

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

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NO. 6

TURN DOWN THE VOLUME, I THINK I HEAR A PIANO!

BY CLINTON DE FRANCE

“Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord...”(Eph. 5:19, Amplified Bible)

In this place the Amplified Bible, the product of much Baptist and denominational “scholarship” turns up its amplifier a little too loud by adding the use of instrumental music into the worship of the Church of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. It has long been said that the New Testament nowhere mentions the use of instrumental music in the worship services of the Church, and this is true, but one reading from the Amplified Bible will come to Ephesians 5:19 and think he has found something that everyone else has missed! Indeed! Everyone else has missed it! For there is not another translation that mentions instruments in this passage, the Amplified Bible stands alone, and may we say against the weight of scholarship that has produced the several other translations in the English language. But of course their purpose is to amplify! So perhaps they have turned up the volume of the scripture and found something that escaped those noble listeners in the past? Let us see.

Did they hear “instruments” in the Greek word rendered “singing”? We do not think they could have, because it (ado) simply doesn’t mean that. The masters of the ancient language do not give “play an instrument” as a possible translation of that word. “To the praise of anyone, to sing” (Thayer) “to sing” (Louw and Nida, Abbott-Smith, Strong) and so we assume that they have heard it in the latter expression “making melody” and here we are not so surprised, for from this Greek word, psallo, many have attempted to make out the sound of a piano or a guitar or a harp, or anything that could serve to justify instruments in the church today. Perhaps in seeking to “amplify the Bible” they turned up the lexical volume until they heard Mr. Thayer say that this

word may mean, “to play on a stringed instrument, to sing to the music of a harp”. But if this be the case, we suggest that they have amplified it so much they can no longer hear it clearly! This “translation” of Ephesians 5:19 is simply out of tune with too many interpretive forces for us to accept it.

The Scholars

Mr. Thayer himself says, in the course of defining psallo, “In the New Testament, to sing a hymn, to celebrate the praises of God in song.” Thus it seems that psallo has a kinship to the English word lyric, which at one point in time meant “the music of a lyre or stringed instrument” but by the evolution of language has come to refer to the words of a song and to have no connection to the instrumental side whatsoever! Much the same, Thayer suggests that the meaning of psallo had developed into a reference to singing only by the time the New Testament was written. M. C. Kurfrees cites The Greek Lexicon of Sophocles, by the 38 year professor of Greek at Harvard University, who examining the history of the Greek language for 146 B.C. to 1100 A.D. says that in searching 594 authors covering a period of more than 1200 years (among them the years of the New Testament’s birth) he did not find a single occasion in which psallo referred to playing an instrument, but always and everywhere to “chant, to sing religious hymns”. Thomas Sheldon Green, in his New Testament Lexicon echoes Thayer in saying, “In the New Testament, to sing praises.” Andrew Lincoln, in the Word Biblical Commentary decidedly states, regarding Ephesians 5:19, “Although its original meaning involved plucking a stringed instrument, psallo here means to make music by singing (cf. also 1 Cor 14:15; Jas 5:13), so that there is no reference in this verse to instrumental accompaniment”(1990, p. 346, emp. added).

The Scriptures

This accords with the consistent use of the word in the other parts of the New Testament

“...and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: “For this reason I will confess

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Editorial

“TRAIN UP A CHILD...”
By DON L. KING

The wise man Solomon said, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) This is a very familiar passage and likely one we all agree with. However, not everyone follows the advice of this wise man. In our experience, his advice is often completely disregarded in favor of other methods and ideas. People keep making the same mistakes over and over, all the while expecting a different result. An old time preacher (David Lipscomb) once said, “The art of training children seems to be among the lost arts. Mothers turn over the training of children to hired nurses; they devote their time to attending fashionable entertainments. However, God had Moses nursed by his own mother. With more women like Hannah, Lois, and Eunice, our race would be much nobler and purer. No mother should despise her God-given mission of training children. Solomon said: ‘Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.’ While the child is young his mind should be filled with the Word of God. The truths learned in the home will go with him to the grave. There is no greater treasure than a godly mother in the home. ‘The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life... She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.’ (Proverbs 31:11-28) With more godly mothers we shall have less use for jails and penitentiaries. Neither the church nor the school can do the work of the family. Home influences are the greatest and most far-reaching and should never be neglected.”

Yes, few indeed will disagree with what Brother Lipscomb wrote. However, it is not uncommon to see parents take their children to places and events other than to church services. Apparently, it is not

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QUERIST COLUMN

By Ronny F. Wade

Question: Is it wrong to ask God to let you die? My life is falling to pieces and I have lost all hope of a better tomorrow. I have thought about stopping all my medications to hasten my death. Would that be the same as suicide?

