

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



Pragmatic Atheism

When Words and Deeds Disagree

Psalm 14:1 tells us that the fool has said in his heart, “there is no God.”⁽¹⁾ Now according to the American Heritage Dictionary, the atheist also says “there is no God.”⁽²⁾

Apart from the fact that this is *not true*; what else is interestingly peculiar about this statement? Do you know how much knowledge one would have to possess in order to assert, categorically, that there is “NO God?” Well essentially you’d have to be God (yourself), wouldn’t you? I mean, you’d have to have infinite knowledge to make such a statement. Additionally, such a statement constitutes a logical fallacy (of the first order); as one cannot possibly establish sufficient premises on which to anchor such an idea.

Enough of that, you get the point (smiling).

More importantly, why are we talking about “pragmatic atheism” to a body of believers?

This is not an “us” versus “them” type of discussion; it’s more of a precaution.⁽³⁾ The scripture, referenced above, says that it is with the “heart” that the foolish, deny the existence of God.

We’re looking at this now, so that we might examine ourselves.⁽⁴⁾ We judge everything (and everybody) else;

Chief Cornerstone

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The Leadership Corner

Leadership Living, Inc.

God’s 2010 Planner

In the January 2010 issue we heard God “Call Us to Order” because He has something that He wants to talk to us about. We understood that God has a calendar of His own. He actually has a “Kingdom Planner” (or you could call it a “Heavenly MS Outlook” calendar). On God’s calendar there are major events planned. There are literally events scheduled for every day and every hour of each day.

I’m sorry, what did I hear you say? “No, this could not be true?!” Ok, so you want me to prove that God’s calendar is full? Not a problem. Grab your Bible and scoot on over to Psalms 68:19. It says, “Blessed be the Lord who daily loads us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.” The key words here are “load” (to charge, give a directive, transfer, and to carry – Webster); and the word “benefit” (gain, profits, good, and to serve – Webster).

Ok, now you are in trouble! You should never have asked me to prove to you what is on God’s calendar. Now, you are responsible for this truth that you are about to hear. [Quick, you still have two seconds to put this newsletter down...too late, keep reading.]

Here we go! As stated before, God has a mega calendar that includes what He and His heavenly hosts will do. It also includes what He will have each of His believers do. Every day God loads (transfers from his calendar to our calendars) the benefits (good and profitable service items or tasks) He has designed for us.

Is it still a stretch for you to believe God has chores for you on His calendar? Ok, you are making me get out the “Big Guns!” Stroll on over to Ephesians 2:10. It says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God had before ordained

The Leadership Corner

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Son of My Wisdom



From Root to Fruit – Part 5

All scriptures paraphrased from the KJV
We've come a mighty long way. We began this journey talking about the Progression of Sin ⁽¹⁾. We then dealt with the reality that the Progression of Sin is simply a perversion of another progression, the Progression of Communion. We saw that we get into trouble when we formulate a wrong conception of what our desires are and how to satisfy them. That misconception can be corrected when we come to understand that our desires are only rightly fulfilled in God. Desires rightly fulfilled in God result in relationship, whereas desires fulfilled contrary to God result in sin.

We saw that a prerequisite to a right conception of our desires was a new heart and spirit. We're told in "*From Root to Fruit – Part 4*" that God offers us a new heart and a new spirit. Then we saw that God in fact puts a new heart and a new spirit in each of us (Christians) at conversion. Just as we were warming up to the idea of receiving this gift; we turned a corner.

We learned that *we* were to make for ourselves a new heart and a new spirit. How odd this seems, at first sight. We therefore ask the Lord (reverently), "Why are *we* directed to make for ourselves something that *You* have already given?" More fundamentally, we ask, "How is it even possible for *us* to make for ourselves something that *He* has already put within us?"

We're going to take the scenic route, if you don't mind. The prior articles within this series have essentially shown that we are given life *from* the love of God⁽²⁾; *by* the love of God;⁽³⁾ and *unto* the love of God⁽⁴⁾. This life is given so that we can both experience and express the love of God.

Now the old life, which is the life of Adam, makes us one type of humanity, namely Adamic. This is the humanity that the scriptures mean by the term "old man."⁽⁵⁾ The life of Christ, creates in us a completely new type of humanity, which is referred to by the term "new man."⁽⁶⁾ This new life, the Christ-life has created a completely different, other, separate type of humanity.⁽⁷⁾ The best word I can use to describe this new type of humanity is *holy*.⁽⁸⁾ Please don't let that

Son of My Wisdom

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A Journey to Intimacy

From Servants ... To Sons ... To Spouses

The Role of the Servant –

In the Kingdom and in our relationship with the Lord, there are various degrees of intimacy that we may experience. Essentially, they can be loosely categorized as Servants, Sons and Spouses. And as one could expect, there are certain demands, responsibilities and blessings that accord with each.

Over the next couple of editions the Lord will illuminate, for us, the particulars associated with each of these roles. We will begin by identifying each role; then move to the various relationships between these roles; and on to how one may begin to experience them personally.

We'll have the opportunity to see some of the natural and some of the spiritual implications of each level of intimacy. Sometimes it's helpful for us to see the wisdom of God in the descriptive expressions of our life. The affairs of our life are specifically designed to give vent to the outworking of the laws, ordinances, statutes and attributes of God. In this regard, the Lord is not hidden; His "cards" all are on the table. He "plays with an open hand."⁽¹⁾ He who has an ear let him hear.⁽²⁾

When we come to God, there is a sense in which we initially experience Him from the position of a servant. We know that we belong to Him; but we don't really know what it means to "belong" to Him. This whole "salvation thing" is all new to us. Allow me to say it this way. Prior to our conversion, we were slaves to sin. "Twice sold" into slavery: first by our forefather Adam; then of our own volition (choices).⁽³⁾ When we receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ, we find that we are "twice bought" by God. "Bought" in this sense means the Lord incurred the expense for our "being;" first in creation, then at Calvary.

The Complete Jewish Bible says it this way:
You should be aware that the ransom paid to free you from the worthless way of life which your fathers passed on to you did not consist of anything perishable like silver or gold; on the contrary, it was the costly,

Journey to Intimacy

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Precepts in Practice



Reign – The “How To”

The Offering

Thank you for joining us again for our discussion on *How to Reign*. Our foundation scripture is Revelations 5:10. It says, “And (Jesus Christ) has made us kings and priests with God; and we shall reign on earth.”

