

# Kingdom News

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

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The New Year is upon us. On behalf of the staff at Kingdom News, we desire God's best for you in 2013. We are certain that you should have God's best by giving heed to the motto for 2013.

## *Motto for the year of 2013 (NEW)*

Come out from among them and be separated and I will receive you," says the Lord.  
Know you not that you are the temple of the Living God? Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.  
(2 Corinthians 6:16-17, 7:1 KJV Adapted)

## The Chief Cornerstone



### The 5 W's of Life (How?)

Let's cut to the chase, shall we?

It is said, that all good things must come to an end; and so it is with this series on *The 5 W's of Life*. We have contemplated the answers to the ultimate questions of *who, what, when, where why*. And now we will deal with the ultimate question of "How?"

- In July, we asked **What?!?** ... And the Lord answered, "God *IS*..." Or in His words, "*I AM*."
- In August, we asked **Who?!?** ... And the Lord said (essentially), "My turn, now I'll ask you a few questions. *Who* do you say that I AM? And *who* does your life say is its "I AM?""
- In September, we asked **When?!?** ... And the Lord answered, "...that great and notable day; *when* God shall

Chief Cornerstone

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

### What Does It Really Mean to "Agree with God?"

All scripture is KJV paraphrased.

Wow! We have finally come to the end of this year. Many of us can agree that a lot has gone on over these past twelve months. Time would fail for us to share all of the challenges, events, activities, victories, and possible failures that we have experienced just this year alone.

Before we jump into our main discussion, let's do a quick exercise. Are you willing to try something out of the ordinary? Ok, here we go.

Follow these simple steps.

Go somewhere (right now) that will allow you to be alone for a few moments (i.e., bathroom stall, bedroom, your office, etc.).

Give yourself a big hug and hold the hug for two minutes.

While hugging yourself, take a few slow deep breaths.

Say to yourself, "I am here. God, you are here. We are here."

The Leadership Corner

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# Touching the World

## (Part 1 - The Horizontal Effects)

By God's grace, we had the pleasure of sharing in a recent local Bible Study. The Lord has given permission to share some of the notes from that study. However, because I have not, as yet, secured the permission of the Bishop and First Lady, I will be discrete in my references to them.

Honor to our Sovereign Lord God, Jesus Christ, to our Bishop and First Lady and to the whole PRBC family.

This quarter's theme (at Bishop's direction) is: *Touching the World*

There are quite a number of ways to approach this topic. It is as broad, as it is deep. I am certain that I could never serve in the exposition of this topic. But our Lord has been gracious and that is sufficient.

This is a two part series, across which we will meddle with both the horizontal and vertical considerations of what it is to "Touch the World." In this article, we'll visit just a small part of the horizontal consideration.

And we'll talk about it in the following categories:

- Defining the terms "touch" and "world"
- Seeing Jesus' perspective on the matter (**John 18: 33-37 and (1 John 2:51-17)**)
- What is our Lord's mandate concerning the world (**Acts 1:8**)

One thing that's great about the topic "Touching the World" is that it only consists of three words. And 2 of them are very significant.

Let's begin by briefly defining the term "world" and what it consists of. After which we will explore the concept of "touching."

The term "world" represents a *place* and a *thing*.

The **place** that is the world is the physical planet that we live on and its contents. It is located somewhere in a vast galaxy of stars, constellations even; and other planets.

The **thing** that is the world is the "inorganic" systems and strategies that control the current, the events and the transactions of this world. Inorganic is a phrase that I am re-scripting and points to those things that did not issue from God. They have either come from; or have been depreciated by the hands or mind of man. Example, the things that we produce, build, design, make, etc are things that are inorganic parts of the systems of this world. Organic things were brought into play during the first 6 days of the earth's restoration, (**Genesis 1:2 – 2:25**). Our use of the term "organic" references both the material effects of the world, and the immaterial effects of the world.

So that speaks to the term "world."

Now there's the concept of what it means to "touch." This will be a lot simpler, I think. To touch a thing implies that one has an effect on a thing. When we go to museums and art galleries; the exhibits usually have a sign that say "Please do not touch" ... said otherwise, "Please do not have an effect on these items."

So those are basic definitions of the terms "to touch" and "the world."

Now our topic is Touching the World and, in this article, we're looking at the horizontal perspective of this mandate.

There are many; but here are 2 things that Jesus says about the world. One is found in St. John 18: 33-37. The other is found in 1 John 2:16-17. He says "1) my kingdom is not of this world.... And 2) Love not the world...for all that is in the world amounts to displays and expressions of lust and pride.

