



Christianity in the Twenty First Century, Understanding it without the Aid of Man.

- ◆ **Worshiping God**
- ◆ **Dealing with the World as a Christian**
- ◆ **Commands, Procedures, Methods and Plans**
- ◆ **Evangelistic Work Today**
- ◆ **Benevolent Work Today**
- ◆ **The Cancerous Splits in the Lord's Church**
- ◆ **Relationships with each other**
- ◆ **God is not to be Blamed but Praised**
- ◆ **Dealing with the Devices of the Devil**
- ◆ **Discipline in the Lord's Church**
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- ◆ **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian Today**
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- ◆ **Do we Still have Miracles Today**
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- ◆ **Some Facts Worth Considering**
- ◆ **Using the Greek Lexicon in the Right Way if we must use it.**



The Lord's church is the greatest institution on earth, and she has been desecrated by man. God is very serious about people respecting His Son's body. We must hold people accountable for degrading the blood bought body of Christ to a human level. Man will respect an institution if they are not allowed to abuse it. We have allowed mankind to abuse and destroy the institution that has Christ as its head. We will be held accountable for allowing man to abuse the greatest institution we have had the opportunity to be apart of. There are only two institutions, which God instituted, and people have desecrated them both.

It is never too late as long as we are alive to turn the situation around and make changes and ask God's forgiveness, and allow Him to purify the blood bought institution. There is not one soul saved outside Christ's body she is that important.



Foreword

Things were different in the church when I was growing up. We did not have a preacher except when one came by occasionally traveling, or when the fourteen day gospel meeting came around once a year. We viewed the preacher as the people did the prophets during the days of the prophets; I guess we thought they were infallible. Brethren would save their questions until the preacher showed, and no one challenged his answer.

The elders ask me to teach the teenage class when I was barely beyond the first principles. I found out later they could not get anyone else due to discipline problems. Nevertheless, after some class reduction I managed to continue. I used every source available since the Bible was beyond my comprehension, I thought, at the time. As time advanced, we had preachers from colleges and eventually had a full time preacher. An elder introduced me to commentaries; my first one was B.W. Johnson I thought that was incredible that made the scriptures easy to understand, so I thought. There were different commentaries in the congregation besides Johnson. Commentaries started my awakening; all the supposedly "God ordained" men who wrote the commentaries were not in agreement. I turned to preachers the supposedly "God ordained" preachers were seeing things differently. That was excellent training it put me on a road to Bible study.

It has been a long, hard road, but the results achieved are worth it all. I have learned to decipher the truth without depending on another human being, and it is something any honest truth seeking person can do. This procedure will reveal the truth on any subject in the Bible.

I always start this process by making a little book with every scripture from Genesis to Revelation on the subject I am attempting to understand, with notes explaining each verse from context. I normally use the King James of 1611, the vulgate, and Textus receptus, I locate the verses by using a Greek lexicon. I do not use the definitions in the lexicon without checking them out from the Bible, they are **not** inspired, and many are wrong.

I have examined the doctrines the church practices most were in accordance with the word of God. Unfortunately, some are not, one was

the law concerning divorce and remarriage it did not check out according to the Bible; I shall cover this subject in this book. I have no interest in following the traditions of the church, if they are not according to the Holy Spirit's words. I have a strong desire to know the truth regardless of the price.

I sincerely hope each person that reads this book will study the scriptures given with an honest and unbiased heart realizing we are approaching eternity.

Christianity in the Twenty First Century Understanding it without the aid of Mankind

Introduction

God inspired the Bible; therefore, that guarantees authenticity. It will never be outdated always appropriate and current to deal with any new situations which face society. Any additions to society must be evaluated by the word of God, to determine if it is compatible with Christianity. All the time new devices appear on the scene but are they approved by the word of God. The Bible originated from God He viewed the future devices before He penned His word. God knew civil laws would change, and airplanes, rockets, telephones, televisions, internet etc. would be invented. The Bible is capable of dealing with the current situations and anything which will appear in the future (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21). The new inventions do affect the Christians lifestyle; modernism has changed the way we do things, including the way we achieve the Lord's commands, but it must not change them. Modern society and its changes have divided the Lord's church. Many modern inventions have enhanced the way we do the Lord's business, but we must make sure they are compatible with the word of God. Spiritual wisdom comes from God through the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man, and is necessary in determining what is acceptable in God's sight. It is my mission in these lessons to determine what is, and what is not compatible with the word of God. Participation in forbidden pleasures of the world will separate us from God. I will be emphasizing throughout this writing how we can

understand the Bible without the aid of man. We must learn how to identify truth as an individual in order to please God (1 John 2:15, James 1:5, 5:16, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Isaiah 59:1-2).

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Worshiping God

The religious world is all united on the fact that we should worship God, but there is much disagreement on how and when we should worship Him. Christ said, "We must worship Him in spirit and truth". The word of God is truth; therefore, we must worship God according to His word, the Bible (John 17:17, 2 Timothy 2:5).

When we become a child of God there are many things, which transpire. The blood of Christ has made the soul pure and free from sin; thus, we can pray to God through Jesus Christ. We receive the gift of the

Holy Spirit; God accepts the worship of His children. Of course, having the wrong spirit would void worship to God. Having the right relationship with fellowman is essential for us to have the right relationship with God (Acts 2:38, 20:28, 1 Peter 3:12, 22, John 4: 13, 20, 24, 9:31).

Worshiping God is a continuous process which never ceases as long as we have the breath of life. God's Spirit dwells in the Christian continuously, and our life must reflect His presence at all times as long as we live. It would be impossible to worship God in spirit if God's Spirit did not dwell in us, and it would not be possible to worship God if we did not have the truth abiding in us. God gives His Holy Spirit to all those who obey Him. Jesus Christ bought and paid for the church with His blood. Thus, if we worship the devil by partaking of his devices, God will exit the body (Hebrews 6:4-6). We worship God on His terms and they are plainly set out in His word. If we fail to worship God on His terms, that is vain worship. Understanding the consequences for disobeying God is essential for our spiritual well being (John 3:12, 13, 24, Acts 5:32, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Matthew 15:9, Acts 20:28, 2 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 6:4-6, Matthew 15:19, Mark 7:7).

Worshiping God does not stop when we leave the assembly; we must pray without ceasing, talk with caution, be careful the places we go, how we dress, how we do business, how we play, how we spend time and money, all reflects worship to God. Then whether in the assembly or out of the assembly whatever we do we must do it in the name of the Lord. We must always give Him the praise, respect and honor He is due. Worship means to pay homage to someone; we do this by obeying from the heart God's will. There is a clear, marked road named, "absolute truth" which runs vividly through the Bible which leads to God. There is another road which is easier to follow, and it leads to hell fire (1 Thessalonians 5:17, Colossians 3:17, Romans 6:17, 1 Timothy 2:9, Matthew 5:16, 7:13-14, Hebrews 13:15, 1 Peter 2:9).

The idea of separating the church from the individual Christian is foreign to the Bible; there is no church without Christians. The church does not cease to exist when it is not assembled. Even when we work a secular job it is for the purpose of giving praise to God and helping the

needy, physically and spiritually. We serve God by supporting our family from wages. One of the enormous problems which cause the church not to grow is separating the church from the Christian. Especially, when a Christian goes out into the world, he must reflect the church which is Christ's body. Many view Christianity as someone who assembles in the church building occasionally and has their name on the church roll. They do not realize Christianity is what we are, no matter where we are located (Ephesians 1:22-23).

The church is inside of Christians, and not inside of a church building. The church building is not sacred any more than personal dwelling houses. Deity does dwell in the Christian. Christians are one with Christ being married to Him; therefore, we must be true to Him and show the world how much we respect Him by walking in His steps. A Christian is what we are all of the time, and we are the church all the time. The church can be scattered all over the world, which it is, or it can be assembled (Ephesians 4:28, Luke 17:21, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Acts 7:48, 11:19, Romans 7:4, Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:21).

The church assembles every first day of the week to worship God as a unit: to exhort, teach, pray, sing, to observe the memorial of Christ by taking the unleavened bread, to remember His broken body and the fruit of the vine to remember His shed blood when He offered Himself on the cross for the remission of sins. We give according to how much we have prospered. We meet other time through the week to fellowship each other in Christian love; to study, pray, sing, and to admonish one another. Leaders use contributed money to promote the cause of Christ in evangelistic and benevolence work. The church has the enormous responsibility to show the world the manifold wisdom of God. If the Christians do not promote righteousness, it will die. We must lift up holy hands when we worship God (Ephesians 3:10, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Corinthians 11:20-29, 33, 16:1-2, Mark 16:15-16, Ephesians 5:19, 27, Acts 2:42, 1 John 2:17, 9:27, Romans 13:9, Matthew 25:14-46, 28:19-20, James 1:27, 1 Timothy 6:14, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Peter 3:12, 2 Peter 3:14).

Christians must be set apart from the world, and be known by the whole world as a people who serve and promotes the God of heaven and

earth. Studying the Bible will give us the ability to answer any questions we encounter. Christians must steer far away from anything which appears to be evil, or anything which might weaken our influence as a representative of God. Ask someone in the community they should know who represents Christ (1 Peter 3:15, Psalms 4:3, 1Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 5:26).

Dealing with the world as a Christian

When we become a Christian we do not cease to live in the world with its people. How do we as a Christian deal with these people? How do we keep ourselves separated from the world, and not become spotted with evil? Christians will influence the world, or else the world will influence Christians. We show Christianity by every action we perform; we live a life that exemplifies Christ, and cause the world to see Him in us. The life style of a Christian must be totally different, set apart from the world. The Christian exists to glorify God by bearing fruit. When the world sees a Christian they should see Christ the Son of God. Christians put Christ first and not earthly devices, the worldly person lives to entertain his physical being (Matthew 5:16, 6:33, John 15:8, Romans 15:6).

The public schools are not conducive to Christianity, and are influencing children to be like the world. When children have ungodly parents much of the time their children are ungodly, and these ungodly children will influence Christians children; peer pressure is unusually strong. Can the children ever overcome this on the job training they receive at school? The television can have harmful influence on people if the wrong programming is selected. The armour of God should be the normal attire for children. (1 Corinthians 15:33, Ephesians 6:11-17).

The church, has allowed her light to become dim, and is no longer outshining the darkness of Satan. Satan represents all darkness (sin) while the gospel is the light; when we mix darkness with light we know it cannot illuminate the world. We all know what happens when a cloud covers the sun (1 John 2:15, James 2:27).

Christians are the light that lights the way for the world to follow. When a Christian walks among the people of the world, the world should clearly see Christ. The only Christ many people of the world will ever see is the Christ they see in the child of God; following a Christian should be equated to following Christ. If the light of a Christian does not outshine the darkness of the world, the Christian needs his spiritual battery (faith) charged. The word of God will build faith if the heart is good soil (Matthew 13:3-8). Does the conduct of the Christian meet the expectations of the world? Is the picture we are painting of Christ accurate? Could it be we are depicting a weak and sickly Lord (Matthew 5:13-16, 2 Corinthians 3:2)?

We must live in the world, and we must light up the world by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every book in the New Testament is Christ's gospel; it is the power of God unto salvation, and if we allow it to shine full strength it will light the whole world. The Spirit says love not the world or the things that are in the world, and if we love the world and the things it contains, the love of God is not in us. In personal observation how would we rate the Christians, as a whole, concerning loving the world and the stuff in the world? Do we hang on to the stuff of the world, like it was temporary and will only last for a short time, or do we treat it as permanent? The Christian is the word of God walking in the flesh (1 John 2:15, Romans 1:16).

Some groups are aware that Christians must be recognized by the world and have designed certain clothing to identify them as such. I appreciate their desire to be representatives of Christ I am sure they are upstanding people, but the Bible desires light to shine by actions keeping our self unspotted from the world, and teaching the world Christ's gospel. It is true dress does speak loud and clear, and sends a strong message; the dress does either give God glory or is an abomination to Him (Romans 1:16, 1John 2:15, James 1:27, 2 Peter 3:14).

The character of a Christian, his integrity, his speech, his attire, his desire to communicate and serve, must be identified from a far distance and be without question. Serving man should be the priority of the Christian. Humility, meekness, and sincerity should be as obvious as the

sunshine (1 Peter 5:5). Opposition against sin should be apparent to the whole world, and the Christian must be capable of identifying sin. The world should never have a doubt in their mind concerning who represents Christ. The Christian should stay so far away from sin it is obvious he or she is a child of the living God. Christians should be knowledgeable in God's word that will sustain faith. We must hate sin, if not repented of it will cause us to be cast into hell fire (Philippians 4:8, James 4:6, 10, 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 John 3:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:22, Isaiah 59:1-2).

Christians judge the world according to the Bible; if we do not fully understand the word of God we just might judge someone incorrectly (1 Corinthians 6:2-10). When we receive the gospel of Christ, we immediately have the responsibility of passing it on, wrapped in love. Many people are not teachable, but the word of God will determine that fact. We must be exceedingly wise servants in dealing with the world, praying to God (1 Timothy 6:7, John 15:19, 1 John 2:15-17, John 17:15, 1 Corinthians 5:10, Philippians 4:8. 1 Peter 3:15, James 4:6, 10, 1 Peter 5:5 Matthew 5:24-34, 2 Corinthians 6:15-20). Yes, we must live in the world, but we must be set apart from the world.

Commands, Procedures, Methods, and Plans

This topic seems to be self explanatory, but I believe we can benefit by discussing it. The Bible is a guide book, designed to accomplish goals. For instance, it can transform an unrighteous person into a righteous child of God. Man has the liberty to choose God's way, or the devils. Following the Bible has profitable benefits while we live, and everlasting benefits throughout eternity.

A command is normally issued by someone who is in authority and has the knowledge to know what they desire. Commands are to accomplish a purpose; they require actions in order to bring the desired results. Commands can come with or without detailed instructions on how they are to be carried out. God gave us commands but in most cases did not give us details on how they were to be carried out. God is all knowing and sees the future as well as the present; He knew the procedures, methods and plans would change from generation to

generation. God made man with a creative mind, realizing he would invent new devices as time progressed. Man is made in the image of God; meaning he has a mind to think, reason and solve problems. By faith, actions are activated which fulfill the commands of God; the Christian must develop many steps in order to fulfill God's commands. When God gives a command His desire is for us to obey it; He expects us to supply the details in order to accomplish it. God has His part, and we have ours; a procedure, which does not, accomplish His work is not pleasing to God.

God has given us three prominent commands which comprise the majority of His will for man.

- **Evangelistic work**
- **Live the holy and unspotted life**
- **Benevolent work**

15. And he said unto them, (1) Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:15-16).

27. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, (2) To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to (3) keep himself unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

In order for us to accomplish these three commands, or laws, man must develop strategies. Without a carefully planned procedure, God's law will not be obeyed. The plan must be wide spread, world wide in scope covering the smallest and greatest. The bottom line put the gospel of Jesus Christ in front of every soul upon the face of this earth; care for the orphans, widow, medicate the sick, and feed the hungry. We know this is a huge order, but we must work toward that end; while keeping ourselves pure and holy, walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:21).

Methods are the way God's commands are obeyed; without a plan, God's law will not be fulfilled. Preparation is the key to worshipping and

obeying God's commands; under the Law of Moses they had a day every week to prepare for the day of worship (Matthew 27:62, Luke 15:42).

When God gives a command and does not specify the detail that means He is leaving them up to us. When man supplies the methods to fulfill God's commands we must proceed with caution, and never lose sight of the command. When dealing with a command, faith must immediately devise a plan to accomplish and obey it. Give what we can as often as we can for the Lord supplies seed to the sower (Mark 12:12, 2 Corinthians 9:10).

Evangelistic Work in Today's World

The way we do the Lord's business today is clearly different from the way they conducted His mission work in the apostle's day. We do, and we should use the modern-day inventions to carry out God's will. If we use only the facilities the apostles used to spread the gospel today, the results would be but minimal. The commands of God do not change, but how we deliver those commands does change. The wisdom which God has offered us must be applied in order to know how to obey God's commands (Matthew 28:19-29, James 1:5).

We live in a world today that does not compare to the world during the apostles day. We have about as many people today in one city as they had in the entire world. There are about 490, 000 babies born everyday world wide, this is 2011. The Lord's church today has the same commands as they did, "Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature". It is obvious we would not use the same methods today as they did. The apostles did not face the same situations as we do today. We can reach multitudes on television, or the internet. Comparing the population today, with that of the first century we have ten thousand worlds, they had one. The apostles had only a few different doctrines to deal with, and we have many. Life and culture in the early days were totally different. They had one church, and we have the Lord only knows how many (Romans 4:15).

Very little did they utilize the monetary system to perform the commands of God; even seventy five years ago the monetary system

played only a small role in promoting Christianity. Today's world is totally geared to the monetary system.

The only way we can meet the enormous responsibility God has given us is to unite efforts. All the congregations of the Lord's people throughout the world make up the Lord's one church. The work they must accomplish is exactly the same, but the elders in New York cannot know the local needs of the congregation in Little Rock, Arkansas. Nevertheless, the two congregations have the same responsibility to get the gospel to the people in India and the people next door, and every other place in the world. Unfortunately, many large cities do not have the Lord's church abiding in them, even in the United States. In a few days, we have more people born in the world than there are in the Lord's church. With this in mind, we should consider the Lord's command: "Preach the gospel to every creature."