Answer: My heart goes out to this individual, and the unfortunate condition in which she finds herself. She is not alone, however, in the way she feels. We would probably be surprised at the number of people who have at times felt as she does. I would first of all recommend that she talk with someone (preacher, friend, trusted family member) in an attempt to gain control of her emotions and more clearly understand her plight and options. First of all, there is nothing inherently wrong in wanting to die. Paul himself declared "For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you." Many people recognize that being with Christ is better than the hardships, disappointments, and trials of this life. There are physical afflictions that cause many to want to go on to a better world where they can be free from pain and debilitating circumstances. In view of this I cannot see that it would be wrong to ask God to allow us to die. We must, however, remember to say "not my will but thy will be done." Note also that Paul said "to remain in the flesh was more needful for you," i.e. for those to whom the letter was addressed. Could it be that in the case of this sister, her presence in this world is actually a blessing to someone else? We also read of the prophet Elijah who was trying to escape from Jezebel "But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said "it is enough now, Lord take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." God, however, was not ready for him to die, and provided for his

safety. There are some situations, as suggested by the querist, that cause us to lose hope. Lives that are torn by sin, strife, divorce, abuse etc. all cause many to long for an end to this life with its strife and disappointment. We must remember, however, that such situations often present opportunities to help other people. We are not alone in our difficulties and troubles. By talking and praying with others we not only become a help to them, but actually find it easier to deal with our own situation. I, therefore, would encourage this querist to find others who suffer as she does and meet with them in an attempt to offer encouragement and understanding. By so doing she may not only be of help to them but to herself as well. Purposefully refusing to take ones medications, in my opinion, is not a solution to her problems. In fact it could actually compound them. First of all instead of dying she could have a stroke and be paralyzed and helpless for years, which would only make things worse. In the view of this writer, refusing to take a life sustaining medication in an attempt to bring about ones death is in effect committing suicide. (Send all questions to Ronny F. Wade P.O. Box 14352 Springfield, MO 65814 or ronnywade36@gmail.com)

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NATURAL LAW

By NATHAN BATTEY

All of God's laws fall into one of two categories: Natural Laws or Positive Laws. Natural Laws apply to all accountable adults, whereas Positive Laws apply only to a select group. This article will focus on the existence of Natural Laws and will point out some lessons from them.

Natural Laws are laws that can be known naturally and are discernible through human reason, i.e. self-evident laws. For example, a person can determine through natural means that it is wrong to kill or to eat another human being. Natural Laws are often referred to as Moral Laws, but the term "Moral Law" misses the mark and speaks of a quality of a law rather than the method by which the law is revealed.

By contrasting Natural Laws with Positive Laws, one can reach a clearer understanding of the differences between the two. Positive Laws are laws God has supernaturally revealed; they cannot be discovered through natural means alone. For example, man could never have discovered God's requirement of baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, John 3:5, Romans 6:4) through purely natural means. Positive Laws originate with God and speak to His authority.

The Existence of Natural Law

Paul gives one of the clearest proofs of the existence of Natural Law in the following passage:

Romans 2:14-15 "for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, 15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)"

Several points are significant:

- 1- The Old Testament law was to the Jews exclusively.
- 2- By nature, some Gentiles kept part of the Old Law.
- 3- When Gentiles obeyed Natural Law, their consciences bore witness or gave approval.
- 4- When Gentiles violated Natural Law, their consciences bore guilt.
- 5- Thus, the Gentiles proved the existence of

Natural Law by their ability to keep it without supernatural revelation.

In Romans 1:26 Paul points out a Natural Law: "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature."

The violation of Natural Law is Paul's explanation of the reason God gave up on certain individuals. Paul not only affirms the reality of Natural Law but also he warns people of the penalty it bears when broken. Other passages also teach the reality of Natural Law.

Natural Law Discovered

Genesis 2:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, he became aware of good and evil-not right and wrong. Adam was already aware of right and wrong because of the Positive Law God had given him: "Do not eat of the tree of knowledge." Eating the forbidden fruit taught him two lessons: First, he gained the experiential knowledge of good and evil. Second, he gained awareness of Natural Law. Prior to eating of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve had been in a state of innocence like children: they knew right from wrong but had not experienced evil and guilt. Once they ate of the fruit, evil became a reality; and Natural Law began to convict them.

