

Present Truth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers,

July 2011

“Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour” (Titus 1:4). We are nearing the time when Jesus Christ will come to get His people. I pray that you will be ready. “It is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you” (Hosea 10:12). The temporary things that so often occupy our time will soon pass away. Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). May the Lord prepare you to meet Him in peace! (Read Philippians 1:6.)

The Personality of God – Part 2

by Lynnord Beachy

God desires that His creatures who were made in His image would know Him, and as a result, love Him with all their hearts. The greatest problem with people who do not appreciate God is that they do not know Him as He really is. John wrote, “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (1 John 4:8). Many have a distorted view of God’s character, and this causes them not to appreciate or love God as He deserves.

Spreading darkness about God’s character has been the primary focus of Satan’s attacks against God’s kingdom. It is because of His work of spreading lies about God that many remain ignorant of God’s love and refuse to accept Him as the ruler of their lives.

The darkness regarding God’s character exists in varying degrees in different people. Some have an understanding of God’s love that is close to His attrib-

utes and therefore they love Him as much as possible with their limited views of God’s love. Yet, their love for God is hindered by every cherished falsehood regarding God’s character. These errors prevent them from being able to love God with all their hearts. In this condition their love cannot be “made perfect” (1 John 4:17).

This darkness will not last forever. God will manifest Himself to His people, and through them to others. He will say, “Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the

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LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (Isaiah 60:1-3).

The glory of the Lord is His character (Exodus 33:18, 19). God’s character will be revealed to His people and they will be transformed into His image. Paul wrote, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18). Beholding God’s character as He reveals it in His word is essential because we will be changed into the image of what we behold. If we behold a god who is unloving and cruel, then we will become unloving and cruel as well.

Our characters are directly related to our perceptions of God’s character. This is why Jesus stressed the importance of knowing God. When praying to His Father for us, He said, “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3). Our eternal life rests upon knowing the only true God and His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the most important knowledge we can have. Peter wrote, “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Peter 1:2).

Knowing Who We Worship

Jesus said to a Samaritan woman He met at Jacob’s well, “Ye worship

ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:22-24). Rather than complimenting this woman for her ignorance in worship, Jesus was seeking to elevate her understanding of God and correct her misunderstandings.

Jesus included Himself when He said, “we know what we worship.” Did you know Jesus worships somebody? He said so Himself, and then He explained who He worships. He said, “the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.” Jesus worships His Father along with all “true worshipers.” He worships His Father, because His Father is His God. He said to Mary, right after His resurrection, “Touch me not; for I am not yet

ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God” (John 20:17).

Jesus told His disciples that His God is the same God as their God. He also explained who this God is, the Father. He assured the disciples that His Father, is also our Father, and His God is also our God.

Jesus promised, “Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of

the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Revelation 3:12).

Paul wrote, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him" (Ephesians 1:17).

Jesus said that the true worshipers must worship the Father "in spirit and in truth." It is not enough to worship God in spirit, you must worship Him in truth as well. To worship God in spirit means to have your spirit involved in worship. Have you ever found yourself singing hymns while your mind is thinking about your car, your house, or a sports game? At those times, can you say you are worshiping in spirit? No! If your heart and thoughts are not involved, then it is not true worship.

What if your heart is involved in worship, but you are worshiping an idol? Are you a true worshiper? Certainly not! To be a true worshiper you must not only have your heart and mind involved, but you must worship in truth by worshipping the true God. Who is the true God whom the true worshipers are to worship? Jesus said, "the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." Was the woman at the well worshiping God in truth? No! Jesus said she did not know what she worshiped. It is a dangerous thing to worship strange or unknown gods.

Paul reprimanded the pagans on Mars Hill because they had an altar with the inscription, "TO THE UN-

KOWN GOD" (Acts 17:23). Ignorant worship is not true worship. God rebuked the Israelites, saying, "They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not" (Deuteronomy 32:17). Here we learn that devils are actually getting worship if we worship gods whom we know not. Paul wrote, "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils" (1 Corinthians 10:20).

Merging Paganism and Christianity

The Bible prophesied that a worldly power would arise on the scene and do abominable things, including instituting a false god. (Read Daniel chapters 7, 8, 11 and Revelation 13. For more information, please read the December 2008 issue of *Present Truth*.)

Speaking of the rise of this power, the angel Gabriel told Daniel, "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all" (Daniel 11:36, 37).

This description is almost identical to Paul's description in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4. A study of Daniel 7, 8 and 11 reveals that this power is the papacy. Notice, Gabriel said that when the papacy comes to power it

will disregard the God of his fathers. In other words, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Peter, Paul, and the other apostles, would be disregarded by the papacy. Gabriel continued, “But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain” (Daniel 11:38, 39).

Just as prophesied in the Bible, when the papacy came to power, the “God of [their] fathers” was disregarded, and a “strange god” emerged whom their “fathers knew not.” This prophecy was fulfilled to the letter when Satan inspired the papacy to invent and adopt the Trinity doctrine in the fourth century.

The Trinity doctrine was not always part of the religion of main-stream Christianity. On page 11 of the book, *Handbook for Today's Catholic*, we read, “The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church... The Church studied this mystery with great care and, after four centuries of clarification, decided to state the doctrine in this way: in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons,—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...”

The central doctrine of the Catholic faith, which they admit was their own formulation, is the “strange god” prophesied in Daniel 11:39. This god

is so strange it is popularly called “a mystery,” and its adherents are told not to bother trying to understand its confusing contradictions. Those who worship a mysterious strange god are as truly worshipping they “know not what” as was the woman at the well whom Jesus admonished to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. To worship God in truth, we must know who we are worshipping.

