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Can Impact Future
Generations!**

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Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

Contributors: Curtis Dahlgren, Dwight Fleming, Eddie Hyatt, Rod Reynolds, James Steinle, Craig M. White, Rebecca Wise, Warren Zehrung

Websites:

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Commentary:

Hi Everyone,

Any cat that lives to be 15 years old is living on borrowed time after that. There are exceptions to that rule of course. Our cat Sophie lived to be almost 22 years old and Cuddles was 19 years old when he just laid down one night and just didn't wake up in the morning. This year one of our black cats Musket turned 15 years old in August. From there she seems to be going downhill but still runs around the house and tries to climb. Sometimes she is able to make the jump and other times she is not able to do it. For example, this morning she tried to jump on the laundry room garbage can so she could get onto the dryer. She missed and fell to the floor. She was successful later on, as when I went in there to see if she had eaten all of her food, she was on top of the washing machine just looking around.

Musket seems to be losing a lot of weight, so we have been feeding her in the laundry room, so she does not have to compete with the other cats for food. I generally only feed her canned food because she seems to have a hard time digesting the dry food. The vet told us she had a few minor dental issues and wanted to know if we wanted her teeth cleaned. We declined as older cats and dogs do not come through those kinds of things very well. Our dog Sugar had her teeth cleaned to come home and have a heart attack while we were eating, so we declined dental work on Musket.

What we do with our pets is to provide them a good home and mostly doctor them at home ourselves and let them die a natural death in their own home. In other words, we don't have them put to sleep because they are old or having a few problems. We adapt as we need to. For example, Sophie had a few problems ever since we got her at age seven and because of those problems she had to sleep in a cage at night but was allowed to roam freely during the day. Cuddles was hyperactive and always ate my hair at night, so he had to be locked down stairs at night or I would never have gotten any sleep. Two of our dogs, Bubbles and Brandi due to heart problems and not being able to control bowel movements had to be confined to two rooms where the floors were

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covered in pee pads. We wore out a whole washing machine just washing pee pads constantly. Some pets need more help as they age than others.

So, for Musket’s problems, I found some stuff online which many people said works so we thought we would try it. It kind of looks like really thick gravy and even smells like real food. All you have to do with it is give a teaspoon a day to an adult cat. There are various ways you can feed it to a cat, for example a cat that isn’t eating at all you can give it in a syringe. In Muskets case she is eating, just not very much so I just added it to her food and then I make sure she eats the food completely. It can also be added to water but from past experience I don’t recommend adding anything into any pet’s water because if they don’t like what you added in they will not drink the water and will become dehydrated which is an automatic trip to the vet if you catch it in time.

Then for her dental problems, they are finding now that even with people adding good bacteria into your mouth daily will not only heal your many dental problems but it will also keep them from happening at all. Of course, the dentist will not tell you that eating meat or introducing good bacteria into your mouth will eliminate dental problems because that would eliminate dentists.

So, I was able to find the good bacteria for cats and dogs and I started Musket on it. It is very simple to use. It is a sort of a white powder that you can add to food or water. Again, I do not recommend adding it into a pet’s water, so I added it to her food and she ate all the food I gave her and wanted more food so I gave her more food. The trick is that the cat or dog must eat the food you add it to in two hours or it is no good after that. I think you can buy it in a bottle, but I bought it for ease of use in pre-measured packets.

Time will tell if these items work or not, but she seems to not notice I am adding them to her food and so she eats the food. The one to fatten her up is full of a mixture of vitamins to stimulate her appetite and though it is too early to tell, she did eat her food quicker this morning than normal and she wanted more food.

This is getting sort of long so I will stop here. Below are the links for what we bought:

[MIRACLE VET Weight Gain Liquid Supplement for Dogs & Cats, 16-oz pouch - Chewy.com](#) (This one is for Dogs or Cats)

[PROBIORA Probiotic Oral Care Cat Supplement, 1-oz bag - Chewy.com](#) (This one is for cats only, but they have it for Dogs also – Just put “Probiora Probiotic” in the search engine at Chewy.com to find the dog version.)

Both are a little spendy, but if they work, they are cheap compared to vet bills.

Remember that if you have a prayer request or a time dated article to please mark it urgent in the subject line otherwise they just go unread into a folder waiting for their turn to be printed.

