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Making A Difference

the monthly online magazine from
Beloved King Ministries

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

**A NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN INTERNET MINISTRY
DEDICATED TO PROMOTING BIBLICAL TRUTHS NOT TAUGHT BY MAINSTREAM RELIGION**

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**Whoever has my commandments and obeys them,
he is the one who loves me.**

John 14:21

GREETINGS and BLESSINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

Whether you are reading your very first "Making a Difference" or you have been a member of the Beloved King Ministries' flock for some time, I extend a special welcome to you and hope that you are uplifted by the inspirational contributions sent from all around the world for us to share. Be you are a regular correspondent or a passive reader who has enjoyed receiving our magazine each month I want you to know that you are prayed for every single day. I love every single one of you and praise God for you.

I want to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to **all** the Spirit-filled folk who have taken the time and effort to share items with us and especially to those dear people who have given of their personal harvest to help this ministry financially. If YOU have something that

you believe is worth sharing, please take a moment to send it to us.

I pray that God will abundantly bless you, that your prayers and petitions to Him will be heard and that you and those most dear to you will experience the touch of the Holy Spirit as never before. Where understanding has been difficult, I pray that the clouds of darkness will be lifted and that the full light of Jesus will shine through so that His truth shall prevail in wonderful new ways.

I pray especially for those of you who are sick or infirm or distressed. May the Lord's compassion uplift you to new heights because, by His stripes, you HAVE BEEN healed. In the name of Jesus, I banish Satan and his lying servants, masquerading as angels of righteousness, from the lives of everyone who reads this magazine.

David R Holt

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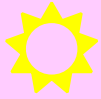
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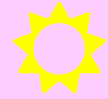
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EDITORIAL



What Love!

As our Saviour hung dying on that ghastly Roman cross, when He could have been screaming in agony and cursing His persecutors He simply said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing.” What amazing love is that? No wonder hymn-writer Charles Wesley penned, “Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou, my God, should die for me?”

No one in his or her right mind could claim that we deserve what Jesus did for us – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23). So why did He do it? The answer can, of course, be summed up in that single word – LOVE. “For God SO loved the world [that means EVERYONE!], that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have life everlasting.” (John 3:16).

Think about it this way: Those of us who are parents should understand the unique emotions that accompany parenthood. When our children misbehave, we don’t automatically stop loving them and hate them. Very sadly, there have been many situations where a person has behaved so despicably to his or her parents that they do reach a point where all love dies and hatred takes over. There are even stories in the Bible of kings and rulers who slaughtered their own sons because they rebelled against them and, in so doing, became a threat to their position. But God is not like that.

Even when His senior angel, Lucifer threatened HIS position and rebelled against Him, God allowed the angels to make a choice as to whom they would follow. Why didn’t God simply annihilate Lucifer in one fatal stroke? He certainly could have! The answer is, again, summed up in that single word, LOVE. No one can know the emotions God felt when Lucifer turned against Him. Did He burn with vengeful anger or was he heartbroken? I believe it was the latter. The reason I believe that is because God *didn’t* simply destroy Lucifer. You see, God’s love is not fickle – He LOVED His senior angel so how could He just callously destroy him?

You can follow the story in Revelation 12 where we read about how there was war in heaven. This was a war of sedition resulting from Lucifer’s proposition that all of creation didn’t need an omnipotent ruler or, perhaps more significantly, that HE could be the ruler. In essence, Lucifer began a power struggle in which he accused God of being despotic. We read how Lucifer and his supporters weren’t strong enough to beat God’s supporters led by His loyal angel Michael. So God changed Lucifer’s name to Satan which, in the Hebrew tongue, means “accuser,” and In His infinite mercy, banished Lucifer from the kingdom of heaven to a small planet in the Milky Way galaxy that His Son, Yahweh had recently established at His command.

Let’s take a detailed look at the announcement from heaven in Revelation 12:10-12.

“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

¹¹ They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

¹² Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them!

But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you!

He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

From these few lines we learn that our first parents, Adam and Eve were, at first, innocent bystanders to this conflict. Scripture doesn’t tell us whether Satan was cast down before or after they were created but it does suggest that Satan didn’t waste much time in moving in on them. Of course, we must bear in mind that, until they disobeyed their Creator, Adam and Eve were immortal in the image of God and so they *may* have lived in Eden for centuries before Satan tricked them. We ARE told that Adam lived for 930 years (Genesis 5:5) and Satan deceived him before he had any offspring. Whatever the details though, the war took place in heaven not here on earth.

This prompts the question that many ask. “Where is heaven?” In the context of the above passage, it is what is sometimes called “the third heaven” that is referred to. The ‘first heaven’ is what scientists today call the biosphere – that is, the earth’s atmosphere where birds fly – more often referred to in Scripture as “the air.” The ‘second heaven’ is space where the stars are. Man has now managed to go there in a very small way (considering the vastness of it). In the English language we use the word *sky* to refer to the combination of the first and the second heavens. The ‘third heaven’ is where God lives and the Bible doesn’t tell us where that is precisely. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:2 about “a man he knew” (most likely himself) being taken to the ‘third heaven’ – which he also described as “Paradise” – and then wrote that he was not permitted to tell about it.

We are told the God instructed Moses to make a tabernacle – a sort of portable temple – as a dwelling place for Him and then, when the Israelites eventually settled in the Promised Land, Solomon oversaw the construction of a permanent dwelling place for God. We are also told that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) and that, when we accept Jesus as our Saviour, God lives within us. When Jesus spoke about leaving His

disciples, He said, "In my Father's house there are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am." (John 14:2, 3). And in Revelation 21 we read that the first earth and heaven will pass away and be replaced by a new heaven and earth. In his vision, John saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven. In this context, he was referring to the sky.

But the real point is that it doesn't matter where the third heaven is. Suffice to say that it is where God and His loyal angels live. Scripture tells us that the true tabernacle set up by God Himself is there where Jesus is presently serving in the sanctuary as High Priest at His Father's right hand (Hebrews 8:2).

Returning to Revelation 12:10-12 we are able to glean some extremely interesting points from those few lines. Remember that John, the writer of Revelation, was referring to a vision he received of the final days of THIS earth's existence and so, where he wrote that the salvation of the kingdom of God had come, it was prophetically futuristic.

Next we see that Satan was HURLED down. He didn't take his sentence – banishment to earth – willingly! Once he had been exposed as a traitor, Satan made it his singular mission to accuse God's loyal servants without let-up – as the Scripture says, he accuses "our brothers" day and night before God. What does this mean? Well, as we all know, Satan succeeded in duping Adam and Eve into disobedience and in so doing, gained by forfeit the dominion of the whole earth that their Creator had given to them. Adam and Eve's first child was also the world's first murderer and Satan revelled in it! He took extreme pleasure in telling God what a dismal failure His beloved creation was. There was even a point where God decided that enough was enough and determined to destroy everything Yahweh had made in a huge flood. But then he saw that there was ONE man who had not fallen under the accuser's spell. That man was Noah and, were it not for his loyalty to God, none of us would be here now.

However, whilst mankind was busy proving itself to be weak and fallible, the loyal angels were busy proving that they were superior to Satan and his followers. Personally, I believe that God held His Son Yahweh accountable for the failure of His creation which is why ONLY Yahweh – who, of course, became Jesus when He took on human form (see Matthew 1:21) – could make atonement for sin. I believe that God asked His Son, "How much do you love your creation? Do you love them enough to take the place of ALL of them and pay the wages of their disobedience ("sin") for every last one of them? And Yahweh said, "Yes, Father. I do!" And He did! In the end, the entire burden of human sin fell on their Creator who, as the Scripture says, "overcame the accuser by His blood and the word of the testimony of the loyal angels and who did not love his life so much as to shrink from death."

