

# Kingdom News

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

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## The Chief Cornerstone



### The Symbolism of Calvary

*The Cross as a Descriptive Expression of Sympathy*

We are taught, that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches<sup>(1)</sup>. In *eternity* past the name of God was known to stand for Honor, Glory, Terror and Sovereign Omnipotence. But in *time*, within the battle of the Kingdoms (Light vs. Darkness) the name of God has suffered great reproach. Why would a Terrible, Fearsome, Sovereign Ruler allow His name to be reproached? It's one thing to take a hit to your reputation when you can't control the circumstances; or the opinions of others. But it is quite another thing to endure such contradiction of sinners, when you are the Almighty. Webster<sup>(2)</sup> defines *reproach* this way, *to tell someone that they have done something wrong....* And in quoting Psalm<sup>(3)</sup> it is prophesied of Jesus; that ... the reproaches of them that reproached you (Israel) fell on Me.

Israel and the nations of the older dispensations knew of a God, that was a warring and a conquering God. A God Who told Israel that when they went into Canaan to kill/destroy everything. He was such a God who took vengeance upon His adversaries.

There is a sense in which Israel "feared" God; but they didn't love Him. They didn't know how. In their eyes, God was lofty (and perhaps in their estimation, He was somewhat aloof). They forbid themselves to call Him by name. They

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## The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

### Where Should I Put God?

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Growing up I was told that there is a question virtually every human being asks at some point in their lives. Do you know what this question is? Okay, I'll tell you. "What is the meaning of life?" That is the question many people want an answer to. And, it comes up at different times in our lives.

I can remember when I was approaching adolescence and it came to me. I began to wonder what family, friends, school, and church was all about. I tried to make sense out of the negative circumstances I had faced as a child, but with no success. I wondered what my future would hold, but had no clue.

Then, as I continued to grow and mature, the question came up again when I was a young adult. By that time I had undergone abortions and suicide attempts. I felt unloved and confused. And I mused at the concept of a loving God who would allow me to experience so much pain. I went on to get married and divorced. I accrued debt and lost everything I owned twice. Yeah, the whole God theory was causing me quite a bit of mental and emotional anguish.

Now, you may wonder why I call myself a mature Christian today with a past like this. Well, I'll tell you. I finally discovered what the real "life" question was. You will recall I said I was told that the universal question was, "What is the meaning of life?" Interestingly enough, I found out that this was the wrong question. Imagine that all of my life I'd been pondering the *wrong* question!

Again, I'm sure you are wondering what the "question" has to do with my life...go with me. In science (both physical and physiological), all research must start with a question. Researchers call the question a "hypothesis." This is what the research team hopes to answer as a result of their experimental tests. But catch this. It's all about answering a question. Many of the inventions we have today (i.e. cars, televisions, cell phones, electricity, eye glasses, Lasik

The Leadership Corner

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# Son of My Wisdom



## From Root to Fruit – Part 1

### *How Does This Thing Work?*

All scriptures paraphrased from the KJV

Let's dive right into the subject of the "machinery of sin," or in other words the "mechanism of sin." Following that, this series will bring us to consider some alternatives. How is it that we move from the root of sin, to the fruit of sin, and what should we do instead? The Word, in James 1:14-15, has described sin as a process. The Lord has revealed the process of sin as the following: "...every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived it brings forth sin; and sin, when it is finished brings forth death."

Let us then note the points of reference for this discourse:

1. Lust/Desire - these words are synonymous, I will use "desire"
2. Enticed – I understand this to mean 'brought to consider'
3. Conceived – we will be using this in the vein of "to conceive, to conceptualize, to form a concept of"
4. Sin – to separate one's self from God; to use means that separate oneself from God.
5. Death – The end of sin; the consummation of separation from God, or any subset of that consummation.

Our case study on this is from Genesis 3:6-7. You will of course see its relation to the September 2009 article *Knowledge of Good and Evil III*.

Gen 3:6-7 "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for **food**, and that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree to be desired to make one **wise**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened..."



## A Journey to Intimacy

*Tick, Tock, Tick, Tock*

### The Journey Continues – The Gift of "Time"

In the beginning was the Word (Logos, Reason, Purpose), and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... in Him was life and the life was the light of men ... that was the true Light which lights every man that comes into the world<sup>(1)</sup>.

I'd like to share a very amazing discovery. You may have already known this, but this almost toppled me when the Lord revealed it to me. While studying the first chapter of the book of St. John (when I reached verse four ... in Him was life ...) I assumed that the term "life" in this instance meant Eternal Life. I was so excited, because Jesus Christ is, to us, Eternal Life. And so I had always "read" this scripture, in this manner "In Him was Life (Eternal Life), and this Life was the light of man. Now, there is a sense in which, this is a true understanding of this verse.

In Jesus Christ is Eternal Life; better still, He is Himself Eternal Life. And Eternal Life is the light of men. It is through Eternal Life (abiding in us, through the Spirit of God) that we may know "all things transcendent." Without this Eternal Life, we are confined to a temporal, material existence. With an understanding that is devoid of an infusion of the transcendent. We are resigned to interact with our world, according to the knowledge of good and evil; as introduced to us by our senses.

I felt the finger of God pushing me in my back. He said, "Research the word "life" in this verse;" which I thought a peculiar directive (I already knew what it meant ... didn't I? Or did I?), but of course I obeyed (pray for me, I'm still learning how to obey Him).

The Greek<sup>(2)</sup> origin of this use of the term "life," in verse four is Zoë, which according to one source can be interpreted life (time); or respects the time-bound element of life. Other Greek origins of the term life are pneuma and psuche, etc.

