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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

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Message from Jesus – The Letter to the Laodicean Church (Copyright 2023) by Gregory Diaz (Wayne, New Jersey)

The book of Revelation was written around 95CE. It begins by addressing seven churches located in Asia Minor which is modern day Turkey (Rev 1:4, 11). Chapters two and three contain a specific message from Jesus to each church. Let us consider both the collective message as well as the specific messages of these important letters. We should make a zealous effort to comprehend His instructions as it is a direct message sent from Him to US in His church.

Although these letters were written to the churches that were in Asia Minor at that time, the book of Revelation is a book of prophecy revealing "unto his servants' things which must shortly come to pass" (Rev 1:1). Therefore, let us consider that these congregations also represent seven church eras which began in the first century and continue to our time. This can be understood through certain fulfilled prophecies that relate to historical events. This concept is important for correctly understanding the message Jesus has sent to us and for knowing where we are in bible prophecy. Therefore, in order to understand the letter to the Laodiceans we must hear what Jesus says to ALL the churches. He tells us "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the CHURCHES." (Rev 3:23)

First, let us consider that in each of these letters Jesus writes to the angel of the church. Let us also understand that both angels and apostles are messengers. God places apostles, ministers and others, in His church "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" (Eph 4:12). Since apostles are messengers, it seems likely that the angels mentioned at the start of each of these letters may refer to apostles. The apostles must then share the message of Jesus with the body of the church.

As I mentioned previously, we may view these letters as a prophecy to seven church eras starting from the inception of the church. We see an important connection to history in the letter to the church at Smyrna. To this church, corresponding to the second church era, Jesus instructs not to fear, to be faithful unto death, and promises a crown of life (Rev 2:8-11). He tells them they "shall have tribulation ten days." The bible gives the principle of substituting a year for a day in Numbers 14:34. The ten days of tribulation corresponds to the persecution of the church during the reign of Diocletian which lasted from 303 to 313. It ended when emperor Constantine declared Christianity an official religion.

The letter to the church at Ephesus, with it being the first era, gives us information vital for comprehending the message to all of the churches. We know very much about this era since we have its important details preserved in the bible. First notice that they "tried" or tested apostles. In other words, they were open to receiving those outside of their organization. They had to receive them in order to test them. They had to consider their fruit and whether the message they brought agreed with the bible. For example, notice the Bereans first "RECEIVED the word with all readiness of mind" before searching the scriptures in order to verify them.

Next notice that they lost their first love. They lost their zeal to preach the gospel and grow in grace. Consequently, the candlestick or church (Rev 1:20) was removed out of its place. The Laodicean church has a similar condition in the sense that it lacks zeal. However, those in the Laodicean church era that receive its message, shall repent with God's help and guidance.

A very important trait of the Ephesus church is that they hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans. The bible does not specifically define who the Nicolaitans are. However, from the definition of the word itself, and from various verses and because the biblical church hated their deeds it should be clear who they were and CURRENTLY are. It is true that Jesus hates all sin, however He specifically tells us that He hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans! If we want to understand the message to Laodicea, we MUST understand the deeds of the Nicolaitans since Jesus tells us to "hear what the Spirit saith unto the CHURCHES." (Rev 3:23)

The name Nicolaitan comes from the Greek words nikos, which means victory or conquest; and laos, which means people. (The etymology of the word laity comes from the word laos.) The name Nicolaitan therefore means "conqueror of the people." In other words, the Nicolaitans were, and continue to be, ministers, or more accurately pharisees that exercise dominion over the flock. Notice how using earthly authority to rule over others conflicts with the teaching of

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Jesus. He tells us "Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ (Matt 23:10)." He warns us not to despise the "little ones" that believe in him (Matt 18:6 and 10). He goes on to say in verse 11 "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost." He then gives us the well-known parable of the lost sheep in verses 12-14.

Of course, Jesus tells us to beware of the DOCTRINE of the Pharisees (Matt 16:12 and Luke 12:1). The Pharisees set themselves apart as judges and rulers. Although discerning judgment is vital to being a Christian, Jesus clearly instructs us NOT to mete out measures of justice (Matt 7:2) OR condemn (Luke 6:37). As an example, let us understand that Jesus clearly did NOT cut sinners off by refusing to eat with them. This put him in conflict with the pharisees, which by their DOCTRINE of separating from sinners, clearly taught otherwise (Matt 9:10-13).

In 1 Pet 5:1-3 Peter exhorts the elders to oversee and feed the flock NOT AS LORDS, but by being examples. It is true that the KJV of Heb 13:17 says "Obey them that have the rule over you." However Young's Literal Translation renders the same verse "Be obedient to those LEADING you." Therefore, yes, we should obey elders as long as they are not teaching the doctrine of the pharisees.

Many bible students understand that only Jesus is able to open the seals of Revelation (Rev 5:6-9). They understand He reveals them in the chapters of Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21. Specifically in Matt 24:4-5 He says "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." This prediction by Jesus corresponds to the opening of the first seal. In Rev 6:2 concerning this seal we read "And I saw and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth CONQUERING, AND TO CONQUER." Notice how this description is identical to the meaning of the word Nicolaitan. Here the same idea of conquering is used to describe the "many" that have come proclaiming the name of Christ but have set themselves apart as rulers of the church laity.

In Rev 2:14 Jesus tells the Pergamos church that He has a few things against them. First, He warns that they "hast there them that hold the DOCTRINE of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication." The Hebrew name Balaam is similar to the Greek word Nicolaitan and means "destroyer of people." Jesus also tells Pergamos (verse 15) they have "them that hold the DOCTRINE of the Nicolaitanes."

In this letter Jesus speaks of both the DOCTRINE of Balaam AND the DOCTRINE of the Nicolaitans. Similarly, in His letter to the church of Thyatira, Jesus speaks of fornication as a DOCTRINE. And lastly, we recall, Jesus warns us of the DOCTRINE of the Pharisees (Matt 16:12 and Luke 12:1). Could Jesus be using various illustrations to explain the same doctrine? Obviously yes since Balaam's instructions to Balak caused the children of Israel to commit fornication. However, we understand the fornication Jesus warns against in these letters concerns a DOCTRINE and therefore has a spiritual meaning.

Balak, the king of Moab, hired Balaam in an attempt to curse the Israelites. However, God instead used Balaam to bless them. Let us understand what Balaam teaches us about the doctrine of the Pharisees. In seeking to curse Israel Balak had taken Balaam up to various vantage points in order for him to curse the UTMOST people of Israel. The same idea happens when a pharisee puts a person weak in faith (Rom 14:1,10) out of fellowship. Romans 14:13 tells us "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." Likewise, Jesus describes false teachers as wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt 7:15, Act 20:29). These wolves go after the sheep on the fringe, the outliers, or utmost of the flock to scatter and devour them (John 10:12, 1 Pet 5:8). This is in contrast to Jesus that seeks to save one sheep that has gone astray (Matt 18:12-14).

In the letter to the church in Thyatira Jesus tells them (and us) that He has a few things against them "because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Jezebel, of course, was an evil queen married to King Ahab of Israel. She supported the idol worshiping prophets of Baal and sought to kill Elijah. She had their neighbor Naboth killed because King Ahab wanted his vineyard. However here in Revelation the important principle to understand is that the church allowed false prophets, that were metaphorically represented by Jezebel, to teach false doctrines.

In Acts 15 we see that the Pharisees attempted to impose their doctrine on the gentile converts (Acts 15:5). Although these gentiles had turned to God they had not yet attained the level of righteousness that would satisfy the Pharisees.

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The apostles and elders responded by rejecting the Pharisee doctrine of separation as they HATED the deeds of the Nicolaitans. Instead, they determined "that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood" (Acts 15:19-20).

Now, in the letters to Pergamos and Thyatira, we see Jesus criticizing the churches for not observing these requirements. We must look to the bible for an understanding of these ideas. We should not look to vague and unprovable extra-biblical commentaries. Do we have a zeal to learn and SEE the explanation? Jesus tells the Laodicean church (Rev 3:18) to "anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." Let us not say "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" (Rev 3:17).

Let us consider the message of Jesus when He tells us that we must abstain from "things sacrificed unto idols," "pollutions of idols," and "meats offered to idols." First notice that when His disciples asked him to eat (John 4:34) Jesus responded "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." Meat therefore can be a symbol of doing God's work. God's work concerns sharing the good news of the kingdom and edifying the church. A sacrifice is an offering and requires giving. Therefore, an offering to an idol would be doing something contrary to God's work. Likewise, meat can symbolize a doctrine which can be either a correct or an incorrect doctrine. Notice Hebrews 13:9 which says "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein." Notice Hebrews 13:16 also which says, "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Clearly the sacrifices that please God concern communication. This requires fellowship rather than disfellowship. Disfellowshipping IS the sacrifice unto idols.

Now, let us especially understand what Jesus teaches about a type of fornication that is a doctrine. In order to understand this, consider what the bible says in Rev 17:1-5. Here we see there is a great whore called "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Babylon from the bible's perspective concerns the way mankind organizes himself. The whore therefore is an organization of man "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication." The kings of the earth are the earthly authority of mankind. This is in contrast to the supernatural authority of God. Therefore, this is not physical sexual fornication. Fornication here represents a unity between the whore organization and the earthly authority and power of mankind.