Do you know who you worship? I have been in churches where they mix everything up. They say, “We thank you O Father for coming down and dying for our sins.” I hear people praying to Jesus and closing the prayer “in Jesus name.” Does it make sense to pray to Jesus in His own name? He is our mediator, and He told us to pray to the Father in Jesus’ name (Luke 11:2; John 16:23; Ephesians 5:20). I have heard people pray to the Father, and end with, “in your name.” The Bible says, “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). We are to pray to God, the Father, in the name of our Mediator, Jesus Christ. It would appear that people who confuse the biblical distinctions and positions of the Father and Son do not know who they are worshipping, and thus are not worshipping in truth.

Distinctions Between Father and Son

Paul wrote, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by

whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1, 2).

God appointed His Son to be the heir of all things. An heir is “one who receives his allotted possession by right of sonship” (*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*). All things the Son has, He received from His Father, including life itself. Jesus said, “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.” (John 5:26).

Continuing in Hebrews we read, “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Hebrews 1:3).

An image is a likeness of the original. In this case, Jesus is called, “the express image” of His Father. *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* defines the Greek word used here as a, “precise reproduction in every respect.” As the Son of God, Jesus Christ is the image, or reproduction, of His Father. It is impossible to be the image and the original at the same time. You can be one or the other, but not both. Would it be right or proper to say that the Father is the image of the Son? No, and that is why He is never referred to in this manner, because He is the original. I have had people approach me saying, “Your son looks just like you.” It would be rare for a person to approach me and say, “You look like your son.” Why? My son is the image of me, not the other way around, because I came first.

Continuing, Paul wrote, “Being made so much better than the angels,

as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Hebrews 1:4). By right of sonship, Jesus Christ received a more excellent name than the angels. Angels are not literal sons, and therefore do not receive what Christ naturally inherits because He really is God’s Son.

Paul continued, “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?” (Hebrews 1:5). Notice the argument Paul uses to distinguish Jesus from the angels. Over and over again he argues that Jesus is better because He is the Son of God, because He was “begotten,” because He is “the express image” of His Father, because He is the “heir of all things,” because He naturally receives an “inheritance” from His Father.

Paul wrote, “And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom” (Hebrews 1:6-8). Here, Paul is telling us that Jesus is divine because He is really God’s Son. His language used to emphasize this is inescapable. Jesus is better than the angels because He was born of the Father, which cannot be said of any of the angels.

When Paul comes to the point of Jesus being called God, he wrote, “But unto the Son he [the Father]

saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows" (Hebrews 1:8, 9). As the Son of God, Jesus is, by right of inheritance, God by nature. A true Son of God, could be nothing else or nothing less than God by nature.

There is a law in nature that creatures can only have offspring "after their kind" (Genesis 1:24, 25). The offspring of a dog is always a dog, the offspring of a bird is always a bird, the offspring of a human is always a human, and the offspring of God, naturally is God. It is right and proper to refer to Jesus Christ as "God," for God, the Father Himself calls Him, "God." Yet, in the same breath, the Father makes it clear that He is the God of His Son. He says, "thy God, hath anointed thee..." Jesus is God, yet He has a God above Him who is also His Father.

God, the Father continued speaking to His Son, "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands" (Hebrews 1:10). God had said to His Son, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). Jesus Christ participated with His Father in the creation of all things. The Father states that the heavens are the works of His Son's hands. The Bible says, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

When Jesus was on earth it was His hands that touched the lepers to give them health, it was His hands that touched the eyes of the blind to give them sight. It was His mouth that spoke the words, "be thou clean" to heal the sick. Yet, Jesus said, "the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10). God, the Father, is the one who exercised His power in healing the sick, but He chose to do it through the hands of His Son. The same is true in creation. Over and over, God, the Father, is given the credit for creating everything, and Jesus is the channel by which He did this. Even at the beginning of this chapter in Hebrews it says, "God... made the worlds" and it says that He made them "by" "His Son" (Hebrews 1:1, 2). Paul wrote, "God... created all things by Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:9).

Jesus is God, and He cooperated with His Father in the creation of all things. John wrote of this, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." (John 1:1-3).

Here Jesus is called "God," yet there is a clear distinction between Him and "God" whom He was with. The God who Jesus was with is God, the Father. Jesus was not the same "God" He was with, but rather, Jesus was God in the sense of being divine just like His Father. The Father is God, so, necessarily, His Son is God

by nature. Biblical Greek Scholars generally agree that the second time the word “God” is used in John 1:1, it is used as a “qualitative noun” to describe the qualities of “the Word.” Harner says that nouns “with an anarthrous [no article] predicate preceding the verb, are primarily qualitative in meaning” (*The Journal of Biblical Literature*, Philip B. Harner, article “Qualitative Anarthrous Predicate Nouns: Mark 15:39 and John 1:1.”) “The clause could be translated, ‘the same nature as God.’ This would be one way of representing John’s thought, which is, as I understand it, that ho logos [‘the word’], no less than ho theos [‘the God’], had the nature of theos.” (*ibid.*)

Attributes of the Father

A reading of the Bible reveals clear distinctions between the Father and Son. The following is a partial list of attributes of God, the Father:

- **He’s the one who sent His Son.**

“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14).

- **He’s the one who gave His Son a work to do.**

Jesus said, “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” (John 17:4).

- **He’s the one who commanded His Son what to say and speak.**

Jesus said, “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak” (John 12:49).

- **He’s the one who gave His Son power over all flesh.**

Jesus said, “As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him” (John 17:2).

- **He’s the one who gave authority to His Son.**

Jesus said that His Father, “hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man” (John 5:27).

- **He’s the one who told His Son to sit on His right Hand.**

“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?” (Hebrews 1:13).

- **He’s the one who anointed His Son.**

“Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows” (Hebrews 1:9).

- **He’s the one who gave His Spirit to His Son.**

“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him” (John 3:34).

- **He’s the one who gave to His Son to have life in Himself.**

“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself” (John 5:26).

- **He’s the one who Gave His Son all power in heaven and earth.**

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

- **He’s the one who highly exalted His Son.**

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him..." (Philippians 2:9).

• **He's the one who gave His Son a name which is above every name.**

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9).