It is difficult to even talk about, but the Lord's church cannot go into the world because she is not united. Division has completely paralyzed the Lord's church rendering her a sectarian group. A different doctrine translates into a denomination; a denomination is a part of the whole. The doctrine of the Lord's church is the whole; anything more or less is not the doctrine of the Lord's church. Any knowledgeable person concerning the history of the different branches knows they are not united. As a matter of fact, there is enmity between the different branches in most cases.

The congregation where I worship accepted the responsibility to be the payee for a large evangelistic movement, this was an enormous undertaking for us, every penny had to be accounted for, and reports sent out to all contributing congregations and individuals. We should be grateful to any congregation that will perform this marvelous work. The elders of nine congregations in unison planned the event. The plan was preach the gospel to the whole area, use a tent and not a church building, and concentrate the preaching on the salvation of lost souls.

The Lord's work will not be accomplished unless we unite. Being united in doctrine not necessarily in methods, is essential in order to be united in Christ (Ephesians 6:13). There should not be any difference in what the Lord's church teaches regardless where it is located.

A small congregation in a town of two hundred thousand people cannot possibly evangelize that area without the help of other congregations. We must consecrate and combine resources in areas where lost souls live (Acts 8:14).

The church must be one in doctrine which equates to one in works. The church must unite efforts the job is too great for a few congregations. The Lord's church consists of all the congregations of the world with Christ dwelling in them, and they all have the same mission.

More people are born today in a few days than there were in the entire world during Jesus' day. We are not reaching one thousandths of one percent of the population. There are large cities in the U.S. that do not have the Lord's church in them; that is unacceptable with God. The gospel truth may be the best-kept secret of all times (Ezekiel 3:18).

If we identify the churches of the world as denominations because they do not practice and obey all the commands of God, what does that make the Lord's church with all the different doctrines she holds? Transgressing a command by adding something that is not in the word is sinful and equates to denominationalism. Multitudes of people die every day without ever hearing the saving gospel of Jesus Christ while Christians disagree about how it should be done. The Lord does not look kindly on a divided people. Again, a divided church cannot evangelize the world. The Kingdom of God is not divided; it honors the king's commands. When we look into secular history concerning the Lord's church, it lists all the different divisions which have pulled off from the Lord's church; that is not alright with God. We cannot go into the entire world without God's help, will God help people who are divided?

The church is a kingdom; that means we have one King over the church. The King Himself prayed that we all might be one; Yet, His kingdom is divided. I doubt if anyone knows how many factions there are in the "Lord's kingdom". All schisms are sinful; the attitudes that exist between the different divisions are totally wrong. We are suppose to be members of Christ's one church, she has one high priest, one

shepherd, one saviour, one Lord, one rule book, one mission. We should all be brothers and sisters in one family. All Christians are married to Christ and all are one with Him. We all are planning to enter into the same eternal home. We all have one Father who also desires us to walk in unity (Ephesians 1:22-23, Matthew 16:18-19, 4:3-6, James 2:8, 1 Peter 2:5, 5:4, Galatians 3:26-27, Romans 7:4). Someone will be held accountable for the division in the Lord's family. Is Christ divided, will He accept all the many divisions which claim Him as their Lord? If we have ever wondered why the church is not growing consider the divisive doctrines which have caused division.

Most all the people in the Lord's church are outstanding people, and they desire to please God; will God shower His blessings upon all people with different doctrines? Just how different can doctrines be and still please God; just how strict is God? Just how well do we know God? Does the Christian have "wobble room" in doctrines? Just how narrow is the narrow way? Then who then can be saved? If all the different doctrines are OK in the Lord's church, why would not all the religious people of the world be acceptable to God? I am seeing some significant discrepancies. If we cannot live together in unity as brethren here on earth, why would God put us together in heaven? We as the Lord's church have showed the world we cannot dwell together in the unity of the Spirit, or in the bond of peace, and yet we expect the world to join us and be divided as we are. The churches of the world are more united than we are; why would they want any part of another division? People on the outside of the Lord's church are not impressed, due to lack of dedication and unity. It hurts to say this, but the church, as a whole, is not the light of the world; some members are the light of the world, God knows who they are (Matthew 5:14-16).

Have we not noticed the world does not join us when we have gospel meetings? Have we not noticed the Lord's church is not growing? Many offsprings are not converted and are leaving the church. Any organization that does not function properly should be changed. We all realize how the Lord's church should function, and we all realize it is not accomplishing its God intended purpose. How wise is it to stay on a ship that is sinking when we know it needs repairs and pretend all is well and do nothing about it; this ship is not a life sustaining vessel any

longer. Sin will cause the Lord to pull His candlestick leaving a manmade social group giving false hope where there is no hope. When we get to a point where we call evil good and good evil, where does that place us in God's sight; God hates evil. Sometimes I wonder if we are not Universalists or Humanists without realizing it; at least we show some of their doctrine. A complete restoration must take place in the church in order for the Lord to restore His candlestick. The Lord's church requires a filter; one out of order church member can degrade a whole congregation. (1 Corinthians 5:5-7, Isaiah 5:20, Revelation 2:5). We give the Lord praise for allowing His faithful few to retain the candlestick under certain conditions.

Fortunately, individuals have hope who is worshiping in congregations which is transgressing the commands of God. We must, in a loving and humble way, inform the congregation we do not approve nor accept the doctrine and give scriptures why we do not (Revelation 3:4, 1 Corinthians 3:13-17). Of course, this would be commands which are transgressed, and not a method used to carry out a command (1 John 3:4). We may not agree with the procedure the church is using to carry out a command but that is a personal opinion; we must not treat it as a transgression for it is not, only a command can be transgressed (1 John 3:4). Your method may be better than mine or vice versa discussions are in order, but not anything more. Under no circumstance should we build a wall of wrath, hate, or animosity between brethren. By building a strong wall of love between brothers and sisters in Christ is the only atmosphere where the Spirit of God and His word can have free flow. Withdrawing fellowship from the church of God is foreign to the Bible. History has proven when fellowship ends communications stop forever, and resistance becomes stronger with time. Love demands unity that is God's way. Any act which cannot be performed with the full fellowship of love is forbidden, even if it is a command of God.

The Holy Spirit dwells in individuals Christians not necessarily all the church members of a congregation. The candlestick (church) is the device which holds the light, (gospel) high, Christians who are standing for the truth plus Christ is the candlestick. When Christ is not dwelling in a church, the people cannot hold up that great light (Matthew 5:15, Mark 4:21, Revelation 1:20). In the Lord's church in Ephesus, evidently,

this whole congregation was failing to hold up the gospel light, and they were all commanded to repent. In the church, in Sardis sin was present and they were ask to repent, but a few saved individuals who had not defiled their garments with sin were holding the candlestick (gospel) high with Christ's help, teaching and practicing the truth (Revelation 3:2-4). This is so crucial because we have thousands in the churches that desire to live like the denominations and the world around them, but we have that few that is living the sacrificial life and have not stained their garments with sinful practices. (Matthew 8:11-12, 13:8, Romans 12:1-2). Unfortunately, a few individuals cannot practice public discipline, but they can practice private discipline; private discipline is an individual going to another individual in the spirit of love, pointing out a transgression. Private discipline also transpires every time we learn the word of God and accept it. Public discipline requires a united effort; any discipline requires God's Spirit with a tremendous amount of concern and love for lost souls. God's plan is totally fair allowing an individual access to God's salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ, even though many members are not taking God and His word serious. We will be judged as individuals and not as a congregation. Thank God for His concern and care for individuals (John 12:48, Romans 2:16).

A godly attitude, love, meekness, and concern are essential when communicating the gospel. If a study turns into an argument, it is time to end it for the time being. Our opinions are just that, opinions, and have no place when it comes to the scriptures, and must be kept out of the picture. If we cannot produce plain Holy Spirit words in the Law of Christ, it is our duty to remain silent (Colossians 2:8, James 4:6, 10).

The Lord's church has a perfect designer Jesus Christ. The church will function as designed with proper maintenance and understanding. The church will produce Christians continually. Christians are begotten by the word of God. The genes of the word of God do not change with time; it will always produce children of God. Using the wrong version of the Bible, or interpret it incorrectly will promote false doctrines, and will produce illegitimate children (James 1:18, 1 Corinthians 4:15, 1 John 5:18).

We serve a God of love, grace, mercy, peace, and He is just, and God does not show partiality. He is honest and has the highest of standards. God's judgment will be without mercy, to those who have shown no mercy, but His mercy is plentiful before judgment while we live. The Bible will be the standard which will judge us, and we can be assured the judge will execute it to the letter based upon our record. Why do we judge brethren in liberties? Evangelistic work must begin with Christians before it moves out into the world (1 John 4:8, Romans 2:11, 14:10, 16:20, James 2:13, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Timothy 2:6).

In my area, we have about forty five congregations supporting one television program. We had to choose a method to accomplish this excellent work which reaches thousands of people in several states with the gospel. We chose one congregation to handle the accountants work. We send money to one congregation and get a report every month of the finances, and we view the program and approve the messages. The cooperation of many congregations is the only way this program is possible. All Christians should make the same decisions no matter how much distance is between them concerning the word of God.

The congregation where I worship hired a full time preacher to establish a congregation of the Lord's church in Europe; we paid his salary for several years he worked hard and would come back about once a year and give a report as well as communicating throughout the year. It required at least two years or more for him to learn the language and cultures, and he never was able to accomplish but little. About the same story, of a man we supported full time in New York City.

. One soul is precious, but we must use the Lord's money wisely, and deliver to Him as many souls as possible for His investment. Any plan that is not productive must be changed. We must teach people how to fish, and not just give fish. A plan must be put into action. Since time is short, with 146,000 people dying every day, we must accelerate the teaching of the saving gospel (Matthew 25:15).

The country of India has about one billion people; we desperately wanted to reach these people with the gospel. We had missionaries who established churches there, but after they left, it would soon end. In

India, 15,000 people die each day, and most of them never have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

Some of the brethren from here in the states who visited India regularly and preached the gospel had a plan in conjunction with the brethren in India. Their plan was to build a Preachers school in India and prepare the natives of India to preach the gospel. This plan would require an abundance of money and cooperation. They went to the churches in the states with the enormous need that existed in India and how the fields were white. The churches responded and for several years the school has been turning out about fifty to sixty well trained preacher, every two years. These preachers have started hundreds of churches, and they remain in the congregations they establish; they have converted many other groups. Many congregations who support this school have brethren who visit this work regularly. We can talk to the people of India without cost anytime on the web. The men who attend the school come from the congregations of India; they stay at the school twenty four hours per day seven days a week for two years. This work has been remarkably successful.

Even though, we send money to a congregation here in the states we get a monthly report of all activity, and the man who directs the school and teaches in it gives a monthly report. This is cooperation the Lord desires; it produces fruit for the Masters table and gives Him the glory. Each congregation is vigilant concerning the work. The Lord's church is becoming strong in India (John 15:8). I think most congregations who support this work post the report on their bulletin board each month, the results are outstanding. The people in India are desperate for the gospel. The man who directs the school under the direction of the elders comes to the states once a year and gives reports.

This church in India in addition to the preacher's, training school has a correspondence program sending out thousands of lessons each month and can never fill the requests due to like of funds. They also distribute books such as the, "Truth for today" and many more. They also distribute Bibles, song books, and worship supplies. With the united and wise efforts, India is one of the fastest growing areas for the Lord's church.

Also, this church has two widow and orphan homes. All the churches in India have widows worshipping in them, who are widows indeed, and many little children live in the streets. The church gives the widows room and board and some money to care for children in the children homes solving two enormous problems and obeying the commands of God, and teaching them the powerful gospel. Of course, they are limited to the amount of widows and children they can care for, but they do the best they can with what they have. Many individuals and churches in this country support this profitable work, may God bless them (Mark 16:15-16, James 1:27). The widow's room and board come from their salary; it cost about \$11.00 per month for a widow and \$15.00 for orphans. Also, they have a leper colony \$17.00 for a leper in that facility. These children love to sing gospel songs and quote the verses they learn. Any individual can send money and designate what work they prefer to support.

If all the Christians in the United States would do without soft drinks and send the money to this church that would care for hundreds more little helpless children that could have a home, food, and medical care, but more than that the spiritual food that they receive daily from the church to save their souls. This is a terrific evangelistic work.

How would I respond if my children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren, were in the streets eating from garbage cans, sleeping in the streets (Romans 12:1-2).

I wrote an article one time entitled, "Hireling" and it drew much criticism. Please do not misunderstand what I am saying; we have many dedicated servants who are preaching the gospel because they love God and souls. We should support true servants of God. A man who preaches a social gospel toning it down to a level which is acceptable to all people is a hireling. Preaching part of the gospel which we know will not cause any waves places us on the list of hirelings. Preaching a gospel that does not discipline the soul is not the gospel of Jesus Christ, making us illegitimate children. Preaching a gospel that does not bring fruit for the Masters table is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 12:8). We can preach the truth every occasion we have and still be a hireling if we bypass parts of the gospel that people do not appreciate. The word

denomination means a part of the whole. The gospel is God's power to save when taught in its entirety and understood (John 10:12-13).

Having been involved in the process of choosing preachers, in many cases the first question they ask, what is the salary, benefits, etc. That is a clear indication to pass them by. If a preacher asks, how white is the field in this area, is there a potential for growth? Will the elders support the truth; do you support other evangelistic and benevolent programs? That is the preacher we must be looking for.

We have little Bible evidence where the early church supported a full time preacher. We know it is scriptural to support men who preach the gospel, but little is said about it. The apostle Paul supported himself, much of the time, concerned they might think he was a hireling (Luke 10:7, John 10:12-13).

A preacher works for God not man; it is the elders responsibility to select a man who is faithful to his employer. A preacher's job is to fellowship in the spreading of the good news of the kingdom publicly and privately; he has the same responsibility which every Christian has to visit the sick, widows etc. (1 Corinthians 1:17, 2:14, 2 Timothy 4:2-4, Titus 1:3, 1 Peter 1:25).

The emphasis was on a man who God inspired, and the church supported him. Today we must make sure we are supporting a man who speaks all the words of the Spirit. Recreational director is not one of the duties of an evangelist listed in the Bible.

Many say preachers are called directly by God, in one sense this is true. If a man has the talent and the faith, he will preach the gospel regardless of the circumstances. A few decades ago the preachers pay was mostly by commodities and not money. We desperately need men of God to preach the gospel, but we do not need men to preach a social gospel in order to retire, hirelings are not going to further the cause of Christ. If a preacher works for men he just might preach what they desire, and the truth would be left behind. Many congregations will not support the man of God, but they desire a man who will tickle their worldly ears. The Lord's church must have one doctrine on every Bible

subject. The church is a social group, but their socializing must be in the gospel and not in recreation. The gospel must be lived before told (2 Timothy 4:3).

We must have local elders, but those same elders must be world wide elders. In the United States, we have just a fraction of the population of the world, but we have over ninety percent of the gospel preachers of the world and we cannot half way cover the United States with the gospel. That is because of division, and efforts are not coordinated, and Christians are not willing to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel. This doctrine, "local responsibility is sufficient," is not the doctrine of Jesus Christ. God loves the world not just certain area in the Bible belt where His church dwells. A soul in Africa is just as valuable to the Lord as one in the United States. As someone said, God is color blind He does not prefer one color over another, and I must be the same, every soul is precious.

The words of wisdom which say, "No man has the right to hear the gospel twice until all men have heard it once," are something to consider. We must share the universal gospel with the world (Mark 16:15-16). The consecrated effort of placing the saving gospel inside of lost souls and feed little children and raises them with a steady diet of the gospel is crucial. Even if there are not any prospects who need the gospel in this area we can help in places where there are. The command, "go into the entire world," is to every Christian; if we cannot go maybe we can send.

Anytime we use the Lord's money we must make sure it is for His benefit and not ours. The Lord's money is not to be used for the enjoyment of human beings, unless we get enjoyment from seeing lost souls saved, little children's needs met, and deserving souls served, in promoting the cause of Christ. The Lord desires results; He has given us commands and they must be carried out without alterations. (Romans 4:15, Matthew 25:14-30, Exodus 25:9).

Benevolent Work in the Lord's Church Today

The Lord's work is in the hands of earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7). If my hands, do not wrap around the plow that cultivates the Lord's fields they just may not get plowed. If I choose, not to drive the combines that harvest the Lord's crops the wheat may die in the field. If my mind, cannot comprehend what the broad terms "visit and go" means the Lord's commands may not be carried out. If I have devised, some satisfying reason, not to obey God's commands, the souls which God loves may not be showered with His blessings. If I fail to comprehend the statement, "For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous" God's work may not get done. Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving our own selves. God desires actions from his people. The productivity of a Christian is mandatory in God's will; we are God's workmanship, if we do not do it, it will not get done. God works through His children (Ephesians 2:10, 1 John 5:3, 15:8, James 1:22, 2:15-16).

In the Old Testament God gave the command and method concerning the widows, fatherless, and the stranger, leave some of your crop in the fields for these people to glean. God did not say pick it and give it to them, but let them pick it. Now if, these people were not able to gather it, I am sure someone would gather it for them. We would be in trouble today if God gave us the gleaming law since most of us do not have farms (James 1:27, Deuteronomy 10:18, 14:29, 16:11, 14, 24:17, 19-20, 26:12-13, 27:19, Psalms 146:9, Jeremiah 7:6, 22:3, Zechariah 7:10, Malachi 3:5).

God has given us a command in the New Testament to take care of the widows and orphans, but He did not give us the details on how to do it. Therefore, we have liberty to choose a plan which is compatible with His word and the present society that is workable (James 1:27).

