



Christian Identity Ministries

A member of the
Congregations of Israel

PO Box 146, CARDWELL, QLD, 4849, Australia

Ph: 07-4066 0146 (International 61-7 instead of 07) www.christianidentityministries.com - hr_cim@bigpond.com

"Blessed be the LORD God of *Israel*; For He hath visited and redeemed *His* people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for *us* in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began; That *we* should be saved from *our* enemies and from the hand of all that hate *us*; to perform the mercy promised to *our* fathers and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to *our* father Abraham, That he would grant unto *us*, that *we* being delivered out of the hand of *our* enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of *our* lives." Luke 1:68-75; the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic-Germanic-Scandinavian people are *ISRAEL!*

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SUPPOSE SATAN IS REAL

What Difference Does it Make?

by Pastor Mark Downey

What seems to be important to us isn't necessarily on the front burner for other people in our Movement. So we need to examine priorities and find the unity that will motivate us to reprioritize a singleness of purpose and overcome the stumbling blocks that splinter us historically and spiritually. That unity is important. You may recognize this title from the often repeated '*Suppose We are Israel - What Difference Does it Make?*' It's a good question, especially if some people put forth a proposition that is paramount to their ideology.

When discussing 'satan,' we are not dealing with something as tangible as a race of people claiming to be the Israel of scriptures. In essence, the nuclear message of Christian Identity has always been predicated on the reality of people fulfilling a certain role. The thing that is frustrating our Movement, more than anything right now, is the identification of jews in a proper biblical perspective. Some go so far as to say that you can't understand the Word of God or what's going on in the world unless you accept the satanic seedline of jews.

Very elaborate extrapolations expound at great lengths to convince people of this pressing priority. What's interesting about this premise is the very nature of satan, according to their definitions, and its reality. It does not make a very big difference as to how we define this word. In fact, it makes a difference as to whether or not the Hebrew word 'satan' is translated or transliterated, the former of which it was not. Had it been translated properly as 'adversary,' we wouldn't have the problem of a fanatical interpretation and an entire theological doctrine dominating a religious movement.

Indeed, the personified Satan preoccupies judeo-Christianity as well, although with far fewer critics as to its supposed reality. The attribute of Satan as a pronoun promotes the concept of a supernatural being. What difference does this make? Well, if it doesn't harmonize with the rest of Scripture, the obvious discrepancy becomes the reality. What do these proponents of a supernatural satan mean by real? We've heard everything from satan being an ugly hook-nosed, pointy-eared, lizard-tailed, horned monster to the most beautiful of the heavenly angels who fell from grace. Maybe he's a changeling or shape-shifter! You can take your pick from this selection of different realities, but it might get a little confusing if you don't totally accept it.

By the way, just to make it perfectly clear, those of us who don't buy into the satanic seedline theory, do believe that there are satans in the world, but they are merely human adversaries.

The antichrist jew is a very real adversary without the supernatural trappings. Hypothetically then, let's suppose that the Satan of the Seedliners is a discernible reality to our five senses within the three dimensions of known science. Otherwise, the reality would be speculative rather than real, would it not? If satan is real, then what characteristics of Christianity distinguishes itself from other religions? Actually, the contrast may not be that great in light of comparative religion courses taught in universities and colleges. Many religions *per se* of the world, both ancient and contemporary, civilized and uncivilized, hold to the belief in two supreme principles, one good and the other evil.

When asserting opposite terms as dualistic, the intent is not to just acknowledge their dissimilarity, but primarily to insist that it is impossible to reduce their differences further. If Christianity is dependent upon a real satan, then the dualism is absolute. God's Word is absolute, but is Christi-

IN THIS ISSUE:

Suppose Satan is Real,	1
Why The Law?	3
Biblical Parenting,	4
Your Children To Choose Jesus-like Friendships,	6
Self-Defense from a Biblical Perspective,	7
Do You Know Who This Is?	10
In Everything Give Thanks,	11
Tithing: The Blessing & Protection,	12
.Swiss Army Chief to Countrymen,	14

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anity dualism in the sense of two supernatural beings? Ironically, the ancient Persian religion of Zoroaster proclaimed an irreducible opposition between Ahura Mazda, the Wise Lord and Angra Mainyu, the Evil Spirit. The first incarnates truth, righteousness and order, while the latter represents the lie, unrighteousness and disorder.

Historically, Christian dogma has denounced dualism as a heresy and condemned it repeatedly, not from the simple fact that there is a radical difference between good and evil or the sacred and the profane. No, the rejection is directed against the metaphysical or supernatural manifestation of some personage spoiling God's creation. This is the stuff of mythologies and superstitions, whereby the priestcraft inculcates a supernatural destroyer and tempter of man. If this Satan is the personification of cosmic evil and not the adversarial agency of man alone, then how can Christianity maintain a monotheistic position?

The first commandment must have meant that "other gods," specifically the supernatural satan types, were real. That would make a difference as to what type of religion Christianity is. If we believe Satan is a real spiritual being, existing outside our normal senses, and God permits this satanic power to coexist in His creation, being able to influence and entice man to sin, not directly, but through our carnal desires, then what difference does that make to our faith and our belief in God? The difference would be who or what is responsible for acting contrary to God. With a vicarious cause for transgression, we can be persuaded to think that something outside of ourselves prompted the sin. We, therefore, can substitute our guilt to a scapegoat that is quite real in our minds. Add the holy spirit of God to our everyday life, a mentality from God to remove ourselves from evil, and we become the rope in a tug of war between God and Satan. The entire issue is reduced to the mental assent of perceived biblical realities to have a firm or wholehearted religious conviction.

This concept of being fully persuaded about the reality of the truth or the truth of a reality is self-explanatory in the New Testament as a matter of trust and obeying the simplicity that is in Jesus, with the understanding that His Word is the value in which we honor Him. If we don't give God all the praise, glory and honor, which simply means all the attention, credit towards His reputation and recognition of His exclusive power, then someone or something else is receiving attention, credit and recognition that belongs to God alone.

If Satan is real, we have to share our beliefs with two supernatural beings, God and Satan. It's the difference between dualism and monotheism. We cannot believe both of these concepts for that would be double-minded. There is an axiom that pertains to this hypothesis that we've been exploring and it is this: When men give anything the power to do great things, that is equal to worshipping that thing.

It is possible that the 'synagogue-of-satan' referred to in Rev. 2:9 was a form of dualism which applied to some early sects of first century Christianity. The identification of the serpent with the devil led some of these groups to his worship, to a belief in a real Satan. The Ophites were a branch of the Gnostics during the second century AD, and they attached special importance to Satan as the tempter in view of their great respect for gnosis, the knowledge of good and evil which the Serpent had enabled man to obtain. They said God withheld this knowledge from Adam and that the Serpent was the real liberator of mankind since he

taught men to rebel against God (as if man needs any help!). These believers in a real Satan venerated the rebellion of Cain, Esau and Sodomites as heroes. They worshipped Korah (one of Esau's sons, Gen. 36:5), and especially Judas Iscariot from freeing mankind from Jesus.

Babylonian dualism was brought into contact with Christian thought through the cult of Manichaeism, circa third and fourth century AD, which reintroduced or reinvented the fantastic fables of ancient mythology. It borrowed from various religions to form an elastic and a convenient eclectic solution to the problem of good and evil. The forbidden fruit of Genesis, which the Gnostics exalted, became the theological source of the dualist doctrine of two coexisting realities, whereby Satan made an incursion into God's Kingdom and penetrated the earthly dominion of Adam-man.

In all the dualist sects, there is a glorification, not praise, but an officially established dogma put on a pedestal of a real supernatural devil, because the essence of dualism is dependent upon placing the devil highly up in status as God's rival, eternal and independent of Him. When their dogmatic perspective of the universe resurfaced in the 10th century, under the guise of the Bogomils and Cathari, their heretical reputation was contained secretly in groups known as Luciferians, who worshipped the devil under the name of Satanael, or of Sammael. This cult is mentioned by the 11th century Byzantine writer Euthymius Zigabenus as prevalent among the Bulgarian Bogomils, who held the notion that Satanael seduced Eve and that he, not Adam, was Cain's begetter.