• **He's the one who has given all things into His Son's hand.**

"The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand" (John 3:35).

• **He's the one who committed all judgment unto His Son.**

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" (John 5:22).

• **He's the one to whom Christ will be subject for all eternity.**

"And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all" (1 Corinthians 15:28).

• **He's the one who is the head of Christ.**

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3).

• **He's the one who is the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him" (Ephesians 1:17).

In no case do we find that the opposite is true. The Son never sent the Father anywhere. He never gave the Father a work to do, or commanded what He

should speak. The Son never gave power or authority to His Father. The Son never anointed His Father. He never gave life to His Father. The Father has never, and will never be subject to His Son. The Son is not the head of the Father, nor is He His God. It is acknowledged by most that the Father holds the highest rank. The continual attempt of trinitarians to make the Son absolutely equal to the Father is virtually proof that He is not. They never seek to prove the Father is equal to the Son. It is true that Jesus is equal to His Father in many respects, including nature, but in each of the aspects mentioned in the verses above, the Father holds the highest position. In fact, He is the only being in the Bible given the titles, "most High" or "the Highest."

A possessed man came up to Jesus, "And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not" (Mark 5:7). In case this man was mistaken we have a confirmation from God's angel, Gabriel, who said of Jesus, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David" (Luke 1:32).

How many most Highs can you have? If there is more than one most High, then you have just eliminated the most High, because now you have a committee of most Highs. There can only be one most High.

Paul wrote, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is

the man; and the head of Christ is God” (1 Corinthians 11:3). In explaining heirarchy, Paul stopped when he came to God. Why? He can’t go any higher! The Father is the most high God, and is the head of Christ.

Titles of the Father

- **Most High**
- **The Highest**
- **Above all**
- **The God and Father of all**
- **The Ancient of days**
- **The only true God**
- **Lord of heaven and earth**
- **The only Potentate**

The Father is called “the Ancient of days” in Daniel 7:9, 13, 22. He is the only one given this title in the Bible. Do you think there is a reason for this? God is trying to tell us something about Himself. He is older than any other being in the universe.

Paul wrote of the Father, “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:6). The Father is the Most High God, and as such is “above all.”

Of Christ’s closing prayer at the last supper, the Bible says, “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:1-3).

Jesus called His Father, “the only

true God.” The Greek word *μονον* that was translated “only” means, “alone, (without a companion)” (*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*). How many true Gods can there be, if there is only one?

The Greek word *αληθινον* that was translated “true” means, “real, true genuine,... it contrasts realities with their semblances” or resemblances (*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*). This word distinguishes the original from its resemblances. It is used in Hebrews 8:2, where it says of Christ that He is “A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” Paul was distinguishing the original tabernacle that God pitched in heaven from the copy that Moses built on earth.

When Jesus called His Father “the only true God,” He was not excluding Himself from being God, but stating that His Father is the only original God. Jesus is the image of the true God, but not the true God Himself.

It is life eternal to know both the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. You may have wondered why Jesus left somebody out of this equation. If there is a third god called, “the Holy Spirit,” then it is not important for you to know him, because life eternal depends upon knowing only two individuals, the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote that we should pray for everyone because God, “will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:4, 5). God wants everyone to know the truth about God, that

there is only one God and one mediator between us and God, Jesus Christ.

Paul also wrote, “As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him” (1 Corinthians 8:4-6).

Paul is very emphatic in this verse. He says, “there is none other God but one.” If there were two or three Gods, could Paul have truthfully made this statement? No! There is only one God, and Paul did not leave us in the dark about who is this one God. He says, “to us there is but one God, the Father...” The “one God” of the Bible beside whom “there is none other” is “the Father.” Paul is very clear on this point. None need to be confused about it. Paul also pointed out that “all things” are *of* or *from* Him. The Father is the source of all things. Paul then pointed out that there is also “one Lord Jesus Christ, *by* whom are all things.” Jesus is the channel through whom all blessings flow. He is separate and distinct from the “one God” of the Bible. In fact, the term “one God” is used seven times in the Bible (Malachi 2:10; Mark 12:32; Romans 3:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19), and in every case it is referring exclusively to the Father.

One day Jesus was reasoning with the Pharisees and Sadducees. “And

one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:28-31). In giving an answer to this scribe, Jesus began by emphasizing that there is one God.

“And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices” (Mark 12:32, 33). This scribe’s answer was very emphatic and exclusive in stating that “there is one God; and there is none other but he.” Notice that the scribe did not say, “there is none other but them.” He used a singular word “he” to refer to one individual. The word is singular in English as well as in Greek and in the Aramaic translation of Greek. Every time in the Bible where pronouns are used to refer to both the Father and Son they are always plural, such as “us,” “we,” “our,” “them,” etc. There is never a case where both

the Father and Son are referred to using singular pronouns such as “I,” “me,” “he,” “him,” etc. This scribe was referring to one individual when he said, “there is one God; and there is none other but he.”

We can be certain who this scribe was referring to as the “one God.” At another time when Jesus was reasoning with the Jews, “Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God” (John 8:54). Jesus knew that when a Jewish man spoke about God, he was referring to His Father. Jesus knew that when this scribe said “there is one God; and there is none other but he” that he was talking specifically about His Father. Now this would have been the perfect opportunity for Jesus to have corrected him if he was mistaken. Jesus could have said, “Well, actually there are three Gods, and I am one of them.” But Jesus did not do this. Instead the Bible says, “And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question” (Mark 12:34). Rather than offering a correction to this man, Jesus complimented him for his good answer.