Nowhere does the Bible say that the population of this earth is God's ONLY living creation and, as the first part of verse 12 clearly tells us, the whole universe is closely watching events here on this earth to see how God overcomes the adversary. Satan has repeatedly demonstrated that he is the epitome of everything evil (did you notice that his description as devil is "evil" with just one letter added and God is just one letter short of the word "good" and, even though that is only in the English language – not the language of the Scriptures – it's an amazing coincidence isn't it!) and it is undoubtedly the desire of all creation to see evil totally and finally eliminated.

So, for all you sci-fi enthusiasts and "trekkies" out there, yes, there ARE extra-terrestrials. The only thing that the movie-makers and science fiction writers got all wrong is that they are not the least bit hostile. The ONLY hostile beings in the entire universe live right here on THIS planet! "Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to YOU!"

Finally, we see that Satan is furious because he already knows he is beaten. On that first Easter Sunday morning, when Jesus' tomb lay empty, Satan finally knew without any doubt that he was done for. Jesus had paid the penalty for every single person that Satan had defiled with his lies and deceptions and He did it BECAUSE HE LOVES US.

What does this tell us? It tells us that the love of God passes all understanding because, even though we let Him down every single day, He was STILL prepared to buy our salvation. It tells us that the suffering Servant, Jesus was willing to take OUR place on that cross.

No, Satan isn't quite done yet. Even though he knows he is doomed, he hasn't given up. Before Jesus returns to take His loyal and obedient children to be with Him where He is and where He has prepared a place for them, Satan wants to drag as many as he possibly can into his pit of destruction. But whether he succeeds or not isn't up to him – in your case, IT'S UP TO YOU! As Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." Do you REALLY love Jesus? Do you love Him half as much as He loves you? For YOU, He died a terrible and agonising death and all He asks of you is that you obey a few very simple commandments.

SO HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY LOVE HIM? By your fruit you shall be known!

DRH

Quote of the Month

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil,
but because of those who look on and do nothing.

~Albert Einstein~

Food For Thought

Only a Quarter

Shared by Nancy Wall

Several years ago, a new preacher moved to Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking lately about going to worship somewhere. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church next Sabbath."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter!"

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really almost scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

This month we welcome

Joanne Lowe

Host of

From the Heart of Jesus

from Pensacola, Florida, USA as our newest contributor.

See page 12 for two of her devotionals

Still He Walked

Shared by Julie Sanders

He could hear the crowds screaming "crucify" "crucify" ...
He could hear the hatred in their voices,
These were his chosen people.

He loved them,
And they were going to crucify him.
He was beaten, bleeding and weakened... his heart was broken,
But still He walked.

He could see the crowd as he came from the palace.
He knew each of the faces so well.
He had created them.
He knew every smile, laugh, and shed tear,
But now they were contorted with rage and anger...his heart broke,
But still He walked.

Was he scared?
You and I would have been.
So his humanness would have mandated that he was. He felt alone.
His disciples had left, denied, and even betrayed him.
He searched the crowd for a loving face and he saw very few.
Then he turned his eyes to the only one that mattered
And he knew that he would never be alone.
He looked back at the crowd, at the people who were spitting
at him, throwing rocks at him and mocking him and he knew
that because of him, they would never be alone.
So for them, He walked.

The sounds of the hammer striking the spikes echoed through
The crowd. The sounds of his cries echoed even louder,
The cheers of the crowd, as his hands and feet
Were nailed to the cross, intensified with each blow.
Loudest of all was the still small voice inside his
Heart that whispered "I am with you, my son",
And God's heart broke.
He had let his son walk.

Jesus could have asked God to end his suffering,
But instead he asked God to forgive.
Not to forgive him, but to forgive the ones who were persecuting him.
As he hung on that cross, dying an unimaginable death,
He looked out and saw, not only the faces in the crowd,
But also, the face of every person yet to be,
And his heart filled with love.
As his body was dying, his heart was alive.
Alive with the limitless, unconditional love he feels for each of us.
That is why He walked.

When I forget how much My God loves me,
I remember his walk.
When I wonder if I can be forgiven,
I remember his walk.
When I'm reminded of how to live like Christ,
I think of his walk.
And to show him how much I love him,
I wake up each morning, turn my eyes to him,
And I walk.



The Sherry Walter Message

The Church in Thyatira!

With Job Anbalagan

Revelation 2:18-23

¹⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; ¹⁹ I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. ²⁰ **Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, 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.** ²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²² Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Today the church of Thyatira is in our Midst. It is typical of those churches who are known for their works, charity and service, faith, patience. "The Lord knows thy works, charity, service, faith, and thy patience and thy works **and the last to be more than the first**". But there is a category of ministers in these churches who teach some false doctrines through which the Lord's sheep are permitted to commit fornication and to sacrifice to idols. The Holy Spirit calls the saints in these churches "My servants". Every child of God under the New Covenant is supposed to be His servant. This category of ministers who call themselves prophets/prophetesses mislead the Lord's servants in these churches. The Lord's judgment on these false teachers will be very harsh because they seduce His servants to commit fornication and to sacrifice to idols.

We have countless false teachers who call themselves prophets/ prophetess who seduce the children of God to commit fornication/adultery and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. These false prophets do not speak against fornication/adultery at all, **THEY ONLY ENDORSE IT. Many are fornicators and adulterers themselves!** Just to hide their own sins, they tell others that adultery and fornication are not sins at all, and that the Lord knows that since they (the people of God) have needs, God would not want them to live alone, and instead, would encourage re-marriage after divorce with a living spouse. They teach the people of God that if fornication is committed by a spouse, the aggrieved spouse is free to seek divorce in a court of law and to remarry after divorce (Matthew 19:9). They speak **LIES, LIES, LIES** in the name of Jesus Christ!

The children of God believe these false teachers because they do not know the word of God! **They never read it for themselves! They just believe and trust in what they are told to do by these false prophets.** They believe in the books that they are buying and reading from these false prophets. Many run from website to website to get the latest *new* prophetic word, digesting whatever they read, not even knowing if it lines up with the scriptures. Nor do they know the lives of these so called prophets/prophetess. They do not know if they live righteous **HOLY** lives or if they live in sin. They "assume" they live righteous lives. Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I, the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me: (Deuteronomy 5:9). **Anyone who puts self, or MAN, before God hates God!!! One cannot believe his own truth or another's truth; one must believe the *only* Truth, for He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! Find HIS truth in the Word of God only! READ IT FOR YOURSELVES!**

God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserveth wrath for His enemies: (Nahum 1:2)

The members in the Thyatira church never search the scriptures for themselves. If they did they would not be so easily deceived. **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14).**

Books, tapes, false doctrine, everything is consumed in the Thyatira church except THE WORD OF GOD! But Jesus answered and said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4)." The people of God should live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. These days, the people of God covet only some promises of God regarding financial or material prosperity or healing.

