have the idea that they know a subject better than someone else and their opinion trumps everyone else.

All you have to do is watch some of the pontificator's on TV. On these news shows, they talk as if they had the last word on any and all subjects. Of course, they do not know what they do not know.

We must come to the point in our life where we are open to new information. I like it when a teenager says that nobody is ever going to tell them what to do. Later on in life, I would like to stop and ask them a simple question. "How has that worked for you?"

Nobody has reached the point in life where nobody can tell

them what to do. The brightest person in the world, whoever that might be, is answerable to somebody or something, sometime.

Isn't it interesting that looking back in history some of the people who thought they were the smartest and the brightest and the most important have had one thing in common. They all died. Just as the unimportant person dies, so does that self-important person.

A man who is always looking down on others has never really understood his own self. To look down on somebody else is to misinterpret your own life's worth. And I think the problem in our country today is too many people are like that. They look down their nose on other people whether it is racist, sexist, political, religion, or whatever. They are under the opinion that their position is the right position and their word is the last word on that situation.

It is always amusing to me to see someone who thinks they know it all and then find out something that they did not know.

A minister was talking to another minister at a camp meeting one time and saying

he thought he had learned everything there was to know about the Bible. In a few moments after saying that, an elderly farmwoman came up with a question that she wanted to pose to this preacher. And much to his chagrin, he did not know the answer to that question. This only shows that God does have a sense of humor.

No matter how much you know there is still something you do not know. As someone has once said, I do not know what I do not know.

It would be nice if I could have an open mind so that if some new information came I would be able to incorporate that into my life and move on in a very positive direction.

Like the commercial, many people believe that they deserve a break today. But the truth of the matter is that nobody gets what they deserve, and we should be thankful.

If a person really got what they deserved they really would not like what they got. It is the

important thing in life to really hunger and thirst after that which is truth.

If we are to have any kind of growth in our life, we need to have an appetite for truth. And once that appetite for the truth is gone, we then begin on a downhill slide into whatever is below us.

God wants us to have an open mind as well as an open heart. We need to be open for Him to do what He wants to do in our life. We need to have an open heart to follow Him wherever He is leading us.

In order for me to be all that God wants me to be, I have to be open to everything God wants to do in my life. If I limit God to only do things in my life I can understand and explain, I am not going to get very far in my life.

God delights to do that in my life, which is above my ability to understand let alone explain.

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EQUAL TO EACH OTHER

“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17:21

In our study of science we have found many scientific laws complementary to God’s Word. The Greek mathematician Euclid, who lived 300 years before Christ said in his First Law of Mechanics: if two objects are each equal to a third object, they are therefore equal to each other. So, if A equals C and B equals C, then A equals B. This is basic mathematics.

If you tune a piano with a particular tuning fork and then tune another piano with the same fork, they will be in tune together, harmonically perfect. Each note will be of equal value.

Euclid’s laws are used everyday all over the world. Those men who wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776 used Euclid’s own words “self-evident” when describing the fact that all men are created equal. The analogy being that all men are created in the image (or mold) of God and are of equal value. Furthermore, the Bible tells us that the likeness extends

to man having a living, eternal soul just as God does.

Jesus’ desire for His church was that we all may be one in the same manner as Jesus is one with the Father. We, being made in the image of God, are equal to each other. Two pianos in tune are in one accord, just as the disciples were in Acts, chapter two. They were united, in agreement, and the Holy Ghost came upon them.

When we worship together, we must look to Christ first. Our concept of “unity” must be centered on Christ and not on anything man has contrived. We must be in tune with Christ and each other.

It is through the church that God manifests Himself to man. We do it together. The Church is a three-dimensional entity. It is enabled by a three dimensional God: a God in three persons.

“That they may be made perfect in one.” John 17:23. We have dwelt many times on the thought of perfection. Can we be perfect? The Bible tells us that we can be perfect in Christ. His love for us and our faith in Him work together so that we can rise above the sin and evil of this world and set our sights on

heaven. Dorothy Gurney wrote these lines in 1883:

O perfect Love, all human tho't transcending,
 Lowly we kneel in prayer before Thy throne,
 That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
 Whom Thou forever more dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be Thou their full assurance,
 Of tender charity and steadfast faith,
 Of patient hope, and quiet, brave endurance,
 With childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;
 Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife,
 And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
 That dawns upon eternal love and life.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
 Mohler's Congregation

“WHO IS MY MOTHER: WHO ARE MY BRETHREN?”

