

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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THREE RULES OF LIFE

By WAYNE FUSSELL

The greatest sermon ever preached was preached by or Lord on the side of a hill near Capernaum. We call it “The Sermon on the Mount”. In that sermon, Jesus gave what men have designated as “The Golden Rule”. We often quote it like this: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. It’s found in Matthew 7:12.

There are two other rules that have been given metallic names, the “Iron Rule” and the “Silver Rule”. Men have been following these rules to one degree or another down through the centuries. The Iron Rule has to do with power and force. Its motto is “Might Makes Right”. Those who practice this rule believe that the person with the power has the right to do to the powerless as he pleases. The Babylonians followed this rule. Their motto was “My god is my might” (Habakkuk 1:11). They worshiped at the shrine of power and might. Cain was probably the first one to practice this philosophy when he killed his brother Abel - because “his works were evil” (I John 3:11-12) and because he had the power to do so. Military leaders like Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar were iron-rule men. They ruled the world by this rule. Even Charles Darwin gave scientific respectability to the Iron Rule as he promoted the “survival of the fittest”. His was the law of the jungle - the strong survive while the weak are eliminated. Adolf Hitler in his scheme to develop a master race followed Darwin’s iron-rule policies by slaughtering millions of Jews. And the rule has even found its way into the government of the United States. As a result of the Roe v. Wade decision by the Supreme Court in 1973, millions of innocent children have been murdered in the abortion clinics of this nation. Many examples could be given of this monstrous rule.

The Silver Rule is little more respectable. Some have called it the negative Golden Rule. It is the Golden Rule without the gold. It says, “What you do not wish done

to you, do not do to others.” Ancient Greeks and Jewish rabbis subscribed to this rule. Rabbi Hillel said: “What is hateful to yourself, do to no other.” Confucius declared, “What you do not wish yourself, do not unto others”. The problem with the Silver Rule is that it is totally negative in its emphasis. It forbids much; it enjoins nothing. The Silver Rule was followed by the witnesses to the cruel murder of Catherine Genovese in 1964 in New York City. Thirty-eight people heard her screams, but they did nothing. A long list of rationalizations were given to excuse their silver-rule logic! The Silver Rule is a negative rule. It reasons that we are right because we do no wrong. That won’t get you into heaven!

Finally, there is the exalted Golden Rule. Jesus said, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”. The Silver Rule will be condemned on Judgment Day when the lost will hear the Lord say: “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” - “for you did it not...” (Matthew 25:41-43). The Golden Rule says to “Do unto others”. It is a positive rule of doing. The Silver Rule only requires a person to not harm another. It doesn’t say anything about doing good. Although it forbids bad behavior, it doesn’t encourage good behavior. The Golden Rule declares that it matters how you treat other people! Christianity is not just a vertical relationship that merely looks upward to God, it is also a horizontal relationship that looks outward to our fellow man. And our vertical relationship depends mightily on the horizontal relationship. We cannot be right with God if we fail to do right by our fellow man.

The Golden Rule applies to all people with whom we come in contact. The word “men” used by Jesus is generic in the Greek - it means people in general. We are to do unto everyone as we would have them do unto us. And we carry this rule into every area of our lives. It applies in our home, our school, and yes, in our business or profession.

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Editorial

THE WAY IT OUGHT TO BE

By DON L. KING

It is sad to realize that the days of innocence once enjoyed in America is pretty far gone for the Lord’s people. The days of great meetings with large numbers of baptisms are too few now. God be thanked that we still see such in foreign fields, but we see less and less of such things in our own Country. Worldliness is far more common today among God’s people than a few years ago. We now hear of things we scarcely thought of when I began preaching in the mid 1960’s. Unfortunately, things once openly disdained and condemned by all of us are now viewed with more tolerance, at least by some. This is not good news! This is an indication of a people who have, and are, drifting away from ancient moorings. Thank the Lord for those who are still old fashioned and remain as contenders for “...the old paths where is the good way...” (Jeremiah 6:16) It is so refreshing to see sisters who refuse to bend to style or fashion which would encourage them to cut their hair or wear apparel not modest by any standard. It has been our observance that when one sister gives in, others are likely to follow. May God bless His people everywhere who still contend for righteousness in every aspect of life. Who still believe it is right to insist that their families attend all the services of the church because it is more important than any worldly pursuit.

The apostle Paul warned of “perilous times” in 2 Timothy 3:1 saying that such are to be in the last days. Most of us understand this is indicative of the times just preceding the second coming of Christ. Are we living in them? Read verses 2-7 and the answer is apparent. It would be difficult to find a more accurate description of our world today. He warns of those who are braggarts and seek to have us know they are very important and wise. Others are proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Then in verse 3 he mentions those who are without “natural affection.” This refers to those who are without the normal ties of a family. They just don’t care. Sweet little babies are born and deserted in a trash can to die by a mother who is without natural affection. Folks, we live in a time where in our own Country babies have been aborted by the millions and many just don’t care! We could spend the rest of this editorial telling stories, but we are all aware of them. The family unit has by and large been destroyed in our

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THE POWER OF ONE

By JOHNNY ELMORE

This article first appeared in August, 1993 in the Pathfinders, a congregational bulletin for the Sanger, CA Church of Christ. Johnny worked with the church in Sanger for the summer and then held the California Labor Day meeting that year. His positive influence in that part of California remains strong to this day, as it does in so many places. Submitted by Geary Trent.