There are some examples which explain the commands, and it is not a method we are not at liberty to use another way. For instance, Christ instituted the Lord's Supper, and the apostle Paul later recorded it, but neither indicated what day we are to observe it, then we have an example where the disciples observed it on the first day of the week. It appears that is an example or command explained (Acts 20:7, Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29).

We as saints have a command to assemble and worship God; the examples we have in the Bible they met in private homes, by the river side etc (Romans 16:15, 1 Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15, Philemon 1:2). There is not one command or example where the church is to take the contributed money of the church and build a church building, contract the gas company, water department, the electric company, buy seats, song books, grape juice, unleavened bread etc. The Lord's church spends millions on these items every year. Why do we use the collected money to fund these things; we are using a method, which we believe is practical and expedient to fulfill a command (Hebrews 10:25). Alexander Campbell said do not build a church building with its fixtures but meet in caves, cellars, fields; that might not be feasible today. Someone somewhere in the past chose the church building with its continued maintenance, as the best way to assemble and worship God which obeys His command. Is there not other ways we could utilize for the purpose of assembling? It would be judging to condemn a method if it does not break a command. We must make sure any methodology we use has a direct command which we are fulfilling. I personally believe the, "spnd to fulfill a command," has gotten out of control; I believe this could be put in comparison to interpreting a parable it can be carried too far.

The church has an enormous responsibility to serve the whole world both believers and nonbelievers; taking the gospel to the whole world, and serving them in what ever need they have. Christ came to this world to serve; therefore, we must do the same. Paul wrote to the churches in Galatia and told them as they have opportunity do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Matthew 20:28, 28:19, Galatians 1:2, 6:10). We as Christians are to render services to all mankind; Christ rendered physical service to all people in order to teach them about eternal life. Service is the main characteristic of a Christian (John 20:30-31).

We have a missionary in the Russian territory; the only way he could get into this country and teach is to serve the needy with medical supplies, and the necessities of life. We must do whatever it takes to

deliver the saving gospel. Now they allowed him to put Bibles in their schools, they love that, and he has started a home for sick children.

I do have some reservations about the amount of money the church is spending on the building and maintaining of church buildings. I look at the annual financial report, and it is mind boggling to see the total for material things. Some say, look at the temple of old how elaborate it was, but the temple of old is where God dwelt, but today He does not dwell in houses made with hands, but He dwells in the temple of Christians. The temple of the Christian is where we must concentrate and place substantial spiritual emphasis (Acts 7:48, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Romans 12:1-2).

Some also say the church building should be as nice as personal dwelling places; could it be we need to place the emphasis, in both cases, where Jesus taught us to place them? Jesus' disciples were proud of the temple and wanted to boast to Jesus about its greatness, but Jesus busted their bubble telling them how insignificant material things are (Matthew 24:1-2).

Elders have the responsibility concerning their local area in feeding the flock and watching out for souls, and caring for the needy. The elders of all congregations must share equal responsibility for the rest of the world. Many large areas of the world do not have a congregation of the Lord's church, even here in the U.S. We cannot serve people if we are not aware of their existence. All churches must be vigilant and know where lost souls and orphans live (Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2, Mark 16:15-16, Galatians 6:10). A missionary who is in a poverty-stricken area of the world said, "We must first medicate, feed with bread, and then give them the bread of life this is the only order which will work." We can not teach a physically sick hungry person.

The church is all sufficient in spiritual things and is capable of fulfilling its mission; it was not designed to be all sufficient in material things, they must be utilized in order to fulfill the commands of God. The church must hire contractors, gas companies, electric companies, airlines, boats, book makers, printing presses etc. If the church refuses to use all methods which are available, she will fail miserably. Using the

same methods which the early church used would be first of all impossible, impractical, and unproductive. We must obey the unchanging commands of God, but there is no getting around the fact they must be obeyed and practiced in the twenty-first century. Yes, God's commands can be obeyed in any culture; if the world stands the methods and procedures will be entirely different a few years down the line. Men with spiritual wisdom will change the methods and procedures as we did in the current society. The Lord's church is caring for less than 1/10 of 1% of the orphans in the US.

. When we study James 1:27, it is obvious it has five verses before it which prepares the mind to understand it.

The Children's Homes satisfies the commands of God; and fulfill an enormous need; the need is greater today than ever before. It does require a lot of money to build children homes and maintain them as it does the private home and the church buildings, but what is money compared to doing the will of God. Money will perish, but souls are eternal. We must be concerned, who is raising all the orphans in this country? Is there a perfect way to do things in any field, absolutely not, mistakes will be made but hopeful we can keep them to a minimum.

In the children's home, the children have Christian parents who study God's word and pray with them; they take them to worship, and send them to a Christian schools. I am thankful for these godly people who will take on this awesome responsibility; many of these children are scared by their former life of abuse which makes the parents job much more difficult, requiring individual help. These people are sacrificing their life for these little, helpless children, which equates for the cause of Christ. These little children found themselves in a terrible condition which was no fault of their own. If we do not take these little children someone else will, but will they receive the bread of life which came down from heaven? Christ would say, **"Forbid them not from coming unto me for such, is the Kingdom of heaven"** (Matthew 19:14). We call this benevolent work and it is, but it is one of the best evangelistic works we have today.

I just wish the private Christian homes would have the same success as the Christian Children's Homes in raising the children for Christ, their record is very impressive. God sanctions the Children's Home and the private individual home alike; they both should accomplish the same purpose. It is no different when a man and his wife who are Christians adopt some children and the church help support them. Thank God we have the Children's Homes and servants of God who are fulfilling their God given talents to bear fruit for the Masters table, may God bless them, and may we diligently encourage and vigorously support them in every way possible.

The government supported public schools today do not have an atmosphere conducive to Christianity. The ungodly peer pressure is strong to lead children in the wrong way. The training which children, receive does not come from the homes exclusively, but it includes every exposure that crosses their path. The Children's Homes have solved this problem with the Christian schools; I wish every child had the opportunity to attend a Christian school (Proverbs 22:6).

We are allowing children access to Satan's number one device the television; the television has been the companion and babysitter for the children for decades, robbing parental training of children. Also, many mothers left the home in the forties and started to work leaving the children to be raised by someone else. All these things are against God's ordained plan. Because of television the top government officials can hardly make a public speech without using bad language. What does God think about the programs we view? We must bring the children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and not allow the television to raise the children (Ephesians 6:4).

I do not know how accurate this information is, but I read where forty percent of children leave the church after graduation from high school, after leaving their private homes. The private Christian home is not fulfilling its God given responsibility in some cases; the fruit it is producing is ample proof of this fact. In the absence, of godly instructions we find ungodliness. The church, Christian parents, as a whole, are missing the mark in raising children. If a factory is unsuccessful in producing an acceptable product, we would immediately

examine the manufacturing process. Why would we not be as diligent in producing children of righteousness?

There are those who send a contribution to the children's home each month who are in a congregation who does not support the children's homes, and that is good; however, we choose to help is OK, but it is not acceptable to ignore the commands of God.

Some say where there is no opportunity there is no responsibility; this may sound practical, but there are no Bible bases for it. For we read what Christ said, about the people who did not serve mankind. If I live in a little town where there are no jobs, should I just stay there, or should I go where there are jobs (Matthew 25:1-46)? Opportunities are not always present we must look for them. God has always been concerned about the widow, the fatherless, and the stranger, and I believe we should, also. (John 15:2, 8, James 1:27, Deuteronomy 10:18, 14:29, 16:11, 14, 24:17, 19-20, 26:12-13, 27:19, Psalms 146:9, Jeremiah 7:6, 22:3, Zechariah 7:10, Malachi 3:5)?

God only knows how many gospel preachers, elders, deacons, and their wives, and thousands of other Christians that are products of the "Christian Children's Home;" how many precious souls are with God today because some wise elders had the foresight to start and maintain a home for orphan children. They had a mindset to obey God's commands regardless of the method they must employ. Yes, They had some set backs due to new civil laws which passed in the last few years but with God's help and the help of God's people they triumphed.

Every day the courts remove little children from their parents who have rendered themselves as unfit parents due to drugs, alcohol, or in some cases they desert them. These children will be moved to some facility, but the facility will determine whether they know God, this does place an enormous responsibility on God's people.

I sometimes consider ways to get more help for these homes; if all Christians would just miss one meal occasionally and give money for their care that would make a substantial difference. Eat out once or twice per month instead of four times. We read about the one talent man

who Jesus used to teach us a lesson on bearing fruit. This man was honest he did not steal one penny. This man did not develop a plan to execute the Lord's command; he did not use the banks or whatever resources were available to him to make money for the Lord. This man had the command and the resources; thus, the Lord expected him to come up with the plan, but he failed. The Lord said, use what we have (Matthew 25:14-30, John 15:4, 8, 1 Corinthians 3:15).

We may think since we are contributing to a congregation which supports the children's home we are fulfilling the commands of the Lord, and we may be, if that is all we can afford, but it might be we would qualify to take a child, or help someone who could. It might be we could give extra sometimes, or maybe we might prepare our will leaving the children's home some inheritance. Would not it be a fantastic feeling to know after we have departed this earth we are still producing fruit for the Masters table (Hebrews 11:4)? Please, think and consider these things. Love reaches far and near utilizing every opportunity we have is the Lord's way. I wonder if each of us could give up a nonessential thing in order to give to those who do not have the necessities of life. A big part of the money goes for non essentials (Hebrews 11:4).

The widows in the United States have some financial support from the government, but that is just one need out of many; the Lord was not referring to financial help only. Widows have many needs the church must assist. Visiting includes every need one has: encourage, chores around the house, take them to the doctor, get their groceries, medication, or bring them to the services etc. Many countries do not have compensation for widows which must be helped. Visit means look out, look after, to determine their condition, look upon in order to assist. This definition is in harmony with the inspired word.

I view liberalism as those who go beyond God's commands in the name of methods, procedures, and do not have a command to back them up. Being to conservative may be just as sinful as being too liberal; falling short of a command is equal to going beyond it. The Lord will withdraw His candlestick from His people if we fail to do things which He has commanded; there is always that possibility of falling short or

going beyond God's commands. Again, remember a candlestick is not the light it is the devise which holds the light high to illuminate; Christians must hold high the truth. Christians cannot hold the gospel high for the world to see without Christ's help. A Christian plus Christ make up the candlestick (Revelation 22:18-19, 1 Timothy 6:3).

There are very few commands given in the Bible, but there are thousands of methods which must be utilized to accomplish and obey the few commands. No command, which God has, given, is too complicated to obey, no matter where we live or whatever situation we may find ourselves in. Any time God gives us a command we know there is a means or a way to obey it if we will but look for it. We must be extremely wise and spiritual in choosing methods, procedures, and plans.

As long as there is one lost soul, or one hungry child, or adult anywhere in the world we have an opportunity as well as an obligation to help if we can; because when Jesus said the entire world that does not leave anyone out. We will never be condemned for considering a command to be worldwide, but localizing God's commands is not satisfactory. If there is a doctor in a remote part of the world who has the cure for cancer I would hope he would share it with the rest of us; obeying the commands of God is much more valuable than the cure for cancer.

The Cancerous Splits in the Lord's Church

It gives us a sickening feeling to study the history of the Lord's church concerning the splits which have occurred in the past two hundred years. In studying each case, there was a common thread, the splits were not about the breaking of a command, in most cases, but the splits occurred over methods used or not used to obey a command. I will not mention all the splits they are too many, but I will mention a few as examples.

There were splits in the Lord's church, over how many cups a congregation should use while taking the Lord's super. They got the command and the procedure run together. The container is not relevant,

but the substance in the container is what brings to memory the blood of Christ shed for remissions of sins. The container is a means or a method to administer its substance. It is true the church always used one or two container until the last few years; due to the availability of other methods (Matthew 26:26-29, 1 Corinthians 11:23-30).

Every segment of society has its problems because personalities clash, and they are not entirely honest, and they will go to any length to have it their way. In the church, the division originated because they did not have love for truth, nor the Spirit of God and He sent them a strong delusion that they might believe a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11).

Division always causes weakness, the kingdoms of Saul, David and Solomon was successful because of unity; when divided the United Kingdom fell. The division in the Lord's church is condemned by God. Of course, it is not possible to know how many congregations or individuals the Lord lives in, and how many are operating without the Lord's candlestick. The church cannot evangelize or serve the world until we are one (Revelation 2:5).

Also, further splits occurred over what they called, "Sunday school classes." Again we have a command to study the Bible but no procedures or methods given. Therefore, we must utilize whatever method works best and is compatible with the principles set out in the Bible. Again, God's commands must be obeyed even if we must remove a mountain, or construct one. The elders have chosen many ways to feed the flock and the flock must show up for the nutrition from the word of God. Unfortunately, many of the flock do not show up for spiritual nutrition, and they are suffering from spiritual malnutrition (Ephesians 3:10, Matthew 4:23, 26:25, Acts 5:21, 13:1, 20:28, 1 Timothy 1:7, 2 Timothy 1:11).

Trouble arose leading to splits over the use of contributed money and what it could be used for. Problems first started with a few congregations supporting Christian colleges, and expanded to congregations supporting the Christian children's homes for homeless children, and later included congregations uniting in order to accomplish the Lord's commands.

The Lord's church today is weighing in with over a dozen different divisions; she is divided as much as any denomination. The different divisions do not have fellowship with each other; since the churches re-establishment in the early 1800's, she has split many times. Today the Lord's church is not one in any sense of the word; she is listed in secular history as a denomination with individual congregations saying they are the true church, and all the other divisions are denominations. What have we done to the Lord's blood bought institution? Someone is responsible and will be held accountable. We will never get the world to join us until we unite with Christ, and if we did it would be sinful in the divisive condition. If we cannot unite the body of Christ, why would we even attempt to convert the world? We must get the Lord's house in order before we proceed any further (Matthew 7:3, 23:15, John 17:20-23, Ephesians 1:22-23, Psalms 133:1-3, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Acts 20:28). The Lord's church is unique she must not even be similar to the denominations of the world. The Lord's church must outshine every organization in the world. The Lord's church can participate in actions which make God nauseated.

15. I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue (vomit) thee out of my mouth.

17. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked (Revelation 3:15-17).

We must be saddened when we think about the church splitting over issues, methods, procedures, or physical devices, because splits pulls the spiritual body of Christ apart. Splits hinder the prayer of Jesus Christ; they are against every principle God has established. It is a sad condition when brethren cannot dwell together in peace, unity and fellowship of the gospel. We must stand firm on God's commands, and be tolerable to methods. Methods can be totally different, and all still be right (John 17:20-21, 1 Corinthians 1:11-14, 3:3-23).

It is heart breaking today when we see the Lord's church moving to the right toward denominationalism at a rapid pace. The activist does not have any desire to join the denominations, but they want the Lord's church to accept their change movement doctrine and join them. We do not need to leave, but we need to stay, pray and stand in a loving humble way for the truth. Do not split the church but educate it that is God's way. Teach them the commands of God not personal opinions on how we believe things must be done. Above all, we must not build a wall of animosity between each other when that happens the teaching process is over. There is absolutely no justification in God's sight to have hateful or inappropriate feelings between brethren. In all cases, the splits generated animosity and created an atmosphere which closed the door of study and fellowship of the gospel. It is of God when we can disagree and not be disagreeable with the wrong spirit.

If all were walking by the Spirit of God we would all be united in the gospel, and we could all go to battle against Satan instead of each other, and we would win. Division is in most every group, and where there is division there is animosity, and where there is wrath we will not find God dwelling (James 1:20). I hear some church members calling other churches denominations, but I wonder how many parts they are adding or taking from God's word?

Withdrawing fellowship from the church and starting another church will not solve the problem that just creates new ones. We must discipline (Teach) individuals only if a command is broken; the inspired word of God is the only thing which can discipline with God's blessings and never personal opinions how we think commands should be obeyed. It is vitally essential for brethren to all communicate and dwell together; keeping the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace and there will be no splits (Ephesians 4:3). It is not necessary to be united in how commands should be executed so long as obeyed in a godly manner, and all walk in love.

Splitting a church is never in the spiritual order that is an abomination before God, it never has nor will it ever bring praise to God. A church will never split while walking in love; hate is a must ingredient in order to split the body of Christ. The attitudes, which were

present during the splits, were not of God; when we read concerning the divisions we realize the devil won the fight.

It is impossible to have godly love between groups who have split, because the love of God is walking in harmony with His commands (1 John 4:12, 5:2-3, 3 John 1:1-6). We cannot have the love of God and not have fellowship, it is just not possible. Without the love of God, efforts are all in vain (1 Corinthians 13:1-13). We can not have truth without love; truth only flows through the media of love. We can study and gleam every speck of truth in the Bible, but if it is not saturated in love it is unprofitable and void. The old attitude, "I told him" is in the devil's book of records. If we had to choose between truth and love, we would be in trouble with God, since they cannot be separated without destroying both. Love does not split churches it unites them. God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, are love and they desire unity (Psalms 86:11, 133:1, Ephesians 4:3, 13, 1 John 4:8, 11, 12, 5:2-3).

Relationships with each other

We have many relationships in the current society: work related, fellowship with the brethren, the neighbors, strangers, classmates at school, and relationship with people on the internet, family, husband and wife, and Christ and His church. A wrong relationship with mankind can terminate the relationship with God. We cannot have the right relationship with God and have wrong relationships with our fellowman (1 John 4:20, Romans 12:18, Galatians 5:19).