Please pray for our brethren in Kenya, Israel and all around the world. Even though some of us have peace right now, others do not. Pray for Donald Trump and His Family, that they may be safe during these trying times.

Again, we are grateful to all the people who contribute to this newsletter.

Hope you all have a happy Sabbath,
(Written by Laura)

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.

Your Thoughts and Actions Can Impact Future Generations! (Copyright 10-12-2024) by Craig M. White (Australia)

My latest article "Your Thoughts and Actions Can Impact Future Generations" is now available online [here](#). Or [PDF](#).

This article is drawn from my [Notes on the Bible and Genetics](#) (80 pp).

Enjoy and any feedback would be appreciated.

See Craig M. White's other articles at:

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

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Vindicating Trump (Copyright 10-31-2024) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The film, **Vindicating Trump**, became available on YouTube yesterday. You can watch it for free if you should be interested.

For me, it would have been a better film if more praise was given to God than to Donald Trump. But see it for yourself.

Vindicating Trump: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gfWURWpymM>

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:

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Why I am not Afraid of Witches, Hexes and Curses (Copyright 10-31-2024) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)

A well-known witch attended services in the church Sue and I were planting and leading in eastern Canada. Several people came to me concerned about the presence of this witch. They wondered if she was trying to work some spell or sorcery on our fledgling congregation.

Several of us met together to pray about the situation. While praying I saw a vision of smoke (representing the devil) and then a wind (representing the Spirit of God) that came along and blew the smoke away. The smoke had no substance or strength with which to resist the wind. It was suddenly gone.

At the very same time another person saw a similar vision and then a powerful, prophetic word came forth that gave me

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a new perspective on the devil. God said, *My power is so far surpassing any power possessed by the devil, he is not worthy of the attention you are giving him.*

God seemed perturbed with us for giving so much time and attention to the devil.

Satan is a Defeated Foe



When it comes to spiritual warfare, we must realize that there was a tremendous shift that took place at the cross, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Satan was not annihilated but he was stripped of his authority. He is like a 5-star general who is court-martialed, stripped of his authority and drummed out of the army.

The general still exists but no longer has any authority. If, however, the general puts on his uniform with all his military medals, he will be able to exercise authority over those who do not know the truth. But for those who know the truth, even a private can tell the former general to “get lost.” So, it is with even the newest babe in Christ.

The overwhelming victory of Christ over Satan is delineated by Paul in Ephesians 1:15-23. He speaks of Christ being raised from the dead by the mighty power of God and then being seated *at His right hand in the heavenly places*. The “right hand” in Scripture is symbolic of authority and power. Psalm 98:1, for example, says of God, *His right hand and His holy arm have gotten Him the victory*. When Paul says that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God, he is saying that Jesus is seated at the pinnacle of the universe, in the place of ultimate authority and power.

This place where Christ is seated is *far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come* (Eph. 1:21). It doesn’t matter what kind of principality or power it may be—even Satan himself—the place where Christ is seated is *far above* them all.

And here is what is incredible! Paul says that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him in that place of ultimate authority, far above any power possessed by the devil, is now at work in you and me. No wonder Satan trembles at the child of God who knows his/her position and authority in Christ.

T.L. Osborn Understood Satan’s Defeat

I heard the elder statesman of modern, miracle evangelism, the late Dr. T.L. Osborn, tell about a miracle crusade his ministry sponsored in Africa. Among the many thousands that had gathered in the open air were hundreds of witch doctors who had come there with their fetishes to cast curses and spells on the foreign preacher.

Before going on the platform, the supporting pastors wanted to lay hands on him and pray for his protection from the devil. T. L. emphatically refused their prayer. He said, “I would not insult my Lord in that way.” T. L. focused his attention on preaching the good news of Jesus that day and many came to Christ and many were miraculously set free from all kinds of illnesses and bondages. And some Christian pastors realized that they did not have to be afraid of the devil.

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This New and Better Covenant

Even under the Old Covenant the enemies of God could not cast spells and curses on His people. Balak hired the prophet Balaam to curse Israel but after seven attempts he had to admit he could not do it. *How shall I curse whom God has not cursed . . . there is no sorcery against Jacob and no divination against Israel*, Balaam declared (Numbers 23:8, 23).

If this were true under the Old Covenant, how much more under this new and better covenant based in the shed blood of Jesus Christ! Listen to the words of Jesus in response to the Seventy who returned rejoicing because they had discovered, *Even the demons are subject to us in your name* (Luke 10:17). Jesus replied,

I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:18-19).