In this conversation I would like for us to get our hands dirty. There are several issues (not all at once) that we need to address when we talk about reigning as kings and priests. This is truly not an easy topic to tackle. We will have to get in each other’s business in order to find the answers that we need. Today we will deal with the concept of “offerings.” Each of us has possibly a different understanding of what an offering is.

Many of us attend church services where the offering basket is passed around. This activity may cause us to think of an offering as money that we give. In the Old Testament the Israelites brought offerings of animals and meal (grain) to the priests. But, what really is an offering? Better yet, what does this have to do with us reigning as kings and priests in today’s society? The answers to these questions await us.

Webster tells us that an offering is something presented in worship and that it is presented in hopes that it will be accepted. As Christians we must understand that everything we do is to be considered as an offering to God. What does “everything” include? It includes getting dressed, eating, talking to people, doing chores around the house, the tasks we do at work, and everything else we think, say, and do.

I sense you are looking for some scriptural back-up for these claims, not a problem.

1. Romans 12:1 says, “...present your bodies a living sacrifice (offering) holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”
2. Colossians 3:17 says, “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.”
3. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “Whether you eat, or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

When we read these scriptures it may be tempting to think that they are referring simply to our physical bodies. Well, this is certainly not the case. Our bodies

Love and The Truth



The Great Why - Part 5

From Root to Fruit: Making of Twain One New Article

Scriptures paraphrased from the KJV

Before us, lies a very interesting turn-of-events. We’ve come to a fork in the road, but of a very different sort. Instead of one road diverging into two separate paths; we have quite the opposite occurring.

As I watched how the Lord carried us through the *Great Why* and the *Root to Fruit* series I began to notice a blurring of the lines of demarcation between them. And the revelations that the Lord was giving seemed to interleave them.

This article is about the marriage of these two separate series. The Lord had begun to show me how these two threads were in fact heading in one direction. We will see the coming together of “*The Great Why*” and “*From Root to Fruit*.” Let’s look at how each one has progressed and begin to approach how it is that they are actually of one substance.

The Great Why Series - Here is the direction that this series has traveled; beginning with the October 2009 edition.

The heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked. Ouch!! That notwithstanding, God has so loved man (whose heart is wretched), that He gave His only begotten Son, that we might have eternal life. Why would He do something like that? ... To fulfill His purpose, of course.

What is the purpose of God? God is love, and has therefore purposed to express that love in the greatest way possible. More precisely, God is relationship, a loving relationship. God is an Eternal Tri-Personal, Triune relationship. He has, therefore, purposed to create others (humanity) so that they could partake in (and express) that relationship.

In His divine wisdom, He created us with some attributes that are necessary to that relationship (image, likeness, dominion). Image and likeness are given as God’s way of expressing



Boot Camp

Glory



Series: Worthy is the Lamb - Part 6 of 7 on Revelation 5:12 (KJV).

In last month's edition (January 2010); the Lord showed us how to HONOR the Lamb of God; by honoring those around us. This month He'll show us how we give GLORY to the Lamb⁽¹⁾ Who is Worthy.

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).

Some months ago, our bishop preached about the Glory of God. He talked about the glory that we give to God. And the glory that is the very presence of God, Himself. His discourse was a very beautifully powerful and enriching expression of God's Glory.

Let's look at this month's exercise routine. Here are a few broad strokes on the topic of GLORY.

Expressions of GLORY in the Heavens and the Earth

The scriptures make a great deal of references to the "glory" of God. One such reference is that "the heavens declare the glory of God."⁽²⁾ The *stars* told Abraham of the vastness of his descents;⁽³⁾ the *moon* rules the night and the frames the 29+ days of the month;⁽⁴⁾ the sun rules the day and tells the 360+ days of the year⁽⁵⁾ the planets, the constellations influence.⁽⁶⁾ These (and others) all speak to us of the brilliance, the wisdom, even the revelations of God's own character.⁽⁷⁾

So we see that the heavens declare His GLORY. And it is also true that the whole earth is full of His GLORY.⁽⁸⁾

Another expression of the GLORY of God, is that the Lord makes His face to shine upon us.⁽⁹⁾ "What does that mean?" you ask. Well ... what does it mean when you, as a parent, make your face to shine upon your child? You look with favor and delight at your child. There is a sense in which favor and delight,

Living Waters



Divine Partnership

From Words to Works

The *words* that I speak to you, I do not speak them of Myself. But the Father that dwells in Me, He does the *work*.⁽¹⁾

WORDS

I don't know if you noticed, but there was a very subtle transition in the language of Jesus in that scripture above. From the *words* that Jesus spoke to the *works* that the Father did. While we may think that this was simply the choice of the translator of scripture, I don't think so. In the Kingdom, "to speak" is "to do." Words "DO", they don't just express thought. They do: they create and they destroy.⁽²⁾ This is why the scriptures speak so prolifically about our use of "words." Our words (as children of God) are so very important and very powerful; they are to be used sparingly and with discretion. We cannot afford to be careless with them. Idle words are expensive.

The Lord magnifies His Word above His name.⁽³⁾ This was always curious to me "His Word above His name?" Then I woke up. In the beginning was the "Word..."⁽⁴⁾ The Lord says His Word shall not return to Him empty-handed.⁽⁵⁾

Although, for us, a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches;⁽⁶⁾ a good name is far less important than the veracity of our words. Why is that? Not completely sure, but perhaps, it is because a name is a label by which another may identify us. On the other hand, our word is that by which we identify (or discover) ourselves (our heart). There is a sense in which our *words* tell who we really are.⁽⁷⁾ For the sake of this discussion, the term *word* is intended to represent the "spirit and nature" of our verbal expression, more than the literal utterances.

Example: During the marriage feast at Cana in Galilee,⁽⁸⁾ Mary asked Jesus to do something about the need for wine. He said to her "Woman..." to us the literal use of the term "woman" when talking to one's elders may seem a bit brash. But in His day, it was an expression of honor; even compassion.⁽⁹⁾ Likewise, we can speak love in firm tones; such as when we're giving constructive feedback or chastisement to our children. Contrariwise, words of hatred can be delivered in soft, flowery tones and intonations; with all of the sharp edges of a murder weapon.

don't we? It seems wise that we also judge our own hearts,⁽⁵⁾ lest we walk around with a proverbial beam in our own eye,⁽⁶⁾ trying to help our brother take the splinter out of his eye.