One of the popular songs in our current songbook says: "If everything we read is so, we're standing on the brink of woe," and then it ends with the assurance that "God will lead his children out." That is a happy thought, and I believe it to be truth. I have read the last two chapters in my Bible, and guess what?? Truth and righteousness win.

Sometimes people look around at the unrighteousness and ungodliness in the world and come to the conclusion that no one is doing right. Some people have said, "No one else is doing right. Why should I?"

It is very true that evil and wickedness are prevalent. We live in a sick society. This is acknowledged by those in high positions. Each year, it is estimated that seven million babies are born out of wedlock, and over one million abortions are performed. There are twelve million alcoholics in our country. Crime, dishonesty and racial and domestic strife are rampant. The words of Jesus in Matt. 24:12 describe our society: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

What should be our response to the evil around us? Should we despair and throw up our hands and give up? No, friends. We should recognize the worth and power of one. Because of the darkness around us, we were never in a better position to "let our lights shine," as Jesus taught in Matt. 5:14-16. When it is really dark, the smallest little light seems brighter. In a world filled with despairing, hopeless individuals, Christians were never in a better position to provide the solutions to problems.

A famous American general was once surrounded by the enemy on every side. What instructions do you think he gave his troops in bunkers and foxholes all around? Did he wave the white flag? On the contrary, he got on the radio and said: "Men, we now have the opportunity to attack from all sides."

That should be the Christian's orders. Remember, only

one Esther delivered her people. Only one Elijah met the false prophets who were 400 strong. Only one Daniel stood strong when so many around were denying God. Only one Noah found grace in God's eyes when the whole world was wrong. I could go on and on but you get the picture.

Perhaps you and I will never know in this life the number of individuals we influence by the right kind of living. There was a flour miller who, after the day's work, went into the commissary. Everywhere he went in the store, he left little traces of flour. In much the same way, every life we touch, we influence to some degree, leaving upon it some traces of ourselves.

In Power For Today, this little article appeared: "Many years ago I attended a gospel meeting. For several days the truth went unheeded. Near the close of the meeting, I saw a young man push his way to the aisle and courageously walk down to obey the gospel. Of those present, he was considered least likely to take that action. The impact of that young man's decision was felt over the entire audience. Thirty-two other friends of his followed him down the aisle. It would be interesting to know how many hundreds of persons those thirty-two in turn have helped down some aisle somewhere in the intervening thirty years. The influence of that one boy who led the way will live after him. He, perhaps, is unaware, but that is the way with influence. It always lives one way or another. You and I do that every day. Few things work so quietly, yet so effectively, as influential power."

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“WHITHER THOU GOEST, I WILL GO”

BY RICK MARTIN

One of the most important characteristics that should exist in a person is loyalty. In the Old Testament we have a great example of loyalty found in a woman name Ruth. Ruth had an instinctive sense of loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi. After the death of her husband she was given the option of staying in her own culture or traveling with her mother-in-law to a distant country of which she knew nothing about. Sensing her place of responsibility was at Naomi's side, Ruth made the journey.

Loyalty ties people together. It was Ruth's tremendous loyalty that God saw and rewarded by placing her in the genealogical line of the Savior of the world.

Ruth made a great sacrifice by leaving her family and friends. She was loyal to Naomi and God. She put aside her own interest and became Naomi's support and dearest friend. She vowed to stay by Naomi's side with her great statement, “whither thou goest, I will go.”

We are called upon to show loyalty to Christ and God, Col. 3:15-17. Every Christian is solemnly dedicated to Christ if he is a genuine Christian. Loyalty to Christ and God for the Christian is the first and basic law of life. “Whatever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” must be the motto and guiding star of every faithful child of God. Loyalty to God means obedience.

Jesus had much to say about men's responsibility for obeying God as the basis of man being acceptable in the eyes of God. The New Testament tells us that that obedience is a key that unlocks many doors for us. It is a seed that bears many fruits, it produces many desirable results in the life of the person who diligently pursues the life of obedience.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7 that, obedience, or loyalty to God is that which gains for us an entrance into the Kingdom of God. Matt. 7:21 “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”. In this same chapter, Jesus tells us that the obedient life is a well-founded life. The man who hears the word and obeys it is compared to a man who builds His house on a good foundation. The man who does not hear and obey, is compared to a man who built on an

unstable foundation.

Obedience is how we escape the slavery of sin. Rom. 6:17-18 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” Peter states, 1 Peter 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:” The writer of Hebrews adds that Jesus, being made “perfect”, became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Hebrews 5:9. It is by our obedience that we show our love and loyalty to God. Jesus said, “if ye love me, keep my commandments”.

The book of Romans speaks of faith and of the “obedience of faith”. Coupled with the book of James, it shows us that a man's faith is not something that merely exists in theoretical form. If it is a saving faith, it is a faith that expresses itself by obeying God.

People of all religious persuasions are attempting to obey God in one manner or another. Men in their attempts to obey God, all too often are doing entirely different things in response to the same commandment. This certainly poses a problem and raises the question, “Just what is obedience?” What kind of obedience is acceptable unto God? The New Testament gives us some amazingly simple points we should be aware of.

