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Contributors: Chris Corlett, Dwight Fleming, Eddie Hyatt, Gary C. Miller, Rod Reynolds, Craig M. White, Rebecca Wise, Warren Zehrung

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Is It a Sin to Eat Unclean Meats?

(Copyright 08-31-2024) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Is it a sin to eat unclean meats, as designated in Scripture? Many who think of themselves as Christians think not, while presumably those practicing Judaism would disagree.

Consider God’s laws, his commands, for a moment. Why were they given? Was it to deprive humans of things that are good for them, that contribute to joy, peace, happiness, good health? No, quite the contrary. God said to the people of Israel through Moses: “You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess” ([Deuteronomy 5:33](#)).

In paraphrasing portions of the above verse, *Adam Clarke’s Commentary* puts the wording as follows: “that you may enjoy life”; “good shall be to you—God will prosper you in all things essential to the welfare of your bodies, and the salvation of your souls” (cf. [Exodus 15:26](#); [Deuteronomy 4:40](#); [6:17-18](#); [12:25, 28](#); [30:15-16](#); [Psalms 16:11](#); [19:7-11](#); [John 15:11](#)).

God gave the following conditional promise to the people of Israel after he had freed them from slavery in Egypt: “If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you” ([Exodus 15:26](#)). While not commenting specifically on food laws, as such, the book *None of These Diseases*,

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by S. I. McMillen, M.D., explains how many of the laws and admonitions given in Scripture relate to health, and how obedience to them promotes health.

God gave instructions to Adam and Eve concerning certain foods they were permitted to eat, and certain food that was forbidden to them ([Genesis 2:15-17](#); [3:1-3](#), [11](#), [17](#)). There is symbolic significance in these instructions that go beyond mere physical food, nevertheless, in disobeying God’s instructions regarding food, Adam (and Eve) sinned ([Romans 5:12](#)). Thus, yes, it’s a sin to eat what God forbids to be eaten. “Sin is the transgression of the law” ([1 John 3:4, KJV](#)).

But one who considers himself a Christian might argue, “I’m not under the law, but under grace.” The “grace,” the granting of forgiveness from past sins ([Romans 3:25, KJV](#)), offered through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, is not a license to sin with impunity, but an opportunity to be empowered to overcome sin with the help of the Holy Spirit.

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” ([Romans 6:1-2](#)). Breaking God’s laws, refusing to keep his commandments, produces death ([Romans 6:21-23](#)). Such also results in disease ([Exodus 15:26](#); [Deuteronomy 28:58-61](#)).

While not entirely unrelated, the laws regarding clean and unclean meats are statutes separate from the laws of sacrifice and purification ritual for the temple. They were applicable long before the Tabernacle and Levitical priesthood existed, and are valid independently of such ([Genesis 7:2](#); [Leviticus 20:22-26](#); [Deuteronomy 14:1-21](#); [Acts 10:14](#); [Revelation 18:2](#)).

They are given to tell us what animal foods God created to be eaten and are hence acceptable as food for humans ([Leviticus 11:47](#)). Many commentators, though they may make excuses for ignoring these laws, recognize them as identifying animals that are not fit to be used as food for humans. For example, Matthew Henry’s Commentary (MHCC) states in commenting on Leviticus 11, “Most of the meats forbidden as unclean are such as were really unwholesome, and not fit to be eaten....” Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown in their commentary state on Leviticus 11, “...there is no doubt that the flesh of many of the animals here ranked as unclean... is less wholesome and adapted for food than those which were allowed to be eaten.” John Gill in his commentary points out in commenting on [Leviticus 11:2](#), that a reason the laws were given was “for the sake of their health, and to preserve them from diseases.” The *Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge* states on [Leviticus 11:46](#) as a reason for the giving of these laws, “Because those [animals] prohibited were in nutritive and unwholesome; as the swine, the flesh of which being strong and difficult to digest, affords a very gross aliment, and produces, especially in hot climates, cutaneous, scrophulous, and scorbutic disorders, as the itch, leprosy, etc.”

In its article on food laws of the Jews founded on Scripture, the *Encyclopedia Americana* states: “Nearly all the food laws have their hygienic [health promoting] aspect” (“Jews and Judaism — Food and Health Laws,” *Encyclopedia Americana*, vol. 16, 1949, p. 123). It goes on to explain in more detail how various unclean animals, such as swine, unclean birds, unclean water dwelling creatures, insects, and others are often associated with diseases and epidemics. With regard to insects, only certain grass eating “locusts,” i.e., grasshoppers, are permitted as food ([Leviticus 11:22](#)), although there is controversy about to which specific creatures this verse is referring. “Beetle” (as in KJV) is certainly a mistranslation. “The *beetle* never can be intended here, as that insect never was eaten by man, perhaps, in any country of the universe” (*Adam Clarke’s Commentary*). “...in [Lev. 11:22](#), ...it is obvious the word cannot mean properly the beetle” (*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*). There are hundreds of thousands of species of beetles, which may feed on both animal and plant matter, as well as decaying matter. “Some... spread parasitic worms and diseases” (*Britannica Concise Dictionary*). Likely it is referring to various kinds of grasshoppers as “clean,” all other insects, including beetles and crickets, forbidden.

The nature of these animals did not change with the introduction of the New Covenant, nor the destruction of the Temple and the suspension of the Levitical system. Today, as in ancient times, eating unclean animals is a frequent cause of disease and death.