They also put forth the idea that dualism means that goodness exists only in the spiritual world of the good god; while the material world is evil and was created by an evil god or spirit called Satan and therefore Good and Evil have two separate realities. These doctrines of

creation led them to rewrite the biblical story and, like all dualists, they established an elaborate mythology to replace it, and in so doing, reject the canon of scripture as holy and sacred. The dualist's interpretation of history is this constant temptation of Satan and his demonic agents to bind men to evil by means of materialism, carnality, error and false religion. The visible world, as they understand it, is in the realm of the evil one and all contact with matter and flesh, which are the devil's best instruments for gaining mastery over men's souls, should be avoided and denounced. The problem with this drastic theology is a denial of the physical messianic incarnation of Jesus the Christ and the Christian concept of material matter as a vehicle of grace. Conversely, dualism advocates that good spirits, or agents of God, can save man, only by imparting to them the true gnosis concerning the forces of nature.

If all of this sounds vaguely familiar, it indeed corresponds to a religious undercurrent in Christian Identity called the 'Two Seedline theory.' The satanic seedliners do not suppose or hypothesize. They in fact, believe that a supernatural being named Satan is real. They may object to the analogy of dualism or even the troublesome question as to what difference does it make. I think it makes a difference to God as to how we read and believe His Word. That's got to be an important priority, because if we start out on a false premise, our understanding of divine intent will fail us and we will not help towards the advancement of Christianity.

As we study comparative religions that have come and gone, we can identify what was right and wrong. The

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inspired teachings and principles of scripture compared to the heresies and traditions of man basically remain the same. There is nothing new under the sun; just the magician's illusions in presentation. Thus far, I have not offered any scriptures refuting this inane presumption about satan, because I wanted you to imagine the mindset that it takes to accept it as a reality; to put yourself in the shoes of a dual seedliner. So let us now rephrase the theme by asking: What if Satan is not real? Can Christianity Survive? What saith the Word of the Lord God of Israel?

continued in part 2 - "What If Satan Isn't Real?"

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WHY THE LAW?

Robber Bruce Record

Law is defined as a rule of conduct or action prescribed by a governmental authority which is binding on all who live under its domain. **The only real freedom there is, is freedom under law.** Remove the restrictions and demands of law, and you have chaos and confusion.

Perhaps it needs to be pointed out that in the true sense of the word, only God can make Law. Men can make rules and regulations for the well-being of a city or state, and he can make ordinances and statutes for the maintaining of order—but the basis and standard of all law is the Law of God. He is the Supreme Authority. Man can even go so far as to make *legal* rules and regulations that are unlawful and contrary to God's Law. Man is doing it all the time.

The Law of God is a Way of Life

It is God's way in contrast to man's. And since this is God's world, and since man was created by God and given dominion over the earth, he is not to do as he pleases—but as God pleases, and for a good reason.

In Proverbs 14:12 we are told ***There is a way that seemeth right to man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*** Turning to Jeremiah 10:33, we find that prophet confessing, ***O God I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*** He needs guidelines to show him the way.

Thus it is that when God gathered our Israel forefathers at the foot of Mount Sinai, he gave them His Law through Moses. The Law of God is not an arbitrary set of rules and regulations which God imposed on Israel (which is not Jewish, and never was) - these rules were supposedly set aside at the first coming of Jesus the Christ.

The Law of God embraces a way of life; the way of man is not in himself, it was necessary for God to set before him the Divine standard of right and wrong. These laws are perfect, authoritative, and absolute—the final word in matters of human conduct. There is no higher law anywhere. To add to it, or take from it in any way, is to corrupt it. And to ignore it, or look upon it as something outmoded and done away, is to be left without an authoritative standard of right and wrong. It leaves the door wide open for Humanism in which (the most forceful) man becomes his own almighty, and is free to make his own laws (and impose them on others), which he is doing today.

The Law of God is something that man has rebelled against, almost from the day of its inception. While our Israel forefathers took an oath that they would keep it, they were soon chafing under its restrictions and resisting its demands.

There Is Nothing Wrong with the Law

As Paul says in Romans 7:12, ***The Law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good.*** In verse 14 Paul declared, ***For we know that the Law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*** What man needed, therefore, was to be made spiritual, and thus conformable to the Law.

As Paul points out in 1 Corinthians 2:14, ***The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.***

And how was Israel to be made conformable to the Law? Through the new Covenant which God confirmed and ratified to Israel with Jesus' blood.

Through faith in Jesus the Christ, the Law was to be written on their hearts. Possessed by the Spirit of God, the day was to come when the keeping of the Law would be as natural to them as breathing.

Now strange as it may seem, there are literally millions of Christians who labor under the delusion that salvation by grace removes the necessity of the Law. But in Romans 3:31 Paul asks, ***Do we then make void the Law through faith? God forbid. Yea, we establish the Law.***

Is not sin a transgression of the Law? And is it not also true that by the Law is the knowledge of sin? Then what shall we preach to convict man of sin, if the Law had been done away?

One of the reasons why we have an increasingly lawless society today is the failure of the clergy to correctly understand ***the purpose of the Law and why it was given in the first place.*** The Law was not given to save men, but to point them to the Saviour. Yet many of the clergy today labor under the delusion that once man was saved by works, or by the keeping of the Law ... but with the coming of Jesus the Christ all this was changed, and now man is saved by grace through faith.

But what saith the Scriptures?

Was man *ever* saved by the deeds of the Law? ***Has man not always been saved by grace?*** When Paul declares in Romans 3:20, that ***by the deeds of***

the Law shall no flesh be justified in His sight, is he saying that there is a change of program? Or is he asserting that it has ever been true—the works of the Law never justified anybody? The failure of our Israel forefathers to keep the Law made them sin-conscious. It was a constant reminder of their need of a Saviour.

When he said in Galatians 3:24, ***The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto the Anointed*** he was not even hinting or suggesting that once Jesus the Christ has come, the Law would no longer be needed. Thus it is that even under the Law Covenant, salvation was by grace, through faith in the shed blood of a lamb. The Old Testament saints looked *forward* to Calvary—we look *back* to a finished transaction.

Those who teach that the Law was done away in Jesus usually confuse the Law Covenant with the Law itself. Actually, the Law Covenant is set forth as a marriage contract. And that contract was voided by God when He divorced Israel and put them away back in 721 BC, not when the Jews rejected Jesus in the first century AD. But the Law of God continued as the divine standard of right and wrong, and the animal sacrifices continued in Judah until Calvary. After that, there was no further need of sacrifice for sin.

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Romans 10:4 is often quoted as proof that the Law of God was abolished with the coming of Jesus. Here Paul says *The Anointed is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.*

But what is Paul saying? He is saying that the righteousness which Israel sought in vain by works, is now imputed to them through faith in Jesus. Where is the rhyme or reason in concluding from Paul's words here, that the Law was abolished in Jesus the Christ? Are not men still sinners? Does not Paul tell us in Romans 3:24 that *by the Law is the knowledge of sin*? And is not sin the transgression of the Law (1 Jn 3:4)?

Now let me ask you, if there is no Law to be broken, and if sin is not imputed where there is no Law, just how are you going to convict sinners of their sin? A typical practice these days is to hang the sinner over hellfire, and after scaring the "hell out of him" get him to make a 'decision for Christ.' No one wants to go to hell, so he accepts Jesus so he can go to heaven. *If this is the gospel story, I'll eat my shirt.*

What Paul means by saying that the Anointed is the end of the Law for righteousness, is perhaps best illustrated by these words in James 5:11 where we read *Behold we count them happy which endure. You have heard the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord: that the Lord is very pitiful and of tender mercy.*

Whom God loves, He chastens; and the end or objective of allowing Job to be afflicted with boils was to teach him something through suffering. God was not to come to an end, and neither was the Law.

Why the Law? For one thing, it is the foundation of the social order, and nothing has done more in our generation to produce a lawless society than the teaching by the clergy that the Law of God was abolished in Jesus.

If there are no absolutes - if there is no authority for moral conduct than the whims and desires of men, then whatever the majority wants, goes. And Christians have always been a minority. They are outvoted every time, and this is the sorry spectacle confronting us today.

We are fast becoming a people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and this in spite of the fact that around \$500 million is spent each year on Christian television and radio. The *days of Noah* are being repeated because emanating from professed Christian leaders is more darkness than light. It is not dispelling the sin and evil that threaten our land.

Getting people ready to leave the earth was not what God had in mind when He said to His servants, *Occupy until I come*. They were rather to seek first the Kingdom of God (together with other believers, in ekklesias) and His righteousness, and get people ready to live *on* the earth.

