

Son of My Wisdom



2 Chronicles 7:14 (Part 2)

If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

The Lord spoke to us last month concerning spiritual warfare. We were taught that spiritual warfare finds its roots in this verse. The reality is that until this verse is taken into our lives, and lived; we're not even on the winning team. Until man has turned from his wicked ways (repented) he's still under the mastery of sin and self. For Jesus says, *whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin.* (John 8:34) Paul writes *know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?* (Rom 6:16)

Consider this: it is common to speak of Jesus as our Lord. But, unfortunately, unless we are His disciples, He is not our Lord. Unless we are His servants, He is not our master.

We cannot continue in sin, and yet think that Jesus is our Lord. However much He may be THE Lord, he is nevertheless not OUR lord, except we yield our members to Him. Let's meditate on these two scriptures; consider their relationship:

1. *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways... (2 Chronicles 7:14)*
2. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands ye sinners, and purify your hearts ye double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:7-10)*



A Journey to Intimacy

The Spirit of the Lord God is Upon Me (Culmination)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind and the opening of the prison to them that are bound....⁽¹⁾

This has been quite an interesting journey to intimacy, hasn't it? Many of the expositions of truth that the Lord disclosed to us during this journey are still working to find their place in my heart; *if I might be so transparent.*

We have enlarged, at length, upon some of the many ways in which the clear and genuine *proclamation of the gospel* binds up and heals brokenness; decrees liberty; recovers sight and opens prison doors. If there would be one point that we'd like to have resonate with you, it is this: that the gospel is good news specifically "to the meek." They are the only ones who will be receptive to its jagged-edged mandates. Proud, arrogant people, like us, don't want to be "told" what to do. We don't want to be commanded to "repent." We want the "choosing of Christ" to be *our* choice; and we want Him on *our* terms.

Contrary to popular belief, the gospel is not a *pretty, flowery* message. I know ... I know ... we want it to be soft, cozy and un-offensive don't we? We want to entreat people to *receive* the gospel. We don't want them to be repelled by it. Sssshhhh! Can you keep a secret? The gospel is not a message for everyone. Caveat: When I say that "it is not a message for everyone;" what I'm not saying is *that it should not be preached to everyone.* On the other hand, what I am saying is that preach as you may, only the meek will respond. It's a message to the meek. The *meek* aren't repelled by the cutting edge of the gospel. I can see you don't like that so much, that's my fault. I should probably have simply quoted the Lord. He said it this way, "whoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little

Love and *The Truth*



Melchisedec in Laodicea - V

We've talked a bit about the darkness of Laodicea. We asked what of these holy men of scripture? What of the people like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, Daniel, Azariah, Hananiah, and Mischael? These are Old Testament people, yet they are of a caliber beyond our conception. We must, as Laodiceans, clearly ascertain our situation; before any real change can be made. While studying the scriptures in Revelation about Laodicea I had a question for God.

The question came about as Jesus diagnosed their problems, and gave them cures. We'll get to that question shortly.

The problems are listed with five terms: wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. However, they fit in two categories.

1. The *first* category tells us the **depth** of the condition of Laodicea: wretched, and miserable.
2. The *second* category, however, tells us the specific **nature** of the condition: poor, blind, and naked.

The *first* category lets us know that we, who say we are rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing are in fact *pitiful*, and *pitiable*. This is 'wretched and miserable' mean, roughly. This exposes the depth of our problem, and furthermore, the depth of our darkness and deception. When you have a moment, walk up to a king, and say these things, and watch as he brushes you off with scorn (as someone who is out of their mind).

The *second* category gives us the specific nature of our condition. This is why the remedies given in the next verse only address these three terms: poor, blind, and naked.

The question that I mentioned, which I had for God, come in here. I needed to know which problem was the main problem. It seemed to me that there was one problem, which, if addressed made the others much easier to address also.

The Lord answered me (I think, before I even fully formulated the question). He said "the blindness." Adam and Eve *knew* that they were naked; their eyes were



Boot Camp

Do After Their Words – Not After Their Deeds



Do as I "say" and not as I "do" (Part 1)

Then spoke Jesus to the multitude and to his disciples; saying, the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.⁽¹⁾

I remember very vividly where I was when the Lord began to share this with me. I was going for a morning walk. I was listening to the reading of the scriptures. And when the gentleman read over the opening verse; the Lord just began to talk.

This was an amazing conversation, because I had not heard it quite like this before. Actually I hadn't heard anything like it at all.

Here's how the conversation began...

During an early morning walk Friday January 20, 2012 about 10:23AM (MT), I was contemplating that our God is a jealous God; but jealousy is forbidden to us. Smiling, I thought, "This is a perfect case of *Do As I Say, Not As I Do*." Just about that time, from my iPod I hear the reading of Matthew 23. During the walk, I was taking in the scenery, until I heard "*All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.*" A chord was struck. So I began to ponder before the Lord, hhhmmm. "So, Father, it's okay to follow *their* teachings but not *their* deeds?" I thought. While still formulating the thought, the Lord began to talk.

The Lord said, "You could look at the concepts of "*do as I say*" versus "*do as I do*" like they were two paths in a road. They would be two completely different paths. And the "*do as I do*" path would be the easier of the two. It's both an easier path and it's a cheaper path to take. Now hang in here with me; we're going somewhere.

The Lord goes on to say, "It's extremely easy to mimic

Living Waters



Your Kingdom ... Your Will (Part 2)

As our Lord taught us to pray, His direction was that we are to exalt the hallowed Name of the Father. We are to prepare for and anticipate His coming Kingdom. And we are to submit to the doing of His will. ⁽¹⁾

We are to petition the coming of His Kingdom? Hhhmmm, which Kingdom ... the Kingdom of *God* or the Kingdom of *Heaven*? I asked the Lord to help me understand the difference between the two Kingdoms. Not that I wanted to differentiate them necessarily; but I wanted to understand their realities. Because the terms are often used interchangeably, one may think that there is no difference. I'd submit to you that I am seeing something otherwise. May I please share with you what I understand?

Disclaimer – I am sharing what is *presently* my understanding. (We're just talking, right?) If I have misunderstood, then I am mistaken. It will certainly not be the case that the Lord has misled me nor has He ignored my request for clarification. As my understanding increases, by the grace of God; so too will my knowledge of the deep and personal things of God's Righteousness and His Kingdom. After all, it is one of our primary directives according to Matthew 6:33, that we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness preeminently.

Admittedly, I may jumble this up a bit because it's much larger and grander than my ability to represent it; but grab your jacket and let's go!!!

The Kingdom of God is our ultimate destination (in a strangely peculiar sense). Perhaps, we get the sense of this in that Jesus Christ will deliver up the Kingdom to the Father. ⁽²⁾ But before He does that He will sit upon the throne of David in that Kingdom. ^(2a) What Kingdom? It does not seem that our Lord will be delivering up the Kingdom of God (proper), for the Father already reigns Sovereign over the Kingdom of God. I submit to you that the Kingdom that Jesus will be delivering up to the Father is the Kingdom of Heaven. Don't hang up the phone yet, we've just started talking.