**Sidebar:** Verse 15 is a bit scary, because it indicts us. God says that "if any man loves the world, or the things that are in the world, the love of the Father **is not** in Him." What makes that scary? Well, it's scary because it is REAL, but we don't believe it.

Now that we've identified the "world," let's see

judge the secrets of men, by Jesus Christ."

- In October, we asked **Where**?!?! ... And the Lord answered, "...in *you*; in *Me*."
- Last month, we asked **Why**?!?! ... And the Lord answered, "...that you may KNOW Me."
- This month, we are asking **How**? ... And the Lord answers, "... not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit."

We'll find the basic "Who, What, When, Where and Why" questions everywhere, throughout our lives. Like "Who" am I, really? *What* is my life all about? *When* will this madness end? *Where* do I go from here? Oh ... and the infamous "Why me?" And of course, we cannot forget the question, "How?" Among all of these types of questions, the "how" question is probably the one most asked. We think we know "who." We're certain that we know "what." If we don't know "when or where;" we'll ask somebody. And we try our best to figure out "why." But "how?" Somebody, please tell us "how?!!" Monday through Friday, 9-to-5 we ask "How am I supposed to make "more brick without straw?" And on Saturday we ask, "How am I supposed to make ends meet, Uncle Sam?" Then on Sunday, we ask "How do I forget those things which are behind ... and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus?"<sup>(1)</sup>

I submit to you, that every legitimate "how?" question will in some sense find its home in the answer "...not by *might, nor by power, but by My Spirit*, says the Lord."<sup>(2)</sup> There you have it, the ultimate answer to the ultimate question, "How?" And very really, it could be read, "...not by your *might, nor by your power, but by My Spirit*, says the Lord." Although, we may be called upon to exert our might... And we will be called upon to wield our power. Nevertheless, the actual "accomplishing" of anything (in the earth) that matters to God, will ONLY be done by His Spirit. He does not operate by anything else, ever. As one of my big brother's would say, "God's *ends* must be accomplished by His *means*."

Let's get personal. Because, some things don't really "land" for us until they include us ... until they get personal. By what means do WE address the "how" questions in our own lives?

### **Horizontally**

How will I provide for my family?<sup>(3)</sup>

How will I get a good (or keep my) job?<sup>(4)</sup>

How will I make passing grades?<sup>(5)</sup>

### **Vertically**

How will I live a life that is pleasing to God?

How will I love my enemies; and bless them that curse me?<sup>(6)</sup>

How do I love my neighbors?

How will I deny myself, take up my cross and follow God?<sup>(7)</sup>

We say we love God. And that we are His sons. But isn't the fruit of that reality manifested as we are led by His Spirit? As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.<sup>(8)</sup>

It seems that we are not willing to be led. We, instead, want to lead. Perhaps, you ask "What's wrong with wanting to lead?" To which I respond, "Nothing, if you know where you're going." The natural follow on to that response, would be "Where, may I ask, are you going?" There is only one *Way*. No man can come to God, except by Jesus Christ. And no man knows the Father, except him to whom the Son will reveal. So whichever "way" we are going requires direction... requires leading. And if we think to go someplace other, we cannot go as "sons of God."<sup>(9)</sup> The Spirit leads sons. Sons are led by the Spirit. How else shall we walk out the proclamation of the gospel (with our lives) except we be both lead and sent?<sup>(10)</sup> For the purpose of the "son" is to immortalize the Father. That is one reason we hear, God refer to Himself, as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, even hundreds of generations later. The son causes the Father's name to live on, in perpetuity.

Now, we ask "How do we deal with the "who, what, when, where and why's" of our lives? Again, and again, and again the answer returns "...not by *might, nor by power, but by My Spirit*," replies the Lord. One of our problems is that we presently deal with the "who, what, when where and why's" of our lives by *our own* might and by *our own* power. Sure we do. Look around, when was the last time; you sought the counsel of God for your daily activities and decisions? Oh ... oh my mistake ... you don't need the counsel of God for your daily activities. You only need Him for the "grandé and importanté" decisions of life, right. Well, *son of man*, do you not know that it is the intention of your Father, that your character be developed and proved, not in the "great and prominent" decisions of life. Character is *etched* in soft, sweeping strokes.

The question is asked *to* the heavens... "Whom shall He teach knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine? The answer returns from the heavens ... "Them that are weaned from the milk, and

drawn from the breasts." A question, further, is asked to the heavens: ... "Lord, *How?*" Again, the answer returns from the heavens in a still small voice ... "Line upon line; line upon line; precept upon precept; precept upon precept, here a little; there a little. That's how."<sup>(11)</sup> Character is *displayed or discovered* in "paramount and magnanimous" decisions, but is it not developed there. It is precisely why we shipwreck on the "grand and important" decisions; because we have not allowed the Lord to develop our character in the soft and sweeping strokes of daily life.