This doctrine is in the church today! The message to Pergamos and Thyatira is a message for us today in the end time church era! The doctrine of fornication is still not correctly understood by the Laodicean church era. If we believe that we do not need to learn anything additional from the bible by saying "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" we are then in danger of being rebuked and chastened.

Let us consider that power is achieved in today's world through political rhetoric. If a man is able to make himself look good and his political opponents look bad, he will gain supporters and political power. This doesn't mean that speaking well is a bad thing. However, speaking well to impress others in order to exercise political control is contrary to God's government. For example, in 1 Cor 4:6 Paul tells the Corinthians "not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."

Notice that while Jesus gives comforting words to those who have not the doctrine of fornication, He describes those who have as knowing "the depths of Satan, as they SPEAK." Let us now recall another place in the bible where the same kind of speech is alluded to. In 1 Corinthians 2:4 Paul tells them "my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:" The church's source of power is an important idea in both letters to the Corinthian church.

Of course, it is here in Corinth that fornication had taken place throughout the church. There were "MANY" that had not yet repented of their fornication (2 Cor 12:21). Let us carefully note that Paul beseeches the Corinthians (1 Cor 1:10) to "all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly JOINED together in the same mind and in the same JUDGMENT." Just as a physical relationship between a man and woman is a unity, Paul desires spiritual unity among the brethren. However, he desires this unity to be with the judgment of Jesus rather than to the judgment of a man. The union to the judgment of men caused divisions in the Corinthian church AND continues to cause divisions in the church today. The union to the judgment of men is the same fornication Jesus rebukes in His letters

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to the churches.

As human beings we naturally desire order. We don't want disruptions during church services. We don't want to be invaded by someone that would cause a problem. We don't want to be around sinners. When we are wronged, we want justice. However, let us consider God's way of dealing with offenses according to the bible.

In Matt 18 Jesus tells us that offenses will come (verse 7). Concerning offenses Jesus tells us in verse 20 "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Let us understand this important yet overlooked idea. Here Jesus gives the church assurance He is with it to handle offenses. He will be with us supernaturally to address offenses.

However we must look to Him for the power to keep order in the church and not to the world. We cannot look to the world and still expect Him to be with us! John 17:15 tells us Jesus prayed for God's church to be kept from the evil in the world. However, God's church MUST come out of the world and its justice system therefore becoming the Church OF God. In this way we will be buying gold tried in the fire and white raiment from Jesus (Rev 3:18).

We see in Acts 13:11 that the apostle Paul used the power of Jesus to strike Elymas the sorcerer with blindness. This shows how Paul correctly trusted Jesus to resolve an issue rather than asking Sergius Paulus, who was the deputy of the country, to have the sorcerer removed. Acts 13:12 tells us "Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the DOCTRINE of the Lord."

Notice the contrast between the doctrine of the Lord and the doctrine of the pharisees. The difference is the pharisees rule by the authority of man. The pharisees must keep themselves in high esteem in order to maintain their earthly power.

In another example Paul was harassed by a woman possessed. The woman followed Paul and his company saying, "These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation." In this case Paul commanded the spirit to come out of her in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 16:18).

In 1 Cor 5:1-5 we see that Paul judges a fornicator, determining he should be delivered "unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh" (1 Cor 5:5). Notice he plainly tells them the manner in which it must be done. He tells the Corinthians they should have "mourned" that the person "might be TAKEN away from among you" (verse 2). This has the idea of fasting and praying. He tells them to deliver this type of person to "Satan for the destruction of the flesh" (verse 5). Notice he clearly tells them to do it "with the POWER of our Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 4). We see here that although Paul did judge he left the execution of judgment to Jesus. Note that in verse 2 he uses the phrase "MIGHT be taken away" showing that the final determination would be up to Jesus, the one implementing the verdict.

Jesus addresses the Laodicean church with the intention of leading it to repentance. He tells them and us "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). Although He tells the Laodicea church "I will spue thee OUT of my mouth," He also tells the Philadelphia church "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he SHALL GO NO MORE OUT." Therefore, it seems the Laodiceans may have an opportunity to again become Philadelphians. With God's inspiration and blessing we shall receive the message of Jesus to the Laodicean church. We shall anoint our eyes with eyesalve and we shall overcome.

See Gregory Diaz's other articles at:

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"For with the Judgment You Judge..." (Copyright 1995) by Norman S. Edwards (Port Austin, Michigan)

There are many Biblical cautions about judging others. At this time of doctrinal difficulty, encouragement is needed more than condemnation.

The title is taken from Matthew 7:2. The previous verse flatly states: "Judge not, that you be not judged." Yet we find other scriptural commands to make judgments:

"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:2)

"...Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?" (1Cor 6:5.)

"Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge" (1Cor 15:29).

"...You have tested [tried] those who say they are apostles and are not and have found them liars" (Rev 2:2).

Are the scriptures in conflict on the issue of judgment? No! There are times when we are to judge, and times when we are to withhold judgment. There are two apparent cases when His saints are called upon to make judgments: 1) **when they are asked to judge an issue by another** and 2) **to determine if others are teaching truth**. This last category of judgment is usually a personal issue; we are to decide for ourselves who is teaching truth. We are not to take it upon ourselves to examine the sins of others, to pronounce a judgment or condemnation, or to proclaim their sins to the public. In this article, we will look at each of these concepts in a little more detail.

If It Is Not Your Case, Do Not Judge It!

It hurts when we see others make mistakes. Sin hurts the sinner as well as the victim(s). Righteous indignation is a natural thing; "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Ps 7:11). There is a tendency to condemn others for their sin and a desire to expose it. There is also the less noble motivation of feeling we are better because others have sins that we do not have. Nevertheless, the scriptures are clear, we are not to judge and condemn people when we are not asked to give a judgment.

"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:37-38).

"Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?" (Jms 4:11-12.)

Although it may seem like an obvious point, it seems to be one of the most ignored. We should avoid making any kind of judgment in our own minds unless we have heard both sides of the story. "The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him" (Prov 18:17). "Does our law judge any man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?" (John 7:51.)

But what should we do when we see a brother involved in a doctrinal error? If it is a leader trying to make us believe something false, then we need to follow the principles outlined in the last section of this article. But most troublesome incidents are fellow members doing things that we think they should not do. Our role is to gently help (not condemn) if we can—being careful that we do not sin (Gal 6:1). When the holy spirit is present and errors are not disastrous, Paul shows us that we can live in peace with our differences in Romans 14:1-4:

"Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things,

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but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let no one who eats despise him who does not eat and let no one who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.”

We must realize that people are not guided into all truth all at once. The original 12 apostles had to be told they were not ready for some truth. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now (John 16:12). This concept of learning truth a little at a time is found elsewhere in the scriptures (Mark 4:33, 1Cor 3:1-2, Heb 5:11-14). We must not judge or despise people that are growing but cannot yet bear all of the teaching that we can.

“But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea” (Matt 18:6).

If we believe someone else is sinning, we can reach out to help without judgment or trying to be righteous for him. “Brethren, if any man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.... But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own load” (Gal 6:1, 4, 5).

Judgments We Should Make Now

While the Bible teaches that we should not take it upon ourselves to judge our brother, sometimes we are asked to make judgments.

We are in training to become kings and priests and reign with the Messiah at his return (Rev 1:6, 5:10, 2Tim 2:12, 1Pet 2:9). Micah 4:1-4 shows that the laws and judgments will go forth from Jerusalem. “For all people walk each in the name of his god [Hebrew *Eloim*—those saints that have overcome and have been changed to spirit], But we will walk in the name of the Lord [Hebrew *YHWH*] our God forever and ever” (Mic 4:5). As opportunity permits, we must be learning to make righteous judgments based on the law [the Hebrew *torah* refers specifically to the first five books, but more generally refers to all scripture].

The first half of I Corinthians 6 explains that brethren should judge cases among themselves rather than go to civil courts. In ancient Israel, the people were commanded to choose judges that would judge righteously (Deut 1:13, 16:18). These judges were not a “police force” roaming around looking for the sins of others, but rendered judgments when people came to them (Ex 18:16, Deut 25:1). Also, there were specific situations where people were specifically commanded to go to the judges (Deut 21:1-2, Ex 21:6,22, 22:9, et al.).

As the Eternal is now dealing directly with his converted people, rather than through a civil government, Matthew 18:15-20 is the specific procedure given for His people to make judgments. “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him **alone**. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.” Each person with the Holy Spirit has access to Divine guidance and the Eternal's law. We should be able to resolve difficulties among ourselves. Indeed, we are given a chance to judge ourselves.

However, there are tares (unconverted) among the good seed (Matt 13:30). Even those that are converted are not yet perfect. There will be times when brethren cannot use the law to resolve their differences. “But if he will not hear you, take with you one or two more, that ‘by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established’” (Mat 18:16). These witnesses are people familiar with the problem and are, as all people, responsible for living by every word of the Eternal (Deut 8:3). Hopefully, when faced with the testimony of more than one, the person at fault will see his error and repent of it. But if he does not, the Eternal does not leave judgment in the hands of the friends of one of the parties.