The Kingdom of God is irrevocable and cannot be

Nutrition, Health & Wellness



My Life! ... A Vineyard? (Part 2)

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. (Genesis 1:29)

Whew!!! Last month's article was quite a turn of events, hah. Some of the items covered in last month's edition that we will expand upon (in no particular order) in the upcoming editions are:

- Particular illuminations of the objects of the vineyard (hedge, winepress, tower, etc.)
- How the servants draw out of us the harvest of the vineyard
- Details of the wickedness of the husbandman
- And much more

The first question we'll want to revisit is: "*Father, again how do the parables of the vineyard have anything to do with nutrition, health and wellness?*" The Lord's responses to this question are that:

1) "*Nutrition*" - In the Kingdom nutrition is quite simple: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. So we can talk about physical nutrition (and we will), but that won't bring to bear the Kingdom requirements for overall health. By and large, what our physical bodies portray is indicative of what our spiritual bodies convey.

2) "*Health*" - There is natural health; then there is Kingdom health. The former flows out of the latter. Natural health is easy to talk about, everybody's doing it; Kingdom health, not so much so. Proverbs says that health consists of (at least) three things: an absence of conceit (self-righteousness), the fear of the Lord, and a departure from evil. ⁽¹⁾ Now we see why it's not that easy to talk about.

3) "*Wellness*" - Jeremiah said that if we obey the voice of the Lord, it shall be well with us and our soul shall live. ⁽²⁾ The Lord said to Moses, that it would be wonderful if Israel had a heart to fear Him and keep all of His commandments; as this would greatly secure their well-being. ⁽³⁾

illuminated how that the fire of His presence does this phenomenal “purging” *thing*, to us. We saw that the presence of the Lord among us is both *wonderful* and *terrifying*.

He also made known to us that:

REPEAT - Fire has a way of reducing most things to their basest element; or consuming them altogether. But if we receive the refining fire of God's presence, at the least we'll be "no worse for the wear;" at the most we'll be "pure gold." ⁽³⁾ But if we do not admit the fire of God's presence, at length we will be consumed by it nevertheless. We **cannot** approach the fire of God's presence and remain the same.

So we began to see how that the Lord's tabernacling among us affects a Laodicean mindset and the posture of the heart. I'm sorry, what was that you asked? Who is Laodicea? Oh, you must have missed a few of the prior editions of this series; no problem.

GLOSSARY

Definition of Laodicean = YOU (and me, smiling)

It is clear from our *lives* and our *trappings*; that this world means far too much to us. Like our big brother Israel, we forget that we are to be looking for a city whose builder and maker is God. ⁽⁴⁾ Instead we think that because we are *IN* the world; that we are also *OF* the world. Although we would NEVER admit it verbally; our lifestyle testifies against us. What a tragic mistake we make, here. As Laodiceans, we say “*I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.*” When the Lord says that we are to *set our affections on thing above, where Christ sits on the right hand of Majesty.* ⁽⁵⁾ We may certainly have access to some of the things of this world; but these “things” cannot be to us *treasures*; lest the Lord of those *treasures* enslave our hearts to them. And when our Lord bids us release them and come away with Him; we faint because of our love for them.

We think that we are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing ... BECAUSE we measure “riches” using the same instruments of measurement as the world. By this misconception we are brought to our placid or lukewarm condition. The cares of this life (riches and goods), choke out the Word, leaving the soil of our hearts barren and unfruitful.

But there is hope!!!

In the words of the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, “*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*” <cc>

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Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

⁽¹⁾ Revelation 3:14-19

⁽²⁾ Exodus 29:45-46; Deuteronomy 12:10-11

⁽³⁾ Job 23:10; Zechariah 13:9

⁽⁴⁾ Hebrews 11:8-10

⁽⁵⁾ Colossians 3:2

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unnerving is that we don't know when specific events will take place in each season.

So, let's talk a little about planning our time so that we are in synch with what God is doing in each season of our lives. Now, you may ask, “How can I plan when I don't know what He will do in a given season?” To this I would say, “Great question!”

Maybe the word of God will give us some insight as to how to handle this very important question. Proverbs 30:25 tells how ants prepare their winter food in the summer. They take in enough food to keep them until springtime. How is it possible that each year ants do this? There are also other animals that have seasonal habits.

If we study the animal kingdom we will find an abundance of habits. They live their lives in patterns. If we study God's word, we will also find that we serve a God that works according to patterns. Then, if we really take a deep look into our own lives and how God has dealt with us over the years, we may be able to see some of His pattern work here as well.

Before we get too far along in our discussion, let's grab just a couple of definitions so that we are all on the same page.

Season: A time characterized by a circumstance or feature; a suitable time

Pattern: A reliable sample of traits, acts, tendencies, or other observable characteristics of a person, group, or institution (Merriam-Webster's Dictionary Online)

Based on the definitions for our discussion, we can understand that God works in seasons or times that are suitable for Him to do what He wants to do in our lives. We also understand that God works according to a pattern (observable behavior based on His own character).

In summary, God does what He wants to do at times He has pre-determined as suitable for His purpose. Let's include just a couple more scriptures that show God's time-

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consciousness.

In Genesis 21:2 we see that God caused Sarah to conceive “at the set time.”

In Habakkuk 2:3 God tells the prophet that the vision is for an “appointed time.”

Basically, the scriptures are replete with information about how God does things at the time He determines is best. With this in mind, it would be helpful to have something concrete to use as a reference in terms of how God works at different times in our lives.

We will look at two “timelines.” First, let’s look at the “Life Cycle.” This is definitely a timeline that God instituted.

- Pre-born
- Newborn
- Baby
- Toddler
- Child
- Pre-teen
- Teenager
- Young Adult
- Adult
- Middle-Aged Adult
- Senior Citizen

As we think about the human life cycle we can see that God causes certain events to happen at certain stages of our lives. Biological, physical, mental, and emotional development (and decay) occurs usually according to the established life cycle. Exceptions would include if a person has a disability, suffers from an accident or serious illness, etc. that could interrupt their normal progression.

Families also have life cycles, as do relationships, jobs, communities, etc. Pretty much everywhere we look in nature, we will see a cycle or pattern. Does this convince you that our God is a God of patterns and seasons? It should.

The second timeline we will look at would be the calendar. Our lives are broken down into years, quarters (four quarters in a twelve-month period), seasons (winter, spring, summer, & fall –in most parts of the United States) months, weeks, days, hours, minutes, and seconds. With this foundational information, now we can explore how God is operating.

Let’s just focus on seasons for now. We will look at what generally happens in nature and U.S. society in each season.

Winter – hibernation, sleep, rest, close-out, reflection, planning

Spring – awakening, refreshing, newness, growth

Summer – heat, high gear, activity, excitement, bounty

Autumn/Fall – slow down, cool off, maturity & decline

It is interesting to note that there are things God has planned that would work better in spring than in winter. Other activities and events would work better in summer versus fall. I’ll use a personal example then we will expand the concept to each person.