Let that not be true for you, anymore.

This wraps up an enlightening series. Where, oh where, will the Lord lead us next? <cc>

*Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG*

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Philippians 3:14

<sup>(2)</sup> Zechariah 4:6

<sup>(3)</sup> 1 Timothy 5:8

<sup>(4)</sup> 2 Thessalonians 3:10

<sup>(5)</sup> 2 Timothy 2:15

<sup>(6)</sup> Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28; Romans 12:14

<sup>(7)</sup> Matthew 16:24

<sup>(8)</sup> Romans 8:14

<sup>(9)</sup> Matthew 11:27; John 14:6

<sup>(10)</sup> Romans 10: 14-15

<sup>(11)</sup> Isaiah 28:9-10

## Like/As

He became like us, so that He could die.

We must become like Him, so that we can live.

(Hebrews 2:6-10)  
- *JoAnn C. White*

That's it.

You may decide to extend this exercise for a longer period. That's fine. The purpose was to get us ready for our main discussion.

This month we want to talk about what it really means to "Agree with God." I know we hear this phrase a lot. In some sense it has become a cliché. But, we are going to tackle this concept and see what God will say to us.

The Webster dictionary tells us that the word "agree" is a verb. It speaks of action. Some of the definitions of "agree" include being consistent with someone or something, to be fitting, or pleasing, to be in harmony with, and to share an identity.

If we apply this to the concept of "agreeing with God," it could mean that we fit ourselves to who God is and what He desires for us. Let's work with some life examples.

If I agree that God wants me to lead a healthy lifestyle, what might my agreement result in? Maybe I would engage in regular physical activity. I might also rethink my eating habits and food choices to support my agreement to be health-conscious.

Basically, when we agree with something (particularly something important), our agreement should play out in our lives. And, if it's really significant to us, it will actually change our identity. Our agreement with specific concepts, perspectives, and/or principles is a part of determining who we are.

Ok, I know this sounds really deep, but we need to deal with this topic now because it will have an impact on what God can or cannot do in us as the New Year approaches. Many of us have thought of agreement as something passive. It's something we "say" versus something we "do."

I would like to challenge us to rethink this concept. When God speaks of agreement, He is pointing to His law. We should understand that God always speaks of His law when He is dealing with us. Therefore, when we say we agree with God, we are actually saying we agree with His law.

The law of God is His word. It is His personality and it is His promise. The law of God tells us who He is, what He wants, how He operates, and how He wants

us to think and behave. God's law teaches us how to handle every situation that comes our way.

Let's work with an example to illustrate the concept of agreeing with God's law. In the United States there are traffic laws. One of the traffic laws has to do with speed limits. On each street there are speed limits established (or implied).

On many interstate highways the speed limit is set at either 55, 60, 65, or 70 miles per hour. In work zones the speed limit may be 45 or 50 miles per hour. On residential streets the speed limit may be 30, 35, or 40 miles per hour. In school zones the speed limit may be 20 miles per hour.

The traffic laws were and are created so that certain goals can be accomplished. Key goals include ensuring public safety and maintaining order on the roads. The laws set for various types of roadways and in specific areas take into account the activities that go on in those locations, weather conditions, and a host of other factors. Traffic laws are a means to an end. They are tools to accomplish specific goals.

If we say we agree with the traffic laws, this impacts the way we think and behave. For example, if I agree with the goal to ensure public safety (for me and other people), I will commit to abide by the traffic laws. This means that I don't need to see if a police officer is watching me in order to drive according to the established speed limit. *Because I agree with the goals of the laws, I will enforce the law without external coercion.*

I have several friends that routinely look for traffic cops when they are driving. I asked, "Why do you do this?" They told me that they don't want to get a speeding ticket. Therefore, they try to find out where the police usually hide.

This is an interesting concept to me. A person spends a significant amount of energy and attention on trying "not to get caught." This tells me that these particular people do not agree with the goals of traffic laws. Now, when I ask them if they want public safety and order on the roads, they say they do. However, their behavior tells a different story.

Now, one may say that a person can agree with a goal, but disagree with the laws set in place to achieve the goal. In the natural, this is true. Not everyone will agree with the "means" to accomplish a goal. However, in the kingdom of God, if we agree with God, then we must

also agree with His law because God is not separate from His law. His law declares His goals, His plan, His personality, and everything else about Him.

