

Kingdom News

The Kingdom is Yours, the power is Yours and the glory is Yours, forever.... (Matt. 6:13)

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The Chief Cornerstone



The Dangers of *Not* Taking the Truth Personally

Manufacturer Coupons

If we say that we have fellowship with Him [God], and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.⁽¹⁾ Said otherwise, if we *say* or profess that we are in fellowship with God and do not do that which is consistent with the Person of Truth, our *conversation* (our *life*) betrays an egregious falsehood.

We live in an age of information overload. There is a sense in which we can (and in many cases have) developed a rather unhealthy relationship with information. It seems to be a law of our very nature, that “familiarity breeds contempt.” It has come to the point where we have information almost as it were “coming out of our ears.” We’ve become too familiar with it. Unfortunately that includes “truth.” I remember a time when you could only buy a Bible in a Christian or religious book store or at a church, of sorts. Now you can buy a Bible or other religious books at Wal-Mart, at the gas station, or at....you name it. Imagine that. A couple of generations ago the Word of God (Bible) was coveted. It held a position of esteem among the possessions of those who had it.

Now it has become too “common” to us. So common, that even unbelievers can study it, and quote it and (if you’re not careful) teach it to you. Discussions on its topics are on the

Chief Cornerstone

Continued on page 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 The Chief Cornerstone & The Leadership Corner
- 2 Son of My Wisdom & Journey to Intimacy
- 3 Precepts in Practice & Love and The Truth
- 4 Boot Camp & Living Waters

The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

A Call to Order

Have you ever attended a meeting at work, a training workshop, or taken a class? If so, do you remember how the leader called the meeting to order (got the meeting activities started)? I have been to a few meetings where the leader rang a bell, turned the lights off and on, or just said, “Let’s get this show on the road!” In any case, the leader does something to let the participants know when it is time to start the meeting.

Here is something interesting to consider. What is the purpose of a meeting? Really, let’s take a minute to think about this. Why do people have meetings? To be very honest, I have actually sat in many meetings wondering this same thing, “What is the purpose of this meeting?” Maybe you have found yourself in a similar situation at one time or another.

Meetings are essentially a tool. The basic purpose of pretty much any meeting is to share information with a particular group of people at the same time while utilizing an avenue for discussion. In addition, meetings are used to transact business at an interactive group level.

For example, if you take a class, the classroom discussion is the meeting. If you attend church service, this is a meeting. And, if you participate in a video conference, this also is a meeting. The common thread is that it takes place in a group (more than one person) environment and business (of some sort) is being transacted.

With this in mind, I would like to let you know that God also uses meetings to transact business with us. He frequently meets with us one-on-one in our prayer time. And, he also addresses us in groups when we hear the word of God at church or a bible study. We are familiar with these types of meetings.

When we meet with God, he “calls us to order.” He may have us begin our time with Him in song. Psalms 100:4 (KJV paraphrased) says “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and

The Leadership Corner

Continued on page 8

Son of My Wisdom



From Root to Fruit – Part 4

All scriptures paraphrased from the KJV

So far we have explored the progression of sin, the progression of communion, and a reformulation of the progression of communion viewing God as the beginning and end. These were explored respectively in the 1st three parts of the “From Root to Fruit” series. These are found respectively in the 2009 editions for October, November, and December. So now we know the progression of sin from beginning to end, and the progression, or more accurately the cycle, of communion. Let us see what this means for us practically.

We saw that the *progression of sin* begins with desire, and ends in death. Also we saw that the *cycle of communion* begins with communion among the Trinity, and ends in relationship with and in the Trinity. Now that we have founded ourselves firmly upon that rock called Truth, the rock which is Christ, let us therefore edify. Let us build upon that cornerstone named Jesus Christ. In the *progression of sin* we were told that “conception” is the place where the decision is formed. We were also shown that “conception” could either be formed from the desire itself, leading inevitably to death, or could be formed in communion with God, leading to deeper relationship. How, though, are our conceptions formed in communion with God? It stands to reason that we can only form conceptions according to God that we receive from God in communion. Only those conceptions that we receive from God will be acceptable to God.

In Psalms we hear the heart of man praying “Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”⁽¹⁾ This is the cry of man, one that can only be answered by God. We know that our heart is abominable. Our spirit is dead to Him. We desperately need a new heart and a right spirit. We so desire to love as we ought; but we of

Son of My Wisdom

Continued on page 8



A Journey to Intimacy

An Analogy of a Parable: He Who Knows Not

In last month’s edition of this column we shared a “parable” that the Father had given. As I studied it throughout December (2009), I began to meditate on and incorporate what I had learned into my own life. I began to see areas of my life where I was very much a child. There were other areas, where I knew that I did not know and needed to be lead. Still other areas where I thought that I knew, but didn’t. There I had to repent (a lot ... no, a whole lot), and return to the place of a child. Please know that the husbandman must be first partaking of the fruits.⁽¹⁾

You’ll recall that last month, just as I thought that I had finished with that article; the Father had given me something more; an *analogy*. I was directed to share the analogy last month, promising to expound upon it in the January 2010 edition. Of course, at that time, I had absolutely no idea what the Father was going to share concerning it. But as you can appreciate, my role in this relationship is simple: I hear and I obey.

Here is what we will enlarge upon this month (borrowing a bit from the prior article to maintain the primary thread of the topic). Here is the excerpt from the prior article:

Parable:

He who knows not *and* knows not *that* he knows not is a child, teach him.

He who knows not *and* knows *that* he knows not is a man, lead him.

He who knows not *and* thinks *that* he knows is foolish, pray for him.

Analogy:

The “child” represents the “human spirit.”

The “man” represents the “human soul.”

The “fool” represents the “flesh.”

When the *analogy* is overlaid onto the *parable* we have this:

“He who knows not *and* knows not *that* he knows not” represents the fallen state of the human spirit; it must be taught.

“He who knows not *and* knows *that* he

Journey to Intimacy

Continued on page 9

Precepts in Practice



Reign – The “How To”

In 2010 we will use this column to walk through principles that will teach us how to reign. We will learn how to have victory in every area of our lives. In addition, we will look at practical ways to improve the quality of our lives. As Christians we should live life to the fullest because living life is directly related to experiencing God.

This month we will begin our journey by gaining an understanding of what God meant when he told us to reign. Webster’s New World dictionary tells us that the word “reign” means to govern, manage, and to utilize royal power (authority). This tells me that in my day-to-day life, God wants me to effectively manage my affairs and govern myself, as well as those under my authority.