In December of 2011, I didn’t plan anything new in December. My team and I generally use this time to close out whatever projects we’ve been working on. We also try to get a jump on what we have planned for the upcoming year. Last year we knew we wanted to focus on moving our agency to a new location at some point in 2012. We were also planning to focus on specific funding opportunities.

In January 2012 we began working toward our goals. As would be expected, there were a few unplanned events that occurred. They seemed at the time to throw us off our timeline. However, now we can see this was not the case.

We started a new program in January. In February we had to reduce staff (unfortunately – due to lower funding than we expected). Then, in late February we were made aware of an opportunity to move our agency to a great new location that would cut our expenses by 60%. We plan to move in March 2012.

Now, originally we planned to move in summer 2012. We could not see how it would be possible before that time. But, God had another plan. Springtime is for newness and growth. So, God decided to propel us into a new space with new partnerships and an opportunity to expand our services due to lower administrative costs. At this point, we are set to spring into what He has for us when summer comes.

Now, let’s think about what God has been up to in your life. What goals, plans, or passions did you have at the end of last year? Over the winter have you been able to reflect on last year and identify what you need to move forward this year? If so, can you see God at work moving things around in your world to propel you forward during this month of spring?

God told me that when He is preparing to propel us forward, He always has to prune us first. He has to take away things we’ve held onto for a while. He may have to uproot us from places we’ve become comfortable in. And, He may have to uncover habits we cannot take with us if we truly want to do His will.

This is where we are now. Spring is coming this month. God is doing some spring cleaning in our lives. While the dust may be annoying, once it settles, we will be so much better positioned for Him to propel us into what He has for us this year.

In summary, from time to time, it would be helpful to take an

account of where we are in terms of the seasons in the year (and seasons of our lives). By doing so, we can better identify how God may be working with us.

If He is quiet, maybe it is because it's time for us to rest and reflect. If He is changing things, maybe it's springtime and He's waking us up. If He is causing things to work in synch, maybe it's summertime. If He is slowing us down a bit, maybe it's fall.

God is a God of seasons and patterns and the work He does in our lives usually reflects this (even when we don't see clearly what's happening and why it's happening).

So, back to our original question, "How can we plan when we don't know what He will do in a given season?" A few recommendations come immediately to mind.

- 1.) Accept that every event in our lives is timed by God.
- 2.) Determine to seek God about every situation and ask Him to show you how you should perceive what is (or is not) happening.
- 3.) Become better acquainted with the cycles God has set in place (life, family, relationships, job, years, seasons, etc.).
- 4.) Set your personal schedule to align with the cycles God has created.
- 5.) Remain open to how God will tweak your schedule and your plan to fully coincide with what He has intended for you and your family.
- 6.) Be thankful for all that He does.

Be blessed! [LL]

Joyce White, LMSW

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The lordship of God is central to any beginning of spiritual warfare. If he is not to us Adonai; if he is not the lord of *our* lives; then we may well be at war, but we thus war against God. For, *the carnal mind is enmity against God* (Romans 8:7). Hence the gospel begins with one trumpet call: repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand! Lay down your arms, and surrender to the Lordship, of God. Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. Don't seek religion and your own righteousness; rather turn to the Lord God, for He is Righteous. The blood of Christ is available. Repent, and acknowledge the kingdom of God the Father and the Son.

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child shall in no wise enter therein. ^(1a)

Unfortunately, the message of the gospel is not an invitation to the "social event of the year." It's an eternal command from an offended Sovereign, whose Kingdom is at hand. But we must "repent" to enter into it.

The Lord said to me, "When you think of *meek* you think of someone who is simply docile and non-confrontational. That's not a Kingdom definition of *meekness*. Genuine Kingdom *meekness* is (among other things) that one does not think more highly of himself than he ought. ⁽²⁾ The meek don't believe that they are "too good" to be offended or wronged. The meek know that though they are a son, yet they learn obedience through the things they are permitted to suffer. ⁽³⁾ They very really believe that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, ⁽⁴⁾ and that the Lord delights in the way that He makes for us through this life. The good, the bad and the ugly are all the same to the *meek*. The meek say of trouble, "What shall I say? "Father save me from this hour, but for this cause came I unto this hour."⁽⁵⁾

In the words of one of my big brothers in the gospel: *The gospel of the Kingdom is "law to the proud; and grace to the humble (or the meek)."* ⁽⁶⁾

Proud: When a certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said unto him, "Oh, is it *your* soul that you are concerned about? ... You know the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother. The ruler said (proudly), "I have kept these from my youth up." Jesus said to him, You lack one thing, though; sell all that you have. Distribute to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven: and come, follow Me. And when the ruler heard this, he left "with his hat in his hand."⁽⁷⁾

Humble: When Nicodemus came to Jesus, ⁽⁸⁾ Nicodemus talked to Jesus about His works and how that both Jesus and the works that He did must be of God. The Lord administered the gospel of grace; He did not point him to the

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Law.

You'll love this definition of *meek*:

Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means knowing God is permitting the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His elect, and that He will deliver His elect in His time (Isaiah 41:17; Luke 18:1-8). Gentleness or meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. **The gentle person is not occupied with self at all.** This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will (Galatians 5:23).⁽⁹⁾

When the gospel of the Kingdom comes to the meek, and says "*repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*"⁽¹⁰⁾ The meek, repent. They know that "but for the grace of God and the blood of the Lamb," they would still be dead in their trespasses and sins.⁽¹¹⁾ You don't have to coddle them; you don't have to promise them anything. The meek know that they are not worthy of any of the Lord's benefits. They do not argue for a seat at the table. They are delighted with the crumbs that fall from the Master's table.⁽¹²⁾ The meek take the low seat and when bidden "come up" they ascend⁽¹³⁾.

And so we see that the living proclamation of the gospel is to the meek. It heals, proclaims, recovers and opens the doors of our prisons. It will do that for us too, if we will humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God.⁽¹⁴⁾ -JTI-

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

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| (1) Revelation 3:14-19 | (1a) Luke 18:17 |
| (2) Romans 12:3 | (3) Hebrews 5:8 |
| (4) Proverbs 37:23 | (5) John 12:27 |
| (6) 1 Peter 5:5 | (7) Luke 18:18-23; Mark 10:17-22 |
| (8) John 3:1-10 | |
| (9) 2/21/12 from Blue Letter Bible at
http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=G4239&t=KJV | |
| (10) Matthew 3:2; 4:17 | |
| (11) Ephesians 2:1 | (12) Matthew 15:27; Mark 7:28 |
| (13) Luke 1:52; 20:46 | (14) 1 Peter 5:6 |

opened. Laodicea *knows not* that she is naked and poor; for, she is also blind. The blindness is the problem of problems for Laodicea.

Let's understand a little about the condition of blindness, as the scriptures reveal. *Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not. They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not. They have hands but they handle not; feet have they but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusts in them.* (Psalm 115:4-8)

We are taught that we are conformed unto the same image of the idols which we make for ourselves. Their blindness was the result of idolatry. Look at another place in which this condition is diagnosed: *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes, and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.* (Matthew 13:15)

We see here that this blindness is accompanied by deafness, and grossness of heart. This grossness of heart is a contrast to a circumcised heart. (Colossians 2:11; Deuteronomy 10:16; Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4) It is also contrasted with conversion. The people with this condition are an unconverted people.