First, we see the obedience that is acceptable to God must come from the heart of man. In Romans 6:17 Paul says “ye have obeyed from the heart.” Any obedience that does not come from the heart is not obedience. It certainly is not worthy in the eyes of God.

What is the heart? We reason with the heart; Mark 2:8. The heart can express emotion; Rom. 10:1. The heart can purpose; Acts 11:23. The heart can believe; Rom. 10:10. The heart is that inner part of man that can reason, desire, purpose and believe. It includes the intellect, the emotions, and the will. It is from this fountain that obedience must spring.

Jesus recognized that there was a temptation to honor God with the lips while the heart was far from Him. Jesus indicted the people of His day for such behavior; Matt. 15:8 “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”

When Samuel was sent to the house of Jesse to seek for a new king, he thought he had found his man in David's older brother. Samuel was looking on the physical attributes and said, "surely this is the man". God said, "no, look not upon him for I have rejected him" and He went on to tell Samuel that man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.

We who would delight in our obedience and loyalty to God, we who possess the truth must never forget that obedience comes from the heart. God may well see what we do outwardly, and we may compliment one another for our outward achievements. We need to remember that God's eyes penetrate beneath the surface to consider the heart of each one who would obey. Acceptable obedience comes from the heart.

Second acceptable obedience involves doing what God has said. No man should dare do anything other than that which the commands of God have set forth. John sounds forth a warning; 2 John 9. The man who would tamper with the word of God and refuses to do what God has asked is a man who has separated himself from God. A man who refuses to obey has put himself in a terrible position.

Some seem to be determined to do that which God has said not to do. Man is often inclined to tell himself if he attaches the right name to what he does, then it is right, Matt 7:22-23. The counterfeiter may put the Secretary of Treasurer's name on his bill but that does not make it the real thing.

There are some who are interested in their own opinions. The classic example of this attitude is Naaman. There are some who like to pick and choose. For some it is like going through a cafeteria line where you choose the items you want. Acceptable obedience involves doing all that God has said.

Third, obedience involves doing what God has said, doing it from the heart, and doing it in the way God has said. All too often we see people attempting to do what God has said, but they do it in the way they choose. Saul was a man like this. He did not follow God's command, yet he still insisted that he obeyed God. Even though he professed noble intentions, he was condemned by God because he did not do exactly as God commanded him to do. How many profess their loyalty to God and Jesus yet do things their own way? We show our loyalty to God by obeying Him.

Today the question for you and me is, where does our loyalty lie? Are we loyal to God and Christ? Are we loyal to the church Jesus died for?

A loyal person remains steadfast to those whom he serves. Loyalty is an expression of love that comes from the heart. A loyal person has a strong sense of responsibility. Loyal people set aside their own interest for the interest of others.

Genuine loyalty is not built on circumstances, environment, popularity, or convenience. Loyalty is built on devotion. Ruth was devoted to Naomi. Are we devoted to God? Does serving God take precedence over everything else? Will we say, "whither thou goest, I will go." —Rick Martin, teacherrmartin@gmail.com

JESUS CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

By DARIO ESTAVILLO

The religious groups today are diligent in preaching Jesus. However, they are not in favor of preaching his church. They claim that believing Jesus as your Savior is the only thing to do in order to be saved and the church has nothing to do or irrelevant in the plan of God for man's salvation. We often hear from them that one can have a denomination of their choice as religion will not save but Jesus. This is total ignorance of the Bible. Let us examine the truth through God's words.

It was recorded in the Book of Genesis about the creation of man. God created Adam from the dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, v. 7. However, God said, it is not good that the man should be alone and said further, He will make him an help meet for him. 2:28. To make this happen, God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept, and he took one of his ribs, and he closed up the flesh instead thereof, And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. When God brought the woman unto the man it was ordained and notice this truth; Therefore shall a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh, Genesis 2:21-24. Jesus further explained in Mat. 19:5-6 thus : "For this cause, shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put assunder."

From the statements above, we can learn that God

created first Adam through a dust. However the woman was created differently and notice once again, she was a rib from the man taken out through his side. The woman was given to the man as his wife and the twain become one flesh. They can not be separated as the man is the head of the woman. This is clearly stated in Genesis 3:16 “Unto the the woman, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception: in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband; and he shall rule over thee.”

These facts can be seen in Christ and His church. The events in Genesis are a shadow of real things in the new Testament. To better understand it, may we go to the hill of Calvary where Jesus was crucified with two others. In John account it was said that because its the preparation of the Sabbath, the Jews are observing Sabbath day, and the bodies will not remain on the cross on the sabbath day, they besought Pilate that their legs must be broken. This will cause those on the cross to die faster. So the soldiers broke the legs of the two but when they came to Jesus, they saw He was already dead. However one of the soldier with a spear, pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. John 19:31-34. Why is It necessary that the side of Jesus be opened by piercing through a spear? Note the words in Hebrews 10:19-20, “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He has consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh” When his flesh was opened, the holiest was opened and there we have a new and living way. What was that thing that was opened for us? In Acts 20:28 it was written, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood”. When the flesh of Jesus was opened, blood came out and there, the church was purchased. But what about the water? What was it’s significance? Look at what the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:25-28 “Husbands, love your wives; even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present unto himself a glorious church, not having a spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” We understand that Paul was speaking to the church without blemish being washed with water by the word. This refers to water baptism like those who heard the word or the Gospel preached in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost believed, repented of their sins and baptized for the remission of their sins and thus the establishment of the

church of Christ.