“Scripture and medical research agree that modern lifestyles lived without reference to God’s laws and design shorten life and hasten death” (Rex Russell, M.D., *What the Bible Says About Healthy Living*, p. 31). In discussing various technical details about the health qualities of clean animals for human consumption, Dr. Russell states, “The flesh of clean animals such as beef, and fish that have fins and scales, is ideal for the health of humans — just as we would expect from the hand of a loving Creator” (p. 145). In commenting on a study done at Johns Hopkins University on the

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toxic effects of various kinds of animal flesh, Dr. Russell summarizes, “Note that the flesh of animals and fish given to us by God for food are all nontoxic, but all forbidden animals lie in the toxic range” (p. 150). Dr. Russell comments further on the many diseases associated with the consumption of unclean animals, as well as the breeding of such animals for food. In commenting on swine for example, he says, “The 1942 Yearbook of Agriculture reported that 50 diseases were found in pigs, and many of these diseases were passed on to humans by eating the pig’s flesh” (p. 155).

Another animal that does not meet the test of what is fit to eat by Scriptural standards is the horse, or similar animals. “And you may eat every animal with cloven hooves, having the hoof split into two parts, and that chews the cud, among the animals” ([Deuteronomy 14:6](#)). Horses do not have cloven hooves, and are not ruminants, as are cows, sheep and goats, which do hence “chew the cud,” and have cloven hooves, and thus are “clean” animals, i.e., designated as fit for human consumption as food. “Disease is commonly associated with the consumption of horse meat in lands where it is consumed” (*What Would Jesus Eat?* Don Colbert, M.D., p. 13).

Fish with fins and scales God declared to be fit for humans to eat ([Leviticus 11:9](#)). “...clean fish with fins and scales are extremely beneficial for human consumption” (Colbert, p. 39). He warns, however, that even “clean” fish should be harvested from waters free of pollution, and cautions that eating fish raised in “fish farms” may not be as nutritious as fish taken in the wild from clean water. Fish should also not be eaten raw, as even clean fish may harbor parasites such as tapeworms, which will be killed by thorough cooking (pp. 44-45; cf. [Luke 24:42](#); [John 21:9](#)).

“But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an abomination to you” ([Leviticus 11:10](#)). Shellfish do not have fins and scales. “Shellfish have unique ability to purify waters of pathogenic bacteria,” and other toxins. “The toxins, however, remain in the flesh of the shellfish.” Eating shellfish exposes one to potential sickness or even death. “Raw shellfish is a major source of food poisoning in our nation” (Colbert, p. 38). Dr. Colbert further comments, “I personally regard shellfish as the ‘cockroaches of the sea’ — they are miniature waste collectors for viruses, bacteria, parasites, and toxic waste products” (*ibid.*, p. 39).

“Like shrimp, lobsters, and all other shellfish, catfish [which has fins, but not scales, and is hence “unclean”] were initially created by God to act as cleansing agents for natural water sources. These creatures have a great ability to absorb pollutants but not become sick by them. They can and do, however, pass on those pollutants to human beings who eat their flesh” (*ibid.*, p. 39).

As far as beef is concerned, as with any food, plant or animal, the conditions under which the food is grown will affect its nutritional value and potential for affecting one’s health. Cattle fed on grass free of pesticides and other harmful chemicals, produce beef that is lower in fat and has a healthier balance between omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids than grain fed cattle confined to crowded feedlots, and whose feed may contain residues of pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics and possibly harmful hormones. The same goes for poultry or other food choices. Dr. Colbert recommends that meat be thoroughly cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit, to destroy any bacteria that may have contaminated the meat during processing (cf. [Exodus 12:8-9](#); [2 Chronicles 35:13](#)). This especially applies to ground meat, such as hamburger. He also recommends Kosher meat because the manner in which the animals are killed and processed is more in keeping with the biblical model than the slaughterhouse method.

An illustration of how foolish and unsound practices can have dire consequences when it comes to food: “Mad cow disease is primarily the result of poor feeding practices for the cattle. As cattle have been slaughtered, part of the remains were used to make cattle feed” (*What Would Jesus Eat*, pp. 55-56). “The dietary laws given by God thousands of years ago are diametrically opposed to feeding animal parts and blood to cattle. Deadly diseases such as mad cow disease never occurred in animals in Bible times! Diseased animals would have been identified and removed from a flock or herd very quickly. This disease has been produced by man’s tampering with the natural feeding practices of animals” (*ibid.*, pp. 57-58).

Moses grew up in Egypt, and later had to flee for his life after an altercation led to the death of an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew ([Exodus 2:11-15](#)). He spent forty years in Midian, and at age eighty he was sent back to Egypt on a mission to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to freedom ([Acts 7:20-30](#)). Moses, though he had been educated in the “wisdom of the Egyptians” ([Acts 7:22](#)), did not have the technical knowledge concerning the pathogens that cause infectious diseases which has come to light only in the recent past.

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In several essays in the book *Evidence For Faith*, biologist William J. Cairney discusses the “biomedical prescience” revealed in Scripture. That is, “accurate statements reflecting an in-depth knowledge of scientific concepts far before mankind had laid the technological base for such things to be known” (“Biomedical Prescience 1,” *Evidence For Faith*, ed., John Warwick Montgomery, p. 128). One of the essays focuses on the dietary laws found in Scripture.

He points out that, “...the entire technological base for knowledge of the microbial basis for disease, including transmissibility factors, insect vectors, and host-pathogen relationships is barely one hundred years old” (*ibid.*, p. 130). The soundness of the food laws, cleanliness laws, agricultural laws, etc., are backed up by historical experience, and modern research. When these laws are violated, the result is sickness, disease epidemics, and premature death. How did Moses know these things? According to Moses, he was given the laws by God, the God of the Bible, who, it is claimed, created the living things of the earth, and the earth itself, and the universe of which it is a part ([Leviticus 11:1 ff](#); [Psalms 104:24-31](#); [Isaiah 42:5](#); [45:12](#)).