## Precepts in Practice



### Make Me Do It!

Have you ever wanted to change a habit, but couldn't? We've all been there and some of us are at this place right now. We usually have (or develop) habits that work against the goals we've set for our lives. These habits could involve overeating, cursing at people, unchecked anger, procrastination, fear, alcohol abuse, self pity, gambling, smoking, or any number of other things. It's amazing because many times we don't even know these things are habits until we try to quit. It is at that time when we realize the issue may be greater than what we initially thought. We find we are dealing with a type of bondage.

It may have been interesting to see some of the items I've included as habits. Usually we don't think of fear or self pity as a habit. Well, if it's something we engage in frequently it would be appropriately classified as a habit. For example, I have a habit of going to sleep at night. I also have a habit of eating when I'm hungry (and sometimes when I'm tired). You may share some of these habits. They are things we do as part of our routine.

It is interesting to note that our lifestyles are made up of habits. And, habits in and of themselves are not bad. In fact, we were created to live by habits. Our brains store information and use it to help us. Habits give us a sense of normalcy. Habits also take some of the stress out of "living." Behavior psychologists will tell you that humans need routine. Without some sort of common or repeated activity our minds would go into shock. Humans need mental structure to some degree. Not all people want the same amount or type of structure, but we all need a basic level of common practices in our lives. Wouldn't you agree?

So, if it's true that we, as humans, need habits, why do we determine we need or want to break or change habits? If habits are what we live by, why wouldn't we allow ourselves to just keep all of the habits our minds create? Maybe it's because some habits don't move us in the direction we want our lives to go in. For example, if one of my goals is to become an elementary school teacher, but I have a habit of getting

Precepts in Practice

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## Love and The Truth



### The Great Why - Part 1

Scriptures paraphrased from the KJV.

This article will be dealing with what I believe is "The Great Why?" of the Christian. I think every Christian, who really wrestles with Jer. 17:9, and comes to embrace it, will eventually ask "the great why?" Well let's see what this scripture says, and what we might ask regarding it. Then let us see how our Father reveals Himself.

*Jer. 17:9 says, The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*  
Lord God, this is Your Word. Were it just the words of man, we may have had to study psychology, ethics, economics, politics, journalism, and the likes to even begin to determine if this were true. But because it is Your Word, we know this to be as true as the fact that we ourselves exist. Then we also have the witness of our own hearts as it lifts Self above all else either in ways that appear dishonorable, or in ways that seem noble. We know that the Word of God is Truth and that our world, our country, and our very own hearts testify to this, whether it be presently a part of our knowledge or not. Everything in our lives point to the truth of God and the truth of what God has said. In Jeremiah, we see that the heart of man is wicked; but then we see another thing in John 3:16. We see that, "...God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish; but have everlasting life"

**"The Great Why?" is this:** Lord if every heart, since the fall of Adam fits the description in Jer. 17:9; then "Why?" would You send Your Son? Why have You so loved us that You came to die for us? We have continually disobeyed, continually disregarded You. You would have been wholly righteous had You simply destroyed us. You owe us nothing; we owe to You our very existence. Why did You come as a man, suffer as a man, and then die as a man at the hands of angry men, to save mankind? Thank God HE ROSE! What value was there in salvaging this wreck of a species?

Sometimes it's easier to see forward, if we take a look back. Let's see where all of this started. "And God said

Love and The Truth

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could not approach Him, except as circumscribed by the law. In the old covenant, there was much talk of God loving Israel and that Israel ought to love their fellowman. But not much talk of Israel returning God's love. They thought that God was not "like" them; "He didn't understand them. He was Holy, they were not. How could He identify with them?" they must have wondered.

But then there came a Man<sup>(4)</sup> ... and a cross. What does the cross of Christ symbolize? And what of the nature of God does the cross of Calvary reveal to us?

Have you read Psalm 69? Let's "reread" it. Here we see an amazing display of love and substitution, lifted from a prayer. I like to call this our Lord's Gethsemane cry. Here we see a God Who is simpatico, Who sympathizes with us.

May I read it to you? Psalm 69 ...

**[1] Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. [2] I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.**

Here we have the cry of our Lord in the garden of Gethsemane; en route to the judgment halls and on to Calvary. There is one state of water that implies *judgment*<sup>(5)</sup>, for example, the *waters* of Genesis 1:1 and the *waters* of Noah's day. There is another state of water that implies *tribulation*, as shown here.

**[3] I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.**

Two of the uses of the term *wait* are "to hope in" and to "trust." So here, when the man Jesus is saying that He is *waiting* for God, He does not intend to imply that "He was biding His time, while God comes up to speed with the situation." He is affirming His trust; that when He surrenders His spirit to the Father on Calvary, that the Father will raise Him up again, as promised. Manifesting Him as both "just" and the "justifier" of those who trust Him.

**[4] They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.**

Here our Lord is saying, my enemies are innumerable; but the cause of their animosity is yet, unsubstantiated<sup>(6)</sup>. Those who seek to destroy Me have the might of the judiciary in their favor, albeit they are mistaken in their accusations. Nonetheless, I conceded that which I did not owe. (He allowed Himself to be crucified in the manner of the accursed<sup>(7)</sup>; for the debt of another.) Jesus restored to us communion with the Father; that which He took not away.

**[5] O God, thou know my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.**

**Jesus:** Father, You know why I do and allow that which, would otherwise, seem foolish<sup>(8)</sup>. The sin that I now bear and that I have become; You know it, as we have purposed. This is what We planned.