We also understand that the church was without blemish as Eve was a pure virgin when she was given to Adam as his wife. The church was at that state when it was espoused to Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians 11:2 “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband: that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ” The church was presented to Christ as a chaste virgin to be his wife. Being so, what is her condition? Are they separate? Paul explained in Ephesians 5:22-24 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husband, as unto the lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body, Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. He further explained In verse 32, This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

So the head is Christ and the body is the church, Col. 1:18, 1:24, Eph 1:22,23. They are one. They are inseparable for a body without the head is dead. Put away Christ away from the body, and the body is nothing. Is the church not Important? Friends, we better study well the Bible and know the truth. We can not be save outside church because this is the bride of Christ. This was bought by Christ with his own blood. The church is the body of Christ. You better think about that. —Philippines

GIVING THANKS AT THE LORD’S TABLE

By PAUL O. NICHOLS

It is apparent to many that something needs to be said, and teaching needs to be done with regards to appropriate thanksgiving at the Lord’s table (Luke 22:30). After all, Jesus our Lord set the example and said, “This do in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19). New converts are bound to be confused when they hear thanksgiving offered in so many different ways and often inappropriately. And most of the time a person who makes the mistakes receives no correction, and over and again the same mistakes are made. Often brethren who have received no instruction, either from the pulpit or privately, are asked to serve at the Communion table. Some have never learned correct and appropriate thanksgiving. It is no wonder mistakes are made and the thanksgiving is misworded.

The elements in the Lord’s Supper are nothing more than

common bread and grape juice in a common drinking vessel until they are sanctified through prayer and blessed by the Lord. Even our daily food is “sanctified by the word of God and prayer” (1 Tim. 4:4, 5). When Jesus instituted the Communion the Scriptures tell us He blessed the elements. Then He declared, “this is my body”, “this is my blood” (Matt. 26:26, 28), “this cup is the New Testament in (ratified by) my blood” (Luke 22:20). Jesus was not telling His apostles that the elements had become literally His body, His blood, and literally the new covenant God made with His people. The word “is” is a copula of “symbolic representation”. These elements were symbols of what they represented. (Yes, they are representatives; not literally the body and blood of Christ). They were symbolic only after they were sanctified by thanksgiving of Jesus (set apart for a particular use). They became significant by divine arrangement and recognition. They are of spiritual purpose and value and must be received as such. Otherwise, we eat and drink damnation to ourselves, “not discerning the Lord’s body” and are “guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”! Cor. 11:27, 29). This is serious.

When our Lord gave His apostles the Communion, He set the example for them and for us, and He said “This do in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:20). Jesus “took bread, and gave thanks” (Luke 22:19). I have actually witnessed brethren serving at the table who failed to offer thanks. The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians “the cup of blessing which we bless” (1 Cor. 10:16). This is fundamental. To follow the example of Jesus we offer thanks. For what? We offer thanks for the elements that comprise the Lord’s Supper. After we offer our thanks, the next thing in order is to ask the Lord to “bless or sanctify” the bread; to “sanctify the cup of blessing”. When we do this, the bread becomes symbolically the body of Jesus and the cup with its contents becomes symbolically the “cup of the Lord” (1 Cor 11:27).

Our thanksgiving is directed to God through the name of Jesus. But I have heard, more than once, a brother waiting on the table make the error of thanking God for shedding His blood for us. God did not die for us. God sent Jesus to become our sacrifice for sin (John 3: 16). It was Jesus who died on the cross and shed his blood for the remission of sins (Matt. 26:27).

There are brethren who seem to think they have to explain to God the meaning of the elements. They say, “We thank thee for this bread which is the body of Jesus.” And again, “We thank thee for this fruit of the

vine which is the blood of Christ, and this cup which is the New Testament.” God knows the significance and meaning of the elements. The true meaning of the Communion should be taught to the members of the church before the observance; not in the prayer. We who commune need to understand before we partake, so as to do it without eating and drinking damnation to ourselves.

In 1 Cor. 10:16 the apostle Paul says, “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” In this Paul reminds us that we are to give thanks for “the cup of blessing” which is the “communion of the blood of Christ”. He also tells us that the bread is the “communion of the body of Christ”. He reminds us that this is what we give thanks for. And when the thanks are given and the Lord sanctifies these elements, they have spiritual significance; they have sacred purpose. If we use scriptural language in our thanksgiving, we can’t go wrong.

All our prayers are addressed to God. “We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...” says the apostle Paul (Col. 1:3). In giving thanks at the table of the Lord it is appropriate to thank God (1) “for the bread which to us is the communion of the body of Christ” (2) “to ask the Lord to bless (sanctify) it for its intended use or purpose.” It is also apropos to solicit his help to partake of it in the right way. There is no reason to embellish the prayer or to lengthen it unnecessarily. It is not a time for a long prayer or flowery speech, or the exercise of a large vocabulary. And when one offers thanks for the cup, he can say, as an example, (1) “We thank thee for this cup of blessing” (which language is scriptural and covers both the container and its contents). (2) “Please bless it for its intended purpose.” (3) “Help us to partake of it in the right way and with the right attitude”, or words to that effect. And every time we partake, it is for the purpose of reminding us of the greatest sacrifice ever made--the crucifixion of the Son of God and all that He suffered to purchase our redemption and to give the hope of eternal life. It is a memorial service. We do this to show His death till he comes (1 Cor. 11:26).