I'm sure that your doctor encourages you to get an annual physical exam, right? Well consider this the doctor's office. Now have a seat right there, while I have someone take your blood pressure. Then we'll begin your battery of other tests.

Thank you for waiting, the doctor will see you now.

We often think of the Psalm 14:1 scripture as referring to an atheist or unbeliever. I know that I used to think this way. We generally dismiss it as not referring to us, personally. This time, let's not just dismiss it; let's first be sure that this, in fact, is not also true of us. You know the parable,⁽⁷⁾ "he who knows not and thinks that he knows ... is ... a ... f" Since we seldom like to use ourselves as examples, let's talk about someone else.

In Jerusalem, the scribes and Pharisees came to Jesus with questions.⁽⁸⁾ Within Jesus' response He quoted the prophet Isaiah⁽⁹⁾ saying that the people draw near to Me with their mouth, and "honor" Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me." This is the exact same thing that the Lord said to the prophet Ezekiel:⁽¹⁰⁾ They come to you as the people "*customarily gather,*" and they sit before you as if they are My people, and they hear your words, Ezekiel, but they will not do them: for with their *mouth* they show much love, but in their *hearts* they are for themselves."

I believe it was Gypsy Smith, who said that "there are five gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke John and the Christian. And most people will never read the first four."

So we see that it is possible for us to profess a belief in God and still live like "there was no God." Our *mouths* say "bless God," but our *hearts* say "what God?" How do we know whether or not this conflict exists in our heart? Here are two questions that we can ask ourselves, before God. Let's have Him answer them for us.

Q1) Father, do I have an inappropriate relationship with the Word of God?

Q2) Father, do I have an inappropriate relationship with sin?

There is another window of disclosure that may offer some insight: what we do with our "hands and feet." Granted what we do with our "hands and feet" doesn't always tell the whole picture, but it can give hints. The scriptures teach that men would glory God, when they saw our good works. What might be their reaction to our "not-so-good works?"

I like the phrase "hands and feet," because it typifies how we "do life." I mean, essentially we live our lives with our "hands and feet." We are to keep watch over our hearts with all diligence; for out of it are the "things we do with our hands and feet."⁽¹¹⁾ The heart directs the hands and feet. May

I get a little personal with you (and with myself)? Is it possible that some of our friends, neighbors and/or family members won't "come near God" because of us? Perhaps, because they do not see that He's made much of a difference in our lives? We think it's *them* (they just don't want God); when it could very likely be *us*. It may be the case that they want to know a God; who is loving, who is forgiving and who will actually change their heart. And until they see Him change our hearts, they're not interested. I'm afraid that, if we're honest, we really can't blame them.

Broader still, there are people who genuinely do not want to have anything to do with God. They're not the topic of this discourse. Certainly we love them too; we're just not talking about them right now. On the other hand, there are people (some of them in your world) who genuinely want to know that God is real and that He saves. But (figuratively) every bottle in their world that had the "*Christian*" label, turned out to be quite empty. No love, no compassion, no light, no understanding; all smoke and mirrors. So there they lay; broken and confused. Sometimes we pacify ourselves by thinking that people "out there" don't want God; and that's why they won't come to Him. But that's not always the case. Jesus told his disciples to "look on the fields" they are already white and ready to be harvested.⁽¹²⁾ The challenge was that there we're many "laborers." To labor doesn't just mean that we are to tell people about Jesus. It also means that we are to live like "there is a God."

Please do not be deceived, the heart can deny God, while the mouth still sings His praises. Again, let us examine ourselves. Let us place ourselves before the "all-seeing" eyes of God, in humble inquiry. Let us ask Him to search our hearts, and leave no stone unturned. We must be sure that the term "pragmatic atheism" is not descriptive of our lives.

I'll leave you with this:

If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; shall not God search this out? He knows the secrets of the heart.⁽¹³⁾ <cc>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

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

⁽¹⁾ Psalm 14:1

⁽²⁾ Second College Edition American Heritage Dictionary 1982 Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston p138

⁽³⁾ 2 Peter 1:10

⁽⁴⁾ 2 Corinthians 13:5

⁽⁵⁾ 1 Corinthians 11:31

⁽⁶⁾ Matthew 7:4

⁽⁷⁾ December 2009 edition; Journey to Intimacy column: Article entitled "*He Who Knows Not...*"

⁽⁸⁾ Matthew 15:8

⁽⁹⁾ Isaiah 29:13

- (10) Ezekiel 33:31 *slightly adapted*
 (11) Proverb 4:23
 (12) Matthew 9:36-38; John 4:34-38
 (13) Psalm 44: 20-21

that we should walk in them.”

Ok, enough! You get the point that God has tasks for each of us every single day. Even though we may not have realized this before, now we know. And, knowing requires doing. So, I hear you saying, “Ok, God has tasks for me, but how do I know what those tasks are?” I was holding my breath waiting for this question (...breathe...).

It is really not enough to tell you to read the Bible. This won't by itself let you know what you and I need to do physically on a daily basis. But, there is a way to find out. Are you ready?

Everything we are currently responsible for, plus everything we desire to do are to be submitted to God each and every day. This is what links God's calendar to our calendar. The equation looks like this.

What I need to do + what I want to do + submission to God = God's calendar for me this day

Does this sound simplistic? That's because it is. Now here is what it looks like in practice.

I will use myself as the example. Today I woke up and had an idea of several of the things I needed and/or wanted to do (whether or not they were written out). At that moment I was focused on my calendar. But, then I prayed, I asked God to be in charge of my day. I told Him to cause me to do what He wants done. I gave Him full license to change anything He wanted to change so that at the end of this day, His plan will be accomplished.

Then, throughout the day I mumbled to God, “Do whatever you want to do, lead and guide me, and I'll be ok with whatever takes place.” Guess what happened? I heard/felt God prompt me to do some of what I had planned. I also saw Him close a couple of doors such that I couldn't do a few of the items on my list. Then, I observed Him lead me to say and do things that weren't on my mind at all. As a result, this day was spent with God and I doing what was on His calendar for me. And you know what else? As far as I am concerned, it was all good!!!

This is what God is calling each of us to do on a daily basis. And, at the end of each day we are to thank

Him. We thank Him for what did **AND** did not happen. We agree that His plan for the day was far superior to anything we could have come up with.

Is that powerful? Absolutely!

Be exceedingly blessed! ~LLI~

Note: All scripture was KJV paraphrased.

