

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things whereby
we may edify
one another.



John 8:32 and
ye shall know
the truth, and
the truth
shall make
you free.

February
6
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TRUTH CAN BE SHOCKING

by Jim Stauffer

When Jesus nears the end of His teaching in **John Chapter 6**, He plans to teach them the difference between food that perishes and that which is eternal. The setting follows His feeding of the multitudes. Jesus tells them,*“Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. “Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”*” (John 6:26–27) The concept of food sustaining eternal life is a precursor to words He will speak that will shock them in an attempt to lead them to think beyond their routine thoughts of a Messiah who would lead them in material, temporal ways.

These words are followed closely by Him teaching them He is the bread of heaven rather than Moses. His goal is to move them from the temporary bread of heaven their fathers ate in the wilderness to the eternal food Jesus brings when he comes down from heaven as the Bread of Life. The difference Jesus tells them is your fathers ate of the manna and died, but if you eat of the true Bread of Life, you will live eternally. Following that He utters these words, *“I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”* Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, *“How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”* So Jesus said to them, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.”* (John 6:51–53)

Jesus knew they would be appalled initially at the idea of eating flesh and drinking blood since it would have been a violation of Mosaic Law. This discussion had reached a point where they needed to be shocked into hearing the ultimate message of the gospel. That

message is that just as one must take nutrients into his physical body to sustain life, he must surely take in the eternal message of the Messiah to bring eternal life to his soul.

Jesus uses the occasion of their recent memory of food to sustain their bodies as an occasion to teach them about a greater need and a source that will supply that greater need. This Bread of Life if taken into the heart of a man will give him life eternal as Jesus says, *“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”* (John 6:54)

Jesus’ teaching on the greater value of the eternal in this text is in perfect harmony with His overall message of discipleship. One must sacrifice this life in order to achieve eternal life (**Matthew 16:24,25**). What Jesus teaches the multitude here, is the only way we can have the Spirit of God and Christ living in us as Paul tells the Romans. *“However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”* (Romans 8:9–11)

Brethren, we too, are subject to the desire to satisfy the flesh ahead of the spirit. We must get our priorities right if we are to attain eternal life.

Crucified with Christ

David A. Cox

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

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This statement from Paul is most interesting. How is it that Paul could say that Christ now lives in him? How did this happen? It was because Paul had molded himself into the image of Christ.

Paul began this process when he went to Damascus, and Ananias told him to *“Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins” (Acts 22:16)*. Paul had lived in the flesh as a Jew and as a Jew could glory in who he was **(Philippians 3:7-14)**. But at Paul’s conversion, that changed. He no longer lived doing what he previously thought was right or would give him a lofty reputation among the religious and political leaders. He crucified himself to live for Christ.

Putting off the Old Man

Paul wrote to the Romans concerning the crucifying of the old man. *“Do you not know that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life. ... Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” (Romans 6:3-4,6)*. Notice Paul said Christians are buried in baptism and rise to walk a new life. Why? Because the old man of sin had been crucified, he had put to death the affections and lusts of the flesh **(Galatians 5:24)**.

The Focus of Our Life

Our new life will focus on the things above and not on things on the earth. We will have our minds set on Christ, for He is now our life **(Colossians 3:1-4)**. Yes, we continue to live in the flesh, but now that Christ is enthroned in our lives, our actions will be pleasing to Him. Our lives will be lives of faith. Trusting Him and looking to His word to find the direction for our lives **(Romans 10:17; Proverbs 3:5)**.

The Motivation of Our Life

What is the motive of the Christian’s life? One motive may be heaven, the prepared home for the faithful, which is an excellent motive. But another motive Paul mentions here is the sacrifice of Christ for us upon the cross, *“He loved me and gave himself for me.”* As we walk in life thinking of how much Christ valued us by giving His life for us, we should be motivated to live to please Him and to do the work He has left for us to do. May God help us to be *“crucified with Christ,”* and to mold our life into the image of His dear Son. May our hearts and minds say as the song says:

“Mold me, make me, as you’d have me be, Take me, use me, that the lost may see, Guard me, guide me,

thru this pilgrim land, Make me as clay in the potter’s hand.”

TWO MEN VIEW STRICTNESS

by Bill Hall

Two men determine to obey the scriptures strictly. Neither wants to turn *“to the right hand of the left”* even in the least matter. But the attitudes behind the determination of the two men vary tremendously.

The first man views strictness in obeying God’s law as the primary means of salvation. While he speaks academically of the grace of God, practically he gives little thought to his continual need for God’s grace. He determines to attend every service, give liberally, live by a rigorous code of conduct in his daily life, maintain control of his family, in short, he is really “going to live his religion.” While preaching that man cannot be saved by meritorious works, he unconsciously acts out to do the very thing that he preaches one cannot do.