At this point you may ask: isn't Jesus talking to the church, how can the church be unconverted? Well, the word church comes from the root word *ekklesia*, which means 'called out ones.'

However, Jesus says many are 'called,' but few are chosen. (Matthew 20:16) I digressed.

This blindness is the blindness of an idolatrous, stiff-necked, uncircumcised (heart), unconverted people. Now you may see why the central problem is this blindness. It is an unconverted people. We'll continue on our discovery of this scripture in the next edition. Until then, search yourselves, pour over the scriptures, and be honest about your present condition.

I am a man of unclean lips; I dwell among a people of unclean lips.

God speed -LATT-

David L. White

the “doing” of another person.” It is much easier to do after their “*doing*,” than it is to do after their “*saying*.” And it doesn’t “cost” as much, in terms of intellectual capital. He goes on to say that, “in the “scripting” of the human being, it is extremely easy for a person to watch what someone does and mimic or model the behavior. It is far easier than listening to or reading what someone has said and modeling behavior from what is said or heard.” I’m driving home a point, so please endure the repetition. We’ll talk about the negative and positive implications of this a bit later.

Now, there are a great many reasons for this marked disparity between the ease of “seeing and doing” versus the difficulty of “hearing/reading and then doing.”

WARNING – I’m going to botch this translation (royally) so I’ll ask for grace up front. I’ll not be able to fully interpret what the Lord said to me on that day, but I’ll do my best. His words were absolutely PROFOUND!! You know how you can “hear” something and the words just “do something” to you? They don’t just change your mind; they reshape your character. They make an impression that’s transformational. That’s what happened to me on that day.

Some of the reasons for this disparity are that to go from “seeing to doing” travels a short and inexpensive path. It doesn’t cost much. There is no prerequisite intellectual engagement. One does not need to “understand or know” in order to mimic behavior. In order to go from “seeing” to “doing” one simply needs a right visual apprehension of the deed in order to mimic it.

Mimicry is cheap (not in derogatory sense), because you don’t have to understand or know much to imitate behavior. That’s why children (babies, even) are able to very easily do what they see their parents or caregivers do; without a bit of understanding. This is one side of the equation, now there’s a huge benefit to this type of behavioral modeling. And we’ll touch on it later, and you’ll have seen it very really in your social environment; in the development of children.

Now Jesus, tells us to “do after what the scribes and Pharisees *say*.” You’ll remember that it’s extremely easy to do what you see someone else do. To go from “**seeing to doing**” is easy and it’s inexpensive; because it does not require the employment of very many of our faculties.

Example: If you watch someone do something as

simple as to pick up a cup with their left hand, and move it from one end of the table to the other.

- It requires the employment of your *sight* (as a faculty of your physical sense)
- It requires the employment of your *will* (in terms of electing to model that particular behavior)
- Then it requires the employment of your *physical body* (i.e., the hand) to essentially pick up and move the cup across the table

For the most part, the employment of the *sight*, the *will* and the *physical body* is what is required to do what you see another person do. On the other hand to “do what you hear someone say” or to go from “**hearing to doing**” requires:

- The employment of your *ear* (as a faculty of your physical sense)
- The employment of your *understanding* (the fruitful, active, participative engagement of the mind). This is where things get expensive.

We see that to move from “**hearing to doing**” additionally requires the faculty of our *understanding*. At first glance, we may think “that’s easy;” but not so much so. Let’s follow this path out a ways. I promise we’ll return to this point and continue our journey.

Detour: In the mind, it is more difficult to *understand* than it is to *know*. In the realm of the intellect, the act of knowing is simply a “collection of data and facts” in the repository of the mind; or the RAM; or the mental storage unit. That’s what we consider “knowing.” Now this purely respects the mind of man. We have not calculated the *knowledge* that is birth in the spirit of man (not now, not here). For now we are taking a tour of the mind. So it is that we can come upon some statistic or data, and we can repeat that just as we received it; but it does not mean that we *understand* it. It is easier to *know* or have possession of some fact, than it is to *understand* it.

In business we say, that data collection is easy. But turning that data into “information” is where the expertise comes in. It is “information” that informs the *understanding*; whereas “data, statistics, and facts” populates our knowing capacity.

Do we need to stop and get some water or something? I know this journey is long and you’re hanging in there with me. I appreciate that.

At the risk of belaboring the issue, I want to be sure that we pour this foundation correctly. In construction, it is known that a properly laid foundation is central to a sturdy building; whereas an incongruent substructure will topple almost any edifice. Time will prove it. From a Kingdom perspective, if we take hold of foundational truths we come to understand a great many other things, as a matter of course. This is the case, because Kingdom truths are fundamental to all other things. When the scriptures teach that the things that are seen were created from things which do not appear. It was not just alluding to the atomic and molecular composition of matter (although it too is a representation of that truth). That scriptural truth also points, quite overtly, to the fact that it is from Kingdom realities that the earth was created; and in some very abortive sense this “world’s systems” too.

For the sake of clarification: The systems of this world are a product of man’s fallen intellectual prowess; the lusts of the eye; the lusts of the flesh and pride of life. Man has been given “creative” capacities, having been made in the image of God. As we understand it, the enemy does not “create.” He steals; he kills and he destroys. ⁽²⁾ And the marriage of the fallen intellect and the thieving, murderous, and destructive nature of the enemy is what gave birth to this world’s systems. Incidentally, it cannot (for the life of it) seem to produce anything that does not at length “self-destruct.” Is there any wonder that the Lord will soon fold all of this up, as a garment? ⁽³⁾

Okay, that’s my commercial break for the day. Where were we?

Again, we see that in order for someone to move from “**hearing to doing**” they must engage:

- The faculty of the *ear*
- It must then be translated into some degree *understanding*
- And then the understanding must provoke the *will* (as opposed to one simply being motivated to do from “seeing;” which incidentally can be very dangerous.)
- And then the will provokes the *physical body* to do, correspondently

So then I must first *hear* what is being said to me. I must then *understand* what is being required of me. And I

must *understand* how to translate the request into action (tasks and activities). I must employ my *will* to engage the physical component of my being (hands, feet mouth, etc.) in order to express, or to act out what I’m being asked to do.

To do what you “hear,” is more expensive and more demanding than it is to do what you “see.” In this particular instance Jesus said, “Do after their sayings.” They’ll teach you the Law of Moses and the writings of the prophets. Do that. But DO NOT do what you see them doing. Do not follow their behavior; it easier to follow one’s behavior; than it is to follow one’s teachings.