**[6] Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel.**

**Jesus:** Father, please keep the hearts of those who trust Your promise of a Deliverer. They sincerely hope in You. Let them not be ashamed to the point where their faith fails them. This is the means by which We have, collectively, agreed to bring about deliverance. But they cannot see Our plan. As they look to You, Father, let not their hearts stumble over Me. Israel had hoped for a King, but they see in Me a servant. They are expecting conquest; but I am bringing mercy. Please let this not be to them an exceedingly great confusion.

**[7] Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face.**

**Jesus:** Father, because You love them (and I in You), have I come to bear this reproach. Their hearts will find it difficult to hope in Me, because of the shame that covers My face.

**[8] I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.**

**Jesus:** I am a stranger to the seed of Abraham, to Israel I am a foreigner, and not a Redeemer. Father, they don't understand it yet; but they will.

**[9] For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.**

**Jesus:** In Our Kingdom, Father, You are highly regarded in Your temple. Thus My passion and fervent zeal<sup>(9)</sup> that Your earthly temple be regarded as a house of prayer, has consumed Me. It is of great concern for Me that You are least esteemed in Your own house, here. And those here, who reproach and convict You, have become a burden to Me.

**[10] When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. [11] I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them.**

**Jesus:** Father, even My humility (weeping, chastening and fasting) was reckoned by them as a reproach. They surmise, that most certainly I am guilty of Your dishonor. My continual submissions and sacrifices were even, to them, a

scourge or proverb. They do not understand My assignment; they do not understand Our Agreement.

**[12] They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.**

**Jesus:** The leaders, as they sit in their places of authority and power, profane My name. They have so spoken against Me, that even the outcasts of the community sing songs of folly concerning Me. They cannot see Your hand in this, Father. They are yet unaware of the way that I take; that when You have tried Me, Father, I shall come forth as pure gold. My foot has held Your steps, Your way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of Your lips; I have esteemed the words of Your mouth more than My necessary food<sup>(10)</sup>. This they cannot see; this they do not know.

**[13] But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.**

**Jesus:** Father, not only is my prayer directed to Your ears; but my petition is birth out of Your very own heart. It is acceptable to You, because it is begotten by You. Hear my cry, and see that My petition is consistent with the truth of Your plan of salvation.

And so it goes on through verse 21. We've glimpsed our Lord's cry in the garden of Gethsemane. We see a bit of the anguish and suffering Our Lord undertook on our behalf.

Sometimes we look at Calvary solely as a gift of great love to us and for us. And it is that, secondarily. However, primarily, the cross of Calvary was a gift from the Son to the Father. The penalty of our sin was owed to the Law-Giver; not to the perpetrators (us) nor to the Adversary. Before it could be a gift from God to man; it had *first* to be a ransom from God (Son) to God (Father). Once the purchased possession was restored to a right standing with the Father, after that He had reconciled us to Himself<sup>(11)</sup>; then Calvary could be regarded as a gift to us, and for us.

The symbolism of the cross was an awesome showing of the immense humility and condescension; as well as the enormous expense that the Great and Terrible God of the Tanakh (the old covenant) was willing both to endure, and to pay on our behalf.

Scarcely for a righteous man will one give his life, forget about someone dying for a sinner<sup>(12)</sup>. And this is exactly what the Lord did on our behalf. Often people look at the atrocities of the Old Testament and draw from those events that the God of the Bible must be terrible and implacable. But ones who cling to such an image of God, fast forget the God of Calvary. Who, though grand and august, humbled Himself. Who sacrificed His Eternal image to scrutiny and

scorn, to pay a debt that He didn't owe; and a debt we couldn't pay. Do you not know that every time we willing engage in acts of disobedience, it is tantamount to crucifying Christ all over again, putting Him to an open shame?<sup>(13)</sup> It is to say that the blood of Calvary, while sufficient to deliver us from the *penalty* of sin; was not sufficient to deliver us from the *power* of sin.

I ask you, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?<sup>(14)</sup>

This ought to prompt one to ask himself or herself, what shall I render unto the Lord for all of His benefits to me?<sup>(15)</sup>

**Scripture References** - King James Version (KJV)

- <sup>(1)</sup> Prov. 22:1
- <sup>(2)</sup> The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary of the English Language – Deluxe Encyclopedic Edition 1990 Lexicon Publications, Inc.
- <sup>(3)</sup> Ps. 69:9
- <sup>(4)</sup> John 1:14
- <sup>(5)</sup> Amos 5:24
- <sup>(6)</sup> John 18:23
- <sup>(7)</sup> Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13
- <sup>(8)</sup> 1 Cor. 1:18
- <sup>(9)</sup> The New Lexicon Webster's Dictionary of the English Language – Deluxe Encyclopedic Edition 1990 Lexicon Publications, Inc.
- <sup>(10)</sup> Job 23:10-12
- <sup>(11)</sup> 2 Cor. 5:18-19
- <sup>(12)</sup> Rom. 5:7-8
- <sup>(13)</sup> Heb. 6:6
- <sup>(14)</sup> Heb. 2:3
- <sup>(15)</sup> Psalm 116:12-13

**CHALCEDONY**

④:①⑦    ④:①⑦    ④:①⑦    ④:①⑦    ④:①⑦

Therefore to him that knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin.

(James 4:17 KJV paraphrased)

④:①⑦    ④:①⑦    ④:①⑦    ④:①⑦    ④:①⑦

surgery, washers & dryers, various medicines, toilets, etc.) all started with questions. “How do we do this?” Or, “what would happen if we do that?” These are the types of questions that brought society to where we are today (for better or for worse).