The people who dwell within the Thyatira church are eating things that are sacrificed to idols. Idols need not be objects of worship. There are idols in the form of Mammon, images of servants of God, etc. The people in this church are exhorted to sacrifice to these idols. They are supposed to sacrifice at the altar of God by ministering to the poor saints and by giving their offerings to mission and evangelism. The false teachers

within the system of Thyatira church covet the "tithes" of God's people for promoting their own ministries/churches. Let us understand as to how they are eating the things sacrificed to these idols. One offers his sacrifice to God at His altar out of his material possession. If he offers to someone other than God, it amounts to sacrifice to idols. By virtue of his offering to idols, his material possession out of which he sacrifices gets contaminated or becomes unholy. He thus enjoys or eats the things sacrificed to idols so long as his material possession does not get sacrificed at the altar of God.

THEY DO NOT OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. JUST BEFORE HIS ASCENSION INTO THE HEAVEN, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF COMMANDED HIS DISCIPLES TO TEACH THE PEOPLE **TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER HE HAD COMMANDED THEM** (Matt.28:20). BUT THESE FALSE TEACHERS SAY THAT THE COMMANDMENT OF JESUS CHRIST REGARDING MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE IS LIKENED TO THE LAW OF MOSES AND IS NOT BINDING ON THEM. **"IF ANY MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS; AND MY FATHER WILL LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, AND MAKE OUR ABODE WITH HIM"** (John 14:23).

The deepest revelation you will ever find is to know how to love JESUS with all your heart, strength, soul and mind wanting nothing for yourself, but surrendering all to Him. If you love Jesus, you have to obey His commandments and to walk in His footsteps and follow Him.

THE PEOPLE IN THIS CHURCH CONTINUE LIVING IN SIN WITH NO TRUE REPENTANCE **BY FORSAKING THEIR SINS**. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, 'The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire' (2 Peter 2:22).

The Lord has given the Thyatira church a space (i.e.: time frame) to repent, but she repented **NOT** because she does not think she is in any sin at all, because she knows **NOT** the truth in the word of God. **THEY DO NOT REPENT OF THEIR DEEDS**.

She does not live by EVERY word of God, but lives by certain portions of the word, especially, those words which suit her life style. She lives by what she has been taught by the false teachers, without searching the scriptures herself to even see if what she is doing lines up with God's word or not. "What thing so ever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deuteronomy 12:32)

When she does reads God's word, it is only to suit her sins by adding her own interpretation to the scriptures, by adding what SHE WANTS IT TO SAY as to make herself feel better, so that she is not **CONVICTED** of her **ABOMINABLE SINS!** **When she hears the truth she rejects it, because it PRICKS her hardened heart.** Conviction **SHOULD** lead to repentance, but in the Thyatira church it does not! The Lord sends her the sign of Jonah the prophet. **And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, 'This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet:'** (Luke 11:29)

The Thyatira church is deceived by the spirit of Jezebel.

The spirit of Jezebel is very active in their midst. It is a spirit of deception that works through many servants of God who call themselves prophets/prophetesses. They teach from the Bible justifying marriages by divorcees during the life time of the spouses divorced quoting from the Law of Moses. These false teachers seduce the people of God to commit fornication. Many people of God have fallen into this snare. God hates this abominable sin in the Body of Christ. In these last days, the Antichrist thus sets up the abomination of desolation in the Most Holy Place. God is raising up a small group of His servants, Elijahs, to fight against this spirit of Jezebel.

The Jezebel spirit, which is evident in the Thyatira church calls evil **GOOD** and good **EVIL**: (Isaiah 5:20) **WOE unto her!!!! O the Lord shall repay her! She WILL be cast into a bed and THEM who commit adultery WITH HER into great tribulation EXCEPT they REPENT of their deeds!** God will **KILL** her children with **DEATH** and all the churches shall know that He which searches the reins and heart will give unto every one of you **ACCORDING to your works!**

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; (Romans 1:28)

O RUN from the GREAT WHORE!!!! Get away from her NOW!!! Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. (Proverbs 5:5)

And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH:** (Revelation 17:5)

HEED TO GODS WARNING IN HIS WORD! DO NOT HOLD TO THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN!

Revelation 2:24- 29

²⁴ **But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.** ²⁵ But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. ²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

The Holy Spirit wants the rest of the people in this church not to be deceived by these false teachers who are in their midst. The Holy Spirit warns them because they do not know the depths of Satan who is influencing these false teachers who have the spirit of Jezebel. The Holy Spirit does not give them any other burden except not to fall into the snare of the Devil through such false prophets/prophetesses who teach them to commit fornication/adultery.



MAILBOX



Re: Ecumenism

Dear Sir,

I am writing concerning Bernard K's letter (April 2006) and your reply to it.

What right do you have to say that certain churches (and their members) are apostate? I have been in churches on Sunday where I see people kneeling with hands reverently folded and the very same people unashamedly ripping off their fellow humans in business for the rest of the week. Surely this is doing a lot more harm to God than WHICH church a believer attends.

Jesus often told his followers to be united in love. The Bible says, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Rom. 10:9). Do you disagree with this? According to you, there is more to it than that. How do you justify this?"

Enid W. [edited]

Dear Enid,

Firstly, I couldn't agree with you more about the harm that the people you describe do to Christianity. But you know, I believe we all do that to some degree without even realising it. Maybe we don't, as you put it, deliberately rip people off in our business activities but, for example, how many times do we "cut corners" in order to be competitive? When you think about it, NOT doing so could be commercial suicide. What I mean here is that a lot more people drive inexpensive family cars that have a life expectancy of less than ten years these days and yet there are cars made long before much of today's technology existed that are still giving reliable service after forty years which proves that it can be done. The point is that, to make a car today that has the same longevity as those older models would cost more than the average family would be prepared to pay. You may say, "We paid it than so why not now?" but, if you actually do the sums, you'll find that you DIDN'T pay it then.

In 1973 I purchased a brand new car that I still see many examples of on the road now, over thirty years later whilst there are later models of the same car that I haven't seen for quite some time. I would suggest that, wherever you live, you can see examples of this. In 1973, that car cost about \$4250. The current version of the same car (as close as is possible) costs \$29,000. However, in 1973 the average annual income for a typical working person was about \$4000 whilst, today, it is around \$50,000. So the car 33 years ago cost just over a year's income whilst the latest one only costs around 7 months income. Not only that though, the latest model has climate-controlled air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, air bags, comfortable bucket seats (as opposed to a hard bench seat and column change!), surround-sound stereo with CD stacker, electronic fuel injection giving MUCH better fuel economy to name but a few (I'm no mechanic!). I would suggest that, if the two vehicles were made at the same time now, the latest one would be well worth at least twice as much as the older one. BUT (and here's the point), in thirty five year's time you'd be very hard-pressed to find one of the latest models whilst the older one would, as I have said, be still around in droves. That's because the latest one uses much thinner steel for the body and so, after a few years, it will be rusted away. But that's one way that the latest one offers much better fuel consumption. Not only that though, the older model has none of the technological advances (some, I might agree, not all that desirable) but it is a fact of life that people want all the "bells and whistles" today. This is commonly known as "built-in obsolescence" and is evident in just about everything mechanical we purchase. What's the attraction in driving a car that will last you the rest of your life when it has none of technology's amazing advances?

So are the manufacturers "ripping off" their customers by producing products that have a life-expectancy way below what is easily possible? I believe not. My late father often used to say that he would love to own a Rolls Royce because he would never have to buy another car again. GREAT! Go and have a close look at a fifty-year-old Rolls. Would you really want to be driving that today? NO climate control, No power steering (and the thing weighs about three tons!): About five miles to the gallon of top-grade petrol (producing the WORST exhaust emissions by the way). Aerodynamically it is appalling! Oh yes, it is VERY comfortable – it should be for the price (about ten years average income!) but it is STILL a fifty-year-old car!