The Bible is clear regarding the identity of God and His only begotten Son. Notice some Bible facts about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

• **Father**

- “God the Father” 13 times
- “The Most High God” 11 times
- “The Highest,” 6 times
- “The only true God” once

• **Jesus**

- “Son of God” 46 times.
- God’s “holy child” twice
- His “firstborn” 4 times
- The “only begotten” 5 times
- “The firstbegotten” once

• **The Holy Spirit**

- The “Spirit of God” 26 times
- “God’s Spirit” 9 times
- “Thy spirit” 4 times
- “The Holy Spirit of God” once

Conclusion

In all the places where Jesus is referred to in language to indicate that He is God’s Son, there is never a clarification to reveal that we should not take these words in their natural sense. Three times, while Jesus was on earth, God the Father spoke from heaven, and two of those times He said of Jesus, “This is my beloved Son...” If God did not expect us to believe just what He said about His Son, why didn’t He tell us? He had many opportunities to explain that actually Jesus is His companion or emanation of Himself as the trinity and tritheism claims, but He passed up every opportunity. Never once did He tell us that Jesus is someone other than His actual Son. If God wanted us to believe something other than that Jesus is His real Son, then He did a very poor job of explaining it in Scripture, and He even made many many statements in the Bible that would only serve to lead us to believe something other than the truth. Friends, “God is not the author of confusion” (1 Corinthians 14:33). God wants us to believe exactly what He said about His Son. If we believe anything else we are making God out to be a liar. “He that

believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son” (1 John 5:10).

The fact that Jesus is the Son of God is the single most important doctrine in the Bible. Jesus said that He would build His church upon this truth (Matthew 16:13-18). John said that this was the one point He wants you to gain from His writings (John 20:30, 31). John also said that believing that Jesus is the Son of God is the key to overcoming the world (1 John 5:5). It is this truth that unlocks the beauty of God’s love (1 John 4:9, 10), and it is this truth that will transform your character into the image of God (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Most theologians will admit that the trinity is not explicitly taught in the Old Testament. Some have found verses that could possibly lend support to the idea, but it is not clearly taught anywhere in the Old Testament. This fact is illustrated by the Jewish people who, as a whole, reject any form of the trinity as completely foreign to the Old Testament. They are strictly and emphatically monotheistic.

Again, most theologians will admit that the trinity is not explicitly taught in the New Testament. It is true that there are verses that are used to support the idea, but the doctrine is nowhere outlined in the New Testament, and there are a vast number of verses that teach contrary to it. It was not until the Roman Catholic church began to merge paganism with Christianity that the “Christian” trinity doctrine was introduced to the world. Most churches today who believe in the trinity do not

use Scripture language to define this doctrine, but rather borrow language from Catholic church fathers or creeds to state the doctrine.

Think about this. If the trinity is really the truth that God wants us to believe, then He failed to get the point across for the first 4,000 years of earth’s history. Great men of old, like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, King David, Daniel, etc., all died without the slightest hint that God was a trinity. Enoch and Elijah went to heaven without seeing death even though they never heard that God is a trinity. The early Christian church thrived with thousands converted in a day, and yet the trinity was foreign to them. If the trinity were true, then finally, about four hundred years after Christ died, the Catholic Church figured out that God was a trinity and God was finally able to make it clear to the world by using formulas and creeds voted on at the councils of Nicaea and Constantinople in 325 and 381 AD.

Friends, this could not be the case. The essential knowledge for salvation was revealed to Adam and Eve and was known by God’s people through every generation, and the trinity was not part of this knowledge. Jesus Himself said that life eternal depends upon knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ, not a trinity. The only doctrinal confession given in the Bible before baptism was “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37). In many churches today you have to confess belief in a trinity before baptism. This was not part of early Christianity. Shortly after the council of Nicaea in 325 AD where the trinity

doctrine was in its early formation stages, one astonished Christian wrote:

“We have never heard, my Lord, of two beings unbegotten, nor of one divided into two;... but that there is one unbegotten, and another truly from Him” (Letter written by Eusebius of Nicomedia as found in *An Historical View of the Council of Nice*, by Isaac Boyle, page 41. This book was included in Baker Book House’s edition of *Eusebius’ Ecclesiastical History*.)

The trinity doctrine was a surprise and shock to early Christianity. Unfortunately, today it is almost universally accepted as truth even though it is not

taught in the Scriptures and its confusing contradictions cannot be reconciled.

We are exhorted to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3), and the trinity is not part of that faith. It is foreign to scripture. It is a strange god whom our fathers knew not.

I pray that you will have “fellowship... with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3). I leave you with the salutation of Paul, “Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 6:23).

You May Freely Eat?

by Jim Raymond

Caffeine: The Headache Waiting To Happen

If Migraineurs want to avoid an on-going rise in both the frequency and the intensity of their migraine attacks, the hugely bad effects of hyper-sensitivity on their Central Nervous System (CNS—brain, spinal cord, and major nerves), and the drain on their adrenal system, then caffeine free is the way to go!

Kicking caffeine is doubly difficult for Migraineurs; not only because it is addictive, but it’s also a fairly effective analgesic the first few times it is used, and we all know the adage, “first impressions die hard”. In fact, 65 mg of caffeine is as effective as 650 mg of acetaphenamin (Tylenol). As we stated in the June YMFE article, taking more than a 65 mg dose has no ad-

ditional benefit. So caffeine at 65 mg provides the maximal headache relief.

On this latter point, the placebo effect boldly comes in to play. The placebo effect can be very high when dealing with headaches—where almost anything works at least once. In this context, caffeine usually works well for the first several times it is taken. Eventually the headaches creep up in pain level and happen more often, and because taking more caffeine seems to lower the intensity a bit, the belief is that it still helps—just not as much as usual.

Anything that helps when we hurt is a friend, right? Maybe not; clearly the research tells us the rest of the story: “Regular use of caffeine (as little as 35 mg daily) increases both the frequency and the intensity of migraines”. Once addicted, falling blood

levels of caffeine can start a withdrawal headache which in turn can trigger a migraine. Caffeine hangs around in the blood stream for 4 to 6 hours. This means that missing a routine caffeine fix during the day can open an opportunity for a withdrawal headache.

The research also points to the possibility that the perceived caffeine based pain relief may be due only to fixing the withdrawal headache which triggered the migraine in the first place. The victim is still left with the migraine, and as the addiction deepens, so must caffeine usage. Honestly, this is not sustainable.