Scientists and researchers understand that if they start with the wrong question, it will lead them to outcomes or inventions that are not what they expected. Some of the outcomes are great, while others are disappointing. Therefore, they have learned that once they determine they are not getting the information or results they intended, they have to go back and refine the original question that started the project.

So, let’s get back to my personal story. I experienced a lot of pain growing up. Some of it was due to the decisions I made, while some was imposed upon me without my consent. But, what I’ve learned is that my life could have been different, and more importantly, my future can be brighter because I now know what the *right* question is.

The question I learned to ask was, “Where should I put God?” It’s really not about whether or not God exists. Many scientists and even atheists now admit that there is “something” greater than humanity, even if it’s the theory of the “big bang” or “evolution.” Furthermore, Psalms 19:1-4 (KJV) tells us that the heavens declare God’s glory (existence, power, and majesty). It says there is no place on earth where the voice of the heavens does not speak (or shout) of God’s glory.

This tells us that God’s existence is really not the question. Nor is the question about life’s meaning. Rather, the most important question we need to focus on as humans is; “Where should we *put* God?” He exists and we exist. So, as it relates to how we want to live our lives, where should God be in our realm of existence? Or, better yet, where should we put ourselves in relation to God? Either way, the question should focus on more on “relationship” not so much on “meaning.”

Let me give you a more practical example of this issue. I have a job that I go to each week day. Every morning I go into my garage where my car is parked. In the garage is my car, my lunchbox and work bag on one of my shoulders, my purse on my other shoulder, and me. All of these elements are in my garage every morning at about 6:15am (not to mention my washer and dryer, lawnmower, and other things that really have nothing to do with our story for now, so we won’t focus on those items in this article).

There is no question that my car exists. There is also no question that my purse, lunchbox, and workbag exist. Finally, there is no question that I exist. And, I am not at all concerned about what all of these items mean. What I have to determine is where these items go. They are all here; they just need to be organized so I can get to work.

Therefore, I place my purse, lunchbox, and workbag in the back seat of the car. Then, I place myself in the front, driver’s seat of the vehicle. Now that everything is in its proper place, I proceed to go to work.

That example sounds simple enough, but what if I spent my mornings trying to gain a better understanding of what this “every morning garage scenario” meant? I would never make it to work. I, therefore, would cease to get a paycheck from my employer. And as a result, I would lose my house (to which the garage is attached, by the way).

This is what was happening in my adolescent and young adult life. I spent my time trying to answer the wrong question. As a result, I lost a lot of time & energy, and made choices that were not in my best interest in terms of living a fulfilled life.

On the other hand, once I discovered, by the grace of God, what the right question was and what I truly should focus on, my life began to take a turn for the better. I determined that I needed to understand and effectively engage in a relationship between God and me. While doing this, I learned that God is more powerful than I am. He also created me to be in fellowship with Him. And, He promised to always direct my path if I would submit to His plan, and follow His instructions.

I’ve got to tell you that it was not easy, at first, but I was determined to get this relationship thing right. So, I began to focus on God through His word and His Spirit (that I discovered would live inside of me, upon my request for Him to do so – pretty easy). Then, I began to set aside time each morning (before I got to the garage) to meet with God and listen to Him give me instructions for my day. Man-o-man, it’s been great!

Now, as I go through my day, God speaks to me. He literally tells me (some days) what to wear to work. He may tell me to take a different route to work. While I’m going through my day, He guides my decisions and my footsteps. Often (truly often), He will change my plans for the day. And, guess what? It always works out for good. And, if you are wondering, He always meets (actually exceeds) all of my needs. He’s just good like that.

This type of lifestyle came from me discovering what the right question was that I should be focusing on. “Where should I put God?” I found out the answer. I should put Him in the driver’s seat of my heart and my life. When God drives, all I have to do is enjoy the ride. Even when it gets bumpy, I have my seatbelt on (my focus is on God and His plan – not my plans) and the rough spots don’t seem so rough. And, once we’ve passed them, I discover I’ve grown in ways I couldn’t have imagined.

My encouragement to you is to start asking the *right* question. “Where should YOU put God?” ~LLI~

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So then, the enemy had a conversation with Eve in order to appeal to her desires (food/sustenance, beauty, and wisdom.)

Question: Were these desires good, or bad? Remember now, that at this point in the conversation human nature had not yet fallen. She was wholly a product of the creative act of God. These desires, these lusts then, must have been good. So first she is drawn away of her desires. Next... she is enticed, or brought to consider these desires. No problem here; for at this point, according to James 1:14, she has only been tempted. Until now we have seen two events that are wholly acceptable in the eyes of God. That we have passions, appetites or desires is acceptable. For someone to try and tempt us may not be pleasant, but is not itself a crime. What comes next is where we see the potential for problem.

When lust hath *conceived* (or yielded its fruit) it brings forth sin. Is this where Lucifer worked? Indeed, the enemy had convinced Eve of a wrong CONCEPT regarding her desires. Yes, this is where sin is birth. We may either have a wrong concept of what means are appropriate to satisfy our desires. Or we have a wrong concept of what our desires, themselves, are. Of course, a wrong concept of what our desires are will also yield a wrong concept of the means needed to satiate these desires. So we see then, that one way or the other, we have wrongly conceived something about our God-given desires.

I stress 'God-given' because we shall explore, in subsequent articles, what are some of our passions or desires; what those desires really express; and how we are to rightly satisfy them in Him. Of course if our desires are being wrongly fulfilled; it is because we have chosen a way that separates us from God. This is sin. Once sin is finished; it brings forth death. Death is the fruit of sin. So we have moved from the root of sin, which is at the concept stage; to the fruit of sin, which is death. We see that sin is a wrong means for fulfilling a right desire. This wrong means is based on a wrong concept

regarding that desire. These things in place, we now see, with new light, the words of Paul: “be transformed by the renewing of your minds,” in Rom 12:2.