Let the man who officiates at the “table of the Lord” be absolutely sure to offer prayer that is scriptural and appropriate. For he has an awesome responsibility of wording an acceptable prayer to God for his own benefit and the benefit of the assembled saints, in order for the

observance to be acceptable to the Lord. "This do in remembrance of me" said Jesus.

THREE RULES OF LIFE....continued from page one

The Golden Rule was first presented in its purest form by Jesus. Jesus suggested that it was a summary of Old Testament teaching when He said, "This is the law and the prophets." I think he made this plain in Matthew 22:35-40 when He was asked what was the greatest commandment. He replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Herein lies the foundation and full expression of the Golden Rule. If you love God with your total being and your fellow man as yourself, you will do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We should hasten to say that The Golden Rule is a reasonable rule. Please be aware that the rule does not say, "Whatever others want you to do, do unto them." Many would want you to do wrong and sinful things. No, the rule is practiced by one who is well informed in God's will, and it will always be practiced with a purview of what is right before God.

It is interesting to see that all of these rules are forcefully illustrated in Jesus' parable of the good Samaritan in Luke 10. Jesus said that a certain Hebrew man was traveling the road that led through a barren region from Jerusalem to Jericho. As he journeyed, he fell victim to robbers who tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him half-dead by the roadside. The bandits' reasoning was: "We are several; you are one. We are strong; you are weak. You have possessions; we want them." Theirs was the clenched-fist rule of iron.

As the man lay wounded, unable to help himself, eventually a Jewish priest came by, and then later, a Levite (one who served the priests in temple ceremonies). These were religious leaders of the day. Both were likely horrified by the bloody scene, and so they crossed to the opposite side of the road, and hastened their steps. Their respective thinking doubtless was: "This tragedy was not my fault. It's none of my affair. I can't get involved". They did not kick the afflicted Jew; they did not rifle his pockets. They simply passed on. They were silver-rule men.

Finally, a Samaritan came by. Samaritans were normally dedicated enemies of the Jews. John 4:9 says, "For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans". But the Samaritan did not see a Jew or an enemy. He saw a fellow human being in need and was moved with compassion. He tended the injured man's wounds, set him on his own donkey, and took him to a nearby inn where he paid for his lodging-and pledged even more! The Samaritan's code of ethics was this: "But for the grace of God, I could be writhing in agony by the roadside. What would I desire on my behalf if our respective circumstances were reversed?" It did not take him long to find the answer, for his compassionate heart was bathed in the golden glow of divine love. The Samaritan was following the Golden Rule. And that's the rule we must follow.

It is easy to see that the Golden Rule is the superior rule for us to follow. The Iron Rule is a disastrous rule and will condemn us in the final Day. The Silver Rule is only partially good. It promotes a negative religion that will never get you to heaven. The Golden Rule is true rule of Heaven and a heavenly life.

The Golden Rule is a thrilling challenge to contemplate. I'm sure none of us observes it perfectly, but let us never criticize it. Rather, let us applaud it, and strive for its lofty heights. Nothing could go farther in changing life for the better than to obey the Golden Rule. Whatever your role in life is, consider how it could be improved by simply living the Golden Rule. Look for ways you can help others, and do good for them. "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). The greatest way you could help others is to tell them about the Lord Jesus, and the good news of the gospel. Wfussell1@comcast.net

THE WAY IT OUGHT....continued from page two

Country. It is pretty normal now for American children to grow up in a home lacking one parent. Why? Divorce is so common that in America it is pretty much the norm. Those who are my age can recall when in the church divorce was virtually unheard of but we have all heard of it now. Someone is perhaps thinking, "why warn us of this?" Because, Paul warned of it in the long ago. In 2 Timothy 3:13 he said, "But evil men and seducers (imposters according to W.E. Vine) shall wax worse and worse deceiving and being deceived." Let's face it people, America has been deceived in a horrible

manner. Imposters have deceived some in the church as well. The Devil just never quits.

We just can't know when the Lord is coming again. That knowledge belongs to the Father only. However, we can know this: Now is not the time for Christians to be weak, worldly, and uninterested in spiritual things. For those who commonly choose to do other things than be at the services of the church every time it meets, it is a good time to make a change. It certainly is not a good time for church members to be walking as close to the world as many are. It is a good time for all to wake up and walk close to God. Many of the early restorers began, and ended, their writings with the slogan "Back to the Bible." That is a wonderful slogan, and it needs to enjoy a big comeback. Think on these things. —DLK