“And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church [Greek *ekklesia*]. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector” (Matt 18:17). The Greek *ekklesia* means assembly or “body of called-out ones.” It does not specifically mean “ministry,” though it would include all baptized members of the congregation.

When a case is brought to the *ekklesia*, it is a time for the members to make a just judgment based on the law of the Eternal. As Deuteronomy 17:8-13 commanded the death penalty for those that would not heed the judgment given by the highest courts, so the Messiah commands that a person be cast out of the congregation if he will not heed the judgment of his brethren. This is serious business! “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in

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heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matt 18:18).

How much of the congregation is required to render a judgment? Every member? Will one wise man do? The next verses answer: “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them” (Mt 18:19-20). Two, preferably three members **in agreement** are needed to render a judgment. In major matters affecting many people, the entire congregation could be involved (Acts 15:22).

When we are asked by our brothers to judge an issue, we must take it seriously. These judgments are public—they will be known by others and affect the lives of others. As the title of this article and numerous other scriptures indicate, we will be judged by the way we judge others.

In case the question should arise, we should not get involved judging those outside of the Church. When “one from the crowd” asked the Messiah to make his brother divide his inheritance, He did not get involved. As we too well know, the civil process of judgment can take an incredible amount of time. The Messiah had a message to preach and a mission to accomplish and he could not get involved in a task which belonged to the civil government of that day.

Judging the Teachings of Leaders

The scriptures tell us that we must individually judge whether or not teachers are teaching truth. One of the most often quoted scriptures about leaders is 1 Corinthians 11:1, KJV: “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” Obviously, it is the job of the member to determine which leaders are “following Christ.” If it were the job of the leader, we would be required to follow every “Christian” leader. Numerous other scriptures show this principle:

You shall not listen to the words of that [false] prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul (Deut 13:3).

For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you (1Cor 11:18).

But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us (2Thes 3:6).

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness... who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself (1Tim 6:3,5).

And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not and have found them liars (Rev 2:2).

These scriptures say nothing about convicting, accusing, or attempting to stop false teachers; they simply command us to note them and avoid them. Indeed, the Eternal uses false teachers to test others (Deut 13:3). While we must avoid their errant ways and teach the truth to those that will hear it, we have not been called to pronounce judgment or condemnation upon them.

This concludes our study about judging others. Remember, “For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you” (Matt 7:2).

See Norman S. Edwards other articles at:

Edwards, Norman S. – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

This article has been reprinted from Servants News April 1995

<http://www.servantsnews.com/>

Did Herbert Armstrong Ever Observe Pentecost on Sivan 6? From David Ben-Ariel (Toledo, Ohio)

In the early years of his ministry, and the beginning of the Radio Church of God, Herbert Armstrong observed Pentecost on the same day as modern rabbinic Judaism -- that is, from 1934, when he first began observing the annual holy days, until at least 1936 -- three years. Here are the documented facts. Was Herbert W. Armstrong right, originally, but then fell into error? And why did he change the date for Pentecost again in 1974, but not return to the Sivan 6 date? Here's the fascinating, mind-boggling story! William F. Dankenbring

When did Herbert W. Armstrong and his wife originally observe Pentecost? Believe it or not, the answer is -- Sivan 6 -- the same date as the modern Jews!

This fact is documented by Raymond C. Cole, former evangelist of the Worldwide Church of God, and son of the Coles who were old time Church members in Oregon. Raymond Cole, who left Worldwide in the early 1970's to form a different Church, called Church of God, The Eternal, gave a sermon and mentioned this amazing fact, on Pentecost (as he kept it), May 19, 1975, at Florence, Oregon. His sermon became the basis of an article written by Richard C. Nickels.

Richard Nickels was a member of the Worldwide Church of God, who left with Raymond Cole when he bolted in the 70's. Nickels became a member of Raymond Cole's church but left it later. A student of church history, he has written an interesting book called *History of the Seventh Day Church of God*. In the article on Pentecost put together by Nickels, based on Raymond Cole's sermon, Nickels wrote:

"There were several years in which Mr. Armstrong was following the rabbinic custom of Sivan 6, which meant that it could fall at various times, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Now it did so happen that Sivan 6 fell on a Sunday on one or two years during the time when Mr. Armstrong accepted the modern Jewish rabbinical date for Pentecost. This is what confuses some . . ."

"Converted and called in 1927, Mr. Armstrong was ordained to the ministry in 1931. He began keeping the holy days with others in 1934. Truth was revealed to him, as he had said, one doctrine at a time. *A calendar was published in 1937 showing Pentecost corresponding to the JEWISH DATE OF SIVAN 6*. But it must have been *that very year that Monday observance was begun*. For a diary of an early church member, Mrs. Lorinda (Stoneberg) Le Bleu (baptized in 1936 by Mr. Armstrong), shows that she did keep Pentecost on a Monday in the year 1937, 1940, 1941 and following. . ."

Nickels/Cole point out that in 1939 the Jewish date for Pentecost and the Monday date calculated using the Sadducean method were five days apart, and that in 1939 Mrs. Le Bleu's diary shows a meeting on Monday, May 29, indicating that by that year Herbert Armstrong had definitely switched to a Monday Pentecost. Cole continues:

"1939 is a key year. The Jewish Pentecost and the true [sic] Pentecost were five days apart. Mrs. Le Bleu's diary records a meeting on Monday, May 29, 1939, at Wilma Christenson's home. Definite proof that at least by 1939, Mr. Armstrong had been shown the validity [sic] of a Monday Pentecost rather than the commonly accepted Jewish Sivan 6-7. *According to the diary, 1937 was the first 'Monday' year.*

"That leaves the years 1934, 1935, and 1936 under the Sivan 6 observance. According to the table . . . 1934 was the only year in which Sivan 6 fell on a Sunday. In 1935 the Jews' Pentecost fell on a Friday, and in 1936 it fell on a Wednesday.

"According to an article published in early 1940, 'How to Figure Passover,' Mr. Armstrong had printed a calendar in 1937 showing the Holy Day dates for several years in advance. June 12, 1940, was the date projected in the 1937 calendar as Pentecost. This was Sivan 6 of that year, which fell on a Wednesday. The 1940 article corrected [sic] the date to Monday, June 17. Mrs. Le Bleu's diary records that the Eugene church observed Pentecost of 1940 on Monday, June 17 at Hendricks Park, with about fifty members present" (emphasis mine).

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It should be very clear from this passage that originally Herbert and Loma D. Armstrong observed Pentecost WITH THE JEWS, ON SIVAN 6! There is no question about it. But apparently, the last time they observed Pentecost on this date was 1936, after which they changed to a Monday Pentecost. For several years, after studying the holy days, Herbert Armstrong was originally convinced of the correctness of the Jewish date! Why did he change by 1937? Why was 1936 evidently the last time he observed Pentecost on the right day?

No one really knows, but several possibilities suggest themselves. We know that SIN cuts us off from God and causes Him to punish us. The prophet Isaiah declared, "But your iniquities have SEPARATED you from your God; your SINS have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear" (Isa.59:2). It was about this same time that Herbert Armstrong began thinking that World War II would end in Armageddon, and that Mussolini was the "Beast" of Revelation and the final "head" of the resurrected "Roman Empire." His prophetic preachings of this time, until the end of World War II, were way off base, showing that God had allowed him to stumble into error and confusion. It was also about this time that serious personal problems and family trouble occurred in his marriage. All the evidence points to the conclusion that during those years, to use Mr. Armstrong's own words, he was "very far from God."

Somehow, also, about 1936-37 Herbert Armstrong became convinced that the Sadducees, who do not even believe in a resurrection, in angels or spirits, or an afterlife (Acts 23:8), were correct in counting Pentecost from the weekly Sabbath during the days of Unleavened Bread. Personal study showed him that the priestly Sadducees had observed a Sunday Pentecost. "At this point," says the Worldwide Church of God "Pentecost Study Material," published in 1974, "he discarded the Jewish practice and established Monday as the proper day."

Herbert Armstrong followed the Sadducees in counting from the weekly Sabbath, but he concluded they were wrong in the method of counting they used -- so in counting "from" the day after the sabbath, which he assumed to be Sunday, he began his count with Monday!

Obviously, Herbert Armstrong himself later admitted, de facto, that God did not "reveal" to him that Pentecost was on Monday -- because he himself changed it to Sunday in 1974, after new research and information was doggedly brought to his attention by Raymond F. McNair, information and research done by Ernest Martin. This information related only to the "process of counting." The Church undertook a comprehensive study into this question, and Herbert Armstrong became convinced, after talking with a translator of the American Revised Bible, and a Jewish scholar, and friend of his, that indeed he had been misinformed and mistaken all those years. For 35 years, then, the Church had "counted" WRONG!