Another way that manufacturers have managed to keep prices down whilst still producing good products is by automation of the production lines. This is, again, made possible by technological advances in things like assembly-line robots. But there's a price. That price is jobs. Robotising and streamlining production lines means that more can be made with less people. When a large manufacturer announces that there are big staff-cuts, there is usually a huge media furor. We see weeping wives on TV bewailing the fact that they have children to feed and bills to pay and the media inevitably portrays the company as heartless and mercenary. What they rarely mention is that, WITHOUT the modernisation that allows the company to remain competitive in the world market, the company would probably have to close down and EVERYONE would lose their jobs. So I suggest that, before getting all uptight about callous employers having no compunction about laying workers off, the public should consider the alternatives. And when doing that, that same public should also consider VERY

CAREFULLY whether they would by the company's products if the technological advances weren't incorporated thus keeping the price competitive. And before anyone says that they would, I would also like to suggest that you look at the labels in the clothing you're wearing right now and see how much of it was made in China! If any was, then I have to ask, are YOU, as a Christian, "ripping off" your fellow countrymen and women by not patronising only domestic products? I rest my case!

Now, having said all this, let me also state that there ARE plenty of people who do rip off their customers in that they cut corners unnecessarily just to make a few extra bucks for themselves. This particularly applies to tradespeople (as opposed to mass-producers as already discussed). We have all heard about such things as house painters who water down the paint and prey on elderly folk who have no idea that the job they are paying a "going rate" for is dramatically inferior. I don't really believe that a professed Christian would do such a thing and, if you know of one who does, then I strongly suggest that you immediately speak to his pastor about it. Such a person needs to be publicly exposed before his peers and required to answer for his actions. But, you know, that sort of practice soon gains a reputation and, eventually, those people are brought down by their own efforts. When a professed Christian does that, as you say Enid, it is very unfortunate that observers (especially non-Christians) immediately relate such crooks' business activities to their Christian ones. That is why I admonish anyone who knows of such a case to speak to their church leaders about it. If you are thinking that "dobbing-in" a church brother or sister is "un-Christian" I suggest that you prayerfully take it to the Lord, make absolutely sure you have your facts right and simply speak – without doing so judgementally – to your pastor. After all, HE is supposed to be God's representative here on earth and, as such, has a duty to "the Boss."

When the dishonest tradesperson is a member of a different denomination the problem takes on greater complexity because, unfortunately, most non-Christians view all denominations in the same light and will paint ALL Christians as charlatans and crooks based on the actions of one member of one denomination. But isn't that exactly what Satan wants? In such cases, all you can really do is pray about it and, when confronted by critics who say "You Christians are all the same!" (they do that don't they?), say and do all that you can to PROVE that statement is simply not true.

I guess the Bible covers it where it says, "By their fruits they shall be known." YOU let YOUR fruits be a testimony for Jesus. You cannot be responsible for others. Without wanting to sound too glib, I guess you could say something like, "If your neighbour's dog bites you, does that mean that all dogs are savage?"

Now to your second question Edna. I believe the key words in your quotation are, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus." You have quoted the King James Version and I believe that the NIV puts it slightly better (without changing the meaning) where it says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord'... you will be saved." What does confessing the Lord Jesus entail? His brother James wrote, "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder!" (James 2:19).

On the face of it, this does suggest that all you have to do is say those three words and you're saved which is why we should never take single verses of Scripture in isolation. You see, simply saying, "Jesus is Lord" is just that – SAYING it! Confessing Jesus therefore requires some evidence otherwise it is nothing more than lip-service.

If I'm someone who has never heard of Jesus and someone stands in front of me and says, "Jesus is Lord", the first thing I'm likely to say is, "Who's Jesus?" isn't it? Then I would require some information about this Person. What does He stand for? What is He Lord OF? And, most importantly, what does acknowledging Him as Lord entail? After all, if I'm going to acknowledge someone as my Lord, I need to know what requirements my Lord has of me. If there are no requirements, what would He be Lord of?

Of course, throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus referred to His requirements many times.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) and, **"If you love me, you will obey what I command."** (John 14:15)

From these two verses alone we see that acknowledging God and Jesus is an act of love and love carries with it responsibility. Just imagine a young man telling a girl that he loves her with all his heart and doing nothing to demonstrate that love to her in practical ways. How long would she believe him?

John wrote, **"The man who says 'I know Him' and does not do as He commands is a liar and the truth is not in him."** (1 John 2:4)

So, no, I do NOT dispute that a person who says that Jesus is Lord will be saved PROVIDED that, when they say it, they aren't lying!

This is the point that I was making in my response to Bernard's message (and have made in my books and other writings). I am genuinely distressed by the majority of churches that happily and eagerly pronounce the name of Jesus as Lord but, when it comes to following His teachings and obeying His Law, seem to think that they are somehow exempt. Love CANNOT be simply a statement. Proclaiming love requires proof otherwise it is meaningless.

When it comes to God, He loves YOU unconditionally. He WANTS you to love Him back but, if you choose not to, He won't stop loving you. His love for you doesn't demand payment. He loves you SO much that He was prepared to sacrifice His own Son so that He could have you with Him for eternity and He did! Did you get that? HE didn't just SAY "I love you" - He PROVED it in the most amazing way imaginable!

Equally, when you say, "Jesus is Lord" how does God know you mean it?

MOMENTS TO CONSIDER

*Shared by Harvey and June Schneider,
Servant Soldier Ministries*

The Ransom Was Paid

By: Dr. Harvey Schneider

A mother was away all weekend at a business conference. During a break, she decided to call home - collect.

Her six-year-old son picked up the phone and heard a stranger's voice say, "We have a Marcia on the line. Will you accept the charges?"

Frantic, he dropped the receiver and came charging outside screaming, "Dad! They've got Mom! And they want money!"

This vignette got us thinking about what the Bible says about "The Ransom"

Jesus said, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

Ransom is defined as "the price of redemption of a prisoner or kidnapped person." or "to deliver or redeem from punishment of sin."

Every man has sinned and "the wages of sin is death." For men to be freed from death Jesus declared that He would give His life as the ransom.

Many of us have never understood who had to be paid the ransom.

God told Moses, "When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the Lord, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them." (Exodus 30:12)

From Exodus 30:13-16 we learn that the ransom price was the same for a rich man as it was for a poor. The ransom price was "to make an atonement for your souls" and "used for the service of the tabernacle." This ransom price, like the blood of animal sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin, was symbolic of what was to come later.

The 49th Psalm instructs us that, "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him." (Psalm 49:6-7)

God was saying through the psalmist that gold and silver can not pay the price of redemption for any one, even those of extreme wealth.

God said, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes." (Hosea 13:14)

Only Jesus, God Himself, could pay the ransom for the soul. The ransom price had to be paid to God the Father and not to Satan as some believe.

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1Timothy 2:5-6)

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar (that is a purchased) people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:13-14)

The good news following His payment of the ransom with His life is, "He is risen!"

Have you accepted that Jesus paid the ransom for your soul? Do you recognize Him as Saviour and Lord? If you have then you are one of His purchased ones. If not then the ransom is of non effect and you will be held captive by God until Judgment Day.