Rudy Cover

Would you like to be a brother or a sister to Jesus? It is possible that you can be. If you will study God's Word and do what it says then you can be a brother or a sister to Jesus. Jesus said so.

There were many people who listened to Jesus speak when He was here. Jesus taught the people how to live. He warned them against the Pharisees and Scribes who were proud and boastful and wanted only to be heard and seen of men. They forgot that God can see things

that man cannot. Man looks on the outward appearance but God looks on the heart. The Pharisees did look good outside but Jesus said they were like whited sepulchurs that were painted white and clean on the outside but on the inside were full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Jesus came to tell people the truth, even though they didn't like to hear it. The common people followed Jesus and received Him gladly. Jesus said He came to seek and to save that which was lost. They

that were whole do not need a physician but those that were sick.

While Jesus was speaking to the people, His mother and His brothers came to see Him and they wanted to speak to Him. There were so many people around Jesus that His own mother and brothers couldn't get close. Someone who knew them noticed who they were and said to Jesus, "Thy mother and thy brethren stand without desiring to speak with thee."

Jesus knew they were there because He knows everything, but Jesus wanted to teach the people a great truth. He said, "Who is my mother and who are my brethren?" Then He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of

my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Aren't you glad that Jesus said this? Now we know that we can be a part of the family of God. We can be a brother or a sister or a mother to Jesus. How can we be a part of Jesus' family? By doing the Father's will.

Our Heavenly Father sent Jesus into the world to teach us the Father's will. All that Jesus said was what His Father told Him to say. Jesus says, "I came not to do mine own will but the will of Him that sent me." In Luke 8, Jesus said, "My mother and my brethren are they which hear the Word of God and do it."

Selected from the
September 1, 1979
issue of the Bible Monitor

CHRIST'S COMING IS THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE OF GLORY

L. U. Kreider

The second advent of Jesus is, next to His sacrifice on Calvary, the most important Biblical event. Believing Christians endorse this great truth. It is referred to more than two thousand times in the

Scriptures. Nothing compares with the thought, that the Savior of men is coming back again; the One who came to earth, served, suffered, bled and died for our sins and who having burst the bonds of death has

entered into His glory, John 14:2-3; Acts 1:9-11. Heb. 9:28, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Notice the expressions "once offered" and "appear the second time." His second appearing would be impossible without the first, as well as the first would be incomplete without the second. They are each a vital part of the purpose of God.

The book of Revelation gives some vivid prophetic pictures of our Lord's return. John describes the majestic scene when the Son of God, leading the hosts of heaven, sweeps down through the vaulted sky to claim His people. He says "His eyes were as flames of fire and on His head were many crowns, and He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, King of Kings and Lord of Lords." But it was not the purpose of His first coming to begin His reign. He came as a sacrifice then, but when He comes the second time, He will come as King. Not as a meek and lowly teacher, not as an out-cast from society,

but amid all the glory of heaven, accompanied by all the holy angels. He will descend to earth to claim His saints. Luke 9:26. We read that He will come in His own and in His Father's glory and in the glory of all the angels.

In Matthew 25, Jesus speaks of His return when He will call out the saved to meet Him in the air. Matt. 25:31 Jesus says, "When the son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." Christ's enthronement awaits His return in glory. When Jesus comes from Heaven, and all His mighty angels with Him, then He will establish His kingdom and will reign supreme. Jesus is now sitting on the throne with His Father, according to Rev. 3:21. The scripture also teaches that in some future time Jesus will sit on His own throne. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." When Jesus comes His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom.

Luke 1:31-33, "And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be

great and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end." God's revelation to the apostle Peter, Acts 2:29-30, "Men and brethren let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God has sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne."