Genesis 3:7: "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." Adam and Eve knew instantly they were naked; God did not have to tell them. So, they sewed fig leaves together and hid themselves in shame. Natural Law, in a prohibitive sense, was now evident to man. To illustrate the discovery of Natural Law, picture a parent telling his five year old child, "Don't commit adultery!" The child cannot understand what the parent is saying because he is in a state of innocence; however, the child eventually grows up and loses his sense of innocence as he becomes aware of the existence of evil. In a similar way, Adam and Eve lost their innocence and became "full grown" when they ate of the forbidden fruit.

Corruption of Knowledge

A question that is commonly raised is, "If Natural Law can be understood without supernatural revelation, why do so many people not recognize it?"

The Hebrew writer gives the answer in Hebrews 3:13: “lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Throughout the Bible, God has reminded His people of Natural Laws, not because they cannot know them through nature but because they can become hardened to them and forget them. Indifference towards sin speaks of the corrupting nature of sin and not the absence of Natural Law.

Keys to Understanding Natural Law

First, It is important to understand the definition of Natural Law. The question is not whether or not the law has some sort of moral quality; the question is whether or not a law can be determined naturally (without revelation). Some Natural Laws are more easily understood than others, but all Natural Laws must be discoverable through natural means.

Second, it is important to understand the foundation of all Law:

Mark 12:29-31 (parallel in Matthew 22:40 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Loving God and loving your neighbor are both Natural Laws and represent the foundation of all law (both Positive and Natural).

Third, for every Negative Natural Law there is a Positive Natural Law. To state it differently, when a Natural Law is observed, the inverse of that law is also true and binding.

With these three keys in mind it is possible to understand what is contained in Natural Law. Consider the following non-exhaustive list:

Natural Laws

Specific Sins According To Natural Law			
Genesis 3:7	Nakedness		
Romans 1:18-31	Not Honoring God	Wickedness	Violent
Vs.19-20 indicate this passage contains a list of Natural Laws..	Unthankfulness	Covetousness	Boasters
	Promoting Self as God	Malice	Inventors of Evil Things
	Pride	Envy	Disobedient to Parents
	Idol Worship	Murder	Undiscerning
	Lust	Strife	Untrustworthy
	Lying	Deceit	Unloving
	Sexual Perversion	Evil Mindedness	Unforgiving
	Homosexuality	Whisperers	Unmerciful
	Forgetting God	Backbiters	Approval of the Wicked
	Sexual Immorality	Haters of God	
Galatians 5:19-21	Adultery	Hatred	Heresies
	Fornication	Contentions	Envy

"The works of the flesh are evident"	Uncleanness	Jealousies	Murders
	Lewdness	Outbursts of Wrath	Drunkenness
	Idolatry	Selfish Ambitions	Revelries
	Sorcery	Dissensions	The Like
Ephesians 5:3-7	Sins listed above plus Foolish Talking and Coarse Jestng.		
	Other Related Verses: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11/ 11:14.		
	A Blessing Given By Nature		
Hebrews 13:4	Marriage.		
"Marriage is honorable among all"	Objection: Marriage was a Positive Law – Genesis 2:21-25 Answer: Moses is giving commentary about when God made the Natural Law of marriage.		
	<u>Natural Law regarding marriage is limited and does not reveal:</u> Who can a person marry (with the exception of your parents 1 Corinthians 5:1)? What happens if one spouse dies? What are the rules of divorce?		
	<u>Natural Law does reveal:</u> Marriage is between a man and a woman. Sex outside of marriage is prohibited.		

Man’s failure to keep Natural Laws is not based on his inability to understand them; the problem is man’s lack of desire to keep them.

The Judgment of God

After pointing out more than thirty violations of Natural Law in Romans 1, Paul impresses upon his readers the righteous judgment of God. In the first ten verses of chapter 2, Paul declares that all have sinned, both Jew and Gentile, and stand guilty before God. God’s judgment upon all mankind is, therefore, righteous.

The question is: How can the Gentiles be guilty of anything if the Old Testament law was not revealed to them (Ps. 147:19-20)? Paul answers this question in verses 11-16 by demonstrating that Gentiles are under Natural Law. Gentiles were expected to keep Natural Law just as Jews were expected to keep the Old Testament, yet both chose to reject the law they were under. Thus, they all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. In Romans 2:16 Paul is not stating that all people of all time will be judged according to his gospel; he is warning both Jew and Gentile that according to the gospel they will be judged by the law they are under.