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Our next mission trip is scheduled for June this year. We are going to Costa Rica where we will be ministering to children and street people there. Please pray for our finances for the coming trip.

Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.

This month we introduce **Joanne Lowe** as a new contributor.
Please visit her web site

From the Heart of Jesus

and make a welcoming entry in her guestbook.

NO MORE SHACKLES

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8: 32 (King James Version)

Children sometimes say cruel things to each other without realizing it. We, as adults, say cruel things and know what we are saying. If you have ever been told that you're fat, ugly, and no good, you believe it. This verse says that if we know the truth, the truth shall make us free. The truth is Jesus loves us no matter how fat or skinny we are.

Many people are in shackles in their hearts because of depression, suicidal thoughts, criticism, sarcasm, and being told that they are no good. May God forgive us if we have contributed to the shackles in someone's heart because of what we have said or done to that person.

I have been set free by the Amazing Love, Grace, and Mercy of Jesus. He has washed me in His Precious Cleansing Blood. I am His for all Eternity, and He is mine. Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and will set us free!

Is your heart in shackles today? Allow Jesus to set you free by His Unconditional and Unending Love. Do not listen to the people who tell you that you're no good. Listen to Jesus as He whispers softly in your ear that He Loves you. Listen as His Heart says to you, "Come to Me. I Love you and will remove the shackles from your heart".

If you know people who are in shackles, allow them to see the difference that only Jesus can make in a life. Put your arms around them and hug them so that they will know that Jesus does Love them. Let's be huggers for Jesus.

IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

“He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him, and honour him.”

Psalms 91: 15 King James Version

There are times in our lives when we are in the middle of storms. We have storms of criticism, sarcasm, hatred, ridicule, and dishonesty. I received an email yesterday from a friend who said that she had been attacked for something she wrote in her newsletter. It is time we stop judging others, and start judging ourselves. None of us are perfect. All of us sin and fail Jesus.

When all hell comes against us and we feel like we have lost even our best friend on earth, Jesus promises us that He will be with us. All we have to do is call upon Him and He will be faithful to kiss our tears away and heal the hurt in our hearts. Jesus is the Best Friend you will ever have. He will never leave you or hurt you.

Jesus told us that not only will He be with us, He will deliver us. He will deliver us from a broken heart if we will only ask Him. He sees into our hearts and feels the pain and anguish as nobody else can feel it. There are times when we need Him to pour His Compassion into our hearts.

Jesus also has pain from storms. He feels our rejection, our unbelief, and our doubts. It hurts Him when we ignore Him most of the day. We need to stop hurting Jesus and stop causing Him pain. If you're hurting today, reach out to Jesus. He is a Friend Who will never leave you, and will always understand.

GREAT LINKS

Please make the time to click the titles and visit the web sites below.

Their owners have put many hours work into producing beautiful testimonies, most of which take only a few moments to read and enjoy.

A big "Thank you" to all the dear friends who have taken the time to send these to us.

If you would like your web page to be included in this column, please [email](#) us.

We would love to hear from you.

If you enjoy what these talented folk have created, their names and contact information are on the pages.

So why not sign their guest books and add an encouraging comment.

If you have any difficulty opening links please see the instructions on the last page of this magazine.

* Indicates the site includes music

POEMS

[In The Master's Hands](#) *

MULTIMEDIA

[The Best Day of My Life](#) *

MESSAGES

[He is God](#) *

"God's Deal With YOU"

By David Rex Holt BA

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God's Deal With YOU will inspire you to draw closer to God while challenging you to examine where you stand in obedience to God's Word. What did Jesus mean when he said, "If you want to enter life, obey the commandments?" What is spiritual warfare? What is faith? What kind of praise does God desire? These questions and more are some of the issues that are addressed in God's Deal With YOU. This book will challenge you in ways that no other book can. You will be challenged in areas you never even thought of. The truths shared in this book are straight from the Word of God. Reading this book has helped me to understand what obeying God really means. The Scriptures came to life in ways I never thought possible! If you want to be challenged in your walk with God and if you are ready to truly examine your heart then this book is for you!

Yvette Burleigh

Grandma's Hands

Shared by Rowena Ker

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK. Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was OK. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking" she said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK" I explained to her.

"Have you ever looked at your hands?" she asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

Grandma smiled and related this story: "Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well through out your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shrivelled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse. They have held children, consoled neighbours, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed

and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and takes when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband, I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I too, want to touch the face of God and feel his hands upon my face.

Think About It!

A Steven Wright Gem shared by Nancy Wall

OK, so what's the speed of dark?

AGEING

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

A SERIES OF AMUSING QUIPS SHARED BY NANCY WALL

**There is no key to happiness.
The door is always open.**

DEVOTIONALS

If you enjoy stimulating, succinct and scripturally sound devotionals, I highly recommend that you have a look at the following web sites where you can read some past messages and enrol for the regular mailings.

[God Today - Daily Word](#)

(Click ARCHIVE at the top left)

[Life Changing Love](#)

A verse of Scripture for your soul and a smile for your spirit.

[Share A Prayer](#)

A short daily prayer, succinct, sincere and tastefully presented.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

[Amazing Facts](#)

Reaching the world with God's end-time message

By Doug Batchelor

[The Advent Message](#)

The TRUTH, the whole TRUTH and nothing but the TRUTH

By Brent Whinfield

[CC's Christian Corner](#)

Christian love from the heart of a wife and mother

By Yvette Burleigh

[The Philosopher's Pearl](#)

Some thought provoking ideas for sceptics

TO BRING A SMILE

A cheerful heart is good medicine
(Proverbs 17:22a)

Announcement in a church bulletin

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church.
So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Son Sent To Israel

Shared by Jolene

A Jewish businessman in Chicago sent his son to Israel for a year, to absorb the culture. When the son returned, he said, "Papa, I had a great time in Israel. By the way, I converted to Christianity."

"Oy vey," said the father. What have I done?"

He took his problem to his best friend. "Ike," he said, "I sent my son

to Israel, and he came home a Christian. What can I do?"

"Funny you should ask," said Ike. "I too, sent my son to Israel, and he also came home a Christian." Perhaps we should go see the rabbi. So they did, and they explained their problem to the rabbi, and asked him what they could do.

"Funny you should ask," said the rabbi. "I, too, sent my son to Israel,

and he also came home a Christian. What is happening to our young people?"

And so they all prayed, telling the Lord about their sons and asking what they could do. As they finished their prayer, a voice came from the heavens: "Funny you should ask," said the voice. "I, too, sent my son to Israel..."

Notable Headlines from the Past

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

I Know Not What the Future Holds, I Do Know Who Holds the Future!

Author Unknown – Shared by Dr Harvey Schneider

As a young minister, I was asked by a funeral director to hold a graveside service for a homeless man, with no family or friends, who had died while travelling through our area of South-eastern Ohio.

The funeral was to be held at a new cemetery way back in the country, and the man would be the first to be laid to rest there.

Since I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost, and being a typical man did not stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late.

I saw a backhoe and a crew, who was eating lunch, but a hearse was nowhere in sight. I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and stepped to the side of the open hole where I saw a vault lid already in place.

I assured the workers I would not keep them long, but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I poured out my heart and soul.

As I preached the workers began to say "Amen," "Praise the Lord," and "Glory."

I preached, and I preached, like I'd never preached before, from Genesis all the way to Revelations. I closed the lengthy service with a prayer and walked to my car. I felt I had done my duty for the homeless man, and that the crew would leave with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication, in spite of my tardiness.