Let us suffice, that the

Kingdom of Christ is to come and that it will be a literal Kingdom and that the Saints of all ages will reign with Christ eternally. Jesus has taught us in that most perfect prayer, "Thy kingdom come" which is future. "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." Every heart that really prays this prayer, is asking the Father that the Kingdom may come and when the King of Kings and Lord of Lords comes, this prayer will have been answered. Even so come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Selected from the

July 1, 1958

issue of the Bible Monitor

THE SCRIPTURES TESTIFY

The Word of God.

1. How were the Scriptures given? "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...*" 2 Tim. 3:16.
2. By whom were the men directed who thus spoke for God? "*The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*" 2 Pet. 1:21.
3. What specific instance is mentioned by Peter? "*Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.*" Acts 1:16.
4. How does David express this same truth? "*The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.*" 2 Sam. 23:2.

5. Who therefore did the speaking through these men? *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.”* Heb. 1:1.
6. For what purpose were the Scriptures written? *“Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”* Rom. 15:4.
7. For what is all Scripture profitable? *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”* 2 Tim. 3:16.
8. What was God’s design in thus giving the Scriptures? *“That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* 2 Tim. 3:16.
9. What is the character of God’s Word? *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* John 17:7.
10. What test should therefore be applied to every professed teacher of truth? *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”* Isa. 8:20.
11. What does God design that His word shall be to us in this world of darkness, sin and death? *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”* Psa. 119:105.
12. How long will the Word of God endure? *“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but word of our God shall stand forever.”* Isa. 40:8. *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”* Matt. 24:35.

Christ is in all the Bible.

13. Of whom did Christ say the Scriptures testify? *“Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”* John 5:39.
14. Of whom did Moses and the prophets write? *“Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth the son of Joseph.”* John 1:45.

15. From what words did Christ say the disciples ought to have learned of his death and resurrection? *“O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken? Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?”* Luke 24:25-26.
16. How did Christ make it clear to them that the Scriptures testify of Him? *“Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”* Luke 24:27.
17. What did he say a little later to the eleven? *“These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses and in the psalms, concerning me.”* Luke 24:44.
18. Through what agency did God create the heavens? *“By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” “He spake and it was done he commanded, and they were created.”* Psa. 148:5.
19. By what does Christ uphold all things? *“Upholding all things by the word of his power.”* Heb. 1:3.
20. In what scripture is it shown that creative power is exercised through the Word of God? *“Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created.”* Psa. 148:5.
21. What change is wrought in one who is in Christ? *“If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* 2 Cor. 5:17.
22. What is this new creation also called? *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* John 3:3.
23. Through what agency is this new creation, or new birth accomplished? *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”* 1 Pet. 1:23.
24. Why were people astonished at Christ's teaching? *“They were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.”* Luke 4:32.

25. What is the nature of the word of God? *“The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Heb. 4:12.
26. What did Christ declare his words to be? *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* John 6:63.
27. What name is applied to Jesus as the revelation of the thought of God in the flesh? *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* John 1:1. *“He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”* Rev. 19:13.
28. What was in the Word? *“In him was life and the life was the light of men.”* John 1:4.
29. In assigning him his lifework, what instruction did Jesus give to Peter? *“Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.”* John 21:17.
30. What apostolic injunction indicates the way in which this instruction is to be obeyed? *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long- suffering and doctrine.”* 2 Tim. 4:1-2.

Selected from the July 1, 1958
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THE DISSIMILARITY THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPHASIZES

A. W. Tozer

“Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:17

The Christian faith teaches a complete antithesis and contradiction between the world and the true church. The spirits

here are sharply different from each other. There is a sharp difference between the spirit of fallen man and the spirit of redeemed man.

Primary Differences

Primarily, the difference is that they are incompatible with each other. They are not conformable to each other and are even hostile toward each other. Between the spirit of the world and the Spirit of Christ there can only be forever inconsolable enmity. It was that Spirit in Jesus that the world recognized; not the Roman world, but the religious world. They recognized that Spirit in Jesus as their natural enemy. So they rose up against Jesus and crucified Him because He had in Him a Spirit which, altogether apart from anything He said and did, brought hostility between them and Him. This is a very hard thing to tell people because it is not what we are hearing today. It is what the Bible teaches; it is what our church fathers and the Pilgrims and Puritans taught.