Joyce M. White, MSW

Leadership Living, Inc., Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO

For additional information leadershiplivinginc@yahoo.com

Now we understand why the Father speaks so vehemently against “idle” words; to the point of bringing them into judgment.⁽¹⁰⁾ Because “words” that do not have “arms and legs” (so to speak) are dead and they breed death. Their origin is death, and their end is death. Let us not take these things too lightly.

WORKS

I believe that the Lord is whispering something profound to us in the opening scripture. You'll notice throughout the gospels that Jesus referenced the works as being “of the Father.”⁽¹¹⁾ He was doing the Father's works. The Father was working through Him. Greater works than these shall we do.⁽¹²⁾

Like Father, like Sons, right.

Here is a very peculiar example (Lord please help me to represent this correctly): In the book of Numbers (chapter 5) there is talk of a jealously offering.⁽¹³⁾ This is a particular ritual that takes place if a man suspects his wife of adultery, but has no proof. The woman is taken to the priest, who performs a ceremony (offering). The results of which will disclose whether or not there was infidelity on the part of the woman. Essentially, the priest “speaks” a charge over the woman. And the Lord will cause an effect to occur in the body of the woman (or not), depending on whether or not the woman is guilty.⁽¹⁴⁾ Very specifically, the King James Version says it this way: “... the priest shall **s-a-y** unto the woman, the Lord **m-a-k-e** thee ...” In the offering the priest (representing Jesus Christ) would *speak*. And the Lord (representing the Father) would *work*.

Here we see a divine partnership between the Father and the Son. Such is the work of salvation. It is a joint-venture; first between the Father and Son; then between our Lord and us.

word upset you. It's the same word that scriptures use in reference to us. So then we see with new vibrancy the scripture that says that Christ is made the firstborn of many brethren.⁽⁹⁾ First Christ, who is Holy, then many more sons just like Him. Now that we have identified the new humanity, we can deal with why God commands *us* to make for *ourselves* a new heart and spirit. First, it was necessary to know something about this new humanity because it points to what *God* does when He gives the new heart and spirit.

Do you like math? Good, let's add some things together here.

- Christ tells us that we are the light of the world.⁽¹⁰⁾ Plus,
- The scriptures tell us that light is that which makes manifest.⁽¹¹⁾ Which equals,
- We are the light of the world ... a type of light that makes manifest (illuminates, reveals, discovers, etc.) Starting to feel a little uncomfortable? Hang in there, we're not finished....this is the type of math that you must work out long-hand. A calculator won't cut it here.

Now let's add another factor to this equation.

- "The life in Christ is the light of men."⁽¹²⁾ So much so, that those who do not walk in Christ are said to walk in darkness;⁽¹³⁾ whereas to walk in Christ is to walk in the light.⁽¹⁴⁾

So, why are we going on and on about "new life vs. old life," "light vs. darkness," etc?

Let's break this down...by the grace of God, of course.

- There are two types of humanity: Sons of Adam (Adamic) and sons of God (Christian)
- There are two types of man: Sons of Adam (the old man) and sons of God (the new man)

Of these two, only one of these is Eternal, the other is necessarily temporal or earth-bound. The life of Christ is Eternal life. The Adamic life is temporal because of sin. Life lived in Christ is light, and this light is the light of the world.⁽¹²⁾ The Adamic life is one of darkness, also because of sin. As we walk in Christ we walk in the light; but if we walk in Adam, we walk in darkness.

This is where the threads should begin to come together. **We (the light of the world) make manifest (as light does) the life of Christ that was given to us.** God puts the new heart and spirit *within us*; this is God's doing. Then we must live this *out* (or make it manifest) through the things we do and say; this is our responsibility. This is how we make for ourselves a new heart and spirit. And we do that from the new heart and spirit that God has given to us. *-SOMW-*

"That thou shouldst so delight in me
and be the God thou art;
Is darkness to my intellect
but sunshine to my heart." (Author Unknown)

David L. White

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

- (1) James 1:14-15
- (2) Genesis 1:26
- (3) John 3:16
- (4) Mark 12:30
- (5) Ephesians 4:22
- (6) Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24a
- (7) 2 Corinthians 5:17
- (8) Ephesians 4:24b
- (9) Romans 8:29c
- (10) Matthew 5:14
- (11) Ephesians 5:13
- (12) John 1:4
- (13) John 8:12
- (14) Ephesians 5:8
- (15) Romans 8:10

SUKKOT - FEAST OF TABERNACLES



Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my Strength, and my Redeemer.

Father, may the words of *Your* mouth, *be the* meditation of our heart, *for this is* acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, our Strength, and our Redeemer.

(Psalm 19:14 KJV *two ways*)



bloody, sacrificial death of the Messiah, as of a lamb without defect or spot.⁽⁴⁾

I know ... I know ... we don't like to talk about the blood and gore of the cross. We're okay with the fact that Christ had to *endure* it for us; we just don't want to *talk* about it. But because of what Christ has done for us, our life is but a walk through the valley of the *shadow* of death.⁽⁵⁾ Christ (by making peace) took care of the *pain and penalty* of death on the cross.⁽⁶⁾ This was the great and hefty ransom of our salvation.⁽⁷⁾ This was the price of our servant-hood, the cost of our son-ship; and the dowry of our betrothal. An expense our Lord was more than willing to incur. Without it we'd still be villains and out-laws. But because of it we may now become servants ... sons ... and spouses.⁽⁸⁾

Before we go any further, it seems right to put forth this disclaimer. Within the framework of this "discussion" we are using the term "servant" as it regards one's standing before the Lord. Of course, we must take our understandings of the roles and positions of servant-hood, from the scriptures and from life. Even so, I believe that we are all aware that the term "servant or slave" can often leave a very bad taste in our mouths. Which is why we often forego the topic altogether. But I don't know if this is necessarily wise (this may just be my opinion). There is a great deal that we could learn from the role of a servant. Let's be watchful, that our hearts do not betray us. There are those who will *not* tolerate being considered a servant in any form. But these same will rejoice over our Lord as the *Servant who Rules* or the *Ruler who Served*.⁽⁹⁾ Whether we approve of it or not, there is a sense in which, along the way, every one of us will sustain the role of a servant (and in some instances that of a slave).⁽¹⁰⁾ We may be better served (no pun intended) if we come to understand the role of servant-hood; so that we may benefit from them. And that the Lord may be glorified by them.

