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A Newsletter for the People of God
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Articles

The Tragic State of Local News **(Copyright) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)**

How did Americans arrive at a point in time in which society is experiencing information overload, yet so many people are not only ill-informed but misinformed?

In cities across the country local news is presented, on average, three to four hours a day when combining morning and evening coverage. What redeeming value is there when it comes to reaching the American people with news content that is on an elementary level? Networks choose what they want people to hear and see, not what people need to see and understand.

A Profession Not Worthy of its Title

Local news has become a dominant influence in the lives of far too many Americans. Newscasters have become extended family members without being required to pay room and board. Not only have local members of the media become household guests in millions of homes across the country, but they are also local celebrities. They are a far cry from their job description – presenters of news read from a monitor.

A common sales pitch for increased viewership by competing networks is summarized with words such as, “Come and be a part of our family of viewers.” It is a home-grown recruiting tool equivalent to dangling a worm on the end of a hook in front of an unsuspecting fish with hope people will take the bait.

The general public as a whole doesn’t realize local news is how Americans in any given community are viewed by the media. Coverage is a digitized version of a small-town newspaper when it comes to the depth of its content. It requires little effort to understand what is shown and heard on the part of viewers.

All Too Predictable Reporting

Seven examples of what is wrong with the way news is reported on a local level.

- 1) Reports are biased against law enforcement. The police in any given city are viewed as criminal. Community activists, lawyers of victims and family members are quickly interviewed with accusations of racial profiling when a minority citizen is shot, resulting in death or injury. Any given incident is reported for days with emphasis placed upon whatever narrative is chosen that puts law enforcement under public scrutiny. It is knee jerk journalism at its unprofessional best before any investigation of what happened even begins.
- 2) Local political corruption is considered the norm and is reported as such because politics is corrupt by nature. Bribery, extortion, larceny, and scandals involving sex are a natural part of the political landscape.

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- 3) Reporting murders has no shock value. Victims are faceless and any given victim of a crime is a mere statistic. The loss of life in America today by acts of violence is so common that today’s reporters and the American people have become desensitized to the blood flowing on the nation’s streets.
- 4) Freeway accidents are casually reported and viewed as a nuisance for drivers held hostage by massive traffic gridlock. Victims of such accidents are quickly mentioned and soon forgotten.
- 5) An inch of snow becomes a major news event. A ten-day forecast is an exercise in futility because it is always incorrect. Statistically, the local meteorologist is only correct, on average, sixty percent of the time, yet incorrectly forecasting the weather is the one profession in which a pay raise is still given for being wrong.
- 6) Sports is the nation’s golden calf. Regardless of how serious the Corona Virus is reported to be, professional, collegiate, and high school sports is considered a must. It is the great American distraction equivalent to a mental fix in order to escape reality and an integral part of local news.
- 7) Feel good stories can range from a child who has raised money by selling lemonade, cookies or setting up a “Go Fund Me” account for health care workers, to a family who had their dog returned after being missing for 30-60 days. One such story of baby ducklings trapped in a drainage ditch was considered “Breaking News” with regular updates of rescue efforts on a local Ohio channel which raised the question of how a reporter is able to look straight into the camera and expect viewers to take such a story seriously.

News coverage on a local level is only worthy of a few minutes of airtime at the most but has been granted license for no justifiable reason.

Local News has Become a Form of Entertainment

In the news profession image is everything. Local news personalities are “babes” and “studs”. Pleasant smiles and lighthearted newsroom comments are common features that portray those who present news, weather, traffic, and sports as one happy close-knit family. It does raise the question of how many viewers have asked themselves what is said during commercial breaks and does everyone get along with one another as portrayed?

A few years ago, I emailed a reporter of the local news station where I was from. Reports on location were never serious in nature, accompanied by odd facial expressions and sarcastic humor. I asked why? He responded by saying, “It’s important that viewers are not depressed by what’s reported.” His short response spoke volumes, and this was when I realized how out of touch those who report the news really are.

Local news coverage has dumbed down the American people by failing in its responsibility to educate viewers. Instead, what’s reported is on a child’s level and the depth of what’s presented is equivalent to a one-inch hole dug by a teaspoon.

The Lack of Personal Responsibility on the Part of the American People

The majority of Americas do not understand the basics of what true journalism is. They do not take it upon themselves to stay informed about news that matters. They do not question why they are filling their minds with trivial news reports that lack depth and substance.

Because local news focuses on the local interests of viewers the world has become a very small place. The area where people live has become America because in the minds of far too many people America is viewed as the place where they live.

There are consequences for allowing both the local and national media to do the thinking for individuals and the nation as a whole. Ignorance is a choice and far too many Americans are embracing what is reported as fact without questioning what is presented to them.