May God be pleased to open our eyes to the acknowledging of His Truth!

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BIBLICAL PARENTING

by Arthur W. Pink (1886-1952)

(Wisdom From The Past)

One of the saddest and most tragic features of our modern "civilization" is the awful prevalence of disobedience on the part of children to their parents during their days of childhood, and their lack of reverence and respect when they grow up—evidenced in many ways, alas, even in the families of professing Christians.

In my extensive travels during the past thirty years, I

have sojourned in a great many homes. The piety and beauty of some of them remain as sacred and fragrant memories, but others of them have left the most painful impressions. Children who are **self-willed or spoiled**, not only bring themselves into unhappiness but also inflict discomfort upon all who come into contact with them, and anger, by their conduct, evil things for the days to come.

In the vast majority of cases, the children are not nearly so much to be blamed as the parents. Failure to honor father and mother, wherever it is found is, in large measure, due to parental departure from the Scriptural pattern. Nowadays the father thinks that he has fulfilled his obligations by providing food and raiment for his children, and by acting occasionally as a kind of moral policeman. Too often, the mother is content to be a domestic drudge, making herself the slave of her children instead of training them to be useful. She performs many a task which her daughters should do in order to allow them freedom for the frivolities of a giddy set. The consequence has been that the home, which ought to be—in its orderliness, its sanctity, and its reign of love—a miniature Heaven on earth, has degenerated into "a filling station for the day and a parking place for the night," as someone has tersely expressed it.

Before outlining the duties of parents towards their children, let it be pointed out that they cannot properly discipline their children unless they have first learned to govern themselves. How can they expect to subdue self-will in their little ones and check the rise of an angry temper if their own passions are allowed free reign? The character of parents is, to a very large degree, reproduced in their offspring: *"And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image"* (Gen. 5:3).

The parent must be in subjection to God if he would lawfully expect obedience from his little ones. This principle is enforced in Scripture: *"Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?"* (Romans 2:20). Of the bishop (elder or pastor), it is written that he must be *"one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity. For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church (ekklesia=self-governing Christian community) of God?"* (1 Tim. 3:5)

If a man or woman knows not how to rule their own spirit (Proverbs 25:28), how shall they care for their offspring?

God has entrusted to parents a most solemn charge—and yet, a most precious privilege. It is not too much to say that in their hands are deposited the hope and blessing, or else the curse and plague, of the next generation. Their families are the nurseries of both Church and State and according to the cultivating of them now will be their fruitfulness hereafter.

Oh, how prayerfully and carefully should you who are parents discharge your trust. Most assuredly God will require an account of the children from your hands, for they are His. The task assigned you is no easy one, especially in these superlatively evil days. Nevertheless, if trustfully and earnestly sought, the grace of God will be found sufficient in this responsibility as in others. The Scriptures supply us with rules to go by, with promises to lay hold of, and, we may add, with fearful warnings lest we treat the matter lightly.

INSTRUCT YOUR CHILDREN



We have space to mention but four of the principal duties devolving on parents. First, it is your duty to instruct your children. *“And these words which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you lie down, and when you rise up”* (Deut. 6:6,7).

This work is far too important to allocate to others! parents, and not Sabbath School teachers, are Divinely required to educate their little ones. Nor is this to be an occasional or sporadic thing, but one that is to have constant attention.

The glorious character of God, the requirements of His holy Law, the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the wonderful gift of His Son, and the fearful doom which is the certain portion of all who despise and reject Him are to be brought repeatedly before the minds of your little ones. “They are too young to understand such things” is the evil argument to deter you from discharging your duty.

“And you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). It is to be noted that the “fathers” are here specifically addressed, and this for two reasons: (1) because they are the heads of their families and their government is especially committed to them; and (2) because they are prone to transfer this duty to their wives.

This instruction is to be given by reading to them the Holy Scriptures and enlarging upon those things most agreeable to their age. This should be followed by catechizing them. A continued discourse to the young is not nearly so effective as when it is diversified by questions and answers (start with the Bible Picture Primers 1 & 2, and let them memorize the questions and answers for 1 lesson per week, and test them on it—if you do not have a set, for each child, ask). If they know they will be questioned on what you read, they will listen more closely, and the formulating of answers teaches them to think for themselves. Such a method is also found to make the memory more retentive, for answering definite questions fixes more specific ideas in the mind. Observe how often Jesus asked His disciples questions

BE A GOOD EXAMPLE

Second, good instruction is to be accompanied by good example. That teaching which issues only from the lips is not at all likely to sink any deeper than the ears. Children are particularly quick to detect inconsistencies and to despise hypocrisy. It is at this point that parents need to be most on their faces before God, daily seeking from Him that grace that they so sorely need and that He alone can supply. What care you need to take, lest you say or do anything before your children that would tend to corrupt their minds or be of evil consequence for them to follow! How you need to be constantly on your guard against anything which might render you mean and contemptible in the eyes of those who should respect and revere you!

The parent is not only to instruct his children in the ways of holiness, but is himself to walk before them in those ways, and show by his practice and demeanor what a

pleasant and profitable thing it is to be regulated by the Divine Law.

In a Christian home the supreme aim should be household piety—the honoring of God at all times. Everything else must be subordinated to this high purpose. In the matter of family life, neither husband nor wife can throw on the other all the responsibility for the religious character of the home. The mother is most certainly required to supplement the efforts of the father, for the children enjoy far more of her company than they do of his. If there is a tendency in fathers to be too strict and severe, mothers are prone to be too lax and lenient; and they need to be much on their guard against anything which would weaken their husband’s authority. When he has forbidden a thing, she must not give her consent to it. It is striking to note that the exhortation of Ephesians 6:4 is preceded by instruction to *“be filled with the spirit”* (5:18), while the parallel exhortation in Colossians 3:21 is preceded by the exhortation to *“let the Word of the Anointed dwell in you richly”* (v.16), showing that parents cannot possibly discharge their duties unless they are filled with the spirit and the Word.

DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILDREN

Third, instruction and example is to be enforced by consistent correction and discipline. This means, first of all, the exercise of authority—the proper reign of Law. Of “the father of the faithful” God said, *“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him”* (Gen. 18:19).

Ponder this carefully, Christian fathers. Abraham did more than proffer good advice; he enforced law and order in his household. The rules he administered had for their design the keeping of “the way of the Lord”—that which was right in His sight. And this duty was per-

formed by the patriarch in order that the blessing of God might rest on his family. No family can be properly brought up without household laws, which include reward and punishment, and these are especially important in early childhood when, as yet, moral character is unformed and moral motives are not understood or appreciated.

Rules should be simple, clear, reasonable, and inflexible like the Ten Commandments—a few great moral rules, instead of a multitude of petty restrictions. Command, you are not suggesting. One way of needlessly provoking children to wrath is to hamper them with a thousand trifling restrictions and minute regulations that are capricious and are due to a fastidious temper in the parent.

It is of vital importance for the child’s future good that he or she should be brought into subjection at an early age. An untrained child means a lawless adult. Our prisons are crowded with those who were allowed to have their own way during their minority. The least offense of a child against the rulers of the home ought not to pass without due correction, for if he finds leniency in one direction or toward one offense he will expect the same toward others. Then disobedience will become more frequent till the par-

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ent has no control save that of brute force. That is why it is a father's duty to be fully aware of where his children are, and what they are doing, especially as they get into a mischievous age, so he can guide, direct, prevent and deal appropriately with any foolishness that may arise.

The teaching of Scripture is crystal clear on this point. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:15, and cf. 23:13,14) Therefore God has said, "He that spares his rod hates his son: but he that loves him chastens him betimes [speedily]" (Prov. 13:24). And again, "Chasten your son while there is hope, and let not your soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 3:19, and Hebrews 12:6). God knew that children will cry loudly before they are chastised in order to minimize the punishment—do not be moved by this. "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame" (Prov 29:15).

It should hardly need pointing out that the above Scriptures are by no means teaching that a reign of terror is to mark the home life. Children can be governed and chastened in such a way that they lose not their respect and affection for their parents. Beware of souring their temper by unreasonable demands, or provoking their wrath by striking them to vent your own rage. The parent is to punish a disobedient child not because he is angry, but because it is right — because God requires it, and the welfare of the child demands it.