“Moses claimed no credit for having originated any of this material. Rather, he gave complete credit to the God of the Hebrews, who, as Moses claimed, had told him to write all this down. It is also not accidental or coincidental that these laws prevented disease. They were specifically designed to do that. The evidence for that is internal to the narrative” (“Biomedical Prescience 2,” *ibid.*, p. 142). Does not the evidence support the notion that, although men were used to transmit Scripture, it’s ultimate author is God? ([2 Timothy 3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:21](#)).

Despite the fact that modern scientific research has confirmed the soundness of the laws concerning food and similar laws given by God through his word for our good, most people, including most who profess to be Christians, continue to ignore these laws, to their own hurt. Yet, as Christians we are to separate ourselves from unclean practices ([2 Corinthians 7:1](#); [Galatians 5:19](#); [Ephesians 4:17-20](#); [5:3-5](#); [Colossians 3:5](#)). We are to take care of our bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit ([1 Corinthians 3:17](#)). We are to be holy as God is holy ([Leviticus 11:45](#); [20:25-26](#); [1 Peter 1:15-16](#)).

The flesh of animals that had died of themselves, or were not bled properly, was also forbidden. Eating such animal flesh could easily result in sickness and death. Hence, the prohibition against eating the blood and hard fat (marbled fat in lean tissue is of a different composition and is not forbidden) of even clean animals also remains in force for Christians, as do similar laws ([Genesis 9:4](#); [Leviticus 7:23-27](#); [17:10-14](#); [19:26](#); [Acts 15:20, 29](#)). If you cook ground beef, it would be wise to drain the pan of residual liquid while still hot, to avoid consuming fat that would otherwise very likely be harmful to your health. Dr. Russell and other health researchers have explained very clearly the health implications behind these laws.

The *Encyclopedia Americana* volume referenced above mentions how following the Bible’s food and health laws have positive practical results. “Certainly, the health laws of the Bible give eloquent testimony to the advanced condition of social hygiene. Certain biotic advantages have been claimed for the Jew. Greater longevity, greater fecundity, greater exemption from tuberculosis and syphilis, special capacity for acclimatization, are among these. But the advantages do not appear to be racial and seem to be entirely dependent upon the degree of observance of the special laws, and to be forfeited with the non-observance of these” (p. 123). It should be remembered that the laws we’re discussing are not “Jewish” laws, they are God’s laws. They promise to be a blessing to anyone or any people who observe them, and failing to observe them will have negative consequences without regard to ethnicity.

Some have been confused by false teachings concerning certain New Testament scriptures. One of these is [Romans 14:6](#). “He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.” As Dr. Russell correctly explains, however, this Scripture has nothing to do with the subject of clean and unclean meats as discussed in Leviticus 11 and other passages of Scripture defining which animals were created to be eaten. “The argument in Romans 14 was about ‘clean’ meats some Christians considered to be defiled because it had been offered to idols. The fact is, early Christians observed the biblical distinctions between clean and unclean meats at least until A.D. 70” (pp. 144-145). Christians faithfully following God’s commandments as applicable under the New Covenant continue observing these distinctions to this day.

Another misused Scripture is found in the context of a vision given to Peter wherein he saw descending from heaven (in vision) a variety of creatures including unclean animals. ([Acts 10:10-12](#)). He heard a voice, saying, “Rise, Peter, kill and eat.” To which he responded, “Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean” ([Acts 10:13-14](#)). Then, “... a voice spoke to him again the second time, ‘What God has cleansed you must not call common’” ([Acts 10:15](#)).

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It is commonly alleged by various commentators that the message is that the laws distinguishing between "clean" animals (those fit for human consumption) and "unclean" (not fit for food for humans) are abrogated by this vision. Yet, what animal was declared unfit for food at the time of Moses and before is somehow more fit for food now? Nothing has changed concerning the inherent nature of any animal since the time of Moses that would make it any less nor any more fit for food. Thus, God has not "cleansed" any of the animals that were previously unclean. What, then, is the point of the vision? Peter himself did not understand what the intent of the message was ([Acts 10:17](#)). He also refused to follow the literal meaning of what he was told to do in this vision, that is, eat as food the flesh of animals he knew is forbidden by God's word. However, God had arranged for Peter to meet in Caesarea with a group of Gentiles who were prepared to hear and believe the gospel. It then became apparent what lesson Peter was to learn from the vision and the circumstances surrounding it. It had become a common belief among many of the Jews that the unclean animals forbidden by the law were somehow symbolic of Gentiles (cf. *Adam Clarke's Commentary*). However, the Scriptures are clear that God is no respecter of persons. Upon meeting and listening to the aforementioned Gentiles Peter understood the message, and it was not that the food laws had been abrogated. Peter said to those assembled to meet him, "God has shown me that **I should not call any man common or unclean**" ([Acts 10:28](#)). Shortly he added, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him" ([Acts 10:34-35](#)).

Another Scripture sometimes used to circumvent God's food laws is found in Paul's first letter to Timothy. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" ([1 Timothy 4:1-5](#)). Note carefully, however, that the foods sometimes forbidden among those influenced by "deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons," are foods, such as animal flesh, that God "created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth." God's word clearly specifies in Leviticus 11, Deuteronomy 14, and other Scriptures which animal flesh was created to be received by those who "believe and know the truth." Jesus said in a prayer to God, "Your word is truth" ([John 17:17](#)). The "word" spoken of is preserved in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as they are commonly called ([2 Timothy 3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:21](#)). Such foods as mentioned above are "sanctified" ([1 Timothy 4:5](#)), that is, set apart as "clean" and fit for food by the word of God; and thus are separate from forbidden flesh ([Leviticus 11:47](#)). Just as prophesied, not only do the doctrines of some religions, including various sects calling themselves "Christian," forbid eating meat, either at certain times or altogether, but there is currently a powerful secular movement of worldwide influence to ban the consumption of meat. Truly this is a doctrine of demons.