When I was opening the car door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another, "I ain't never seen nuthin' like this afore and I've been installing septic tanks for twenty years."

AND,

TO BRING A TEAR

Maybe of joy - maybe of sadness

THE WHIPPING

Shared by Jolene

There was a school with a class of students that no teacher had been able to handle. Two or three teachers had been run off from this school in one year by the unruly students. A young man, just out of college, heard about the class and applied to the school. The principal asked the young man, "Do you know what you are asking for? No one else has been able to handle these students. You are just asking for a terrible beating."

After a few moments of silent prayer, the young man looked at the principal and said, "Sir, with your consent I accept the challenge. Just give me a trial basis."

The next morning the young man stood before the class. He said to the class, "Young people, I came here today to conduct school. But I realize I can't do it by myself. I must have your help."

One big boy, they called Big Tom, in the back of the room whispered to his buddies, "I won't need any help. I can lick that little bird all by myself."

The young teacher told the class that if they were to have school, there would have to be some rules to go by. But he also added that he would allow the students to make up the rules and that he would list them on the blackboard. This was certainly different, the students thought!

One young man suggested "NO STEALING." Another one shouted "BE ON TIME FOR CLASS." Pretty soon they had 10 rules listed on the board.

The teacher then asked the class what the punishment should be for breaking these rules. "The rules are no good unless they are enforced", he said.

Someone in the class suggested that if the rules were broken, they should receive 10 licks with a rod across their back with their coat off. The teacher thought that this was pretty harsh, so he asked the class if they would stand by this punishment. The class agreed.

Everything went along pretty good for two or three days. Then Big Tom came in one day very upset. He declared that someone had stolen his lunch. After talking with the students, they came to the conclusion that little Timmy had stolen Big Tom's lunch. Someone had seen little Timmy with Big Tom's lunch! The teacher called little Timmy up to the front of the classroom. Little Timmy admitted he had taken Big Tom's lunch. So the teacher asked him, "Do you know the punishment?" Little Timmy nodded that he did.

"You must remove your coat," the teacher instructed. The little fellow had come with a great big coat on.

Little Timmy said to the teacher, "I am guilty and I am willing to take my punishment, but please don't make me take off my coat?"

The teacher reminded little Timmy of the rules and punishments and again told him he must remove his coat and take his punishment like a man. The little fellow started to unbutton that old coat. As he did so, the teacher saw he did not have a shirt on under the coat. And even worse, he saw a frail and bony frame hidden beneath that coat. The teacher asked little Timmy why he had come to school without a shirt on?

Little Timmy replied, "My daddy's dead and my mother is very poor. I don't have but one shirt, and my mother is washing it today. I wore my big brother's coat so that I could keep warm."

That young teacher stood and looked at the frail back with the spine protruding against the skin, and his ribs sticking out. He wondered how he could lay a rod on that little back, and without even a shirt on. Still, he knew he must enforce the punishment or the children would not obey the rules. So he drew back to strike little Timmy. Just then Big Tom stood up and came down the aisle. He asked, "Is there anything that says that I can't take little Timmy's whipping for him?"

The teacher thought about it and agreed. With that, Big Tom ripped his coat off and stooped, and stood over little Timmy at the desk. Hesitatingly the teacher began to lay the rod on that big back. But for some strange reason after only five licks that old rod just broke in half.

The young teacher buried his face in his hands and began to sob. He heard a commotion and looked up to find not even one dry eye in the classroom. Little Timmy had turned and grabbed Big Tom around the neck apologizing to him for stealing his lunch. Little Timmy begged Big Tom to forgive him. He told Big Tom that he would love him till the day he died for taking his whipping for him.

Aren't you glad that Jesus took our whipping for us? That He shed His precious blood on Calvary so that you and I can have eternal life in Glory with Him. We are unworthy of the price He paid for us, but aren't you glad He loves us that much?

Crystal Meth

Shared by Malta O'Gorman

This was written by a young girl who was in jail for drug charges and was addicted to meth. She wrote this while in jail. As you will soon read, she fully grasped the horrors of the drug, as she tells in this simple, yet profound poem. She was released from jail but, true to her story, the drug owned her. They found her dead not long after, with the needle still in her arm. Please keep praying. This thing is worse than any of us realize...

I destroy homes,
I tear families apart,
I take your children,
and that's just the start.

I'm more costly than diamonds,
more precious than gold,
The sorrow I bring
is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember
I'm easily found,
I live all around you -
in schools and in town.

I live with the rich,
I live with the poor,
I live down the street,
and maybe next door.

I'm made in a lab,
but not like you think,
I can be made
under the kitchen sink.

In your child's closet
and even in the woods,
If this scares you to death,
well it certainly should.

I have many names,
but there's one you know best,
I'm sure you've heard of me,
my name is Crystal Meth.

My power is awesome,
try me you'll see,
But if you do,
you may never break free.

Just try me once
and I might let you go.
But try me twice
and I'll own your soul.

When I possess you,
you'll steal and you'll lie,
You do what you have to
just to get high.

The crimes you'll commit
for my narcotic charms
Will be worth the pleasure
you'll feel in your arms.

You'll lie to your mother,
you'll steal from your dad.
When you see their tears,
you should feel sad.

But you'll forget your morals
and how you were raised.
I'll be your conscience,
I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from parents,
and parents from kids,
I turn people from God,
and separate friends.

I'll take everything from you,
your looks and your pride,
I'll be with you always --
right by your side.

You'll give up everything -
your family, your home,
Your friends, your money,
then you'll be alone.

I'll take and take,
till you have nothing more to give,
When I'm finished with you,
you'll be lucky to live.

If you try me be warned -
this is no game,
If given the chance,
I'll drive you insane.

I'll ravish your body,
I'll control your mind,
I'll own you completely,
your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I'll give you
while lying in bed,
The voices you'll hear,
from inside your head.

The sweats, the shakes,
the visions you'll see,
I want you to know,
these are all gifts from me.

But then it's too late,
and you'll know in your heart,
That you are mine,
and we shall not part.

You'll regret that you tried me,
they always do,
But you came to me,
not I to you.

You knew this would happen,
many times you were told,
But you challenged my power,
and chose to be bold.

You could have said no,
and just walked away,
If you could live that day over,
now what would you say?

I'll be your master,
you will be my slave,
I'll even go with you,
when you go to your grave.

Now that you have met me,
what will you do?
Will you try me or not?
It's all up to you.

I can bring you more misery
than words can tell,
Come take my hand,
let me lead you to hell.

THE KING

By Sandra Griffin

Shared by Jolene

Today He is entering Jerusalem: People waving palms to welcome "the King." He rides upon a colt yet unbroken. Deliverance we hope He will bring. See how they wave the way with shouts of Hosanna "King Jesus." Finally, a Jewish King to rule and reign over us.

Funny, I mused, why a king on a colt unbroke? The man that talked in riddles of a Kingdom not of here, He spoke.

Oft times He would tell us of His Father's kingdom - but where? What mysteries he offered of a narrow Path to go there.

Yet we followed - this His loyal army - a band of misfits at best - seemed to me. There were the blind, the lame and the deaf, sinners all. How could they win a military victory?

He seems a humble natured man with no riches from family. Even so it seemed to me, He had the look of deity.

I had watched as He healed the lame, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and raised the dead; and food of fishes and loaves as the thousands that He fed.