Now on the flip side of that consideration (you’ll recall that we agreed to talk about both the negative and positive implications); in the Kingdom, there is a place for “doing what you see.” Here’s the benefit of that scripting, when it comes to the person of Jesus Christ. It has to do with how the Lord teaches us to learn the way of the Kingdom. He says to us something that takes advantage of the ease of “doing as I *do*” versus the “doing as I *say*.” Jesus says, “Make straight paths for your feet; so that the lame be not turned out of the way; or offended by *doing what they see you do*.” ⁽⁴⁾

Right here, I’m going to do my very best to convey what the Lord said to me. I know I’m going to lose something in the translation. But here goes...

When Jesus says, “make straight paths for your feet...” one translation of that (in this particular context) is that we are to ensure that the path that leads, from the *mouth* of God; to the *Intuition* of the spirit of man; to the *Intellect* of the soul of man; to the *will* of man; through to the feet of man, is both straight and narrow. Whew, that was a mouth full (no pun intended). But do you see the path? We have a responsibility to secure the integrity of *this way*, so that others can if necessary “do what they see us do” and not be lost as a result. If you have a straight path between what God has *said*, and what you *do*; then those who follow you can also walk in the ways of God. You’ll notice a very peculiar thing here. The Lord says that the straight paths are for the lame. “Lame” in this case implicating those whose ability to move from “**seeing to doing**” is better than their ability to go from “**hearing to doing**.” They can obey (mimic) your obedience; but the deep and rich things of God, they cannot acquire from the Source. This is

a statement very similar to Jesus saying “the poor you’ll have with you always....” Along the ways of life (and increasingly as the day grows evil), there will always be those who have suffered some terrible blows in life. They may be able to “repent and believe on the Lord Jesus;” but not much more than that. Just here, you see the duty of the “strong to bear the infirmity of the weak” without upbraiding (reproaching) them.⁽⁵⁾ They may simply be able to “walk the way you walk,” while their understanding may be for the most part unfruitful.

Where there is a person who cannot grasp the whole counsel of the deep and marvelous things of God, for themselves. But they can at least watch your life, your posture of heart, your walk. If they can walk the path that you walk; they can at length gain the favor of God on their lives, simply because, they walked the path that you walked. Jesus said, “He that receives you receives Me, and he that receives Me receives Him that sent Me.”⁽⁶⁾ Let’s say that a person follows your doing; even though they may genuinely desire to understand, it’s a struggle for them. Let’s also say that there is a straight path between what God has *said* and what you *do*. If they follow you, they can have some portion of the favor of God that ensues to you.

Next month, if the Lord pleases, we’ll illuminate how this principle interacts with the truth that “Faith comes by hearing....”

Until then, “*All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.*” -BC-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

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

- (1) Matthew 23:3
- (2) John 10:10
- (3) Hebrews 1:10-12
- (4) Hebrews 12:13
- (5) Romans 15:1, 14:1
- (6) Matthew 10:40-41

advanced and it cannot be withstood. It is an everlasting Kingdom.⁽³⁾ Nothing can be added to it and nothing can be taken away. It is so pervasive that even the enemy and his folly cannot find himself on the outskirts of the Kingdom of God. Of all that is *created* throughout time immemorial, it will find itself subject to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is the region of the Sovereignty of God; which is all encompassing, in every consideration.

On the other hand, the Kingdom of Heaven is circumscribed (although this is not exclusively the case, it has parameters that are “spatial” and it has temporal effects), and finds itself inside of the Kingdom of God. And while the term Kingdom of Heaven may be interchanged with the term Kingdom of God (because it is one of God’s kingdoms); the reverse is **not** the case. We seek the Kingdom of God and it is through the Kingdom of Heaven that His will is worked out or manifested. In one sense, the Kingdom of Heaven is wrought by the will of God ruling the hearts of man.

In the beginning, God created the *heavens* and the earth. Oh, I’m sorry, did the translators of the King James Version of the Bible, leave the “s” off of heavens? In the original language “heaven” is plural. In an eternal sense the “heavens” signify a geo-spherical location within the broad expanses of infinity. The “heavens” signify a place (in all of existence); whose focal point is the earth; whose purpose for being is “a Man.” Okay, certainly you know that there is more than one heaven. An analog of this reality is impressed upon the physical universe as seen in our own atmospheres. Yes, atmospheres with an “s.”

If you take a walk with me upwards from the surface of the earth, we’ll past through various atmospheric communities. This is an amazing walk, if you’ve never taken it before. Even an imperfect understanding of it will greatly revolutionize our thinking and understanding. Come go with me.

One of the first neighborhoods we’ll walk through is the *troposphere*⁽⁴⁾ from the surface of the earth, upwards about 11-12 miles. It is said that about 99% of the water vapor in the overall atmosphere resides in this neighborhood. Because of the distribution of the water vapor, the temperature of the troposphere generally decreases as altitude increases (moving outward from warmest to

Somebody Call a Doctor

Hurry is the death of prayer.

– G. Du Toit

coolest). Here also is where we see a great deal of our weather turbulence. Nice huh? It is certain that *we* are fearfully and wonderfully made; but so, too, is the Earth. It tells us so much about our God and Father. In my estimation, our universe is one of the most beautiful, inanimate expressions of His love for us. As if we needed another reason to love God.

The next community that we'll walk through is the **stratosphere**, which moves from 6 to 30 miles upward from the tropopause. In the stratosphere, a temperature inversion occurs; the temperature generally increases as altitude increases; cooler temps at the bottom, and warmer temps progressively upwards. One cause of the temperature inversion is the ozone activity. That notwithstanding, the stratosphere is considerably less turbulent than its sister regions.

One last note about the stratosphere, in the lower altitudes of this region is where commercial airlines cruise (you know, cruising altitude about 30-39,000 ft). Because of the lower temps (and low air density), aircraft fuel burn is optimized.

I usually enjoy long walks, but my feet are getting tired. Yours too? The last neighborhood we'll walk through (before we turn around and go back) is the **mesosphere**; located in the suburbs of the stratosphere; just outside of a very large metropolis called the **thermosphere**. The mesosphere covers approximately 30 to 75 miles upward from the stratosphere. Interestingly another temperature inversion takes place here too. In the mesosphere, temperature decreases with increasing altitude (from warmer to cooler). Think of the mesosphere as the atmospheric buffer between the maximum altitude of aircraft and the lower altitude of orbital spacecraft.

Lastly, the meteor showers that the earth experiences (quite frequently) are quarantined within the mesosphere. Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!⁽⁵⁾ Some of the iron deposits on the earth, come from the refractory materials that reach the earth from the meteor disintegration within the mesosphere. Planets and stars (some larger than the earth) explode in the outer reaches of our galaxy, hurling materials toward our planet,

in the form of meteors. As they enter the mesosphere, they are essentially ground to powder and the residue is iron particles that reach the surface of the earth. [Time and space prohibits a discussion of the amazing natural physio-chemical (or bio-physical) processes by which meteors are disintegrated into granules of iron and other particles.]

Whew!!!! That was a long walk. Now as we were saying, "there is more than one heaven." So says Paul in (2 Corinthians 12:2) "... such a one was caught up to the *third heaven*."