That being the case, if we truly agree with God (on anything), then we are in fact agreeing with His law which is contained in His word. And, *if we agree with His word, then we will become enforcers of His instructions in our own lives.* We won't focus on whether or not we will get in trouble if we trespass a given law of God. Instead, we will focus on the goals God has in mind that His laws support.

As we digest the concept of agreeing with God and His law, let's also discuss His goals. Scripture tells us that God created us for Himself. We are His handy work. God is the artist and we are his portraits. God is the potter and we are the clay (sound familiar?).

When an artist sets out to create a piece of art, he or she has something in mind. The artist uses specific colors, textures, and tools to create each piece based on what is in his or her heart. God does the same thing.

When God made creation He said that it was "good" based on His goals. If we take the perspective to agree with God, then we will study His word and spend time talking with Him about what He has in mind for us. We would discover what His goals are for us and how His law will help us take the journey He intends for us to take.

Where can we go to find out what the law of the Lord intends? Of course we can go to the Word of God. We could read Psalms 19:7-11. This passage tells us what Gods laws do in us, to us, through us, and for us.

Verse seven tells us that God's law is perfect and complete. It is so powerful that when we agree with it, we are able to become who we are in God's heart (regardless of what our environment says about us). Verse nine tells us that the decisions God makes on our behalf are correct. They are appropriate to guide us down the path He has set for us.

Indeed, God's Word reveals to us everything about God that we need to know. And in revealing God to us, His word also helps us to understand ourselves. We've already learned (in previous articles) that we cannot truly know ourselves apart from God.

Scripture tells us that God is our Counselor; He is our

Peace and our Provision. It tells us that we are victorious, a sweet fragrance in His nostrils, made in His image, destined to win every battle, designed to honor and engage with Him, and so much more.

Having said all of this, what does it truly mean to “agree with God?”

When we agree with God, we “fit” our thinking and our behavior into a framework that flows and follows what He has said (and is saying) to us and about us. For example, in every person’s heart, God implants dreams, goals, and desires. As we begin to walk in the direction of these goals, we seek God’s counsel by spending time talking to Him and reading His Word.

However, this alone is not enough. When we read His Word we need to agree with it. We need to ask God to show us how to apply the principles, contained in His Word, in our situations. We ask God how to change our thoughts and behaviors to “fit” His law.

When we do this we will find out that God will require us to make certain changes in our lives, lifestyles, and our environments to support what He wants for us. For example, God recently told me that He wants me to plan to leave my office every day at 5:00PM. He wants me home by 6:00PM and He wants me to begin getting ready for bed at 8:00PM so that I am in the bed and going to sleep by 9:00PM. This is the schedule I should plan to follow Monday through Thursday (with very few variances).

I realize one of His goals for setting these rules for my schedule is so that I can be productive. I am a morning person. I get up at 3:30AM on weekdays. I do my best work between 6:00AM and 12:00PM. Often I have to write programs, grants, and curriculum. I also have to engage in other “deep thinking” tasks.

God has also told me that I am not to rush into my office early in the mornings every day. Instead, he is having me handle some of my “deep concentration” items from home. In addition, my schedule requires me to travel a lot locally. Instead of going into the office at say 7:30AM, I can go to my appointments from home and go into the office in the afternoons (and leave by 5:00PM).

While this may sound like a rigid schedule, it has

totally helped me stay on top of my projects. I have become so much more productive than I was before He set these rules for me.

Likewise, there are often times God wants to establish some rules in your life (and possibly in your household). If you agree with God, then you can move forward with setting up the rules that will accomplish His goals for you and your family.

If you need to set household rules that other family members also have to abide by, you may consider having a family meeting to discuss what you believe God is saying and how the rules will support God’s goals for your family. This also is something many Christians may not understand. God has goals for each of our families and it includes every member of the household.

When we seek God for what He wants for us as individuals, we also ask Him what He wants for our households. Then, with the input of each household member, we discuss and agree on a plan of action to fulfill God’s plan (not our plan) for everyone in the household.

Then, we hold ourselves accountable to God and each other to abide by the rules that support the goals God has placed in our hearts. Of course, we will have to update the rules from time to time as God gives clarity and as we enter new seasons in our lives.

This is how we agree with God. We find out what He wants for us and we set in place guidelines for our behavior to support the goals God has. When we do this, we will experience phenomenal results immediately and continually throughout our life journey.

Are you ready to agree with God? It’s time, because in 2012 God set in place the foundation for what He has in store for 2013. It’s going to be a fantastic New Year, do you agree?