The second man recognizes God’s grace as the primary means of salvation. He speaks frequently of divine mercy that could extend even to himself. He is just as strict in obeying God’s word as the first man. He, too, attends every service, gives liberally, etc., but his careful obedience to every command is a manifestation of his love for God **(John 14:15)**, his faith in God’s promises **(James 2:20)**, and his realization that God’s grace is extended only to those who do obey Him **(Matthew 7:21)**. Knowing how far short of God’s perfection he will fall, however, he determines to turn constantly to God for forgiveness and mercy. His only boast will be that of the cross.

One of two things will happen to **the first man**. Either he will convince himself that he really is “living his religion” - that he really is succeeding in living up to that standard which he has set for himself - in which case he will, in his self-righteousness, despise the struggling weak ones who can’t live up to his supposed level of righteousness *(Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others - Luke 18:9)*; or, he will grow discouraged as he honestly recognizes his failures, and throw up his hands in despair. “I tried”, he will say, “but I just couldn’t live it.” Either way, the man is doomed, for his thinking is wrong.

The second man will find real joy in the Lord and peace which passeth all understanding. He will live in constant hope, a hope built not on his own perfection, but on the assurance of God’s forgiveness. He will be

long-suffering to the weak and immature, for he will be well aware of his own unworthiness before God. He will not seek to put on some hypocritical front, for he will never claim to be anything but a sinner saved by grace. Our two men will appear to be very similar on the outside in their strictness toward the scriptures (both will probably be called "legalists"), but there will be marked difference on the inside, and we are quite sure that there will be considerable difference in the ultimate direction and outcome of their lives.

Multiple Errors

In 1895, Mike Grady played professional baseball for the Phillies. Grady, normally a catcher, was playing third base in a particularly memorable, and painful, game for him. As the story goes (in *The Very Worst in Sports*) he bobbled an easy grounder allowing the batter to reach first base (1st error). His throw to first was wild (2nd), allowing the runner to advance. The runner tried to stretch it to third. The first baseman's throw to Grady at third was in time, but he dropped it (3rd). Finally, the runner was racing home and Grady's throw sailed over the catcher's head into the grandstand (4th) all in one single play! Grady due to his four errors allowed an "in the park" home run!

From Grady's record on that day in 1895, Neil Pollard comments: "Have you ever mishandled a situation? More than that, have you ever compounded one mistake with one, two, or more on top of the first one? Maybe you lied to cover up some sin and felt compelled to add a few more lies to it? Maybe you lost your temper, then cursed, and maybe even escalated it beyond that. Temptation has any number of ways of getting in our way and really botching up things."

Each one of us has made errors, even multiple errors: errors in judgment, errors in word, and errors in deed. *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (**Rom. 3:23**). Therefore, all of us need forgiveness and a 2nd (or 3rd or more) chance.

Because of His love for us, God offers forgiveness through his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins (**Eph. 1:7**). The Lord will forgive those who submit in trusting obedience to his will: believing in Jesus (**Acts 16: 30,31**), turning from sin in repentance (**Acts 17: 30,31**), confessing Jesus (**Rom. 10: 9,10**), and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins (**Acts 2:38, 22:16**).

Then, as we continue to struggle with errors, we may still have forgiveness if we forsake those sins and ask God to forgive us. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful*

and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9).

Our errors don't have to ultimately define us or defeat us. Forgiveness is found through Jesus, if we will just trust and obey Him.

David Sargent; Taken from 25th Street Bulletin

She Wanted To Go Home

In 1927 there was a lady by the name of Lillie Allen who lived in the eastern part of the USA. Lillie became homesick for her native Russia and desired to go home. She worked very hard and saved up \$100, not near enough to buy a ship ticket home. But, not wanting to take handouts from friends, she began to walk westward. She walked across the US and up through Canada into Alaska. She arrived on the extreme west coast of Alaska in 1929, two years after starting. She bought a small skiff or boat and began to row across the Bering Strait, 36 miles of treacherous water, to Siberia, Russia. Upon arriving in Siberia she was only about half way to her home. In 1932, 5 years after starting her journey, she arrived home. Why did she go to such great extent and through such torturous suffering? There is only one answer. SHE WANTED TO GO HOME! How about you?

by Jim Sasser

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things not taught in the Bible that people believe, and foster false teaching as a result.

***You are to confess to a priest on earth.
1 John 1:9-2:2***

Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

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NEWS AND NOTES:

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Tina Brofft, Matt Bassford, Cleveland Redding, David and Joanne Beckley, Mark Walker, Karen Henry, Jimmie Moore and Jade Blount.

Bible Classes - Sunday Morning -
REVELATION - Bill Miller
Wednesday Evening - GENESIS -
Jim Stauffer

Sunday Sermon - THE SECURITY
OF OUR SALVATION



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10