We Must Know the Truth

With all the talk about witches, curses and hexes, it makes me wonder if the church in general knows the truth of Satan's defeat. Too many Christians, it would seem, see God and Satan as almost equals, with God having a slight edge.

This, however, is a blatant lie that Satan, a created being, perpetrates on the unlearned and naïve. Satan was absolutely vanquished by the death and resurrection of Jesus. His defeat was absolute and final. He was not annihilated but stripped of all rights and authority.

This was clearly demonstrated by Jesus on **resurrection morning** when he walked out of the tomb and triumphantly declared, *All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth* (Matt. 28:19). If Jesus has all authority, how much does that leave the devil? Satan knows that he is whipped. God knows it. It is now time that the church discover this fact.

Editor's Note: Christ's resurrection took place on Saturday just before sunset. Laura Lee

See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:

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

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

**What's really at stake:
freedom of the individual versus Collectivism**
(Copyright 10-31-2024) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"The spark from heaven falls. Who picks it up? The crowd? Never. The individual? Always." – Arthur J. Balfour

EXCERPTS from an article I've been saving for over 60 years, by Charles B. Shuman, American Farm Bureau president:

"History is the record of man's struggle to either obtain or to destroy power. Farmers have traditionally been opposed to concentrations of economic power that limit individual opportunity... In some cases, there was need for corrective action, but the remedies proposed often bring with them new concentrations of power... Local school boards meekly accept government edicts as the price of financial assistance.

"What is the alternative? Our fundamental documents, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, provide the answer – diffusion of power. If we accept the principle that government should provide a climate for individuals to reach their highest possible economic, cultural, and spiritual levels, we must return to the concept of building power in the people – not in

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corporations, organizations, or government. The welfare state makes it easy for the underprivileged to become, and remain, dependent.

"UNDER THE GUISE OF PROVIDING 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' for the weak, we are being sold on the idea that the use of force is good – that the end justifies the means.

"I am convinced that the great need of today is for a moral and spiritual revival which will turn our minds from the temptation to solve problems by setting force against force and return to God's way by helping individuals increase the power and purpose of their own lives."

- "Power in the Individual" by Charles Shuman, NATION'S AGRICULTURE, 1961

Balfour said, "For thousands of years, society has depended upon individuals for those great achievements of mind and spirit that have guided it upon the path of civilization... It is he and he alone as inventor, explorer, scholar, scientist, spiritual leader, or statesman who stands nearest to the source of life, and its essence."

P.S. For further insight, you might want to reread my column, "**Why did the English capitalize the word 'I'?**"
<http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/dahlgren/090724>

PPS: This is the individual's last stand, 2024. Let's hope it goes better than Custer's.

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

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Does it Really do any Good to Pray for Others? (Copyright 11-01-2024) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

I think we will see our prayers *can be* effective for others or ourselves; especially if our hearts, our faith and our active obedience are all a part of our entreaties.

At the time I am writing this in early October 2024 much of the southeastern rural U.S. has been devastated by an unprecedented hurricane named Helene. Why and how did this weather system hang together like none other in known history for such a long time, causing enormous death and destruction in inland areas which is forested with trees and having much mountainous terrain? A hurricane that some believed was deliberately steered into what is known as back country conservative territory by the use of HAARP (which a number of countries have or are experimenting with in controlling weather). Many homes have been destroyed, families ripped apart, lives taken, and human bodies and limbs have been seen hanging from treetops. Livelihoods have been washed away and the ability to produce including crops eliminated. Supposedly 10,000 body bags are not enough!

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO OUR BELOVED COUNTRY?!

The answer to that lies within the pages of the Bible; hidden from view if we never read it or only read the New Testament. The whole book is there to learn from. "All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16, KJV)

So, the answer to what is happening to our country is that we as a people, have not been taught *rightly by those doing the teaching* to *obey* the commands of our God (Ezekiel 34), or, *we individually* have rejected the way of living righteously

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or obediently to the commands of a loving God (Ezekiel 18). We as a nation are not learning the ways that produce blessings, not only personally but for our country also. Without that, evil is allowed *by us* to start creeping in. It is *our* personal and collective choice.