Our Departed

MEENTS - Ruth Katherine (Cathy) Meents, 85 of Bolivar, MO, formerly of Lebanon, MO passed from this life on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at the CMH Healthcare Facility in Bolivar, MO after an extended illness. Cathy was born August 2, 1935 near Grovespring, MO. Her father was Newell Cecil Smith and mother Vera Mae (Fike) Smith. Her brothers were Bob L. Smith and Jack H. Smith. At the age of 7 the family sold their farm and moved to Lebanon, Mo. Cathy graduated from Lebanon, MO High School in 1954. At the age of 15 Cathy was baptized into Christ for the remission of sins. The majority of her life she was a member of the Lee's Summit Church of Christ west of Lebanon, MO. Later in life she was a member of the Pleasant View Church of Christ, Springfield, MO. Cathy was married to Donald (Don) Eugene Meents on June 27, 1954 at the home of her parents by evangelist Edwin Morris. As a teenager, Cathy worked at O'Neil Variety store in Lebanon, MO. After her marriage, she worked for a short time in Kansas City, MO for the Hallmark company. The remainder of her life she worked at home caring for Don, her sons and assisting Don on their family farm. In 2007, Cathy and Don moved to Bolivar, MO. Cathy was a wonderful homemaker and an acclaimed cook. Cathy was preceded in death by her parents Newell and Vera Smith and her brothers Bob Smith and wife Yvonne, and Jack Smith and wife Judy. Cathy is survived by her husband Don, of the home, son Randy Meents and wife Renee, and son Steve Meents and wife Shelly. Grandchildren Leanne (Meents) Cope and husband Glen, Erin (Meents) Amsberg and husband Matthew, John Meents and Luke Meents and four great grandchildren. Also surviving are a nephew David

Smith and wife Vickie and nieces Jacque (Smith) Arney and husband David, Linda Smith and Sharon (Smith) Giannasia and husband Thomas. —Brad Shockley

ARNEY - Clifford A. Arney was born November 22, 1930 in Paul's Valley, Oklahoma to Charley and Martha Arney. He grew up in Paoli, Oklahoma, where he graduated from High School in 1947 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma in 1951. Cliff was married to Patsy (Tiner) Arney on June 1st, 1953 and was faithfully committed to her for 63 years before she preceded him in death in 2017. Cliff passed away April 2, 2021 at age 90. Cliff is well known in the church. Living in Oklahoma all his life and serving as an elder at 21st St for forty years gave him a leadership role and involvement in many important works in the church including: the annual preacher's study that rotates between 21st St, Oklahoma City and Grapevine, Texas; The Oklahoma New Year's meeting, the 4th of July meeting at Sulphur, Oklahoma; sending preachers to work in many nations around the world; plus, attendance at countless area gospel meetings. Cliff did not just direct the work of others in the church, he had his own work in the church: studies for personal knowledge, memorizing scriptures, writing sermons, and studying with others. In his younger years, Cliff was a frequent guest speaker at area congregations including Ada, Oklahoma where he was the 4th Sunday speaker for a number of years. The last 4 years of his life, Cliff worshipped with the West View Church of Christ in Piedmont, Oklahoma, a congregation that includes a number of his family members. Cliff always took his turn in the teaching rotation and had the lesson on his 90th birthday in November. His last lesson was on March 21 on the cross of Christ. While he was in a lot of pain that day, his voice was strong as he used many memorized scriptures and spoke from his carefully prepared notes, as he always did. Of all these things Cliff accomplished in life, the greatest legacy he leaves behind can be seen in the influence he and his wife Pat had, especially in their family, and in the lives of hundreds of individuals. Cliff is survived by one sister: Charley Covington, three children: Beverly Crawford (husband Darrell, of Panama City, FL), David Arney (wife Jacque of Piedmont, OK), and Cindy Hammonds (husband Bret of North Richland Hills, TX), eight grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. Lezlie Barnes of the Grapevine, TX congregation posted a Facebook tribute to Cliff quoting Terri Guillemets: "We spend all our lives building wings of faith so that we can fearlessly fly off into another world." Lezlie added: "Cliff Arney not only spent his life building wings

of faith, he showed his children, grandchildren, and countless others (including me) how to build theirs too. He was a true man of God, and he will be sorely missed now that he has taken his fearless flight." I was honored to be asked by the family to conduct the service for Cliff, a dear friend and brother. —Greg Gay

Announcement

WHERE THE SAINTS ASSEMBLE 2021-2022 - The new directory is at the printer. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and the printer's inability to obtain ink, it will not be finished until the end of May. If you have already ordered the directory, I apologize for the delay and will get them out as soon as I get them. If you would like to order some the information is below. Thanks for your support. —Rick Martin

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Field Reports

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, old_paths@juno.com, April 12, 2021. The church at home is at peace and looking forward to our meeting in June with Cullen Smith, Lord willing. I look forward to a meeting this summer as well at Weatherford, TX if the Lord and the pandemic permits. We don't have any information just yet about the 4th of July meeting. If it is allowed, we hope to see many of you there. Our prayers are for the good of the Brotherhood.

Paul O. Nichols, 14217 Rosehill, Overland Park, KS 66221, pon.wjn.ks@juno.com. Things are becoming more normal in this part of the country, although we still have restrictions. But we have three services a week in the church building with no interference, and recently we had a three day gospel meeting with Kevin Presley. Of course, we heard outstanding sound gospel

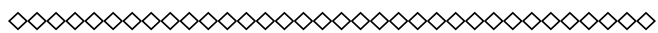
preaching. Here at the Stony Point congregation we still use the over four hundred year old King James version we all grew up with. We see no need to change to one of the modern versions. And we have several good teachers and song leaders in the congregation. We have had several visitors from various places come to worship with us from time to time. We sympathize with those who have lost loved ones because of the pandemic. Many of those I have known for many years. May the Lord bless us all as we prepare for His return and the great Judgement Day.