The family has broken down and become dysfunctional in the present society. God instituted the family which makes it very important. The Lord's church cannot function without strong Christian homes; they are so closely related a dysfunctional home can destroy the church. The church and the home were both instituted by God and must be respected as the anointed of God. This places a tremendous amount of pressure on all, especially the parents. If we fail to raise our children right we are destroying their soul and the Lord's church; children will become the church. We must not compete with the television (the devil's devise) we will lose our children. The number one priority as parents, is to produce Christians and not just church members, there is a vast difference

(Genesis 2: 24-25, Acts 2:47, Galatians 3:26-27, Acts 2:47, Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:1-4, Proverbs 22:6).

God created one man, one woman and made them one flesh as husband and wife; God performed the first wedding and He will perform the last. The couple produced children just as God planned (Genesis 2:21-24, 3:6, 16, 20, and 4:1-2). This plan was designed to be perpetual until all marriages end (Matthew 22:29). The marriage must remain one unit until death; this is God's way and man must not change it. Man brought the curse of heaven on the church by tampering with God's perfect marriage law. We have driven God far from us by accepting the traditions of man over His word. God does not dissolve marriages while we live, man does. Unattended sin will fester, grow, multiply, and, become a destructive spiritual killer. A church without Christ's candlestick does not have His sacrifice; Christians cannot hold up the gospel truth without Christ. Many catastrophes are happening in the world today because we have moved away from God; we have kindled His wrath, and they will continue and get more severe. Consider studying Bible history how God dealt with His people when they moved away from Him; God does not change (James 2:14-15, Proverbs 14:34, Ephesians 5:26-27, Revelation 2:5, Hebrews 10:26, Malachi 3:6).

God has commanded:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23. For, the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26. That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

- 28. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.**
- 29. For, no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:**
- 30. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.**
- 31. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.**
- 32. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**
- 33. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:22-33).**

The beautiful relationship will never end in divorce, if the wife submits to her husband and the husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church. I hope we noticed both the husband and wife were Christians (1 Peter 3:7). The non-Christian just may not respect and honor the above scriptures. Therefore, it would be extremely dangerous and irresponsible to marry a non-Christian. Would it be wise to become one with the child of the devil? Do we desire a child of the devil to be the father or mother of our children (Matthew 12:30)?

At the dinner table is where character and faith should be built. We might ask how much exposure the family has to us; this answer might surprise us. It is imperative we train the children while we have the opportunity; we have one shot at teaching the children we must not share this time with the television or anything else. Even if, the programs were not soul damning, it stills robs the children of precious time with their parents. We lost something when families lost the opportunities to work together on the farm; they got to know one another.

We must be super parents in order to ground the children in the faith with the short time we have with them; it should be considered a crash course. The secular schools may have more time and influence our children more than we do, if we are not particularly diligent. Is it possible to overcome the injurious influence children receive at school? While the children are still in the cradle is the right time to start preparing them for marriage; and teaching them God's marriage law. We

may say that is too young it may be, but you will not have waited to late. We must not allow anything to hinder the family circle especially at the dinner table, its indispensable. We must talk to the children about God Christ the Holy Spirit heaven hell and the mission we have been given on this earth; the persecutions they will suffer being a Christian. It is extremely importance for them to pray and study the word of God, and obey it; teach them the difference in spiritual and carnal things and how short this life is, and how long eternity will continue.

The woman leaving home and entering the work place was a dead blow to the home and church. Delinquent children and divorce skyrocketed when the woman started working outside the home; lust spread like wildfire. Babysitters kept the children who did not take the place of the mother. Children must be exposed to godly personalities, this is God's way. The home is God's training ground; the public schools are not compatible with righteousness (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21, Titus 2:4-5).

Today marriages are taken with a grain of salt; we do not label marriage the permanent institution which cannot be dissolved before death, except in the marriage ceremony. Placing marriages in the file with temporary things sends the wrong message. Marriage is not considered a divine institution which cannot be dissolved. The divine fact is, divorce is not an option if we want to please God and go to heaven. When God performs an action, it would not be advisable to tamper with it (Matthew 19:6). Just one generation ago, as a whole, people viewed marriage the same way God does. Teaching the truth on divorce and remarriage will cause the God created unit to remain intact. Loosing where God has not loosed will bring God's wrath upon us, and it has. When God bonds two people together in marriage there is only one thing that will break this bond, the death of one party; absolutely nothing else will break this bond, and at death God breaks it, not man. The false doctrine being planted in children's mind, which says, "If my marriage does not work out I can marry someone else," is detrimental to a permanent God instituted marriage (Matthew 16:19, 18:18, Romans 7:2, 27, 1 Corinthians 7:39, Galatians 5:19).

The Holy Spirit draws a parallel between the husband and his wife, and Christ and His church. Yes, this is how important marriage is. God is personally involved in every scriptural marriage; He joins the husband and wife together and makes them one flesh, and He says let not man put the marriage asunder. That is a direct command given by the almighty God; it would not be wise to attempt to undo that which He has bound. When we obey the gospel, the Lord adds us to His church making us one with Him and we become His bride. Can we divorce Christ with God's blessings (Ephesians 5:22-33, Matthew 19:6, Acts 2:47, Romans 7:4, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Galatians 3:28, Hebrews 6:4-6)? (Matthew 12:36, Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5, 13:5, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27, 2 Corinthians 5:10)?

Divorce and remarriage is common place in the Lord's church and have contaminated the blood bought institution. Instead of the church being a glory to God it is an abomination to Him (Luke 16:15, Ephesians 5:27).

The whole book of Hebrews, as well as other books, stresses to the fullest degree how much better the New Testament law is in comparison to the Law of Moses. Why have we made the Law of Christ totally inferior when it comes to divorce and remarriage? God totally hated divorce many years ago, and God does not change; therefore, He hates divorce today (Malachi 2:16, 3:6). Can we do something which God hates and still be saved? The church has totally missed the mark on this subject; repentance and prayer is necessary.

Evidentially we are not taking God serious; maybe it is time we go back and study how he dealt with the people who did not respect His word. Research in the Old Testament reveals God means what He says, and He fulfills His word no matter how long it may take. We all need to study the nature and personality of God. Our great and powerful God is a consuming fire, taking vengeance on them that obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are disobeying God concerning His marriage law (Hebrews 12:29, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 2 Peter 2:9).

God does not punish us as individuals for transgressions until His designated time. Therefore, we can miss the mark in this life and not

know it until we depart this world; for this reason it becomes even more beneficial to re-examine doctrines and be certain we are in line with God's word. It is very easy to continue in the first learned doctrine without question, but it is next to impossible to examine the word of God with an unbiased mind, because the pre-learned doctrine hampers the efforts. We cannot do justice to the word of God unless we have the ability to clear the mind of all previous accepted doctrine, as though it had never been learned, and receive with meekness the engrafted word of God. It is impossible to receive the pure gospel of Jesus Christ if the heart be contaminated with another gospel. We have today over one thousand different doctrines, and the holder of each doctrine evidently believes it is of God; Lord help us to know the truth (Matthew 12:36, Galatians 1:6-9, 2 Peter 2:9, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, James 1:21).

We have millions of people who do not take God serious today; they say He will not hold us responsible for our sins. They do not believe God has prepared a place called hell, they say a loving God would not do such a thing. I do not believe these people could convince the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah or the rebellious souls in Noah's day, or the rich man of Luke 16, or Achan, that God does not mean what He says. God will cast people into the burning flames of hell just as he has promised, and it will be painful as we know fire, and it is true we will never be rescued. Loved ones, in heaven, will not remember or miss us or know where we are (Revelation 21:4). God will never visit us in hell; we will never be remembered. God truly is a loving God that is why He sent His only begotten Son to this old sinful world, but love equates to truthfulness, keeping promises as He will do. God tells us what we can do, and what we cannot do we must take Him serious. God does not want anyone to perish, but this option is available. If it were possible, a five minute trip to hell would be the greatest gift we could ever receive, that would change our attitude completely, guaranteed. We must never doubt God's word that would be a fatal eternal mistake (Matthew 5:30-31, 25:32-46, John 3:16, John 3:16, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9, Jude 1:7, Joshua 7:24).

The Lord's church today promotes divorce and remarriage; anytime we allow something we promote it that is how God views actions. When we sanction divorce and remarriage it is the same as being in that

condition ourselves; we need to give this some serious thought. The person who said, "I do not think those who have divorced and remarried are lost, but I sure would not do that myself," well, they just did (Romans 1:32, 2 John 1:10-11).

The Lord's church is supposed to set an example for the world to follow? The church is giving the world the idea that divorce and remarriage is OK with God, when it is not. We are jeopardizing ourselves and the soul of our children by teaching them God approves divorce and remarriage. Divorce is a dreadful thing because it destroys what God instituted to populate His planet and God used marriage to bring His Son into the world; it destroys His body, which promotes, sustains and gives His saving gospel to the whole world. Divorce is against everything God stands for. God planned the gospel of His Son's kingdom before the foundation of the world, and it does not include divorce and remarriage. God's priests of old had to marry a virgin, are not all Christians priests today (Leviticus 21:13-14, Ephesians 3:10, 1 Peter 2:5)?

We are so fortunate to live in a time when we have access to the precious blood of Jesus Christ which takes away our sins. Why have we allowed the lust of the flesh to destroy the worlds greatest gift (Matthew 19:8, Ephesians 1:4-5, 1 Peter 1:20, Ephesians 3:10, Acts 20:28)?

Divorce is a catastrophic, devastating action which causes more heartache, confusion and turmoil than any other act of man. It often takes little children's mothers and fathers and confuses their tender minds, sometimes beyond repair. Divorce almost always causes hate, animosity, sin of all kinds, and sometimes leads to financial disaster and sometimes murder. Divorce separates people from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). God knew from the beginning the evils of divorce; would He be the author of such a destructive law (1 Corinthians 14:33)? We will discuss why God allowed divorce and remarriage for even a short time. Every law God has given is good for mankind when obeyed. We must know there is not one command in the Bible, which will not, make life better here on earth and in the life to come when obeyed (Mark 10:30, Luke 18:30). This plainly tells us divorce and remarriage is not from God. Even the professionals who deal with domestic problems say it is the

worst thing that has happened to our society. The children are the looser when parents divorce. There are many who believe the family, as we know it today, will become extinct in the future; there are many things happening at the present time that verifies this belief. Millions believe they have found a better way rather than accepting God's way; they just cohabitate without marriage, or they divorce and marry another mate at will. Same-sex marriages are becoming legal, not remembering Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember the churches of the world influenced the world to practice divorce, but they did not stop with that only.

God does not tempt us with evil, fleshly lust causes divorce. Prior to divorce and remarriage many commands of God are broken even before adultery is committed: hate, lust, disobeying God's command "not to put marriage asunder," not loving our mate, wrath, breaking a vow to man and God, not providing for families physically and spiritually, absenteeism, desertion, bad example etc. (James 1:13, Mark 10:30, James 3:16, Romans 12:18, 14:17, 15:33, Ephesians 5:22-33, 2 Corinthians 13:11, Galatians 5:19-22, Philippians 4:7, Hebrews 12:14).

33. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints (1 Corinthians 14:33).

14. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie, not against the truth.

15. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace (James 3:14-18).

It is vitally essential to understand why God allowed Moses to write the law on divorce and remarriage when He did not approve of it, but hated it. This was a vital question in my mind, why God allowed a change in His divine law to accommodate people who were rebelling against Him. The people in Moses' day became so engrossed in sin God gave them the Law of Moses, as a temporary

law, hoping to turn them from their wicked ways by specifying what sin is. Likewise, divorce and remarriage was in this temporary law, given because the people's heart was wicked. The Law of Moses was weak and not a perfect law due to the flesh. Moses' law on "divorce and remarriage" could not be placed in the New Testament because it was not perfect. Moses' law on divorce and remarriage was for the sake of the woman, not the hard hearted man (Matthew 5:20, 19:8, Romans 8:3, Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 8:7, James 1:25, Malachi 3:7-8).

It is necessary to be familiar with the conditions of the society in which Moses gave this law on divorce and remarriage. God in the beginning placed the man over the woman as for as decision making; the man and the woman were one and equal but had different rolls. It is true if we give a person an inch they will take a mile; well in this case it was true. By the time society evolved, and reached Moses' day, the woman had become a possession, about equal to the animals. The man used and abused her for his pleasure. The woman was totally dependant on the man for the necessities of life, because her livelihood depended on her having a husband, since that society did not support the woman working out in public. According to history, men were killing their wives in order to marry someone else. This attitude extended through many generations to the Arabian nations today; they say the woman exists only to serve the desires of man. Moses convinced God, for the good or sake of the woman, to allow her to marry another man when her husband put her away, because she was not a virgin, when he married her. Unfortunately, the men would abuse and rape many young girls, showing very little respect for them. Even though, they had been raped the husband sometimes would not accept a non-virgin wife, because the condition of his heart; he had hardened his heart against God's law (Deuteronomy 22:1-30, 24:1-4, Matthew 19:8). God is no respecter of persons, but the Jewish woman could not put her husband away for any cause; this tells us the Law of Moses on divorce and remarriage was proper only under the present conditions. If the woman had put her husband away, she would have destroyed her livelihood. God allowed Moses to give this law for the good of the abused woman, not for the hard hearted man (2

Chronicles 19:7, Deuteronomy 22:13-21, 24:1-4, Matthew 5:32, 19:8-9).

God hated the current situation for He had made man and woman equal; Therefore, God did allow Moses to write this law to extend until Christ came and fulfilled it. Any woman divorced by her husband because he discovered the day of the wedding, she was not a virgin, could marry another man; if the wife was a virgin the man could never divorce her. This is contrary to the way we think, but who are we to question it (Genesis 1:27, 2:18, 24, Deuteronomy 24:1-3).

This is not the first time Moses entreated God and caused Him to change His mind and repent, and allow something other than His first decision (Exodus 32:9-14). God also gave the people a king against His will (1 Samuel 8:6-22). God does not want any of us to perish, but He does give us that option (2 Peter 3:9).

As mentioned the Law of Moses allowed the man to divorce the wife but did not allow the woman to divorce her husband; the Gentile world was the first to allow the woman to divorce her husband (Deuteronomy 22:13-21, 24:1-4, Matthew 5:32, 19:9). Marks gospel to the Gentile world did prohibit both the woman and man from divorcing (Mark 10:11-12).

The Law of Moses did not allow a man to put his wife away for marital unfaithfulness (adultery) (Deuteronomy 24:1-4, 22:22-24, Leviticus 20:10).

The Lord's church today, as a whole, allows one to divorce the mate for marital unfaithfulness (adultery) only; this has never been permitted by God, not even under the inferior Law of Moses. Which law has the church made more liberal? Moses allowed divorce only for premarital sexual activity of the woman. (fornication)

The church does not allow divorce for premarital sexual activity (fornication), which is right, for that law has been fulfilled over 2000 years. What does the Bible say about premarital sexual activity

(fornication) and marital unfaithfulness (adultery)? We must teach any sexual activity outside of a God approved marriage will condemn the soul; if we do not turn away and repent. It is not OK with God for couples to live together when not married under any circumstance (Deuteronomy 24:1-4, 22:13-30, Leviticus 20:10, Galatians 5:19, Hebrews 13:5).

After Christ died on the cross sealing the New Testament with His blood and after the establishment of the church not one time did any person speaking or writing by the Holy Spirit of God give a reason to divorce and remarry but on the contrary, they said if one put their mate away and married another they would commit adultery. Divorce and remarriage is not permitted today (Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 39).

The church today wrongly uses two scriptures in Matthew to justify divorce and remarriage; in these two verses, Jesus was explaining the Law of Moses, and was correcting a false doctrine that had dominated the belief of the Jews for many years. The Jews were distorting the Law of Moses and Christ constantly rebuked them for their transgressions throughout the public ministry (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).

A humanist by the name of Erasmus in the fourteenth century interpreted Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9 wrongly, and most people have accepted his interpretation ever since. The first divorce and remarriage we have recorded in the church was after Erasmus introduced his false doctrine in the 1400's, and after the Lord's church was re-established in the 1800's. Divorce and remarriage was not prevalent or accepted in the Lord's church until the middle 1900's. Preachers started preaching the false doctrine of the, "innocent party, guilty party," It was accepted and put into practice; we are witnesses to their success today.

Many denominational churches were established in the 1400-1500's which adopted Erasmus's false doctrine on divorce and remarriage. The Lord's church was re-established in the early 1800's after publicly being out of existence for approximately 1400 years. The man (Alexander Campbell) who supposedly re-established the church in America emerged from a denomination and he brought Erasmus's false doctrine

with him and taught it in the church; plus he introduced his own doctrine, divorce and remarriage for the cause of desertion or abandonment, which is alive and well in the church today. (See his Harbinger monthly paper for October 1834)

We also have the popular doctrine in the church that teaches becoming a Christian will purify an adulterous marriage without dissolving it; if the marriage occurred before the couple were Christians. Water baptism is powerless if not done according to the pattern shown to us in the perfect law of liberty. Turning away from sin is in God's law of pardon (Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3).

Erasmus, a Catholic priest, defied his church and taught one could put their wife away for marital unfaithfulness, which at this time the Catholic Church did not allow divorce for any reason. Erasmus' doctrine was first taught my Shammai (50BCE-30CE) a Rabi who started the famous, "House of Shammai." Shammai was a Rabi, a scholar of the Law of Moses, but he changed it many times. Shammai changed premarital sex to marital unfaithfulness for the exception for putting ones wife away and marrying another under the Law of Moses. Erasmus was the first one to adopt Shammai's doctrine and apply it to Christ's New Testament Law.