Tips on how to wean yourself off caffeine: Caffeine punishes its deserters with what is known as Withdrawal Syndrome.

If you try to stop using all sources of caffeine at once (termed “cold turkey”), barring a miracle, you will experience withdrawal symptoms that usually include severe headache, fatigue, and depression. Withdrawal symptoms may be softened by tapering your caffeine intake gradually over a period of days or even a couple of weeks.

Silverman studied the symptoms reported by a group of coffee drinkers after he secretly switched them off of caffeine. Before the switch they consumed an average of 235 mg caffeine (about 2.5 cups a day). He found that 52% had moderate to severe headache; 11% reported depression; 11% reported low vigor (strength, energy, or determination); 8% suffered anxiety (overwhelming sense of apprehension and fear often marked by sweating, tension, and increased

pulse); 8% were fatigued (weariness, exhaustion, or temporary loss of power from over stimulation, exertion, or stress). (Silverman. et al. *NEJM* 1992)

What to expect during Caffeine withdrawal: Overcoming the addiction usually takes 1-2 weeks, and up to 6 weeks to calm the hypersensitivity of the CNS fibers and restore normal (lower) excitation potential

First, identify all sources of your caffeine intake: Coffee in the USA is the top source of caffeine. In this writing, “coffee” will often mean any source of caffeine you choose (from plain dry caffeine in pill form, to the caffeine containing herbals).

Secondary sources include all true derivatives of the Tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*). After water, tea is the most widely consumed beverage in the world. Green tea is the mother of this class and is taken to market skipping the more rigorous processing steps and the various curing methods that give her other children teas their individual character and taste.

Guarana (*Paullinia cupana, crysan, & sorbilis*) contains about twice the caffeine found in coffee beans (about 2–4.5% caffeine in guarana seeds compared to 1–2% for coffee beans).

Yerba Maté is made from the naturally caffeinated leaves of the South American rainforest holly tree (*Ilex paraguariensis*), and has the strength of coffee.

Sodas: Dozens of caffeinated brands ranging from 27-69 mg.

Energy Drink brands range between 71 to 280 mg per unit.

Kola Nut (*Cola*) is the nut of the kola tree, a genus of trees native to the tropical rainforests of Africa. Its caffeine content, greater than coffee, is similar to guarana

Cocoa tree (*Theobroma cacao*) also cacao tree, is native to the deep tropical region of the Americas. Related to the kola tree, its seeds are used to make cocoa powder and chocolate. The caffeine content of an ounce of chocolate milk or hot Cocoa is about 0.6mg and an ounce of solid milk chocolate may have 6mg, whereas solid dark chocolate can sport 20mg.

Headache medicines that contain caffeine: Listed are only the medicines marketed for headaches; many others (way too many to list) contain caffeine.

Over the Counter (OTC) Drugs: Aspirin Free Excedrin, Anacin, Anacin Maximum Strength, Bayer Maximum Strength, BC Powder, Advil Migraine, Excedrin Migraine, Excedrin Extra Strength, Midol, Motrin Migraine, Tylenol.

Prescription only (Rx) Drugs: Cafegot, Wigraine, Esgic, Fiorinal, Fioricet, Norgesic, Synalgos DC.

Energy and Alertness while Detoxing: Drinking plenty of water will help the detoxification process by keeping your body well hydrated so your kidneys can flush out the toxins. If you have a condition that requires a fluid restriction, you may need to be supervised by a competent healthcare practitioner. Otherwise, start the day with 4 to 6 glasses of hot or cold water. Honestly, doing so first thing in the morning is invigorating. Drink an-

other 2 to 4 liters throughout the rest of the day. Much of this remainder can be consumed between meals to curb the cravings, whenever feeling jittery, or when your tummy feels queasy. If you prefer a hot beverage, a twist of citrus peel can provide a satisfying flavor. Likewise, steeping a piece of stick Cinnamon and peppermint tea together seems to stimulate alertness and requires no added sweetener. This combination of essential oils also seems to work as aroma therapy and is suggested for use when driving. Don't overdo it as the vapors can be irritating to eyes, nasal and lung tissues.

If morning coffee is your thing, and you find that you miss your morning coffee-drinking ritual, other options include "cereal coffees" made of roasted cereal grains, chicory, or nuts, some name brands include: Postum, Pero, Cafix, Roma, Teeccino. These can be served hot or cold. If you're ready to consider switching to a new tradition, then find one that is beneficial to your health goals. While you are looking, try red Bush (rooibos) tea. It is an herbal tea naturally containing no caffeine. Use it plain or blended with other herbals. Check the labels to avoid the Red Bush blends which have caffeine additives or are mixed with other types of caffeinated tea. Red Bush Tea is packed with antioxidants and has a naturally sweet taste (most people find that no sweetener is needed), it can be enjoyed hot or chilled and it can help blood cholesterol profiles.

Chronic fatigue sufferers report that using very high doses of sublingual (under the tongue) B12 as the Diben-

cozide form significantly boosts their energy levels. This form of B12 is the primary form involved in energy production. It is also relatively high priced, so if you decide to try this, take the lozenge just after brushing your teeth in the morning, and if possible, wait about 20 minutes before taking anything else but water. This may help maximize the absorption of the product. Also, if CoQ10 is part of your prophylactic migraine plan, you may want to take part of it in the A.M. to support energy production.

At bedtime, using the Methylcobalamin form of B12 (again as a sublingual tablet or lozenge) immediately after brushing your teeth before going to bed is reported as improving the quality and benefits of sleep. [Read more about these two members of the natural vitamin-B12 family in YMFE entry in the October 2009 issue of *Present Truth*.] Some research shows that the improvement in sleep is even greater when 5 – 10 mgs of Melatonin is taken routinely at dusk

The tapering process can be aided by using one or more substitutionary “mix-in” products which are similar to the source product but do not contain caffeine. Coffee, tea, and sodas are the most popular delivery sources for caffeine. Fortunately, (I use this word in a very limited way here) there are many products that can be mixed with these caffeinated product to dilute the caffeine and still provide similar taste. Remember, the goal is to improve your health and longevity by getting off the bad stuff, so matching the taste is not as important as avoiding the full-blown pain.