Scripture admonishes us to pay heed to God's words of wisdom, "For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh" ([Proverbs 4:22](#)).

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Chapter 3: Are You Not Yet Carnal? *A Bride Prepared*

Are You Not Yet Carnal?

It is a shame that we are not of one mind, and able to get together with converted family members and friends for the Feast of Tabernacles. Too many of our brethren have been taught not to associate with others who are not within their own fellowship. They turn their heads when they pass their former brethren on the street – no longer considering them, brethren. Paul says that those who participate in that kind of behavior are not **spiritually** mature, but still **carnal babes**. “Brethren, I could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:1) *The Bride is not prepared* to meet Christ while this practice persists in His one Church.

Soon, the brethren who are led by God's Holy Spirit will be together in mind, attitude, and spiritual unity as the Bride of Christ. The Bride will not come from any one earthly organization or group. That is because Christianity is not something you belong to – like an organization – but a way of life that leads to holiness and Godliness. It is only when we truly put on Godliness that unity with other brethren, who are also pursuing being *at one* with God, can transpire (John 17:21-23). It will be a miracle when it happens. The man-made lines that separate brethren must be crossed – the barriers must come down. Jesus will have only one Wife. The Bride of Christ will be **spiritually** mature. Are we willing to do what it takes to be a part of the Bride?

Make no mistake about it - Jesus Christ is not going to return to a scattered bunch of churches. **Jesus Christ has only one Church, and it is made up of all the brethren who are being led by His Holy Spirit.** That is who Christ is returning to. Christ is not divided – how can we remain separated for so many wrong reasons? There is the question of some members hobnobbing with the wealthy or the ministry, and with the “beautiful people” to the exclusion of the “little people,” or the ne'er-do-wells – it is not a new problem (James 2:3). Human nature wants to be a part of a fashionable group, and Satan uses every weakness that he can find to instigate division among God's people.

Perfectly Joined Together

Paul writes about the divisiveness in the Church at Corinth, saying that quarrels and contentions clearly demonstrate the *carnal nature* of those who will not seek peace. “For ye are **yet carnal**: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one says, I am of [Fill in the name of a minister]; and another says, I am of [Fill in the name of an organization]; **are ye not carnal?**” (1 Corinthians 3:3-4)

The Church in Corinth exhibited the same problem that we have today. Paul begged, “I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there **be no divisions** among you, but that you be **perfectly joined together** in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10) These verses are unmistakable warnings to us today to get our lives in order. Paul said, “I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.” (1 Corinthians 4:14)

There are many today, who – like the five foolish virgins of Matthew 25 – thoughtlessly believe that their group is uniquely qualified to be the Bride, to the exclusion of all the others. As a warning to us, let us remember that down through history, there have always been “**foolish virgins**,” who thought they were the sole favorite of God's affections.

Organizations *per se* are necessary – their function is to manage the business concerns of the group such as planning Feast sites, administering funds (including third tithe), publishing, writing contracts, interfacing with the Government, providing halls for Sabbath services, etc. An organization is a *physical* entity.

A serious problem arises when members begin to look to their headquarters rather than to God. “I would never do that!” people exclaim. But how often do we hear the phrase, “Let me check with Headquarters?” The Church that Jesus founded is a *spiritual* entity and cannot be sued – but organizations are legal entities that have to take into account

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insurance and liability considerations.

God’s Word says that it is good and right to serve the elderly and the fatherless. In one example, headquarters prohibited an elderly function from taking place because, “The church could be sued if someone hurt themselves.” That is a case of headquarters being out of touch with its purpose. But a much more serious predicament arises when members look to a headquarters to make decisions on spiritual aspects in their lives. God warns the Bride-to-be that all ministers are not His ministers. A false minister can cost a person their salvation. Some are Satan’s ministers – masquerading as good ministers – *transformed as the ministers of righteousness.*” (2 Corinthians 11:15)

Role of the Ministry

The Bible is the *living* Word of God – containing timeless spiritual lessons for mankind. A minister should be able to teach and preach sound doctrine – *rightly dividing the word of truth* – guiding [showing the way] through the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:2, 15, Acts 8:31). His duties are baptizing, marrying, performing funerals, praying, anointing the sick and counseling. The minister is to expound on Godly concepts. *“Holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by **sound doctrine** both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”* (Titus 1:9)

The function of the ministry is to teach how to walk in God’s way and how to apply God’s principles in our lives. All too often, we find the minister in the role of decision maker for someone else’s family. That is wrong! Yes, the ministry should be available for Godly counseling – however, the ministry is not to usurp the decision-making function of the head of the family.

That is not the role of a minister or any group’s headquarters. *“[The ministry] **does not have dominion over your faith but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.**”* (2 Corinthians 1:24) When a minister presumes that his judgment is so far superior to others that he believes he has the right to supersede a member’s personal decision – he has violated a basic Christian tenet.

The ministry’s responsibility is to help the brethren focus on God and His ways. When a minister makes himself or his organization the center of attention rather than God, he is making an extremely serious mistake in judgment. And sometimes a member quickly becomes *persona non grata* – an unwelcomed person if he does not do exactly what the minister dictates. That is wrong!

Look to God and His Word for direction in your life. Those brethren who have been disfellowshipped for unjust reasons by political ministers have not been removed from God’s true Church – only from an organization gone astray. Only God’s Spirit is everlasting. Organizations come and go. Past organizational failures and closures teach us that we must always be extremely careful not to confuse “organization” with God’s Truth and Work.

Foolish Virgins

How many organizations boast that they are God’s favorite group – pleasing God the most? Or, that they are doing the primary work at the forefront of preaching the gospel; or they are the biggest work; or have more TV stations; or they have the most senior man; or they have a brand that isolates and distinguishes them above others; or they have produced the most literature; or that they alone received the baton of Church authority that was passed down; or some such claim of dominance? Brethren, are we blind to the divisiveness of that rationale?