Never make a threat which you have no intention of executing, nor a promise you do not mean to perform. Always do the things you say you will do in the timeframe stipulated. Remember that for your children to be well-informed is good, but for them to be well-controlled is better.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

Pay close attention to the unconscious influences of a child's surroundings. Study how to make your home attractive, not by introducing carnal and worldly things, but by noble ideals, by the inculcating of a spirit of unselfishness, by genial and happy fellowship. Separate the little ones from evil associates. Watch carefully the periodicals and books which come into your home, the occasional guests which sit at your table, and the companionships that your children form. Watch their internet watching and their listening habits *especially* with the use of earphones (on portable devices). Make sure you are fully conversant with the material they watch and listen to. Parents often carelessly let others have free access to their children who undermine the parental authority, overturn the parental ideals, and sow seeds of frivolity and iniquity before they are aware. Never let your child spend a night among strangers. So train your children that your girls will be useful and helpful members of their generation and your boys industrious and self-supporting.

PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Fourth, the last and most important duty, respecting both the temporal and spiritual good of your children, is fervent supplication to God for them, for without this all the rest will be ineffectual. Means are unavailing unless the Lord blesses them. The Throne of Grace is to be earnestly implored that your efforts to bring up your children for God may be crowned with success. It is the privilege of faith to lay hold of the Divine promises and to remember that the

effectual prayer of a righteous man avails much. Of holy Job it is recorded concerning his sons and daughters that he "rose up early in the morning and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all" (Job 1:5). A prayerful atmosphere should pervade the home and be breathed by all who share it.

(Arthur Walkington Pink was a Christian pastor and evangelist who lived on this earth from 1886 to 1952)

Courtesy Home School Digest, Box 374, Covert MI 49043

TRAINING YOUR CHILDREN TO CHOOSE JESUS-LIKE FRIENDSHIPS

by Ann Haney

As I began to study God's Word on this subject I very quickly realized the full answer to training our children to choose Christ-like friendships could not be given in one short article. The Bible has much to say about friendships—much more than I ever realized. I feel we need to know as much as we can about what the Bible has to say on this subject and therefore I have decided to break this down into parts. I pray you will stay with me in this series and that God will direct your paths as you apply the truths in His Word to the lives of your children.

First, I believe we must understand what the definition of a "friend" is. By definition, the word "friend" means, "a person attracted to another by feelings of affection, a person who gives assistance or is a supporter, a person who is on good terms with another person." In this definition we understand that a friend is a supporter of someone they are attracted to by feelings, or better stated, *someone they have things in common with*. I think it is very important that we understand that there can be

both positive and negative friendships. There are friendships that lead to Jesus and those that lead away from Him. To clearly identify the difference between these, we need to look into friendships mentioned in the Bible and ask ourselves several questions. I believe the first and only place to begin is with Jesus.

In Proverbs 9:10 it says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

What a statement this is! If we are going to gain wisdom in anything, we must first have a worshipful and reverent fear of the Lord and examine the life of Jesus, to gain a complete understanding regarding everything.

We must lay aside our reasoning, the worldly influences and our traditions, and be open to the teaching of holy spirit. God's ways are not our ways and we must be willing to apply God's Word—even if we can not reason it out! The Bible tells us He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. It is important that He is the beginning of our child's friendships and the end of our child's friendships. In other words, what goes into and comes out of their friendships should point to Jesus the Anointed. Others should clearly see this when they are around them.

The first question I want to explore with you is, "How did Jesus choose His friends?" We start in Matthew 4:18-23. I have chosen to list this whole Scripture reference due to its great importance.

"As He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He noticed

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two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, throwing a dragnet into the sea, for they were fishermen. And He said to them, 'Come after Me [as disciples—letting Me be your guide], follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and became His disciples. And going further from there He noticed two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother, John, in the boat with their father, Zebedee, [notice, the first ones Jesus chose were brothers who were working together], mending their nets and putting them right; and He called them. At once they left the boat and their father and joined Jesus as disciples. And He went about all Galilee teaching in their synagogues [meeting places], and preaching the good news of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every weakness and infirmity among the people."

The first thing we notice is the word "left." They had to "leave all," which refers to "putting Him first." He had to be their guide, they had to follow Him and His vision, and lose their own. In Luke 14:33 it tells us, "So then any of you who does not forsake (re-nounce, surrender claim to, give up, say goodbye to) all that he has cannot be my disciple."

To find positive friendships one must be sure that what feels good to the flesh is truly what is good. A good question to ask right here would be, "What made them choose to be Jesus' disciples?" They must have seen something in Jesus that drew them to Him. This takes us to the second important thing in this Scripture. To where did they "follow" Him? They followed Him in teaching, preaching and healing. Good fruit was produced when they followed Him. When our children choose a friend, they need to determine what kind of fruit they see in the life of their potential friend, whether it be good or bad. Matthew 3:8 states, "Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance [let your lives prove your change of heart]."

I am going to jump ahead a little here and point out what should be done with an established friendship that is not producing good fruit. In Matthew 3:10 you will see, "And already the ax is lying at the root of the trees, every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

I cannot stress this enough—cut off friendships that do not produce good fruit! If you don't, it will ruin your child's fruit. Jesus witnessed to the sinners; He didn't have them in His inner circle of "good" friends. Matthew 7:18 says, "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." - It's genetic.

One cannot be a Christian and live a sinful life nor can a sinful person live a Christian life. Matthew 7:20 tells us, "Therefore you will fully know them by their fruits."

Moses addresses the congregation in Numbers 16:26 and says, "Depart, I pray you from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sin."

I will be talking more about this later. You might be asking yourself, "How do we minister to these people if we don't become their friends?" The people Jesus had close fellowship with followed Him and His vision. When they no longer followed Him they were **cut off** from His fellowship (remember Judas). Judas' heart changed and he

became a negative friendship (one that was not a supporter of or and longer affectionately attracted to Jesus). They no longer had anything in common.

We know the Bible tells us they were His disciples (which means "followers"), but how do we know they were His friends? Take a look at John 15:14, "You are my friends if you keep doing the things which I command you to do."

Remember the disciples left what they had to be taught by Jesus to do what He did. When they responded to the invitation of Jesus to "follow Him," they had done what He invited them to do, making them His friends. If you remember Abraham was also called, "a friend of God." He also left his current life and followed God doing what God commanded him, making him "a friend of God" (Isaiah 41:8). Jesus, indeed, ministered to all—but not all were His friends. Only those that kept on doing the things which He commanded were considered friends.

In closing, it would be a good idea to sit down with your child(ren)—or re-examine your own life—and make a list of qualities you like in a friend. For example, if you say "kindness," use a concordance now to find a Scripture to back up this trait. A good one might be Ephesians 4:32 which states, "Be ye kind one to another (in the congregation)." By doing this we can confirm commands of Jesus that should be within the qualities of a friend.

Blessings to you as you examine the friendships in your life and those of your children's. Be sure to read the next installment when available.

(Ann Haney is an author, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and weekly columnist. Ann homeschooled six children

for 18+ years.) www.annhaney.com
Courtesy Home School Digest, Box 374, Covert MI 49043

SELF-DEFENSE FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

by Andrea Schwartz

The only time I have had a black eye was in 1991 during my second-degree brown belt promotion test in Kenpo Karate. These rights of passage included a vigorous two-plus-hour ordeal where the candidate for advancement had to demonstrate proficiency in the various moves from previous belt levels. Additionally, one also had to withstand simulated attacks from the men who were black belts who ran the test. My "shiner" resulted when I did not deflect an incoming punch in a timely manner.

By this time, I had been studying martial arts for six years, yet this was my first experience with a full punch to the face. That was a remarkable record considering I was thirty-seven years old at the time. You see, girls do not customarily fist-fight when they are at odds with each other; rather, they give way to pulling hair and kicking. Surprisingly, the blow to my face was not as bad as I had imagined one would be. With the adrenalin rush, I was able to successfully complete the process and pass the test!

I attribute this accomplishment, in part, to my hard work and physical conditioning, but also because of the reason I pursued proficiency in self-defense in the first place. As a Christian, I knew there were priorities set forth in Scripture that required that I prepare myself to maneuver through a sinful world.

Since then, I have combined my knowledge of God's



Word with the techniques and perspectives I gained through martial arts to present seminars to women highlighting self-defense from a Christian/Biblical perspective. I begin these seminars by pointing out that three of the Ten Commandments (the sixth, seventh and eighth) are pertinent to this discussion.