So in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And He stepped into the "earth-realm" and said "Let there be light." There is a sense in which the Kingdom of God reclaimed authority over the earth realm in Genesis 1:3; this is where (as I understand it) that the Kingdom of Heaven was re-established and restored in the earth realm. The description of the then present condition of the earth was that of chaos.

Let's take a very meticulous look at this pregnant statement: *The earth was without form, void and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light.*

A "forensic" decomposition of this statement alone would fill up volumes. Temporally, this is a description of a physical universe, rendered incompetent by its inhabitants and thus judged. It was like the walls of Jerusalem that were torn down, before Nehemiah petitioned the King Artaxerxes to go and rebuild the walls.⁽⁶⁾ In walks the Father, "in a hard hat with blueprints in hand" having designed a new Kingdom for His Son. The renovation project is underway.

- The term **earth** in the original language could be translated: man, physical earth or universe, country, nation or world.
- The term **without form or formless** in the original could be translated: wasted, desolation, deserted, worthless, vain, confusion; empty place; without form or wilderness. This original word was only used in Genesis 1:2 and Jeremiah 4:23.
- The term **void** in the original could be translated: vacuous, indistinguishable ruin, emptiness, or void. Likewise, this original word was only used in Genesis 1:2 and Jeremiah 4:23.
- The term **darkness** in the original could be

translated: death, misery, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness, night and obscurity.

- The term *light* in the original could be translated: illuminate, luminary,⁽⁷⁾ day, light, morning, sun.

What's that? You're asking, what was the purpose of the reference to the original language? Great question, as usual. In the KJV scriptures, we get to see the words that the translators *chose*. When we look at the original text, we get to see the words that the translators *could have chosen*. This also serves to give depth of understanding, if properly utilized.

Based on the various potential translations, this statement could read: *The earth was without form, void and darkness was present (in depth). And God said, Let there be light.*

Or

It could read: *The earth or universe had become desolate, having experienced indistinguishable ruin (but not annihilation).* Jeremiah (4:27-28) says it this way: "For thus hath the LORD said, the whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it..." *Wickedness and death had pervaded the depths of the region. In due time, the Lord remembered the earth, and the Spirit of God began to move... and God said let the counsel and government of God be restored in the earth realm.* I submit to you that the statement "let there be light" intimates the (re)establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven. I agree that "light" can mean physical illumination (as from the sun, moon and stars), but we know that this occurred on Day 4 of the remodeling project. I also submit that on Day 1, the governmental parameters, ordinances, statutes and precepts were restored throughout this universe. The adversary had been served notice that he was no longer in charge, here. This was the first order of business on Day 1.

Think of a construction project, before the first piece of equipment shows up on the site, the construction company, procures and notifies all of the necessary parties that they have the "right" to break ground.

The Lord invoked His Sovereignty and, by eminent domain,⁽⁸⁾ began a remodeling project in the earth realm.

So you're asking me, how is it that I understand the activities of Day 1, as pertaining to the (re)establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven, in the earth realm? On Day 1, two things are recorded:

- 1) There was a call to order "let there be light;"

2) The laws that govern of light and darkness were set forth. "...God divided the light from the darkness."⁽⁹⁾ "Light and Darkness" are representative of two kingdoms. Even "Day and Night" while they do represent measurements of time and units of seasons, they also have moral, kingdom effects. You'll see that in John 11:9-10: *Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles because there is no light in him.*

If you have not already read it, you may want to download a copy of the June 2010 edition of this newsletter (under Archives at www.kingdomnewsonline.com). See the Chief Cornerstone column, article entitled *The Will of God*. It distills the difference between the Sovereignty of God and dominion of man.

Excerpt from June 2010 Edition

What is the relationship between the two wills? God's WILL is Sovereign; it is only bound by the law of His nature. God cannot "do or be" anything that He *is not*. And vice versa, He cannot deny Himself.⁽¹⁰⁾ Even our reasoning faculty affirms this of God; as well as of ourselves. In the Sovereignty of God, **He has elected to apportion to man a measure of "dominion."** **He has ascribed to us a jurisdiction of influence and control.** That notwithstanding God still retains sovereign governance over all authorities and dominions. That is the relationship between the two wills.

Sidebar: Also in the Sovereign Wisdom of God, He has assigned a portion of dominion to Satan, too. Although the full breadth and width of that dominion is as yet unknown to us; we get a wink of a judicial prohibition of the enemy's dominion (or scope of operation) on the earth in Genesis 3:14. We also get a glimpse of a temporal, executive broadening of the enemy's power in the earth from Revelation 13:7-8. And although we are not permitted to operate in the enemy's realm of authority; we may certainly allow him to operate in ours. And, trust, that he is working very intently to do just that.⁽¹¹⁾ Again, in a larger sense, it is the Sovereignty of God that assigns dominion; and this very same sovereignty retains jurisdiction over all assigned dominions.⁽¹²⁾

Although God originally gave to man dominion

over the earth; this license was given in a realm already subject to the laws of God.

What does the Sovereignty of God and will of man have to do with the Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of Heaven? Frankly ... everything. What is a kingdom? It is basically a realm of dominion; the circumscription of one's domain. In the Kingdom of Heaven, man has dominion.

Encapsulation

Genesis 1:2-3 the Sovereign God restored the earth and (re)established the kingdom of Heaven.

- **Genesis 1:26-27** God created the king.
- **Genesis 1:28** He inaugurates man into his place of dominion *over* the kingdom of Heaven (which comprises the physical and moral universe).
- **Genesis 2:18** God says it is not good that man should try and manage this kingdom by himself. Let's arrange to get him some help (*Paraclete*).
- **Genesis 3:1** The enemy was not at all happy that the kingdom had been stripped from his hands and given to *a man* (of all creatures). So he seeks an occasion to destroy or humble man. This initially occurs at the tree.
- **Genesis 4-Matthew 1:18** In the Fall, the enemy sequestered the government of the Kingdom of Heaven via Squatter's Rights (i.e., A method of gaining legal title to real property by the actual, open, hostile, and continuous possession of it to the exclusion of its true owner for the period prescribed by state law.)⁽¹³⁾
- **Matthew 1:18- 2:23** The enemy tries unsuccessfully to get Herod to destroy the king (Christ Jesus) as a child. Because no king will abide the intrusion of another "King" into his territory.
- **Matthew 3** The forerunner of the new King (the second Adam) is heralded. The enemy cringes, seeking yet another opportunity to subdue this authority. Because, anything done in the Kingdom of Heaven **MUST** be accomplished through a man. If the enemy does not reign in this late-comer, he may once again have the kingdom ripped from his hands. And if this happens, he knows that he (the enemy) then becomes the footstool of the new Sovereign Man [Christ]. Who, it is written, has determined to destroy the enemy in the flames of an eternal prison.
- **Matthew 4:1-11** The enemy's first "battle campaign in the coliseum" was in the wilderness; a solid defeat to the enemy.
- **Matthew 4:12-26:14** The enemy tries to pull off a coupe, by infiltrating (Judas) the entourage of the

Master (he thinks) in order to either bring an indictment in the High Courts of Heaven, against the Holy One. Or to overthrow His kingdom, altogether.