It is God who does the “Work” – we are merely his tools. *“This is the **Work of God** that you believe on Him [Jesus Christ] whom He [the Father] has sent.”* (John 6:29) It is God, not us, who will cause Israel to be warned and restored (Ezekiel 3, 36). It is God who will cause the gospel to be preached to all nations as a witness. And it is God who makes it possible for the Bride to prepare herself. **Give** God all the credit for His works (John 14:10).

“Everyone who exalts himself will be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14) Without the words actually being spoken, some members are being taught by the attitude and behavior of their leadership that there are other brethren who just don’t measure up. Where in the Bible do you find any true leader of God’s people telling the brethren not to fellowship together? You do not find it because it is clearly against Christ’s teachings. There will be perfect peace within Christ’s marriage – because He is *King of Peace* (Hebrews 7:2).

Their condescending message is loud and clear – avoid mixing with brethren from other groups, because we are better

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than they are. Those groups that are betting that God will choose only the members of their unique organization for the place of safety, or to be the Bride of Christ, underestimate the mind of Christ. When we consider the meaning of 1 Corinthians 12:24, we learn that the mind of Christ is exactly the opposite of what is commonly found in practice in various Churches of God today! "... *God hath tempered the Body [of Christ] together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked,*" because "*God hath set the members, every one of them, in the Body [of Christ], as it hath pleased Him.*" (1 Corinthians 12:24, 18)

God is the Source of Unity

Since it is God who has placed the individual members where it pleases Him, we would do well to receive all the brethren. If we were working on our relationship with God as we should, the result would be a better unity with other like-minded brethren. The reason for the disunity in the Church, even after so many years, attests to the fact that there are those who have not yet become rooted in Christ as they should be. It is simply unfathomable to have Church of God organizations existing side by side, while ignoring each other's very existence as brethren of Christ. Would Jesus have been a part of such divisiveness without taking positive action? Clearly, the Bride will not possess a spirit of alienation.

The will of God is perfectly clear: "*There should be **no schism** in the Body [of Christ]; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*" (1 Corinthians 12:25) In this verse, the "body" is the Body of Christ, and the "one for another" refers to all those members who have God's Holy Spirit in their minds – leading them in God's way (Romans 8:14). As much as God desires unity – it must be **based on God's truth**. God desires unity – but it must be according to His Word: "*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye **withdraw yourselves** from every brother that walks disorderly [he will not repent of sin].*" (2 Thessalonians 3:6)

Here is where Christian maturity must prevail – do we *withdraw* from the sinner or do we *go to our brother* and try to help him? We must do one or the other. Here is our priority: If there is any possibility that our brother is able to repent from the error of his way – we must help him. Is it not obvious what we should do? Can we be so unwise as to come to the conclusion that we have been released from the commandment to *love one another*? Do we make void the commandment of God by loving only the people who have "no problems?"

We will not be prepared for the wedding supper with Christ until we truly seek to remove the obstacles that persist between ourselves and other children of God. God demands that we must be an active part of building close relationships with brethren – including those who are across imaginary organizational lines. It is every Christian's duty before God to seek out others. Perhaps the apostasy separated us against our will – but that is not a justification for continuing in our divided condition.

Those brethren who finally make up the Bride of Christ will be of one mind. Christ is not divided – we all know that (1 Corinthians 1:13). But do we know this? The Body of Christ, those in the **true** Church, His **true** Bride – by definition – cannot be divided. That raises a serious question if we refuse to acknowledge others who are led by God's Spirit. When a member cuts off fellowship from other brethren – that is division – plain and simple. One person or the other is going to miss out on that precious occasion of the wedding supper! We cannot expect to be saved ourselves while saying in effect, "I don't care if others make it into God's Kingdom or not."

See Warren Zehrung's other articles at:

[Zehrung, Warren – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Three Reasons My Faith Will Not Allow Me to Vote for a Certain Political Party

(Copyright 09-05-2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



I am neither a registered Republican or Democrat. I have no personal stake in the success of any political party. As a Christian and a minister of the Gospel my goal is to see the values of Heaven adopted and lived out by as many people and institutions as possible. Only then can we hope to be a happy nation, for as George Washington declared in his First Inaugural Address,

The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the external rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained. (Hyatt, *Pilgrims and Patriots, 2nd Edition*, 174).

Neither political party completely expresses my values, but one party has turned so far away from the founding principles of this nation and the values I hold, that I feel compelled to make the following statement. The following are three reasons my faith will not allow me to vote for a Democrat.

Reason #1

Their Disdain for Bible-Believing Christians

When the new Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, described himself as a "Bible-believing Christian," Democrats lost their mind. MSNBC host Jen Psaki called Johnson a "religious fundamentalist" and mocked his faith. The Daily Beast compared Johnson to the "Taliban and the mullahs in Iran." Hakeem Jeffries, the Minority leader in the House, ripped into Johnson, calling him an "extreme, right-wing ideologue." Others referred to him as "dangerous" and a "threat to democracy."

Not a single Democrat leader, including Kamala Harris and Tim Walz, have distanced themselves from these atrocious remarks by their colleagues. I must, therefore, assume that this is how they feel about the millions of "Bible-believing Christians" in America, including myself.

The above is just one instance among many of the Democrat Party's disdain for Bible-believing Christians. For example, Jerry Nadler (D-NY), while serving as chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, sternly rebuked Greg Steube (R-FL) for daring to read from the Bible during a debate on the House floor. "Mr. Steube," he admonished, "What any religious

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tradition describes as God's will is no concern of this Congress.”