The Morality of Self-Defense

Since it is wrong to kill, failing to defend our life or the life of another violates the sixth commandment. Since adultery (and all fornication) is prohibited, women must value their marriage (or future one) enough to protect the keeping with the seventh commandment. In addition, theft of any kind (including one's virginity, chastity, and purity) appropriately deserves opposition based on the eighth commandment.

This flies in the face of many recommendations given to women either explicitly or implicitly by our modern culture. Too often, women are instructed to cooperate with an assailant to avoid being killed. This avoids the fact that God's penalty for rape and kidnapping is the same as for murder—death. Therefore, it is faulty reasoning to assume that preserving one's life is the utmost priority. Because women are vulnerable to physical and sexual attacks due to the disparity between the strength and size of men and women, it is important for women to follow the dictates of God's Word in Proverbs 31:17, "*She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.*" The Bible does not call for flimsy, weak women. Strength of character and physical strength are both to be pursued. By standing firmly on a Biblical worldview, a woman can prepare herself to be ready to respond in the case of threatening situations.

Unlike the modern recommendation to cooperate with an assailant, the Bible requires that a woman cry out in the case of a sexual assault. In fact, she should do so in order to dismiss any doubt that she is a willing participant. The only time this is not required is when the assault is taking place in a location where she (is sure she) cannot be heard. This does not preclude her crying out; rather, it makes allowance for the fact that her cries would not be effective (Deuteronomy 22:25-28).

Judd Wilson, a military veteran, addresses this passage in his essay, "The Biblical Duty of Self-Defense:"

"I have a wife and a tiny, infant daughter. Those women are the most important people on this planet to me. Like other Christian men, I have been commanded by God to love my wife as Jesus loves His ekklesia and to raise my daughter in the fear and admonition of the Lord. But in the face of a palpable silence in the evangelical world regarding this subject, I pose a question. Do I not have the duty to protect them from physical harm?"

The Bible says, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Matt 4:7). Citing this verse, the Lord refused the call to recklessly jump off the temple, and in so doing to deny Biblical common sense in favor of supernatural deliverance. If I send my wife and daughter to the grocery store, the grandparents' house, or anywhere else, unprepared to deal with this world full of scheming depraved sinners, Have I not broken this commandment?

I am not saying that we should discount God's protection and blessing or the customary decency of many citizens; but if I neglected to check the oil, the gas, and the tyres before setting out on a road trip, would I not be to blame if we ended up stranded on the side of a road

somewhere? I must conclude then that I have a duty to prepare my girls to defend themselves and that I must be able to defend myself as well."¹

Some may argue that Deuteronomy 22:25-28 is antiquated and does not reflect modern life. They submit that there are circumstances whereby a woman is tricked or manipulated into compromising situations by a person who is powerful and who may discredit her account. This is why the other admonitions in Scripture regarding modesty, prudence, integrity, and remaining under the care and protection of family are so important. Instead of making this an issue of women's rights and the double standard that exists in humanistic culture, the Bible calls for women to cherish their bodies as temples of holy spirit and protect their sexuality in a pre-emptive way. As the saying goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." (or in today's jargon: 'A gram of prevention is worth a kilo of cure.')

Today it is standard practice to move outside the protection and coverage of one's family and blithely assume that bad things should not happen to good people. Coupled with the low priority often given to modesty and godliness, females leave the door open to be disbelieved and challenged when there is a charge of rape or abuse. Regardless of whether not it *should* be this way, the credibility of a woman who fornicates when she chooses to do so, and then expects allegations of rape to be believed unquestionably, will be called into question. Proverbs 20:11 tells us, "*Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.*" In a like manner, the character of a godly woman should be so well known, that her words are taken seriously and her testimony believed.²

Many passages in the Bible advise that avoiding certain behaviours is a protection against the wickedness that exists in the world. What often seems like prudery or overprotectiveness to the young person who wants to experience excitement in life is in actuality God's safeguard. This does not mean that women should not pursue education, employment, or activities outside the home. Rather, it is a prescription for doing all things under the protection and covering of her family. Only the fool has to learn everything by personal experience. Therefore, adhering to the guidelines of the Creator is more than commendable; it is vital.

Once this perspective is embraced, the process of learning how to defend oneself is the next priority. Good physical conditioning gives opportunity to escape from a perpetrator and/or dangerous environment should the situation arise. Often this is all that is needed. Being weak and lethargic due to excessive weight or muscular weakness makes a woman more likely to be taken advantage of. Being physically fit is not anathema to femininity. When a woman is in better physical health and carries herself with godly deportment, she makes herself a less vulnerable target.

Good instruction as to how to defend oneself is available all over the internet, and various videos and articles abound about effective means to ward off an attacker. While it is good to get some hands-on training, there is much to be learned by educating yourself online. This is

Fear God and Keep His commandments **4. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY**

by Ted Weiland

Although the commandment to keep the Sabbath (rest) is not optional, we must stop judging our brethren simply because their timing does not coincide with ours. In Malachi 3 we are warned that it is sinful to rob God of His tithes. From the perspective of the Ten Commandments, the 4th Commandment is one-tenth of the Law. Sabbath observance, in a sense, is a type of tithe - a "tithe" of our time dedicated to rest, worship and the study of God's Word. It requires the cessation of buying and selling; cessation of one's own pleasure.

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also an effective way for parents to train both daughters and sons to be able to be pro-active in this area.³

Problems Under the Radar

Along with learning that being punched in the face was not as bad as I had anticipated, I also learned how uncomfortable people were even to broach the subject with me when they saw me at church or at homeschool gatherings. In fact, their discomfort was palpable and almost funny. No one wanted to ask the obvious question, "What happened to you?" I must admit that I relished seeing how proficient they were at avoiding the "elephant in the room." Since I was not ashamed of my "shiner," I did not attempt to conceal it with makeup. The only people who would confront me head-on were children who would ask unapologetically, "What happened to your eye?"

This brings me to the unpleasant subject of sexual or physical misconduct/abuse on the part of one spouse to another, or a parent to a child. One does not have to look very far to learn of the tragic stories of people who endured years of being taken advantage of by someone they trusted. The question arises: Why did these occurrences remain secret? What social norms existed within the circles that gave precedence to exchanging niceties over unearthing real problems within their midst? Why aren't these subjects broached from the pulpit? Judd Wilson goes on to note:

"We read about this duty of self-defense in Deuteronomy 22:23-27, which teaches us that when threatened with rape, a woman has the obligation to resist her attacker by screaming for help. The principle implicit here is that this crime is something to be resisted, not acquiesced to. Verse 23-24 mention the case of a woman who is attacked while in a town. It specifies that if she does not scream for help, she is to be stoned to death along with the rapist. Why? *Because she is obliged to resist.* [Emphasis mine]

This is not the law of some cruel and unjust God; it is the Law of a God who sharply differentiates between good and evil. As Matthew Henry writes on these verses, the assumption here is that in a town or other populated area, when a woman cried out for help, rescuers "might speedily have come in to prevent the injury offered her." In the case of a sexual assault, that help must be immediate. We can conclude, then, that Israelite city dwellers were not to be couch potatoes, but instead vigilant, many individuals capable of physically overcoming a criminal or a group of criminals.

Verses 25-27 specify that in the case of a woman raped in the countryside, where there is no one to hear her cry for help, only the rapist must die, for "as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so is this matter: For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her." Again, *the woman is obliged to resist*, [Emphasis mine] and her fellow Israelites are obligated to rescue her. We also see that the Israelites were expected to know how to help her. Clearly a girl today, just as then, is better off knowing how to defend herself if she is caught alone with "no one to rescue her."

One of the safeguards of the Bible's directive for a woman to cry out is that it puts the offender on notice. Too many, unaware of this aspect of the Law-Word of God, tragically felt they had to endure vile treatment from a family member or trusted friend, feeling personal shame and guilt. This is why learning Biblical Law is a priority: it serves as a protection and shield. Such knowledgeable application may not prevent a first offense, but it certainly would avert repeated ones. Thus, the command for a woman to cry out and pursue justice goes beyond the occurrence of the actual attack. It means a speedy reporting

to those who can help her, rather than concealing the offense for years, even decades. Moreover, as Judd Wilson points out, the congregation was expected to know how to help her.