But in 1974, *no attempt* was made to question the date from which the count to Pentecost is *begun!*

In fact, when the research was being done in 1974, according to the voluminous (77 pages plus) "Pentecost Study Material" published by the Worldwide Church of God, a strange thing happened. Herbert Armstrong telephoned Mrs. Ravid, the wife of the Israeli Ambassador, long distance in Israel, and asked her how the Jews count. She taught Hebrew at Hebrew University. She read the Hebrew of Leviticus 23:15 and said that Shavuot (Pentecost) would be counted beginning with Sunday, that Sunday is the day number one in the count to 50. The "Pentecost Study Paper" continues:

"A few hours later, a slightly horrified Mrs. Ravid called Mr. Armstrong to explain that she had made a TERRIBLE MISTAKE! Thinking perhaps she had found evidence for exclusive counting after all, we awaited her explanation, hearts pounding. 'I don't understand how I could have missed it,' she said apologetically; 'Shavuot is NOT COUNTED FROM THE WEEKLY SABBATH, IT MUST BE COUNTED FROM NISAN 15 (the first high day of Unleavened Bread)'" (emphasis mine).

Thus, the truth about Pentecost was once again presented to the Church, through Mrs. Ravid, in 1974! Unfortunately, the question of WHEN to count FROM was not even under consideration at that time! The question of what day to count *from* was *not the real issue* of the great Pentecost debate and controversy which swirled around the Church in 1974. Her emphatic words fell on deaf ears. Rather, the only real issue in 1974 was the issue of *how to count!*

The Worldwide Church of God believed, at that time, and still does, that the Jewish tradition that Pentecost was to be counted from the annual Sabbath was wrong, and that the Sadducean method of counting from the weekly Sabbath was to be followed. Therefore, poor Mrs. Ravid's comments fell on deaf ears. Nobody paid any attention to her. But everybody

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breathed a sigh of relief that she corroborated the inclusive counting methodology!

Nevertheless, the truth is plain. Pentecost should be observed on the same day the Jews observe it -- Sivan 6 -- just as Herbert Armstrong ORIGINALLY kept it! Despite all the arguments to the contrary, the truth will win out. Error cannot and will not prevail forever. Jesus Christ said, "You shall know the TRUTH, and the *truth shall make you FREE*" (John 8:32).

See David Ben-Ariel's other articles at:
[Ben-Ariel, David – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

The Coming of the Messiah
(Copyright) by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

"The Lamb" (Part #1)

It is estimated that there are some 1.2 billion Christians on earth today, that expect their Saviour/Messiah to return in the future. Which Messiah, in Scripture, is at times referred to as the "Lamb". Which has been a Scriptural representation since the time of Cain and Abel.

The main point of this Study centers on how said Christians will think and react, when they see the following come to pass.

In Rev. 6:12-14 is described a time in the future, when great earthquakes will take place on the earth. As well it shows where in some areas of the earth, especially the north, there will be great volcanic eruptions, in which the smoke and ash from the volcanoes will "cover the sun and moon". (V.12) This covering of the earth with clouds of smoke and ash, will cause crops for humans and animals to cease to grow, thus causing famine. This "famine" will be covered in a future Part of this Study.

Let's now go onto the topic of the "Lamb". In V.16 it shows that, even as the "rocks from the mountains" are falling down on people, there will be a sign in the heaven. A "Face and Lamb sitting on a throne". All peoples on the earth will be able to see this sign.

Now ask yourselves. What will be the reaction of said 1.2 billion Christians, when they see their "Messiah/Lamb" in heaven. Keeping in mind that they are expecting just such to happen. Will they "go to war against him, or will they begin to prepare for his coming down on earth"? Take note that no such warfare is shown to take place at this time.

But note something else on the appearance of this "Lamb" in the vision, that all on earth will see. For example. How many realize that the Islam religion, with it's some 1.2 billion followers, also believe in the coming of their Messiah/Lamb. His name being Mahdi. (sp.) Will they prepare to go to war against him, or prepare for his coming?

Think about it. Nearly 2 1/2 billion peoples on earth are expecting the coming of their Messiah/Lamb, and there he is in heaven, sitting on a throne. Still, consider the following.

Both of the religions of the Hindus and Buddhists also believe in the coming of their Messiah/Lamb. Another 1.2 billion or so??? These two religions likely got their "Messiah/Lamb" understanding from the fact that both religions came to being, because the Assyrians had settled the 2 1/2 tribes of Israel to the east of the Jordan river, to be settled in the areas where the two religions got their start. Will these two religions arm themselves to go to war against their "Messiah/Lamb", or will they also begin to prepare for his coming?

The answer to the above, and further evidence of the times preceding, and following this "vision" of Rev. 6:16, will continue in Part #2.

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"The Messiah" (Part #2)

In Part #1 we saw where, in the likely near future, there will be a "sign" seen in heaven, by all peoples on earth. The sign being that of a "Face and a Lamb sitting on a throne". (See: Ps. 110:1) The question was raised as to what some three plus billion peoples on earth will do when they see this sign. Peoples/religions that are expecting the coming of "their Lamb/Messiah", at some time in the future. And now, they "have seen him". Will they fight against him and the Face (no army of Angels is referred to waiting), or will they prepare for his coming?

Now, let's continue the story, and examine some events that will have taken place on earth prior to said coming. For, the Lamb's return will have been preached to all peoples on earth before the actual event of the vision in heaven takes place.

Consider Revelation seven. In V's 3-8 we see where there will have been some 144,000 Israelite's peoples whom will have prophesied to all peoples on earth, warning them of the coming time of "great earthquakes" (Rev. 6:12-14), which will affect all the nations of the earth in one form or another. Such as the volcanic activities that will go along with the earthquakes, which will cause great clouds of "smoke and ash" to cover the skies above some nations. Thus, preventing the growing of food crops for peoples and animals, (Rev. 6:12) forcing great migrations to have to take place.

As well they will prophesy of the "Lamb's" coming, which has been mentioned earlier. And this warning will, as mentioned, cause many peoples to react to their seeing the Lamb. Which said reaction will cause many to "believe" in their message, at the time the earthquakes begin to occur. This positive reaction is seen in the following.

Rom. 7:9. "I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, kindreds, peoples, and tongues stood before the throne...!" This is clearly a "prophecy" of what will take place in the future for these great multitudes of peoples. For there will be no "throne" at this time for them to stand before. Thus, it is likely speaking of the time when the Son of Man will indeed "sit on his throne", which will not be until the time of the beginning of the seventh millennium. V's. 10-17 seems to support this future time.

In concluding this Part #2, let's see how it will be possible that all peoples on earth will have been witnessed to by the 144,000, when today, such a witness to all the earth would be impossible to be accomplished.

The answer to the above is found in Zech. 1:8-11. Here we see both "red and white" horses, with humans sitting on them. The red horses picture the "state or military forces" of a nation. While the white horses picture their "religious systems". And, as it goes on to show, that this mixture of nations and their religions will bring about a time of "peace on earth". (See: V's. 10-11) This will seemingly be a union of the majority of the countries in the United Nations. Please consider how many UN countries today are basically of the religions referred to earlier, that are expecting the "Lamb".

The one thing that will bring about this time of peace on earth centers on one specific group of "peoples". Or those called "terrorists". And today, almost all terrorists of one specific family of peoples, and their forced allies. That "family" consists of the descendants of the peoples of Amalek. Of which peoples, Scripture says will be "eliminated" before the coming of the Son of Man to rule. (Ex. 17:4; Deut. 25:19) These two verses tells us what the Israelites "should have done", but Scripture goes on to tell us that the Gentiles will accomplish the promise.

See Ray Daly's other articles at:

[Daly, Ray – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

School daze again. Beware professional liars!

(Copyright 2023) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"IT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE to anyone who has listened to a commencement speech in the last ten years to know that a spirit of elitism has been fostered among students – and deliberately – by politicians. Not so well known is the fact that many professors pander this same line to their classes, telling them how smart, how well-educated they are.

"The words of politician and professor combine to reinforce the usual late-teenage ignorance; students of that age already assert their self-superiority. In short, too many professors pander to their audience and help the student to believe what his feelings of inadequacy have led him to assert: **that he is smart and educated, that youth equates with wisdom, that age equates with obstinacy and wrongness, and that the past has no lessons for the present.**"

IT'S A LIE, and an ironic one, because we have seen the dumbing down of several generations in public education.

Modern teachers usually go to college for six years before beginning to teach. UP magazine #603 featured an article about a teacher in the early 1900s, "At 18 years old she taught school" by David Frimodig:

"A teacher's first day is never without qualms, but Irene Prisk had more than the average reason for concern. The 'school' was the living room of the Trevilyan farmhouse... The teaching materials included a box of broken chalk, a piece of slate, and some old books – and the student body consisted of 9 children, seven of whom spoke only Finnish..."

"It hadn't looked like Irene's widowed mother could send her to college, but a family friend encouraged her to take the county teacher's exam and here she was. It wasn't the only challenge she would face in front of Copper Country blackboards, but it was certainly one of the greatest."

Irene got \$48 a month but paid \$20 for room and board. It only cost the school \$10 a month to rent the room, but by Christmas program time, Irene had the Finns starting to speak English.

"DURING HER CAREER, Irene witnessed many innovations in education. She agreed with a few of them, tolerated others, and openly rebelled when necessary. After receiving the directive that the phonics approach to reading had been abolished, she told her instructors to continue teaching phonics.

