

Kingdom News

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

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If Jesus is the Answer...

What are the Questions?

Many of us have perhaps heard the phrase, "Jesus is the Answer." But have you ever wondered ... "the answer to what?" While it may sound strange, it is a reasonable question.

There are many questions for which Jesus is the Answer.

- If the question is.... With so many religions, and other systems of belief, in the world today; how can one know the way to God?
The answer is ... God's testimony of Jesus; "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. (Matt 3:17 KJV)
- If the question is.... Why is there so much darkness and death in the world today?
The answer is ...in the words of Jesus, "I am the light of the world ... but men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil." (John 9:5; 3:19 KJV)

And there are many more such questions. However, the question I'd like for us to focus on

If Jesus is the Answer ...

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 If Jesus is the Answer ...
- 1 Leadership Living
- 4 My Own Journey to Victory
- 6 Summary, Etc.

The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

Sometimes We Need to *Eat* the Word

I recently taught a class about how believers can effectively communicate with God using an analogy of the five physical senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste). Many of us have experienced hearing the word of God, but then had problems with applying it to the day-to-day challenges we faced. I have been in that situation more times than I care to remember. However, at one point in my life God helped me to understand how to successfully use His Word as a tool to address the various issues I face.

God told me that in order for me to apply His Word to specific situations or issues I would need to *eat* the word. He said it's not enough to hear it. Instead, I would literally have to *chew* on the instructions He gave me. God reminded me that when I chew natural food, I put it in my mouth and grind it with my teeth until its composition is conducive to what my digestive system can handle. For example, I like apples. But,

I cannot swallow one whole. I have to grind it with my teeth (or another tool) so that I can consume it. God said I have to learn to do the same with His Word if I want to be truly nourished by it on a case-by-case basis.

He went on to say that in order to *eat* His Word I would have to take His instruction and feed it to any concerns, worries, or questions (my teeth in the spirit realm) I have. I would then *chew* the word until I gained an understanding of how the instruction would work in a given situation. This simply meant that I would have to discuss my concerns and/or questions with God until I had received an adequate level of specificity regarding how to apply His Word to my situation. You see, I need God to be very specific in terms of what he wants me to do. Once this happens I am able to swallow (act on) the instruction I have received.

Let me give you a real-life example. God recently told me to start working on my next book, a memoir. Not a problem. He gave me the title. I conducted my research, but then I got stuck. I didn't know what angle I should use. So, for a few days I didn't pursue it. God then reminded me that I was supposed to be working on this book. It was at that point I had to *chew* (engage in detailed discussion with God about his instruction to me) His Word. I let God know my challenge. Then, in the next couple of days He told me to listen to an old tape from a noted speaker. It is important to understand that the tape he told me to review had nothing to do with the topic of the book. At any rate, I was obedient. I listened as patiently

as I could for about forty minutes. Then, three fourths of the way through the tape, the speaker said one sentence that suddenly made me know how to approach the book. The Holy Spirit immediately began ministering to me. I ran through the house and grabbed a pen and pad of paper. I wrote exactly what the Lord was telling me to do. Now, I have what I need to proceed with God's original instructions.

This happened because I *chewed* (engaged in detailed discussion with God sharing my concerns and questions about what he'd told me to do) God's word. Through this process God was able to break His Word down until I could digest it. When that happened the word became sweet to my taste, yes, sweeter than honey in the comb (Psalms 119:103 KJV by reference).

Has God given you any instructions that you need to *chew* on?



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

For additional information you may contact us at leadershiplivinginc@yahoo.com

DIAMONDS



Emotional torment, even spiritual oppression, is the consequence of unforgiveness.

Forgiveness and reconciliation bring peace.

-- G.D. Kinnaman



in this edition is

- How bad is sin, really?

In an age such as this, where we're being lead to believe that we cannot help but sin; and that God created us and certainly understands that we are human. It's difficult, at best, to wrap the mind around the gravity of sin; in all of its abominableness. How do we get an understanding of sin; that makes us feel the same way about it that God does? We seem to have become too comfortable with the presence of sin in our lives. And thereby, have forgotten to retain God's perspective on the matter. If we have somehow accepted that there will always be some "known," (un-repent) sin in our life; we are not seeing things from God's perspective. We don't appreciate God and don't love Him equitably, because we do not see the greatness of His work through Christ. We think little of our sin and lightly excuse it. I don't mind sharing that this is a most deceitfully dangerous mindset.