A Carefree and Careless Generation

The bible describes conditions in the end time, comparing today’s pervasive attitude with the days of Noah. Mathew 24:37-39- “But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (38) For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in Marriage (performing same-sex marriages), until the day that Noah entered into the ark (39) And knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so, shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

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Local news will continue to thrive as long as the American people accept it without realizing it's not only shallow and limited but a waste of valuable time. Because a large segment of the American people are content with the way local news is presented it will continue to be the source of information far too many rely upon.

As a people we are a reflection of what's shown on local newscasts and local newscasts are a reflection of what we've become as a nation - mentally malnourished and woefully unaware of what's happening in the world.

Modern Christianity's Biggest Mistake

(Copyright) by Gary Miller (Pocahontas, Arkansas)

TEACHING “UNDER GRACE” MEANS NO LAW



BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS: GRACE INTO LAWLESSNESS

“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before ordained to this Condemnation, ungodly men, turning the Grace of our Elohim [“God”; KJV], into Lasciviousness (lawlessness, licentiousness] ...” (Jude 4)

“Beware of false teachers, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits”. (Matthew 7:15-16).

“LAW OR GRACE?” OR “LAW AND GRACE, WHICH? “LAW AND GRACE”:

“Are we to continue in sin that Grace might increase? May it never be!” (Rom 6:1-2)

“As sin has reigned unto death, even so might Grace reign through Righteousness.” (Rom. 5:21)

“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins...” (Heb. 10:26-27,29)

WHAT IS GRACE?

Mercy, Clemency, Pardon.

WHAT GRACE IS NOT:

Grace is not unmerited pardon. There is no such thing as “unmerited pardon.”

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WHEN DO WE RECEIVE IT? WHEN WE REPENT

Grace is not granted unless and until repentance occurs first. Then Grace is merited.

“...Repent [quit sinning], and be baptized...in the name of Yahsuha, for the remission of sins [pardon, grace, mercy applied] ...” (Acts 2:38)

“Repent you therefore, and be converted [change our ways], that your sins may be blotted out...” (Act. 3:19)

Yahweh continues applying grace as we continue keeping the law.

THERE IS NO GRACE UNLESS SOMEONE PAYS

“...without the shedding of blood there is no remission...For the Messiah... has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself...” (Heb. 9:22, 24, 26).”

“Being justified freely by His Grace [Yahweh’s grace], through the redemption that is In Messiah Yahshua [His sacrifice] ...to declare His [Yahweh’s] righteousness for the remission of sins that are PAST...” (Rom. 3:25)

This is why the Grace of Yahweh is applied to our lives: repentance. The Application of Grace just means that someone other than the guilty party pays the penalty.

THE “DISPENSATION OF GRACE”: DISPENSING GRACE, PARDON, TO THE GENTILES

“For this reason, I Paul, the prisoner of Yahshua Messiah for you *GENTILES*, if indeed you have heard of the dispensation (dispensing, spreading) of the Grace of Yahweh which was given to me for You.” (Eph. 3:1-2; NKJV)

GRACE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR LAW NOR DOES AWAY WITH THE LAW (Lk. 16:17).

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Being Faithful in the Time of Temptation
(Copyright) by Zac Poonen (Bangalore, India)

God has allowed Satan and our lusts to be so strong, so that we don't ever imagine that we can conquer them with our own strength. We are compelled to seek for God's power. The Israeli spies saw themselves as grasshoppers when they saw the size of the inhabitants of Canaan (*Num. 13:32,33*). Yet Joshua and Caleb trusted in God's power and entered the land and slew those giants. We need that spirit to conquer ALL our lusts. So, keep saying, in faith, “*I can, and I WILL conquer Satan and all my lusts, through the power of God*”.

“As you keep on resisting and suffering, you will finally become willing even to die rather than to sin.”

In every temptation, two roads are open to you - (i) the way of pleasure, and (ii) the way of suffering, where you deny the flesh the pleasure it is craving for. The latter way is the way of “*suffering in the flesh*” (*1 Pet. 4:1*). As you keep on resisting and suffering, you will finally become willing even to die rather than to sin. Then you “*resist sin unto blood*” (*Heb. 12:4*).

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An athlete disciplines himself in so many areas. Even so, you must discipline your bodily desires, if you want to overcome against Satan and your lusts and finally win in this heavenly race. Paul said, *“I discipline my body and make it do what it should do, and not what it wants to. Otherwise after having preached to others, I myself will be disqualified”* (1 Cor.9:27 - Living).

Temptation comes to us as a thought in the mind. We must resist it immediately. But when we start out seeking for victory, we don't usually succeed in resisting it until we have indulged in it for a few seconds at least. This is because of the way of life that we have been used to, for so many years. We must keep on battling until we get this initial time-delay in resisting, down to zero! Where we have sinned, we must confess immediately and repent and mourn.

When we find the pressure of temptation too much at any time and fear that we may yield to it, we must cry out for help immediately, just as Peter cried out for help when he was beginning to sink in the sea (Matt. 14:30). This is what it means to run to the throne of grace for help. Your fleeing from sin and your struggling against sin are both a proof to God that you are determined to overcome sin in your life. And God will help you mightily.

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Holy Day Articles

Why I Don't Celebrate Halloween **(Copyright) by Sandeep Poonen (Bangalore, India)**

One of my children recently came home reciting this rhyme learned while at school. *“Witches, ghosts, and goblins, walking down the street Knock on every doorway, ‘Trick or treat!’”*

I was shocked by how my child, in all innocence, could sing so casually and trivially about such scary things. I also noticed that this song grouped ghosts and goblins *which are not real*, with witches. I realized that this song sought to group witches into that same silly, not-real category.

Some people think of witches as women with pointed-hats and a broom, or witch doctors in a jungle. But there is a very active and fast-growing religion called Wicca, where its witches (and wizards) seek to cast spells. Wicca is not some ancient Gaelic religion from the Middle Ages. It is an active religion practiced across the world today, and very present in the areas where many of us live. Some statistics indicate that Wicca is one of the fastest-growing religions in the U.S.A.

And here is what Wikipedia says about *Wicca* and *Halloween*:

Wiccans celebrate a variation of Samhain (October 31) as one of the yearly Sabbats of the Wheel of the Year. It is deemed by most Wiccans to be the most important of the four "greater Sabbats". Samhain is seen by some Wiccans as a time to celebrate the lives of those who have died, and it often involves paying respect to ancestors, family members, elders of the faith, friends, pets, and other loved ones who have died. In some rituals the spirits of the dead are invited to attend the festivities. It is seen as a festival of darkness, which is balanced at the opposite point of the wheel by the spring festival of Beltane, which Wiccans celebrate as a festival of light and fertility. Wiccans believe that at Samhain the veil between this world and the afterlife is at its thinnest point of the whole year, making it easier to communicate with those who have left this world.

As Christians, we must be careful that practices from the religious festivals of Wicca do not influence us in any way. We do not find Hindus mixing the practices of Muslims in their festivals that honor Vishnu. Neither do we find Muslims adopting the practices of Hindus in their celebration of Ramadan. Different religions believe very different things and have different

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practices.

The Bible is very clear that witchcraft is real and powerful and also evil (Read [Revelation 21:8](#); [1 Samuel 15:23](#); [Deuteronomy 18:10-13](#); [Isaiah 8:19](#); and [1 Chronicles 10:13-14](#)).

As Christians, we know that there are powers of darkness in the spirit world. So, what must we do when the world trivializes what the Bible describes as evil? It should trouble us deeply. And even more so when we see the god of this world system (the devil) seeking to influence our highly impressionable children, and to write his values into their minds.

When I later told all my children that Jesus instructed us to have nothing to do with witches, a response I got was stunning: “But there are good witches, Dad!” That was also something that had been picked up from school!! This un-Biblical point of view had slipped in. So, I realized that I had to stand guard against the dangerously deceptive logic of this world system.

There is no such thing as a “good witch” for Christians. The Bible tells us that God alone is good and that witchcraft is evil. Good and evil are polar opposites. So, a “good witch” is just the devil coming as an angel of light ([2 Corinthians 11:14](#)). Christians must have no contact even remotely with witchcraft in any form, because it will open them up to the god of this world (the devil) – and he is far shrewder than all men. Only the Holy Spirit can help a Christian against the tactics of Satan. All our good intentions will not help us, if we disobey the Scriptures. So no matter how good we may think we are (and no matter how sincere we may be), we can still be destroyed if we don't hate all evil and stay far away from it (See [Proverbs 14:12](#)).

The Western world's view of Halloween is greatly influenced by the religious values of Wicca. Halloween is a celebration of darkness in the world today. A walk down my neighborhood or a visit to the local grocery store around Halloween time readily confirms this. The world is preaching a Halloween that aligns itself with *Wicca*.

Western culture today seeks to make witches and witchcraft seem normal. Whether with the concept of good witches, or the wildly popular Harry Potter novels/movies, Western culture is increasingly accepting of witchcraft. And the fun and carefree festival of Halloween acts as a perfect springboard to aid in this acceptance. I am convinced that Halloween is the “fun gateway” that Satan has opened for people to eventually dabble in the spiritually evil practices of witchcraft.

So, what must we Christians do with a holiday that another religion celebrates as the “*festival of darkness*”?

As Bible-believing Christians, we give freedom to other religions to do as they see fit. But we must not associate with evil, in any way. We must live with great discernment in our time – because deception is increasing everywhere (See [2 Timothy 3:13](#)). We must nip the normalization of witchcraft early on and stand strong against every attempt of the devil to slip this religion of *Wicca* into our homes.

When another religion celebrates darkness and focuses on communicating with dead spirits, what does the Lord expect us to do? Can we just go along with the external fun of this holiday, when we know that at its core, this is a festival that explicitly glorifies the powers of darkness and the enemy of our souls?

The devil has masterfully sought to rebrand Halloween as harmless, so that he can encourage people into the blatant pursuit of evil. He did the same thing when he got Adam and Eve to sin ([Genesis 3:1-6](#)). October 31st is a day where darkness is openly and blatantly pursued. But many “*Christians*” drown themselves on that day in an ocean of candy and dress-up costumes. This is textbook deception: Satan is saying, “*I'll numb you with candy and gifts on Halloween, so that you are distracted from fighting the spiritual havoc I am causing through the glorification and open practice of witchcraft! And eventually, I will rob you even of eternal life.*” (Eternal life being the increasing knowledge of God and of Jesus – [John 17:3](#)).

I am convinced that only one group of people can fight these supernatural powers of darkness: *Christians who walk in the Light of God's Word alone are uniquely equipped to overcome these forces* ([1 John 1:3,7](#))!

So let the world call us narrow-minded or radical. We will remain alert and watchful against all deception. And we will teach our children also to be alert to these Satanic deceptions (even if their friends at school laugh at them or consider

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them weird). Satan seeks to work on children, slowly and craftily over the years, to the point where they will become increasingly comfortable with open darkness and evil. Our children need to learn from an early age how to combat Satan's deceptions; and our children are watching us, their parents, to see how we do it!

What shall we say then to Christians who want to celebrate Halloween? At a minimum, I would suggest that you clearly determine why and how you celebrate it. Ask yourself whether you would do things differently if you knew that your neighbors and the folks on your street were Wiccans celebrating the spirits of darkness on Halloween. Judge yourself and ensure that you walk in the light that God gives you. That is all that you are asked to do. You will be judged based on the motives and intents of your heart, and whether you lived by your conscience.

America as a culture seems to live mostly unaware of the spirit world. I have seen that cultures that are more open to idolatry, are much more aware of the spirit world. I grew up in India, and I saw witchcraft and evil spirits several times. I even watched as a neighbor hired a witch to sit in their backyard and cast spells on us (the spells didn't work and had an opposite effect; they served to show me the powerful protection available in Jesus Christ, who defeated Satan on the cross – Colossians 2:14-15)!

I will not be surprised if rationally obsessed people laugh off my thoughts about the spirit world. But that world is real and more powerful than most people imagine. And I don't base this statement on my own experience. The Bible is crystal clear about it. Our Lord Jesus drove out evil spirits from people more than anyone else did.

If I succeed in getting you to honor Jesus Christ on October 31st in a bigger way than before, then I would have achieved my primary purpose in writing this.

May God open your eyes more and more to these realities in the spirit world.

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The Price of Atonement
(Copyright) by Richard T. Ritenbaugh (Charlotte, North Carolina)

"Nothing that man can present to God by way of sacrifice can ever purchase the blessing of forgiveness."

—Charles H. Spurgeon

Like Luke in Acts 27:9, we tend to think of the Day of Atonement as "the Fast." Afflicting our souls by not eating and drinking for the entire 24-hour period looms large in our thoughts as the day approaches—and certainly as we are experiencing the hunger pangs as hour number 23 crawls along! Even so, the holy day is called "the Day of Atonement" (or "Day of Atonements," as the Hebrew word is plural) in Leviticus 23:27-28, which is its proper name. We can assume that, while we do fast, the concept of atonement takes precedence.

The instruction on the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 23:26-32 repeats certain words and phrases, emphasizing them. The repetition informs us about what God wants us to focus on:

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of *Atonement*. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of *Atonement*, to make *atonement* for you before the LORD your God. For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. And any person who does any

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work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath." (Emphasis ours.)



The word "atonement" is mentioned three times, once in verse 27 and twice in verse 28 (afflicting the soul and doing no work are also mentioned three times, but these are responses to the atonement). The first two mentions confirm "the Day of Atonement" as the proper name for this holy day. It is a special day, a day devoted to atonement.

The Hebrew word behind "atone" is *kāpar*, which means "to atone," "to propitiate," "to appease," "to pacify," or "to wipe clean." The root of this verb suggests the idea of covering. It is easy to see the link between *kāpar* and the name the Jews use for this day, *Yom Kippur*. The Day of Atonement is a day of covering.

Most uses of *kāpar* in the Old Testament are theological, describing God covering or purging sin through sacrifice. In one instance, though, when God instructs Noah about building the ark, He commands him to cover the ark with pitch (Genesis 6:14). We can discern what the word implies from this illustration. Obviously, Noah and his sons carefully coated the entire ark with pitch so no water could seep in. Their efforts were vital in saving their lives. A similar result occurs when sin is truly covered—it is hidden completely, and the sinner can continue living without guilt.

However, most of the Old Testament usages of *kāpar* possess the theological thought of covering over or atoning for sin by using the life blood of an animal sacrifice. A bull, goat, ram, or some other animal sanctified to be used as a sacrifice is killed, its blood drained out, and is offered to cover the sin. Yet we know from reading the New Testament that this ritual practice was not truly effective. Notice Hebrews 10:4: "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

This is a crucial principle in terms of the difference between the Old Covenant and the New: It is impossible for the blood of animals to take away sin. The author of Hebrews, probably the apostle Paul, means that a sacrifice greater than a mere bull or goat is required to remove the sin of a human being. In the centuries under the Old Covenant, all that happened when an Israelite offered an animal to God for his sins was that the sins were "covered," hidden from sight. We could say that they were ceremonially smoothed over. Paul calls "those sacrifices . . . a reminder of sins every year" (Hebrews 10:3), which God "did not desire, nor had pleasure in them" (Hebrews 10:8).

One thing that did not happen was their complete removal; the sins were not paid for, not forgiven. The blood of bulls and goats does not have what it takes to purge sin, to cleanse the guilt, to erase them completely. Conversely, under the New

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Covenant, sins are not only forgiven but also forgotten. As Paul goes on to write in Hebrews 10:17, quoting Jeremiah 31:34, a prophecy of the New Covenant, ". . . then He adds, 'Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.'"

There is a simple reason why an animal sacrifice is ineffective: The life of a bull or goat is not worth as much as the life of a man. A person cannot pay or trade for an item with something of lesser value. Even though a person might slaughter many bulls and goats to cover his sins, such a costly sacrifice still does not approach the price of a human life.

Imagine a person taking his beat-up 1984 Buick Skylark, with its ripped interior and faded paint—not to mention its 235,000 miles and its perpetual cloud of oil smoke—to a Porsche dealer, and saying, "I would like to trade my Skylark for the latest and greatest Porsche." No dealer in his right mind would go for that! Not even twenty such clunkers would be sufficient to pay for a Porsche.

In Genesis 2:17, God set the cost of sin: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." When someone sins, he comes under the death penalty; the punishment is his life! We cannot expect God to forgive sins for anything less. Although bulls and goats have life, and they have value, it is still well under the price of human redemption. It is a fact of life that a lesser thing cannot redeem a greater one.

To make eternal life possible for the sinner, the sacrifice must be worth at least as much or more than the sinner's life. A human, even if he gives his own life in payment for his sins in death, pays only for himself. There is no hope for anyone else or anything beyond his death. The person who would make such a payment makes a transaction: his life for his sins—and nothing remains.

So, a suitable, costly-enough sacrifice had to be offered so that the sins of mankind could not only be covered—as they were under the Old Covenant—but be completely paid for, forgiven, removed, and forgotten. The only worthy payment, of course, was the sinless life of the Creator God, who became flesh and dwelt among us—Jesus Christ (John 1:14). Only He has a value high enough to pay for everyone's sins and still have incalculable value to spare. So, because of who He is, our holy God, He could be raised again to life and become life for us (Romans 5:6-11).

That is the true price of atonement, which should be our focus on the Day of Atonement.

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Iron Sharpening Iron
(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)
New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Let Your Women KEEP SILENCE

Article by Rich Traver
Comments by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

Regarding the feedback on the **Women Keeping Silence** matter, it's apparent that many who have grown up in the religious culture of the time aren't aware of the situations being addressed. It was NOT that women took to the podium and gave the sermons. That isn't what was happening at all. Nor is the "authority issue" in the other reference addressing the same thing. Blending the two passages together allows a platform for a conclusion not originally intended. Flavoring the matter is the anti-woman polarization that existed in the Phariseean approach, where women weren't allowed to congregate with men in the Synagogue.

If that were appropriate, the early Church would have perpetuated it. That they didn't shows some understanding on their part.

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Paul's admonition reflected more the husband/wife relationship. Ask at home, rather than interrupting the speaker, which is more what was happening. I expect we would make the same judgment today if it were a problem.

But then, there's the unmarried women consideration. Are they exempt from Paul's instruction? They don't HAVE husbands. Seasoned widows might have a better spiritual condition than the younger wives. What of them? In fact, they might be more spiritually mature and knowledgeable than many husbands. Are they to be shunted aside merely for 'gender considerations'?

I asked someone who is negative toward women participating in a service if it would be appropriate for a woman to, say, lead a choir? That does involve a certain amount of "authority" over the men in the choir. He wouldn't answer because of the obvious answer. What about 'signing', playing the piano or leading in study?

I recall an incident at the Feast in Vail, Colorado in 1980. There was a woman from the Denver congregation who was leading the Feast Choir. Some apparently saw them in rehearsal and had some heartburn with that, so they had to 'replace' her with a man. Well, the man wasn't anywhere near as good as that woman, and it showed in the performances. But they thought it was sooo Biblical to crap on a trained professional over one who wasn't! (Ron Kelly was there that year, and likely agreed with the action!)

Can a woman be Church Treasurer, organize events, sing special music, sing out in services in congregational singing? Can she speak out when there's a prayer request or an update on someone's need? We have a local group where the attending women can't even comment in a Bible Study, except possibly thru her husband (if he is there and if she has one.) Can and should a woman 'succor' the afflicted, and lead others (men included) in addressing such needs? In our old culture, I expect they'd see need to replace her. (Read Romans 16:1-2). This lady was conducting a service to others where and she could use help, which Paul recommended she be given. The approach of some would be to push her aside and take over. Not that they could do her job any better.

In regard to: Let Your Women KEEP SILENCE

Article by Rich Traver

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Rich Traver writes:

Regarding the feedback on the **Women Keeping Silence** matter, it's apparent that many who have grown up in the religious culture of the time aren't aware of the situations being addressed. It was NOT that women took to the podium and gave the sermons. That isn't what was happening at all. Nor is the "authority issue" in the other reference addressing the same thing. Blending the two passages together allows a platform for a conclusion not originally intended. Flavoring the matter is the anti-woman polarization that existed in the Phariseean approach, where women weren't allowed to congregate with men in the Synagogue.

If that were appropriate, the early Church would have perpetuated it. That they didn't shows some understanding on their part.

Laura Lee writes:

The reason for calling it the Court of the Women was that, although it served both men and women equally, during the [Simchat Beit Hashoeva](#) (Water Drawing Festival) special balconies were installed for the women to stand upon. The [gemara](#) in Tractate [Sukkah](#) states that "initially, women would stand on the inside of the Court of the Women, closer to the Sanctuary to the west, and the men were on the outside in the courtyard and on the rampart. And they would come to conduct themselves with inappropriate levity in each other's company, as the men needed to enter closer to the altar when the offerings were being sacrificed and as a result they would mingle with the women. Therefore, the [Sages](#) instituted that the women should sit on the outside and the men on the inside, and still they would come to conduct themselves with inappropriate levity. Therefore, they instituted a ruling, in the interest of complete separation, that the women would sit above and the men below" (Sukkah 51b).

From: [Court of the Women - Wikipedia](#)

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There are a variety of reasons in Judaism that are used to justify gender separation to varying degrees.

In [Pirkei Avot](#) 1:5, Yosi ben Yochanan says that a man who spends too much time talking to women, even his wife, neglects the study of [Torah](#) and will inherit [gehinnom](#).^[1]

Chapter 152 of [Kitzur Shulchan Aruch](#) details a series of laws forbidding interaction between persons of the opposite sex who are not married or closely related.^[2] Some of the prohibitions include [negiah](#) (physical contact), [yichud](#) (isolation with members of the opposite sex), staring at women or any of their body parts or attire, or conversation for pleasure.

From: [Gender separation in Judaism - Wikipedia](#)

It seems that one of the reasons for the separation of men and women in the temple had nothing to do with the women, but with the lust of men.

[Court of the Women according to Josephus](#)^[edit]

According to the historian [Flavius Josephus](#) in his book [The Wars of the Jews](#) (Book 5, chapter 5), the Court of the Women had three gates, one from every direction. In his book ["Against Apion"](#) (Book 5, chapter 8), the Court of the Women was described as a courtyard that allowed both sexes to mix:

"Into the first court everybody was allowed to go, even foreigners, and none but women, during their courses, were prohibited to pass through it; all the Jews went into the second court, as well as their wives, when they were free from all uncleanness; into the third court (The Court of the Israelites) went in the Jewish men, when they were clean and purified.

From: [Court of the Women - Wikipedia](#)

This all sort of blows your theory of men and women not being allowed to congregate in the temple/synagogue.

In something else I read, it goes something like this: They wanted men to concentrate on the temple service so they separated them from the women, so the men could not see the women at all. However, the women were allowed to see the men. Men apparently have a well-known problem with lust and before you say "no" to that please remember King David who wanted Bathsheba so badly that he had her husband killed.

To say that all Pharisees are bad people would be the equivalent of saying all men are bad people. Each group has their good and their bad, so don't blame this separation solely on Pharisees, it is a man problem whether Pharisee or not.

Rich states:

Flavoring the matter is the anti-woman polarization that existed in the Phariseean approach, where women weren't allowed to congregate with men in the Synagogue.

It seems that this view is the opposite of the original view. Much of the reason for the separation of men and women in the temple was due to the lust of men. In order to get the men to focus on the service at hand they were separated from the women to keep them from looking at or lusting after women.

You don't state which scriptures were being blended to come to a wrong conclusion, but I believe most people blend 1 Corinthians 14:34-36, Timothy 2:11-15 and Genesis 3:16. And here is the problem with all three of these scriptures which is not a Phariseean problem but more of a men problem. Men use these three scriptures and a few others to keep all women from using their God given spiritual gifts within a church setting. They are used to show women are inferior to men when they are not. They are used to show that men have rulership over women when they do not. In other words, women are property to men and that comes to light very clearly if you have ever spent any time in a relationship with an abusive husband or boyfriend.

Rich Traver writes:

Paul's admonition reflected more the husband/wife relationship. Ask at home, rather than interrupting the speaker, which is more what was happening. I expect we would make the same judgment today if it were a problem.

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But then, there's the unmarried women consideration. Are they exempt from Paul's instruction? They don't HAVE husbands. Seasoned widows might have a better spiritual condition than the younger wives. What of them? In fact, they might be more spiritually mature and knowledgeable than many husbands. Are they to be shunted aside merely for 'gender considerations'?

Laura Lee writes:

The problem here is that 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 was not Paul's instruction to anyone. These two verses are a quote from a letter that the Corinthian church wrote to Paul and Paul disputed it in verse 36.

Rich Traver writes:

I asked someone who is negative toward women participating in a service if it would be appropriate for a woman to, say, lead a choir? That does involve a certain amount of "authority" over the men in the choir. He wouldn't answer because of the obvious answer. What about 'signing', playing the piano, or leading in study?

Laura Lee writes:

I am not surprised you got no response. Generally, men who are opposed to women doing anything in church make themselves look like fools if they respond and can continue to hold on to their utopian world where men are kings and women are slave girls waiting on them hand and foot if they only keep their mouth shut especially in front of other men where is found a mixed bag where some treat women as equals and others do not.

Rich Traver writes:

I recall an incident at the Feast in Vail, Colorado in 1980. There was a woman from the Denver congregation who was leading the Feast Choir. Some apparently saw them in rehearsal and had some heartburn with that, so they had to 'replace' her with a man. Well, the man wasn't anywhere near as good as that woman, and it showed in the performances. But they thought it was sooo Biblical to crap on a trained professional over one who wasn't! (Ron Kelly was there that year, and likely agreed with the action!)

Laura Lee writes:

Do you yet see how cruel some men are to women? Next time you see this happen tell the men to take "Pepto Bismol" for their heartburn and they will eventually get over the fact that women can do some things better or equal to men.

Rich Traver writes:

Can a woman be Church Treasurer, organize events, sing special music, sing out in services in congregational singing? Can she speak out when there's a prayer request or an update on someone's need? We have a local group where the attending women can't even comment in a Bible Study, except possibly thru her husband (if he is there and if she has one.) Can and should a woman 'succor' the afflicted, and lead others (men included) in addressing such needs? In our old culture, I expect they'd see need to replace her. (Read Romans 16:1-2). This lady was conducting a service to others where and she could use help, which Paul recommended she be given. The approach of some would be to push her aside and take over. Not that they could do her job any better.

Laura Lee writes:

Yes, it is perfectly fine for women to do all those things and more according to Christ.

Eph 4:11 And he (Christ) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **Eph 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

If you are a man and you get heartburn if a woman preaches whether in your home or from a pulpit perhaps you should ask yourself a better question. "Is she speaking the truth or is she speaking lies?" If she is speaking truth from the Bible, listen to her. If she is teaching lies that can't be found in the Bible dismiss her the same as you would a man in the same position who is speaking lies. The teachers, man or woman who are teaching truth from the Bible are doing it for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ.

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Parts of what you wrote here were hard to understand and some were confusing. So, if I did not address your issues, it was because I found them confusing or not clear as to what you were saying.

Below I will leave some items that cause some to get heartburn. If you don't believe me, look it up. Phebe was a minister/deacon.

Rom 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a **servant** of the church which is at Cenchrea: **Rom 16:2** That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also. (King James Version)

That word servant is Strong's #1249. If it means minister/deacon for men then it means the same for a woman.

διάκονος
diakonos

dee-ak'-on-os

Probably from **διάκω diakō** (obsolete, to *run* on errands; compare **G1377**); an *attendant*, that is, (generally) a *waiter* (at table or in other menial duties); **specifically a Christian teacher and pastor (technically a deacon or deaconess): - deacon, minister, servant.**

Rom 16:1 And I commend you to Phebe our sister—being a **ministrant** of the assembly that *is* in Cenchrea— **Rom 16:2** that ye may receive her in the Lord, as doth become saints, and may assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you—for she also became a leader of many, and of myself. (Young's Literal Translation)

Rom 16:1 But I commend to you Phoebe, our sister, who is **minister** of the assembly which is in Cenchrea; **Rom 16:2** that ye may receive her in *the* Lord worthily of saints, and that ye may assist her in whatever matter she has need of you; for **she** also has been a helper of many, and of myself. (Darby)

Rom 16:1 And I commend to you Phebe, our sister, who is in the **ministry** of the church, that is in Cenchrae: **Rom 16:2** That you receive her in the Lord as becometh saints and that you assist her in whatsoever business she shall have need of you. For she also hath assisted many, and myself also. (Douay-Rheims Bible)

Romans 16:1 I commend to you Phebe, our sister, who is a **deaconess** of the church that is in Cenchrea, **2** that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of saints, and that you aid her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she has been a helper of many, of myself also. (Codex Sinaiticus)

Also notice verse two where she also taught, directed or helped Paul in her leadership capacity, and he had not one problem with that. So, guys get rid of your heartburn meds and believe the Bible at long last. Women have just as much of a right to the gifts of the spirit as men do. We are all equal in Christ.

Announcements

Announcement from Zac Poonen (November 21, 2022)

MESSAGES

Listen to DAILY DEVOTIONS – a 10 minute inspirational message given by Zac Poonen every day at:

<https://cfcindia.com/daily-devotion>

Being Thankful for Everything at All Times (Zac Poonen)

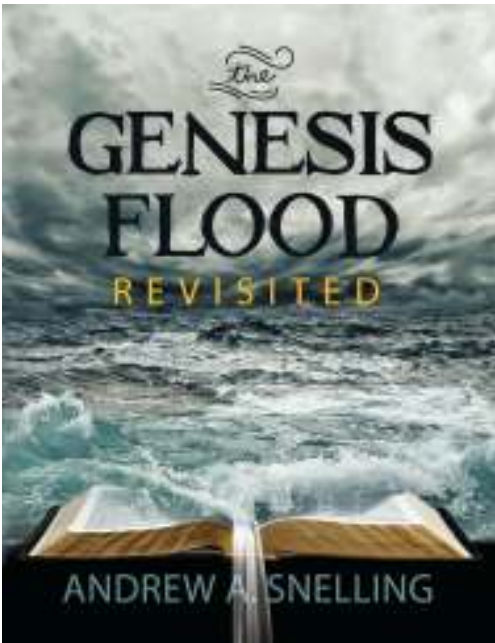
<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/being-thankful-for-everything-at-all-times>

Enter By the Door – True Faith (Ajay Chakravarthy)
<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/enter-by-the-door-true-faith>

CFC Bangalore
<https://cfcindia.com>

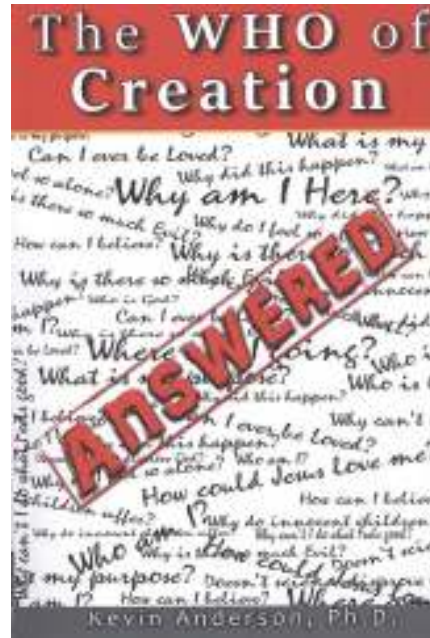
Ads

Ad from David Rives Ministries (November 22, 2022)



NEW! The Genesis Flood Revisited Book

[BUY THE BOOK](#)



The WHO of Creation ANSWERED Book

[BUY THE BOOK](#)

Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

2023 may be the year that brings Great changes to world travel – esp. for the Feasts
(Copyright) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

<https://leohohmann.com/2022/11/18/g20-leaders-agree-to-work-toward-mandatory-digital-health-passports-for-all-human-beings-this-will-kickstart-one-world-beast-system-experimented-with-during-covid/>

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I think the larger COGs and their members may well have to rethink and change what/how and where Feasts are done, and especially ministers who travel. Unless they are willing to get the 'jab' or be able to pass a physical, and what that portends for them individually. Hopefully they, and all, are up to speed on the issues.

Nuclear Sword of Damocles

(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

A nuclear attack against the U.S. is an imminent danger similar to the "sword of Damocles" of Greek mythology. Nuclear devastation will be the ultimate Greek tragedy. We cannot be lulled into a false sense of security against the unthinkable. We must not fall asleep at such a perilous time in history.

"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

The following short video details the reality of a nuclear conflict. The threat posed by hypersonic missiles is here to stay and could spell our demise in the near future as depicted in Revelation 8. This video is quite sobering and will supplement Scott Ritter's video described and linked in my previous message.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spnJ5WDgZnY>

Holy Days 2023

Passover – April 6, 2023 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Unleavened Bread – April 6-12, 2023

Pentecost – May 26, 2023

Trumpets - September 16, 2023

Atonement – September 25, 2023

Tabernacles –September 30, 2023 to October 6, 2023

Last Great Day – October 7, 2023