"But when the superintendent visits your class, don't teach phonics.' When the superintendent asked why her school fared so much better than others on reading tests, Irene said she didn't have the slightest idea."

THERE MUST BE A LESSON IN THERE SOMEWHERE.

P.S. Irene was the name of my kindergarten through third grade teacher, too. We farm kids were only given six weeks of kindergarten, but after only perhaps 2 or 3 weeks, we were READING! Hooked on phonics, of course. When those rural kids took their 8th grade exam, most of them rated 10th grade proficiency, several 11th grade, and two of us '12th grade, first month."

PPS: ENOUGH SAID YET? IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MONEY, OR "FOR THE KIDS." IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF DO THE EDUCRATS WANT YOUR KIDS TO BE EDUCATED? OR DON'T THEY?

See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:

[Dahlgren, Curtis – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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How the "Science is Settled" by the Beast

(Copyright 2023) by Christian Media Network (Email)



The recent moves by America, and governments around the world declaring a "Climate Emergency," are actually fulfillments of widely unpublicized **Bible Prophecy**. As the humorous political cartoon shows, with hidden technologies related to weather control and secretive Directed Energy Weapons causing earthquakes, massive fires, and storms, the globalist conspirators are aggressively manipulating us to a one world tyranny.

Coupled with the disruption of national governments through illegal immigration (as well as controlled media), all of this was predicted in *Bible Prophecy* – but the ministry that made these predictions was censored as the deception includes media interests controlled by Christian churches that are preaching "Another Gospel" (*II Corinthians 11:4*).

In fact, for its entire 30 years of existence, the *prophecy* ministry at **Christian Media Network** has issued striking predictions, which have been regularly fulfilled; but they are not publicized in the mainstream "Christian" media, as the

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Bible teaches the “church” of Jesus Christ will come under a prophesied “Strong Delusion” (*II Thessalonians 2:11*). The Christian establishment has suppressed prophecy information – and this in itself was predicted in the Bible. The fact is, we have successfully predicted, *in writing*, events including political elections, military clashes, monetary events, and even the length of the tragic BP oil spill in **2010** (we called it at 5 months to the very *day*) that polluted the gulf coast. As far back as **1992**, we published a written prediction of the assassination of **Yitzhak Rabin** of Israel – an important prophetic event in an important place, which was fulfilled in **1995**. There are also many prophecies concerning America’s fate.

We have Internet video on the subject so you can judge for yourself, but the world’s Internet media censors, under the control of the **Spirit of Antichrist** during the present *Falling Away* from the truth, won’t allow us to give you the location to view the free video mentioned in this email without the website being shut down. In unparalleled naiveté, some actually believe YouTube, a subsidiary of **Googoliath** can be trusted with the Word of the Lord! *Prophetically Paralleling* the Pharisees that sought to stop the Apostles from preaching the truth, media interests controlled by million dollar “Christian” *corporations*, there is a version of Bible Prophecy you have not heard about. The Internet location of this free underground video of what will really happen can be received by sending your name and email to (Email Address Removed) and *Christian Media* will send you more information, including the location of the underground Internet website. Do it now, while you still can.

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From the Heart on My 77th Birthday
(Copyright 2023) by Sue Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)

Today (August 16, 2023) is my 77th birthday. In many ways, I am happy, thankful, and blessed. But in another very important way, I am in deep mourning.

I am mourning the 2021 closing of the public venue that housed the Int’l Christian Women’s Hall of Fame. The Hall was a place in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex town of Grapevine on the NW side of DFW Int’l Airport, the 2nd busiest airport in the world.

This space was an equipping center to inform, inspire, and instruct. It consisted of a gallery displaying God’s women who made a lasting effect on the church and the world, a library/research center, a TV studio/classroom, a writing/publishing company, and a bookstore. It was a place where people could come together.

I believe this remains an important vision from God’s Heart to my heart for this time on His timetable of Church history. I believe it remains a commission He has equipped me to fulfil. Yet it lies dormant, as if dead! This is why I mourn.

When maintenance costs doubled into the thousands each month, I felt I could not ask my partners and donors to give more than they were already giving, many sacrificially. I could not move into a money-driven mode, as so many ministries have. In the late 1980s, the Holy Spirit spoke to me on the corner of Lewis and 81st Street in Tulsa, OK: “Do not build on money because when money fails, what you build on money will fail. But build on eternal values and then what you build will last throughout eternity.” A pioneer missionary once wrote: “Where God guides; He provides.” I believe that and so, every day I look for that guidance and provision.

A commission from the Lord is to be Spirit-led and never cause-driven. And so, it has always been my heart’s desire to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling this commission. God must be the one Who breathes new life into this commission. And I remain willing and obedient to that commission. Where God guides, He provides.

He provides co-workers—a called and commissioned team of men and women to fulfil His will. He provides physical

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space where events happen. He provides finances that His will can be carried out. He provides – and has provided – equipment to send out His Gospel Message far and wide.



See Sue Hyatt's other articles at:

[Hyatt, Sue – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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God's Highway

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

"And there will be a **highway** called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not travel it—only those who walk in the Way—and fools will not stray onto it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Eternal has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads" (Isaiah 35:8-10).

The autumn holy days are drawing near. Time to go up to the mountain of God to worship the great King!

"In the last days the **mountain** of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in His paths.' For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem" (See Isaiah 2:2-3).

In the book of Genesis, we often read of the journeys of Abraham and Jacob. There is an ancient road in Israel that was

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used by many of the patriarchs. It is known as the Patriarch's Way or some prefer to call it the Biblical Highway. It still exists today as a modern highway known as Route 60 in Israel. It connects Biblical towns, such as, Beersheba, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Bethel, Shiloh, Shechem, and others.

Former ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, and former U.S. secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, have teamed up to film their visit to Biblical sites along Route 60 in Israel. Their exiting tour will be presented as a movie in many theaters across the nation on September 18 and 19. To learn more and watch the trailer go to:

[Route60 - Route60](#)

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:
[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](#)

YOU – and the one you – Love?
(Copyright 2023) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

YOU - and the one you - Love?

WHO DO YOU LOVE? The one you love is - your God.

Are you Easily offended? Yes. The one you love is - you!

Do you hate or despise others who disagree with your opinions? Yes. The one you love is - you!

Do you love God and his word? No. Then the one you love is not God? And everyone has love and hate so the one you love must be - you!

Law and policy that you agree with, must everyone agree with? Yes. Then you are a politician or judge and the one you love is - you!

Are you offended when men curse God? No. Then you would curse God whenever you are offended because the one you love is - you!

Do you love - your - life? Yes. Then the one you love is - you!

Do you consider yourself good? Yes. Then the one you love is - you! “Only God is good” Luke 18:19.

Are you a Christian or Jew: Wearing a mask of “Love” as justification to honor those parading sin against God? Yes. Then the love of God has been replaced with the ones you love and - you!

Do you approve of, praise, and agree with law all must honor what God decreed evil? Yes. Then you are the Devil: The Devil sees through the eyes and speaks through the mouth of the one he loves - you!

The love of God is missing in Congress and among Judges: Majority opinions and votes represents the Devil they love not - you!

Without Gods consciousness: Self-consciousness dominates: You and the one you must - love! “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” the first and greatest - LAW. If you can do that you can “overcome the world” John 6:33.

See Richard Frate's other articles at:

[Frates, Richard – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Back to the Nephilim

Article by Laura Lee

Comments by Jeff Henderson (California) & Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Jeff writes:

Please explain Job 1:6. How did humans appear with Satan before God? If sons of God as you indicated were humans, what are we to make of Sons of God appearing in heaven with Satan? Thank you.

Laura writes:

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

In "Back to the Nephilim" I put forth some theories. We know that the "sons of God" in Job 1:6 are not angels because of this verse:

Heb 1:5 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?

We also know through actions in scripture that angels were never thought of or said to be sons of God. Christ was God and people were allowed to worship Him. The good angels were not to be worshipped and stopped people from doing so. Only the evil angels and Satan wanted to be worshipped.

One of the things I said in the article was the following:

We do know there are 24 elders in heaven, meaning there are angels and there are elders that we know about. We do not have any idea how many created beings there are in heaven, and we also do not know how many created beings using their free will rebelled against God and are now evil as Satan is evil.

Christ is a spirit being, yet He became a man and walked among us. He was like us in all points. As a human being Christ Himself could have married and had children. I do not believe he did that while on Earth. What I am saying is He had the ability to do that while on Earth.

So, one of my theories here is that there may be or have been a created being in heaven who decided to follow Satan and had the ability to turn into a human and have children with human women. That is one theory. It could be one explanation as to why there were Nephilim before and after the flood. (End Quote)

The other part of your question about humans appearing in heaven with Satan, is that you can't get that out of that verse. The verse does not say anyone was in heaven, humans, or Satan. In Rev. 12:7 it says there was war in heaven and in verse 8 it shows that Satan was cast out of heaven and has no place in heaven anymore. Verse 9 clearly shows that Satan was cast to earth and since we know he was in the Garden of Eden, it means he was cast to the earth shortly before Adam and Eve were evicted from the garden for sin.