The scriptures, teach us that God's hands are not shortened that He cannot deliver us; neither is He dull of hearing whereas He cannot hear our prayers (Isa. 59:2 KJV paraphrased). But because of our sins and iniquity He will not hear us, nor will He regard our petitions. Please do not mistakenly think that He was referencing the ungodly. He was talking to His chosen ... Israel. The same is true for us today. If we retain sin or iniquity in our heart, God will not hear us. (Ps. 66:18 KJV)

God has gone to "great pains" literally to make it known to us that sin, is an infinitely grievous and most malicious error. From a legal perspective, if you want to know how the law estimates the gravity of a crime, simply look at the penalty assessed for its violation.

If the question is ... How bad is sin, really?
The answer is ... Calvary was the penalty for sin. Sin is so abominable and detestable that God ... did not spare His own Son.... (Rom. 8:32 KJV by reference)

Jesus Christ paid that penalty, for us. He gave His life *for* us; that He might give His life *to* us. We are able to avail ourselves of this great gift, by faith in His sacrifice. When we recognize that the penalty of our sin, is far too great for any of us to pay; we can then appreciate how vast is the love of God for us.

God extended His love to us; in that while we disregarded Him; and may even have disdained Him; He gave His Son to die for us; so that we might be reconciled to Him ... so that we could be saved from His wrath. Scripture teaches that by one man's offense (Adam) the penalty of death came upon all men (Rom. 5:8-10 KJV paraphrased) The truth of this reality is usually a "sticking point" for many. Some rationalize that it is inconceivable that Adam's sin could have had any substantial affect on his prodigy. Why is it inconceivable? Is it equally inconceivable that a mother, who abuses drugs during her pregnancy, could give birth to a baby who is predisposed to drug addition; through no fault of its own? Now at some point (age) in that person's life the responsibility of dealing with that predisposition to drugs; passes from the mother to the child. Then it is no longer the mother's fault that the child (when grown) is a drug addict. The same can be true of a person born into poverty. At some point it becomes the responsibility of the person to want to change.

Our predisposition to choosing sin (Adam's gift to us) was tolerated, by God, until just beyond Calvary. For without the shedding of (Christ's) blood God **could not** forgive/remite sin. (Ref. Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:22) After Calvary, each person became responsible for their own sin; thereby becoming accountable to God and subject to the wrath of God if we persist in sin. As believers, we have an obligation to forbid sin from reigning in us. We are obliged to not be victimized by its demands; nor are we to concede to satisfy its appetites.

One day we will each stand before the judgment seat of Christ. We'll have to give an account of ourselves to God. (Rom. 14:10, 12 KJV)

paraphrased)

How do we stand before a Holy God on the Day of Judgment? The answer is Jesus. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, cease from sin. <✠N✠>

JoAnn C. White, sMHG

JEWELS



The-devil-made-me-do-it philosophy of life is not biblical. In fact, this is one of Satan’s schemes. If he can get you to blame him for your inability to resist temptation then he has gained a great victory. He is more than willing to take the blame if it means you will not change. If you don’t take responsibility for your response to the temptation, you will never overcome it.

No one makes me feel the way I do—not the guy at the newsstand, not my wife, not my children, not my neighbor, not my boss. Not even the devil! *I* make me feel the way I do. And it is impossible for me to overcome temptation if I am blind to myself. Therein lies the mastery of the tempter, which is why James writes, “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his *own* lust, and enticed.” (James 1:14 KJV)

Taken from *Overcoming the Dominion of Darkness* by Gary D. Kinnaman (p96-7)



My Own Journey to Victory

By David L. White

Warning: This article will be considerably different from what you are accustomed to hearing from me. Bear with me as I display a bit of transparency.

This article deals with an issue that is prevalent among men; and as such, it is my prayer that men will especially benefit from the reading of it. Before I share my journey, I must note that of late my prayer to God has essentially been, “Lord, **turn up the heat** on Your refining fire, **burn** my impurities off, **rip** the works of the flesh from me, **destroy** the bond between me and my idols (the things that I used to cling to that dishonored God), **tear** this filth from me and replace it with Your righteousness.” Yes, these are the words I used in my petition before God. I intentionally used this harsh, firm, tough, almost frightening language because I knew that sin and righteousness are so diametrically opposed that there can be no easy way to displace sin with righteousness.