Mark Luke and Paul understood Jesus was giving the Law of Moses and did not apply Jesus' teaching found in Matthew 5:32, 19:9, to the people who are under the New Testament Law, and they wrote by the Holy Spirit of God. They did not give any reason one could put their mate away and marry another; as a matter of fact, they said if one put their mate away and married another that constituted adultery. The apostle Paul did quote Jesus in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 (Mark 10:11-12, Luke 16:18, Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 39).

Some interpret Matthew 5:31 to be the Law of Moses, but a closer examination reveals it is not; this verse was a false doctrine introduced a few years before Christ came to this earth by a Rabi by the name of Hillel, (110 BCE-10CE), who started, "The House of Hillel." Hillel's doctrine was clear, "Write your wife a divorce and put her away for any cause and marry another." Christ as His method of teaching was,

brought up this false doctrine in verse 31 in order to refute it, and this He did in Matthew 5:32. Matthew's letter was to the Jewish nation; while Mark, Luke, and Paul's letters were to the Gentile nations who were never under the Law of Moses. .

John the Baptist lived and died under the Law of Moses; he made it abundantly clear one cannot just give your wife a divorce and marry another (Matthew 14:3-4). Jesus' earthly father Joseph was under the Law of Moses, and he believed one could put their wife away only for the cause of fornication, premarital sex (Matthew 1:18-25).

It would seem, Matthew 5:32 is one of the most misunderstood verses in the whole Bible; note some facts which must be considered before we attempt to understand this passage.

This verse is not about the man marrying someone and committing adultery.

It is not about whether the man had committed fornication.

This verse is about putting his wife away and whether he caused her to commit adultery.

The woman was not an adulteress before her husband put her away, regardless whether she was a virgin when he married her.

The woman was not an adulteress after he divorced her.

Jesus presented two possibilities the man put her away for fornication or he put her away for some reason other than fornication.

An exception always introduces an option and has at least two possibilities.

The man caused his wife to commit or not commit adultery by putting her away, but only after she married the second man.

The second man was innocent or guilty depending on the woman's condition.

Jesus made this statement based on the assumption the woman would marry another man.

If the put away woman was not a virgin when he married her (Raped or consensual) she could marry again; being a virgin when he married her, neither could marry again (Deuteronomy 22:19, 29).

The so called, "innocent party, guilty party doctrine," taught by the church is not even hinted at in the Bible, old or new. It is all about why the man divorced his wife. We must remove the Erasmus doctrine from the mind it is false. These verses were Moses' Law on divorce and remarriage and have absolutely nothing to do with the law of Christ today.

When God joins two people together in marriage they become bonded together making them one flesh; would it be possible to free one party and not both? We cannot remain married to someone that is not married to us. If one party of the marriage unit is free to marry someone else, does that mean the other party is still married? Under the Law of Moses, when God loosed the marriage bond both parties were free to remarry. Under Christ's law, the marriage bond cannot be broken apart by anyone except God, and He says He will not break it apart until one party of the marriage physically dies. Its not taught much today but under the Law of Moses the man could put his wife away only if they were newly weds, as soon as he discovered she was not a virgin (Romans 7:2. 1 Corinthians 5:1, 7:39, Deuteronomy 24:1-4).

Fornication, (porneia) according to the Holy Spirit of God means sexual activity of a person who is not married. Porneia recorded twenty six times in the New Testament, and not one time indicates marital unfaithfulness (adultery) The man made Greek lexicon indicates adultery which shall we accept (Matthew 5:32, 15:19, 19:9, Mark 7:21, John 8:41, Acts 15:20. 29, 21:25, Romans 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:13, 18, 7:2, 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians

3:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Revelations 2:21, 9:21, 14:8, 17:2 4, 18:3, 19:2, Hosea 4:13-14)?

Adultery (moichao) used six times in the New Testament and indicates sexual activity of a married person (Matthew 5:32, 19:9, Mark 10:11, 12, 1 Corinthians 6:13-20, 7:1-2, John 8:41).

The Greek word translated fornication in Matthew 5:32 and 19:9 is porneia which originally meant prostitution, whoredom, harlotry, hooker, brothel, absolutely nothing to do with adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals, etc. that was the meanings which surfaced and picked up by Thayer and Smiths online lexicon. Most lexicons I have consulted, except Thayer's, on line lexicon, translate porneia as fornication, prostitution etc. Unfortunately, many lexicons refer to Thayer's online lexicon. The textus receptus and the vulgate translate porneia as fornication (pre-martial sex).

The people of the church cut their teeth while studying material from the Gospel Advocate Company who uses Thayer exclusively as their lexicon. See more on lexicons at the end of the writings.

Why has the religious world gone to great lengths to make porneia (fornication) mean moichao (adultery)? Accepting the fact that the exception clause Jesus used in Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9 porneia, (fornication) which means premarital sex; that would mean no one could put their mate away even if Jesus was giving His new law, which He was not.

One of the main purposes for marriage is to satisfy the sexual desires; why would a mate have a need to go outside of a God approved marriage, except animal lust (1 Corinthians 7:1-2, Hebrews 13:4, Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:10, Proverbs 6:32).

13. They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, (fornication) and your spouses shall commit adultery.

14. I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, (fornication) nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people That doth not understand shall fall (Hosea 4:13-14).

The church has gone after books of men for hundreds of years; Johnson Baptist, Barns Presbyterian, Strong and Adam Clark, Methodist, Vines Assembly of Manvers Hall. Some of these books have much truth in them, but if they have any error they must be discarded. It is time we lay the books of man aside and take the inspired word of God as guide. It is time to have a book burning as they did in Acts 19:19. We do have a lexicon inspired by God we must use it, the original word of God. Allow the books of man only for the purpose of guiding us to inspired help.

The church has fallen into the malicious trap of the denominations of the world by using their lexicons and new Bible translations. This has pushed the church into denominationalism. Porneia is not by any means the only word distorted by the modern-day versions of the Bible and lexicons; I could go on and on but that is not the subject at this time. There is a pre-determined reason why the manmade lexicons and versions of the Bible have distorted them.

The plea to eliminate all versions of the Bible except the old King James Version of 1611 and use it as lexicon and commentary could be sound advice. If we desire to use a Greek lexicon or a new version of the Bible we must find one that has not evolved over the years, and make sure they do not contradict the original word of God. Again the only words God inspired was the original Greek text given by men who He breathed upon, and it is mans responsibility to verify its purity; He does not inspire the translators. Many versions of the Bible are not inspired by God since they are not translated correctly. The translators of the Bible had many options they could choose from if they translated by the lexicons only, and many use this to advance their belief; fortunately, we can prove a version by the inspired word, but only individuals who have a good knowledge and spiritual understanding, interpreting by context, can we know the truth. The original, inspired word of God is perfect without any contradictions; the Holy Spirit gave the same message

throughout. If we find a version of the Bible that does not meet these criteria, we know it is not of God. No translation is without fault but some are translated well enough to guide us to heaven, with God's help.

I have not found anything wrong with the 21st Century King James Version. I am not saying the old Kings James translation is the only one translated according to context, but it is one of the safe versions to use, and it will not condemn the soul. If we are using a version of the Bible that says, new in the title, proceed with extreme caution. We must not allow these highly educated people to cause us to teach a false doctrine; education without the Spirit of God is as Paul said, useless as dung (Philippians 3:8, Galatians 1:8-9). One person told me, "I can understand this version of the Bible." what they were saying they could understand some ones rendering. Some translations of the Bible are commentaries. Many translators call their version a paraphrase Bible and rightly so. Please, do not take my word for this, check it out, and remember a version that has critical errors in it must be rejected (Philippians 3:8). By publicly using a version of the Bible places a stamp of approval on it. There are many Greek words to every English word; we can understand by this ratio many decisions must be made when translating.

Let us do some serious reasoning; most major denominations require their pastors, priests, preachers or whatever title they hold, to study the Greek, Hebrew, and Latin languages. My question is this; how has this action helped their understanding of the Holy Scriptures? These people hold every off the wall doctrine known to man, and I cannot believe their doctrines are all approved by God. God has one doctrine.

Did we ever wonder why the newer translations do not use fornication for porneia, but use sexual immorality, sexual unfaithfulness, or unchastity, such as the: NKJV, NASB, ESV, CEV, AB, NIV of 2011, and many more? These words and phrases cover everything to do with illicit sexual activity, they are totally wrong in the context of Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9, because they cover truth and error. It is like interpreting baptism as immersion, sprinkling, or pouring, which the modern dictionaries do (Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12). The versions

used these words in order to satisfy all doctrines. These versions are not in harmony with the Holy Spirit of God.

It is most important we study Porn; it holds the correct interpretation of what Jesus was teaching concerning divorce and remarriage.

There are four different forms of the word porn in the New Testament we must study each in its context to understand what Jesus was teaching.

Ek-porn-euo= Jude 1:7, -Fornication=homosexuality. Verb: go whoring. (Genesis 19:4-10)

Porn-e= Matthew 21:31, 32, Luke 15:30, 1 Corinthians 6:15,16, Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25, Revelation 17: 5 (Harlot) Revelation 17:1, 16, 19:2, (Whore) noun feminine, prostitute.

Porn-os= 1 Corinthians 5:9, 10, 11, 6:9, Hebrews 12:16, (Fornication) Ephesians 5:5, 1 Timothy 1:10, Hebrews 13:4, Revelation 21:8, 22:15 (Whoremonger). Noun masculine, prostitute.

Porn-eia= Matthew 5:32, 15:19, 19:9, Mark 7:21, John 8:41, Acts 15:20, 29, 21:25, Romans 1:29, 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:13, 18, 7:2, 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3, Colossians 3:5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Revelation 2:21, 9:21, 14:8, 17:2, 4, 18:3, 19:2. Fornication (unmarried person), whoredom, noun, feminine, prostitute,

Porneia has always been used as whoredom, prostitution, these are works of the flesh condemned by God, but they are acts of a person without a mate, Matthew 5:32, 19:9, 15, and 19, Mark 7:21, Galatians 5:19 explain the difference between fornication and adultery in a concise way. Anytime anyone uses two different words in the same sentence they do not have the same meaning; I hope we noticed that in the above scriptures.

Adultery (moichao) has always been used as unlawful sexual activity having to do with a married person in all societies, and it has only one meaning in all Greek and Hebrew lexicons, which is unusual, normally

we do not find one word with one meaning in lexicons (Leviticus 20:10, Hosea 4:13). If Jesus had, intended to teach divorce for marital unfaithfulness only, he would have used moichao and not porneia. Both of these Greek words are clearly explained in the 1611 Kings James Bible. This is an extremely a serious topic which must not be taken lightly, eternal death or eternal life is at stake, and the present and future of the Lord's church. It is worth the time and effort to check this out. We cannot be a part of something that is not approved by God. Do not take my word; I am just giving directions to the source of truth. Teaching error on God's marriage law would not be any different from teaching error on the plan of salvation.

The word fornication originated from the Latin fornicatus or fornix defined as sexual activity between singles committed in arches of Rome with prostitutes. Older translations used fornication including the vulgate; the textus Receptus they realized its definition. Married people have no need for prostitutes their mates must satisfy their sexual desires (Proverbs 5:19, Malachi 2:14, Proverbs 5:18, 1 Corinthians 7:1-2, Hebrews 13:4).

This is the way Jesus quoted Matthew 5:32.

But, I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of porneia, (fornication) causeth her to commit moichao: (adultery) and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth moichao. (Adultery)

This is the way the church interprets Matthew 5:32.

But, I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of moichao, (adultery) causeth her to commit moichao: (adultery) and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth moichao (adultery).

Jesus is giving Moses' Law to the Pharisees please, note context. There are a few congregations who do not teach this false doctrine, but most teach divorce and remarriage for marital unfaithfulness only, and others desertion and whatever. We must remember it is not just the ones

who are living in adultery that is in trouble with God, but the ones who sanction this doctrine (2 John 1:10-11).

If we love the Lord's church we will stand up for her honor and integrity, and stop allowing people to abuse her, she houses all of Gods saved people and Deity lives in her. Christ is extremely protective of His bride; He will not tolerate her going astray with the devil.

The body of Christ is a peculiar people; we are not regulated by physical situations of this world, but by God's spiritual law. Thus, we must think spiritually as we will when we receive the spiritual body. When by God's grace we enter paradise, we will not be privileged to teach our loved ones. Therefore, we must teach them now while we have the opportunity (Revelation 21:4, Galatians 6:7, 1 Peter 2:9, Luke 16:29).

Matthew 19:3-10 is the other scriptures which the church wrongly uses to justify divorce. It is highly transparent in these verses that Jesus is talking to the Pharisees concerning their law. Christ gave His fathers law from the beginning of time, but they rejected it and inquired of Christ concerning Moses' law, and Christ gave it in verse 9. The Pharisees understood Jesus to say in the verses preceding verse 9 there was no divorce allowed in His kingdom, that is why they said, "Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement and to put her away?"

This is the way Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 19:9.

9. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for porneia (fornication) and shall marry another, committeth moichao: (adultery) and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit moichao. (adultery)

This is the way the church interprets Matthew 19:9.

9. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for moichao, (Adultery) and shall marry another, committeth

moichao: (adultery) and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit moichao. (adultery)

In order for us to understand Jesus' teachings concerning divorce and remarriage, we must understand two parallel passages. In Matthew 19:3-10 Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees and his disciples, but in Mark 10:11-12 Jesus was speaking to His disciples only and not the Pharisees. In the house, His disciples specifically ask Jesus concerning what He had spoken to the Pharisees in Mark 10:2-9). It is extremely important to know who Jesus was speaking to, that does change the interpretation.

I want to copy what Jesus said to the Pharisees in Matthew 19:3-10. I do not believe anyone, with an unbiased mind, could understand Jesus was laying a foundation to give a more liberal law than that of Moses' law, on divorce and remarriage in the Christian dispensation. This would have been true, if He had allowed divorce for the cause of adultery. (Marital unfaithfulness) This question of the Pharisees is extremely important, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" (Hillel's law) This was a question ask by people under the Law of Moses, concerning the Law of Moses. Jesus answered this question in verse 9 the Jews could not put their wife away except she was guilty of premarital sex, (fornication) this had been their law for 1500 years.. The impact this teaching had on Jesus' disciples was exceedingly great (Matthew 19:10).

Please note the conversation between Jesus and His disciples and Pharisees.

3. The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4. And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them, at the beginning made them male and female (Genesis 1:27).

5. And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh (Genesis 1:27, 2:23-24).

6. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore, God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8. He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning, it was not so (Matthew 19:3-8).

The Jewish nation as a whole had dropped the fornication clause given by Moses; therefore, Jesus was correcting this national mistake, which He did in Matthew 19:9 (See Shammai's teaching, on divorce he wrote about 20 BC).

Some things we must assume in order to believe Erasmus's doctrine.

We must believe Jesus is giving His New Testament Law on divorce and remarriage for the Christian age and not the Law of Moses.

We must assume the woman divorced for the cause of fornication cannot marry a second time.

We must believe the exception does not apply to the put away woman, or the man she marries, regardless of the circumstances.

We must assume the exception frees the man to remarry, but not his wife since she continues to be married to him causing him to have two wives when he marries the second woman.

We must assume the second man, who marries the put away woman, is guilty of adultery regardless of the circumstances surrounding her divorce.

We fail to recognize Jesus is responding to a direct question ask Him by the Pharisees, concerning divorce and remarriage, under the Law of Moses.

We fail to make a distinction between fornication (porneia) and adultery. (moichao)

We must substitute fornication (porneia) for adultery (moichao) (John 8:41, 1 Corinthians 6:13-20, 7:1-3).

We must accept the “innocent party, guilty party” doctrine which is not in the Bible; it came from a humanist (Erasmus).

We must reject what Mark, Luke, Paul, and Jesus spoke (Mark 10:11-12, Luke 16:18, Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 39).

2. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man’s wife (Deuteronomy 24:2). This was the woman that was put away because she was not a virgin when he married her.

What options did, a man have, under the Law of Moses, if he married a virgin?

19. And they shall amerce him in an hundred shekels of silver, and give them unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up an evil name upon a virgin of Israel: and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days (Deuteronomy 22:19).

29. Then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel’s father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days (Deuteronomy 22:29).

We must re-study these scriptures God requires it of us, and begin to unravel this unscriptural situation we have gotten the church into. This generation did not start this false doctrine, but we must stop it. We must not attempt to understand the Bible without divine help, it is impossible. God says ask and ye shall receive. We have hundreds of different false doctrines which testifies to this fact that people are not operating by the Spirit of God; for, it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps (Matthew 7:7-11, James 1:5, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Jeremiah 10:23).

The people who have accepted the church’s doctrine on, “divorce and remarriage,” now living in unscriptural marriages, deserve to know

the truth so they have the opportunity to repent and be saved; people do not repent when they think they are right. We have taught them wrong it is our responsibility and duty to teach them the truth. The church must stop this vicious circle. Now granted it would be a catastrophic event to change a two hundred year old course which would affect thousands of lives, and yes, the little children would get the blunt end again, but it is something which must be done. Each generation is participating in this evil practice more than the one before it; in my life time, divorce and remarriage in the church went from almost zero percent to some say forty percent or more; I do not know, but any percent is unacceptable to God.