The Bottom Line

Since the time that sin entered the world, mankind has been aware of and bound by Natural Law-one cannot escape this fact. Mankind is still governed by Natural Law. At times God further bound select groups of people with Positive Law. For example, the Jews were given the Old Testament Law, and it belonged to them only (Psalms 147:19-20). To keep part of the Old Law obligated a person to keep the whole law-Galatians 5:3. Thus, if a Gentile wanted to become a Jewish convert, he had to submit himself to the entire

Law by doing what the Law required for conversion. Prior to conversion, a Gentile was not bound by any of the Old Law; after he was converted, he was bound to keep all of the Old Law. So it is with the New Covenant: only those under the covenant are bound to keep the covenant.

One distinction remains to be made:

Under the Old Law	Under the New Law
Two groups existed: Jews and Gentiles	Two groups exist: Christians and Sinners
Salvation was not limited to the Jews Romans 9-11	Salvation is limited to Christians Acts 17:30

While the gospel message must now go forth to all men (Matthew 28:18-19), only those obedient to the gospel are bound by the gospel (Matthew 28:20).

If brethren could understand and apply the differences between Natural and Positive Laws, they could avoid many doctrinal errors. - Nathan Battey, nathanbattey@gmail.com

HERE AND THERE

By RICK MARTIN

The only way to build an intimate relationship with someone is time. If we want to have an intimate relationship with Christ and the Father we must spend time with them. We do this by spending time studying the Word and through prayer. There is no way to live a victorious Christian life and overcome sin and defeat the devil if we fail to spend time in prayer, reading, and studying God's Word.

There is a lot of play-acting, pretending, and deceitfulness found in our society today. We would like to think that it is not as common in the church as without, but that is probably wishful thinking. There is probably not a soul on earth that has not faced a situation where someone they respected or liked for some reason revealed himself or herself as someone other than anticipated. We have every right to expect Christians to be genuine or sincere and the disappointment is great when some prove to be otherwise.

A lot of things happened in the past. There are victories that we cherish and pains that will perhaps linger. The Bible, however, teaches that we Christians should move forward, forgetting those things that are behind. We cannot live in our past. Our failures and misfortunes will only bring us heartaches and worries if we won't leave them behind. The apostle Paul said we should instead

reach forth unto those things before or those things which are about to come. Philippians 3:12-14 "not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

Recently a church of Christ in Thompson Station, Tennessee was the victim of a theft. As you can imagine the members were dismayed over this situation. It seems that the thief made off with a priceless silver antique. It was a silver communion cup used by the congregation when it first started. I find this ironic; the congregation certainly didn't mind stealing the Communion service from the Lord by using individual cups. Luke 22:17 "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves". Instead of displaying that cup in a glass case, they should be using it.

If you cannot do big things; try to convert your closest friend, he might be the very one that can. - - "Tall oaks from little acorns grow." If you can't be the oak, be the acorn. I believe a great example of this principle is Andrew, the brother of Peter. John 1:40-43 "One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone".

It is good to be a Christian and know it; it is even better to be a Christian and show it. Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven". It's not hard to act like a Christian on Sunday or during a Gospel Meeting when you are around fellow Christians. The question is how do you act every day of the week?

I have been hearing news of many baptisms lately; may the kingdom continue to increase.

The 4th of July meetings in Springfield, MO and Sulphur, OK will soon be here. Make your plans to attend one of the meetings, if you can.

That's all for now. Pray for the brotherhood.



TURN DOWN THE VOLUME.....continued from page one

to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.” (Rom. 15:9 NKJV)

“And [also in order] that the Gentiles (nations) might glorify God for His mercy [not covenanted] to them. As it is written, Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles and sing praises to Your name.” (Rom. 15:9 AMP)

How interesting that in this place the amplification did not find instrumental music coming through the use of the word psallo! I wonder why? Of note is that this is a quotation from the Psalms wherein a Hebrew word, zamar is used that may also have reference to playing an instrument. And yet they seem to see that in this context it is referring to singing only. This is supported by all major Christian and Jewish translations of Psalm 18:49, the source of the quotation, which render the word, “to sing to sing praises, to sing psalms”.

“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.” (1 Cor. 14:15 NKJV)

“Then what am I to do? I will pray with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will also pray [intelligently] with my mind and understanding; I will sing with my spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me], but I will sing [intelligently] with my mind and understanding also.” (1 Cor. 14:15 AMP)

Yet again, the amplification doesn't reveal any hidden instruments, and we shouldn't be surprised of this, since the context is discussing how that when one sings (psallo) in the church they need to do it in a way that the message they are communicating is understood to them and others, in clear and reasonable words. This has no application to playing an instrument! It is clear that singing only is in view.

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.” (James 5:13 NKJV)

“Is anyone among you afflicted (ill-treated, suffering evil)? He should pray. Is anyone glad at heart? He should sing praise [to God].” (James 5:13 AMP)

We cannot help but marvel that in no case but Ephesians 5:19 were the “translators” of the Amplified Bible able to hear instruments in psallo! Why is it that in all these other verses singing only sufficed? One would start to think that this was an unfounded addition to God's Word!