Let’s start with an example. I am a wife and I have a job. One of the things I have to manage is making sure my family has healthy meals. As many of you know, this can be very challenging when you take into consideration the demands we, as people, have on our time and resources. Still, it is an area that I am responsible to manage in my personal life.

We should also keep in mind that it is important to God that we manage any and all areas that fall under our authority. This includes our spiritual lives, family, work, school, etc. What we want to understand is that as we coordinate with God on how we should manager our lives as they are today, God will help us. He will also show us how to govern ourselves and our environments to bring increase, a higher quality of life, greater productivity, and a closer relationship with God.

Now, let’s bring in a couple of scriptures that talk about our ability and responsibility to reign. II Timothy 2:10 says, “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.” (KJV paraphrased). This is an interesting passage. It basically means that if we choose to obey the word of God we will have to go through trials that test our faith. Yet, in doing so, we will learn to rule (or discipline) our fleshly appetites and better manage our responsibilities. This is really a powerful concept. As we yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can more effectively govern our lives. This means we will get better results in return for our investment of obedience.

Precepts in Practice

Continued from page 12

Love and The Truth



The Great Why - Part 4

Scriptures paraphrased from the KJV

We have seen in previous editions of *The Great Why* that the heart of man is desperately wicked. We asked why God loves fallen man to such a degree as to send Christ. The Lord revealed that He loves us because He Is Love. Within the very nature of God there is intimate, loving relationship. He also revealed a few gifts that He has given to us to make “relationship” possible. We began to explore those gifts: *Image, Likeness, and Dominion* and something of how they function. We will continue to explore these three gifts and see how they facilitate relationship.

We saw that by God giving us His “image and likeness,” He expresses His ownership, authority, and responsibility over us. We also saw that God giving us “dominion,” God has given ability, responsibility, and jurisdiction to man. Now let us look at how these gifts that God has given us are positioned in relation to each other. “Image and likeness” are on one side, while “dominion” is on the other.

“Image and likeness” are given as a way for God to express Himself to us and through us. Because we have God’s image and likeness He can love us and love through us. He can will (or ordain) things on our behalf. He can think about us personally; we can be the apple of His eye.⁽¹⁾ He can feel emotions toward us and respond to us. These are all things that God does; but we must sustain some likeness to Him in order to experience these things. God can do each of these things to us, and because we are made in His image and likeness we can receive those things from Him. He speaks of the thoughts that He thinks toward us,⁽²⁾ His will for us,⁽³⁾ His love for us,⁽⁴⁾ and His emotions toward us.⁽⁵⁾ This is one part of relationship, how God relates to us. There is, however, another component to relationship; how we relate to God.

The word of God tells us that He works in us, and that we work out.⁽⁶⁾ This is the relationship that we have with God. He works in; we work out. You could also say it this way: He works it in and we walk it out.

He has created us in His image and likeness, so that He could communicate with us. He has given us dominion, however, so that we can communicate with Him, and also so that we can communicate Him to others. This is righteousness: to communicate with God and to others what God has communicated to us. In living the life of righteousness we communicate with God. And we communicate to everyone

Love and The Truth

Continued from page 12



Boot Camp

Honor



Series: Worthy is the Lamb - Part 5 of 7 on Revelation 5:12 (KJV).

In last month's edition (December 2009); the Lord showed us how we give our STRENGTH to the Lamb of God; by being strong for others and by representing their needs. This month He'll show us how we give our **HONOR** to the Lamb.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive POWER and RICHES and WISDOM and STRENGTH and **HONOR** and GLORY and BLESSING (Rev. 5:12 KJV).

Here the Father, will show us that He has given us both the ability and responsibility to **HONOR**; what that means socially and how it works itself out in the Kingdom. That being said, let's look at this month's exercise routine.

Here are a couple of points that will help us frame an understanding of the topic, from a Kingdom perspective.

- How **HONOR** is generally defined and identified?
- How is **HONOR** expressed in the Kingdom, is there a difference?

How **HONOR** is generally defined and identified?

In very simple terms, we are familiar with the concept of **HONOR** where one expresses a high regard for another; or where one esteems the integrity or character of another. It seems, to us, reasonable to **HONOR** a person or thing based on some virtue inherent in the person or object itself. Humility, selflessness, moral uprightness, good workmanship, beauty or other virtues are all reasons to **HONOR** a person or thing. Our own hearts will even applaud this view of **HONOR**.

How is **HONOR** expressed in the Kingdom, is there a difference?

Here are just a few ways in which **HONOR** is

Living Waters



Like Father, Like Son(s)

When you see Me[Jesus], you see the Father

The disciple Philip said to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied."⁽¹⁾ Jesus was talking with His disciples; telling them that the cross was fast approaching, as well as the time of His return to the Father. Philip had seen Jesus and now wanted to see the Father. Philip's request to see the Father was (to me) a valid type of request. Jesus spoke very highly of the Father and now Philip wanted to see Him. Jesus' response in this case, was "whoever has seen Me, has seen the Father."

Jesus Christ came to show us the Father ... but how? By modeling the Father's behavior before us. We have come to show the world Jesus Christ ... how so? That's right; by modeling His behavior before the world.

Like the Father, so is the Son; and as is the Son, so are the sons.

There are so many directions of exposition by which this truth may give expression. But as the Lord gave this to me, He seemed to rally around two points in particular, for now.

One point being, that the things that Jesus did, He did them at the behest of the Father. Behest? I know, that's a word I haven't heard in a while. It is quite antique actually; it represents "an order or authoritative command."⁽²⁾ Humor me here; I'm working on expanding my vocabulary.

So where was I?

Jesus did what the Father directed. Although Jesus is (Himself) God; nevertheless, He did not act arbitrarily at any time. To act arbitrarily; is for one's behavior to be whimsical and ungrounded; lacking reason or manifesting lawlessness. Jesus did not get any new and bright ideas of His own making.⁽³⁾ He followed a Kingdom law, that every word (or proclamation) must be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses.⁽⁴⁾ Meaning that everything that Jesus said (or did) had to have the witness (or approval) of the Father and the Holy Spirit.⁽⁵⁾ The Lord was very judicious to teach us that if He behaved in any way arbitrary His words or deeds could, reasonably, be brought into question.⁽⁶⁾ The things that Jesus said (and did) He learned from the Father.⁽⁷⁾ This is a hint. Like Father, like Sons. It follows then that since Jesus Christ is the first of many, we (being the "many") are obliged to follow in His

radio, TV, podcasts, internet, iPods, bill boards, cell phone ring tones and in this newsletter. You can become engaged in deep conversations about the Word of God; even with persons who are not of “like precious faith.” Please, do not mistake me to be saying that these developments are necessarily “bad” things; heavens “no.” What I am saying, is that scripture has become so familiar to us, that many of us (dare I say most of us) do not regard it with the fear and reverence that it deserves.