The Democrat Party’s attitude toward “Bible-believing Christians” is both biased and un-American. For example, a ten-year study to determine where America’s founders got their ideas for their founding principles and documents, found that they quoted the Bible far more than any other source. When, therefore, George Washington insisted on taking the first presidential oath of office with his hand on a Bible, it was an expression of his deep respect for God’s word. In a December 1982 article in *Newsweek* entitled “How the Bible Made America,” the authors wrote,

For centuries [the Bible] has exerted an unrivaled influence on American culture, politics and social life. Now historians are discovering that the Bible, perhaps even more than the Constitution, is our founding document: the source of the powerful myth of the United States as a special, sacred nation, a people called by God to establish a model of society, a beacon to the world (Hyatt, [*1726: The Year that Defined America*](#), 7).

By demeaning “Bible-believing Christians,” the Democrat party has distanced itself from America’s founding generation and from millions of modern “Bible-believing Christians.” I cannot vote for such a party.

Reason #2

Their Flight from Reason and Common Sense

Our faith will often transcend reason, but it will never violate or do damage to reason. Our Creator is a rational Being and His creation can be understood by rigorous investigations based on reason and common sense. This is the thinking that gave birth to modern science. When, therefore, reason gives way to vibes and feelings, confusion and chaos are bound to ensue, which is exactly what has happened.

We have, for example, heard Democrats struggling to define a woman. They struggle because they have rejected reason and common sense, and accepted the irrational idea that gender is a cultural and societal construct rather than a biological reality. Now guided by vibes and emotion, they will allow biological men to participate in women’s sports and are okay with men using women’s restrooms and locker rooms. Because they have rejected reason and common sense, they insist that men can have babies, and that a woman can become a father. Is this not confusion of the worst sort!

The Democrat Party is also for allowing children to choose their gender, and in many cases without parental notification. They also defend irreversible sex-change surgeries for children that remove the breasts of young girls and the genitalia of young boys who are confused about their sexuality. They call it “gender-affirming care,” but it is irrational child abuse of the worst sort.

The worldview behind this is “postmodernism,” an atheistic way of thinking that denies that there is any such thing as objective truth and reality. Modernism rejected religious dogma but emphasized “reason” as the way to discover truth. The postmodernist has also rejected reason for he/she claims there is no objective truth or reality to be discovered.

For the postmodernist, truth is not something to be discovered; it is something to be created. Postmodernism is, therefore, very “I” or *ego* centered. I create my own personal reality and everyone around me must adjust to accommodate my irrational choices. A male athlete decides to identify as a woman and compete in women’s sports, and he expects the women, the school, and the world to bend and bow to his irrational choice without question. Is this not egoism of the worst sort!

This way of thinking is a blatant violation of reason and common sense. It is in conflict with the natural order as created by God. Such thinking, based on “vibes” and “feelings,” can only lead to societal confusion, turmoil, and chaos. I cannot vote for a party that has chosen to go down such a dark and dangerous path.

Reason #3

Their Contemptuous Attitude Toward Life in the Womb

Just a short distance from where I live, a young woman gave birth to a baby in the bathroom of an Applebee’s restaurant. She then threw it in the garbage and left. According to a published report, the newborn’s lifeless body was found by employees who were cleaning the bathroom about 30 minutes after the mother left the restaurant.

How could someone be so callous and inhumane about a new-born life? I do not know her situation, but perhaps she had heard of the Democrats in the New York state legislature breaking into cheers after passing a bill that allowed a mother to abort her baby right up to the time of birth.

Perhaps she had also heard of former Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia promoting his pro-abortion bill and saying that if a baby survives an abortion, the infant will be made comfortable while the mother and her doctor decide if the newborn baby should live or die.

Not a single Democrat party leader spoke against these “death bills” that devalue human life. Their attitude is tragic but understandable, for if you reject both the Bible and reason, then it is easy to see human beings as mere products of time and chance with no real inherent value. That thing in the womb is just a clump of cells and flesh to be discarded at the slightest whim or inconvenience.

On the other hand, those who hold a Christian worldview see the baby in the womb as a life from God—a real person. Erica, who was about to have an abortion, came to this realization in a very stunning way. Having second thoughts about her abortion, she begged the nurse to let her see her baby. She wrote,

As soon as I saw my child on the ultrasound, I knew I couldn't do it. I saw the heart beating, and he moved his little hands (almost like a wave). I think God intervened and sent me a message that I was about to make the biggest mistake of my life.

That the hand of our Creator is on our life from the moment of conception is vividly expressed in Psalm 119:13-16, which reads,

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

It is also interesting that Luke, who was a physician, recorded the response of John the Baptist, who was six months along in his mother’s womb, when he heard the announcement from Mary that she would also be giving birth to a Child. He must have kicked for his mother, Elizabeth, said to Mary, *For indeed as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy* (Luke 1:44).

Science has, indeed, confirmed that after 11 weeks in the womb the baby has brainwaves and can kick. He/she also squints, swallows, and sucks their thumb. They are sensitive to heat, light, noise, and all body systems are working.

After 20 weeks in the womb, babies are capable of experiencing pain and that capability for pain increases with each passing day. Babies in the womb experience excruciating pain during an abortion. They will seek to avoid the abortionist tools and will emit a “silent scream” as their tiny bodies are ripped apart.

According to Brookings, 95% per cent of abortions are done for convenience and to end unwanted pregnancies. Such a

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contempt for life in the womb should not be part of a civilized society and will eventually lead to other forms of “legalized” murder. I cannot vote for a party that has such a contemptuous view toward life.

In Summary

On November 5 I will be voting. I will not be voting according to party or personality. I will be voting according to principles and policies expressed by the candidates and their party platforms. As it now stands, my faith will not allow me to vote for a Democrat.