The Scribes

Lastly we find that in listening to others who have worked to render the New Testament in English, no one else seems to hear what the “Amplifiers” hear.

ASV - “speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord...”

CEB - “speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts...”

CEV - “When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as you praise the Lord with all your heart.”

CJB - “sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to each other; sing to the Lord and make music in your heart to him...”

Darby - “speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and chanting with your heart to the Lord...”

D-R - “Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual canticles, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord...”

Easy-to-Read - “Encourage each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord.”

ESV - “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...”

Geneva - “Speaking unto yourselves in Psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts...”

GOD's Word - “by reciting psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs for your own good. Sing and make music to the Lord with your hearts.”

Good News - “Speak to one another with the words of psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts.”

KJV - “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord...”

Knox - "your tongues unloosed in psalms and hymns and spiritual music, as you sing and give praise to the Lord in your hearts."

LEB - "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and singing praise in your heart to the Lord..."

The Message - "Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything..."

Mounce - "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and songs inspired by the Spirit; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..."

NASB - "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord..."

NCV - "Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord."

NIV - "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord..."

NKJV - "speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..."

NLV - "Tell of your joy to each other by singing the Songs of David and church songs. Sing in your heart to the Lord"

NLT - "singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts."

NRSV - "as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts..."

Orthodox Jewish- "Speaking to one another in Tehillim and shirim and hymns and neshamah niggunim mi Ruach Hakodesh (soul melodies from the Ruach Hakodesh), singing and making melody in your levavot to Adonoi, [TEHILLIM 27:6]"

RSV - "addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart..."

Worldwide English- "Speak to one another by the songs in the holy writings, and songs of praise, and Christian songs. Sing and make a joyful noise in your hearts to the Lord."

Wycliffe - "and speak ye to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and saying psalm

in your hearts to the Lord..."

Young's Literal- "speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord..."

Notice please that the gamut of translators, and even some who exercise such free and liberal paraphrase that they do not merit the title, with all their differences in approach and philosophy toward the scripture, all yet agree that they do not hear the instruments in Ephesians 5:19 that the Amplified Bible has mentioned. We must conclude then that in this case the Amplified has "thought beyond that which was written" and "added to the words" of the Book. A dangerous and devilish practice! Our criticism does not rest exclusively on the Amplified Bible, but on all those amplified preachers and journals and commentaries that attempt to insert instrumental music into the scripture along the way. Please we beg, simply take the scripture for what it says! See the evidence! Let the facts speak! No matter how high one turns the volume, in the New Testament we will hear the sweet song of God's People praising him in the church, but we will not hear the sounds of mechanical instruments. They are far out of tune with Divine revelation.



TRAIN UP A CHILD.....continued from page two

realized until much too late that what they really did is teach their children that those other places were more important than the church. Then, tears flow and they bewail that their children have little or no interest in the church. Why be surprised when after all, the children have been taught to think of worldly places being more important than church and gospel preaching? Solomon told us to train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. However, if we train up a child in the way he should NOT go, he often will never leave that either! Our children are so moldable when they are young and they trust us completely. Children are taught from an early age (by some parents) to miss the services of the church for ball games or other sports, plays or school events, fishing, golfing, etc., that it is no surprise at all when so many simply prefer those things above spiritual matters later in life.

In the November 1, 1946 issue of Old Paths Advocate, a then 22 year old Lynwood Smith wrote: "I am working for my Savior And I'm busy every day. I am busy in His service, Leading others

to His way. Oft the labor seems so heavy, And it seems I stand alone, Till I just consider Jesus, Then it keeps me toiling on. It is not for worldly honor, That I labor, Lord, for Thee; From the love of earthly riches, Blessed Jesus, keep me free. Keep me busy in Thy service; Let me not go out for fame; Lord to Thee belongeth honor, I'll ascribe it to Thy name. Then, Lord Jesus, keep me humble, Meek and lowly, kind and true; For I oft recall my Savior, Was an humble Savior too. May I just keep toiling onward, Leading others to Thy way, Till Thy voice shall gently call me, From my work at close of day."

Could it have been an accident that he chose a life of service to God? Compare his life with the lives of countless others who were raised by church members and departed the Faith when they became older. We submit that often there may be a cause and effect to see and learn by.