I have learned that the forbidden things that we treasure most deeply will inevitably require the most violent removal; because they have become so much a part of us that they must be **amputated**.

This is my journey to victory in the area of sexual sin. Now let me describe the problem in terms of process, pattern, effects, and revelation/victory.

The *process*, by which I was deceived, was this: I would encounter a stimulus (whether audio-based, visual-based, or thought-based). This stimulus would remain in my mind; like a video or song stuck on replay. It would not go away. And then the “battle” would begin, accompanied by clouds of mental chaos. On one hand, I am tormented by this persistent “stimulus.” On the other hand, I am reminded of the commands and promises of God. I knew them pretty well. I knew which

scriptures to quote. There I was in the middle of a war. In the words of Paul, "I found there a law, that when I desired to do good; evil was ever present" (Rom. 7:18-21 by reference). The provocative stimulus is warring against the declarations of the things of God.

The *patterns* of behavior that I engaged went like this: I would encounter "the stimulus." I would fight; I would fall; I would regret; I would repent. The next time it changed to: stimulus, fight, fall, repent, regret. Then this: stimulus, fight, fall/regret, repent. Then: stimulus, fight, regret, fall, repent. I had begun to regret even before the fall occurred; which made me feel totally powerless, essentially I became a victim. My talk with God regarding this became "Lord I know that all power to overcome this is Yours. You said that sin should not have dominion over me." I don't doubt one bit that You have given dominion to me. "Why, then, do I feel like a victim if I have dominion?" God's response *sounded* like this "..."

The effects were as follows. The effect of the pattern was that I felt like a victim. I felt that no matter what I did I'd fall. The effects of the process were that I felt that the Word of God was having no effect on the situation. I declared, and declared... and fell every time. I felt that I had no hope, even in repenting, since I would be back here within the next day or so "repeating and repenting." My mindset became one of asking "Why?" "Why would I repent for something that I know I'll be back here "repenting" for tomorrow, or the next day?" Though I did repent every time; it became harder and harder to say the words, to ask for forgiveness, and resolve not to do this again. The last time I had repented the enemy said "hah...yeah right." I almost believed him.

The *revelation/victory* came when I was talking to my spiritual mentor about this. We read and discussed Romans 6:10-12 (KJV) focus on v12. "Let not sin therefore reign..." As you can see from my reference above, I

was already aware of this scripture. But I had never quite seen it like this...

I now see it as a DIRECTIVE (a command) from the all-knowing God of heaven and earth. HE is telling me to not let sin reign.

The truth of this directive came crashing down on me like a bolt of lightning; it struck as follows. (I have a 5 year old daughter named Kayla; whom I cherish.)

This is the graphic picture that was painted for me ... "There is a man that was lingering around the neighborhood watching you and your beautiful daughter go for walks, play in the yard, etc. He is fixated on her; and decides he has to have her. On night, he breaks into your house with all intents and purposes of violating your daughter. You awake during the break-in, you see it's him, you know he's been looking at your daughter, you know his intentions." Here is the meat of the revelation, "... would you tell him "stop, this is illegal; you're not supposed to be doing this; I have dominion, thus said the Lord, thou shalt not...?"

My mentor (in painting this gruesome picture) goes on to say, "Would it even cross your mind to try and negotiate with this irrational person? What is even the likelihood that he will live to see tomorrow? You wouldn't let him usurp authority (*reign*) over your daughter in this situation. You would kill him. It wouldn't matter if he was 6'10" 275 lbs and all muscle; he would not see tomorrow, would he?" Almost enraged, I replied, "**NO! Absolutely not!! He would be dead, not questions asked.**" Now granted it wouldn't be easy per se; but it would be done. Overcoming sin is not easy; but it is not optional once you determine to live for God. All that is left to do is to kill this thing. This spirit of sexual sin had been walking into my house with one in the chamber and giving me the gun, saying "put it to your head and pull the trigger." And I had been saying "...thou shalt not ... it is written ... and thus said the Lord," all while putting the