THE PROBLEM IS OUR HEARTS

The principle for all this is especially found in the books of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. They are known as the blessings and curses chapters; well worth the read to see how they fit in with our modern society. In Deuteronomy 5:29 God laments, **“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!”** He has always wanted to have a close and familial relationship with humanity that He created through his Son. The plan for that to happen is an on-going one and will continue into the next millennium; culminating after that when a new heaven and a new earth are created with God the Father Himself and his Son Yayshua living with we their children. There will be no more tears or crying! (Revelation 21 – 22:1-5). Isn't that something to long for?!

So the question arose in my mind after hurricane Helene, ‘Yes, we want to pray for help for those in distress like from the natural or, unnatural disasters, but are our prayers, our anguish that we feel doing any good for any of them? Does the God of Heaven hear our cries for help? Especially for those that are considered brethren?

WHAT DOES HIS WORD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT OUR PRAYERS?

Some may have read enough of their Bible to remember what is said in Isaiah 59:2, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.” There are also some statements from our Mighty One not to pray for some He considers not worthy of prayers, at least at that particular time. (Read Jeremiah 7:16; 11:14 and 14:11). In those specific examples He was/is talking about those from the tribe of Judah who forsook God's ways of justice towards others due to their hard heartedness and just wanted to do their own thing in worship. God told Jeremiah not to pray for these people who had forsaken the covenant they had with the Almighty as He would not hear those prayers. It isn't till the Messiah returns as King of kings and LORD of lords that many of the hearts of the tribe of Judah will finally give up their own ways; having learned the lessons that come from severe correction. Thankfully they will learn!

At times it may be that God allows terrible times to happen in the hope people will then finally turn to deciding to obey Him and receive His great mercy and blessings that He is able to make happen upon remorse and repentance. God, now in the New Testament or Covenant, has made His Son Yayshua [meaning “He (is) Salvation”] available, which then allows us to be given the Spirit that comes from the Father that sets us apart and gives us power to help overcome our own and the world's evil carnal nature (Hebrews 3:1-15). That overcoming is not a onetime event but a lifetime effort once we have been converted and baptized. We will slip up and sin from time to time, but Yayshua or Jesus is now available to be our ever living High Priest who makes Atonement for us when we sincerely ask. (See Acts chapters 1, 2 and 3:19-23 on repentance and Hebrews 4:14-16 on our High Priest). We hopefully will not retain a heart that wants to sin deliberately! Because after conversion and baptism we now know better and will be held accountable. That would be putting our Savior to open shame and asking him to be crucified once again (Hebrews 6:1-7).

It is my understanding from the Scriptures that in order to be baptized and receive the Holy or set-apart Spirit, we need to be of an age that we understand the concepts involved.

If, in our heart we do not care enough about wanting to learn and obey what our God (the Mighty One) instructs us in showing love to Him, then why would He want to hear and respond to our prayers, even for others? If we do care enough to pray for others, that shows at least *something* about us to Him. And He is known for the mercy He *desires* to have toward us as shown previously above in Deuteronomy 5:29.

If He per his mercy, actually does show he heard our prayer for someone else, even though we may not have been searching for Him or obedient, just think how much more he might respond *if* we are *trying* to learn from *and* obey him as our loving Parent (1 John 2:1-5)!

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EXAMPLES OF A REQUEST TO GOD

Let's learn about our requests to God. We have the example of the patriarch Abraham. He wanted to rescue his nephew Lot when Abraham learned the city where Lot lived was going to be destroyed by God due to their unrepentant hearts and deeds. We find this in Genesis 18 and 19.

Abraham had such faith he was even willing to try to negotiate with God! He asked, if there were 50 righteous people, would God spare the city? God said he would spare it if there were 50 righteous men found in it. Abraham went down in the amounts until finally asking if the city would be spared if there were only 10 righteous in it; to which God also agreed. Trouble was, it appears only Lot was considered by God to be righteous, so only Lot and a couple of his daughters were spared. Lot's wife was allowed to leave also, but her heart was not really into it as she turned to look back, apparently longingly, at what she was leaving. She was immediately turned into a pillar of salt which caused her to be an example to us. *Do we see this mostly evil world as something we would be sad to see destroyed; knowing there is a wonderful world coming?*

Our Savior, our Elder Brother, gave us an example of what we should be focused on in Matthew 6:5-15, “5 And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (NKJV)

In learning how to pray, we should read the above examples focusing our mind and thoughts on each part, thinking about the whys and wherefores of what is being said. We do not want to just get into the habit of rote repetition. We certainly would not do that if we were talking to another human! In Isaiah 1:18 He says, “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.” (NKJV) That is the potential we humans can have if we are willing to change our ways and believe in His Son. (1 JOHN 5:4,5,14,15)

BE DILIGENT IN PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father does like to see if our hearts are really into what we are asking for. Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” i.e., not half-heartedly but whole-heartedly! Our faith comes from reading and/or hearing and actively considering and thinking through what we read or hear about the words, instructions and examples in Scripture.

James 4:2 warns us how to receive proper true blessings for ourselves or others, “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.” We need to realize our real and true blessings, or blessings for others, can come only from the Creator who made us and knows what we or others *really* need. Sometimes we need instruction and sometimes correction (both of which is love). That is up to our Heavenly Father, our spiritual Parent. We need to ask, appropriately and diligently, especially with an outgoing heartfelt concern for others and especially brethren, in their needs; just as our High Priest and Savior does for us to our Heavenly Father.

See James Steinle's other articles at:

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

Greetings from Kenya (Copyright 11-02-2024) by Rebecca Wise (United States)

"Please check the KHOFH website for the latest Kenya update. Also, we would appreciate any lightweight KJV or NKJV Bibles for the brethren in Kenya. Goodwill charges \$2-\$3, but many thrift stores or local churches give them free. Please send to Bill Goff at 5525 Springs Ave, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 for future trips to Kenya."

Editor's Note: Sometimes when I receive email, I am not always sure which parts they want printed and which parts they don't want printed, but in this case I know she wants the first part printed and I decided to print some of the end of the email also because of the useful information it contains. Laura Lee

Again, thanks for all you do. Yours is the only weekly newsletter I've ever seen, and the most consistent and longest running. Most are monthly at best.

In my spare time I collect things to send Bill for the brethren. It's a joy. It started with Bibles, but anything small, useful and lightweight packs in around them. I check sales and clearances at dollar stores.

I've also sent Bibles directly to Bill via Amazon. They have the best price anywhere, \$4.49 each, with vinyl covers. Shipping is free for orders over \$35, so 8 Bibles qualifies. It costs about the same as sending Bibles from here.

The first Bibles I sent Bill were from local thrift stores or donated from local churches. I make clear covers for paperbacks from page protectors. Thick ones work best.

One thing the kids enjoyed this Feast was scripture coloring pages. I printed 50 but emailed links to Nehemiah of all 100 I found online so he can print more. I avoid crosses, hearts, etc. I included Imagine crayons from Dollar General. Fifty cents for 24 crayons, just as good as Crayola.

Bill is amazing to save 90% of his luggage space for items for the brethren. They are always asking him to visit. He gets a lot of stuff done there. He earns the travel money himself.

Sorry, this was so long, but I love talking about the brethren. They are amazing, so happy and thankful, and they always pray for the donors. 😊

Hope you have a great week and that your workload eases up. I enjoy reading about your pets and the local wildlife. 😊

Editor's Note: We are always happy to hear from you and the rest of the brethren. Because we do print a weekly newsletter, we are busy all the time and unfortunately cannot always answer all emails sent to us. The commentary is only so we can share our week with the brethren because it is hard to answer all email that comes in. For those who do not realize, we moved the commentary, we moved it to the newsletter on usually page 2 or 3 each week now. Some weeks I am so tired the commentary is lacking but hopefully we can add more in a later issue.

Also, please again remember that if you have a time dated article or item whatever it is and/or a prayer request that needs immediate attention put urgent in the subject line, other wise it goes into a folder and is not read until we are ready to print it. Thank you, Rebecca, for your helpful and useful information. We hope some of the other brethren will at some point participate in a similar way as you have. Laura Lee

See Rebecca Wise's other articles at:

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

Smoke Ascends Forever?

(Copyright 11-03-2024) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

Will the wicked really be tormented forever in hell? In this sermon, pastor Rod Reynolds examines in detail passages in the book of Revelation that have traditionally been used to establish the common belief in a never-ending hellfire reserved for punishment of the wicked. To understand what the Bible says about hell, we must carefully study the context of the scriptures in question.

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Sermon Link: [Smoke Ascends Forever? | COGMessenger](#)

See Rod Reynolds other articles at:

[Reynolds, Rod – The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](#)

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Praying for One Another: I Got Your Six

(Copyright 11-04-2024) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

"I got your six" Steve M. of Torah Family nails it in this powerful message on the concept of praying for one another, even if we may have differences in understanding. **MUST WATCH!**

<https://torahfamily.org/i-got-your-6/> 38.36 min. TALK ABOUT AN ENCOURAGING AND INSIGHTFUL TALK WHEN WE ALL GO THROUGH VARIOUS CHANGES IN OUR LIVES; AND HOW CAN WE HELP OTHERS DURING LIFE CHANGES IN THEIR LIVES! YOU WON'T REGRET SPENDING THE TIME WATCHING THIS VIDEO.

See James Steinle's other articles at:

[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](#)

A Bride Prepared (Chapter 15)

(Copyright) by Warren Zehrung (Little Rock, Arkansas)

[Chapter 15: Who is my Brother?](#)

A Bride Prepared

Who is my Brother?

For the Bride, it is vitally important to understand the absolute necessity to love the people God has called into the Body

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of Christ. We are familiar with the story of the lawyer who scrutinized Christ by asking what he must do to inherit eternal life (Luke 10:25). Jesus turned the question around by asking the lawyer what the Scriptures said on the matter. *“The lawyer answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.”* (Luke 10:27)

Jesus affirmed his answer, but the lawyer wanting to reduce his culpability asked, *“Who is my neighbor?”* Jesus’ answer about the good Samaritan astonished the lawyer because it went well beyond those whom the lawyer would have included as neighbors. He was willing to shun those who did not measure up in his eyes.

For the exact same reason that the lawyer missed the mark, the greater Church of God today is not yet prepared to be the Bride of Christ. Like the lawyer, too many Church brethren wish to limit the number of those they *have* to love. They wish to narrow down the field by disqualifying those that they do not consider to be worthy. In the same way that the lawyer felt justified in omitting the Samaritans – Church brethren excuse themselves of ignoring certain brethren. But Jesus points out that to inherit eternal life, we need to be willing to extend Godly love to a brother – to every person – not only those in our group affiliation. Harsh judgment will come upon contentious brethren.

The prophet Ezekiel issued a dire warning to the end-time Church of God. Likening the Church to a flock of sheep, Ezekiel wrote the first part of chapter 34 against the shepherds (the ministers) and criticized them for driving away the sheep (the brethren). But then, Ezekiel described the disunity and condescending disdain between group and group – and between brethren and brethren. Then he called the sheep to task for their lack of **brotherly love** for each other. *“Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: “Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad, therefore I will save My flock, and they shall no longer be a victim; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.”* (Ezekiel 34:20-23)

Brethren, we had better be preparing **now** for that time when we who constitute the Bride will be of one Shepherd. How can we be so busy scattering and dividing when the Spirit of Christ says that He is, *“... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9)

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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Why Does God Hate Sin?

(Copyright 2024) by Rod Reynolds (Wentzville, Missouri)

The Feast of Unleavened Bread is one of the festivals of God, that he commanded to be kept by his chosen people, which includes not only ancient Israel, but the Church of God established under the New Covenant (Exodus 12:15-16; Leviticus 23:6-8; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8). One of the key lessons intended to be taught by keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread is that we are to put sin out. But what is it about sin that we should put it out? Is it that God wants to keep us from having fun? Does God hate to see people enjoy life? Or does God have our best interests in mind when he commands us not to sin?

Let’s discuss why God hates sin, and why we also should hate sin, and want to put it out of our lives.

It’s important that we understand how sin occurs. Sin begins in the mind, with lust, that is, illicit desire (James 1:14-15).

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First comes the desire, then as we entertain the evil thought and are drawn along, we are enticed, then lust conceives and gives birth to sin. But notice, when the sin has run its course, it brings forth, or produces, death.

Why would we be enticed – why would we desire to sin? Could it be that sin is pleasurable? (Hebrews 11:25). People don't usually sin because we love to suffer. When we sin, we do so very often because we find pleasure in it. Sin appeals to our fleshly nature and appetites (Titus 3:3). Why do some people eat pork chops? Because they hate the taste of pork? No, it's because they think it tastes good.

Why do people gossip? Because to some people, gossip is so much fun. Why do people commit sexual sins? Because, at least for a while, they find pleasure in them. Even murderers not uncommonly murder because of the thrill of it. Or if not that they think they'll gain some other advantage.

But, while sin may bring temporary pleasure, it is deceptive (Hebrews 3:13). The temporary pleasure of sin is far outweighed by its long term destructive effects. Eve, when she took of the forbidden fruit, was deceived (Genesis 3:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:14). She thought sin was good, and that it would produce the things she desired. Adam, though he was not deceived in the same way, followed her into sin. Both were guilty. Both suffered the penalty for their sin. They eventually died because sin produces death (Romans 7:11). The commandment was good, but sin, which is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4, KJV), took occasion by the commandment, deceived Eve and eventually led to her death, as God had told her it would (Romans 6:23).

We need to bear in mind what the fruit of sin is. Not just the temporary, superficial fruit, but the entire range of consequences. Yes, sin may produce pleasure for a little while, but it has other ramifications, other longer term outcomes, which are not so pleasurable.

God had told Eve that the eventual outcome of sin would be death. As James wrote, “sin, when it is finished, brings forth death” (James 1:15, American King James Version; cf. Proverbs 8:36).

Though sin may bring temporary pleasure, its final result is destruction. Sometime ago I read about an experiment where rats were fed cocaine from a device each time they pulled a lever. Cocaine produces a temporary pleasurable sensation. For that reason, it's highly addictive. But in its refined form it's also highly toxic and can easily cause death, especially when used repeatedly in higher and higher doses. In the experiment, the rats kept pushing the lever over and over until they died.

In a similar manner, the pleasure of sin can quickly become addictive. It's much easier to prevent sin by rejecting the temptation in the first place. Just like it's much easier to determine never to try cocaine to begin with, than to kick the habit once it's got a grip on you. Sin entraps and enslaves us if we allow it to. The primary meaning of the Greek word translated “enticed” in James 1:14 (“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed”) is “entrap” (Strong's), or “lure” (Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich), or “bait, catch by bait” (Thayer's). Lust baits, entraps and then sin enslaves us, unless we successfully resist it.

Note how Solomon warns us concerning the sin of adultery for example (Proverbs 6:23-29, 32; 2:10-22; 23:27-28). The examples here concern adultery and fornication. But the principle extends to many other sins as well, especially idolatry, which is spiritual adultery. We must be very careful not to get drawn in to any lust, any sin, including religious deception.

God does not withhold anything good from us (Psalm 84:11).

But God hates sin (Proverbs 6:16-19; Jeremiah 44:3-4; Zechariah 8:17).

God sees the destructiveness of sin. That's why he hates it. God saw in the midst of Egypt a nation in slavery—the people of Israel. He sought to free them. To give them joy instead of sorrow, health instead of sickness, freedom instead of slavery, life instead of death.

It had gotten so bad in Egypt, that Hebrew babies were being murdered as a means of birth control (Exodus 1:7-10, 15-16). Certainly, that was a horrible evil. But today, we are spiritually in the same kind of slavery. Egyptians don't have to kill our babies because we're doing it ourselves. Egypt was a nation given over to gross idolatry and every kind of evil.

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But so is our nation (USA) today.

The whole world labors under sins of every description – oppressive governments; spouse abuse; child abuse and neglect; sexual sins; all sorts of addictions; religious deception; ethnic, national and racial hatred; class warfare; murders; fraud and other kinds of larceny; and the list could go on and on and on. The consequence is all manner of suffering and finally death.

Because of sin we live under a reign of death (Romans 5:12, 14). Where righteousness reigns, however, there is rejoicing (Proverbs 29:2). God's will is that we "may have life, and ...have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Sin prevents us from achieving the abundant, joyous life that God desires for us. Instead, it produces misery and unhappiness, and every kind of evil imaginable. So, we ought to hate sin just as God does. "You who love the Lord, hate evil!" (Psalm 97:10).

Jesus Christ has been exalted to the right hand of God because he has demonstrated that he loves righteousness and hates sin (Hebrews 1:9). "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). And "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil" (Proverbs 8:13). "In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil" (Proverbs 16:6).

In the days and months to come we need to strive to grow in our fear of God and our hatred of sin. We need to ask God to grant us the same hatred of sin that he has, so we may forsake it utterly, and live.

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New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Holy Days 2025

Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025

Pentecost – June 2, 2025

Trumpets – September 23, 2025

Atonement – October 2, 2025

Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025

Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

Have a Great Sabbath!