Brethren, we had better learn our lesson well here. Our children are so precious to us. We just must not continue to make the mistakes so often made by well-meaning parents. Put the church first in your life. Allow your children to see that dedication in their parents. Likely, a greater love for spiritual things will then be seen in the lives of our children. Think on these things. -DLK

Announcements

60th Wedding Anniversary

Ronny and Alfreda Wade will be celebrating their 60th anniversary on June 7, 2015. Cards of congratulations and remembrances may be sent to them at P.O. Box 14352, Springfield, MO 65814. Daddy and Mother have always been tireless workers for the Lord, and have traveled most of their lives to bring the gospel to others. They gave me the greatest gifts parents can give their children - love, respect and obedience to God and His word. I am so blessed to be able to call them my father and mother. May God bless them with many more years of health and happiness. -Karen Smith and Family

Our Departed

BILLY JACK WELLMAN, 86, of Kenova, WV, husband to Glenna Wellman passed from this life on April 9, 2015 in his home. His passing was

peaceful and he was surrounded by his family at passing. A memorial service honoring his life was conducted on April 13, 2015 at Rollins Funeral Home in Kenova. His son Darrell spoke words on behalf of the family, with Brother Terry Brumfield leading congregational singing and also special singing performed by a close relative to Bill and his family. It was my privilege to speak a few words about Brother Bill commemorating the great Christian man that he was. Bill was a leader in his community in every sense of the word. He was a hardworking man. He was a good husband, a good father, and a good provider for his family and for those he helped who were in need. Bill was a great example of living by what you earn in life. He was true to himself, and was true to the Lord in all the things he did in life. Bill accomplished many great things both spiritual and temporal. He was a leader in his community in creating its first fire department and public water district. He served in several county offices and was involved in a lot of community betterment projects. Spiritually speaking Bill was involved in many significant works both far and near. He helped in the building of several church buildings within our brotherhood. He helped in supporting and even the starting of new works in different areas other than his own local community. In the past, he worked with many great preachers and traveled in labor supporting many tent gospel meetings and revivals in the tri-state KYOHVW areas. Bill and Glenna will always be remembered as some of the most hospitable people on earth. They have lodged both friends and strangers in their home and have helped in works to help the needy in our sphere of influence. Bill will be greatly missed here at his home congregation at Garretts Creek in Wayne, but his life's work continue on here West Virginia as the Lord wills. Bill was a friend to many people and his example of great faith and dedication are works that do follow him. Please remember his family in your prayers. -Wyn Baker of Garretts Creek Church of Christ, Wayne, WV

Field Reports

Carl M. Johnson 1400 Northcrest Dr. Ada, OK 74820 cmjthebackpage@gmail.com: We just closed a good meeting at Lexington, OK. Steve Bowen is working with the church there and is doing a good job. Ronny Wade held our annual

spring meeting and did an excellent job preaching. It was good to have Ronny in our midst again. Since my last report I conducted the spring meeting for the Crescent Ridge congregation in Birmingham, AL. We had a wonderful meeting. Folks came from all over the southeast quadrant of the country to participate. We had the added pleasure of staying with our son Corey and his family during the week. Corey and Julie are expecting their second child to be born May 12th. Lord willing, Phyllis and I will leave for Clovis, CA for a meeting May 3-10. From there we go to San Angelo, TX (June 7-14). We continue to solicit your prayers.

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, May 14, 2015, email: old_paths@juno.com. Brother Frank Brancato closed a short meeting for Livermore recently and did a fine job. We appreciated his good preaching and also enjoyed being together again. We will soon begin at Turlock, CA for their yearly Memorial Day meeting and we hope to see many of you there. We appreciate Turlock for their stand for truth and right and commend them for their work's sake. The church at home continues in peace for which we are sincerely thankful and pray it will always continue. It will soon be time for the 4th of July meetings and we hope all will plan to attend at either Springfield, MO or Sulphur, OK. Soon after the 4th, we plan to hold a gospel meeting at Marietta, GA. We look forward to that and also to being with our good friends the Martins. The work in the Philippines is growing and there are preachers needing support. Can you help? Let us know and we can put you in direct contact with preaching brethren who need your support. You can send directly to them and they will communicate with you in their work. We ask our preaching brethren to send their reports, articles, etc. to us on time (by the 14th of the month) so we may be able to get the material to the printers in a timely manner. Lord bless the faithful everywhere.

Johnny Elmore, 419 K SW, Ardmore, OK, 73401, johnnyelmore@gmail.com, May 9-- I was invited to participate in the Bible study at Columbia, MO, March 9-13. It was a profitable and instructive experience. It is a good work of the church there under the leadership of Shahe Gergian and Clint DeFrance. I appreciated riding there with Matthew Barnes and staying with Bryan and Cherie Davis.