If we sum up this article in light of that scripture; it goes something like this: “Be ye transformed by the renewing of the **CONCEPTS** of your mind.” God has said that the same place where we began to go wrong, which is in our minds, our concepts, is the same place where we need to begin to right ourselves. -DVD-

David L. White

## CHRYSOPRASUS



Now unto Him ...

(Ephesians 3:20; Jude 1:24 KJV)



Journey to Intimacy

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What's that you say? You have a few questions?

Q1) Does it really matter which *life* we're talking about, isn't all *life* the same?

Q2) What is “*time*” really?

Q3) How do we then get *from* the concept of a time-bound life *to* time being a gift?

As always, I'm glad you asked. You guys are simply wonderful, you always ask just the right questions and at the right times too.

Q1) Does it really matter which type *life* we're talking about, isn't all *life* the same?

A1) “True Life” is God; expressed to us in the person of Jesus Christ. All other iterations of life (if they are true) are one of many expressions of Jesus Christ. So there is a sense in which all true life is of the same Source. However, there is another sense in which we do not simply live life at its source. We live (and experience) life through its manifold expressions. Or we could say that

we live life at the “finger tips.” There is a life of the cosmos, there is a life of the bios, there is a life of the body; there is a life of the soul; and there is a life of the spirit. One reason these types of life are distinguished, is because they each enable us to experience different expressions of God, as He reveals Himself to us.

- Through the life of the *body* we are able to experience God through the senses (hearing, taste, touch, smell, and sight).
- Through the life of the *soul* we are able to experience God in a more transcendent form (mind, will, emotions; thoughts, choices, passions).
- And through the life of the *spirit* we are able to experience God in the most transcendent form (intuition, communion, conscience). Here, we are able to become like Him; we are able to enter into the most intimate embrace that can be experienced within the realm of time. We are able to be transformed in to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

## Q2) What is “time” really?

A2) It can be said that *time* is a physical dimension that has the characteristic of a continuum with, as we understand it, a limited overall duration. Some of its qualities are those of progressiveness and finitude. According to one of Webster’s dictionaries; *time*<sup>(3)</sup> is a period or duration available for certain action to take place. This particular definition will prove very useful here. The Lord has circumscribed within eternity a region or dimension He called *time*. This thing called *time* has very specific parameters as ascribed by the Creator, not the least of which is a Beginning and an Ending. The Lord has deemed it wise, for His purposes, to create man within this spectrum of *time*. He has also designated time slots, with purpose. Wait, I’m not good at this. Now is certainly not the time to “reinvent the wheel.” So here, the writer of Ecclesiastes<sup>(4)</sup> says it better, “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Allow me to rephrase this portion of the verse “a time to every purpose under the heaven” as “a time in which God will reveal a portion of His Divine, Eternal purpose within the realm of the temporal.”

In varying degrees each of our lives has been assigned, all of the following transactions/effects:

Birth/death  
Sowing/reaping  
Killing/healing  
Destruction/repair  
Tears/laughter  
Mourning/dancing  
Dispersion/gathering  
Embrace/refrain from embrace  
Get/lose  
Keep/dispose  
Rending/sewing  
Silence/speaking  
Love/hate  
War/peace

Said otherwise, there is a time/season in each life for us to experience each of these events. Sometimes these events overlap, and may even occur simultaneously in the same series of transactions. But occur, they must.

I’ll take license here, and say that there is not one slot of time (season) that does not have an assigned purpose, not one. Just as there is no time gap between Summer and Fall. And that I readily assume from the efficient nature of the Creator. Now please do not misinterpret me as saying that every second of time is, by Sovereignty, “hard-coded” with a specific purpose; to the extent that man is not free to make choices to the contrary. Certainly, a farmer may choose to till his ground and plant his seeds in the heat of the summer. That is his choice. But his choice does not change the seasons or times. The seasons/times will still behave according to the ordinances of the Creator. But what we choose to do within those times/seasons is up to each of us.

## Q3) How do we then get *from* the concept of a time-bound life *to* time being a gift?

A3) Within each of life’s time slots, God has ordained a particular revelation of Himself. In the life of Jesus Christ we see how He enjoyed or endured each of these seasons, deferring to the wisdom of the Father in their various assignments. During our time of death and mourning we may learn that God sympathizes with our pain. Have you *loss* a

child? God knows the pains of such a *loss*. God showed to us in the book Job<sup>(5)</sup> what He, Himself, experienced with us in Genesis. When Adam ate of the forbidden fruit; in one blow “God loss” all of His children through Adam’s disobedience. Trust, He understands. Have you been *betrayed*? He knows the anguish of the betrayal of a nation. He will draw us near in an amazing embrace, if we will seek Him and submit, during these seasons. If we will but run to Him. He bids us “come to Me all who labor under a heavy burden<sup>(6)</sup>. I sympathize with you. I want to show you how to rest, in these times.”

If you will allow me to reconstruct John 1:4 (KJV), it would read something like this:

Original: In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

Reconstructed: In the man Jesus Christ was a time-bound life; and this time-bound life was a means by which all men might come to the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ<sup>(7)</sup>.