I wish I could tell you that these “mix-ins” are healthy. Most are made by burning (dark roasting) cereal grains, roots, and / or nuts. These otherwise healthy products contain sugars, starches, oils, proteins, etcetera which, when burnt, can produce an array of highly toxic compounds. One class of these toxins is called advanced glycolytic end-products (AGE for short). Please don’t think that this nick-name, “AGE” is not without practical meaning! An anti-aging and anti-wrinkle diet consultant popular among media celebrities, strongly advises not to eat anything browned (such as dark toast, browned gravies, burned or caramelized sugar, grilled, fried or roasted meats, etc.).

When it comes to avoiding caffeinated medications, tapering off the products may not be an option.

My approach is to switch out the caffeinated medications first. Why? Once you’ve gone to the effort of tapering off your coffee, to decrease the pains of withdrawal, then you suddenly drop a medicine and its caffeine load, now you are basically going cold turkey. So drop your caffeine meds while you can adjust your coffee intake up for a while, if needed, but ultimately down. All the way to zero!

There is another reason which may be even more important. Before we go on, let’s do some arithmetic. The average medication is taken twice a day (some more, few less). Okay, now apply your early arithmetic training: 1 pill taken 2 times a day equals 2 pills per day; times 365 days equals 730 pills every year.

I know people who are taking 4 or more medications. (Arithmetic time: 2,920 pills per year!) Pill number one was the only one that had any benefit to their condition. Pill number 2 counteracted a side effect of pill number 1, and so on until they were taking 4. Somehow it just seems wrong to reward a pharmaceutical company for selling you 1 pill that does 1 thing for you and 6 things to you, by buying more of their defective products to fix the problems caused by the first defective product. As my 2 year old grandson (1 of the six) would say, “Does that make sense grampa [sic]?”

Check with a pharmacist and the prescriber for caffeine free versions of any meds you choose to continue. But don’t just stop there. Ask a few more questions like these: What does this pill do for my condition? What are all the known side effects? Am I taking it to relieve any of the side effects of my other meds? Are there any natural ways I can control my condition without this medication?

The answers to these questions will help you address that other important reason. When you’ve decided that your health and your quality of life will be better without caffeine, you might want to kick it up a notch, make some empty space in your medicine chest, and pass up some of those quality-downer side effects, and save some money all at the same time. Many times even a moderate change in diet and activity can be as effective as medication in controlling many of the chronic conditions plaguing our society today. The shocker is that my medical friends tell me that when they

offer these natural steps, most of their patients ask, “Can’t you just give me a pill?” Does that make sense?

Aside from the fact that many caffeinated medicines just do not work for a large percentage of migraine sufferers, the case against caffeine as a treatment for migraines or as an ingredient in migraine medications is based on the unacceptable side effects. A much shortened list of these side effects on the CNS include: anxiety, jitteriness, tremor, insomnia, panic attacks, and the potential for causing rebound headaches. Side effects in other body systems include palpitations, stomach pain/GERD, liver and kidney toxicity (list shortened).

Besides Caffeine: I probably don’t need to tell you that alcohol is on the enemy’s team warring against your anti-migraine cause. All alcohol can induce headaches in multiple physiological ways, but the darker alcoholic beverages, such as red wine, bourbon, and beer contain congeners (natural byproducts of alcohol fermentation) which are known triggers, are more likely to induce a headache than the clear alcoholic beverages such as gin or vodka.

Red wine is known widely as a headache trigger. (Red wine as a cause of migraine. Littlewood et al., *Lancet* 1988). **All colors of wine** contain four trigger compounds—Tyramine, Sulfites, Histamine, Phenolic flavonoids. **All colors or clear alcohol** may cause headaches (including the typical hangover) by: enlarging blood vessels and so pressure, within and around the brain; by throwing sleep patterns off balance; altering the

inflammatory mechanisms that favor headaches; stepping up magnesium excretion; and by dehydration.

The last compound we'll mention, of which migraineurs need to be wary, is Aspartame, which tests much worse than placebo—triggering over twice the number of attacks in a given time. (Kohler & Glaros, *Headache* 1988)

A Headache Tracking Diary can be of great value in your fight to beat those headaches. Keeping consistent and detailed notes will show how well your multi-pronged prophylactic and treatment programs are working. Better notes, over time, lead to better understanding of what factors (alone or in combination) trigger, relieve, or prevent an attack, and so help you plan a less painful life. Below is a chart with many of the points that have proven valuable to track.

This is available as a tidy form for word processors (like MS Word) or for tracking in spreadsheets (like MS Excel) or as a PDF for printing. I'll be glad to email either or all of them to you. Unless you wish to do so, there is no need to write anything in the message part. Just send an email to jim@presenttruth.info with: "Headache Tracking Diary" and for which program(s) you use in the subject line. No computer, no problem! Send a postcard (or letter) to the return address on this issue with the same info and we'll send out a printed version that you may photo copy.

When you decide to withdraw from caffeine, or rid some pesky side effects, I'll be interested in your story—good, bad, or ugly.

Blessings! JR

Daily Headache Tracking Points

Day of week:

Date of headache:

Type of headache: (migraine, tension, other)

Description of prodrome: (symptoms prior to onset of pain)

Presence of aura: (sensory cue that a headache is coming)

Time of headache onset:

Severity of worst pain: (0=none; 10=severe)

Symptoms: (nausea, vomiting, photophobia, throbbing, disabling)

Medication 1 taken:

Medication 2 taken:

Type of medicine:

Type of medicine:

Dose:

Dose:

Time of dose:

Time of dose:

Time of headache relief:

Note all triggers or factors that may cause headache: (e.g. caffeine, menstruation, fasting, sleep deprivation, weather changes--temperature, barometric trend, pollen count, SMOG / pollution...)