I marvelled how they follow and sat in hush as he read the law: Telling us to render unto Cæsar, what is his yet threw the money changes from the temple. That is what I saw.

You should have seen that! Upturning tables, coins spilling everywhere! With loud admonition, "My Father's house shall be called the house of prayer."

The priests were angry and questioned His authority. And how they sought to stone Him, for insurrection: A blasphemer, a demon, wine bibber. But was He?

He did claim to be sent from God and once said, "MY Father and I are one" - that He would go somewhere without us when His mission here was done.

"Hosanna" - hear this praise - All Hail King Jesus. Come deliver us from the oppressors from Rome. Come and reign over us.

Over there is Martha and Mary and Lazarus. Remember when He raised His friend from the dead? Four days buried in the tomb but came forth just as Jesus said.

Never had a King such power that could defeat with just a word. I guess it could be so if even the very dead had heard.

And there is Mary who He delivered - she used precious oils to wash His feet. He saved her from a stoning. Such was the way when sin and mercy meet.

There's the centurion whose child was healed by just His word. And the poor lame man who had no help to get to the waters when it was stirred.

But why would a real king ride on a colt unbroke into the city today? Why didn't He come on golden chariots, with mighty stallions to clear the way?

I wondered, what would this new week bring? Would He establish Kingship, Lordship, Royalty - He that would be "King"?

As I watch this exciting gathering, I asked myself, "Is He demon, blasphemer, haughty filled with pride, or King-Deliverer, forgiver, healer-Son of God?"

I leave it to you. You decide.

“God Today”

Cheryl Curtis' devotional for April 21st 2006

See the link on page 15 to subscribe

O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat? or 'What shall we drink, or what shall we wear?" For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:30-33

Worry robs us of life's precious moments. As harsh as it may seem, each moment spent worrying is a waste and a poor demonstration of our faith. Time spent worrying does not change a thing; it only creates anxiety and fear. Most all of us have spent time worrying about what may be tomorrow, instead of trusting today. Maybe it is because we are trusting in our own ability and resources and failure is a clear possibility. God however cannot fail. We need to change our perspective, so we understand, every possession is a gift from God and each day, regardless of what it may hold, is in God's capable hands. If we truly seek God, believing in His love, compassion and ability there is no need to worry. Jesus has given us hope; a hope that relieves us of anxiety and worry; a hope that leads us confidently into tomorrow.

Prayer

Lord, I thank You for Your great love and compassion, that meets my every need and provides every beautiful and wonderful thing I experience in life. Release my heart and mind from fear and worry, filling it with Your peace, as I learn to fully trust in Your provision. Help me to do all that I am capable of and the rest I will entrust to You, in Jesus name, Amen.



CHILDREN'S CORNER



This month we continue the serialisation of David Holt's booklet,

Did Jesus Tell Lies?

It is subtitled "A Children's Story for Adults" because, even though it IS really a children's story, there are lots of adults who need to hear it too. So why don't you ask your parents to read each episode aloud when the whole family are together and then you can all talk about it and share your own answers to the question that is the title.

Chapter Five

Eventually, Father God decided that the only way to save His disobedient children was to make one last very special sacrifice for everyone who had ever sinned or would sin in the future. There was only one sacrifice that could do that and that was God's very own Son, Jesus.

So God sent His Holy Spirit to a girl named Mary who had never had a husband and He gave her a baby son who was Jesus. And so it was that the Creator of the universe became a baby human being. As a young man he worked as a carpenter with Joseph, the man Mary later married and who became Jesus' stepfather.

Then, when He was about thirty years old, Jesus went to the River Jordan where a man named John was preaching to the people about a Saviour who was to come very soon and baptising people for the repentance of their sins. (When someone is baptised they are old enough to know what is happening because baptism is symbolic of their "old sinful self" being buried in the water when they are submerged and their "new born self" rising from the "watery grave" to a new life of obedience to Jesus' commandments.)

When John saw Jesus coming he expected Jesus to baptise HIM so he was very surprised when Jesus asked to be baptised by him even though, as the Son of God, He had never sinned. At first, John didn't want to baptise Jesus because he knew who He was but Jesus explained to him that it had to be done to fulfil His Father's plan and so John baptised Jesus.

That was when Jesus began his ministry on the earth as a human being. He set aside all His glory and became a man just like all the other men. He faced the same temptations that all the other men faced but, unlike them, He never once gave in. He just spent all His time telling people how much He and His Father loved them and how They wanted them to live.

Some men that Jesus met knew that He was the promised Messiah that the prophet Daniel had spoken about hundreds of years earlier and so, when He asked them to follow Him, they gave up their jobs and went with Him wherever He went. He taught them lots of things - especially how sad he was because the way that the descendants of the people that He had rescued from Egypt so many years ago were behaving.

The leaders of the Israelites at that time were called Pharisees and, whilst they were very careful to keep the Ten Commandments that Jesus has given to Moses, they had completely forgotten WHY He had given them. You see, Jesus had given them in love to help His people to live well, but the Pharisees were using them to enforce their own authority over the Israelites. They had even made up thousands more laws to try to explain how THEY wanted Jesus' laws to be kept whilst they provided all sorts of "loopholes" for people to get around the basic laws!

Jesus even said to them, "Why do you break the Commandments of God for the sake of your traditions?" But, because they thought that He lied to them when He said that He was their promised Messiah, they just wanted to kill Him. (Messiah, by the way, is a Hebrew word that means, "Anointed one" - just the same as "Christ" does in Greek. And in Jesus' case, anointed means specially blessed by God.)

One of the things that Jesus said when He spoke to a big crowd of people one day on a mountainside was this: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the

least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven."

Have you looked out of your window today? Are heaven and earth still there? Well, we both know the answer to that don't we? So what does that tell you about the Ten Commandments? Do you think that Jesus lied when He said that?

Another thing that Jesus told the people was that He would go away to be with His Father for a time but that He would come back collect His faithful and obedient followers one day. When He does that is when, as He said it, "everything will be accomplished." But it seems that lots of people today think that Jesus told lies because they say that we no longer have to keep the Commandments and they also say that dead people have already gone to heaven even though Jesus told Daniel that, until He returns, "multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake; some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt."

Some people even say that they have seen dead people like Jesus' mother Mary! Of course, what they have really seen is Satan playing his usual tricks on people who don't know their Bibles and only listen to what preachers who DO tell lies have said. Jesus told another man whose name was Hosea, "My people are destroyed through lack of knowledge." So, if you think about that, I'm sure you will agree with me that it would be a very good idea to study your Bible every single day and be like some people that lived in a town called Berea and check out everything that teachers and pastors say.

One of the commandments that Jesus gave to Moses says that people must "Remember the Sabbath Day" that he set in place as a rest day when He had made everything in the beginning. It instructs people not to do any work at all from sunset at the end of the sixth day of the week - which we now call Friday - until sunset on the seventh day - which we now call Saturday. However, most people who say that they are Christians today don't obey that Law. Instead, they work on every day of the week and go to churches on the FIRST day. I guess they must think that Jesus lied when He said that the Law wouldn't change as long as the heaven and earth were still here.

Actually, do you know what? It is those people who are lying because Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my Commandments." And even though they SAY they love Him, they don't keep the one about the Sabbath do they?

John, who was one of Jesus twelve special friends called "disciples," wrote, "We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His Commands. The man who says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him." and, "This is love for God; to obey His commands."