Regardless of the "good reasons" to avoid letting someone know that a violation has taken place (threats of retaliation or accusations of lying), knowing that one is acting in obedience to God's Law provides strength. Also knowing that there are people ready, willing, and able to help encourages openness. When we are told to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, it is important to note that the words "righteousness" and "justice" are synonymous. We have a duty to see that justice is served, but it cannot be a solo effort. An aspect of God's establishing the institutions of both church and state was and is to serve as protection for the family in its kingdom work. Pride, scarred reputations, or potentially bad press are not sufficient excuses to sacrifice justice.

Too many church people embrace a culture of superficiality, priding themselves in minding their own business to avoid being labelled busybodies. This flies in the face of the passage in Galatians that instructs us to bear one another's burdens as the fulfillment of the law of Christ (Gal 6:2). The body of Anointed must do more than decry the bad behaviour of the heathen; we must deal with the wolves that maintain free access within churches with members who value politeness over community.

The entire subject of self-defense opens the door to discussion about important and pertinent issues of our day. Rather than

merely shielding ourselves and our children from the sinful, humanistic culture surrounding us, and its infiltration into our churches, we should be establishing a firm Biblical foundation of a godly, dominion-oriented response to these issues. Prioritizing the clear commands and boundaries of Scripture, and carrying them out, will do much to avoid unnecessary suffering.

"The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it." (Prov 22:3).

notes:

1. <http://chalcedon.edu/faith-for-all-of-life/theocracy-now/the-biblical-duty-of-self-defense/>
2. Teaching and applying the Biblical teaching that perjurers (those who give false testimony) are subject to whatever punishment that would be levied against those they accuse, would lessen false accusations.
3. There are also many classes available throughout most communities. Be sure to check that your instructors are competent and certified in the techniques they teach.
4. See endnote 1.

Courtesy Faith for all of Life, Box 158, Vallecito CA 95251

BLINDNESS BY CHOICE

by R.J. Rushdoony

A friend wrote this week about the re-nomination of the local member representative. This representative has been three times arrested for drunk driving and is currently on one-year's probation, with his driver's license revoked. In spite of this, he is heavily favoured to win in the general election.

I had to reply that this did not surprise me. As I travel across the country, I am often surprised at the tolerance of voters for offenses which make the representative's



seem mild by comparison.

At the same time, I must admit that it should not surprise me, I see what people tolerate in their children, without being disturbed, and what they demand that you tolerate in them, and the picture is fairly clear. I suspect that, in spite of their sins, our legislators as a whole are of a better character than the people, but not too much better.

When men themselves have evil moral standards, the standards they set for their wives, children, and legislators will hardly be good ones. There will be, despite differences, a basic unity of evil faith between them.

The prophet Isaiah points this out in declaring God's coming judgment. There were many then who were ready to blame workers or masters, moneylenders, or deadbeats, one class or another, for the problems of the day. Isaiah, however, declares, *"And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him"* (Isa. 24:2).

It is not popular today to say that the improvident borrower is as much a sinner as the money shark. We want to limit sin to the top man, but God sees it wherever it is.

Our problem thus, as my friend rightly saw, is with the people as a whole. The representative's re-nomination, she wrote, is evidence of something deeply wrong in the people, an absence of Biblical faith and guidelines.

Proverbs 29:18 declares: *"Where there is no vision, the people perish [or, run wild]; but he that keeps the law, happy is he."* The word "vision" here refers to the ministry of the Word of God, the teaching of God's grace and law. For lack of it people run wild or perish. Where there is faith and obedience, there we have also a happy or blessed estate.

Our foremost need is for the faithful teaching of the Word of God, which is man's surest vision. Today, however, men prefer blindness to vision.

Courtesy Faith for All of Life, Box 158, Vallecito CA 95251

DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?

by Don Elmore

Edward "Ed" Mezvinsky, born January 17, 1937

Former Democratic congressman who represented Iowa's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives for two terms, from 1973 to 1977.

He sat on the House Judiciary Committee that decided the fate of Richard Nixon. He was outspoken saying that Nixon was a crook and a disgrace to politics and the nation, and should be impeached. He and the Clintons were friends and very politically intertwined for many years.

Ed Mezvinsky had an affair with NBC News reporter Marjorie Sue Margolies and later married her after his wife divorced him.

In 1993, Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, then a freshman Democrat in Congress, cast the deciding vote that got President Bill Clinton's controversial tax package through the House of Representatives.

In March 2001, Mezvinsky was indicted and later pled

guilty to 31 of 69 counts of bank fraud, mail fraud and wire fraud. Ed Mezvinsky embezzled more than \$19 million dollars from people via both a Ponzi scheme and the notorious Nigerian e-mail scams,

He was found guilty and sentenced to 80 months in federal prison. After serving less than five years in federal prison, he was released in April 2008 and remains on federal probation.

To this day, he still owes \$9.4 million in restitution to his victims. About now you are saying, "So what!" Well, his son Marc married Chelsea Clinton. Ed Mezvinsky is Chelsea Clinton's father-in-law.

Now Marc and Chelsea are in their early thirties and purchased a \$10.5 million dollar NYC apartment (after being married in George Soros' mansion). Has anyone heard mention of any of this in any of the media?

Just think your daughter graduates from college, marries into a family whose father had been in Federal jails for fraud and other monetary crimes and is pardoned by then

President Bill Clinton. Chelsea has a \$5 million wedding, works for a television network for an excessive \$300,000. ow 3 years later purchase a \$10.5 million apartment in New York City. How does that happen???

And then there is Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka, who became a Jew when she married another prominent Jew, Jared Kushner. So the two leading candidates of the two most popular political parties, both have a daughter who is married to a Jew. It never ends. The wicked continue their wicked ways.

Deuteronomy 7:3, *"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them (the seven nations of the Canaanites), thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son....."*

"CROSSROADS CHURCH"

Brian Tome, the head pastor of Crossroads Church, won't compromise on some things; Crossroads attendees must at least be open to exploring a relationship with God. The Church is based on Christian principles and draws its message from the Bible, **but people of all religions are welcome.** For the most part however, Tome and the board threw out the traditional church model and asked a lot of questions while developing the service.

• Why, for example, should church music be any different from what people listen to in their cars?

Don Elmore's answer:

So, they use the music that was started at the crossroads in Mississippi: where highway 69 and 41 intersect. This is where Tobert Johnson sold his soul to the devil for fame and skill in playing the guitar. This black music that started from New Orleans was picked up by Elvis Presley and a whole host of others. It had/has the voodoo beat that changed the United States and the world to embrace the New World Order. So, that is the music that Crossroads Church plays: What a perfect name for a false church!

Courtesy The New Covenant Messenger, Box 321, Union KY 41091

Better to listen to what John Calvin said:

"As for public prayers, there are two kinds: the one consists simply of speech, the other of song And, indeed, we know from experience that singing has great strength and power to



move and to set on fire the hearts of men in order that they may call upon God and praise Him with a more vehement and more ardent zeal. It is to be remembered always that this singing should not be light or frivolous, but that it ought to have weight and majesty, (hence also, the use of the King of Instruments, the pipe organ for accompanying that singing!).. Now what Augustine says is true, namely that no one can sing anything worthy of God which he has not received from Him. Therefore, even after we have carefully searched everywhere, we shall not find better or more appropriate songs to this end than the Psalms of David, inspired by the Holy Ghost. And for this reason, when we sing them, we are assured that God puts the words in our mouth, as if He himself were singing through us to exalt His glory...."

(Calvin on Congregational singing, 1543)

IN EVERYTHING, GIVE THANKS

by Amber Duran

Even at our worst moments, there is something to be thankful for.

The last time my mother saw me I wore a hand-me-down red Kentucky t-shirt and blue running shorts. This isn't my normal garb, but these were the first items I found after I got the call.

In the early hours of a Tuesday morning, I was jolted awake by a phone call no one ever wants to receive. After taking a turn for the worse, my mother was asking for us—her kids. We piled in our vehicle—my husband, brother and sister-in-law—and walked the bathed-in-blue hallways of the hospital to mom's room

She had her moments of recovery that made me think she might make it through this one. But it was only hours later that she went into full organ failure.

What to say in those final moments?