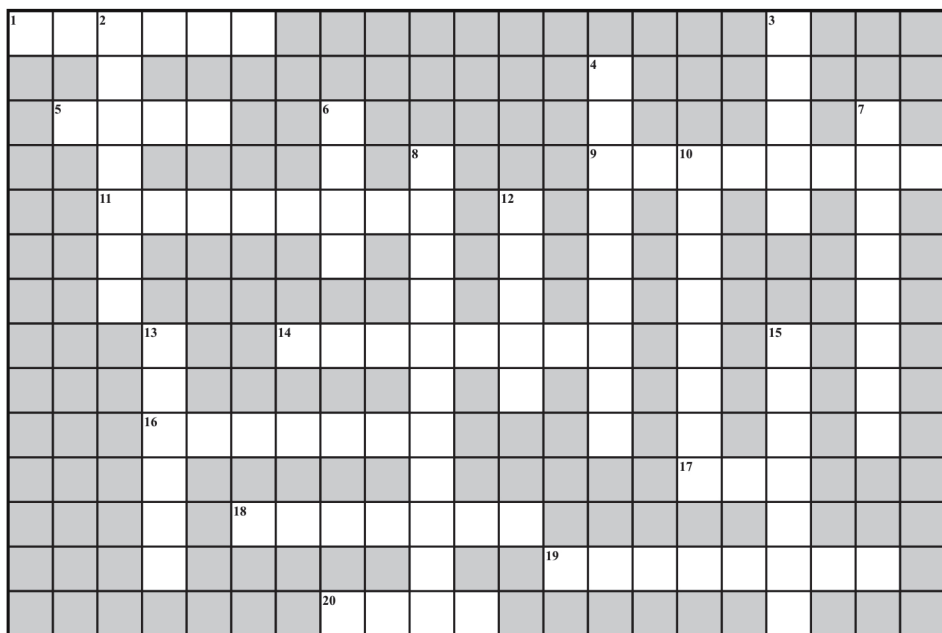
Other comments:

Questions about your headache or medication:

Present Truth
Something for the Young at Heart

This month we are continuing a series of crossword Bible studies based on the book, *Bible Handbook*, by Stephen Haskell. In order to maintain the flow of the study, this crossword puzzle is not split into Across and Down sections—Across or Down is indicated at the end of each line. (The KJV is required.)

The New Earth - Part 1



Answers will be printed on the back page of next month's issue

➤ God blessed Adam and Eve and "said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and ____ it." Genesis 1:28—**1 Down**

➤ God said to them, "have ____ over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Genesis 1:28—**11 Across**

Note: "Dominion" is defined as, "Sovereign or supreme authority; the power of governing and controlling" (*Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary*).

➤ "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath

he given to the ____ of men." Psalms 115:16—**10 Down**

➤ God told Adam, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt ____." Genesis 2:16, 17 (2 words)—**4 Down**

➤ Satan told Eve, "Ye ____ surely die." Genesis 3:4 (2 words)—**19 Across**

➤ Satan continued, "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened,

and ye shall be as gods, ____ good and evil." Genesis 3:5—**15 Down**

➤ "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the ____ thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Genesis 3:6—**3 Down**

➤ "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his ____ ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" Romans 6:16—**7 Down**

➤ Jesus said, "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the ____ of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 14:30—**13 Down**

Note: Mankind yielded the dominion of this world to Satan when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Satan is now called "the prince of this world" and "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

➤ God promised Abraham, "For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I ____ it, and to thy seed for ever." Genesis 13:15—**5 Across**

➤ Paul refers to this promise saying that Abraham was to be "the ____ of the world." Romans 4:13—**6 Down**

➤ Regarding Abraham's sojourn on this earth, the Bible says that God, "gave him none ____ in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child." Acts 7:5—**8 Down**

➤ "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a ____ country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise." Hebrews 11:9—**18 Across**

➤ Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose ____ and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10—**2 Down**

➤ "These all died in faith, not having ____ the promises," Hebrews 11:13—**9 Across**

➤ "But having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and ____ them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Hebrews 11:13—**14 Across**

➤ "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall ____ the earth." Psalms 37:9—**16 Across**

➤ Jesus said, "Blessed are the ____: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5—**20 Across**

➤ God said "I... shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall ____ you in your own land." Ezekiel 37:12-14—**12 Down**

Note: God will give the earth as an inheritance to His people, but it is not this old earth that He will give.

➤ God said, "For, behold, I create ____ heavens and a ____ earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isaiah 65:17 (1 word)—**17 Across**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You (Part 9)

by Charles Fitch

(Charles Fitch was a pastor of the Free Presbyterian Church of Newark, NJ. In 1840 he wrote a series of letters to the headquarters of his church, defending his belief in God's power to save us from sin. Here are those letters. Editor)

But again, suppose we admit, that among the saints of the Old Testament not a man lived without sin; although it was said of Isaiah, after he had made confession of his uncleanness, and his lips had been touched with a live coal from the altar of God, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away and thy sin is purged." (Isaiah 6:7), but admit that the Old Testament saints were at all times defiled with the guilt of actual transgressions, is there no privilege granted to God's people now, that was not affordable to the early saints?