When Jesus said that He would come back to take His followers to His kingdom to live with Him forever, He said, "If you will enter life, keep the Commandments." Do you want to live with Him forever? He also promised that, in His kingdom, there won't be any more tears or pain. Everyone will love each other and there will be no more sickness or fighting. Even the lions and the lambs will be friends and all the wild animals will be like pets. Sounds pretty good doesn't it?

So what about all those people who don't keep ALL the Commandments? Well, Jesus' brother James said that even if someone keeps almost all of them and only slips up on one tiny bit of one of them, that person is still guilty of breaking the law, and Jesus said, "In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." He also said, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but ONLY THOSE WHO DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" How terrible it would be to think that you had been doing God's will all your life and then hear those words!

Remember how we saw that the word "sin" means to break the Law? Well, there are two ways we can break the Law. The first one is because we didn't know the Law and, as the apostle Paul wrote, "I would not have known what sin was except through the Law." so that is why Jesus said, "My people are destroyed through lack of knowledge." We MUST know and understand what our Bible says because, as you have already seen, you can't trust people to tell you the truth.

The second way that we can sin is because we decide to. Even though we know that to do something would be to break God's law, we make the decision to do it anyway. Maybe it is to steal something that doesn't belong to us or to tell a lie about someone that might get them into trouble. Maybe it is deciding that Jesus did lie when He said that the Law would never change before heaven and earth disappeared and, instead of keeping the

Sabbath day holy, we keep some other day instead - or maybe, even no day at all. Well, this is what the Bible says about that: "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgement and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."

Did you know that, if you decide that you aren't going to take any notice of the Commandments even your prayers are detestable to God? That means that all those people who go to church on Sunday are wasting their time even praying! Mind you, if they are having doubts in their minds about what they are doing and are sincerely searching the Scriptures for the truth and pray to God asking Him to help them find it, He will.

So DID Jesus lie to His people? Have a talk about what happened and see what the grown-ups think. Next month we'll have a look at the final part of the story and see if there are still people who think Jesus lied to them. There will also be a VERY important question - so don't miss it whatever you do!

"What does love mean?"

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds.

Susanne Belosev

shares some of their answers. They were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined.

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs."

Chrissy - age 6

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Do you have any questions?

Do you have any suggestions?

Do you have any ideas?

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THE BKM PLEDGE

As our long-time readers know, I have always thought of "Making A Difference" and Beloved King Ministries as OURS and not as "mine."

Without YOU, this ministry is nothing.

It is the loyal and loving support of our readers who readily share the stories, jokes and testimonies that they write or find that ensures that there will be a magazine each month.

"Making A Difference" will always be free to anyone who enjoys it. But that doesn't mean it costs nothing to produce and distribute.

I AND THE BKM TEAM PLEDGE TO PRAY FOR EVERYONE ON THE BKM MAILING LIST EVERY DAY

I PLEDGE TO DO ALL WITHIN MY GOD-GIVEN POWER TO BRING DOWN AND DESTROY SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT DECEPTIONS THAT ARE BEGUILING GOD'S SINCERE AND BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN BECOME MORE INVOLVED

WE NEED - PRAYER PARTNERS

If you would like to partner someone in regular prayer sessions through a mutually convenient Internet medium

PLEASE WRITE TO US

Tell us a little bit about yourself, your own spiritual needs as well as how knowing Jesus has changed your life and the sort of person you would like to partner.

WE NEED - REGULAR FINANCIAL PLEDGES FOR AS LITTLE AS FIFTY CENTS A WEEK

(That's twenty-six dollars a year!)

YOU CAN BECOME A PARTNER IN THIS MINISTRY AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE

TEN PERCENT OF ALL PARTNERSHIP DONATIONS IS GIVEN TO HELP STRUGGLING MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES IN THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES

Email your pledge NOW and send all donations to:

Beloved King Ministries, 1 Pinehaven, 176 Ewing Road, Woodridge, Queensland 4114, Australia.
(Please make all checks payable to D.R. Holt since the Australian banks won't accept anything else!)

Jesus said,

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured unto you." (Luke 6:38)

AND

WE NEED - YOUR PRAYERS

SATAN DOESN'T LIKE WHAT THIS MINISTRY IS DOING! WE ARE A THREAT TO HIM! SO PLEASE ASK GOD, IN JESUS' NAME, TO SURROUND US WITH GUARDIAN ANGELS.

God bless you all.

David R Holt

PRAYER

From The House of David

I thank You O Heavenly Father for giving me the gifts of thought and reason; for it is through these gifts that I have come to know and understand You better. And it is through these gifts that I have been able to discover Your wisdom and greater truths. Let me show my gratitude by always using these precious gifts wisely. You, my God, are the Author of reason and knowledge.

Who then is man to even think that his limited, finite reasoning could ever completely comprehend Your infinite design? At best, even the most brilliant human mind is but a droplet amid Your infinite sea of logic. Yet, You are not a selfish God and so You have shared a portion of Yourself with each and every one of us. And it is only through this most generous sharing that we, Your children, are able to

come to an understanding of Your majesty and our special place in Your creation.

For through Your gifts of thought and reason, a vast field of knowledge has opened up before me. And the more knowledge I gain, the more love and respect I have for You - the Author of knowledge. Abba, Father, let me show my appreciation to You by developing my intellectual abilities to their fullest; for I understand, my LORD, that as I gain more understanding of the world around me, I am really gaining more understanding of You.

And so, I thank You, my God, for Your willingness to share this precious part of Yourself with me. May I always be worthy of these divine gifts by glorifying Your holy name and always living my life in a manner that pleases You.

OPENING LINKS

Some readers have emailed us to say that clicking the hyperlinks in "Making A Difference" doesn't work. I don't know why that is but one easy way to get the addresses and access the websites is as follows:

1. Highlight the title using your mouse (it doesn't matter if you highlight the music asterisk too - it will still work).
2. With the title highlighted, click "Insert" on the menu bar at the top of your screen. This will give you a drop menu.
3. On the drop menu, click "Hyperlink." This will open a window titled "Edit Hyperlink."
4. Highlight the html address in the window labelled, "Type the file or web page name."
5. Copy the address by pressing Control and C together.
6. Close the "Edit Hyperlink" window by clicking the cancel button.
7. Then open your web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator).
8. Place the cursor in the "Address" window at the top (or, if you already have an address in there, just highlight it).
9. Press Control and V together. That will copy the URL into the window.
10. Press Enter and the page will open.

I have done the above and it took just 23 seconds from step 1 to seeing the web page so, as you can see, it isn't really as hard as the ten steps make it seem!

If this magazine has been forwarded to you by a friend and you would like to be added to our regular mailing list please click [here](#) and, if you are too busy to write anything else, just type **PLEASE ADD TO MAILING LIST** in the subject box and your name(s) in the body of the email. Also, if the email address that you want the magazine sent to is different from the one you send the request from, please type that in the body of the email too.

Also, if your name is incomplete in the recipients list (i.e.: first or surname only or email address only),

because our address book is now so big, please help us by letting us know your full name so that the lists can be updated and duplication is minimised. For this please type **UPDATE** in the subject box. Thank you so much for your help in this.

On the other hand, if "Making A Difference" has been sent to you in error and you have not enjoyed reading it and would like to be removed from the mailing list, please accept our apologies and click [here](#) and type **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject box and the email address to be unsubscribed in the body of the email.