In order to save future generations, the home, and the Lord's church, we must put an end to this ungodly practice; it will never be any easier than it is right now; as a matter of fact, it will become harder since there will be more involvement as time progresses. Is divorce and remarriage the direction we desire our children the church and love ones to continue taking? Please, help us stop this ungodly practice; it probably will never happen if we do not take action now. One congregation with God's help can influence the whole brotherhood. Every action must have a beginning point, and we might be surprised how many people in the brotherhood would support this truth, and I know God does, and He is the majority.

Someone said, "Do you expect a couple to divorce who has four children and live as single parents?" First of all, it has absolutely nothing to do with me or what I think, God's word will judge us (John 12:48, Romans 2:16). I do wonder why it is alright for a couple in a God approved marriage with four children to divorce and remarry, and it is not alright for a couple in an adulterous marriage with four children to divorce, and repent and obey God? How valuable and important is it to receive eternal life? Go to the Sahara desert lay a clean piece of paper on the sand place one grain of sand upon it, that one grain of sand represents a lifetime here on this earth, and all the other grains of sand in this huge desert represents eternity. Does that put things in their proper perspective making decisions easier?

Yes, like starting discipline it will break the church apart, but she will spring back with Christ living in her, and we all know where that will lead (Hebrews 12:1). It is not an easy thing to tell the family and loved ones, “what I have taught you is wrong and will lead to destruction if you remain on your present course.” Will we ever find that faith and courage on this earth, even though our salvation depends on it? Any act we perform must be wrapped in the love of God.

No religious group or the world itself believes it is wrong to remain with the mate of our youth until death and teach our children to do the same. God instituted it, and any other way is not from the Lord. God’s way is right and cannot be wrong (Malachi 3:14).

Did Jesus say, “I know My Father did not allow divorce and remarriage from the beginning, but I am going to allow it in the perfect law of liberty (Matthew 19:8, John 12:50, James 1:25).”

Did the writers of Acts through Revelation leave anything off which Jesus taught concerning the Christian dispensation? One Spirit was responsible for giving us Matthew through Revelation. Please research this questions (John 3:34, 2 Timothy 3:15-16). Acts through Revelation records the establishment and operation of the Lord’s church with its laws just like Jesus Christ and His Father planned. Millions have gone to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John before Christ died on the cross to get their plan of salvation; this has probably caused more people to have false hope than anything else, believing they are in God’s Kingdom, when they are not.

Jesus Christ preached more than three years proving He was the Messiah, the Christ, the Lord, and the Son of God, with miracles, signs and wisdom from heaven. Christ had all authority given to Him by His Father. Christ preached the gospel of His Kingdom, and all His teachings were to earthen vessels by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would cause these men, who Christ chose to remember the necessary things, and enable them to preach the complete gospel of Jesus Christ; not one thing did Christ’s apostles forget to preach. If the inspired men did not teach something in Acts through Revelation God did not intend for it to be the gospel of His kingdom. The apostles had set under Jesus’

teaching for more than three years, but He forbid them to teach His gospel under the Christian dispensation until the Holy Spirit came upon them (Matthew 4:23, 28:18, John 14:15-26, 20:31, 21:25, Acts 1:2-8, 2:1-47).

25. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.

26. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

7. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8. And when he is come he will reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment:

9. Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10. Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11. Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

12. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you (John 16:7-14).

8. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

1. And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness (Luke 4:1).

34. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him (John 3:34).

18. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

19. Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (Romans 15:18-19).

Jesus was speaking concerning the period starting in Acts 2; the Holy Spirit taught Christ's entire gospel to the apostles, disciples, writers, evangelist etc. Again, if it is not recorded in Acts through Revelation it does not apply to us today, and we can be assured the Holy Spirit did not leave anything out. Divorce and remarriage is not in Acts through Revelation (Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, 39).

There is only one way to be forgiven of any sin, we must stop sinning and repent. If we are living in sin we must get out of sin in order to be forgiven, repentance is always required in God's law of pardon. We cannot be baptized for the remission of sins except we repent; we cannot as a Christian, pray to God for the remission of sins unless we repent. How often did God ask His people to turn from idols? Many times they did not repent, and God destroyed them. If we do not repent, we will perish. We cannot keep the car we have stolen and expect God to forgive us of thievery (Luke 13:3, 5, Acts 2:38, 8:22).

Adultery is punishable by death (spiritual death Galatians 5:19). Again, a family was destroyed when divorce and remarriage occurred, which constituted sin; to correct a sinful relationship a family must be broken up again, constituting righteousness. It all boils down to one thing for each of us, how much are we willing to give up to please God?

There has not been a divorce and remarriage allowed by God in over two thousand years, and even then God hated it (Malachi 3:6). The Jews, which Moses permitted, to put their wives away were living in sin; they had hardened their hearts against God's law (Deuteronomy 31:27, Matthew 5:20, 23:3). Since the beginning, of time man had not been allowed to put their wives away for any cause. Regardless whether we understand it, God did allow Moses to write this law. Since it was the Law of Moses, it was temporary and served a purpose until the perfect law was sealed by the blood of Christ. The Law of Moses existed because people sinned and rebelled against God's original law (Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 9:14-17, Matthew 19:3-8).

We have literally millions of people today who are still holding to the Law of Moses. Many things, which are in, the Law of Moses, are in the New Testament, but divorce and remarriage is not one of them. Thus, we must drop this man made doctrine and ask God to forgive us and begin to allow Christ to purify the church by the washing of water by the word, that Christ may present her to Himself a glorious church not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish. We must purge out the old leaven. In common language we must confess to God we have messed up and ask His forgiveness. We honestly accepted the traditions handed down by the church which is not accepted by the Father. Repentance must be before the whole world, since that is who we taught false doctrine (Ephesians 5:26-27, 1 Corinthians 5:7, 1 Peter 3:12, John 9:31).

The church gave its members an unscriptural inch, and she has taken an unscriptural mile. Anytime we cross the ungodly line the fields are wide open the sky is the limit. The church has now jumped on the band wagon of 1 Corinthians 7:15 and they are going to drive it through the middle of the Lord's church, destroying everyone in its path, the race has already started, and momentum is building at a rapid pace.

Divorce and remarriage is highly esteemed among the church and the world, but it is an abomination in the sight of God (Luke 16:15). Were we ever made to wonder why Luke 16:18 is in the context of Luke 16:16-17?

What God has joined together let not man put asunder. If God does not stand behind this command why would He stand behind any command He gave? We can positively know God will execute every word He has given without any alterations. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh, and He represented His Father in every thing He did; God the Father has made it transparent about His marriage law; God will not overlook sin.

God is not to be Blamed but Praised

Every person that enters this world is subject to its elements; some people call these elements, acts of God, a natural phenomenon, or the laws of nature. There is positively no human being that is not subject to these laws. Survival depends on these laws in the physical realm, such as growing seasons, sunshine, rain etc. Spiritual survival depends on these natural occurrences; sickness, diseases, cancer, death, and sorrow are a part of the process of life. These terrible calamities are more than the human mind can hardly bear. Therefore, they must be put in their proper perspective. Saint and sinner alike are subject to these laws they just come with the territory. God has given Christians the privilege and opportunity of prayer, but we cannot ask God to change the natural laws which control the world. It is impossible for us today to experience the world as in the days of Adam and Eve before sin entered the world.

God did not mean for this world to be a utopia after the garden. It may be hard to understand, but all the things which we hate, fear, and dread causes us to realize we need a better place. Curses sorrows and death did not exist before sin entered into the world (Genesis 3:15-19). The true culprit for all the many tragedies that affect this life is the devil. God allows the devil access to us concerning physical things, because He loves us and desires to give us eternal life. (1 Corinthians 15:25-26, 56, Hebrews 2:14, 1 Peter 5:8, Genesis 3:1-24, Job 1:1-42:16).

Man is attempting to build a utopia here on this earth which is impossible that is not God's plan, and when it comes crashing down, which it will, he blames God. As a Christian, we have many blessings, but being exempt from the devastating elements of this life is not one of them. Bad things do happen to good people; it does rain on the just and the unjust alike; the only difference the Christian has spiritual insurance, called hope. The life style of the Christian is less likely to attract some diseases and death, by abstaining from sin. The blessings, the Christian possesses, are spiritual; we defiantly see this from the "sand formula." One grain of sand equals the life here on earth all the other sand in the world equals eternity. We must not expect the one grain period to be without death, sickness and sorrow, old age etc. it will not be.

These calamities humble the soul, showing the need for dependency on God, making us realize self reliance is not of man; they cause us to seek a better country free from awful things. God is telling us, "Put your

trust in Me, I know what is best for you, if I did not allow these bad things it would hamper your spirituality and cause you to loose your soul.” Viewing bad things in this perspective make them acts of love. The time on this earth is extremely short we can endure anything if need be. If we do not allow these dreadful things to be the source of strength, they can destroy us. When a young lady prays for a healthy baby yet tragedy occurs she may blame God, many do. God sees with eternal eyes He sees the whole desert we only see the one grain of sand. The baby experienced the natural law of nature; God could have stepped in, but God acts according to His eternal plan. God can see the end from the beginning; God must not be blamed but praised. The finite mind cannot possibly paint a true picture of eternity; therefore, we must rely on the supreme artist. Raising the level of our understanding to an eternal view, would paint a crystal clear picture; of course, this can only be done through the word of God.

Bad things of this life tears the heart out, but they cause us to realize this world is not our home we are just on the way, at a rapid pace, to heaven. Seeing people dig into this earth as though they were going to spend eternity here is a sad thing (Hebrews 11:13, 25). When we live the godly life we will suffer persecution, but the hope we have in heaven will outweigh that, and anchor the soul. This is just another of God’s natural laws, and we must not ask Him to change it (Hebrews 6:19).

12. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). Why do the godly suffer persecution?

The godly does not participate in the pleasures of the flesh, but they condemn those who do, this act will put us on the firing line every time.

13. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country (Hebrews 11:13-14).

We must realize and fully comprehend the fleshly, physical, carnal things of this life will fail. If we are deep seated in God and walking by His Spirit when physical tragedies come, and they will, we will not be

wiped out; the spiritual life is forever, and it will never fail us. If we have placed trust in physical things tragedies will come and we will have no place to turn (James 1:3, 1 Peter 1:7, Romans 12:21, Matthew 6:19-21).

- 1. If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**
- 2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:1-2).**

It is sad when we travel on the road of the physical because it has only one designation. Trials and tribulations will come, they can make us stronger, or they can destroy us. If hope is built on spiritual things, the worldly things cannot overcome the strength of the spiritual. It was not God's will to take away the infirmities of His people on this earth; that is not in our best interest (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

There were many widows and lepers in Israel at the time of Elias, but God sent him to one widow and one leper; God could have healed all just as easy as the two, but this miracle was not to help the physical sick and needy. There was not anything unusual about these two cases over the rest, but they were for this lesson and others to teach us the truth. The major purpose for prayers must point to the spiritual that is where God concentrates His efforts. Praying for the physical will avail nothing unless there is some spirituality in the picture. We can pray earnestly that we shall not die, but prayers will not override God's natural law (Hebrews 10:25). There are no blessings in extending the physical for the God approve soul unless it enhances the spiritual. Going to our eternal home is much better than staying here, unless there is more work to finish (Philippians 1:23-24). If we have had one invitation to obey God, we have had our chance we may not get another

- 25. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;**
- 26. But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.**

27. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian (Luke 4:25-27, Hebrews 10:25).

We should pray this prayer

Help me Lord to be spiritual that my children may be spiritual. Touch my life Lord in whatever way you must that I may be more spiritual. Lord remove all my worldly possessions if that is what it takes to make me spiritual (Matthew 19:21).

Did Job blame God when he lost everything including his family (Job 1&2)? Again, one grain of sand represents our lifetime here on earth, and every other grain of sand in the whole world represents eternity, this will help us to put things in their proper perspective? We hear this statement so many times, "I survived because God was with me," if this be true start looking for the spiritual application He has in store for you. God's physical blessings are available to all mankind and are sufficient for all the physical needs. Ask and thank God for everything, because all blessings come from Him, but God's blessings will unfold according to His eternal plan.

God will not step in and keep us alive, or from diseases, in order for us to continue doing the physical things of this life unless we are bearing fruit for His table. God knows the stuff of this world can drown the spiritual; having more physical things is a curse not a blessing (Matthew 6:21-34). God does not bless us with riches on this earth, for they are not best for the soul.

Therefore, the next time we pull over for a funeral procession let us realize God's plan is progressing according to His will. When we pray it will be according to His will (Hebrews 9:27).

45. That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5:45).

Spiritual blessings are available only to those who have dedicated their life to God, and have obeyed His will. Christians are the only ones

who can pray to God through Jesus Christ, but the prayer must focus mainly on spiritual things. God places very little emphasis on the physical part of man, and when He does He connects the spiritual to it (1 Corinthians 6:13,19, Romans 8:1, 4-14, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 5:5, Galatians 3:3, 5:16-17, 1 Peter 3:12, John 9:31, 1 Timothy 2:5). It is true many people accredit God with many blessings that are available to all and not just individuals who pray. Likewise, many people accredit God with curses which nature produces. Recently some people ask, "Why did the Lord allow our church building to be destroyed?" This church building perished because it was in the path of a natural occurrence; they should be thankful they were not in it when it perished. Would God protect us from natural occurrences since they are for the spiritual well being? We must teach ourselves to dwell on spiritual things and not carnal. Stand approved by God at all times, and when calamities come we will have the strength to endure. God does not keep us alive, so we can enjoy the physical things a few more days that is no value to anyone; having more than the necessities of life dampens and sometimes destroys the spiritual and never enhances it, unless we exchange it for the spiritual.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:1-2).

19. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:19-21).

31. Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32. (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof (Matthew 6:31-34).

Prayer can cause us to lose faith when praying for the wrong things. Praying for the physical only and God does not answer the prayer that causes discouragement. There are many things that qualify our prayers: without them our prayers will not be answered. Concentrate on the God allowed spiritual things. God knows what we need before we ask, but He desires our prayers for our benefit. God planned and has provided all our physical things from the beginning of creation; when we respect and abide by His natural laws the earth will produce abundantly (Genesis 8:22). Every blessing comes from God, and we must continue to ask and thank Him for everything, but concentrate our efforts on the spiritual. We must not dig in too deep on this earth we will not be staying that long (1 Peter 3:12, James 1:5-7, 4:3, 5:13-20, 1 Peter 3:7, 1 John 3:22-24, 5:14-16, Jude 1:20, 2 Thessalonians 2:16, James 1:17).

Christians are not immune from mosquitoes, ticks, snake bites, and their crops are not immune from cockleburrs, crabgrass, diseases, drafts, floods etc. (Genesis 3:18-19). Yes, Christians have cancer, arthritis, heart attacks, and all kinds of diseases, and yes Christians die, but Christians go to heaven. Our life here on earth is but a flash and full of trouble. It takes some deep spiritual thinking to thank God for the things we call curses even though they are necessary for our spiritual well being.

- 1. Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.**
- 2. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not (Job 14:1-2)**
- 3. For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave (Psalms 88:3).**

Dealing With the Devices of the Devil

Most dedicated Bible students understand the Holy Spirit of God dwells in the Christians body, but many do not believe and realize the spirit of the devil is extremely active in pursuing the Christian. We can be possessed by the devil today if we allow him and his devices access

to our life. The devil goes about like a rogue cow looking for a weak place in the fence. The devil will not even consider attacking the strong points that would be foolish, and he did not get where he is today by being foolish. The devil only attacks the weak positions made weak from the lack of faith. Faith is built by studying, meditating, praying, understanding, and performing the Word of God, and observing God's creation (Romans 1:20, 10:17, Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 2:20, Deuteronomy 32:20, Ephesians 6:16, 1 Thessalonians 3:5). We must realize the devil is our adversary (The enemy whose aim is to destroy our faith). The devil will have us if he can devour our faith. We can have the Spirit of God or the spirit of the devil, but we cannot have both at the same time (1 Peter 5:8).

We draw nigh to God by studying, understanding, performing, praying, loving, keeping ourselves unspotted from the world, and walking with the spirit of a servant; having these things strong in place the devil will flee from us, but never far away waiting for us to let down the faith guard for just one minute (James 4:7).

God will help the Christian not to be tempted above that which we are able to bear, but He will utilize the situation to allow us to escape. God only helps those who help themselves by partaking of the words of life freely and liberally. We must never make the mistake of thinking God will come in and rescue us without our will. If we play with the devil's devices, and when the devil comes in for the final kill, we then cry to God, do not expect a miraculous rescue. We must abstain from anything that appears evil that is when God helps us. Even the righteous will just barely be saved (1 Corinthians 10:13, James 1:14-15, 1 Thessalonians 5:22, 1 Peter 4:18).

If the devil did not bypass Jesus Christ the Son of God, why would we think we would not be tempted with his devices? Again, we must always remember the devil will not shoot the strong side with his darts, for he knows they would not penetrate. The devil knows his final destination, and he does not plan to live in hell alone. Did we ever consider the characters we would live with, and how long we must live with them, if we go to hell (Matthew 4:1-10, 25:41, Ephesians 5:5, 6:16, 2 Peter 2:4, 9, Revelation 21:8)?