Dario R. Estavillo, Brgy. 49-B, Raraburan Laoag City Philippines, Church of Christ, Irisan and New Lucban, Baguio City. The pandemic has affected the work everywhere. Our movements were limited in our private lives and mostly in the field of the Lord. We are blessed that the virus was controlled in our place, Ilocos Norte, that though there were a number of being positive from the virus, it was not worse than in any other places. Because of this, we were able to conduct home studies in different places like Solsona, Paoay, Burgos, Pagudpud, Pinili, Laoag City and Vintar, Banna and Batac City. In order to do this, we are working in groups so we can accommodate all the schedules. I can say that the preachers in Ilocos Norte have always in mind the need of spreading the word. As a result of previous works, it resulted to several baptisms and the start of a congregation in Paoay. Since worship services were no longer allowed in the Ilocos Norte Prison, I personally look for the brethren who are worshipping therein and look for a place where we can gather and worship, thus the start of a congregation in Lagui Sail, Laoag City. The scheduled home studies continues and prospects continue as all preachers are doing their job. The Saturday training is an effort of all the preachers as we are personally shouldering the expenses. I appreciate the presence of every one and always acknowledge the wisdom of preachers who are with me in conducting lectures like Remilo Bayaca, Roger Rivera and Gregorio Maluga. In part are George Maluga and Edgar Corpuz. These young men are doing good and hopefully, they can fill our shoes whenever we are gone in this world. Our vision is to make sure that the church continues in the next generation. I am happy to have two radio program aired every Sunday at DZJC AM radio, Laoag, 12:30-1:00 and at DZRL AM radio Batac at 1:00 to 1:30. It is also veiwed anywhere in the world through Facebook so it is really a privilege to have these programs "What the Bible Teaches" I am glad that brother Greg Maluga is also joining me in the program and he is the one on board whenever I am out of town like now that I am in Baguio City. I am also

invited most of the times to be a guest to preach in the radio program of Roger Rivera in Burgos Ilocos Norte with the same title of the program. At present I am in Baguio City to look for the church. The church is good and remained in the faith. I can not move freely here as I wanted to because Baguio is one of the most number of covid cases in the country. I am now 66 years old and I am among those who can not just go out as 65 years old above are not permitted to go around. However, I try my best to do the work but I have to make necessary precautions. I admit that I can not do much for this time. I just want to make sure that the church is in good shape. I will go down to Ilocos Norte next month to solemnize a marriage of a brother and a sister in Banna. Since there is no public transport, I have to drive my own car which is a little bit tiring and most especially so that I have only one eye having vision as my right eye has lost vision after an unsuccessful operation a year ago during the lockdown. To the brothers and sisters everywhere, please keep safe. God Bless us all.

Greg Gay, 3816 Tambos Trl, Edmond, OK 73034, papagreg@aol.com, 916-804- 3787, April 9, 2021. My health continues to improve for which I am very thankful. Cassie and I have had our vaccinations and have resumed meeting travels as congregations in my schedule are ready. So far this year I have been able to hold two meetings in Texas, with postponements till fall in Florida and Missouri due to continuing Covid concerns. We were thrilled to be with the congregation at Grapevine, Texas March 24-28. We enjoyed the hospitality of Lyndon and Lynn Cox and many meals and visits with families in the congregation. I was able to spend time with Jonathan Edwards recording an interview for his podcast while there. We were at Tyler Texas for the weekend of April 2-4. Area members were great to attend, and it was wonderful to see so many who came including Jerry and Judy Dickinson who made the drive to be there for a night. We enjoyed the hospitality of Glenn and Rebecca Ballard. Bradley and Brandi Ballard are at Tyler temporarily till a new work begins soon in Longview, TX. We were thrilled to have Maddy, our youngest granddaughter, with us at the meeting. Our work continues at the West View congregation at Piedmont, OK. We are sad at the recent loss of brother Cliff Arney and will miss him greatly. We are thankful for recent additions to our group and the peace that prevails as we transition out of Covid restrictions and renew our efforts to invite others in our circle of influence to study and worship. My Facebook group, God’s Good News from Greg, continues to grow with members in sixty nations. I am not yet back to a weekly recording schedule but hope to resume that soon. I have

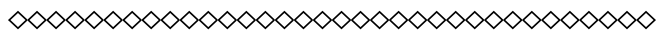
completed a series on religious titles and am beginning a new series contrasting God’s requirements before and after the cross.



Barney Owens,—8782 Meadowview Dr., W. Chester, OH 45069—As our meetings have gotten underway, there seems to be interest within and from outside the church in the gospel. It has been good to see old friends and fellow servants of Christ this spring as well as making new acquaintance. During the new couple of months we will be with the following congregations: June 9-17 Cable Ridge, MO; 23-July 1 Golden, OK. 8-15 (dates open), 21-29 Porterville, CA.; Aug. 3-12 Manteca, Ca. If you are near any of these places, please plan to assemble with us and help promote the Cause we all love.