Be blessed! <sup>[LL]</sup>

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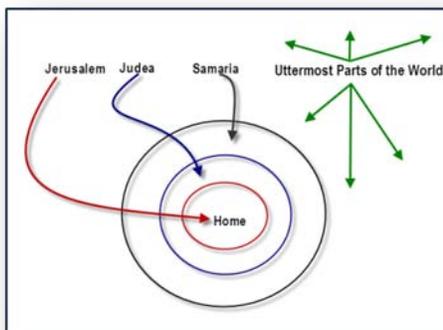
**OUR SOUL IS A LOAN**

what affect we are obligated to have on it. Now, there is the idea of *us* touching the world. And there is the idea of the *world* touching us. And in either case the one has some effect on the other. When it comes to touching the world, we want to regards “*who’s doing what to whom.*” Is the world touching us? If so, how so? Are we touching the world? If so, in what way and what impression are we leaving on the world?

One of our scriptures for this talk is Acts 1:8 which reads:

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

As we explore this passage; see with me, three concentric circles.



As you can see the inner-most circle is labeled Jerusalem, next out is Judea, next out is Samaria and all else outside of these, constitutes the uttermost parts of the world.

Think of **Jerusalem** as (home), it is the closest to us. We live out our lives in the areas closest to us: our hearts, our homes, our families, our jobs, our neighborhoods, etc. And for many of the Jewish people (during certain periods), that was Jerusalem. At "arm's distance" is **Judea**. When you leave your "neighborhood" you enter Judea. In Judea, people are a bit less familiar with you, but they know of you. They are familiar with Jerusalem, and that it is

near. Your cousins, and friends from high school, your business partners, live in Judea. They're not "in your house" or "on your block" but they're not far from it either.

Now **Samaria** is a "mixed bunch." In Samaria, are our in-laws; who live on the other side of the creek. They are our "Facebook friends (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation removed)," they are the people who read our "tweets and blogs." They think they know us, but they don't.

And the **uttermost parts of the world**: they don't know Samaria; they don't know Judea; they don't know Jerusalem; they don't know you and they don't care to know you. So running out to the uttermost parts of the world to "touch" them is like pouring a cup of water into the ocean. It wouldn't make a splash.

Charity begins in Jerusalem (at home), according to 1 Peter 4:8. Our ability to touch the world begins at home and it is proven at home. We hate that don't we; because we cannot "hide" at home? At home, we don't impress anyone. They know that we're don't pick up after ourselves. At home, they know that we are selfish ... arrogant ... haughty, etc. They may not be at liberty to speak to it, but they see it. And they see it because it affects (touches) them. Whether or not they love us through it, our dysfunction still affects the home front. So home is the first place where we need to be conformed into the image of Christ.

"Jerusalem" is where our walk with the Lord begins, really. Our "conversion" may occur anywhere, but our walk begins at home. And very really it remains *at home*, until it works out in us (or *into* us) such a character of God, that He would be pleased to introduce us to "Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the world." Now you may purchase your own bus or plane ticket and go to Samaria or to the uttermost parts of the world, of your own volition. But if we have not "walked our walk" in Jerusalem ... if we have not touched the world closest to us for Christ; then we're just on an extended vacation, as far as God is concerned.

We see something of this principle (*of our walk beginning at home*) when Paul was mentoring his “son” Timothy in the gospel and *church planting*. Paul said, “It’s cool if a man desires to be a bishop or a deacon. But know well the criteria for these offices. Read the small print before you sign on the dotted line.” (1 Timothy 3) If you’ll allow me to color outside of the lines for a few minutes, this is essentially what Paul says; “If a man does not know how to rule his own house, with what strength of character will he be able to preside over the Lord’s house.” I get it if you have the mentality that “you have a *calling*; but God is just not through with you yet.” There is a reason that it is against the law to give a blind person a driver’s license. When Paul was talking to Rome (chapter 12) regarding gifts and callings, Paul said (*what amounted to*) “Certainly the Lord has graced the Body of Christ with gifts and callings. However, there is an incubation period in each *called* person’s life where their intent to be conformed to the calling is vetted or proofed. The scripture reads this way (*essentially*), “*If you have been called to minister, teach or rule/lead that’s good; but “wait” or “waitress” on your ministry; your teaching; your diligence.*” There is a “making” that MUST precede the “sending,” if we are to be useful to God in touching the world. And so, God in His divine wisdom places us in “homes, close community or winepresses” to wring the juice out. Then when He is pleased, He sends us.