En route home, Matthew and I stopped for the discussion at Seminole, OK between George Battey and Malcolm Kniffen. Good order prevailed and I think most who attended would like to hear more on this subject. I enjoyed being at Neosho, MO with the congregation at Freeman Road March 25-29. I appreciated all who came to be with us during the meeting, especially on Sunday. It was my pleasure once again to enjoy the hospitality of the home of Roger and Sue Owens. April 3-5, I conducted a short meeting at Little Rock, AR. The meeting was well attended for the most part and I was impressed with the good leadership and orderly arrangement of services there. I enjoyed staying with Doug and Debbie Edwards, who now make their home in Little Rock. April 17-19, I spoke in a weekend meeting at the 11th Street congregation in Tulsa, OK. Good attendance prevailed during the meeting. The perseverance of faithful brethren through some lean years has resulted in growth in attendance and influence. Bad weather forced the rescheduling of my appointment at Sentinel, OK to May 3. I enjoyed visiting with Mark and Janice Bailey. We were thankful for a number of visitors. It has been my privilege to hear Ronny Wade and Jimmie Smith preach recently. I am scheduled to be at Wichita Falls, TX May 10, Galey, OK May 31, Ada, OK, June 21, and in a meeting at Pontiac, MI July 18-26, and in Moore, OK Aug. 29-30. I am expecting to be present for a great singing at Marietta, GA on August 15.

Darrell Crawford 208 E Baldwin Rd Unit 5, Panama City, Fl. 32405 bugz1955@hotmail.com Greetings to all the faithful everywhere. The work in Panama City, Florida is going well. It has been some time since my last report, for this I apologize to the brethren. The work is still progressing. In the last two years we have had a total of five brethren from digressive congregations take their stand with the truth. One brother is a teacher and is developing into a leader in the church here. Another is a good song leader and will help pass the communion. Another is eager to learn how to do those things, but needs lots of work and encouragement. We continue to have the booth at Friday fest the first Friday of the month from February thru November. We are getting the word out that we are here, people tell us they miss us if we are unable to make it one month. We were privileged recently to hear Barney Owens and Allen Bailey in meetings in our area.

We continue to have visitors and look forward to more. If you are in our area of the Florida panhandle please stop by and visit us, it would thrill us. Please continue to pray for the work here, that our Lord will bless the efforts. May the Lord bless His church everywhere.

Greg Gay, May 16, 2015. In recent weeks I held a meeting at Fair Oaks, a close sister congregation to 64th. St., where we work in the Sacramento area. We had good crowds and receptive hearers to basic Bible truths. The brethren there are longtime friends through thick and thin and we enjoyed their hospitality and our visits with everyone including Roger Boone who labors there and at Placerville. My next meeting was at 21st St. in Oklahoma City. The congregation, along with their bishops and deacons, was a delight to be with for the week. What a blessing it is to see a large group of all ages with a focus on the Lord’s work both near and far. They truly embody the Great Commission with their involvement in their local work, plus hosting the preacher’s study every other year, taking their turn hosting the New Year’s Meeting, and many decades of involvement in foreign work with an emphasis on Africa. This can only happen with longtime visionary leadership like that of elders Cliff Arney and Duane Cutter who are highly respected by the congregation. Area cooperation was wonderful as many other congregations’ members attended one or more services. At the beginning of the week, prayers were offered for Allen Bailey, who also ably works and serves as an elder there, and Ben Bonnett as they made their way home from holding a meeting in West Virginia. At the final service, prayers were offered for Duane Cutter and Michael Howard who were leaving the next day to be in Africa for several weeks. Cassie and I stayed with our daughter Lori and son-in-law Justin Owen who works with the congregation at Edmond, which meant some fun family time between visits and studies. My next stop was Glendale, Arizona where I had not been for many years. The brethren were very active in inviting people to the meeting with good results and displayed a love and a closeness that can only come from spending much time together. They are making plans to enlarge their worship area for growth they are working to have in the next few years. I enjoyed staying with Art Lynch and appreciate all of his work there! Other preaching travels within California in recent weeks

have included Redding, Lodi, and Stockton. As we live longer, our friends do leave “one by one” as the old song laments. We have been saddened in recent days by the loss of Rich Lechner of Auburn and James Mason of Stockton. May God bless us all, and may we stay in His truths until it is our turn to go. 1820 Casterbridge Dr., Roseville, CA 95747. papagreg@aol.com



WERE YOU THERE?