- **Matthew 26:47- 27:30** Things appeared to be working out (by the enemy's standards) when he cornered the Master in Gethsemane and begins His parade through the judgment halls (Gabbatha).
- **Matthew 27:31-58** Our Lord has been crucified. As the sun begins to set over the Cross, the enemy throws a Super Bowl party; all rivals have been undone he estimates (first Adam, then Christ). He believes that because he has killed the heir of the vineyard that the inheritance (Kingdom of Heaven) must now fall to him.⁽¹⁴⁾ The enemy comforts himself that the first Adam was brought down *at* a tree; and the second Adam was brought down *on* a tree.
- **Matthew 27:62-66** In an effort to hedge his bets, the enemy sets a seal upon the sepulcher; for he knows that he cannot afford to lose again.
- **Matthew 28** Three days later, all bets are off. Our Lord has **risen** having "All power in heaven and in earth;" restoring the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven to his disciples,⁽¹⁵⁾ so that whatsoever we bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever we loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

When Adam was given dominion over the Kingdom of Heaven, in which was positioned the physical universe, the enemy's authority was curbed in this realm. Another note: God is sovereign over the Kingdom of God; He is the mover and shaker there. However, He has ordained that anything of significance that is done in the Kingdom of Heaven **MUST** be done through mankind. Imagine that.

Now you see why the enemy sought to destroy Adam. Now we see why the enemy is the accuser of the brethren. Now we see why the enemy indicted Job. Now we see why he wanted Jesus dead. Now we see ... the enemy wants to prove God wrong, for setting man in authority over the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Kingdom of Heaven was created to serve the Kingdom of God. And by the wisdom of God, that **MUST** be done through mankind.

That was a mouthful. Here's where we are.

I began this trek by asking the Father what was the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. We recognize that the Kingdom of God is preeminent and sovereign. I see however, something different concerning the Kingdom of Heaven.

Confession: If you're fidgeting in your seat right now, thinking "JoAnn, I think you've missed it here." Trust me, I understand (I felt the same way). As I received this article from the Father, I tried to change some of the content, thinking that I was certainly mistaken. I had never heard anything like this before, much of it was foreign to me. I had begun to modify some of the sentences, because I could not in my own understanding substantiate them. Then the Father just stopped talking. I mean He didn't say another word. When He stops talking, it is not long after that I must stop writing. It was not until I changed the sentences back, that He continued to talk, to reveal and to help me understand.

In closing, let's answer the question, *Why does any of this matter?*

Everything that is done in the Kingdom of Heaven MUST be done by a man (mankind); because the kingdom (dominion) was given to Jesus, through Adam. When Adam fell, the Kingdom was not taken from him. Adam simply (*or not so simply*) lost "the keys;" or lost access to Divine and Sovereign Counsel, in the management of this Kingdom. I think we all know that when God *stops* talking, not long thereafter the enemy *starts*.

The enemy is called the prince of the power of the "air;" which means that he does have limited jurisdiction in this realm. Even so, (with the exception of a permit from the throne of God) everything the enemy does within the Kingdom of Heaven MUST be done by a man. And everything that the enemy does through mankind he must do through the operation of the flesh. **Important note:** We may take our disobedience to God lightly, but the enemy certainly does not. For this is where he gets much of his license, within the Kingdom. Everything the enemy does through the flesh is done progressively (with respect to time); none of this is magic. All of the laws of God (the Kingdom of God) must be respected by the enemy and by man. There is no repealing of the laws of the Kingdom of God; even in their operations within the Kingdom of Heaven, all must abide them.

Now we see why the Lord is adamant about us

mortifying the deeds of the flesh. Because the enemy's inside track is the flesh. But as the flesh is being mortified, the enemy's options are being systematically shut down; rendering him impotent to hold sway within the Kingdom of Heaven. Our Lord shall at length, put down all rule and all authority and all power. But for now the Lord has (through the Cross) triumphed over the enemy; and on His way "home" He tossed us the keys.⁽¹⁵⁾

The scriptures say "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." Translation (jcw): "Father may Your will be done in the Kingdom of *Heaven*, just as it is done in the Kingdom of *God*."

God willing, next month we'll explore how that we can be *in* the Kingdom, and yet not be submitted to the will of the King. The coming of *His Kingdom* is governmental and vital. The coming of *His Will* is personal and intimate." *LW*

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

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

- (1) Matthew 6:9-10
- (2a) Acts 2:29-30
- (2) 1 Corinthians 15:24
- (3) Daniel 4:3
- (4) From Wikipedia on 2/27/12 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troposphere>
- (5) Romans 11:33
- (6) Nehemiah 1:2-4, 21-6
- (7) Proverbs 6:23
- (8) Eminent Domain: a right of a government to take private property for public use by virtue of the superior dominion of the sovereign power over all lands within its jurisdiction
- (9) Genesis 1:4b
- (10) John 8:55
- (11) Revelation 17:13
- (12) Romans 13:1
- (13) 2/29/12 from <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Squatters+rights>
- (14) Matthew 21:38
- (15) Matthew 16:19

You Missed?!?!

It would be a shame to miss Heaven by 18 inches (the distance between the head and the heart).

– Gehard Du Toit (Secrets of Private Prayer Life)

"Nutrition, health and wellness" in the Kingdom is that disposition of our overall being that renders us useful to the fulfillment of the purposes of God. Incidentally, what we eat; whether or not we exercise; and how we manage stress and rest, are all symptomatic of our relationship to the Kingdom principles of life.

As the Lord has made it clear that *my* concept (or misconception) of nutrition, health and wellness was askew, He has graciously corrected my vision. And this is the direction that we will move in for this column going forward. Last month, the Lord shared that "OUR LIFE IS THE VINEYARD AND WE ARE THE HUSBANDMEN (KEEPERS)."

This month, let's talk very briefly (and I do mean briefly) about the **hedge** that surrounds the vineyard. There are many questions, but we'll answer two:

1. What is the hedge?
2. What is the purpose of the hedge?

What is the hedge? As you can appreciate, a hedge is something that provides a sense of protection or security. It both keeps things *in*; and it keeps things *out*. In Job,⁽⁴⁾ it is hinted to us that God places hedges around His children to protect us, as well as the temporal resources that are assigned to us, in this life. Although we don't want to hear this, I'm obliged to say it anyway. Now are we the sons of God and it does not yet appear what we shall be.⁽⁵⁾ But if we forsake His law and circumvent His judgments; if we break His statutes and refuse to keep His commandments; He has promised to break down the hedges in our lives. And dismantle our false sense of security.⁽⁶⁾ Yes, "false." *That* God has and does protect us is not "false." But that we think that He'll continue to protect us, when we resist the means by which He secures us (i.e., our obedience), this sense of security is categorically false. Listen again to what He says of the vineyard in Isaiah. He looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. He said, "I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall (hedge) thereof, and it shall be trodden down. And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned; but there shall come up briars and thorns. We know what happens to seed sown among thorns.⁽⁷⁾ I will also command the clouds that they send no rain upon it."