Yes, we have a responsibility to touch the world. Let’s allow the Lord to teach us how to *touch the world*, by proving us in the world or community that is closest to us, first. If we fall at home (while we’re being made), we can be picked up and dusted off. However, if we fall abroad, in the uttermost parts of the world (because we refused to be conformed at home) we may just bring down a nation.

And that’s the horizontal perspective of *Touching the World*.

*Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG*

## The Enemy’s Weapons of War

The lust of the flesh is provoked to action by an *internal* appetite.

The lust of the eye represents that which provokes to action from *without*.

The pride of life is our inappropriate disposition of heart concerning our lusts of the flesh and the lusts of the eyes.

1 John 2:16; James 1:14-15  
JoAnn C. White  
11/27/12 (5:09AM)



## Touching the World (Part 2 – The Vertical Effects)

For part 2, the Lord has agreed to share with us the vertical implications of "Touching the World." But let’s take a quick look horizontally.

### Horizontal Perspective

Last week, the Lord shared with us two imperatives concerning the "World."

- 1) ... that His Kingdom is **not** of this World. (**John 18:33-37**)
- 2) ... all that is in the World is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. (**1 John 2:15-17**)

The Lord also shared with us that if we are to *touch the world* at large, we must take our light home; and once there both affect and be affected. He said that the authenticity of our faith, our Christianity, our beliefs, etc. is vetted in Jerusalem (home). (**Acts 1:8**)

According to the scriptures, "we shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come ... and we shall be witnesses on the behalf of our Lord first in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world. In the *original language*

“witnesses” are martyrs (ones willing to die for a person or a cause). So be thoughtful when you say you want to be a witness for Christ. So let’s take our light home.

The scriptures (and experience) teach us that no man lights a candle and puts it under a bushel. Instead it is to be placed on a candle stick so that it may give light to all that are *in the house ... our house ...* charity beings at home. It doesn't begin in Samaria; nor does it begin in the uttermost parts of the world.

Then there's the other side of the coin: You've heard them, statements like; my relationship with God is "private." What's between me and God is between *us*. Well I'm not so sure where that mindset came from. Yea, I am sure where that came from. And as sure as I am of its origin, I am sure of its error. Nowhere in the scriptures will we find support for that perspective. Not only will we NOT find support for that perspective (*the exclusive privacy of our relationship with God*), but I dare say that the opposite is true.

*How* an apple tree brings forth apples, may remain a mystery to many of us. But once the apples are revealed, they don't belong to the tree anymore. Not only that, but once the apples come forth, the tree can't do anything with the apples. And at length it must cast them to the ground. Because apple trees, don't eat apples.

The same for "salt," we are the salt of the earth.... If we do not *salt the earth*, then we need to be "recalled." The same is true for "light." If we do not *light the world*, then we either need to have our batteries replaced or the whole flashlight needs to be discarded. A flashlight that does not "flash light" is useless. And it needs to be put where all other useless things go.

In Luke's telling of the gospel, this parable reads:

*"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, puts it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light."* (Luke 11:33; Matthew 5:15) I think that we know by experience that it is harder to keep a light

from being seen, than it is to make it seen.

So we recall the horizontal perspective, now let’s hear of the vertical effects of touching the world.

### Vertical Perspective

Now to the scriptures; let's look closely at the 2 imperatives:

When Jesus says to us that "His Kingdom is not of this world," and that "all that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life...." There is something that we may safely understand from what our Lord has said. And you'll see the scaffolding of this reality, *expressed* throughout the New Testament and *implied* throughout the Old Testament.

If the Lord's Kingdom **IS NOT** of this world, we may safely assume that there is a kingdom that **IS** of this world. If there is a kingdom that is "of this world" then there is a government undergirding that kingdom. With that, we see the framework of the hierarchy of the principalities, and powers that array themselves in the cosmos, over this world.

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)*

If there are principalities, then there is a "government." If there is a government, then there is a "**head of state**." He is called the "prince of the power of the air."

*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind ... (Ephesians 2:2-3)*

He goes on to say, through John (**1 John 2:16**) all

that is in the "kingdom of this world" is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. So we've identified that our Lord's kingdom is not of this world. We've also identified that there is a kingdom of this world; the contents of which are "lust and pride."

Again, our mandate this quarter is to observe our responsibility to "Touch the World, our responsibility to *affect* the world." Let's continue to look at the implications of such a grave and weighty responsibility.