Now this antithesis, this flat and violent contradiction between two spirits, accounts for all the persecution that has

ever taken place down through the ages. He who is born once always persecutes he who is born twice.

No Compromises

There can be no compromise between the two; there can be no reconciliation between them: the spirit born once and the spirit born twice, the man born of the flesh and the man born of the Spirit. This message has almost been lost from the church today. We do not attempt to make our faith acceptable to the wisdom of the world or to society in general. We admit no necessity to make our religion acceptable to them or to have what they now call "dialogue."

That is a lovely little expression. We have what are called political dialogues, and so now, not to be outdone, we have religious dialogues. Dialogue consists of two people talking, but talking does not sound learned enough, so now we call it dialogue.

Those of the world have a spirit and have been baptized in that spirit. That spirit is a fallen spirit and alienated from God; it is evil and blind. The god of this world blinds the minds of unbelievers and fills them with

vanity, hypocrisy, stubbornness, lies, pride, and all the rest. Therefore, the world cannot receive the Spirit of Christ.

Whenever you hear anyone saying God is going to pour His Spirit out upon all humanity, you know they are wrong, because the Scripture says the world cannot receive the Spirit (John 14:17). He pours His Spirit out and makes Him *available* to all flesh, but even when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost it was only poured out on the one hundred twenty who were prepared. The rest did not receive Him because they were not prepared to receive Him. It takes a work of God in the heart to enable anyone to receive this new Spirit, which is of God.

Today we are not supposed to be sure of that. We are supposed to harmonize everything, get everybody together, and work out of the general religious situation a common pattern that will please everybody.

That is not the way God sees it, for the world cannot receive this Holy Spirit. They cannot understand the man who has been regenerated; they cannot understand repentance; they do not know what it means. They cannot understand faith; they

have no concept of what faith means. They cannot understand the new birth, so they call it joining the church. They do not know what it is to be born of the Spirit and of water and washed in the blood. They do not know what redemption means. The world cannot understand Christ. "No man," Jesus said, "can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44).

The Importance of Illumination

There must be an illumination from heaven. When Peter said, "Lord, thou art the son of God," Jesus said, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 16:17). Any religious truth passed on from one to the other passes from one mind to another mind, but there is an illumination from heaven that is completely different.

The Holy Spirit alone can enter and make the depth of our heart's sin real to us. Nobody can repent until he knows the depth of his own sin, and nobody can know the depth of his own sin unless the Holy Spirit shows it to him. No one can repent properly

until the Holy Spirit shows him, and the person outside of Christ cannot understand this divine communion.

While the world knows nothing of the depth of its own sin, yet God has His elect. They are not morally better than other people by nature. God does not select people with a religious bent. Some people have a religious bent, some a poetic bent, some a musical bent, and some an artistic bent. Some people can take photographs and make them look very natural and beautiful without ever having a lesson in their life. Some people by nature are religious, but that is not what God is talking about. The religious bent is not what is meant here. The man God finds, saves, gives of His illumination, and of the Spirit is not necessarily morally better than any other.

Jacob was not morally better than Esau. David was not morally better than Saul.

Who are these that in the midst of a fallen world manage somehow to get through and are touched in a right sense? God lays His hands upon a man, God calls a man speaks, and rouses him, and he is awakened. God enlightens him and moves upon

him and it is this that makes a Christian. He hears a message declared in Sunday school, from the pulpit, reading a tract or the Bible, or in a testimony, but he hears God calling, and so that touch of God comes upon him. He hears that call: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life" (John 10:27-28).

If you are a Christian, you are a miracle and something odd to the world around you. This is a strange day when you cannot tell a Christian from a sinner. A half-saved Christian from a half-saved sinner. You cannot tell one from the other, and everybody runs together with little distinction.