Here are some hard facts. Man was created to serve, ask Paul, or James, or Peter, Jude or John⁽¹¹⁾ ... or me [smiling]. Those are men we esteem; who knew their place of servant-hood. What hints might they be giving to us? Yes, we were *given* dominion, but we were *created* to serve. Actually, we were given dominion for the purposes of serving. This does not preclude the fact

that we were given dominion for relationship; this too is true. Please know that these two truths are not mutually exclusive. They are each very small expressions of a much greater Truth. Servant-hood is a relationship, wherein we learn humility and obedience. Servant-hood can grow into son-ship and then blossom into the relationship of a spouse (very specifically the role of the bride). Isn't this amazing?

One may ask, but how? In our world a servant is not a son; nor is a son, a spouse. It seems to defy reason. Here I'd have to agree with you. There is a sense in which it does defy reason. In this same manner, it defies reason that Life could be subject to death. It also defies reason that the Eternal, Self-Existent, Infinite, Incomprehensible Word could become flesh, and dwell among us. It, too, defies reason that Lord of Hosts would allow someone to spit on Him and then to nail Him to a cross. Yes ... alas ... you are right, it all does defy reason. But such is the wisdom of God.

Here is something interesting; in a totally unrelated activity, I was reading the scripture that says that man cannot *serve* two masters.⁽¹²⁾ I had read this before, so I probably didn't give it much thought. Then I "heard a knock at the door." The Lord asked, "Did you notice that in either case, you are the servant?" I hadn't quite noticed it before. He didn't say that we could not be both master and servant (because there's a sense in which we can; but that's another article). He said in both cases (here) that we were servants; we just couldn't serve two different masters. Lastly, Paul talked to the church at Rome about rebellion. He said that when we rebel, we worship and *serve* the creature more than the Creator.⁽¹³⁾ Again, we find ourselves sustaining the role of a servant. It's inescapable. So perhaps there are other things that we ought to know about the role of a servant. If the role of a servant is properly understood and discharged, it can lead to untold expressions of life, of joy and of freedom; and from there growth.

What do (or should) we know about the role of a servant?

May I encapsulate it this way: The role of a servant is to increase the estate and welfare of his master; and that with his very life. Again, let's focus specifically on our relationship to God.

What are some of the endowments of the servant?

This list could be endless, but these are a few of the particulars associated with the role of a servant. A servant may either be “born or bought” into this role. In the case of our relationship with our Lord, we are both. The servant is obliged to know his roles and responsibilities. In all of his comportment he is to be aware that he represents his Master. All of the words and deeds of the servant are regarded as representing the Master, irrespective of what the servant intends.⁽¹⁴⁾

The servant ought to know who his Master is; there should be no confusion on this point. The whole of the servant’s life is provided by the Master. The servant’s whole purpose flows from the Master and his purpose.⁽¹⁵⁾ Such is the master-servant relationship.

The master-servant relationship is not defined by the servant. The servant takes his queues from his Master. When a servant wakes in the morning, the servant must know that all of his tasks for that day ought to be purposefully aimed at supporting the goals of his Master. The servant does not have any goals or objectives that do not originate with and terminate on the increased estate and welfare of his Master. In deed, the servant’s “Lists of Things to Do” originate with the Master.⁽¹⁶⁾

What are not some of the endowments of the servant?

The servant does not know what his master is doing all of the time. The servant does not always understand his Master’s way.⁽¹⁷⁾ How many times do we find ourselves in places where we do not understand what the Lord is doing. We may trust Him, and yet be unable to trace Him. At other times, we may be able to identify His “fingerprints” but not see His hand. Where we are servants, we sometimes stumble over our own feet, trying to follow Him.⁽¹⁸⁾ But follow Him we must.

The servant has no biological connection to his Master. The servant does not share the Master’s DNA.

In a kingdom, the servant is not traditionally

“heir to the throne.”⁽¹⁹⁾ A servant may have broad but circumscribed authority in the house of the Master. Please allow this to be an impetus to encourage you to grow into son-ship in every area of your life.

Just as there are “places” in our lives where we are children and need to be taught. And other “places” in our lives where we are “men” and can be lead. Still there are others where we are foolish and require much grace. Likewise, there are “places” in our lives where we sustain the role of a servant. And other “places” we sustain the role of a son. Just as we may believe ourselves “men,” where we are most certainly children; so too we may think ourselves sons, where we are servants.

Example: Allow me to share with you one instance (trust, there are many) where I did not understand my role; as God saw it. Bless God; this was many years ago, now. Nevertheless, it was a very real paradigm shift for me.

I was talking to the Father, about my financial situation, at that time. Imagine this; I was actually trying to explain to Him that I was a “giver.” And that I wanted to “command a larger financial trust.” It was like a 16-year old child saying, “Now that I have my driver’s license, may I borrow the Jaguar, tonight?” I’m sure that’s exactly what I sounded like.

I don’t believe that I’ll ever forget His response to that proposition. He said, “JoAnn, you are a consumer. I cannot trust you to command a larger financial trust; because you don’t understand the role of money.” At that place and time I was very much a servant in my financial stewardship. I was very much a child, thinking myself a “man,”⁽²⁰⁾ figuratively speaking. I repented, humbled myself and allowed His Word to teach me and His Spirit to lead me in the area of my finances. He has increased my financial trust; in ways I could never have imagined. I didn’t know that money could do some of the things I’ve seen it do.

All of these things being said; let not your heart be troubled. Don’t lose focus, jockeying for position; servant? Son? Spouse? You cannot make a pot boil,

by watching it. Let us learn these roles and be honest about where we are in them. This will help us understand why the Lord deals with us the way He does; in the various areas of our lives. And as we seek Him, we will learn how to grow through these places of intimacy.

The servant is *in* the house; but the son is *over* the house⁽²¹⁾. Next edition, let's see some of the roles of the son.

Closing Meditation:

My eyes were made to see You.

My ears were made to hear You.

My tongue was made to speak of You.

My fears were given that I might hide in You.

My nose was made to receive the breathe of life from You.

My weaknesses were given that I might find my strength in You.

My hands were made to serve You.

My feet were made to run to You.

My heart was made to love You.

My hopes were made to wait for You.

My passions were given that I may yearn for You.

My appetites were give that I might hunger and thirst after You.

I understand very clearly, now, that I was made for YOU.