When Jesus was in the wilderness, the enemy tried to take Him on a shopping spree. He showed our Lord "all the kingdoms of this world." And said, all of these kingdoms are mine and I may give them to whomsoever I will. The enemy said to Jesus, "these can all be Yours for a small fee: if You will just fall down and worship me." (**Matthew 4:7-9; Luke 4:5-7**) The enemy is such a liar. The kingdoms of this world are *on loan* to him. And he got the kingdom from Adam. The enemy could only have a "lease" on the kingdoms of this world, because "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they *and the kingdoms* that dwell therein." (**Psalms 24:1**) The Lord didn't even humor the enemy with this, for He knew that The Most High rules in the kingdoms of men, and gives it to whomsoever *He* will. (**Daniel 4:25**) The enemy has been trying to wear God's jersey since the beginning ... he's a "pretender."

As a Body of Believers, we have a responsibility to "touch the world." If we are going to touch the world (in a way that is meaningful); if we are going to make a "Meaningful Connection" with the world, we must affect it at its "deeps."

The prince of this world's kingdoms (the thief) seeks to destroy our testimony of Christ, in the earth. (**John 10:10**) He wants to so denigrate our testimony that it loses its savor. He wants to put our light under a bushel. This walk, this way of life is more than about just coming to church on Sunday. We need to know that there is a contract on our heads; someone "*dropped a dime*" on us; we are a marked people. Now don't judge the

enemy entirely random on this point. He has a valid reason (within himself) for wanting to silence the cry of the righteousness of God's people in the earth. The enemy wants to silence us, because "righteousness naturally exalts a nation." Righteousness exalts a nation right out of the clutches of Satan. The enemy cannot hold onto a righteous man; isn't that what our Lord showed us? It's as true for us as it was for our Lord. God is not partial, when it comes to righteousness. Righteousness does the work of the Father; and the enemy cannot abide such a one. If we will walk out, the righteousness of God; then "these signs shall follow" us too.

Here is why it is imperative that we understand the verticality of "touching the world;" because someone is seeking to sabotage our efforts. And just like it is our duty to walk out our witness *first* in Jerusalem (at home). He is following that same strategy. He seeks to destroy our witness *first* in Jerusalem. The enemy intends that we should not do, there, any great works, because of their unbelief, and ours. (**Matthew 13:55-58**) For if "Jerusalem" becomes disenfranchised (*or alienated*) by our unsavory witness; they can become inoculated against the work of the Lord in their own lives; potentially a *coup de grâce* for the enemy of our souls.

Our adversary seeks to thwart our testimony by means of the instruments of his warfare: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. For it is by these that he goes about to kill us; to steal from us and to destroy us. (**John 10:10**) I am using the term "kingdom" but essentially the world is that kingdom. Is he not also called the prince of this world?

Jesus says as He pointed to Calvary, "*Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*" (**John 12:31**)

"*Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.*" (**John 14:30**)

Why, you ask, is he working so hard to humble us and to destroy us? A great question deserves a great answer. The enemy seeks to destroy our witness, and thus our ability to effectively "touch the world" because if we "get this right" ... if we deny ourselves ... if we take up our crosses ... and if we follow our Lord; in that day when we shall all (enemy included) stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, we will be *Witnesses for the Prosecution*. At the judgment seat of Christ, when the enemy's docket is read. We will side with the Prosecuting Attorney *against* him. Our lives must be lived in such a way as to indict the enemy concerning his treason. Our lives are intended to be so perpendicular to this world's system that the enemy will be left without rebuttal or defense, when he stands before the Judge of all the earth.

The Lord says, to us through Paul. "Know ye not that you shall judge angels?" (1 Corinthians 6:3) The enemy seeks to impeach all witnesses against him. That is his whole campaign. That is why he seeks to destroy the testimony of the Christian. One very simple and primary way that he intends to do that is to ensure that we do not know the constitution of our Lord's Kingdom (the Bible). For then we will not know what judgments have already been passed against him. Like: "*no weapon formed against us shall prosper.*" (Isaiah 54:17) This is not just a benefit to us; it is a judgment against the enemy. The Lord has already judged that neither the lust of the flesh, nor the lust of the eye, nor the pride of this life shall lord over us. The Lord has already judged that we owe no duty or obligation to the flesh. (Romans 8:12) But if we don't know that then we will fall prey to his antics. Instead, we are to walk right past them in all of their impotency and ineffectiveness. And thereby, become a light to others who "all their lives" have desired to be free from this world's grip; but did not know that such a liberty was available or even possible.