Sometimes we fancy ourselves to be exempt from living a life of holiness, because after all “we’re not Jesus.” As if time and humanity were to blame for our lack of conformance. Quite the contrary, time is not a deterrent to us walking out our call to obedience; it is actually a gift and an ally to us doing this very thing. The incarnation of Jesus Christ is an example of the Eternal One becoming subject to time. Within the measure of years allotted to Him, by the Father, He fulfilled His calling to open the door of salvation to mankind. Within in the constraints of time, He taught us how to use the gift of time in all of its nuances to come to know God. The times of death that we experience; as well as the times of life are perfectly suited to draw us to embrace the wisdom of God for our lives, and its various transactions. They offer us an opportunity to see what God tells us about Himself, during each of these seasons.

Time is, in a very real sense, an instrument by which we are to measure progress. “What progress?” you ask; the progressive degrees by which we come to know the True and Living God. The whole of creation is, in a sense, God’s expression of the intent that we should come to know Him through Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

How are you coming along, in that regard? <>KJV<>

**Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)**

- (1) St. John 1:1, 4, 9
- (2) Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D 1986 World Bible Publishers
- (3) The New Lexicon Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language – Deluxe Encyclopedic Edition 1990 Lexicon Publications, Inc.
- (4) Eccl. 3:1-8
- (5) Job 1:18-19
- (6) Matt. 11:28
- (7) 2 Cor. 4:6

**GLASS**



For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ... I consent to the law that it is good.

I’m the problem.

(Romans 7:14-16 KJV *adapted*)



irritated when people ask me questions, this would no doubt hinder my career goal. Surely an elementary school teacher needs to be open to questions from her students. I’m not sure about your experience, but all of the children I know ask a bunch of questions.

So, we can see that although it is totally natural for our minds to form habits, it is our responsibility to determine which behaviors should remain habits and which behaviors we want to remove from the habit mode in our minds. This takes us back to my original question. Have you ever wanted to change a habit, but couldn’t? For most people (everyone I know – including me) the answer is “yes.” It’s difficult to change habits because our minds are wired to create habits. It actually makes life easier. It’s like our minds program behaviors into our memories so we don’t have to totally rethink what to do each day.

It would be a major issue if we had to decide daily where to go after work. So, instead of having to do this, our minds “save” our behavior choices in memory. This collection of behavior choices become habits which make up our individual lifestyles. This way, I already know that when I leave work, I go

home unless I have an appointment to do something different (and even then, if I'm not concentrating I might still drive myself home based on this habit – I'm sure I'm not the only person this has happened to). Once again, this habit of going home makes my life easier in general.

So, now I've identified a habit that I want to change: the issue of getting irritated when people ask me questions. How can I be successful with this endeavor if I am essentially going against the way I am naturally wired (or created)? This is a very good question.

While running the risk of having you get angry with me, I need to let you know that we will continue this discussion in next couple of editions, in order to do justice to the topic. I will tell you this. God created our minds to save and store behavior choices. He has also created a computer "over ride" (if you will) that we can use to make the changes we need to in order to live the lives He intends for us.

So, I'll leave you with this scripture. Philippians 2:13 (KJV) that says, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." There is a way for people, especially Christians to change, break, and undo habits that do not serve the purpose of God in our lives. Often, however, we as Christians are not aware of this provision or we have not been trained to use it effectively. Well, that issue is about to come to an end.

Stay tuned, in the next edition we will go a little deeper. ~PIP~

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

*let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have dominion...*" (Gen. 1:26) First we have the commandment "let Us." This is the three persons of God creating man in a way that we don't see God create a-n-y-t-h-i-n-g else. Well, what does this "let Us" hint at, or give us a clue about? It is an expression of communion. When I say communion, I'm not talking crackers and wine. I'm speaking of the underlying reality that the crackers and wine symbolize. Communion is eye-opening, heart-melting, world-changing, indescribable, loving, warm, glorious...RELATIONSHIP. We see here an expression, a hint, in Gen 1:26, first of the nature of God as having more than one person; and second that those person's are in communion with one another. The very nature of God is tri-personal (or Triune), and the three are in eternal, loving, consuming relationship. The very nature of God's being is RELATIONSHIP. Please ... please do not confuse any of this language as speaking of this RELATIONSHIP as purely "sexual" in its inference. It's sad that people almost never use any of these words to describe an intimacy other than that of the sexual type. But now we can see in the very nature of God, the Ultimate Purpose for which He created man... RELATIONSHIP.

Absent an understanding of God's Ultimate Purpose; there's no way to define what was necessary (or even acceptable for that matter) in order to redeem man.

But now that we know what God's Ultimate Purpose is for creating us; we can also see why He gave so much (and sacrificed so much), in order to accomplish that purpose. If ever there was purpose worthy of such an investment, it is broad, encompassing, intimate, life-giving, consummate RELATIONSHIP. Don't let this slip past you. Herein we actually see the purpose for which God made man. It answers the proverbial question, "What is the meaning of life." There are plenty things in the Christian faith that people will never understand in terms of morality, or even righteousness; but if the purpose is RELATIONSHIP we can better grasp so many other subsidiary "Why's."

The Trinity has existed for all eternity, each person (Father, Word, Holy Spirit) expressing themselves in infinite ways toward each of the others, in perfect, harmonious, boundless communion ... abundant communion. I'll take a bit of creative license here for a moment.

*This relationship is so boundless, so perfect, so wondrous, and so glorious that someone else just has*

### SILVER



- The law of the Lord is ...
- The testimony of the Lord is ...
- The statutes of the Lord are ...
- The commandment of the Lord is ...
- The fear of the Lord is ...
- The judgments of the Lord are ...
- That the servant of the Lord may be ....

(Psalm 19:7-9; 2 Tim. 3:17 KJV)



to experience this. Someone else has to experience this eternal, abundantly fulfilling, interpersonal, giving, loving relationship. Therefore let Us create others to partake in this boundless abundance of boundless abundance. Notice that God did not create man as a result of lack in RELATIONSHIP; but as a result of abundance of RELATIONSHIP. Have you ever had something so good, you had to share it? God has too, that's why you're here.