(22)

-JTI-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

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

(1) Romans 1:19-20

(2) Revelation 2:29

(3) Romans 6:16

(4) 1 Peter 1:18-19 *Complete Jewish Bible*

(5) Psalm 23:4

(6) Colossians 1:20

(7) 1 Peter 1:18-19 *Complete Jewish Bible*

(8) Hebrews 2:10; 2 Corinthians 11:2

(9) Books authored by Ray C Stedman, *Servant who Rules* or the *Ruler who Served*

(10) Romans 6:16

(11) Romans 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1;

Revelation 1:1c

(12) Matthew 6:24

(13) Romans 1:25

(14) 1 Peter 2:13-17

(15) Philippians 2:5-9

(16) Matthew 8:9; Luke 7:8

(17) John 15:15

(18) Psalm 119:133; 19:13

(19) Prov. 30:21-22a; Hebrews 1:2

(20) December 2009 edition; Journey to Intimacy column; article entitled *He who knows not...*

(21) Hebrews 3:5-6

(22) Revelations 4:11

are the temples of the Holy Spirit. The scripture is directing us to give our temples (our entire beings) to God. This includes everything we say, think and do. **WE** are the offering to our Heavenly Father.

Principle#1: As believers we no longer simply GIVE offerings as individual gifts. We ARE the offerings and everything we engage in must honor God.

Does this sound like a “tall order to fill?” It is. But, know that the rewards are equally as great!

Here is your homework for this month. You can complete it any number of ways.

1.) Go to

<http://kingdomnewsonline.freeforums.org/index.php>

Register by creating a user name and password (skip any advertisement).

Click on “Precepts in Practice”.

In this forum post your answer to this question.

“What area of your life will be the most challenging to yield as an offering to God and why?”

You do not need to give personal details about your identity, just something simple (i.e. Sue in Missouri).

2.) You may, however, choose not to interact with us (and the community of Kingdom News readers) online. This is fine, we’ll respect that decision. If you would feel more comfortable, you can just write out the answer to the question. Either way, writing it out will help you to see it and allow God to deal with you on it.

Whether or not you choose to respond on the website, visit it periodically throughout the month. You will see a number of encouraging responses. This way, you will know you are not alone. And, together we will find answers, receive healing, and deliverance. Please also feel free to respond to other reader’s posts. After all, we are one body.

Once we bring our lives in line with the principle of “living offerings” we will be one step closer to reigning in our everyday lives.

God speed. ~PIP~

Note: All scripture is KJV paraphrased.

Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO Leadership Living, Inc.

ownership and authority over mankind. Thereby He has also proclaimed His responsibility for mankind. This responsibility He has fulfilled, in Christ. Dominion is given as an expression of man's responsibility to God.

Image and likeness are given so that God can communicate Himself to us in the fullest way possible. Similarly, dominion was given so that we may express God in the fullest way possible. Walking in our dominion is one of the means by which we make God manifest to the world.

Root to Fruit Series - Here is the direction that this series has traveled; also beginning with the October 2009 edition.

We identified the Progression of Sin. (James 1:14-15 KJV)

The Progression of Sin moves from *desire*, to *enticement*, to *conception*, to *sin* resulting in *death*.

We also mapped the Progression of Communion which begins with *communion*, from which *life* comes, simulating *desire*, leading to *enticement*, on to *conception* resulting in *relationship*.

Desires are not (themselves) bad or wrong. Desires are God-given; this is the vehicle by which we may yearn after God. That desire may be enticed is not inappropriate, either. It is enticement that motivates us to seek fulfillment. What happens at conception is influential. However, what is most prominent is what gives birth to *desire* in the first place. Desires that originate anywhere other than from communion with God, will inevitably deceive and mislead us. Because their origins are in one sense "ex nihilo" (or "from that which is not"). That which ends with God, must also begin with Him. Nothing else can give birth to desire that leads to relationship with the Father. (Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22 KJV) In the Progression of Communion, the end most certainly justifies the means.

These are the two paths that bring us to this fork.

In *The Great Why* we contemplated how it was that

God could love ones as wretched and barren as we are; having fallen from our first estate. From that contemplation we came to understand that God's love for us is an expression of who He is. He is love, relationship and communion. And as we sustain a right proximity to (or a right intercourse with) this communion, out of it flows our desires, our longings, and our appetites which follow through to relationship. *From the root of communion to the fruit of relationship.*

The foundation from which both of these series are derived is **relationship**. *The Great Why* - God loves us (our weaknesses notwithstanding) and desires that we be in relationship with Him. *From Root to Fruit* - the Progression of Communion is the path by which we move from communion to relationship.

Let's pull out the magnifying glass, and take a closer look at the nature of this **relationship** that we have with God. Here we will see the fine threads that run through the fabrics of these two series, illuminating their coherence. "... **Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.**" (Philippians 2:13b-14) We, who are the light of the world; manifest the life of Christ that was given to us as a new heart and a new spirit. God puts the new heart and spirit within us; but we must manifest it. He worked it in; we work it out. Now there's a divine partnership.

Please meditate on this scripture (Philippians 2:13b-14). For in it are riches, depths and treasures of treasures. It is God who *works in* us; while we are to *work out*. In "*The Great Why*" we saw that image and likeness were given so that God can communicate Himself to us in the fullest way possible; while dominion is given to that we can express God in the fullest way possible. In "*From Root to Fruit*" we saw that the way back to relationship with God is a new heart and a new spirit, provided in Christ. This is the new humanity. This is the only way that scripture gives, for man to be reconciled to God. It is the only way man can relate to God.

As we move forward we will explore more of the nature of this awesome, mind boggling, beautiful relationship. -LATT-

David L. White

breathe a type of life into the child. The child senses a “belonging to” the parent. The child senses an “acceptance” from the parent. Consequently the child’s behavior can be profoundly fruitful. We know how we ourselves behave, when we know that we are loved ... when we know that we “belong.” And so it is with our relationship with the Father, as He makes His face to shine upon us. Who doesn’t need to know the love of the Father?

Although it is not possible for mere words to fully encompass the symbolism of the GLORY of God; by the grace of God, we are permitted to approach it.