Selby Owen,—725 Crestview Dr., Pinole, CA 94564— Since my last report, I have moved and begun a work in San Pablo, CA for at least one year. I would like to thank the many congregations that called me for personal work. Before the report came out, I had been asked and made a commitment to the church in San Pablo. I have two meetings scheduled for this fall in Missouri, Seymour, Oct. 5-14 and Odom, Oct. 19-28. All in traveling distance are invited to attend. I intend to do some door knocking and personal work at each place. Any help would be appreciated. Please pray for the work here. Before we left Lodi, we were thankful to assist an elderly lady in her obedience to the gospel. She came from the Methodist doctrine. Also one restored that had been out of duty for many years. God still gives the increase, to him be the glory through Christ Jesus.

Ronny F. Wade,—707 Pearson Dr., Springfield, Mo. Aug. 10—Since last reporting we have enjoyed meetings at West Chester, Ohio, Lowery Al., St. Albans, W. Va., and Weatherford, Tx. We were blessed as a result of our associations at each of these places. The brethren treated us royally. The debate in Houston, Texas was well attended. We appreciate more than words can express the thirteen preachers who took time out to attend and encourage us. Crowds were large and prospects appear good for fruitful follow-up work. The Aurora St. congregation is to be commended for their diligence and foresight in planning for the debate. Currently we are in a good meeting at New Salem near Brookhaven, MS. Crowds have been large and interest good to this point. The Lord willing we go to Piedmont, Al. beginning Monday, Aug. 13. Best wishes to all the faithful everywhere.



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WALKS THROUGH THE BIBLE. . .

HOW CAN YOU HIDE IN BLOOD - AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO?

By JERRY DICKINSON

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier on the one who has faith in Jesus.” (Romans 3 :24,25) The word propitiation is translated from the Greek word, hilasterion, which is used in only one other passage in the New Testament. In Hebrews 9:5 it is translated “mercy seat” and refers to the golden covering over the ark of the covenant. Interestingly, in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, this same Greek word is used for the ark that was in the Most Holy Place.

The word propitiation properly means something that expiates, appeases, or satisfies. It originally referred to offering a sacrifice to appease a god who had been offended. In the Old Testament men were instructed to offer sacrifices to satisfy the justice and righteous demands of the true God against whom they had sinned. The only sacrifice that could meet that demand was blood. The word blood is used over 700 times in the Bible and we see a red line that threads its way from Genesis to Revelation. Abel was accepted because he offered an animal whose blood had been shed, while Cain and his sacrifice were rejected. No blood - no propitiation! All the patriarchs built altars and offered up the blood of animals to cover their sins.

When God gave Moses the blueprint for the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant was placed in the Most Holy Place and once a year the High Priest would enter and place blood on the golden Mercy Seat between the golden Cherubim. That blood on the Mercy Seat made atonement for Israel year by year. This is, in part at least, what Paul is referring to in Romans 3:24 when he wrote that God in His forbearance had passed over the sins that were previously committed. The blood of animals, as Paul declares in the Hebrew letter, could not take away sin. The blood on that Mercy Seat was a type of the blood of Jesus. Jesus is the lamb of God slain for the sins of the whole world. The blood of all those animals shed for thousands of years pointed forward to the blood of Jesus, the only true propitiation for sin. The blood of Jesus satisfied the demands of God’s justice and demonstrated His righteousness.

While true that the word propitiation conveys the idea of appeasement and expiation, obviously the word also carries the idea of a covering. The Mercy Seat covered the ark which contained the tablets upon which God had written His law. It was a broken law - broken by the sin of the children of Israel. That broken law, and their sins, had to be covered if they were to escape the judgment of God. But blood is the only thing that can cover sin, therefore every year on the Day of Atonement blood was placed on the Mercy Seat. Jesus shed his blood and then, once and for all time, covered the sins of all those who believe and obey Him. God is satisfied. The demands of justice, and the desire for mercy, all met on Calvary. Our sins are covered. Praise the Lord! It is as if we and our sins are hidden in the blood of the Lord.

My grandson Sam is 16 years old. When he was 5 years old the song, “Hide You In The Blood” was sung at church one Sunday morning. On the way home he asked Leah, his mom, “Mom, how can you hide in blood- and why would you want to?” Children are very literal and he could not understand the idea of hiding in blood. Leah tried to explain it to him but how do you explain hiding in blood to a 5 year old? Finally she just told him he would understand when he got older, which of course now he does. We understand too. It is really an awesome thought that we can hide behind the cross, as the old preachers used to say, and in a sense hide in the blood of the Son of God, a lamb without blemish, shed for our redemption and eternal salvation.

Come from the loathsome way of sin, Hide you in the blood of Jesus;
Come for the Lord will take you in, Hide you in the blood of Jesus.
Come, there is safety in the blood, Hide you in the blood of Jesus;
Now plunge beneath the crimson flood, Hide you in the blood of Jesus.
Come now believing in the Lord, Hide you in the blood of Jesus;
Trusting His grace and precious word, Hide you in the blood of Jesus.
O hide you in the blood, For the storms are raging high,
O hide you in the blood, Till the dangers pass you by.