What is the purpose of the hedge?

One of the many purposes of a hedge is to establish boundaries; both for those parties inside and outside of its parameters. In the life of the Christian, the hedge

identifies for us the areas and transactions of our life that are covered or protected by the Father. You are probably thinking, "Well *every* area or transaction of a Christian's life is covered by God." I don't need to tell you how naïve that is. But what I will tell you is that when Jesus was in the wilderness, and the enemy quoted (oh, I'm sorry he misquoted) Psalm 91:11-12 by saying "*If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee:... and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*" Our Lord's response was "*Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*"⁽⁸⁾) And that's His response to our willful, presumptuous walks outside the boundaries of the hedges of our life. The hedges in our life are designed to both keep the enemy out; but to also keep *us in*. If we insist on venturing outside of its boundaries, we do so at our own peril.

The Lord has elected to hedge us about. But a wise and prudent husbandman knows his responsibility to perform repairs and maintenance on the hedge. As keepers of the vineyards of our life, we secure the hedge by staying within its parameters (i.e., cooperating with the Kingdom statutes and ordinances that govern our lives). If we choose to do otherwise, either or both of the following things could happen:

- 1) The enemy could freely enter and spoil our vineyard.
- 2) The Lord could Himself, destroy both the hedge and the vineyard.

Neither of those two options appeals to me. You either, huh?!?

Next month, if the Lord pleases, we will explore the winepress. Until then, how are your hedges looking?

⁽⁹⁾ =NHW=

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG □□□

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

- ⁽¹⁾ Proverbs 3:7-8; 4:22
- ⁽²⁾ Jeremiah 38:20; 42:6
- ⁽³⁾ Deuteronomy 5:29, 33; 6:3
- ⁽⁴⁾ Job 1:10
- ⁽⁵⁾ 1 John 3:2
- ⁽⁶⁾ Psalm 89:30-31, 40
- ⁽⁷⁾ Matthew 13:7
- ⁽⁸⁾ Matthew 4:6-7
- ⁽⁹⁾ Ezekiel 22:30

FOOD SHORTAGE!!!!!!

Seven things that happen when you do not study the Word of God (when you have no food):

1. There is no inner strength, or nourishment, or refreshment for the human spirit. There's no vital contact with God. No knowledge of the Lord Jesus, personally.
2. There's ignorance of self. The absence of this give rise to our need for psychiatry and psychology, in our day.
3. There's no power to regulate life. And there can't be. The absence of power to regulate life gives rise to anger, quarrelling and fighting.
4. World conditions baffle and depress. It seems that we don't understand what's happening.
5. There's no real answer to the questions being asked.
6. There are widespread delusions adopted about the past, the present and the future. This gives rise to the mass followings of specious theories of origin and destination; which has neither foundation nor fruit.
7. There is defenseless exposure to the works of the enemy.

Ray C Stedman, sermon - What to do While Waiting (in his *Treasures of the Parables of Jesus* series Slightly adapted)

Are You Sure?

There is a healthy contemplation that drives us to check our commitment to our various relationships with others. While I have your attention may I ask another question? Do you ever wonder if you're really saved? I don't mean to intrude ... okay maybe I do intend to intrude. Do you contemplate your loyalty and commitment to your relationship "with Christ" very specifically? Respectfully, we are not talking here about your relationship with a religious institution. We're asking about a very up-close and personal relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ.

The scriptures encourage us to periodically check our "fruit." We are admonished to work out your own soul's salvation with fear and trembling. ⁽¹⁾

I can just imagine Jesus standing before the fig tree, asking "Hey guys, what type of tree is this?"

His disciples replied (almost snickering), "My Lord, it's a fig tree." And Jesus asks again, "How can you tell, that this is a fig tree?" His disciples reply again (almost bursting at the seams), "Teacher, we can tell by the leaves."

Jesus once again, "Okay, let Me ask you guys one more question ... what is the purpose of a fig tree, if it won't bear figs." They all fell silent.

Jesus cursed the fig tree saying, "Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit, My Father will remove. It will not be allowed to continue to make demands of (or trouble) the ground." ⁽²⁾ He looked at the disciples and walked away en route to Bethany. ⁽³⁾

So I ask again, how do we know that we have a personal covenant with God?

May I make a few suggestions on ways to discover the truth? ⁽⁴⁾

- 1. How does your covenant with Jesus Christ affect your concept of God and your attitude towards Him?**
- 2. How does your relationship with God affect your attitude towards Jesus Christ (Him as a Person and His Lordship over your life)?**
- 3. How does your covenant with God affect your attitude towards the Holy Scriptures?**
- 4. How does your relationship with Christ affect your attitude towards your "self-life" or your "flesh"?**
- 5. How does your covenant with Christ affect your relationship with and attitude towards your fellow Christians?**
- 6. How does your relationship with Jesus affect your relationship with and attitude towards the world?**
- 7. Last, but in no way least, how does your covenant with Jesus affect your attitude towards sin?**

Perhaps we should take the next couple of weeks or months and grapple with this? Try to answer each question thoroughly in light of the scripture's mandates on each of these respective relationships. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ⁽⁵⁾

Be Sure!

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

(1) Philippians 2:12

(2) John 15:1-2; Luke 13:7

(3) Matthew 21:17-19

(4) Gleanings and adaptations from A.W. Tozer's *Man: The*

Dwelling Place of God, p.62-68

(5) Hebrews 13:20-21

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone



We think that we are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing ... BECAUSE we measure "riches" using the same instruments of measurement as the world.

Son of My Wisdom



We cannot continue in sin, and yet think that Jesus is our Lord. However much He may be THE Lord, he is nevertheless not OUR lord, except we ...

Boot Camp



The Lord goes on to say, "It's extremely easy to mimic the "doing" of another person." It is much easier to do after their "doing;" than it is to do after their "saying." And it doesn't "cost" as much, in terms of ...

Love and the Truth



I needed to know which problem was the main problem. It seemed to me that there was one problem, which, if addressed made the others much easier to address also.

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Leadership Corner

If we study the animal kingdom we will find an abundance of habits. They live their lives in patterns. If we study God's word, we will also find that we serve a God that works according to patterns.

Journey to Intimacy



Contrary to popular belief, the gospel is not a *pretty, flowery* message. I know ... I know ... we want it to be soft, cozy and un-offensive don't we? We want to entreat people to *receive* the gospel. We don't want them to be repelled by it. Ssshhhhh! Can you keep a secret? ...

Living Waters



We are to petition the coming of His Kingdom? Hhhmmm, which Kingdom ... the Kingdom of *God* or the Kingdom of *Heaven*?

Nutrition, Health & Wellness



The Kingdom of God is irrevocable and cannot be advanced and it cannot be withstood. It is an everlasting Kingdom.⁽³⁾ Nothing can be added to it and nothing can be taken away.

On the other hand, the Kingdom of Heaven is circumscribed (although this is not exclusively the case, it has parameters that are "spatial" and it has temporal effects), and finds itself inside of the Kingdom of God.

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