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So, the bottom line here is that no one, humans or Satan were presenting themselves before God in Heaven. Humans are not allowed in heaven right now anymore than Satan is and for the same reason, "Sin".

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, Rev 12:8 And prevailed not; **neither was their place found any more in heaven.** Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

For an example, you present yourself before the Lord every time you go to Sabbath Services, but it does not mean you are in heaven.

As I said, we have no idea how many different created beings exist in heaven or on earth. We know there are the 24 Elders, and we know there are angels neither of these two groups are called sons of God. In Psalm 82 another group is mentioned though briefly:

Psa 82:1 A Psalm of Asaph. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.

Psa 82:2 How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

Psa 82:3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Psa 82:4 Deliver the poor and needy: rid *them* out of the hand of the wicked.

Psa 82:5 They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Psa 82:6 **I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.**

Psa 82:7 **But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.**

Psa 82:8 Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.

In these verses God is obviously talking about another group of people He calls gods and He also calls them children of the most high. These are not humans, or he would have no need to say "Ye are gods;" in verse 6 and in verse 7 He says "But ye shall die like men,"

So, these may be gods that can manifest as people and die like people. From these verses we can see they are probably wicked gods and a small g is used so they are not of the same level as God the Father and Christ.

I hope I was able to answer your very valid question and give you some things to think about and study at the same time.

In regard to: Outline of Strategy for Church of God Co-operation Version 2.1 Draft

Article by Craig White
Comments by John Leitch (Canada)

My comments are in regard to the article written by Craig White titled "Outline of Strategy for Church of God Co-operation Version 2:1"

It appears that the author of this article mistakenly views all these separate religious parties (churches of God denominations) as parts of the same body (body of Christ), but are they?

1--If they are parts of the same body, why do they all have a different graven image (Exodus 20:4-5) fastened to their podium and on their letterhead? These graven image seals are not the real thing (as the "Golden Calf" was not the real thing) but are just an image of the **real** power that has authority over them in a religious sense. By standing behind these graven images, it shows who they are subordinate to in religious matters and where their authority to speak is coming from. Is not the head of man Christ (1 Corinthians 11:3) and not a religious party division?

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2--These religious parties of whom Mr. White is addressing, all seem to have an earthy headquarters, but the body of Christ has a heavenly headquarters. Headquarters according to the dictionary is where the head is located. At this time Christ is in heaven.

3--It appears to this writer that many of these religious parties have hired help to evangelize for the purpose of increasing the numbers & finances of their organization. There is nowhere that I have found biblically that the body of Christ hired anyone to evangelize. The New Testament congregations could only **support** the people Christ appointed for that job, no one could **hire** them. People at that time could hire Paul to build a tent but could not hire Paul to preach. Paul already had a boss (Christ) for that job; Paul could not serve two masters (God & another who is paying him--Matthew 6:24).

4--Even the people in the separate parties view each other as "stand alone" because they all have individual statements of beliefs. They all have their own doctrinal committees. It puzzles this writer as to why anyone needs a "doctrinal committee" to tell them what to believe? Christians have the book of Deuteronomy and the teaching of the New Testament. The only reason I can think of for creating such a committee, is to see how much of the teachings of Moses and Christ the religious party is willing to incorporate into their lives.

5--Does the government view these denominations (religious parties) as parts of the same body? It is obvious they do not, because they all have their own individual "charitable numbers" for tax purposes.

6-- If a person examines how the scattered Christians in the New Testament were organized, they will find that because of distance, they were divided into Christian fellowships and were identified by the town (1 Corinthians 1:2) or house (Colossians 4:15) they met in. With that in mind, look around and compare this to the names of the various religious parties of which Mr. White is trying to get to cooperate with each other.

7--The New Testament type fellowships and the church of God denominations (religious parties) of today which Mr. White is addressing, are each gathering weekly for monumental different reasons.

A--The church of God denominations (religious parties) meet to have a **service** and the people attending this service are basically there as observers, listening and some taking notes.

B--The people in the fellowships (some call "house churches") are much like the New Testament congregations, who meet to encourage (Hebrews 10:25), edify (1 Thessalonians 5:11) and equip (Ephesians 4:25) each other for the hard road which lies ahead. They gather **not to conduct a church service** as Roman religion does, but they gather (Hebrews 10:25) weekly for mutual growth, and are very interactive, sometimes spontaneous, with all people that desire to comment and participate, doing so (1 Corinthians chapter 14). Members of the fellowships are instructed to be participants **not** just observers. They gather to share the gifts Christ has blessed their fellowship with (1 Corinthians chapter 12). This is exactly what we see in the New Testament.

In Summary, is it permissible to take the people that are a part of the body of Christ (that the Father has called-out ---John 6:44) and divide them into various religious parties (denominations)?

Paul answers this question in **Galatians 5:20** where Paul is listing a few patterns of behavior that will block people from entering the Kingdom of God. I will just mention two on this list that Paul itemizes. Although Strong's Commentary explains these Greek words (G1370 & G139), I feel Adam Clarke (a recognized expert in the Greek language) does a better job.

Seditions (G1370) - **Διχοστασῖαι**: Divisions into separate factions; parties, whether in the Church or state.

Heresies (G139) - **Αἵρεσεις**: Factions; parties in the Church separating from communion with each other and setting up altar against altar. The word, which is harmless in itself, is here used in a bad sense. Instead of **αἵρεσεις** the Slavonic has **σκανδαλα**, scandals, offenses or stumbling-blocks.

The people in these various religious parties look upon the "House Churches" as people that have gone independent (because their leaders have told them so), but is this true?? It appears to this writer that the opposite is true. The religious

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parties are the ones who have separated from the body of Christ and have gone rogue by creating their own graven image seals, own doctrinal committees, own ministry, own earthly headquarters, and own membership lists. The New Testament type fellowships (some call "house churches") do not appear to be "independent" at all, but they appear to be **interdependent** and often gather together and cooperate for various events (annual appointed times, seminars, Winter Family Weekend at Lexington etc.).

John Leitch (that uses farmer logic)

In regard to: Scattered But Not Divided

Article by Fellow Servants
Comments by Denver Braugler (Muncie, Indiana)

Counted but innumerable; goyim but Israelite.

It is unnecessary to invoke grafting in as the only viable solution to place righteous people into the twelve thousand sealed from each tribe of Israel.

That question of how arose only because the innumerable multitude of all nations is equated to a mere 144,000 people of Israel.

«Now, another person using the same verse Rev. 20:4 combined with Rev. 7:9 got from it that two separate groups would be resurrected. In other words, there would be the group of the 144,000 and then another group besides that called a great multitude. »

Let us consider which is more likely: (1) that throughout history only 144,000 people have been martyred, or (2) that 144,000 people are too many for a man to count.

I can count 150 people in a few minutes, so I extrapolate that I could count 144,000 people within a few days. It's hardly outside the realm of feats performed by mere mortals.

In 2002, Bill Richardson shook hands with 13,392 people in eight hours. I can extrapolate that 12 people could shake hands with 144,000 people in nine hours. It's not really extraordinary.

If we are taking "144,000" literally, then we should acknowledge that this number literally counts only virgin men. It makes little sense to say that it includes "women who have not been defiled with women". Whereas, as "people", it could mean those who refused to recant their heresy and accept the false religions, and thus were executed, e.g., beheaded.

Now if you are absolutely 100% sure that 144,000 counts both men and women and is an innumerable multitude of all nations, then you may stop reading here with my condolences on your numerical prowess.

144,000 people isn't very many and doesn't really make sense as an upper limit considering the Son was sent not to condemn the world, but rather to save it.

The matter of how there can be righteous people not descended from Israel or who lived before Jacob was even a man is easily solved by accepting that 144,000 Israelites is a small subset of the vast multitude of all nations of the world for whom God sent His Son to redeem from perishing and give eternal life.

Surely those multitudes from nations are grafted in. But the 144,000 are strong native branches sprung from the twelve limbs of Israel; they are not the twigs and leaves.

In regard to: Scattered But Not Divided

Article by Fellow Servants

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Great answer Denver but you gave no scriptures to prove your points.

First of all, when we talk about the 144,000, we are only talking about the First Fruits and not about all the people from the time of Adam and Eve until now that will eventually be saved and receive eternal life.

I am not sure you can invoke that the 144,000 were only men any more than you could claim that in the parable of the ten virgins they were only women. So, let's remove that from the table unless you have scripture.

I believe the best way to know we are talking about 144,000 people is from the following verse:

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

That looks pretty literal to me. And Rev. 7:4 tells you how many were sealed.

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Yes, one person could probably count to 144,000 but not easily. And why would anyone take that job on?

In the following verses we see the sealing of the first fruits:

Rev 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. **Rev 7:2** And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, **Rev 7:3** Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the **servants** of our God in their foreheads. **Rev 7:4** And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an **hundred and forty and four thousand** of all the tribes of the children of Israel. **Rev 7:5** Of the tribe of Juda *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand. **Rev 7:6** Of the tribe of Aser *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses *were* sealed twelve thousand. **Rev 7:7** Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand. **Rev 7:8** Of the tribe of Zabulon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.