See Eddie Hyatt’s other articles at:

Hyatt, Eddie – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<http://www.godswordtowomen.org/>

On Voting and Elections
(Copyright 09-03-2024) by Chris Corlett (Coeur d’Alene, Idaho)

This article puts the “personal” in Personal Update. Neither a Bible study nor a research paper, I hope to introduce to you, Gracious Reader, my framework and approach regarding voting and elections. Headlines covering elections from around the world regularly populate our news cycle, and in November, votes will be cast to determine the next president of the United States of America. What follows is easily adaptable to whatever elections you vote in, and it also provides what might be described as “flash cards” that are useful in conversations with family and friends.

In 2004, George W. Bush (Republican) and John Kerry (Democrat) battled to win the presidential election. My senior Calculus class asked me (all my students know I am easily distracted), “Who do you like in the presidential race?” Some seniors were eligible to vote, while others were merely curious. I cast my first vote for a presidential candidate during my senior year in high school. “I pretty much like everybody, and that is not the question you should consider. Instead, prioritize three issues or policies and research the position of each candidate. Whichever candidate most closely aligns with your priorities and positions earns your vote.” The class enthusiastically participated in a conversation using this re-framing of the question.

So, what are my (four) priorities? I look to the Bible for guidance and what follows are verses which point to the sort of candidate I can get excited about. None of the following verses specifically or contextually address elections. The system of democracy is absent in the pages of the Bible. Instead, the verses point to what is important to God and so it is important to me.

ISRAEL:

*I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” **Genesis 12:3***

God promises a blessing for those who bless the descendants of Abraham, namely the Jews. The Jewish people and the nation of Israel have been heated topics throughout history, and with the brutal attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023, a new urgency exists. God foretold of these difficult times.

*And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. **Zechariah 12:3***

When casting my vote, I always consider the candidate’s position on the existence of Israel and how to address the

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scourge of antisemitism that abounds. God promises a blessing on the people and on the nation who first bless the people and the nation of Israel.

LIFE:

Abortion and the death penalty have been unavoidable topics during my entire life. I took Advanced Placement Biology while a senior in high school, and for one week, we turned our classroom into a courtroom. I served as the judge while classmates represented one side or the other of the debate. I grew up when the question was in play rather than the positions firmly set. And while the death penalty is the less ubiquitous of the two issues, headlines and protests over the past fifty years point to a divided electorate on this issue.

Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.

Genesis 9:6

That seems clear enough for me. And while Genesis 12:3 is part of God establishing His covenant with Abram (Abraham), this verse is included in the narrative when God is establishing His covenant with Noah. These must be important principles for me to consider when deciding on a candidate.

Regarding the death penalty, with advances in forensics (especially DNA testing), many convictions have been overturned. The August 10, 2024, edition of the DAILY NEWS carried the following front-page headline: “FAILED BY JUSTICE: Man free after doing 16 yrs. for slay he didn’t commit.” A sixteen-year incarceration for a crime you did not commit is tragic (although the apostle Paul might see it differently!) Had the man received the death penalty, the matter would be an even greater miscarriage of our justice system.

SEPARATION OF POWERS:

The United States Constitution establishes three co-equal and independent branches of government. My high school civics class explained it thus:

- The Legislative Branch makes the laws
- The Executive Branch enforces the laws
- The Judicial Branch interprets the laws

I hardly recognize this in today’s American politics, but it nonetheless makes sense. No branch or, party or individual holds all the power. For nearly 250 years, no dictator reigned from Washington DC. Fascinating to watch are the struggles all politicians face when trying to follow through on campaign promises or to achieve agendas. And while I have no evidence that the fathers of this tripartite system relied on the following verse, they certainly could have.

*For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us. **Isaiah 33:22***

God hints at the three functions of governing, of which He is the only One qualified!

HOLINESS AND JUSTICE

I think I heard a couple of “yups” and even an “amen” during the previous sections. This final section is the verse that seems to trip up everybody. Malachi closes the Old Testament canon and writes:

*And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien— Because they do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts. **Malachi 3:5***

Everybody finds something in this verse they like and something of which they are not so fond. Such is the duality of holiness and justice. One side is eager to address the future of the sinner, while the other side only sees the need of today. God seems concerned with both. The liveliest political conversations come from this verse. Is there a candidate who stands for the moral truth of the Bible while also addressing the situation of the worker, the needy, and the stranger? That is a tough one, and when I find such a candidate, I will be eager to give my support.

CONCLUSION

God’s people have survived the Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Haman, Herod, Nero, Hitler and will survive today’s

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politicians. A few passages for your consideration.

*Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. They have bowed down and fallen; but we have risen and stand upright. Save, Lord! May the King answer us when we call. **Psalm 20:7-9***

*The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts. To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. **Proverbs 21:1-3***

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6***

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. **Philippians 3:20-21***

*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for HE IS LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." **Revelation 17:14***

I hope this article provides both perspective and encouragement.

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Church Inventory

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The New Testament church of Jesus Christ began nearly 2,000 years ago when God sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to the 120 disciples meeting together in Jerusalem. Ten days before, Jesus, just before ascending to heaven, told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received POWER.

But **power** to do what? "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the **ends of the earth**" (Acts 1:8).

As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon His disciples with great power in the form of cloven tongues of fire. Many Jews who had come to Jerusalem for Pentecost were startled by the sight since they heard the disciples speaking in various tongues. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter preached a message which added 3,000 believers to the church that very day.

Jesus also stated that He would build His church and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. See Matthew 16:18. The early church was wrought with problems, yet it grew despite persecution. As Christ warned, there were those who entered to make merchandise of the flock leading many astray into false doctrine and pagan influence. Controversy often rocked believers and the faithful. Despite poor leadership and the power struggles that took place after the death of the apostles, the Christian church, as imperfect as it became, did exert influence upon Western Civilization.

That influence was primarily a moral standard which every civilization needs for prosperity, both physical and spiritual. The Christian moral standard primarily upheld and protected the sanctity of the family which allowed Western Civilization to flourish despite its many other flaws.