So we have seen in attempting to answer "The Great Why," the purpose for which God has created man, RELATIONSHIP. Come back and spend some time with us. Later in this series, we will explore how *image, likeness, and dominion* all roll into RELATIONSHIP. We will see how they were all necessary for the type of RELATIONSHIP God has in mind. Trust me you will NOT want to miss this. Until then, continue to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. God's does not ultimately want us to just be good, or righteous, or separate. All of those things that God is directing us to do/be are either means to RELATIONSHIP, or expressions of RELATIONSHIP. -LATT-

David L. White



## Boot Camp Riches



This is part 2 of a 7-part series on Revelation 5:12.

In last month's edition (September 2009); the Lord showed us how we give our POWER to the Lamb of God. This month He'll show us how we give our RICHES to the Lamb, Who is Worthy.

The purpose of boot camp is to fit us as workers and warriors, in life's battles that we undertake on a daily basis. Whether by air, or by land or by sea; we all have an obligation, to study to show ourselves approved as a warrior who will not bring shame and embarrassment to the regimen to which we've each been assigned.

This series grew out of an article in the August 2009 edition. Here is an excerpt from that article:

### The Journey Continues - Process of Reciprocity

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). I asked the Father, "From whom does the Lamb receive these gifts?"

Of course the man Jesus Christ receives these from the Father in the receipt of His kingdom (Matt. 25:31; Luke 22:29-30 KJV reference). This part I understood. But the Father said that the Lamb also receives these things from us, His servants (Rev. 21:26 KJV reference). By this I was a bit puzzled. I said, Father "from where do we (servants) get POWER and WISDOM and HONOR and GLORY to give to the Lamb?"

This month the Father, will share with us specific details of how we receive RICHES and how we offer them to the Lamb of God. That being said, let's look at this month's exercise routine.

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

- What are RICHES?
- How do we offer RICHES to the Lamb of God?

Perhaps you've either seen or experienced this situation. An adult is holding, or otherwise interacting with a young child. The adult gives the child a piece of food. The adult then says to the child, "may I have some?" This is a peculiar ritual, isn't it? For the adult, one may say, if you wanted "some" you should have kept it for yourself, in the first place. But I think we all understand that the objective of this lesson is, essentially, to teach the child to share.

This is very similar to the lessons our Father undertakes to teach us. He gives us RICHES, and asks us to share them; first with Himself, then with others. One way we share our RICHES with God, is when we support various ministries. Remember, God is always first. We are then taught to give to others.

In the Old Testament, Israel, pretty much, lived in an agrarian (or agricultural) economy. I used to ponder the differences between their economy and ours; one day, I asked the Lord. I don't think I'll ever forget

what He said. His response was that, “they *had* to depend on Me for their sustenance and survival; (*there is a real sense in which*) you do not.” Seed time and harvest required the grace and favor of God. Refrigerators, pantries and processed food stuffs don’t (in the same sense) require the grace and favor of God. If Israel disobeyed God, He could send locusts into their fields; or withhold rain. They could know very quickly that Daddy was not happy with them. With our deep freezers and cellars, we could dishonor God today, and eat for another ten years, without the slightest inclination that we’ve fallen into the hands of an angry God. Okay, that may be a bit of a stretch, but you get the point.

While I do not advocate that we beat our forks and knives into pruning hooks, there is certainly something to be said for living a life that’s close to God; one that depends on Him for everything.

If we give to our neighbor with our left hand what we receive from God with our right hand; we’d be constantly making demands on the wealth of the Kingdom to supply our daily need. Imagine that, drawing daily life and sustenance directly from the treasury of the Kingdom. In the “Lord’s Prayer” (KJV) there is a clause that reads ... give us this day our daily bread<sup>(3)</sup> ...” While there are definitely broad spiritual implications to this directive, might there also be a more specific temporal hint? That we are to live a life that constantly looks to and leans on God for our survival and substance. A life that’s lived this close to God is a life that requires one to cultivate a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man<sup>(4)</sup>.

Who knows, this may be the reason why we, as a society, have continued to develop means that preclude our dependence on God.

I’m sorry ... where were we? Oh!!!

... a couple of points that will help us frame an understanding of the topic.

- **What are RICHES?**
- **How do we offer RICHES to the Lamb of God?**

**What are RICHES?**

RICHES are *wealth* or *abundance*<sup>(5)</sup>.

Interesting, huh? It gets better, *wealth* is defined as having an abundance of worldly possessions<sup>(5)</sup>. And *abundance* is defined as plenty<sup>(5)</sup>.

There is a sense in which *wealth* implies value as ascribed by a particular society. In some societies, land is a symbol of wealth. In other societies precious minerals (gold) may be considered a symbol of wealth. In still other societies, a large number of wives may be considered a symbol of wealth. I take it by now, that you know I’m not referring to the U.S. In the U.S. a large number of wives could be considered a symbol of poverty; especially if they have good attorneys. My apologies, that’s not the point I’m trying to make here, please excuse my divergence.

While wealth implies “attributed” value; abundance implies volume or capacity. One is a *quality* estimation the other a *quantity* assessment. Why does this matter? Because sometimes we may have an abundance of something, but because we do not ascribe to it any real value, we do not see where we are RICH. There are seasons when we may have plenty of *time* on our hands. We may have *knowledge* or *wisdom* to share. We may have *health, skills, abilities* or *possessions*, etc. There is a sense in which all of these things are RICHES; and we may have more of them than is necessary to meet our own personal needs.