Our Lord admonishes us to “abide in Him” and allow His Word to “abide in us” and thus to “*know* the truth, and its resulting freedoms.”⁽²⁾ When the Lord talks to us about “*knowing*” the truth (about *knowing* His Word) he is using a very intimate tense of the term “to know.” You can *know* your neighbors. You can *know* your friends. You can *know* distant relatives, in another state. You can even *know* your own children. But none of these types of “*knowing*” qualify; as they cannot exemplify the “*knowing*” that Jesus requires of us, regarding His Word. The type of “*knowing*” that our Lord requires of us, can only be understood as defined by an intimate, covenant relationship. This type of “*knowing*” parallels a degree of intercourse, reserved only for parties in a sacred, covenant union. One reason for this is because there is a “giving” and “receiving;” there is a “having” and a “being had” that defies proper description outside of a sacred allegiance.

We are called to “*know*” Truth. This does not simply mean to know a list of scriptures; anyone can know truth this way. There’s nothing intimate about that. Literally, anyone can pick up a Bible and read it and commit it to memory. And many have done this. Therefore, most certainly, the “*knowing* of truth” cannot be relegated simply to mental assent (or intellectual apprehension). We are called to know the Person of Truth; this is not so easy an undertaking. Jesus said, “... *I AM* the Truth...”⁽³⁾ We are commanded to *know* the Lord Jesus Christ; to become intimate with Him; thus personalizing our relationship with Truth. We are commanded to *know* Truth in a way that is not common among men: such as merely discussing scriptural pretexts and contexts. These all are valuable and have their place. However, they have “no legs;” these practices do not stand of their own accord. It is like trying to build a house without first grading the land, and pouring a sound foundation. While it can be done; I wouldn’t hang too many fixtures on the walls, of such a house. So we see that we are admonished; no, we are commanded to *know* the Truth. But the knowing of Truth is somewhat deeper than can be seen on the surface.

Perhaps, by this time we have made the point quite clear that an up-close and personal knowledge of the Truth is imperative to our “walk of faith.” That not withstanding, we would fail of our duty if we neglected to introduce you to an accomplice to *knowing* the Truth. May I present to you the “*doing* of Truth?” “*Doing*” the Truth is that which manifests our “*knowing* the Truth.” “*Doing* the Truth” is that, without

which, our knowledge of the Truth cannot be substantiated. For one to say, “I know truth” and then to not “do” truth, is to prove that one does not know truth. Here, let me get you a glass of water (un vaso de agua). That might be a little hard to swallow; it certainly is for me. It feels like someone is standing on my toes.

Just as a tree is known by its fruit; so also the *knowing* of Truth is manifest by the *doing* of Truth (for the doing of truth is the bearing of fruit). You will never find the one, without the other. Certainly, one can do “good” without knowing the truth (as evidenced by the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; but that’s for another time). But one cannot do the truth without *knowing* the truth. Likewise, one cannot *know* the truth without *doing* the truth.

Sometimes it helps to have a role model. Hmm, where might we find a role model? Let’s see.... Oh, I know, we are to mark the perfect man, and behold the upright as our role model.⁽⁴⁾ In that case, let’s look at Jesus.

I believe that most of us admit that Jesus knew the scriptures (Torah); because He referred to them quite often. But He didn’t just KNOW them. He DID them. Of course He is Himself “The Truth;” which affirms why He took truth very, very personally. Wherever “truth crossed His path” He engaged with it personally. Let’s meet Him at a couple of those intersections.

As Jesus came upon John the Baptist in Bethabara beyond Jordan; John was began to pay Him homage, “behold the Lamb of God...”⁽⁵⁾ John would have preferred that the Lord would baptize him, instead. But we hear our Lord’s response.⁽⁶⁾ He said, “suffer/allow it to be so, John (follow the script, John). For it is imperative that we fulfill the scriptures. I hear Jesus saying, “We have a responsibility, John to *do* the prophecies, to *do* the promises, to *do* truth.” The scriptures prophesied many things regarding Jesus. And the Lord made it His business, at every crossroad, to **do** what the scriptures had said about him. And He would forbid anyone to do (or say) otherwise.⁽⁷⁾ As Jesus told His disciples about His impending trials and crucifixion, Peter reprimanded with Him. Jesus said essentially “be silent Peter, your words are the words of one who does not know that I must *do* the truth ...” Okay, so we admit this concerning Jesus; but how should these shoes fit our feet?

Have you heard the parable of the “manufacturer’s coupons?” It goes like this:

Sabrina needed an item from the store, she stopped en route home, to pick up that one item. Curiously she noticed that the woman in line just in front of her was also holding the exact same item. They began to chat, casually, about the peculiarity of the both of them stopping to pick up that same item, and nothing else. As they

talked, the cashier rang up the first lady's item. Sabrina didn't hear or see much else, as she was engaged in their conversation. But Sabrina did hear the cashier thank the first lady, softly announcing that her purchase was FREE. They concluded their conversation and the first lady left. As the cashier rang Sabrina's item, that total came to \$4.28. Sabrina, quizzically asked, the cashier how it was that both she and the prior customer made the exact same purchase; but the first lady's purchase was FREE, while her cost was \$4.28. The cashier said, "The first lady had a manufacturer's coupon, that's why her purchase was FREE." Sabrina asked how the coupon was made available. The cashier replied that the coupon was in the local newspaper.

In the scriptures, truths and promises are like "manufacturer coupons." They are simply offers and opportunities. HOW-EV-ER, they are of absolutely no use or value to us, just because they are printed on the pages of a Bible (or a t-shirt; or wrist band; or poster, etc.). Likewise, coupons are of no use or value to us just because they are printed the pages of the local newspaper or mailer. Their value and usefulness become personal when we redeem them. A-N-D they cannot be redeemed on any item and in any manner other than expressed by the manufacturer. Example: You cannot take a manufacturer coupon for \$0.75 off of a 12-oz jar of Skippy peanut butter and use it to get \$0.75 off of a gallon of milk or a head of lettuce.

To redeem a coupon is to personalize its value. The value of a coupon becomes "personal" when we redeem it. Otherwise, it is "worthless" to us. Now your neighbors may redeem their coupons, thus personalizing its value to them. And if you elect not to redeem your coupons, the value simply does not pass along to you. In order to get the value of a coupon you MUST redeem it.

Of course, you gather by now, that we're going somewhere with this point. Or at least you hope that we are going somewhere, right? Rest assured we are definitely going somewhere. Sometimes when people are traveling a new route, it is useful for the guide to point out key landmarks and road signs along the way. This enables the passengers to return, at a later date, and travel that same route to reach the desired destination, if they so choose.