Down through the centuries, armies had uniforms and wore those uniforms in battle. In war, the soldiers mostly knew each other by their uniform. In more recent times, what little traces of morality there may have been in war disappeared during the Second World War. For example, sometimes the uniform of the other side was worn to infiltrate and get past the enemy line. Instead of the lines being tight between British and Nazi soldiers, between American

and Japanese soldiers, they intermingled with the other side. The enemy took our uniforms and many a man died because he walked up innocently to a man wearing a uniform with his own insignia on it. He thought it was his own and died because he had been trapped and betrayed by the other side.

Separation From the World

In times past, the church and the world were separated so they at least knew where they stood. The world did not like the church and tried to kill all Christians. Tertullian said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." He also emphasized that there is no use killing Christians because every time you kill one, three others spring up. So they quit trying to kill them and set about wooing them. When they stopped trying to kill them and began to woo them, they won.

Today the world is not trying to kill us as such. Rather, it is trying to make us harmless by pulling out our claws and teeth and turning us into harmless tabby cats purring by the fireside while the world marches to hell. The world passes by and says, "What pretty kittens they are."

God means we should have the life of God in us as a spirit within us. The world should know that, and there should be a sharp division.

If you are having trouble where you are working, do not let it bother you at all. It is a good thing you are having trouble. Let no one say you are a fanatic or you are wrong. If you are living for Christ and people not living for Christ are making it hard for you, thank God every night when the workday is done that you were counted worthy to suffer for the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:4).

Our Lord is coming back, and when He does, He will come back for His sheep. There will be many sheep running around and even goats in sheep's clothing. The sheep know the Shepherd's voice. When they hear the sound of His voice, they will start, and the goats will say, "Where do they think they are going?" They are going up to meet the Shepherd because they recognize the Shepherd's voice. They listen to the voice down here and they will listen to the voice up there; the goat does not know the Shepherd's

voice. I believe the Spirit of God knows what He is doing. Upon those who have had a change and an infusion of the Spirit, God makes His great bestowal.

I think it is a great mistake to think everybody in the world is a scoundrel. Maybe I have been guilty myself in that capacity, sometimes making out, unintentionally, that the dividing line between the world and the church, sinners and Christians, is the dividing line between all the good people on one side and the rapists and the dope fiends and the embezzlers and the liars and the cheaters and the murderers over on the side of the lost. We leave the impression that over on the side of the church there are nice people, and they are the converted people, but that is not necessarily so. There are many kinds of lost people; people who commit rape, embezzle, murder, rob banks, and shoot the guards are just one kind.

Then there are the gentlest, kindest, friendliest, most cultured lost people, and these would invite you into their homes and treat you beautifully. They remember you at Christmas and do nice things for you, but they are of the world. The

Christian is one who has been changed by the bestowal of the gift of God: eternal life in the Spirit. He belongs to a different race altogether. He is a completely different person. The world cannot receive the new creation. Not even the good world, the educated world, or the cultured world can receive it. Kind people cannot even receive this because they have another spirit. It is the spirit of the first Adam, but not the Spirit of the last Adam, which is Christ.

The Dividing Line

There is a dividing line, and my longing, my dream, my hope is that we should be a company of the ransomed ones, a company who has the second Adam, the new Spirit, the Spirit of the Shepherd, and who knows the Shepherd's voice. This new Spirit of Christ comes to the souls of men.

The world out there listens to us talk and thinks what we talk about is ridiculous. Maybe they think it is meaningless, so they are bored with it. Maybe they think it is offensive, so they are insulted by it. Some do not make any response at all. They are the hard ones to deal with. If you try to be a soul winner, do

not worry about the man who asks you every kind of question. The man who glares and tells you, "Don't worry about me." The man who looks with glassy eyes and has no reaction at all, nods and smiles, but does not know what you are talking about, he is the hard one.

Then there is this blessed Holy Spirit. Christian groups are those anointed with the Spirit of Christ, that new Spirit of the regenerate world. That Spirit will

someday take over and fill the universe. The blessed Spirit of God in Christ.

God grant that we hold up holy living in humility, repentance, obedience, faithfulness, cross-carrying, and an assembly on whom the Spirit can rest as the dove rested and as the clouds and fire rested upon Israel.

