

The New Pastor

An older preacher told the story of a young minister interviewing for his first pastorate. The Pulpit Committee had invited him to come over to their church for the interview. The committee chairman asked, "Son, do you know the Bible pretty good?"

The young minister said, "Yes, pretty good." The chairman asked, "Which part do you know best?" He responded saying, "I know the New Testament best." "Which part of the New Testament do you know best," asked the chairman. The young minister said, "Several parts." The chairman said, "Well, why don't you tell us the story of the Prodigal Son." The young man said, "Fine."

"There was a man of the Pharisees name Nicodemus, who went down to Jericho by night and he fell upon stony ground and the thorns choked him half to death.

"The next morning Solomon and his wife, Gomorrah, came by, and carried him down to the ark for Moses to take care of. But, as he was going through the Eastern Gate into the Ark, he caught his hair in a limb and he hung there forty days and forty nights and he afterwards did hunger. And, the ravens came and fed him.

"The next day, the three wise men came and carried him down to the boat dock and he caught a ship to Ninevah. And when he got there he found Delilah sitting on the wall. He said, "Chunk her down, boys, chunk her down." And, they said, "How many times shall we chunk her down, till seven time seven?" And he said, "Nay, but seventy times seven." And they chunked her down four hundred and ninety times.

"And, she burst asunder in their midst. And they picked up twelve baskets of the leftovers. And, in the resurrection whose wife shall she be?"

The Committee chairman suddenly interrupted the young minister and said to the remainder of the committee, "Fellows, I think we ought to ask the church to call him as our pastor. He is awfully young, but he sure does know his Bible."

Reading Today's News!

Two old friends met one day after many years. One attended college, and now was very successful. The other had not attended college and never had much ambition.

The successful one said, "How has everything been going with you?"

"Well, one day I opened the Bible at random, and dropped my finger on a word and it was oil. So, I invested in oil, and boy, did the oil wells gush. Then another day I dropped my finger on another word and it was gold. So, I invested in gold and those mines really produced. Now, I'm as rich as Rockefeller."

The successful friend was so impressed that he rushed to his hotel, grabbed a Gideon Bible, flipped it open, and dropped his finger on a page. He opened his eyes and his finger rested on the words, "Chapter Eleven."



Church Without Walls

For The Love of God Ministries Mark 12:30

The Hope of the Resurrection

1 Thessalonians 4:12-18 NLT

And now, brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus comes, God will bring back with Jesus all the Christians who have died.

I can tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not rise to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. So comfort and encourage each other with these words.

What do you place your hopes on? Is it a man, is it a dream, is it something that you read in a book at one time? Is it in the writings in Readers Digest? Perhaps it is in the Koran or the book of Mormon. Maybe it is the teachings of Confucius or Buddha or in the New Age beliefs or the in thing according to Hollywood and it's leaders such as Tom Cruise, John Travolta and the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard. Just maybe, you are an evolutionist that prays , our father up in a coconut tree?

Twenty five years ago I had one foot in hell and the other was on a banana peel. Had I died at that time I would have been separated from the One True and Eternal God and would have spent my eternity in hell. It was at this time that I had a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Savior of our souls. It was in this meeting that I became a blood washed, blood bought son of the Living God. I went from having no hope to security in the eternal Hope.

Having been brought up in a denominational church that did not encourage reading of the Holy Bible I did not know of the multitude of promises that were in it for people such as you and I. It was taught that only the clergy could have insight into the meaning of the Gospels and it was only their interpretation that was acceptable. After accepting Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior the veil was lifted from my eyes and the Word of God took on a whole new meaning. From then on the study of God's Word became both, a passion and a joy.

Prior to His Ascension to sit at the Fathers right hand Jesus gave us a most wonderful promise. John 14:24-26 This message is from the Father who sent me. I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. **But when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative — and by the Counselor I mean the Holy Spirit — he will teach you everything and will re-mind you of everything I myself have told you.** NLT In this verse we are given two names by which the Holy Spirit is called and also two of His many occupations. He comes to us as a counselor to counsel and comfort the wounded and hurting and teacher to teach us the ways of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

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What is your perception of God? Read what it says in the Holy Bible.

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let us make people in our image, to be like ourselves. They will be masters over all life — the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the livestock, wild animals, and small animals."