This sealing of the first fruits would be both men and women and not just men. The reason would be that each individual must work out their own salvation. Men in this case are not responsible for other members of their family who may not have even been called by God at this point. The same applies to women that they also are not responsible for saving family members which have not been called at this time.

The next set of scriptures shows these 144,000 came from all nations and kindreds.

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; **Rev 7:10** And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. **Rev 7:11** And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, **Rev 7:12** Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. **Rev 7:13** And one of the elders answered,

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saying unto me, **What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?** [Rev 7:14](#) And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation,** and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. [Rev 7:15](#) Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. [Rev 7:16](#) They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. [Rev 7:17](#) For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The only way anyone from earth can go to heaven is to become spirit beings and only the first fruits become spirit beings after the last trumpet. So, my conclusion based on scripture is that 144,000 (a great multitude) were sealed after the seventh trumpet and before the bowls of rath were poured out. And only 144,000 returned to earth with Christ to set up the Kingdom of God on Earth.

[Rev 14:1](#) And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. [Rev 14:2](#) And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: [Rev 14:3](#) And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but **the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.** [Rev 14:4](#) These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. **These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits** unto God and to the Lamb. [Rev 14:5](#) And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

So, in conclusion the multitude standing before the throne is the 144,000 first fruits that were redeemed from the earth and who also returned to earth with Christ to help set up the Kingdom of God on Earth.

In regard to: Digital Identity
Article by James Steinle
Comments by Denver Braughler (Muncie, Indiana)

In the article “Digital Identity”, James Steinle repeated this preposterous quotation:

“In June 2023, the European Union issued a press release stating that 80 EU (European Union) countries have ceded their sovereignty to the WHO, giving the United Nations agency full administration and control over Europe's digital passport.”

I did not find a citation from Mr. Steinle to the website where this press release is published.

Anyone who has basic political or geographical knowledge would certainly know that there are still fewer than 30 EU countries and recognize the absurdity of the idea that they would have already ceded their sovereignty to WHO. Even among EU countries, unanimous agreement is rare. As of 2023, only 20 Eurozone countries plus some other tiny European countries adopted the euro as their national currency over the past 21 years. Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, and Sweden haven't even announced any plan to transition to the euro.

I was in Europe before June 01, 2023, and returned a few weeks after. Nothing about passport control changed and nothing was announced. There were no health questions or screenings related to immigration or travel by airplane, train, bus, etc.

Let's read the verifiable press releases from the actual authorities who issued them and stop publishing gossip.

In regard to: The Coming of the Messiah

Article by Ray Daly

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Where to begin. I believe the entire article is based on one false premise after another. First of all most religions are not waiting for Christ to return. Actually, by the time Christ does return, very few people will actually be awaiting his return.

I guess I will end there and let some other brave person tackle this.

Prayer Requests

Prayer Request for Israel (October 7, 2023)

Pray that Israel may have peace.

Prayer Request for America (October 7, 2023)

Pray for our leaders.

Letters

Letter from William P. Goff (August 18, 2023)

Greetings Brethren,

Hope your Sabbath is going on well.

Again, we want to thank all of you who have been assisting our impoverished brethren. (Some of you have been doing so for a long time) You continue to make a big impact on their lives. Especially to the many orphans and widows you have been caring for, and for a long time.

You often hear me mention (Matthew 9:37-38) How the harvest is great, but the laborers are few, and to pray the Lord of the harvest for more laborers (servants – workers). So, this is not necessarily for those who have already been helping and serving, but for others who "hopefully" will join hands with us in helping, because the need has grown, and become more dire. I often try to show the conditions that our brethren are enduring over there, but I think Nehemiah can elaborate much better being I am back in the States, and he is there.

I received the following letter from Nehemiah today, concerning the current conditions of our Kenyan brethren:

Shalom Donors.

Dear Donors and supporters,

First let me say, from the widows and children under their care, we are thankful for the good work you are doing to them. I'm writing on their behalf. They always kneel to pray for you to have good health, good, protected life from the Lord for your good works to us. And also, the Lord to open doors for you as you continue helping.

We help them the best we can with the donations we receive, but due to the high cost of living food is becoming very expensive. Some now do without meals. I witnessed a case where some brethren take hot water mixed with sugar and tea leaves as their dinner. Some faint due to starvation and rushed to hospital and it's discovered that it's due to starvation.

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Some widows and widowers are living with their grand children whose parents died of many different types of disease and many deaths from starvation. I witness people begging from the homes of Matara, Milkah Daniel and others; they sit in their homes during lunchtime and dinner time. The food is not enough for these widows and widowers and their grandchildren and yet there are beggars standing at their doors when the little available food is cooked. Others are growing weaker and weaker each day.

There is a case I witness in some families these orphans living with their grandparents walking naked and bare footed. The widows and widowers can't manage to provide mosquito nets and bedding to these poor, vulnerable, dejected, disadvantaged, suffering children living with them. We are told to do good to all, but especially to those of the household of faith. These brethren of ours are "full" of faith, but their bellies are empty. May the good God of Hosts touch, move and open doors so wide for you so as to be enabled to continue to help or support where you can.

We need His Kingdom to come more than anything, but for now we need others to join hands with us and help our suffering brethren. If you have Internet, please check our website. The donation reaches our brethren, (no one here on payroll or extravagant living) We have been documenting our impoverished brethren condition, and the wonderful help some have been giving them for years, is on our "Update Page"

www.khofh.org

Sorry for the report but that's the situation we are going through may the Lord God bless you abundantly.

Nesh."

Nehemiah is our eldest orphan, and he (along with Haron, the orphanage administrator) has been ministering to our impoverished brethren for a long time. They are both very humble servants, serving in God's church. They (we) also need your prayers for God's guidance and protection (Life in Kenya is very dangerous) especially now when we live in a world that calls good bad, and bad good.

If you can help our suffering brethren, please do so. And if you can pass this on to others, that would be wonderful, the need is dire over there.

Bill Goff

Website: www.khofh.org

E-mail: goffb50@aol.com

Phone: 843-447-0140 (Call anytime night or day, our brethren need our help.)

Letter from William P. Goff (August 26, 2023)

Greetings and Happy Sabbath,

I just wanted to thank you all for continuing to assist the widows and orphans, we were able to get some food to all of them, and we were also able to pay the school fees for all 20 of the orphans living at Sengera House. (God continues to provide.)

Let us continue to pray for God's guidance and direction. His Spirit needs to be leading all of us. So let us continue to pray for humility, and wisdom. We need to be good stewards, doing all things that are pleasing in His sight.

We are surely living in the end times. Prophecy is being fulfilled right in front of our eyes. Whether we see it or not depends on whether we have "eyes to see" and "ears to hear". This world is transitioning in governments and powers, and Scripture is quite clear concerning the evil that is ahead. But this is not a time to fear, this is a time to be thankful because our Lord is soon to return, and only His coming Kingdom can end all the suffering that is transpiring all around this world.

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My admonition for all of us is this: If there was ever a time to draw closer to our Creator, and walk in all of His ways, it is now. He tells us He is returning to a glorious church, one without spot or wrinkle. Does that describe us? Has He developed in us His Holy Righteous Character? Let's hope so because that is why He put His Holy Spirit in us in the first place. (Ephesians 5:27)

Bill Goff.

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Letter from Curtis Dahlgren (September 6, 2023)

Thanks.

Announcements

Announcement from Zac Poonen (August 22, 2023)

MESSAGES

Everyone: Please listen to this VERY IMPORTANT message:

The Narrow Gate and the Narrow Way (32 minutes)

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/the-narrow-gate-and-the-narrow-way-0>

The Lord Reproves All Whom He Loves

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/the-lord-reproves-all-whom-he-loves>

Blessed is the One Who is Not Offended by Jesus (by Ajay Chakravarthy) (16 minutes)

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/blessed-is-the-one-who-is-not-offended-by-jesus>

CFC Bangalore

<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (August 31, 2023)

MESSAGES

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW COVENANT

1. The Seriousness of Sin

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/the-seriousness-of-sin>

2. God does not remember our past sins

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/god-does-not-remember-our-past-sins>

3. The Holy Spirit reveals the Father

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/the-holy-spirit-reveals-the-father-0>

4. God gives us the desire and ability to do His will

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/god-gives-us-the-desire-and-ability-to-do-his-will>

Practical Advice for Elders of Churches

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/practical-advice-for-elders-of-churches>

Watch this:

Unity of CFC Bangalore Leadership for 48 years:

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/unity-of-cfc-bangalore-leadership-for-48-years>

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CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (September 5, 2023)

MESSAGES

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW COVENANT

5. Loving Jesus supremely

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/loving-jesus-supremely>

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW COVENANT

6. Bearing the Dying of Jesus Constantly

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/bearing-the-dying-of-jesus-constantly>

In Everything Give Thanks

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/in-everything-give-thanks>

The Apostles Whom Jesus Chose

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/the-apostles-whom-jesus-chose>

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<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (September 12, 2023)

MESSAGES

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW COVENANT – (Part 7)

Detached From the Love of Possessions

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/detached-from-the-love-of-possession>

The Example of Godly Men

<https://www.cfcindia.com/sermon/the-example-of-godly-men>

Trusting the Father’s Almighty Power

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/trusting-the-fathers-almighty-power>