Another such expression of the GLORY of God can be seen in the moon’s relationship with the sun and the earth. We understand that the light we see from the moon is a reflection of the sun’s light on the surface of the moon. This is a beautiful expression of the GLORY of God, in nature. It also tells us something very powerful about our relationship with God. When Jesus was in the world He was the light of the world.⁽¹⁰⁾ Now it’s our turn.⁽¹¹⁾

Allow me to diverge a bit. Research teaches that the moon does not have its own light. Said otherwise, the moon is not (itself) a source of light. One reason we know this is because there is a phase in the moon’s orbit; where the earth does not receive light from the moon. We call this the time of the “new moon.” Now, during this phase, the moon is still in the sky. It hasn’t gone anywhere. And one reason we know that it’s still in the sky is because God placed it there in Genesis, and we’re not aware that the moon has been given permission to be anywhere else (I couldn’t resist). However, although present, it does not give light to the earth during the “new moon” (more on this below). And so it is with us; there are peculiar phases of our orbit, around the earth, when we do not give light to the earth (world); although the Lord said that we are the light of the world.⁽¹²⁾ Inevitably, the “new moon” phases of our lives will result from the proximate relationship that we sustain to the Son (more on this below). Like the moon, we cannot give our *own* light to the earth (the hearts of man).

As the moon receives its light from the sun; so too do we receive our light from the Son. This is the GLORY

of God; that we would reflect the light of His Son⁽¹³⁾ upon the earth; just as the Son reflected the GLORY of the Father.⁽¹⁴⁾ We are not, of ourselves, sources of light (wisdom, revelation, etc.). We simply either reflect the light of the Son; or we do not. To the exact degree that we reflect the light of the Son; it is to that same degree that we are able to “give” light (GLORY) to the world. No more and no less. For we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the Excellency of the GLORY, may be known to be of the Son and not of the moons.⁽¹⁵⁾

By the way... it is peculiar that the Lord would use the analogy of the new moon in this discourse. When I did a search on the “phases of the moon,” I learned that, at the exact same time [8:25AM (MT) 1/15/10] that I am physically typing this article, the phase of the moon is “new moon.” Wow!! The wisdom of God. Is He not the most exquisitely marvelous Father? Certainly this is not “earth-shaking;” but I saw a particular beauty in it; and thought perhaps you would too.

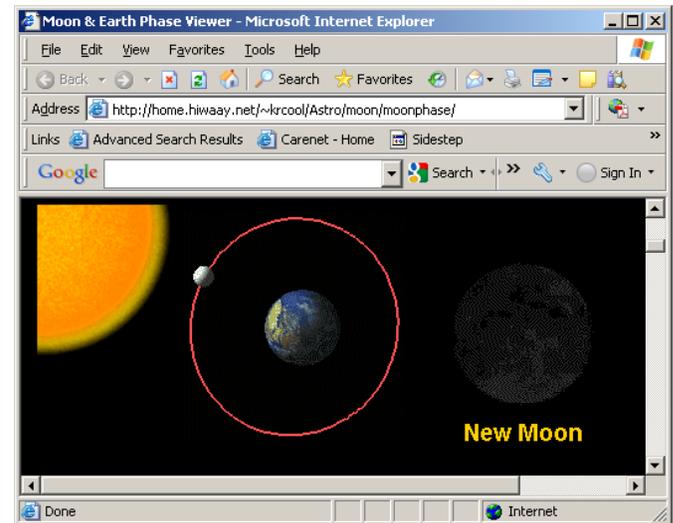


Figure 1 – Full Moon from <http://home.hiwaay.net/~krcool/Astro/moon/moonphase/> on January 15, 2010.

If you don’t mind; I’d like to share something more with you.

For the sake of this example: Regard the Sun as an expression of God; and the earth as a type of “mankind” and the moon as representing each of us. You’ll recall (from above) that the moon has no light of its own to give to the earth. It may give (or not) only that light which it receives from the sun.

There are many, but let’s consider two of the phases of the moon; **new moon** and **full moon**. You will find

these two lunar phases to be approximately 180° apart. During the new moon, the earth does not receive light from the moon. During the full moon, the earth receives the “full” light of the moon. Notice with me something very interesting about the relationship of these three bodies in the heavens, at each of these lunar phases.

New Moon (Figure 1 above): During the new moon phase, the earth (mankind) does not see the moon (or not very well). The earth at its darkest hour (hint), receives no (or very little) light from the moon (us). Now study Figure 1. You will notice the location of the moon (during its new moon phase). It is positioned *between* the sun and the earth (at about 11 o’clock in its orbit). You may also notice that although the moon is still in the sky (again it hasn’t gone anywhere) it does not give light to the earth. Interestingly though, the moon is still receiving light from the sun during the new moon phase. Why is it that the “new moon” receives light from the sun; but does not give light to the earth? Answer: Because of its proximate relationship to the earth. The new moon is positioned “in front” of the earth, with relationship to the sun (God). Allow me to say it this way. The moon has positioned *itself* before the earth. Hmm. Is that a “good thing” or a “not so good thing?” The scripture says: Let no moon seek its own light; but every moon is to seek to give light to the earth.⁽¹⁶⁾

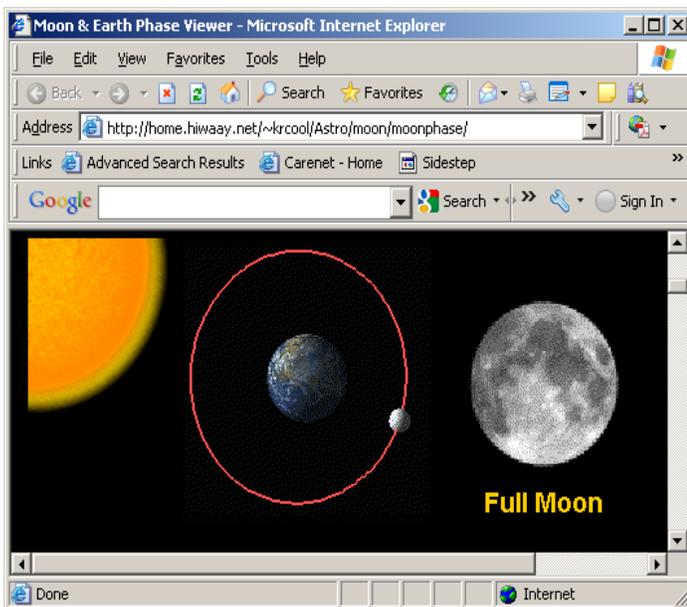


Figure 2 – Full Moon from <http://home.hiwaay.net/~krcool/Astro/moon/moonphase/> on January 15, 2010.

Full Moon (Figure 2 above): During the full moon phase, the earth (mankind) receives the

fullest light of the moon. The earth at its darkest hour, receives light from the moon (us); who receives its light from the sun. Now look at the Figure 2. You will notice the location of the moon (during its full moon phase). During this phase, the earth is positioned *between* the sun and the moon (at about 4 o’clock in its orbit). The “full moon” receives light from the sun; and in turn gives that light to the earth.⁽¹⁷⁾ Likewise, when we are positioned for optimal effectiveness, we are able to both receive the light of the Son and give His light to the world.