Landmark: "a manufacturer coupon MUST be redeemed in order for its value to be personalized."

As stated, the scriptures are replete with propositional truths and promises or "manufacturer coupons." There are various "processes of redemption" for different types of coupons. Some coupons may be redeemed, simply, with the purchase of the offered product. Some coupons require the purchase of multiple (sometimes different) products.

Other coupons require that you first purchase the product, then mail in the receipt and the proof of purchase from the product. We'll find this to be the case in the scriptures, too. Don't hang up the phone just yet, go with me on this.

Here, it seems right to put forth a **Disclaimer:** The whole earth (and everything it is) proclaims and declares the glory of God. Sometimes we miss the wisdom of God, because it doesn't come in the "packaging" that we prefer. There are expressions of the Wisdom of God that don't come neatly wrapped in the pages of our Bible. Remember Proverbs tells us that Wisdom stands in the chief places of concourse, and cries out for our attention. There are manifold opportunities for us to see the wisdom of God in environmental application, all throughout our lives. Every single day we open our eyes, the Wisdom of God is standing right next to our beds. Wisdom longs to walk us through life, pointing out how that ALL of our life and circumstances prove the grace, mercy and wisdom of God. But if we "box God in" we'll miss His wisdom, sitting right on our living room table; or in the kitchen cabinets; or driving down the street right next to us, etc. There is not one place in our lives where the wisdom of God does not shout at us, not one. The whole earth is FILLED (to the brim) with His glory; it's EVERYWHERE!!!

There are lots of "coupons" in the scriptures. Below we will identify just a few. Do you mind if we expand on these a bit? I like these types of "coupons," because the directions for redeeming them are written on the face of the "coupon" itself. Other types of "coupons" do not have directions for redemption so clearly displayed. For those types of "coupons" one must seek them out.⁽⁸⁾ One example of such a "coupon" is this: "I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."⁽⁹⁾ We see the "offer and/or opportunity" but the process of redemption is subliminal, in this particular case. The directions for redemption of these coupons must be revealed and understood, in order to properly redeem them.

The following are some scriptural "coupons" (if you'll allow me to say it this way). They look like this:

1) If you abide in Me and my Words abide in you; you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to/for you...⁽¹⁰⁾

Offer/Promise: You shall ask what you will, and it shall be done...

How to Redeem the Coupon: Abide in Me and allow My Words to abide in you...

2) Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.⁽¹¹⁾

Offer/Promise: It shall be given to you; good measure....

How to Redeem the Coupon: Give

3) Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.⁽¹²⁾

Offer/Promise: All of these things shall be added to you...

How to Redeem the Coupon: Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

4) Ask, and it shall be given; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. Every one that asks receives and he who seeks, finds; and to him that knocks it will be opened.⁽¹³⁾

Offer/Promise: It shall be given; you shall find; it shall be opened.

How to Redeem the Coupon: Ask, seek and knock.

Sometimes the problem we have with “coupons” in scripture is that we like the offer; but we dislike the redemption process. It’s too demanding, it requires too great a sacrifice. Unfortunately (or fortunately) the redemption process is a non-negotiable. Redemption is sin quo non to appropriating the offer; translation: no redemption, no fulfillment.

There is one more coupon or offer that bears acknowledgement. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish; but have everlasting life.⁽¹⁴⁾

Offer/Promise: Everlasting Life

Redemption: The precious blood of the Lamb

I’ll give you one guess Who redeemed that coupon, for us.⁽¹⁵⁾

As stated, there are REAL dangers to not personalizing the truths of God or redeeming the promises of God. There is a real danger to not “doing” Truth. On the one hand, the Lord (through the scriptures) has made promises and offers to us. On the other hand, the Lord has essentially given us commands to abide, to give, to ask, to seek, to knock, to be and become, etc. One of the dangers of not taking up our duty is that we do not receive the promises or offers (but this is the lesser of two dangers). A primary danger is that we forego an opportunity to be conformed into the image of our Lord. We forego opportunities to be

transformed by the renewing of our minds. The only real way to know that the Lord will open the doors when we knock; is for us to knock. The only real way we know that we shall find that for which we seek Him; is that we must seek.⁽¹⁶⁾ We MUST *do* Truth; we must redeem the coupons of scripture.

I know ... I know we wanted this to be easier. We wanted to simply “believe” and quote a few scriptures and “poof” there it is. Unfortunately, we will not find that to be the case A-N-Y-W-H-E-R-E in the scriptures and we will not find it true in the world in which we presently live. If all of this were that “easy,” then salvation would not have been so expensive. It cost Jesus, Calvary; how do we suppose that it would cost us any less? You know the drill: Anything worth “having” is worth “working” for. If you feel otherwise, it is possible that you may not have properly assessed the danger of *not* taking the Truth personally.
 <CC>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV); unless otherwise noted.

- (1) 1 John 1:6
- (2) John 8:32
- (3) John 14:6
- (4) Psalm 37:37
- (5) John 1:28-29
- (6) Matt. 3:13-15
- (7) Matt. 16:22; Mark 8:33
- (8) Prov. 25:2
- (9) Matt. 16:19; 18:18
- (10) John 15:7
- (11) Luke 6:38
- (12) Matt. 6:33
- (13) Matt 6:7-8
- (14) John 3:16
- (15) 1 Peter 1:18-19
- (16) Jer. 29:13-14

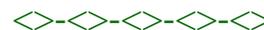
SUN



100 times our rebellion shall be our obedience!!!!

The degrees to which our hearts had previously shunned and dishonored You, shall our obedience be multiplied to You, Father.

(JoAnn C. White)
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into his courts with praise....” He may also have us begin with a confession, of sorts. Psalms 32:5 (KJV paraphrased) says, “I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave me.” So we see that when we meet with God, there are a couple of specific ways He may call us to order.

What we want to consider is that God calls us to order to meet with us. And, He meets with us for the purpose of transacting business. In this month of January 2010, God has some business He wants to discuss with us. There are plans and projects He has “on His 2010 calendar.” And, He needs to get our attention so we will be ready to receive His instructions and execute His plans.

I submit to you today that this month’s Kingdom Newsletter *is* the “Call to Order” for 2010. And, as would be a normal process for us to approach a meeting with God, there are two things we need to do right away.

First, we are to set aside time to worship him. We are to sing praises to Him. And, tell God how awesome He is in our lives. This activity causes us to focus on Him. It also draws Him near to us; as He arrays Himself upon our praises.