In the mere minutes I had with her before she died, I tried to warm her cold hands with mine. The machines keeping her alive kept a steady tone—Beep, Beep, Beep. Air was forced in and out of her lungs, something she could no longer do on her own. She couldn't open her eyes, and the doctors told us she was totally unaware. But when we spoke, her heart monitor would spike. She could hear us. But what do you say?

I could feel the silence weighing on me. I needed to say something. Everyone talks about last words and how important they are, but I didn't have anything profound to say. All that I could express was thanks. I thanked her for being my mother for 26 years as I wept by her bedside.

My brother was there, too, stroking her forehead and whispering in her ear. "It's okay. You can relax now. Shh, just relax." In seconds, she let go, and the nurses silenced the machines before telling us, "She's gone."

It was my first very real, up-close-and-personal experience with death. My mom had been sick for a while, though. I had time to think about her dying and how I would handle it, but thankfulness was probably the last thing I thought I would feel. But if you think about it, that may be the most natural thing a Christian can feel.

Even in the most mournful moments following my mom's death, I knew, because God has called me into knowing His merciful plan, that I had so much to be thankful for.

As Christians, that hope we have in God's coming Kingdom is priceless and something we can never lose. It is what keeps us grounded in unstable times. When Scripture tells us to give thanks in everything, it doesn't just mean in

pleasant times (1 Thess. 5:18). Though that can be hard to wrap our minds around, it's a vital lesson in thanksgiving.

The Bible doesn't hide the fact that trials happen to us all, but how we handle those trials shape who we are and, ultimately, determines our happiness. If we can be content and thankful when we experience pain or loss, then there won't be a moment in life that we can't handle. Whatever state we are in, we must learn to be content (Philippians 4:11).

This kind of contentment, of course, can only come from our Heavenly Father. It's not a natural human response to appreciate or love trials. When God's spirit lives in us, though, it's a different story

Difficult Times Help Us Count Our Blessings

Often, as was the case with me, it's the difficult times that you can truly see and count your innumerable blessings and draw closer to God. You see, when we are at our lowest that our hearts are moldable.

When Paul talks about God calling the weak of the world and not the high and mighty, it's for a reason (1 Cor. 1:26). Even David said it was when he was brought low that God helped him and worked with him (Psalm 116:6).

I find comfort in God's plan of salvation, knowing that my mom and God's people will know more than the pains of this physical life. They—we—will all know true peace when God's way is the only way.

No, my mom won't be sitting with us this Thanksgiving dinner or the many dinners to come, when our table is filled with children she never got to meet. She's no longer here.

But instead of dwelling on the emptiness I could feel or the great sense of loss, I choose to thank God that I'm alive, that I am healthy and, most importantly, that I spent as much time with her as I could while she was alive, and that I will see my mother again. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we will be changed and reunited (1 Cor. 15:52).

The last time my mother saw me, I wore a hand-me-down red Kentucky t-shirt and blue running shorts. The next time we see each other, her pain and mine over losing her will be gone and we will both be clothed in fine linen, white and clean (Rev. 19:8). There's nothing I could be more thankful for than that.

Courtesy Good News, PO Box 541207, Cincinnati OH 45254

TITHING: THE BLESSINGS AND PROTECTION

as promised by the Word of God!

Before you read this article, it's important that you understand that this teaching is not directed at those members of the body of Anointed that follow God's teaching regarding tithing. It is directed to those who do not. It's purpose is to let *them* know about the blessings that they are missing out on, as well as the Biblical promises of protection that tithing brings, as it strengthens your relationship with Jesus through obedience, as well as to fulfill a conviction to warn our people.

A friend of mine last week was putting an armful of groceries in his truck, just a few bags in each hand that he could easily manage. He told me that he remembered when he was a kid, he used to go with his mom to the grocery store. She would push one cart and he would push the other as they checked out with two full carts. Typically the register would show less than \$100, and how his eyes nearly popped out of his head, when today the register rang up just





over \$100, \$106 to be exact. This was about three days worth of food for a family of six, with a few miscellaneous items left over (he should try shopping in Australia and see what it would come to!).

We started talking about, "How are people making it or going to make it?" Especially as things get tougher and tougher. I asked him if he tithed, and he said yes. Then I told him to not worry about it, for **"God has promised He will provide."**

However, if he would have said no, then I would have told him to worry. You see, I believe that it's a Biblical principle that if you do not follow the Biblical teachings regarding tithing, then God has no obligation to support you when times do get tough.

"Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's; it is holy to the Lord." (Lev. 27:30 NASB) [emphasis added].

The tithe, which is defined in the Bible as 1/10th of your increase, is Holy.

It is a sacred thing, which is part of what holy means. A sacred trust that your LORD has asked of you for all that He has blessed you with (Deut. 8:18), and in some cases tested you with. Webster's Dictionary defines "sacred" as: **"Holy; pertaining to God or to His worship;"**

Pertaining to His worship. Of all the different types of worship, tithing is one that you cannot fake. It is cut and dry. You either do it or you don't.

I think it is significant that in the very last book of the Old Testament, when Israel had strayed from God and was about to go into captivity that would last centuries, what God said to Israel through the Prophet Malachi. God said:

"return to Me and I will return unto you."

What our God is saying is that all you have to do is come back to Me, and I will receive you, I will give you all of the promises and blessings of this book, the Holy Bible, as well as all of the promises of your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **How did He say to return to Him?**

"From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes, and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, How shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, How have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts. If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes, says the LORD of hosts. And all the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land, says the LORD

of hosts." (Mal. 3:7-12).

"Test Me," says God. **Test Me and I will prove myself. I will bless you and keep you, but first you must return unto Me.**

To my knowledge this is the only place in both the New and Old Testament, where God says to "Test Me now in this." Sounds a little like 2 Chronicles 7:14-15 doesn't it?

"If My people on whom My name is called (a reference to Numbers 6:23-27, and not the aliens Solomon wanted to come and pray there, 2 Chron. 6:32-33), humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now my eyes shall be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place."

Could it be that those of you that do not follow the Biblical teachings regarding tithing, that don't humble yourself to obedience, that don't worship with your finances by offering that which God has commanded you to set aside and He Himself called holy, may one day have God's eyes shut and His ears closed to your cry? It's really all about obedience.

"And we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete." 2 Cor. 10:6.

If you can't be obedient in the small things, do you really think the LORD is going to trust you with the bigger things?

This is not a topic to be avoided, because tithing is so important to your welfare and the welfare of your future. So tell me where is it in the Bible that tithing is first mentioned? To answer that question we must go back to the beginning, to the book of Genesis. We start in Genesis

chapter 14, verses 18-22:

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who hath delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tenth of all. And the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal or anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich."

He gave him a tenth of all.

Surely these verses we have just read establish, without a shadow of a doubt, the character of the patriarch Abram as well as his relationship and attitude towards God..

Look at the introduction of Melchizedek, the priest of the highest God; he blessed Abram, declaring that God gave his enemies into his hand. He then went on to say, "Blessed be the most high God," at which time Melchizedek, the king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine. Could this be a foreshadowing of the first Communion, coming alongside one of the first representations of tithing? Consider these important points?

1) The Priest Melchizedek brought forth the elements of Communion, the bread and wine.

2) Abram (whose name was later changed to Abraham) gave a tenth of the spoils from the battle.

To get a better understanding of the details of this story

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we need to turn to the New Testament and to the book of Hebrews, chapter 7, under the subtitle, Melchizedek's Priesthood Like Christ's,

"For this Melchizedek, king of Salem priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he abides a priest perpetually." Hebrews 7:1-3.

Here we read about the significance of the giving of tithes (or a tenth of the spoils) which Abraham gave the priest of the most high God, Melchizedek. This priest is described, for our understanding, as "King of righteousness and after that also King of Salem, which is King of peace."

Jesus is a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.

Look at the following Scriptures that reinforce this fact. "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." Hebrews 4:14.

"So also the Anointed did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee, just as He says also in another passage, Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek." Heb. 5:5-10.

"Where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Heb. 6:20.

"The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110:4.

Hebrews chapter 6 tells us about Melchizedek, about Abraham's faith and blessings, all pointing to the "heirs of the promise" who will "inherit the promises." All of this is to help us to understand that Jesus, as our High Priest, called after the order of Melchizedek, ministers as a priest on our behalf today.

So we see the connection between the sharing of the Communion elements and tithing, by pointing to the most high priest, Melchizedek, in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. (Genesis 14 and Hebrews 6 and 7).