So we see that we (moon) are most useful to the earth (mankind) and to God, when the earth is positioned between the sun and the moon.⁽¹⁸⁾ If we contemplate this a bit, perhaps we may see why the Lord directs us to esteem others higher than ourselves.⁽¹⁹⁾ There is one sense in which we are to actually position others between us and God; thereby enabling the full GLORY of God to be reflected upon them.

Quick testimony: When I look back over my life, I know conclusively that the Lord will take care of me. He always has, I have no reason to believe that He will not continue to do so. Therefore my personal well-being is not of primary importance to me. I trust Him. Now when I (*and the staff at Kingdom News*) come into His presence, we pray for you (the reader). We esteem your needs and your concerns before the Lord. We champion your cause with Him. And because we know that God is no respecter of persons,⁽²⁰⁾ He loves you just as much as He loves each of us. Therefore, we have every reason to believe that He will both hear and answer our petitions, on your behalf. One more quick note: You may be wondering how it is that we can pray for you and your needs (many of whom, we do not know personally). Answer: God has particular desires on His heart concerning you and your family. He knows your needs.⁽²¹⁾ As He leads us, we agree with Him for their manifestation in the earth and in your life.⁽²²⁾ Isn’t this what our Lord did for us?⁽²³⁾

And thus we are to manifest the GLORY of God.

Now it’s my turn to ask you a question: New moon? Or full moon? =BC=

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

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

- (1) Psalm 29:1-2; 96:7-8
- (2) Psalm 19:1a
- (3) Genesis 15:5; 22:17; 1 Chronicles 27:23
- (4) Genesis 1:16; Psalm 136:9
- (5) Psalm 136:8; Genesis 1:16
- (6) Job 38:31
- (7) Romans 1:20
- (8) Psalm 72:19; Isaiah 6:3
- (9) Psalm 34:15a; 67:1; 80:3, 19; 119:135, et al
- (10) John 9:5
- (11) Matthew 5:14
- (12) Matthew 5:14, 16
- (13) Psalm 149:5
- (14) John 17:22; John 9:4-5
- (15) 2 Corinthians 4:7 reference
- (16) 1 Corinthians 10:24
- (17) Matthew 5:14
- (18) 1 Corinthians 10:24
- (19) Philippians 2:3
- (20) Acts 10:34-35
- (21) Matthew 6:8b
- (22) Matthew 6:10; 16:19
- (23) John 17:15-21

PESAUCH - PASSOVER



For your Bible Study during 2010, here are some suggested studies. Excerpt from teacher Ray C. Stedman's *Folksong of Faith* regarding the book of Psalms.

Psalm is divided into five (5) books. Each book of psalms correlates in a very interesting way to the books of the Pentateuch

- ❖ Psalm 1-41 correlates to the book of Genesis
- ❖ Psalm 42-72 correlates to the book of Exodus
- ❖ Psalm 73-89 correlates to the book of Leviticus
- ❖ Psalm 90-106 correlates to the book of Numbers and
- ❖ Psalm 107-150 correlates to the book of Deuteronomy.



From this we are to learn that the whole life of the believer is a joint-venture. The Lord said to Joshua, "...as I was with Moses, so I will be with you."⁽¹⁵⁾ If Moses was a type of Christ, then certainly Joshua represents us; in this transaction. And as God was with Jesus, so shall He be with us.⁽¹⁶⁾ Only be strong and very courageous. When the Lord said, of Adam, "It is not good that man should be alone;"⁽¹⁷⁾ He wasn't just talking about Eve. Live the Divine Partnership. *LW*

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

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

- (1) John 14:10b *adapted*
- (2) Proverb 18:21
- (3) Psalm 138:2
- (4) John 1:1
- (5) Isaiah 55:11
- (6) Proverb. 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1a
- (7) Matthew 12:35
- (8) John 2:1-5
- (9) Matthew 15:28; Luke 13:12; John 8:10; 20:13, 15; 19:26
- (10) Matthew 12:36
- (11) John 8:3-4; 10:37; 17:4
- (12) John 14:12
- (13) Numbers 5:18.
- (14) Numbers 5:21
- (15) Joshua 1:5-9
- (16) John 17:20-23
- (17) Genesis 2:18a

YOM KIPPUR - ATONEMENT



“Prosperity knits man to this world.

He thinks he’s finding his place in the *world*; when actually the *world* is finding its place in him.”

C. S. Lewis’ the Screwtape Letters



❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone



So we see that it is possible for us to profess a belief in God and still live like “there was no God.” Our *mouths* say “bless God,” but our *hearts* say “what God?”

Son of My Wisdom



God puts the new heart and spirit *within us*; this is God’s doing. Then we must live this *out* (or make it manifest) through the things we do and say; this is our responsibility.

Precepts in Practice



Webster tells us that an offering is something presented in worship and that it is presented in hopes that it will be accepted. As Christians we must understand that everything we do is to be considered as an offering to God. What does “everything” include?

Boot Camp



We simply either reflect the light of the Son; or we do not. To the exact degree that we reflect the light of the Son; it is to that same degree that we are able to “give” light (GLORY) to the world. No more and no less.

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Leadership Corner

On God’s calendar there are major events planned. There are literally events scheduled for every day and every hour of each day.

Journey to Intimacy



In the Kingdom and in our relationship with the Lord, there are various degrees of intimacy that we may experience. Essentially, they can be loosely categorized as Servants, Sons and Spouses.

Love and the Truth



We, who are the light of the world; manifest the life of Christ that was given to us as a new heart and a new spirit. God puts the new heart and spirit within us; but we must manifest it. He worked it in; we work it out.

Living Waters



Here we see a divine partnership between the Father and the Son. Such is the work of salvation. It is a joint-venture; first between the Father and Son; then between our Lord and us.

Debut of Forum: www.kingdomnewsonline.freeforums.org

We are preparing an online forum so that you can talk back to us. Over the next couple of months, we are also making historical editions of the newsletter available online. Enjoy them and feel free to share them at your leisure. Please reference the *Precepts in Practice* column for this month’s “homework assignment.”

We welcome questions or comments on any of the articles represented in these newsletters (past or present). Please send us an email at KingdomNewsletter@yahoo.com.