Second, we need to confess to God any challenges, concerns, issues, or worries we have. We should completely empty ourselves before Him. This activity causes God to focus on us (meaning that His face will not be hidden from us due to unconfessed sins or faults). He will also be able to minister to us in these areas of need because we have opened ourselves to Him.

Once we do this, the meeting will come to order. This is when God (using a variety of mediums including this newsletter) will map out to each of us His plan for 2010. In that plan He will share in a group format, as well as individually, what He wants each of us to do. We must remember that as Christians we work in partnership with God. Pretty much everything He is going to do will be in cooperation with what He tells us to do.

In closing, let us receive this “call to order,” come into God’s presence with praise and confession, and allow Him to minister to our areas of need. Then, we will focus our attention on Him throughout the year following the directives He give us so that His plan will be carried out in the earth and in our lives.

This is exciting!

I’m ready, are you? ~LLI~

Joyce M. White, MSW

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ourselves cannot bring that about.⁽²⁾ We cannot so love Him that we give ourselves to Him “with both hands open;” until we see the truth that He so loved us that He gave Himself to us “with both arms open.”⁽³⁾ I don’t mean until we read the verse, for we have probably all read that verse; I mean that until we know this truth personally we cannot live righteousness which yields holiness.⁽⁴⁾ We must therefore pray for the knowledge of this truth; we must read His word; I mean pour over it; and memorize it, for God is His Word.⁽⁵⁾ We must therefore submit ourselves to God. We must ask, seek, and knock.⁽⁶⁾ In the midst of this asking, seeking and knocking; in the midst of this fervent search for God, this all-out campaign to find Him, this zealous scouring of His word...we will hear.

We...will...hear! What will we hear?!

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.”⁽⁷⁾ We will hear!!! Glory to God; we will hear! Once we hear, then we can have faith in the God of the Word, and the Word of God.⁽⁸⁾ Once we hear, and receive with faith then are we sealed with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of promise.⁽⁹⁾ Then and only then do we know we “are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ...written not with ink, but with the **Spirit** of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the **heart**.”⁽¹⁰⁾

So then we have heard that God has given us a new heart and spirit. We have received the gift by faith, for this is the real sticking point. We must be sure that what we say we believe is truly received **in faith**. We must take the Word of God to Him in prayer. The Lord establishes these truths in us.⁽¹¹⁾

Once we have heard and received with faith, then God will command us to make for ourselves a new heart and a new spirit.⁽¹²⁾ The Lord has promised to give us a clean heart and a new spirit. He has given them to us, in Christ. Lastly He has commanded us to make for ourselves new hearts and spirits.

So then we have the promise of a gift, we have the gift itself in Christ, and we have a

commandment regarding that gift. Now we know where and how our conceptions are formed. Our conceptions, our ideas, are formed in communion with God. In the next section we will begin to explore why and how God expects us to make new hearts and spirits for ourselves even though He has given them to us, and how this leads to deeper relationship with Him. -SOMW-

David L. White

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV); unless otherwise noted.

- (1) Psalm 51:10
- (2) Mark 12:30-31
- (3) John 3:16
- (4) Romans 6:19
- (5) John 1:1
- (6) Luke 11:5-10
- (7) Ezekiel 36:26-27
- (8) Romans 10:17
- (9) Ephesians 1:13
- (10) 2 Corinthians 3:3
- (11) 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- (12) Ezekiel 18:31

Living Waters

Continued from page 4

footsteps.

Another point that the Father illuminated was that He watches over His word to perform it.⁽⁸⁾ Likewise the Son also watched over His word to perform it. In light of the prior point “that Jesus did what the Father commanded;” you’ll find an intriguing pattern in the words and works of Jesus. They all culminate in two of the statements that He made to the disciples: 1) on the road to Emmaus;⁽⁹⁾ and 2) again when Jesus appeared among the disciples in Jerusalem.⁽¹⁰⁾ Allow me to take creative license and translate:

Jesus (to the disciples): “As you look back over the past three years, do you now see what I had been saying to you? Do you now understand why I reminded you, repeatedly, that I must say (and do) everything that was prophesied concerning Me in the Law of Moses; and in the writings of the prophets, and the writing of the psalmists. I had a very full calendar, but this is what We had agreed (before the foundation of the world) that I would do during My initial visit with you. I knew that you wouldn’t understand it all. But, the whole orchestration of the affairs of My life played out just as We promised the forefathers.

Living Waters

Continued on page 14

knows not” represents the state of the human soul; it must be lead.

“He who knows not *and* thinks *that* he knows” represents the perpetual state of the flesh; it must be controlled by a posture of continual prayerfulness.

Now let’s see what the Father is telling us about each.

“He who knows not *and* knows not *that* he knows not” represents the fallen state of the human spirit; it must be taught.

We understand that in the spirit of man are the faculties of the intuition, communion and conscience.⁽²⁾

Intuition – The place of knowing that which is transcendent

Communion – The place of intimacy

Conscience – The place of identification between right and wrong

When Adam fell (and all mankind in him), proverbially “the Light went out” in the human spirit. The human spirit’s access to the Light of God was severed; as sin has a tendency to do in all of us. How do we know that? A few context clues are useful here. Prior to the episode with the tree of knowledge of good and evil; Adam and Eve lived openly in the Light of the Presence of God. When Adam and Eve sinned, they hid themselves. Why? Something happened ... something had changed? Instead of walking in the light, they were hiding from that light. The human spirit could no longer provide them with the light of Reality and Truth. You ask, “How do you know, this JoAnn?!?!” Well ... because they were hiding.⁽³⁾ “So?” you say. I respond, “They were hiding from the Presence of God. Who doesn’t know that you can’t hide from the Presence of God?” Even the Psalmist knew that there was nowhere to go from the Presence of the Lord.⁽⁴⁾ But Adam, didn’t know that; and he was unaware of his lack of knowledge. Such is the case with the fallen spirit of man. Another reason that we know that the human spirit (in its fallen state) *knows not and knows not that he knows not* is because as a result of sin, it is DEAD. The scriptures say that “the dead know nothing.”⁽⁵⁾ But there is hope.