It was the mid-week meeting,
The quiet hour of prayer:
The Master of Assemblies
Patiently waited there.
A look of pain and sorrow
Shadowed His face Divine,
“I cleansed ten,” He murmured,
“Where, then, can be the nine?
Have they so soon forgotten
The sins I washed away?
Has not their weakness taught them
The need to watch and pray?
On mountain and in desert,
Beset by Satan’s power,
For them I prayed and fasted,
Can they not watch one hour?”

They had not meant to slight Him
Because they did not go:
Their heart had never told them
That He would miss them so,
And so the Master waited
In loneliness and grace,
While they, alas! neglected
The holy gathering place.
Oh, Savior dear, forgive us,
We are so slow to come
To seek the blest communion
Of the quiet upper room:
Lord, give us clearer vision,
Thy loveliness to see,
Till naught shall so delight us
As fellowship with Thee.

~ Homer A. Gay, 1938

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THE BACK PAGE...

KNOCK OUT THEIR TEETH

By CARL M. JOHNSON

When I was in the seventh grade our junior high school took a field trip to the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City. As we were preparing to leave Ada, a couple of ninth-grade bullies approached me on the bus and told me to move because they wanted my seat. My older brother Raymond, also a ninth-grader, was few seats away and when he overheard them threaten me he yelled at them and said, "Leave him alone!" They turned and faced him and asked defiantly, "What are you going to do about it if we don't?" He gave them a cold glare and said firmly, "I'll knock your teeth down your throat!" They knew Raymond well enough to know he meant what he said and could back it up. They left me alone.

It was pretty reassuring to know that as one of the youngest students in junior high school I had a big brother on campus who would knock the teeth out of any of my would-be assailants. However, I must admit that it is somewhat unsettling to read the psalmist David asking God to do the same thing to his enemies. Referring to wicked people in powerful places, David appeals to God to "break their teeth in their mouth" (Ps. 58:6).

The statement by David is an "imprecatory" psalm. To "imprecate," means to invoke evil upon, or to curse another. Psalms 7, 35, 55, 58, 59, 69, 79, 137, and 139, all contain prayers asking God to place a curse and pour out His vengeance upon the psalmist's enemies.

Here are a few examples, "Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the grave" (55:15); "May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous" (69:28); "May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow" (109:9); "How blessed will be the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks" (137:9).

These psalms are troubling because they seem to conflict with the sentiment of the gospel. How can we possibly reconcile harsh language that calls for brutal punishment upon our enemies with Jesus' teaching that we must love our enemies (Mt. 5:44)?

It is even more difficult to understand this apparent inconsistency when you realize that some of these imprecatory psalms are carried over into the NT. Paul quotes imprecations from Psalm 69 in Romans 11:9-10 and 15:3. Adding to the difficulty is the Lord's curse upon Capernaum (Mt. 11:23-24), Paul's prayer of anathema upon false teachers (Gal. 1:8-9), his denunciation of Alexander the coppersmith (2 Tim. 4:14), and the prayer of the martyrs under the altar of God asking for vengeance upon their enemies (Rev. 6:10).

It follows that imprecations in both the OT and NT include zeal for the honor of God, hatred of that which is contrary to God and His purposes, righteous indignation (anger without sin), a desire to see God vindicated, a desire that those who hold God in contempt be held accountable, and a desire to give glory to God's justice and goodness.

Such imprecations seem to indicate it is proper for Christians to desire the downfall and appropriate punishment of God's enemies. Those who are intensely interested in seeing God's will done on earth (Mt. 6:10), will yearn for God's justice to be done for all-with punishment inflicted on those who deserve it. Such prayers, however, must be without personal malice, or a vindictive or revengeful spirit.

What person in his or her right mind does not want to see a child rapist caught and punished for his foul deeds? While we should not harbor hatred in our hearts for such a degraded individual, we should possess a righteous desire that he be called to account for his heinous behavior and punished properly.

Still, there remains a tension between passages that call for curses upon the wicked and those that warn the faithful not to glory in the death of the wicked. Proverbs 24:17 states, "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles." Again, Jesus commands us to "love your enemies" (Mt. 5:44; Lk. 6:35). Paul adds, "Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not" (Rom. 12:14), "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:21; 1 Thess. 5:15).

Because we are not inspired as the psalmist and apostles were, we are not infallible when distinguishing the righteous from the wicked. The person we feel is the ultimate in wickedness may turn from his wicked way. The chiefest of sinners may find mercy just as Paul did. Therefore, while we cautiously long for God to avenge Himself against the disobedient in general (Rom. 12:19; 2 Thess. 1:8), it may be wise not to ask Him to knock out the teeth of anyone specifically. cmjthebackpage@gmail.com