If you don’t have a local church to attend, you can attend this service :

<https://www.youtube.com/user/rlcfchurch>

Every Sunday at 10.30 AM (Mountain Time, USA):

Which is: 5.30 pm (UK time); and 6.30 pm (Europe time); and 10 pm (India time)

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (September 14, 2023)

MESSAGES

Overcoming by Submitting Totally to God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lal3HrmvpWM&list=PLq_HXL4f9Qrv01tTMI5qqwBxBbtxcwtcv&index=4

Overcoming by the Word of Our Testimony

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIR4ZYAXjYQ&list=PLq_HXL4f9Qrv01tTMI5qqwBxBbtxcwtcv&index=7

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CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from William P. Goff (September 23, 2023)

The September 23, 2023, Kenya Update is now posted at:

<http://www.khofh.org>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (September 26, 2023)

MESSAGES

Grace Strengthening the Heart

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/grace-strengthening-the-heart>

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Announcement from Zac Poonen (September 29, 2023)

MESSAGES

Listen to these messages preached by Brother Zac Poonen at the recent Elders Conference and the Family Conference (September 2023):

TWO Messages to Elders of churches:

The Basis and Result of Spiritual Authority:

<https://rlcf.church/media/series/the-basis-and-result-of-spiritual-authority>

SEVEN Messages to families in churches:

Being a Family That Glorifies Christ:

<https://rlcf.church/media/series/being-a-family-that-glorifies-christ>

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (October 4, 2023)

MESSAGES

Trusting God and Following in Christ’s Footsteps

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/trusting-god-and-following-in-christs-footsteps>

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

Announcement from Zac Poonen (October 6, 2023)

The Bible tells us in 1 John 2:14 that God wants young people to be overcomers. We invite you to a special Global Online Youth Meeting with brother [Zac Poonen](#). The primary intended audience is single young people aged 15 and older, but *all* are welcome to join. The theme of this meeting is:

Young People: You Can Overcome Sin and Satan

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
October 14, 2023 --- Issue No. 141



Date: Saturday October 21, 2023

Time: 8:00 AM US Mountain Time

(10 AM US Eastern, 2 PM UTC, 3 PM UK/Nigeria, 4 PM Germany/South Africa, 6 PM UAE, 7:30 PM India, 10 PM Singapore / Perth, 11:30 PM Adelaide)

We will have a time of Q&A and online interaction after the message. Please join via Zoom (first 1000 participants only) if you would like to participate interactively. For viewing only, you may join via the YouTube live broadcast.

Preference will be given to questions submitted beforehand via the meeting page below:

[Meeting Page and Q&A Form](#)

[Join via Zoom Conference](#)

Zoom Meeting ID: 852 0700 5879

Passcode: goym23zp

[Watch via Live Broadcast](#)

Announcement from Sue & Eddie Hyatt (October 7, 2023)

*At the invitation of family and friends, we've scheduled a meeting in **Claremore, Oklahoma**.*

If you are within driving distance, we'd love for you to join us for a time of fellowship, praise & worship, and Bible study. Co-hosting with us is our sister-in-law, Joann Prather.

WHEN? 6 pm, Sunday, October 22

WHERE? The Holiday Inn Express in Claremore, behind Walmart. 1400 W. Country Club Drive, Claremore, OK 74017.



Ads

Ad from David Rives Ministries (August 24, 2023)

Mount St. Helens DVD and Book Combo



Get ready to learn the truth about the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens with this compelling book and DVD combo. This pack includes: "Mount St. Helens: A Massive Media Event" DVD, "Mount St. Helens: Astounding Regrowth" DVD, and "Footprints In The Ash" Book

Click here to check out the Mount St. Helens DVD and Book Combo in the Creation Superstore today!

Sign Up For:

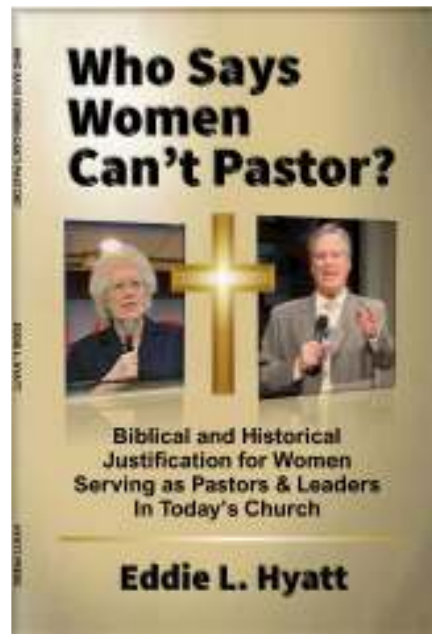
The "New" Church of God Messenger at:

[Newcogmessenger Info Page \(church-of-god-messenger.org\)](http://church-of-god-messenger.org)

Ad from Eddie Hyatt (September 6, 2023)

Eddie's new book is now available on amazon in both kindle and paperback editions.

<https://amzn.to/44D2Pvb>



Chapters

1. My Early Exposure to Women Pastors
2. The Authority Myth and Women Pastors
3. Further Clarification of I Timothy 2:11-12
4. The Pastor Is a Shepherd
5. Women Pastors in the New Testament
6. Jesus: Friend of Women
7. Jesus Commissions a Woman Apostle
8. Women Pastors and Overseers in Philippi
9. Paul's Use of Inclusive Language
10. Paul Recognizes a Female Apostle
11. Did Paul Really Tell Women to Be Silent?
12. Don't Go Anywhere Without Your Shoes

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Back Cover



AMAZON LINK: <https://amzn.to/44D2Pvb>

Ad from David Rives Ministries (October 2, 2023)



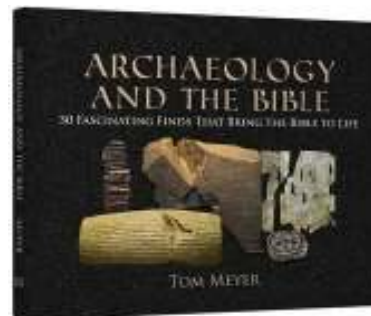
Inventors & Scientists Book

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God Created Cats Book

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Archaeology and the Bible Book

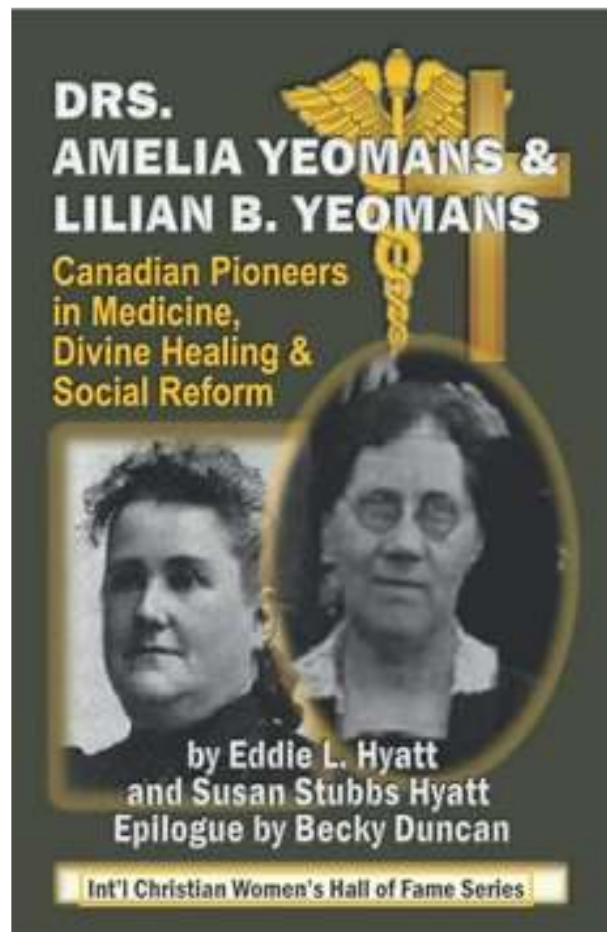
[BUY NOW](#)

[Click here to shop our huge clearance sale happening now in the Creation Superstore!](#)

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Ad from Eddie & Sue Hyatt (October 5, 2023)

Amazon Advertised Our Book: Drs. Amelia and Lilian B. Yeomans: Canadian Pioneers in Medicine, Divine Healing, and Social Reform by Eddie L. Hyatt, Susan Stubbs Hyatt, and Becky Duncan.



DR. AMELIA YEOMANS (1842-1913) was born in Quebec City. Her Christian faith led her to devote her life to promoting Biblical values. She became the second woman physician in Canada (1883) and the nation's leading social reformer, especially for women. Dr. Amelia's daughter, DR. LILIAN B. YEOMANS (1861-1942), was born in Madoc, Ontario. In 1882, she opened her medical practice in Winnipeg, becoming the first woman physician in Canada. Later, in her struggle to overcome a life-threatening addiction to legal drugs, she found healing through her relationship with Jesus Christ and the power of God's Word. As a result, she became a missionary to the First Nations People of Manitoba, a Spirit-baptized evangelist, a brilliant Bible teacher, and a proponent of Divine healing.

Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes