

A Quarterly Religious Journal

(Presented by email)

“LIGHT FOR OUR AGE”

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Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

Feature One: Editorial

God is Not Double Minded

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:8

If we are to find stability in any thing it is in God. His determination to save mankind has never wavered though man has disappointed him over and over again. The entire Biblical record illustrates this fact from the sin of Adam and Eve, to the rejection of Jesus by his own people. Still, through it all, God has been good to His word. He intends to save those that are found faithful in His Son's body, the church.

Colossians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Yet people today believe that God is double minded. They believe that whatever you want to do and/or believe will be acceptable to Him. If you want to believe that baptism is essential to salvation, God will accept that. If you want to believe that faith alone

is sufficient, then God will accept that. Now we have some that believe sincerity alone is enough to please God. Seemingly, what God said in His word is not important.

We were glad that He was true to His word when he sent Jesus to die for us. We want God to be true to His word when it comes to His determination to take the saved to heaven. We want Him to be true to His word when He promises to forgive us as many times as we sin. But some don't want Him true to His word when it comes to our doing our part.

There are those that do not want Him true to His word when it comes to obedience. At one time most that believed in "Christianity" believed that faith in Christ was essential to salvation. Now, even that is not true. The following quotation is an example of those that believe God is double minded in this way:

"Is it possible for a Muslim, who does not repent of his refusal to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that Christianity is the truest form of religion, to die in a state of grace and be saved? Yes, this is possible."

<http://ronconte.wordpress.com/2011/07/10/salvation-for-muslims/>

Many, however, believe that all that is necessary for salvation is

to have faith in Christ. Certainly we must have faith in Christ, but the only passage in the Bible that speaks of “faith only” is found in James 1:24 which reads, “Ye see that how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” In this text we are not speaking of the works of man, but the works of God. When God tells us to do something to receive a certain benefit, that work must be done. An example of this is Namaan of old. He was told to dip in the river Jordan to be cleansed of his leprosy. Believing it would work would not cleanse him. He had to do what God, through the prophet, told him to do. When he obeyed, he was cleansed.

God has told us that we must do the work of repentance. Luke 13:3 reads, “I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” Is God double minded? Does he mean what he says? What of baptism?

Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16. Is Jesus double minded? Is baptism necessary? Many of you know that my father was an English teacher at Freed-Hardeman University. He used grammar to explain the clearness of this text. He said to substitute the following for an exact grammatical comparison. “He that eateth and digesteth his food shall live, but he that eateth not shall die.” We can clearly see that if someone doesn’t eat, then there

will be nothing to digest. On the other hand, if one does not digest his food, he cannot survive. So too, if someone believes in the Lord, but refuses to do what he says in baptism will be lost. Jesus said it, and Jesus meant it.

Some people today believe that being in the church is unimportant. They might say something such as, I believe in God, but I don't want to be a part of any church. Is God double minded? In Acts 2:47 we see that the Lord added to the church those that were being saved. Also in Ephesians 5:23 the Bible reads as follows: "...Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body." If there is any confusion as to what is meant by "the body" the Bible defines it this way. "And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church...." Colossians 1:18. Is God double minded? Can one be saved if not in the church?

We know that God is not double minded. What he says, he does. We certainly do not want Him to be double minded and forget his promise to save us! Therefore, we need to be sure we remember that we must do what he tells us to do. He will remember those words as well.

Feature 2: an article by R. C. Oliver

September, 1955 Edition of Light Magazine

“THE LAW WAS OUR SCHOOLMASTER”

In Galatians 3:24 it is written: “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

I am convinced that a proper understanding of this passage will forever settle the question: Are Christians to be subject to the law which was given at Sinai, of which the ten commandments might well be thought of as its constitution, or are they to look to another law?

That Christians are not subject to the Ten Commandment law, but that they are to look to another law, is obvious to those who have analyzed the above text, particularly the term “schoolmaster,” which, to the average teacher, means imply a schoolteacher. But to so understand this term is to misunderstand it. What, then, I ask, is the meaning of the term?

The word which we have translated *schoolmaster* is from the Greek word *paidagogos* and means “a child conductor,” and not a school teacher. The *paidogogos* was one who conducted the child

from the home to the school, but never was he allowed to enter the schoolroom. For the *paidogogos* to have entered the schoolroom would have meant his death. That this is true may be seen from a quotation from *Barnes General History*, page 178, which is as follows:

“*The Athenian Boy* of good family was sent to school when seven years old, the school-hours being from sunrise to sunset. Until he was sixteen he was attended in his walks by a *pedagogue*, --usually some trusty, intelligent slave, too old for hard work, --who never entered the study room, no visitors, except near relatives of the master, being allowed therein on penalty of death.”

From this quotation it is obvious to all that the school master's work was not that of teaching, but of conducting—conducting the child from the home to the school. His function began at the home, and ended upon his arrival with the boy at the school. Now to the application.

The purpose or function of *the* law was that of leading the children of God from shaking Sinai to Christ and the church, but under no consideration is the law to be allowed admittance into the church as a guide or instructor there; this prerogative belongs only to Christ! The work of the law began at Sinai, and it ended at the

church. It must not be allowed to enter the church! And with this view the scriptures are in agreement, for it is written: “19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; ...24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. Galatians 3:19, 24-25.

But someone objects by saying: “Why, if we are not to be subject to the ten commandment law, then we can bear false witness, take God’s name in vain, commit adultery *et cetera*.” But this is a false conclusion, drawn from false premises; for though it is true that Christians are not amenable to the law given on Mt. Sinai, yet that does not argue that they are not to be amenable to any law at all. In fact, the very opposite of this is true: Christians are continually “*under the law to Christ*.” 1 Corinthians 9:21. And though this law, which is “the law of the Spirit of life,” prohibits many of the same acts that the former law prohibited, yet it is not the same law, but is an entirely different law, which has been given to a different people, and which serves a different purpose.

I unhesitatingly admit that the two laws, the law from Sinai and the law from Jerusalem, are similar; however, similarity does not prove identity. The two laws are similar, but no identical! The law of

Kentucky and the law of West Virginia are similar, but they are not identical, They are two different laws, for two different groups of people, And so it is which the law from Sinai, and the law from Zion. “Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

Feature 3: Sandy’s Women’s Corner

RESPECT

Just this morning, I saw a headline on the morning news. It read, “Parents have failed to teach their children about finances”. Watching some of our young people and even our young couples, I certainly agree. But as much as I am disturbed by the fact that parents have failed to teach children about finances, I believe parents have failed to teach their children the meaning of honor and respect.

Honor means esteem and respect, and the Bible is very plain as to whom honor and respect are due. Let’s look at just a few of the instructions regarding this important command.

First, children should learn to show respect for God. In

Chronicles 16:25 we read, "For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: He also is to be feared (respected) above all gods." There is no one that deserves our honor more than God, the Father.

Revelation 4:11 says, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power..."

Children need to learn what they need to do to show respect to God. They need to be taught the reverence due God as we gather together to worship Him. They need to show reverence as we bow to pray, whether in worship or other places. They need to show respect for the name of God by not taking His name in vain., using profanity or euphemisms, telling dirty jokes or using other obscene language. They need to learn to honor God by the way they dress since our bodies are the temple of God, I Corinthians 6:19.

Second, children should learn to honor and respect their parents. God included instructions when He gave the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:12, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee". He repeats this in Deuteronomy 5:16, "Honor thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee".

How the children of Israel treated their parents would determine how things would be with them in the land of Canaan.

The instructions to the Jews were very plain. Deuteronomy 21:18-21 tells us that if a child was stubborn and rebellious and refused to obey his parents, he would be stoned. What must God think of the rebellious children today who show no respect for their parents?

Finally, we are all instructed to show respect to the elders. I Timothy 5:17 tells us that elders are worthy of double honor if they “labor in the word and doctrine”. The inference is that elders are worthy of honor, and those that teach are worthy of double honor.

Hebrews 13:7 says, “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow considering the end of their conversation.” Our elders have the responsibility to instruct us and watch for our souls. We have the responsibility to show them honor and respect. Are we teaching our children to respect these men?

I hear many of our young people, and even adults, make fun of those that show us things we need to make right in our lives. How sad it is when God’s people dishonor those that are chosen to guide our souls.

I think about Elisha in II Kings 2. Elisha's authority was challenged by a group of children (probably young men). They made fun of him by saying, "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head". Elisha cursed them in the name of the Lord, and God punished them by having them killed by two she bears.

I hear our young people refer to our elders, deacons, preachers and other adults by their first names. I know this is just the way "everyone" talks, but I wonder if that is the best way to teach our children to show respect and honor.

We should let God's Word be our guide when we teach our children about respect. It is not about what the world does, but what a child of God should do.

Feature 4: Our Communication:

I Tossed It!

Some years ago I was teaching a class of middle school students. The bell had rung and I was outside in the hall. Just as I walked up to my door, I saw one of my students through a paper wad at a fellow student. I decided to just remind the student that this was

not proper behavior. When I entered the room I ask the class who threw the paper. While I knew who threw it, I wanted this young man to own up to it. There was silence in the room. I asked again. Again silence. I only had twelve student in the class, so I decided to just go around the room and ask them individually. I called on this student last with the question, "Did you throw the paper?" He responded that he did not do it. That did upset me. I wasn't angry that he threw the paper, but I was angry that he lied to me. I then told him that I saw him throw the paper. He responded that he did not throw it, he just "tossed" it.

We need to be careful that we do not become dishonest by trying to mislead by our words. One man was overheard on the phone telling his boss that he wouldn't be at work because he was sick. The person in the room looked over at him confused. He was not sick at all. He then laughingly remarked, "I am sick of work." Remember, one of the things that God hates is a liar. Proverbs 6:16-17.

Feature 5: Bible Questions

A Question from Light Magazine

February, 1955

R.C. Oliver

“What is our explanation of such passages as Mark 9:38-40?
Are the denominations justified in this?”

Mark 9:38-40 “And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. 39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. 40 For he that is not against us is on our part.”

Certainly the division produced by denominationalism is not here justified. Please notice that this stranger was doing what he was doing in the name of Christ. John also was doing the work he was doing in the name of Christ. They were both therefore working by the same rule, but were simply strangers to each other, There are many Christians who are teaching in the name of Christ today who are strangers to me; however, the fact that I do not know them, or that they do not follow me as their leader, does not give me the right to forbid them to preach the gospel of our Lord Nothing more than this is

intended here.

Humor:

After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice,

"Who was THAT?"

In Closing:

The Bible speaks of “seasons of refreshing” (ASV) in Acts 3:19. The following too I have found to be a “season of refreshing” in Bible study, worship and fellowship. I would encourage you to plan to attend this year.

Christian Training Series Offers "Continuing

Education" for Christians

Freed-Hardeman University's Christian Training Series is "continuing education for Christians," according to Director Sam Hester. Set for July 10-14, the annual event includes classes for men and women, devotional periods, fun and fellowship. This year's theme is "Set Apart for God's Purpose."

The registration deadline is June 24. A deposit of \$25 is due at the time of registration, or, registrants may pay the entire \$75 fee at that time. Those interested may see a video about CTS or read the brochure, simply by going to fhu.edu/cts. Attendees may register as individuals or as a church group for one congregational fee.

Open to all Christian adults, CTS provides the environment, opportunity, and motivation for spiritual growth, organizers say. "Don't rest your body but neglect your soul. Make four days in Henderson a part of your summer vacation," Hester says.

In the Master's service,

Bob Oliver