"Whom having not seen, ye love, in Whom though now ye see Him not, yet, believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you. Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified before hand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things which are now reported unto you by them which have preached the gospel unto you, with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." (1 Peter 1:8-12)

What is this end of faith, even the salvation of the soul? Of which salvation the prophets inquired and searched diligently? What is this grace of which they prophesied, coming unto the saints scattered abroad, to whom Peter wrote? What was the glory that

was to follow the sufferings of Christ? What were the things which the prophets ministered, not unto themselves, but those to whom the gospel was afterwards preached by the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven? What did Christ mean when He said, "This is My blood of the New Testament?" (Matthew 26:28). What did Paul mean by that new and better covenant of which Christ was the mediator and surety? And what did Christ mean when He said, "He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than" John Baptist, whom there had never been, up to his day, a greater prophet? (Luke 7:28). And what did Zacharias mean, when he said, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He hath visited and redeemed His people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation, to perform the mercy promised unto the fathers, the covenant, the oath which He swear?" (Luke 1:68, 69, 72, 73). What is all this but the blessing of the new covenant spoken of by Jeremiah, and repeatedly spoken of by Paul to the Hebrews:

"I will, [since they brake My old covenant,] make a new covenant, I will put My laws into their hearts and in their minds will I write them" (Hebrews 10:16), "I will [and with an oath the mighty God hath said it] grant unto you that ye being delivered out of the hand of your enemies may serve Me without fear, in holiness and righteousness before me all the days of your life." (Luke 1:74, 75). This, then, is the peculiar covenant privilege of New Testament saints – SALVATION FROM THEIR SINS. This explains all the scriptures which I have quoted, and therefore whatever might have been true of Old Testament saints, it is now the peculiar privilege of God's people to be redeemed from all iniquity, and for this they have only to believe in the Mediator of this new covenant, for

this is God's covenant with them, when He shall take away their sins. It is, therefore, the privilege of the new covenant that I am to hold up before the people of God, and urge to the full enjoyment of it; and thus seek, like the apostles, to obtain "sufficiency of God to be an able minister of the New Testament, not of the letter that killeth, but of the Spirit that giveth life." (2 Corinthians 3:5, 6).

Your application of Old Testament declarations of the universal sinfulness of men, therefore, to show the privileges of the New Testament believers, is in my view, a great mistake, and shows you to be still ministers of the Old Testament, instead of being, as you should be, "able ministers of the New Testament." For this reason then, I cannot heed your admonition. I wish to be a minister of the New Testament, and not of the Old.

Reason Four

I will now state one more reason, why I cannot give heed to your admonition, and then I shall have done.

There is a dying bed a little before me, and judgment seat where I expect to stand and give account for all the actions of my life.

Can I tell the people of God that they have no Saviour from sin during their whole lives; that live long as they may, and labor as hard as they may to find out the path of life, and pray as fervently as they may, and trust in their Saviour for the fulfillment of the promises as fully as they may, they are doomed hopelessly to sin against the Redeemer they love, more or less, even to their dying hour; that all their cries and struggles for help are vain, and that they must be, to some extent rebels against the heart of infinite love, until the grim monster death appears for their deliverance? To me it looks like casting dust in the eyes of such as wish to see a way whereby they may be enabled to love their God and Saviour with a perfect heart; and sewing "pillows to the armholes" (Ezekiel

13:13) of those who wish to pass comfortably through life in their remaining corruptions, hoping to find a Saviour from sin, only when all opportunity for sinful enjoyment has passed away.

I feel, brethren, that I could not go in peace to my dying pillow, or appear at the great tribunal, expecting the approbation of My Judge, if I did not tell God's people that He has promised to "circumcise their heart, and the heart of their seed, to love the Lord their God with all their heart and with all their soul" (Deuteronomy 30:6); "to sprinkle clean water upon them, and make them clean, from all their filthiness, and from all their idols to cleanse them" (Ezekiel 36:25), and that these, with many other exceeding great and precious promises, were given for the express purpose, that through them, they might "cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and perfect holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1) – that by these promises, they might become "partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2 Peter 1:4).

I feel it to be a matter of unspeakable importance to the honor of Christ and the good of His cause, and the holiness and peace of His suffering heritage, that they be made to know that there has "come out of Zion a Deliverer to turn away ungodliness from Jacob" (Romans 11:26), and that God has said respecting this Deliverer, "This is My covenant with them when I shall take away their sins." (Romans 11:27). It seems to me that God's professing people do not know their Deliverer, and there are vast multitudes who seem altogether unwilling to know Him. Hence the reproach cast upon such as declare that there is a "Deliverer to turn away ungodliness from them and take away their sins." But I see not how I can lie down in peace on my dying pillow, or meet the Saviour in judgment before the universe,

unless I do what in me lies to make Him known, I feel constrained to cry in the ears of the church, Behold your Deliverer; He has come to turn away ungodliness from you, and to take away your sins. Look to Him; believe on His name, and let “your iniquities be taken away and your sins be purged.” (Isaiah 6:7).

And now, brethren, I am done. I cannot, for the reasons I have named, and in view of my final account, I dare not listen to your admonition for a moment. With my name you must do what you think right before God, and in view of an approaching judgment. I have no further defense to make. If you cannot own me as one of your number while I tell the church of Christ that He was manifested to take away their sins, and that they may and ought so to abide in Him that they sin not – that it is my privilege and theirs so to abide in Christ, and that it is my belief that through the grace of God I do so abide in Him; if such a confidence in my Redeemer for the fulfillment of God’s exceeding great and precious promises, must still make me, in your estimation, an advocate of important and dangerous error, then just blot me out of your book, and let the transaction be recorded, as it will be, in the book of God, to be reviewed before the universe in the final day. That I hold the doctrine which you call important and dangerous error, and believe it to be the brightest glory of my bleeding Saviour’s gospel, is true; and I know that, if you knew the blessedness of trusting fully in Christ as your Redeemer

from all iniquity, there is not a man of you, who would not choose that his tongue should perish, rather than be used to pronounce such a doctrine importantly and dangerously erroneous. But if you still adhere to that opinion, I must consider myself as no longer of your number, and you must do to me and with me as you think our Lord and Master requires. “Now may the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13: 20, 21).

Yours in the gospel,

C. Fitch

Concluded

(This article was taken from pages 50-53 of the book entitled, *Sin Shall Not Have Dominion Over You*, by Charles Fitch. Editor)

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Answers to Last Month's Crossword Puzzle

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