Editor's note: *This is chapter 7 of A. W. Tozer's book Alive in the Spirit. It is used by permission.*

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH BRETHERN WORLD ASSEMBLY SET FOR AUGUST IN INDIANA

Registrations are now being received for the Sixth Brethren World Assembly, to be held August 9-12, 2018, in Winona Lake, Indiana. This gathering happens every five years for Brethren groups descended from Alexander Mack in 1708 and it is sponsored by Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc.

"Brethren Intersections: History, Identity, Crosscurrents: is the working theme for the four-day assembly, which will be hosted by the Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church. The event is open to all, and will feature some twenty speakers giving lectures, panel discussions, historical tours, worship services, and much more.

The first day of the Assembly will be Thursday, August 9, with several plenary sessions focusing on historical and religious intersections for the Brethren and it will conclude with a worship service and ice cream social. The second day, Friday, August 10, will include sessions that focus on the Brethren-evangelical relationship in the eras of Charles G. Finney, Billy Sunday, and Billy Graham. Afternoon panels and sessions will include a bus tour of historic Brethren sites in and around historic Winona Lake,

once home of the world's largest Bible conference, and a central conference point for Brethren groups since in 1880's.

The third day Saturday, August 11, will focus on themes of social justice, relationship with the military, gender questions, and will include a bus tour of historic Brethren sites at Arnold's Grove in Milford, Indiana and Camp Alexander Mack on Lake Waubee. On Sunday attendees are encouraged to worship with local Brethren congregations not of their own groups.

A modest registration fee will include seven meals, admittance to all sessions, ice cream socials, a follow-up book containing all proceedings, and more. Attendees will be responsible for finding their own lodging in the Warsaw/Winona Lake area.

BrethrenEncyclopedia publishes encyclopedias and monographs of Brethren interest. The group is comprised of representatives of the seven groups descended from Alexander Mack, which include Church of the Brethren, The Brethren Church, Dunkard Brethren Church, Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (Charis Fellowship), Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International, Old German Baptist Brethren Church, and Old German Baptist Brethren Church New Conference. To access a downloadable program schedule and online registration form, log onto www.brethrenencyclopedia.org or call (574)527-9573 for more information.

Registration for the full assembly is \$175 per person and \$100 per spouse. However, there is a discount for those registering before July 1. Before July 1, registration is \$150 per person and \$75 per spouse. You may obtain a brochure from Bob Lehigh at rlehighdb@gmail.com or by calling at 717-817-6025.

Respectfully submitted,
Brother Bob Lehigh

NEWS ITEMS**SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Lord willing, the Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to their Revival meetings from July 29 to August 5. Brother Alan Meyers, from the Dallas Center Congregation in Iowa, will be our evangelist. Sunday Morning services begin at 9:30 A.M. for Sunday School with preaching to follow. The Sunday, July 29, evening service will begin at 7:00 P.M. During the week, the services begin at 7:30 P.M. On Sunday, August 5, a fellowship meal will be served in the basement and the closing service will begin at 2:30 P.M. Pray for Brother Alan as he prepares these messages. Everyone is invited to come and worship the Lord with us and receive blessings from God.

Sister Sharon Lehigh, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

There are some job openings at the Bethel school for the coming school year. See a School Board member for more information or an application or call Brother Jesse Alspaugh 717-821-2597.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Teacher
Secretary
Administrator
Music Teacher
Bible Teacher

Thank you,
Brother Brian Kegerreis

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST
2018**

August 5 – Faith Evidenced by Works – James 3:1-12

1. Why is it so hard to control not only the words we speak but also their effect on others?

2. Men can control powerful animals and machinery, why can't he control his tongue?

August 12 – Wisdom from Above – James 3:13-18

1. How does a wise man show his wisdom?

2. Where does bitter envying and strife come from ultimately?

3. What is the result of the wisdom from above?

August 19 – Grace to the Humble – James 4:1-10

1. What is the source of wars, desires and unfulfilled requests?

2. Spiritual friendship of the world is compared to what physical sin?

3. To whom should we submit? To whom should we resist? What will be the result?

August 26 – A Vapour – James 4:11-17

1. Are we called to be judges or doers of the law?

2. What should guide our future plans?

3. Is knowing right the same as doing right?

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