When one receives the gift of God (salvation) through Jesus Christ, the human *spirit* is awakened.⁽⁶⁾ There is a sense in which, our *spirit* either receives Light from God; or it has no Light at all. Our spirit was given specifically that we may be made aware of God; hearing Him and communing with Him. The human spirit, once resurrected to new Life in Christ, must then be taught by the Word of God, through the Holy Spirit. This is one reason that the Lord admonishes us to abide in Him and allow His Word to abide in us. It is there that our *spirit* is nourished and brought to maturity. As the human *spirit* continually receives light from the Word of God, it is able to take its rightful place of ascendancy over the soul and thus over the body. It begins to take up its original responsibility of priesthood over our lives. The spirit reigns in (or brings under its control) the faculties of the soul and inclinations of the body; under the watchful eye of the Holy Spirit. This is how we are able to mortify the deeds of the flesh; by bringing the soul under the control of the spirit. It is, as if the Holy Spirit mentors the human spirit; enabling it to lead the soul. The Holy Spirit takes the things of Jesus Christ and reveals them to us.⁽⁷⁾ By this the spirit is taught.

“He who knows not *and* knows *that* he knows not” represents the state of the human soul; it must be lead.

We understand, that in the soul of man are the faculties of the mind, will and emotions.⁽²⁾

Mind – The seat of our intellect; our capacity to facilitate thought and ideas; the ability to perceive the things of this world

Will – the executive faculty of our volition or decision-making (it is here that we choose)

Emotions – the seat of our appetites, desires, passions, and various other such expressions

All of these have been (more or less) developed by our interactions with this world. Each of these faculties needs to be lead by the spirit to obey and honor God. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.⁽⁸⁾ As a gift from our forefather Adam, the

human soul is dead in trespasses and sin. The soul is sometimes referred to in scriptures as the “heart.” The scripture also teaches that the heart cannot be trusted.⁽⁹⁾ Please don’t have a self-esteem issue over this statement. The scriptures tell us of a greater gift from our Heavenly Father, Who seeks to restore us to a place of son-ship. The soul cannot be “taught” and left to its own devices; because knowledge puffs up.⁽¹⁰⁾ The heart must be guarded; the soul must be lead. Essentially the soul can be lead to either fulfill the lusts of the “flesh” or the lusts of the Spirit. But not both.⁽¹¹⁾

“He who knows not *and* thinks *that* he knows” represents the perpetual state of the flesh; it must be controlled by a posture of continual prayerfulness.

Here are some of the works of the “flesh;” fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, idolatry, etc.⁽¹²⁾

For the sake of this discussion when we reference the “flesh” we are not talking about the physical body. The physical body and the “flesh” are distinct entities, but they do have at least one thing in common. They are both servants. “Slaves” would probably be a better representation. They are both governed by their respective laws, and very strictly so. The physical body is governed by biological laws. The “flesh” is governed by a spiritual law (the law of the fallen nature; aka the law of sin and death). In Romans (chapter 8) the term “flesh” and the term “carnal mind” are used interchangeably. There you see stark contrasts between the law that governs the Spirit and the law that governs the “flesh.” The law that governs the “flesh” has one destination: death. Paul teaches that if I serve with my flesh, I have only one option; to serve the law of sin.⁽¹³⁾ Paul also says, from personal experience (and I can attest to this) that in our flesh dwells no good thing. This is so much the case that it is impossible for the “flesh” to please God.⁽¹⁴⁾ By this we gain an understanding of why the deeds of the “flesh” cannot be redeemed; they must be mortified.⁽¹⁵⁾

Therefore, we maintain a posture of genuine prayerfulness when subduing the “flesh;” knowing that its governing law (sin) is a formidable opponent. While we acknowledge that we are at war against sin; let us not fear this task.⁽¹⁶⁾ We have a great many

promises (manufacturer's coupons) in the scriptures regarding our ability and responsibility to handle the "flesh" according to the Word of God.⁽¹⁷⁾

While there is so much more opportunity for discussion; out of respect for your time, we'll begin our wrap-up here. I bet you're itching to ask, "If the soul is ultimately supposed to be lead by the spirit; how is it that the soul *"knows that it does not know;"* whereas the spirit *"does not know that it does not know."* Wonderful question; I'm glad you asked. Let's look at the tabernacle (which is "a type" of man).⁽¹⁸⁾ There was the outer court (representative of the body); the holy place (representative of the soul) and the most holy place (representative of the spirit).

- The outer court (body) of the tabernacle was open to the elements, sun, wind and rain (as is the physical body). The body affects and is affected by the external world, with all of its offers and opportunities; with all of its beauty and seductions and with all of its impositions and intrusions.
- In the holy place (soul) is where the lamp stand, with its candles, was placed. This is the place where we interact with information and knowledge. Where resides our passions, etc. It is from here that we also make our life's choices.
- You'll recall that in the tabernacle nothing was placed in the most holy place (spirit), but a few choice items (selected by God). Quick Note: These articles were very specifically items of communion (the mercy seat and the ark of the testimony). You've probably also noticed that no external light was designed for the most holy place (hint). As God, Himself, intended to be the light of this sacred and secret place.

The unregenerate soul is dead in trespasses and sin; because the light of the spirit is "off." Therefore the spirit *"does not know that it does not know."* On the other hand, the soul begins to be taught as soon as the child is born. As we continue to grow, we are aware that we know some things and that there are some things that we do not know. So we see how the soul *"knows that it does not know;"* When we receive the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God awakens our human spirit. Our spirits then must be taught: the things of God; the testimony of the Lord;⁽¹⁹⁾ the Truth. The human spirit is then able to take its rightful place of leadership. The awakened human spirit leads the soul in a walk of obedience. The soul then brings the

body under subjection; allowing and enabling it to express the intentions of God; or to "do" truth.

Caveat: This discourse is for the Body of Christ. If you are not a member of the Body of Christ, you may certainly read it. But the statutes and ordinances (as well as the benefits) embedded herein cannot be imposed upon those who are not members of the Body; just as the rights and privileges of an association or club cannot be imposed on non-members.

In closing, when the *analogy* is overlaid onto the *parable* we have this:

"He who knows not *and* knows not *that* he knows not" represents the fallen state of the human spirit. It is like a child, it must be taught the testimony of God.⁽²⁰⁾ "He who knows not *and* knows *that* he knows not" represents the state of the human soul. Much like a man, it must be lead to obey the precepts of God.

"He who knows not *and* thinks *that* he knows" represents the perpetual state of the flesh. The flesh is very selfish and very foolish; it must be controlled by a posture of continual prayerfulness.⁽²¹⁾ -JTI-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV); unless otherwise noted.

⁽¹⁾ 2 Tim. 2:6

⁽²⁾ Brief reference to *The Spiritual Man* by Watchman Nee, 1968 Christian Fellowship Publishers, Inc. NY

⁽³⁾ Gen. 3:8

⁽⁴⁾ Ps. 139:7-10

⁽⁵⁾ Eccl. 9:5a

⁽⁶⁾ Rom. 8:16

⁽⁷⁾ John 16:13-15

⁽⁸⁾ Rom. 12:2

⁽⁹⁾ Jer. 17:9; Prov. 28:26

⁽¹⁰⁾ 1 Cor. 8:1

⁽¹¹⁾ Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13

⁽¹²⁾ Gal. 5:19-21, Col 3:5-9

⁽¹³⁾ Rom. 7:25

⁽¹⁴⁾ Rom. 7:18; 8:8

⁽¹⁵⁾ Rom. 8:13

⁽¹⁶⁾ 2 Tim. 1:7

⁽¹⁷⁾ Rom. 6:12-14; 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13

⁽¹⁸⁾ Ex. 28:33-35; 27:9

⁽¹⁹⁾ Ps. 19:7b

⁽²⁰⁾ December 2009 edition of Kingdom News, Journey to Intimacy column

⁽²¹⁾ Luke 18:1

There is a second scripture we need to look at as we lay our foundation. Revelations 5:10 says, "And (Jesus Christ) has made us kings and priests unto God; and we shall reign on the earth." (KJV paraphrased). Hmm... this could actually be a little tricky. While the scripture in II Timothy could be seen to focus on individuals managing their lives separately, this scripture speaks to us at the group level.

The body of Christ (the church) came into existence as a result of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, God sees us (and deals with us) as one unit (the body of Christ), in addition to dealing with us as individuals.

This information is important to us because what we do as individuals has an impact on the corporate body. We then have an obligation to God and our sisters and brothers in Christ to reign (manage and govern our lives in a way that is pleasing to God).

With this in mind, we understand that God has given us the ability and responsibility to reign in our personal lives. He also views us as a collective community of kings and priests who are to effectively manage our lives and govern our environments for his glory.

To close us out, let me give you the homework assignment for this month. Huh..., you say you did not know there would be homework. Okay, I slid that one in on you. But, yes, we will be completing homework assignments this year. Why? Application is the key to learning how to reign.

Let's start slowly. This month's homework is simply to identify one area of responsibility you have. For example, you may be responsible to keep your vehicle in good working order, manage your children's education, grocery shop for the family, conduct meetings at your job, or lead classes at your church, etc. It could be anything.

Choose one area that you want to see God bring increase in, improve quality of life, or bring about some other positive outcome. Once you do this, keep it in mind for future articles. Then, starting with the February publication, we will make a forum available where you can post your completed assignments. This way we can interact with each other as the Lord teaches us all how to reign. ~PIP~

Be blessed!

Leadership Living, Inc., Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO
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else that His purpose (which is "relationship") is most beautiful, true and worthwhile. After all, communication is that, without which, there is no relationship.

We are the light of the world.⁽⁷⁾ "Light" is that which makes manifest.⁽⁸⁾ We are to make manifest in this world what God has communicated to us. And if what God communicates to us is Himself⁽⁹⁾, then we, being the light of the world, are to make Him manifest in the world.⁽¹⁰⁾ Another way to say this is that "we are expected to be godly." You know, god-like. The hard part has already been done for us; or shall I say "to us."

So then the three attributes "image, likeness and dominion" ultimately break down like this. "Image and likeness" are given for God to communicate Himself to us in the fullest way possible. "Dominion" is given so that we can communicate (or reflect) God in the fullest way possible. So when the word says "man is the glory of God"⁽¹¹⁾ this is what it means. We are the fullest expression of God that we know of. We are more able to be godly (meaning to express God) than any other creation in this world. Therefore let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.⁽¹²⁾
-LATT-

David L. White

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV); unless otherwise noted.

- (1) Deuteronomy 32:9-10
- (2) Jeremiah 29:11
- (3) Mark 3:35
- (4) John 3:16
- (5) Zephaniah 3:17
- (6) Philippians 2:12b-13
- (7) Matthew 5:14
- (8) Ephesians 5:13
- (9) John 1:1
- (10) Romans 8:19
- (11) 1 Corinthians 11:7
- (12) Matthew 5:16

MOON



Father, I won't make promises I can't keep. (Deut. 23:21; Lev. 30:2)

But please help me to keep the promises I can't make.

Your Servant.

(JoAnn C. White)



expressed in the Kingdom.

- In the Kingdom, we are directed to **HONOR** our parents.⁽¹⁾
- In the Kingdom, husbands are directed to **HONOR** their wives.⁽²⁾ Most certainly the reverse is also true.
- We are commanded to give **HONOR** to those to whom **HONOR** is due...⁽³⁾
- And then in one vein, we are also directed to **HONOR** all men.⁽⁴⁾
- We are to **HONOR** the Lord with our substance.⁽⁵⁾
- The Lord has said that He will **HONOR** those who **HONOR** Him.⁽⁶⁾

Looking at the customary definition of **HONOR**, we see how that our colloquial understanding of the term **HONOR** commends itself to the characteristics of virtue inherent in the person or the object itself. However, in the Kingdom, the Lord commands **HONOR** based on His ascribed values of persons or objects. He directs us to submit in **HONOR** to leaders. And (you'll love this) He didn't only tell us to submit to leaders who are honorable. He directs us to submit in **HONOR** to leaders who may in some sense be dishonorable.⁽⁷⁾ (David exhibited this when he refused to do King Saul harm, even though David knew that the glory of the Lord had departed from King Saul.)⁽⁸⁾ Wow, that's quite a departure from our traditional understanding of the concept of **HONOR**. Why is this?

When we **HONOR** one who is "honorable," the motive for our behavior is inherent in the person or object itself. But when we **HONOR** one who is not necessarily "honorable," but who holds a position of **HONOR** (as established by God); then the motive for our behavior is inherent in the Person of God; as ought to be the case for all of our motives. We are then giving **HONOR** based on the transcendent wisdom of God; which sometimes allows dishonorable persons to hold positions of **HONOR** for an appointed time.

Quote: God is not as interested in making your circumstances right; as He is interested in your circumstances making you right. – by Pastor Dave Shepardson

We are mistaken to think that we hold no obligation to **HONOR**, based on the perceived absence of virtue(s) in a person or object; especially where the Word of God has said otherwise. Let's take the responsibility of honoring our parents as an example.

Example: We somehow think that we only

owe our parents **HONOR** if they have been what we perceive to be good parents. And if they have not, we do not feel that we owe them anything.

If this is our position, our view of the situation may be very short-sighted and rather foolish. If we want to have a proper perspective on life; we must see a thing the way God sees it. Let us see the value that God has placed on our honoring our parents. In Matthew (15:4-5) Jesus was talking with the Pharisees regarding the will of God versus the traditions of man. In this discussion Jesus points out that God has commanded the **HONOR** of father and mother. And any violator should receive a penalty of death. In our estimation of things, this may seem a pretty steep penalty for simply dishonoring one's parents.