Jesus wasn't just talking, when he said "*if you continue in My word, then are you My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall free you from the deception of the enemy ... free from the clutches of the systems of this world*

*... free from the authority of the spirit of mammon.*" (John 8:31-32)

(In the actual bible study, the Lord shared a private conversation with us). The enemy's indictment against God is that God is responsible for his fall from grace. The enemy purports that it is because God made him beautiful, wise and powerful that he got "caught up" with himself. (Isaiah 14:12-16 et al; Ezekiel 28:1-19) The enemy purported that such favor was "a certain recipe for failure." What the enemy ignored was the fact that such favor was "a gift, to be gifted." The enemy was supposed to sanctify those gifts to the Sovereign Lord God, as a sacrifice of himself. But he did not. Instead the enemy, by the freedom of his own will, decided to "fly upon the spoil," and to make himself both the gift and the recipient. (1 Samuel 14:32 et al)

The enemy believes that anyone to whom beauty, wisdom and power are given will likewise resort to treason, against the Living God. And the Lord's response to that was; "Not only are you wrong, but I will prove it. And I'll do it with, of all things, *a man; an earthen vessel*. That Man is Jesus Christ, the second Adam. And if you name the name of Jesus Christ then that man is *you*. That man is *me*. This is not a conversation for the feminist, right here. This is why we cannot say "*the Lord understands that I'm just human;*" as a means to excuse sin. The Lord fully intends to use our lives as an indictment against the enemy, at his judgment. And the only way that's going to happen is that we (by our lives) prove the enemy unambiguously ... unequivocally ... unmistakably ... face-out ... palpably ... wrong.

And we will do this by living a life that is a walking, talking up-close-and-personal indictment against the Prince of this World. Our Lord said as He approached Calvary, "*and now is the prince of this world judged;* ... and now is My life a living, breathing indictment against him." (John 12:31, 16:7-11) For verily, this is the testimony of the servants of the Lord; and those whose name is written in the *Lamb's Book of Life*. (Revelation 13:8, 3:5; Philippians 4:3)

As we do that, men will see our good works and glorify our Father, which is in heaven. They will also know that it is possible to live a life other than the one they have been living. The scripture says that the enemy makes captives of (or pimps) the children of disobedience, at his will. (2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Timothy 2:25-26) They sense that, even though they do not know what to call it. They feel trapped. They do not see an EXIT sign anywhere. Some of them want "out." But they don't know how to get "out;" just like we didn't know how to "get out." Then God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shined in our hearts; to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

This is the only effect, or means by which, we will "Touch the World;" in a way that pleases, that indemnifies and that justifies our Risen Lord and God.

*Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG*

## UNDERSTANDING

We need a 1<sup>st</sup> Century understanding of the Word of God, versus a 21<sup>st</sup> Century understanding.

Over time language changes and by a law of necessity, something of the original vitality (or even the offensiveness) of the words and uses of language are lost.

And things don't mean what they once did.

When we lose the true meaning of words, we lose the ability to communicate effectively.

*JoAnn C. White  
November 17, 2012*

## 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. <sup>(1)</sup>

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." <sup>(2)</sup> He looked at the disciples and walked away en route to Bethany. <sup>(3)</sup>

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?** <sup>(4)</sup>

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. <sup>(5)</sup>

### 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**  
□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

One of our problems is that we presently deal with the "who, what, when where and why's" of our lives by *our own* might and by *our own* power. Sure we do. Look around, when was the last time; you sought the counsel of God for your daily activities and decisions? Oh ... oh my mistake ... you don't need the counsel of God for your daily activities. You only need Him for the "grandé and importanté" decisions of life, right. Well, *son of man*, do you not know that...



**Touching the World**

(The Horizontal Effect – Part 1)

Now that we've identified the "world," let's see what affect we are obligated to have on it. Now, there is the idea of *us* touching the world. And there is the idea of the *world* touching us. And in either case the one has some effect on the other. When it comes to touching the world, we want to regards "*who's doing what to whom.*" Is the world touching us? If so, how so? Are we touching the world? If so, in what way and what impression are we leaving on the world?

❧ **SUMMARY** ❧

**The Leadership Corner**

Basically, when we agree with something (particularly something important), our agreement should play out in our lives. And, if it's really significant to us, it will actually change our identity. Our agreement with specific concepts, perspectives, and/or principles is a part of determining who we are.



**Touching the World**

(The Vertical Effect – Part 2)

The same for "salt," we are the salt of the earth.... If we do not *salt the earth*, then we need to be "recalled." The same is true for "light." If we do not *light the world*, then we either need to have our batteries replaced or the whole flashlight needs to be discarded. A flashlight that does not "flash light" is useless. And it needs to be put where all other useless things go.

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