The significance that should not be missed is that with "Communion" and tithing, Melchizedek called Abram "Blessed". Therefore every true Christian follower of Jesus the Anointed should recognize that Communion and tithing is about your relationship with God.

The tithes and offerings you give now could be that which God remembers as your faithfulness when you have nothing, or next to nothing. So where would we go in the Bible to illustrate this?

In 1 Kings 17:10-14, we read the story of the widow that gave her last bit of bread and oil to the prophet Elijah.

"So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he come to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there

gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, Please get me a little water in a jar that I may drink. And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand. But she said, As the LORD your God lives, I have no bread, only a handful of flour in the bowl and a little oil in the jar; and behold, I am gathering a few sticks that I may go and prepare for me and my son, that we may eat it and die. Then Elijah said to her, Do not fear; go, do as you have said, but make me a little bread cake from it first, and bring it out to me, and afterward you may make one for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel, The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth."

What faithfulness this woman had in the LORD! As well as in His representative Elijah, that He would keep His promise. This story alone should convict each and every one of us of the need that we have for the LORD to strengthen our faith, as well as our obedience.

We continue to go forward in faith, just as it has always been done. We believe and know that as long as we are doing the work that the Father would have us to be doing, then He will take care of all the needs we may have.

You may never preach a sermon; you may never write a Christian book or pamphlet; you may never baptize thousands, or even baptize one person. But I believe that when you support a ministry whose only purpose is to spread the truth of the Gospel, as well as to teach others to fulfill the Great Commission, teaching about repentance and baptism to Israel, then your tithes and free will offerings will cause the Heavenly Father to remember that you were faithful and

followed the Biblical teachings regarding tithing.

"For whoever (of Israel) will call upon the name of the LORD will be saved. How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things." (Romans 10:13-15. - to the Israelites at Rome)

The question we all need to be asking is this. How many more can we reach? How many more can we get the True Gospel to? Especially of our relatives.

The truth is that if you rob God, you've robbed yourself. If you don't support where you are being fed, then you've robbed yourself as well. I can also say from my experience, and the experience of my brethren around me, that those who tithe seem to have a much deeper understanding of Scripture. Why? Because they are obedient and they are showing not only faith in worship, but a **trust that the LORD will keep His Word.**

I write this article for one reason and one reason alone. I want my hands to be clean. I have fulfilled my obligation and warned you. If you are not faithful in your tithes and free will offerings now, what obligation does God have to rebuke the devourer, to open His eyes to see your plight, or be attentive to your prayers and cries when times do get tough? Those of you that are the patriarchs of your household, what are you stealing from yourself, as well as your family, in the way of blessings and protection?

Pray for God to strengthen you in this area, but know this ahead of time that it is a leap of faith; a trust; an obedience and also a critical part of true worship. It's a tough area of obedience. It is trusting the LORD. That's why I

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think this was the first thing He instructed us to do when He said, **“Return unto me and I will return unto you.”**

The good news is this. Through your tithes and offerings, you do in fact put food into God’s storehouse, so that this ministry may feed many through these messages, through the internet, etc.

May the LORD bless those of you that are His, bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, lift up His countenance to you and grant you peace - *and they shall put my name upon the children of Israel and I will bless them.*

Courtesy The Dragon Slayer, Box 766, LaPorte CO 80535

SWISS ARMY CHIEF TO COUNTRYMEN: “ARM YOURSELVES!”

On December 28, the German news blog Deutsche Wirtschafts Nachrichten (German Economic News) reported that the head of the Swiss Army warned his government that because the “risks of social unrest in Europe are increasing dramatically” and the “economic outlook is gloomy,” the situation in Switzerland is becoming dangerous and the Swiss could be doomed if no plan is provided to protect the country.

“The mixture is increasingly un-appetizing,” Lieutenant General Andre Blattmann said. “Social unrest can not be ruled out,” he noted ominously. Blattman doesn’t just criticize the current volatility without proposing a solution, however. “Arm yourselves,” the general counsels his countrymen, in preparation of the chaos that he senses is certain to come.

It seems that the people of Switzerland are heeding the general’s warning. As the English-language Swiss website swissinfo.ch reported December 31, Applications for gun permits in Switzerland increased by 20% between 2014 and 2015, according to a survey conducted in 12 cantons by Swiss public television, SRF. The survey, published on Wednesday, showed that in the 12 (out of 26) cantons surveyed, the Swiss are increasingly interested in purchasing pistols, rifles and other firearms for private use. The greatest increase—more than 70%—was measured in canton Vaud, with more than 4,200 applications in 2015, compared with 2,437 in 2014. There is a general climate of uncertainty and an increased fear of intruders, said Pierre-Olivier Gaudard, head of crime prevention for canton Vaud.

So, while the Swiss seem to be preparing themselves to defend their property against the destruction that will be wrought by the havoc that swirls in the wake of global unrest, the president of the United States is taking the cap off his infamous pen and issuing autocratic edicts further restricting the right to keep and bear arms protected by the Second Amendment.* [from a contributed news-clipping]

(While our own ex-pm John Howard is trying to sell a buy-back scheme to the Americans) All these nations have to be disarmed so they can not fight back when invaded, and taken over by the New World Order - One World Slave State..

Another contribution has been sent to the Loeries in South Africa, amounting to 22,621.60 South African Rand. It seems their inflation has increased again and while we get more Rands for our Australian dollars, the Australian dollars we received for forwarding on, were down considerably on the previous time. Please note that the next contribution will be sent God Willing in September, giving you ample time to send in your donations to that cause Please keep the Loeries in your prayers also.

OUR READERS SAY:



Dear Hank and Wilhelmina: Pray the good Lord is taking care of you both. Love your newsletters & the accompanying articles. Lots of information. Would you by any chance have Arnold Kennedy’s article from your newsletters (August to December 2015) in a booklet form as it was brilliant - as are all his articles. He is/was right on the ball. I would love it in booklet form if possible. Christian Regards. Qld. (We hope to put a number of articles into booklet form when time and resources are favorable, God willing.)

Dear Hank, as we have no known “Identity Fellowship” we always look forward to your monthly newsletters and encouragement to the True Word of our Saviour. We cannot go back into the existing churches, as such we have come out of. Your Christian Identity Ministries is a real blessing to us. Trust your family are well and that your ministry continues to bless many as we have experienced. Kind regards & may God bless. Qld. (We left the established churches over 35 years ago, and only made an occasional visit while travelling. We could not go back on a regular basis either. Too many differences! HR)

Dear Hank, Words lack in our expressing our utmost appreciation for the donation of the generous amount of ZAR 22,472.60 to the Laurie Youth Centre Trust. It is the support and donation from generous people like you that empower the Trustees and personnel to continue to achieve our goals, to make a difference in each of our children’s lives! Kind regards, the Trustees, Personnel and Loeries.

FROM THEIR OWN MOUTH

..... But television is, or should be, different. Whereas movies are one-off spectacles, TV is immediate and intimate, created in a matter of days (or even hours) and broadcast directly into people’s living rooms. This offers a singular opportunity to reflect modern society and—like so many of TV’s best, most popular shows—to push it forward. Consider *I Love Lucy*, which helped normalize the idea of interracial marriage; *Star Trek*, whose diverse cast of idealists mirrored civil rights activists on Earth; and *Modern Family*, whose relatable gay couple softened conservative opposition to same-sex marriage.....

Meanwhile, *Empire*—a show created in 2015 to address contemporary issues like homophobia and racism—remains one of the most watched dramas on television.

Time, March 21, 2016, p.14.

Well here we are, April already - my how time flies. We thank God for the mercies provided in allowing us to carry on. We have had several more episodes of AF/Arrhythmia, but most have been only of short (up to 4 hour) duration. I have started using a drop of Frankincense essential oil on my tongue which seems to speed up returning to normal heart beat.

Also, most of the family came together for around a week to celebrate my 72 birthday, and a very enjoyable time it was with many grandchildren present. It did get a little hectic at mealtimes on occasion, but just being together was beneficial to all.

Thank you again to those faithful contributors who make it possible for us to continue. Last month we had printer problems which caused the entire newsletter to be done on a regular inkjet - it took forever. God willing, this one will run off a little faster. Thank you for the orders received, and keep them coming. May our Father in heaven, bless you and keep you safe in His care,