In our legal arena, we have a saying "let the penalty fit the crime." This we feel is a just and reasonable assessment (i.e., penalty for homicide is death or life imprisonment; penalty for speeding is a fine). Is this not exactly what God has done? He has pronounced a penalty that fits the crime, according to *His* estimation of things. To dishonor one's parents is an offense worthy of the death penalty. Are we beginning to see the weight and gravity of the commandments of God?

Before someone picks up the phone and calls "child protective services," on me; let me frame what has been said. Am I advocating that we put to death all children who dishonor their parents? Well? ... Of course, not!! Although one may sometimes, in the heat of things, feel that it is a very reasonable alternative (just kidding). Here I must include myself (as my parents are still alive; by the grace of God) therefore I cannot be excluded from this ordinance. But what is being said, is that this ordinance (as well as others); having been a type or shadow of things to come, set for us a value estimation that God has placed on the "**HONOR** of parents." Therefore, we are obliged to ask the Lord for a proper representation to the "spirit of the law" in this case.

The Lord fully intends that our focus and motive for behavior rest in Him and His Word. Not some external person or object and their perceived inherent virtues or vices. When we give **HONOR** according to our Lord's directives; we are giving that **HONOR** to the Lamb, Who is Worthy. =BC=

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV); unless otherwise noted.

- (1) Deut. 5:16; Matt. 19:19; Eph. 6:2
- (2) 1 Peter 3:17
- (3) Rom. 13:7
- (4) 1 Peter 2:17
- (5) Prov. 3:9
- (6) 1 Sam 3:20
- (7) 1 Peter 2:18-19
- (8) 1 Sam 24:6; 26:9

Living Waters

Continued from page 9

The Father ordained it; I executed it; and the Promised One will personalize it and bring all of these things to your remembrance.”

So we see that Jesus watched over the Father's word to perform it.

Interruption:

Confession: Please allow me this brief diversion, as I MUST make a confession. The Lord whispered this topic to me on December 8, 2009. And I did not begin to explore it until about December 13, 2009. When I began to assemble this article, I thought that I had an understanding of what the Lord was going to tell us. It was my understanding that He was going to show how that the Father watches over His word to perform it. And that Jesus watched over His (own) words to perform them. And that we must likewise watch over our words to perform them. But as I was typing the body of the article, something kept happening in my spirit. I didn't know how to handle it, so I kept typing. Let me try and explain it this way: When you were a child, did you ever try to force two magnets together in such a way that they would force your hands apart. The magnets would repel each other. Then if you laid one of the magnets down while trying to put them together, one magnet would flip over; and then they would connect. Well that is what was happening as I was typing this article. Every time I would get to the section of the article where I wanted to type that “we are to watch over *our*

words to perform them,” something in my spirit kept “flipping over” (if I could say it that way). I vaguely sensed that the Lord was saying something quite different from what *I* was trying to convey. My intention (it appears) was to show that we each (Father, Son, and sons) watch over *our own* words to perform them. While there is some truth to that; I now see that, this point is not what the Father wanted to say. Having been chastened and corrected; I now proceed with this article in His words, not my own. Please accept my apology.

What the Lord is saying (now that I have gotten out of the way) is that we *all* are obliged to watch over God's word to perform it. Yes, we do have a responsibility to keep our own words. But we already know that. What I didn't recognize was that the Lord is now saying that we have a more preeminent responsibility; to watch over *His* words to perform them. We are commanded to *know* truth; to *speak* truth and to *do* truth. He is Truth. “Life” resides just here; in our watching and performing His words.

From the time of Adam until the angel appeared to the Virgin Mary; God had been telling us things about His Son.^(10 again) Through promises, prophecies, and psalms; God had commanded the ways of the Lord. And we see how Jesus watched over the Father's words, to perform them. Through promises, prophecies, and psalms; God has also commanded our ways. And we are obliged to present our bodies a living sacrifice....⁽¹¹⁾ We are obliged to study to show ourselves approved to God....⁽¹²⁾ We are obliged to follow peace with all men....⁽¹³⁾ We are obliged ... (you fill in the blank).

God watches over His word to perform it. The Son (Jesus) watches over the Father's word to perform it. And we must also watch over the Lord's Word to perform it.

Like Father, Like Son(s). *LW*

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV); unless otherwise noted.

- (1) John 14:8-9
- (2) The American Heritage Dictionary, the Second College Edition
- (3) John 5:30
- (4) John 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:2
- (5) John 14:10; 8:18; 15:26; 1 John 5:7
- (6) John 5:31
- (7) John 12:49-50; 14:31
- (8) Isa. 55:11; Deut. 9:5c; Ezek. 37:14
- (9) Luke 24:13-26
- (10) Luke 24:44-46
- (11) Rom. 12:4
- (12) 2 Tim 2:15-16
- (13) Heb. 12:14

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone



Sometimes the problem we have with “coupons” in scripture is that we like the offer; but we dislike the redemption process. It’s too demanding, it requires too great a sacrifice.

Son of My Wisdom



The Lord has promised to give us a clean heart and a new spirit. He has given them to us, in Christ. Lastly He has commanded us to make for ourselves new hearts and spirits.

Precepts in Practice



What we want to understand is that as we coordinate with God on how we should manager our lives as they are today, God will help us. He will also show us how to govern ourselves and our environments to bring increase, a higher quality of life, greater productivity, and a closer relationship with God.

Boot Camp



We are mistaken to think that we hold no obligation to **HONOR**, based on the perceived absence of virtue(s) in a person or object; especially where the Word of God has said otherwise.

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Leadership Corner

First, we are to set aside time to worship him. We are to sing praises to Him. And, tell God how awesome He is in our lives. This activity causes us to focus on Him.

Journey to Intimacy



“He who knows not *and* knows not *that* he knows not” represents the fallen state of the human spirit; it must be taught.
“He who knows not *and* knows *that* he knows not” represents the state of the human soul; it must be lead.
“He who knows not *and* thinks *that* he knows” represents the perpetual state of the flesh; it must be controlled by a posture of continual prayerfulness.

Love and the Truth



So then the three attributes “image, likeness and dominion” ultimately break down like this. “Image and likeness” are given for God to communicate Himself to us in the fullest way possible. “Dominion” is given so that we can communicate (or reflect) God in the fullest way possible.

Living Waters



What I didn’t recognize was that the Lord is now saying that we have a more preeminent responsibility; to watch over *His* words to perform them. We are commanded to *know* truth; to *speak* truth and to *do* truth. He is Truth. “Life” resides just here; in our watching and performing His words.

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