**How do we offer RICHES to the Lamb of God?**

Whatever we have that is more than we presently need, we have a degree of wealth or RICHES. Think of the lower levels of Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs: basic nutrition, shelter and security. Let’s be careful that our hearts don’t rush to defend our current position and end up defending our want for an over-abundance of stuff. Please also do not misunderstand me to be saying that as Christians we are to live in rank poverty, this is not what is being said. But we are to make a *true* assessment of our *real* needs, and with the resources available to us, we are to provide for them. And in like manner we are to make an equally *true* assessment of our neighbor’s *real* needs and with the resources

available to us, we are also to provide for them as well<sup>(6)</sup>.

It is also important that we understand that one of the purposes of sharing RICHES is to establish “community and communion.” Further, recognize that community and communion create situations that invoke a Kingdom principle. “For where two or three are in gathered together in My name, I AM there<sup>(7)</sup> ...” Prescriptively, “community and communion” is what was (and still is) shared within the Godhead, prior to the creation of man<sup>(8)</sup>.

The scriptures teach that the poor we will have with us always<sup>(9)</sup>. In this case one is not poor, simply because they cannot make their next BMW payment. Essentially the term “poor” implies one who is not able to provide for their basic needs. We are then taught that if we have this world’s goods and see our brother in need and shut up our heart of compassion, one has to question the degree to which the love of God actually dwells in our hearts<sup>(10)</sup>.

There is a real sense in which we cannot “give” anything to God, for all things were made by Him. But He says, I’ll make a deal with you, if you have compassion on the poor, I’ll consider that a loan. Essentially you would be lending to the Lord<sup>(11)</sup>. But if you give to the poor, with the expressed purpose that God will return it to you; do yourself a favor; keep it. However, if you give to the poor, intending to honor God; or because it is what you’d appreciate someone doing for you, if you were placed in the exact same situation, this is quite another thing. For we are taught to do to others as we would appreciate having others do on our behalf<sup>(12)</sup>. And we thus invoke other Kingdom principles.

In summary, RICHES are intended to be shared; that we may establish community and communion within the family of man. In so doing, we honor God and invite Him into the transaction. Thus we give to the Lamb ... POWER and RICHES and .... Next month, we’ll talk about WISDOM.

Meanwhile, invite God into your life through sharing your wealth.

**Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)**

- (1) Matt 6:19
- (2) Matt. 19:16-22
- (3) Matt 6:11
- (4) Acts 24:16
- (5) The New Lexicon Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language – Deluxe Encyclopedic Edition 1990 Lexicon Publications, Inc.
- (6) 1 Cor. 10:24
- (7) Matt. 18:20
- (8) John 17:5, 24
- (9) Mark 14:7a
- (10) 1 John 3:17
- (11) Prov. 19:17
- (12) Matt. 7:12

**Are You Sure?**

If you are not certain of your standing with Jesus Christ, I’d admonish you to consider a few things:

- 1) Every man has an appointment with death; after that the Judgment. (Heb. 9:27 KJV) Because He has appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness... (Acts 17:31 KJV)
- 2) We are required to love the Lord with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength ... and our neighbor as our self. (Matt. 22:37-40 KJV)
- 3) Every one of us will give an account of himself to God. (Rom 14:12 KJV) God will judge every man according to his deeds. (Rom. 2:6 KJV)
- 4) All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23 KJV)
- 5) God commands all men everywhere to repent. (Acts 17:30 KJV)
- 6) Jesus Christ has come that we might have abundant life. (John 10:10 KJV) And to save us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess 1:10 KJV)
- 7) For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, whoever believes on Him shall have everlasting life. (John 3:16 KJV)
- 8) Repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be forgiven. (Acts 3:19 KJV)

**Be Sure**

## ❧ SUMMARY ❧

### The Chief Cornerstone



Often people look at the atrocities of the Old Testament and draw from those events that the God of the Bible must be terrible and implacable. But ones who cling to such an image of God, fast forget the God of Calvary.

### Son of My Wisdom



This is where sin is birth. We may either have a wrong concept of what means are appropriate to satisfy our desires. Or ...

### Precepts in Practice



There is a way for people, especially Christians to change, break, and undo habits that do not serve the purpose of God in our lives.

### Boot Camp



RICHES are intended to be shared; that we may establish community and communion within the family of man. In so doing, we honor God and invite Him into the transaction.

## ❧ SUMMARY ❧

### The Leadership Corner

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You will recall I said I was told that the universal question was, "What is the meaning of life?" Interestingly enough, I found out that this was the wrong question. Imagine that all of my life I'd been pondering the *wrong* question!

### Journey to Intimacy



Time is, in a very real sense, an instrument by which we are to measure progress. "What progress?" you ask; the progressive degrees by which we come to know the True and Living God.

### Love and the Truth



But now we can see in the very nature of God, the Ultimate Purpose for which He created man...  
RELATIONSHIP.

## *The Debut of Our New Website, Forthcoming*

As are the first steps of a toddler: exciting and unsure, but most certainly necessary. So too are our first steps with the debut of our new website. As long as we ensure that each step is one of obedience, we have this confidence that if we ask (or do) anything according to His Will, we have His nod of approval. And with that the blessing of the Kingdom.

We are preparing to distribute the web address during the month of October 2009, via email. If you're on the email distribution list, you will receive the web link. Otherwise it will be printed in the November edition of the newsletter.

We have electronic copies of the newsletter available for you upon request. 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](mailto:KingdomNewsletter@yahoo.com).

Enjoy them and feel free to share the newsletters at your leisure.