Yet that influence is beginning to wane. In Britain and Europe, Christian churches have become relics of a bygone era. What attracted one generation to the Bible and Christ is old news to the next. Why do young people often feel that church

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is not relevant to the world they must cope with? The church that they attended as a child may provide happy songs and feel-good sayings, but often does not provide meaningful answers to the challenges that they are bombarded with by a secular world. So-called wizards of science poke fun at the Bible and make it sound like nothing more than a collection of fabricated myths created by ignorant and superstitious charlatans and story-tellers.

Ken Ham addresses this growing problem which seriously challenges the Christian church today. If any church cannot keep its young people or attract new people with young families, then, that church will not thrive and will someday face extinction.

Did God foresee this problem in our modern era? Does God have a solution for it?

Certainly! First, listen to Ken's message then ask God for more of His Holy Spirit which will provide answers!

Here is the link to Ken's message: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nDJ_wJPGDc

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:
[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

The Right Form of Government?
(Copyright 08-31-2024) by Gary C. Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)



“Of the increase of His Government and Peace there shall be no end...” (Isaiah 9:7)

WHAT WILL HIS [Yahshua's] GOVERNMENT BE: A Kingdom, Republic, Democracy, Socialist, Fascist, Democratic Socialist, Communist?

THE ANSWER: AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM

“...upon the Throne of David, and upon his *Kingdom*, to order it... with Judgment and with

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Justice...even Forever....Yahweh of Hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:7)

Justice Is: Equal treatment under the law. Equal Opportunity; not Equal Success. Freedom to set and reach goals.

Reward for actions:

“Both Success and Failure are the strictest of Justice.” (Henry Ford)

GOVERNMENTS OF AND BY MEN DO NOT LAST

Pharaoh’s government ended at the bottom of the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:28)

Solomon went into apostasy. His government was split in two: his son, Rehoboam (2 tribes), and Jeroboam (10 tribes).

King Belshazzar, son of King Nebuchadnezzar, was assassinated in 539 B.C.

Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia, ruled B.C. 336-323. After his death in 323 B.C. his kingdom split into four parts.

The Roman Empire lasted over twelve hundred years, but the empire and the “eternal city” [Rome] did fall (476 A.D.).

Hitler’s Third Reich, after crushing most of Europe, was itself crushed by Allied Forces, May 8, 1945. History also shows, the old Roman adage is true: “*Absolute power corrupts absolutely.*”

WHY?

The wicked will do anything to get and keep power and money.

WHAT IS NEEDED? A DIVINE KING WHO GOVERNS BY YAHWEH’S LAW

“Behold, the days come, saith Yahweh (“the LORD”; KJV), that I will raise unto David a Righteous Branch, and a *King shall reign* and prosper, and shall execute Judgment and Justice in the earth.” (Jeremiah 23:5).

He will be “...of quick understanding in the Fear of Yahweh...”

RIGHT JUDGMENT

“He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

But with Righteousness shall He Judge the Poor, and Reprove with Equity for the Meek of the earth:... and with the breath of His lips shall he Slay the Wicked. (Isaiah 11:3-4)

Note: A RIGHTEOUS KINGDOM DOES NOT MEAN “BIG GOVERNMENT”.

“**THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**” (Matt. 6:10)

See Gary C. Miller’s other articles at:

[Miller, Gary C. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<http://www icyahweh.org/>

Robin Jones Items Scanned and Uploaded (Copyright 08-31-2024) by Craig M. White (Australia)

As you may be aware, many items from Robin Jones library was sent to me for scanning and making available on the Friends of the Sabbath website.

I have now scanned most items with only the 151 page 'History of the London Church' and scores of the Pasadena campus 'Portfolio' to scan and add to what is already there. The latter will be tedious and will take some time to complete.

Scanned to date are:

- 1950s Pasadena Porfolios
- 1957 London attendees and photos
- AC graduation ceremonies
- HWA's time in England
- Loma Armstrong reactions to her death
- List of sermons on Christ
- Some Significant Dates 1959-89
- Covers to Student Handbooks, Prospectus etc

The Porfolios are [here](#).

The London and other UK information is [here](#)

Bricket Wood information [here](#)

I still seek the earliest Portfolios and Ministerial Conferences information.

See Craig White's other articles at:

[White, Craig M. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Legacy Institute of Thailand and Burma (Copyright 09-01-2024) by Rebecca Wise (United States)

Thank you for sending out the newsletter free of charge. I enjoy the articles very much. It's a great service to many people.

Thank you for including Kenya Hands of Hope in your announcements. I will ask Bill about his August 24 donor letter which I can't find on his website.

Also, someone forwarded me Legacy's latest letter from August 2024. Founders Leon and Gloria Sexton have been helping brethren in Thailand and Burma since 1999.

Here is their website in case you would like to post it in your announcement section.

<http://legacyinstitute.org/>

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Update:

Sending this to the other address because it couldn't be delivered to the Messenger email address.

Thank you so much for posting announcements in the Messenger! This really helps get the word out. :-)

Bill told me how to find the donor letters: <https://khofh.com/letter/letters-in-english/>

Here is the one for August 24: <https://khofh.com/donor-letter/>

By the way, here is the link to an open letter to the churches of God written by Bonnie Bell (now deceased) from Texas after she visited in 2012.

<https://khofh.com/update-on-theopen-letter-to-thechurch-of-god/>

Editor's Note:

Our email addresses are:

Church-of-God-Bismarck@hotmail.com

The-Church-of-God-Messenger@hotmail.com

If you reply to the newsletter email, it will not go through.

See Rebecca Wise's other articles at:

<https://church-of-god-bismarck.org/category/article-authors/wise-rebecca/>

Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes

Notes