So God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them. NLT

The New Living Translation which I use in most of these little publications is a simplification of the original King James Version and as such it is helpful to those who want to know the Word of God but do not desire or have the time to become biblical scholars. Notice that the Word says that God created people.

One of the teachings in existence today is the teaching of "Dualism". This says that there is a God and there is Satan. That there is evil and there is good. In essence what this is trying to tell us is that God and Satan are on an equal level and that good and evil are on an equal level. To this I say baloney. Satan is a counterfeiter and a duplicator but never can it be said that he is a creator.

It can also be said that evil is nothing more than a perversion of what God has made good. If Satan is to have a label he can be labeled as **LOSER**.

Colossians 2:13-15

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. *In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ.*

To be disarmed means that you have no weapons, no power and no authority. What this is saying is that Satan and his followers have absolutely nothing over a Christian who has surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:18-20 **And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** Amen.

As a child is born and brought into this world to be nurtured and grow to full maturity so it is with the Church of the Risen Savior. The church was birthed on the day of Pentecost about two thousand years ago. As the child grows to a ripe old age and then comes to his end of days, so it is with the church. The church age is quickly coming to an end and will be taken out of this world and then the most devastating time that this earth has ever undergone since the days of Noah and the flood, will occur. The Bible calls these days the great tribulation.

Because God is such a merciful God, He always sends ample warning to the people of earth to repent of their sins and to receive Him as their Lord and then He will take care of and protect them from all evil. It took Noah a hundred years to build the ark and all this time was a time of witness to the people that destruction was going to come upon this planet called earth. Instead of heeding what the prophet Noah was saying to them they continued their evil ways until the floods came and carried them away.

In like manner today God is speaking to all of mankind and saying "Repent for destruction is at the door".

2 Peter 3:1-16

The Day of the Lord Is Coming

This is my second letter to you, dear friends, and in both of them I have tried to stimulate your wholesome thinking and refresh your memory. I want you to remember and understand what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles. First, I want to remind you that in the last days there will be scoffers who will laugh at the truth and do every evil thing they desire. This will be their argument: "Jesus promised to come back, did he? Then where is he? Why, as far back as anyone can remember, everything has remained exactly the same since the world was first created." They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth up from the water and surrounded it with water. Then he used the water to destroy the world with a mighty flood. And God has also commanded that the heavens and the earth will be consumed by fire on the day of judgment, when ungodly people will perish. But you must not forget, dear friends, that a day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish,

so he is giving more time for everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be exposed to judgment. Since everything around us is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives you should be living! You should look forward to that day and hurry it along — the day when God will set the heavens on fire and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world where everyone is right with God. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to live a pure and blameless life. And be at peace with God. And remember, the Lord is waiting so that people have time to be saved. NLT

James 3:1-12

Controlling the Tongue

Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged by God with greater strictness.

We all make many mistakes, but those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way. We can make a large horse turn around and go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a tiny rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot wants it to go, even though the winds are strong. So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself. People can tame all kinds of animals and birds and reptiles and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? Can you pick olives from a fig tree or figs from a grapevine? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty pool. NLT

The tongue is an instrument that can be used for both, evil and good. Some world leaders today use it venomously to promote war and division between nations. If you believe the commercials that the candidates for the U S presidency air each and every day you would get the impression that our nation is led by a bunch of reprobates being chased by a

bunch of reprobates wanting to replace the incumbents.

Marriages and families are destroyed by the words that spew out of their mouths. Husbands curse their wives and wives curse their husbands and then expect to have a happy and fruitful marriage.

Churches are likewise destroyed by the curses issued forth by the congregation against the leaders and the leaders against the congregation. People sitting in the pews curse each other and then wonder why God is not blessing them or meeting their needs.

Romans 10:4-13

Salvation Is for Everyone

For Moses wrote that the law's way of making a person right with God requires obedience to all of its commands. But the way of getting right with God through faith says, "You don't need to go to heaven" (to find Christ and bring him down to help you). And it says, "You don't need to go to the place of the dead" (to bring Christ back to life again). **Salvation that comes from trusting Christ — which is the message we preach — is already within easy reach.** In fact, the Scriptures say, "The message is close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart."

For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They all have the same Lord, who generously gives his riches to all who ask for them. **For "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** NLT

Matthew 12:36-37

And I tell you this, that you must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak. The words you say now reflect your fate then; either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned."

NLT