We must remember this earth is a proving ground the devil is the one who God allows to put us to the test. God desires us to be tempted by the devil; God does not accept any person unless they have been tried and passed the test. If we as a Christian are not suffering persecution we are not living a godly life, and we are not approved of God. If the Christian does not oppose the world they will not suffer persecution, because we are no threat to them. If we live the godly life, the world will hate us because we oppose everything they stand for. Remember before we can enter heaven we must have been tried and passed the test, that is God's will. Some people who profess to be Christians suffer persecution not because they live the righteous life, but because they are arrogant toward the world. If I understand the Bible, we must have a loving kind humble spirit even when we are dealing with the rank sinners of the world; we suffer persecution because of righteousness (John 15:18-19, 1 John 3:13-14).

2. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).

If I have the attitude the devil cannot deceive me, it has already occurred (1 Corinthians 10:12). If the devil can get us to speak through a wrathful mind, he knows he has us where he wants us (James 1:20). Being on guard every second is the only way we will not be cast away by the devil. The devil has a lot of things going for him; he has many devices, which people desire, and love. The devil will not come into a house where God's Spirit dwells. Neither will the devil interrupt a person who is talking to God (Hebrews 11:25).

Television would probably be the devils number one device since it represents the lusts of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Most television is an abomination before God; it teaches just the opposite to what God teaches in His will. The Spirit of God will not abide in the person who sets and watches sin acted out; most television is just not compatible with the Spirit of God. We will not be able to enter the Kingdom of God if we partake of the works of the flesh; soaps are the devil's beloved device, and many people are addicted to them; they are more habit forming than some drugs (Galatians 5:16, 1 Peter 2:11, 1 John 2:16).

Would there be any adverse effects in saturating our soul with the word of God? When I have crossed the finish line, and all the prayers have been offered there is one last hurdle; I now face the word of God in judgment. This is the time we shall know if we understood and obeyed the word of God (John 12:48, Romans 2:16, Revelation 20:12).

We can encourage each other and even suggest what we believe to be right, but the ultimate decision falls on the individual; that is the way God planned it. God does not force His will on anyone. The decisions we make will definitely have consequences. As an individual, we must decide what is right or wrong based on the Bible for that is the way we will be judged. We will be held accountable, as an individual, for our thoughts, actions based on how we interpreted and obeyed the word of God (Romans 14:10-12, Matthew 12:36, 1 Peter 4:5).

It is an accepted fact most people believe God will tolerate a loose lifestyle; that God will not nitpick, as they call it, and condemn us for "little sins." On a scale, of one to ten how do we classify the severity of sins? Does it take at least a class eight to condemn the soul? How many sins can we have against the soul and still enter heaven, or how many sins will it take to condemn the soul into hell fire? Is it true there are white and black lies? The blood of Christ is powerful, but it will not remove an un-repented sin (Revelation 21:27, James 1:15, 1 Peter 4:8, 2 Peter 2:4-5, 1 John 3:4, 8, 1 Corinthians 15:50, Luke 13:3,5, Isaiah 59:1-2).

19. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20. Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21. Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such, things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:19-21),
28. 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; 29. Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30. Backbiters, haters

of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31. Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32. Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them (Romans 1:28-32).

Discipline in the Lord's Church

If we go to the Greek lexicon, we will find eight Greek words for discipline, which are used 41 times in the Bible. The King James Version does not use the word discipline, but it does use other terms such as exercise, training, teaching, chastening, and instruction, learn, etc. When we examine the Holy Spirit's definition we find it is a training process like training a child in morals shaping his character, etc. We take every measure that is necessary in order to be like Christ. The word of God is what corrects us and directs our footsteps in the righteous path. Discipline is a filter which keeps the body of Christ pure; it filters out abominations which defile Christ's bride, and hopefully it will save the sinful soul. Discipline is a loving process which is administered for the benefit of the person in sin; as well as keeping the church pure within God's favor.

There is a discipline which the whole church gets involved in, but it would be after all other teachings have failed the sin being public (Matthew 18:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:15). Every time we digest the word of God we must be disciplined. At the point when we understand the word of God, and we are not disciplined we are not handling aright the word of God. The word of God is the only official authority that has the power to discipline us. Discipline should never go beyond the point of self discipline, but unfortunately, it does progress beyond that point sometimes. When I refuse to be self disciplined hopeful other Christians will love me enough to help me come back into the fold (Matthew 18:15-18, 1 Corinthians 5:5-7, 2 John 1:9-11, 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 1 Timothy 6:5, Ezekiel 33:8-9).

Public discipline is God's love showered on us for the purpose of saving the soul.

The number one problem the church faces today cannot be fixed by public discipline. Apathy is a serious condition which is identifiable, but it cannot be fixed by public discipline. Apathy is caused by insufficient faith, which is an individual problem; no amount of teaching will solve this problem unless the person accepts it. If the individual refuses to be disciplined by the powerful word of God, that is the last resort. Yes, apathy is sinful but it cannot be fixed by public discipline; much of the time faith in God is crowded out by material things (Revelation 2:5, 2 John 1:10-11, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 2 Timothy 2:15, Luke 16:15, 1 Timothy 6:9).

All discipline is a process of teaching; when we receive the word of God in the mind realizing it is from God that should be sufficient to cause us to conform to it. If we refuse to obey God's word, then we have a faith problem. If we have the proper attitude toward the word of God, we will always have the attitude which says, "Speak Lord your servant heareth (1 Samuel 3:9)."

I personally have noticed a situation that exists in the church today which Jesus spoke of in His personal ministry. God's word does not come back to Him void, but it will accomplish that which He desires (Isaiah 55:11). We must allow God's word access to the heart, and we must allow it to accomplish its intended purpose.

17. And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented (Matthew 11:17).

Every time we learn the word of God we must be disciplined; that is the purpose for learning. We must be anxious to conform and be doers of the word. Christians are the family of God; we represent Him upon this earth, and if Christians keep themselves pure the church will be holy (2 Timothy 2:15).

27. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28. So ought men to love their wives as their own

bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself (Ephesians 5:27, Matthew 13:15).

Here, is God's definition of sin.

4. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).

17. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death (1 John 5:17).

17. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin (James 4:17).

We know the Spirit's definition of sin; now comes the hard part applying it to current situations. Forsaking the assembly, is that referring to the Sunday morning worship service, the Sunday morning class, the Sunday night service, the Wednesday night service, all other gatherings of the church (Hebrews 10:25)? Those who are spiritual realize not attending any service is not the root of the problem it is only a symptom of the real problem. Those who are spiritual cannot get enough godliness. If a person is physically able and does not assemble with the saints, there is a faith problem; some reason they are not finding God, nor are they being edified by being in the assembly. The disease of apathy can kill because people do not realize they have it.

The doctrine the church teaches on divorce and remarriage cannot be monitored; therefore, it cannot be disciplined. A transgression must be clearly identifiable by the word of God. Mortal man cannot make judgments on what goes on behind closed doors; God would never make us responsible for a judgment which is impossible to make. We do not have the, "thigh rot system" today (Numbers 5:21). We cannot rely on man to tell us the truth concerning his sins. God's law on marriage is very easy to judge; one woman, one man, until death, positively nothing else can be accepted, that depicts a distinct and clear identifiable line. The language, "he or she married first, he or she cheated on me, someone saw him or her with someone else, he or she caused me to go astray, God does not expect me to live along the rest of my life, I could not live with him or her any longer." they deserted me, etc. This thinking is from the world and not from God. If we marry the wrong person we will suffer the consequences there is no exchange policy in God's

Kingdom. This doctrine cannot be disciplined because it is not from God.

If we cannot clearly define a transgression by God's word, how can we discipline it? Most congregations of the Lord's church have wrongly concluded a public teaching program (Bible study) is the only discipline program that mortal man can practice; under the current doctrine of the church that would probably be right, but not under God's doctrine.

I think most people would agree weak faith is the thing which hinders self discipline; weak faith is curable if the individual will digest the word of God, and accept it as such, and not allow materialism to destroy it (Romans 1:20, 10:17, Matthew 13:8). There are many things we think we know, but can we prove them by the word of God? Christ's doctrine on marriage is an ironclad doctrine which certainly can be monitored and disciplined. Discipline is for the purpose of saving souls and keeping the family of God pure. We must place God's filter back into the church. Discipline is a process to correct a situation where the word of God is transgressed (1 Corinthians 5:1-7, Hebrews 4:12). Discipline can no longer be considered the forgotten or extinct command of God. Discipline is never for the purpose of getting revenge, but it concentrates on loving the lost soul..

Fellowship in the Lord's Church

Fellowship is a highly controversial issue in the Lord's church and is causing many congregations to enter the denominational zone. In the name of fellowship, the Lord's money is used for vacations, gyms, recreation centers, a person to direct recreation, etc.

We need money desperately to proclaim the saving gospel, and help God's creatures that cannot care for themselves; why would we spend the Lord's money to entertain ourselves? The definition for, "The living sacrifice" is not entertainment and having fun while people are leaving this world never hearing the gospel.

We have already discussed the difference in instructions in righteousness from methods and procedures which we must put in place

in order to carry out the commands of God. Now this is how these people are falsely justifying the outrageous things they are doing. Yes, we must have fellowship because God commands it, but let us determine what godly fellowship consists of (Acts 2:42, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 8:4, Ephesians 3:9, Philippians 1:5, 2:1, 1 John 1:3, 6,-7).

If we want to know God's will to man, there are some basic rules we must follow. Most of the time we will find many definitions given for one Greek word, but chances are we will find only one of those definitions which will be in harmony with the word of God.

The definitions in Thayer's lexicon represents the many ways words were used in past years not necessarily how the Bible uses them. I find there are four Greek words used for fellowship, but I want to locate the one used in Acts 2:42. I will copy the definition for the word fellowship which is Koinonia. After studying the different meanings of this word in the Greek lexicon, I want to know which definition the Holy Spirit sanctions if any. Therefore, I find this Greek word is used 18 times in the New Testament, after studying all 18 scriptures I now know what the Holy Spirit is teaching. In this instance one of the definitions in the Lxicon is sanctioned by the word of God.

The definition in the Greek lexicon for fellowship (Koinonia) is fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse, the share which one has in anything, participation, intercourse, fellowship, intimacy, the right hand as a sign and pledge of fellowship (in fulfilling the apostolic office) A gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship.

Now we must study the scriptures to understand how the Holy Spirit defines this word.

Acts 2:42, Romans 15:26, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 10:16, 2 Corinthians 6:14, 8:4, 9:13, 13:14. Galatians 2:9, Ephesians 3:9, Philippians 1:5, 2:1, 3:10, Philemon 1:6, Hebrews 13:16, 1 John 1:3, 6, 7.

Incidentally, the above procedure is the only way to use the Greek lexicon correctly. The Bible defines fellowship as people sharing the gospel, studying, teaching, discussing, united together in the gospel, walking in unity of the scriptures, carrying them out all working together for a common cause, and spreading the gospel etc. Yes, they did eat common meals together that is what people must do at the appropriate time. The Holy Spirit definition does not justify using the Lord's money to build recreation centers, going on vacations, and all kinds of entertainment. The Greek lexicon may justify spending money for all these things but not the definition found in the inspired word of God. We can plainly see we cannot take some of the lexicons definitions.

The Kings James version of 1611 is translated according to context, but many others translate according to the lexicons, and we must avoid them. Also, when we see writings where a man uses the Greek lexicon to make a point we must be extremely cautious, we may be entering an uninspired zone. The Bible will define the words and will explain its meaning if we will take the time and learn how to study to this end. We want to know the mind of God and not the traditions of man; the mind of God will judge us and not the doctrines of man. The Greek lexicon is extremely valuable, it gives us all the places in the Bible where a certain Greek word is found that clearly gives us an inspired definition, but we must be vigilant concerning the definitions the lexicons gives for many time they are not spiritually correct.

Many famous men such as Alexander Campbell believed the Bible should be change on regular bases to reflect the changes in society. A famous preacher living today wants people to use nothing but the NIV because it reflects the churches teachings; unfortunately, he is right (Malachi 3:6, Revelation 22:18-19).

The Bible is a stand alone Book it does not need an aid to understand it God designed it that way. Use the Bible to give the definition to words; use the Bible to explain its meanings. Why are these things not taught in the church today? Picking up the Bible ten or fifteen minutes a day will not be sufficient to know these truths, it is just not. Earlier people did not have these aids we have today and I am convinced many of them are in heaven.

If we do not know the truth, what will our children know? Being concerned about children, we need to leave them a large inheritance, **eternal life**. To be assured of heaven, we must strive to secure it for everyone. (Matthew 5:13-16, Luke 16:28, 2 Timothy 2:2). We must love everyone who has a soul, and that includes everybody.

The word of God will judge us and determine where we will spend eternity. Many of the old-time preachers taught false doctrines they taught what they learned (Romans 2:16, John 12:48). Prove what man writes or speaks by the word of God. We need individual Bible study to know the truth. We read the books, debates of the preachers who have gone on; we accept their teachings without question. We base hope on what we believe the Bible teaches, but have we been influenced by these men, just suppose they are wrong. It is emphatic that we get personally involved in searching out the truth for ourselves. Do not take any mans word; he has no more information from God than we do. The ability to understand the Bible depends much on honesty. Is it possible to give God an unbiased mind to store His treasures? We are not questioning the honesty of forefathers we must insist on seeking the truth for ourselves that is just the right thing to do. The people who are suppose to know, say we only use 10% of our brain capacity, therefore we have a large storehouse to store God's word which will keep us from sin (Psalms 1:2, 119:11). There is no doubt some people due to pre-conceive doctrines have crossed the line which renders them untouchable by the word of God, if they do not accept it.

When we study the Bible, we must not give God a pre-programmed mind. I take what the old-time preachers said with a grain of salt if it is not taught clearly in the Bible. They debated all the issues in the church, but it never did accomplish much if anything the ones who believed brother B's doctrine thought he did a splendid job, and the ones who believed brother A's doctrine thought he did a marvelous job. When we read these debates today, much, was about smooth speech and who was the best orator (Romans 16:18). We must remember we have not seen "a stamp of approval," from God, on any mans doctrine that has gone on; therefore, we must view their writings with this in mind. Truth must be

pursued rigorously by all; we do not have a head quarters here on earth to settle questions or problems.

False doctrines are coming from the preacher's mouth as grass comes from the ground in the springtime. Oftentimes I listen to preachers with a PHD, and they have no spiritual understanding. It is time we place men in the category where they belong; it is not alright for men to preach or teach something that is not taught in the Bible. No individual is directly inspired by God separate and apart from the written word. The gospel is inspired by God, and it is His power to save. If we stand on the word of God, we will not sink. God will help us understand His written word, but we must first have it stored in the heart before we ask Him. God only does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. The original words of the Holy Spirit were inspired by God not necessarily the translations we have today. Be Careful! Using the wrong version of the Bible can jeopardize the soul.

We need individual Bible study, studying with an honest sincere spirit humbling ourselves before God as the helpless creatures we are, realizing it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps. Rely on God to give us wisdom enabling us to have spiritual understanding (Ephesians 1:11-21, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, James 1:5). We are so dependant on God, for we are not capable of doing anything separate and apart from Him. Man cannot move one minute behind the scenes of death; we have lost all control at that point. At the point of death all alterations cease, we have entered the point of no return; the book of life is closed the day of change has ended, were the actions of the life sufficient to draw God's grace? The doctrine believed was it the gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity. Teaching the truth after we die is possible, if we leave the truth in some honest souls (Hebrews 11:4, 2 Timothy 2:2).

We must not sell ourselves short, we all can understand the Bible; else we would not be judged as an individual. No doubt there are different levels of understanding, but God will judge us with that in mind. There are no benefits in studying the mind of man; we have the mind of God revealed to us. We may not be studying the mind of God if we are using one of the new translations. Fellowship must be in the word of God. I hope we have noticed in this writing I am stressing how

to glean the truth separate and apart from any man. We must remove the human element when acquiring the truth of God (Jeremiah 10:23, James 1:5, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, 2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17, Romans 14:10).

Remaining Free from Sin

We hear a lot about being saved, but there is another highly important aspect to Christianity. Remaining free from sin every day we live until the death angel calls. It is extremely beneficial to ask God what must I do to be saved, and then we must ask Him what I must do to remain saved; He gives us the answer in His word.

As a believer, we turn from past sins (repentance). Confessing Jesus Christ as God's Son, baptized in water for the remission of sins; at this point, we are free from sins, but as the old fleshly nature would have it, even when we do the best we know how we still sin. We have an advocate with Jesus Christ if we walk in the light (in His word) as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ continually cleanseth us from all sin. We follow Christ and walk the new life as His children (1 John 1:7, 2:1, Romans 6:1-4).

Christians do not sin willfully; if we do we will lose the blood of Christ, His sacrifice would not cover sins any longer. The premeditated sin exhibits an unconverted attitude; it is an attitude that must be changed. Christianity is all about having the right attitude toward God and man. A heart filled with the Spirit of God will not knowingly commit sins. It is faith in God that will keep a relationship with Him alive and well. If we do not keep faith at a God required spiritual level we cannot please God; faith is the motor that drives actions, which please God. If we fail to build faith daily it will decrease and drop to a dangerous level (Hebrew 11:6, Romans 1:16, 10:17, 2 Peter 1:5-10, Habakkuk 2:4).

26. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (Hebrews 10:26).

4. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

5. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

6. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

7. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

8. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10. In this, the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother (1 John 3:4-10).

1. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:1-2).

It is impossible to pray and sin at the same time. Christians must always have a frame of mind where we can pray; with that spiritual attitude it is impossible to sin. Any zone we enter where we can not pray is forbidden by God.

9. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God (1 John 3:9).

5. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5).

17. Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Peter 3:12).

It is extremely important to stay free from sin at all times for sins will separate us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). Therefore, we must know how to identify sin; sin is the breaking of the commands of God. We have the responsibility to fulfill the royal law. **8. If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well (James 2:8, 1 John 3:4, 5:17, James 4:17).**

Watching actors and actress simulate sin is just as condemning as if we were committing these sins ourselves; running garbage through the mind will turn the spirit into a landfill. Television is putting out so much corruption today even the non-Christians can hardly accept it; most television is an abomination before God (Romans 1:32, 3 John 1:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

8. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Philippians 4:8).

21. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22. Abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

We must strive (endure, a strong fight, suffer) for mastery, and we must do it lawfully (2 Timothy 2:5). If we desire to remain free from sin it requires hard work and lawful actions, according to God's will. Sin will block the flow of spiritual blessings between God and man; therefore, it is extremely important to be able to identify sin (Isaiah 59:1-2). The living sacrifice is essential to please God; our bodies are dedicated to Him the day we enter into a covenant relationship with him (Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

We cannot provide food, water, shelter or medication for God, and we cannot teach Him the saving gospel for He does not have any need of any of those things, but the equivalent to giving them to God is giving them to mankind; this is the lot as a Christian in order to please God and remain free from sin (Mark 9:41, 1 John 1:7). We hear people say, I study the Bible all the time, granted that is the first step, but that is the instructions to know how to perform. Knowledge without actions will not accomplish anything. Knowledge alone will not benefit us or another person. Knowledge not executed will not save, feed, or assist one single soul. I can read the instructions on how to activate my cell phone for a year, but I can not call a single person if I do not activate it (James 2:14-26, Hebrews 11:1-40).

We hear the term saved by grace, and that is so true, but do we realize we must please the one who has the power to give us grace. In order to please God we must work all the time, and if we do not He will not save us by His grace. All the works God requires us to perform will not earn one second of eternal life, but they will gain His favor. Eternal life is totally a gift, but God does not give this magnificent gift to everyone, for everyone does not gain His favor by obeying His will. It is all about pleasing God in order to convince Him to give us eternal life (Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 5:18, Matthew 7:21, 25:14-46). Earning salvation is foreign to the Bible no one ever has or ever will earn eternal life. We must know how crucial it is to do those things which God loves, and abstain from those things which God hates. God hates sin and He loves righteousness, and this is the central theme of the whole Bible. The first concern do we have God's favor, are we doing those things that are acceptable in His sight? Love the sinner and hate sin; distinguishing between the two is most beneficial as we walk in the path of righteousness. Did we notice we are God's workmanship; if we do not do God's business it will not get done? God the Father made an enormous investment in the salvation of man; we must announce this to the world (John 3:16). God's grace is only active in the realm of obedience; there is no grace when living in sin.

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian Today

We cannot please God if we are in the flesh; even though we are still in the physical body we are not in the flesh if the Spirit of God dwells in us (Romans 8:9). We cannot be saved unless we have the Spirit of God dwelling in us. We sometimes label this subject as being difficult to understand, when it is the easiest subject to understand. There are large books written on, "The indwelling of the Holy Spirit." When we read these books it is easy to understand why they need such a large book, it takes a large book to explain why they do not believe the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian today.

The Holy Spirit could not have made it any clearer, but man has made this subject difficult to understand. There is only one Holy Spirit He either dwells in the Christian today, or He does not; the Bible says He does dwell in the Christian today. That does not seem too hard, why

do we make this subject complicated (Ephesians 4:4)? We cannot be saved without receiving the Holy Spirit; He automatically enters a Christ blood washed soul (Acts 20:28).

38. Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38).

45. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:45).

32. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him (Acts 5:32).

8. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you (Romans 8:8-11).

7. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one (1 John 5:7).

26. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27).

Could we pray to God if we did not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in our being? How would God know our thoughts if He did not dwell in us. When we go into the closet and shut the door is God in the closet (Matthew 6:6, Romans 8:16)?

16. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17. If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

19. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

16. And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people (2 Corinthians 6:16).

13. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:13-14).

30. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

5. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 5:5).

13. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit (1 John 4:13).

24. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us (1 John 3:24).

13. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him (Luke 11:13).

38. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:38-39).

11. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will (Ephesians 1:11).

24. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

How could God make this subject plainer; it is so much plainer than those books man writes? We hear the phrase He dwells in us through the word, or He dwells in us by faith, if they mean by these phrases He enters the body when we obey the word of God then these statements are correct; any other explanation would be false.

We must be on guard and not let man rob us of salvation in a voluntary manner. We must thank God every day that He loves us enough to dwell in us; God has a purpose for living in our body or else He would not dwell in us. We have a choice it is either the Spirit of God or the spirit of the devil we cannot have both; we determine which by obedient faith. With God, it is all or none (Matthew 6:24).

The Holy Spirit dwells in us for spiritual purposes only; we worship God in spirit and truth. We are granted the opportunity to have a relationship with Deity and His church by the Holy Spirit through His word (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14). There is no way we can please God in worship unless our spirit is in unison with the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is a helper making it possible to please God and enter heaven. The Holy Spirit is not about us enjoying the physical part of life that profits little; God knows eternity is what matters and He will help us have eternal life. I hope we will study the above scriptures the Holy Spirit wrote them. God has given us everything that pertains to life and godliness (1 Timothy 4:8, Titus 2:12, 2 Peter 1:3). All dedicated Bible students realize God the father God the word (Christ) God the Holy Spirit is one and they all dwell in us. If we desire to be spiritual just remember the Holy Spirit lives in us for that purpose (1 John 5:7, Romans 8:9-11).

The Holy Spirit dwells in us for the purpose of helping us on our journey to heaven. The Holy Spirit will not dwell in us if we are not spiritual, obeying His word (Romans 8:9-17, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Acts 5:32). The Holy Spirit will not help a slothful person we have the written word, and we are commanded to study it; man goes as far as possible on his own and at that point the Lord comes into the picture, only if we have obeyed all His other commands. If we pray for truth

while holding the traditions of man in the heart God will not hear. Above everything else, we must be totally honest with God we do not fool Him. There is no mystery about deity dwelling in the Christian; He does not override our will He aids us when we are in harmony with His written word. When the Holy Spirit is dwelling in our being, we can still interpret the Bible wrong; He only aids us when we interpret it correctly. From the beginning, God designed man with the intellect to understand instructions; we can understand God's word under the proper circumstances. The word of God has been translated from another language we must learn how to live and deal with that. Remember this book was written to help individuals to understand God's will without depending on any other human being. There is not another way that we can know the truth, and all walk in the unity of the spirit except the way depicted in this book because it directs all our minds back to the mind of God and takes the human element out of the equation. It will take some long, hard hours but consider the reward. Heaven is a wonderful place, but hell is indescribably a bad place.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Gospel of His Kingdom

Jesus was a Jew; His parents were Jews and strict keepers of the Law of Moses (Luke 2:21-24). Jesus kept the Law and was a Rabbi (Master teacher) who taught the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17-19, John 1:38, 49, 3:2). The prophets did proclaim that Christ would come to the earth and establish a kingdom which would last forever (Daniel 2:44). Jesus at the age of about thirty started His public proclamation of the gospel of His Kingdom, which continued for over three years. While Christ preached the gospel of His kingdom He kept and taught others to keep the Law of Moses (Matthew 4:23, John 13:13). Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses which He did nailing it to His cross (Colossians 2:14, Matthew 5:17, 23:1-4).

The Law of Moses came as a temporary law until the seed (Christ) would come and fulfill it (Matthew 5:17-18, 23:1-3, Galatians 3:19). We call the age after Christ's death: the Christian age, the church age, the kingdom age, the New Testament age; this age for the first time offered the complete forgiveness of sins by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by the shedding of His blood on the cross. All people who had been

faithful to the law in which they lived had their sins forgiven by the blood of Christ. When the blood of Christ cleanses sins, they are never brought up against us again. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh the one who made the world and everything in it; man was His only creature that was eternal and intelligent and able to understand and obey the gospel of His kingdom (John 1:1-2, Hebrews 9:14-18).

The New Testament Law is perfect being sealed by the blood of a perfect sacrifice (James 1:25, Hebrews 9:14-15). There had been two dispensations before the Christian age and many laws which were in them are in the law of Christ. God's first law was to be extending until His Son came to this earth, but it became necessary due to transgressions to add another temporary law, (a law to identify sin) which He did, called the Law of Moses. God's first law was more like the Law of Christ, as for as morals are concerned (Galatians 3:19, Romans 4:13, Galatians 3:16).

Christ's ministry and law were for the Jews first and would be extended to the Gentiles some ten years after His death. The apostle Peter, who opened the door of the kingdom to the Jews, also opened the kingdom to the Gentiles. It would be the apostle Paul which would be the one who would preach Christ's gospel to the Gentiles. The Gentiles as a nation were never under the Law of Moses. Matthew's gospel being the only book addressed specifically to the Jews (Matthew 10:5-6, 12:18, 21, 15:22-24, Mark 7:25-27, Acts 10:1-48, 11:1-18, 13:46-48, Romans 1:16-17, 11:13, 1 Timothy 2:7, 2 Timothy 1:11).

Jesus' ministry was to lay the ground work for His kingdom, but it did not begin until He went back to heaven; fifty days after His resurrection and ten days after His ascension. It was the Holy Spirit that finished establishing Christ's Kingdom, just as Deity planned.

A popular doctrine says Christ did not complete the establishment of His church because the Jews rejected Him; thus, the Holy Spirit had to finish it. Of course, this is not true Christ did everything according to His Father's plan (Acts 1:8, John 14:16-18, 26, 16:7, John 5:19, 30, 8:28). Christ's ministry was extremely intense proving Him to be the Son of God with power, miracles, signs, and wisdom which no man

could stand against. Christ's ministry was in general terms leaving the specifics to the comforter. Christ stressed strongly that people must believe in Him as the Son of God, and He always glorified His Father and contributed everything to Him. He did not give the specifics on how to get into His Kingdom while He lived; He did not go into details how He would add us to His church, remove sins, and give each and everyone the gift of the Holy Spirit when we obey Him. When we believe on Christ, repent of sins, confess Him before men as the Son of God, and are baptized in water for the remission of sins at that point the Lord adds us to His church, but Christ committed this plan to the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-47). Christ always stressed belief in Him as a general term of loving Him and keeping His commandments, but it would be the Holy Spirit that would lead us into all truth according to Christ's gospel. Literally millions are using Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John before Christ's death for their plan of salvation this is causing serious problems keeping them out of Christ's body (John 3:16, 14:15, 21, 15:10, 1 John 5:2-7). Christ did give a plan of salvation when ask under Moses' law, but it was not the same as His new law today (Matthew 19:16-20, Luke 10:25-28, Acts 2:38). If we want to know about the laws under the Christian age we must go to the Bible where the kingdom started and was preached, Acts through Revelation.

12. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you (John 16:12-14).

Many do not accept Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as part of the New Testament since they transpired under the Law of Moses, but Christ was preaching the gospel of His future kingdom (Matthew 4:23, 9:35, 24:14, Mark 1:14). Yes, Jesus did teach the Law of Moses during His public ministry; and we must not confuse this with the gospel of His kingdom (Matthew 5:21-24, 5:32, 8:4, 13:52, 19:9, 16-20, 23:3, 22:37, Luke 10:25-29). The Holy Spirit did not record the above scriptures in Acts through Revelation because they did not apply to the Christian

dispensation. We do find the complete gospel of Jesus Christ in Acts through Revelation (Acts 28:30-31).

The question is eminent, is there anything that relates to the Christian dispensation that is not recorded in Acts through Revelation? Could we be saved and please God if we did not have the first four gospels recorded? Multitudes were saved by Paul's preaching because the gospel he preached and they received was the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we only had Acts through Revelation, we would have the complete gospel of Jesus Christ, which is contained, in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. There are many things contained in the first four gospels that do not pertain to us today as for as law, but they are so vital to see our saviour in true to life situations. Christ showed His power, performed many miracles, demonstrated His compassion, His human side, as well as His spiritual, His love, and His desire for us to be saved and He vividly showed us His Father (John 3:16, 14:9, Mark 4:39, 2 Peter 3:9).

It is wrong to say Acts through Revelation is not the complete gospel of Jesus Christ; for this was the only law most people received. Christ taught with the Holy Spirit, and the writers of Acts through Revelation wrote by the Holy Spirit (John 3:34, 2 Timothy 6-17, 1 John 5:7). Matthew through Revelation is in complete harmony if we interpret them correctly. Now if we say Matthew says one can divorce his wife and marry another, and this is Christ's new covenant law, when all the rest of the Bible writers refute it, then we have a problem. Jesus did keep and teach the Law of Moses while He preached the gospel of His future kingdom.

The people, who lived prior to Jesus' death, during His public proclamation, did not have the opportunity to enter into His church or kingdom. All mankind's salvation since Adam depended on Christ's sacrifice and the shedding of His blood. The salvation of the people under the Law of Moses depended on whether or not they kept their law; Jesus stressed this point strong (Matthew 5:19, 19:16-20, 23:3).

It is essential to understand Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John was the gospel for Jesus' future kingdom as well as the current law (Matthew 19:16-20, Luke 10:25-29). The reason Christ did not give His gospel

plan of salvation for the Christian age before His death, His blood had not been shed; thus, they could not be baptized for the dead, nor could they be washed with His blood (1 Corinthians 15:29). We will be judged by both Christ's words and Paul's, for they are one; they are the gospel of Jesus Christ. Again, if Paul left something off which Christ preached then Christ did not intend for it to be in His new law (John 12:48, Romans 2:16, Acts 28:30-31).

The Holy Spirit took over where Christ left off just as Christ said; the Holy Spirit was sent in Christ's name by Christ and He will be with us forever (John 14:15-26, 16:7).

Then the people who were faithful under Moses Law, which were few, were required to believe in Christ and be baptized in preparation for His coming kingdom. The baptism of John and Jesus, before His death, was not the baptism of His kingdom, as we know it today. The baptism of His kingdom is different, we are baptized for the dead. We obey a form of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Also, we contact His saving blood; they could not be baptized for these benefits (1 Corinthians 15:29, Romans 6:1-6, 17, Acts 20:28, John 3:16, Matthew 3:6, 11, John 3:22-23, 4:1, Revelation 1:5).

The New Testament, as we know it today, was not compiled until almost four hundred years after Christ died. Inspired men established the church, and preached Christ's gospel; the church did not have all the written word for many years. Very soon after the Greek New Testament was compiled it was changed to the Latin language and the common people could not read it. (Dark ages) Thus, the common people did not have the Bible in their language for over a thousand years. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were some of the last books to be written.

We must bear in mind when studying Matthew, Mark, Luke and John Jesus did teach the Jews their Law, and that part is not binding on us today. It is critical to note who Jesus is talking to and His intended audience and message. The Jews had distorted the Law of Moses and had accepted the false doctrines that were prominent in the two schools located in Jerusalem which were in operation years before Christ came to this earth. The Pharisees who were suppose to be God's chosen people were, as a nation, totally against Christ and His teachings. They

had accepted doctrines that were friendly to their desires, which gave them preeminence among man; does that sound familiar to us today (Matthew 5:20, Matthew 6:1-2, 23:3)?

If Christ did not record His gospel law in Acts through Revelation, then He did not intend for it to be in the Christian dispensation. The apostle Paul received his ministry from the Lord Jesus Christ. Man might forget and leave something out of a book, but the Holy Spirit of God did not forget to inform the writers of Acts through Revelation of the complete gospel of Jesus Christ (John 14:26).

The apostle Paul preached many years; his gospel was the only gospel the whole Gentile nation ever received, which was the majority of the world. He always attributed his gospel as being the gospel of Jesus Christ and not his own. Jesus Christ sanctioned the apostle Paul as His servant (Romans 1:1, 2:16, 15:16, 1 Corinthians 4:15, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 2:14).

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24).

Paul preached the entire gospel of Jesus Christ and did not leave any part of it off.

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

15. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, also to the Greek (Romans 1:15-16).

The apostle Paul was the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

16. That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:16).

19. Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (Romans 15:19).

Christ sent Paul to preach His gospel.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect, (Acts 9:4-6, 1 Corinthians 1:17).

The gospel which Luke, Paul, James, Peter, and John preached after the cross is as much the gospel of Jesus Christ as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John was; they were all written by one Spirit. It all unfolded just like deity planned it from the beginning.

Do we still have Miracles Today

Before we can answer this question, we must define the word miracle. The Greek words for miracle are Dunamis (120 times in KJV): Power of God, strength, virtue, mighty works and Semeion (77 times in KJV) Miracle, sign, token, wonder. It is a long hard task, but the scriptures confirm this definition.

If there is any power administered by God today, we do have miracles.

8. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

11. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14. That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Ephesians 4:11-14).

The church was established on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ, and for many years afterwards they did not have the written word; therefore, the Holy Spirit worked directly with the apostles, teachers, preachers and members of the church to provide instructions, faith and all things necessary to operate and maintain the church. Their instructions came directly from the Holy Spirit with miracles, signs etc. to verify the speaker as the one who spoke the truth of God. By using an inspired version of the Bible today, we have the same gospel which the Holy Spirit spoke in the early church if we interpret it correctly.

6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. .

7. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10. To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

12. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:6-12).

27. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

29. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

30. Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

31. But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way (1 Corinthians 12:27-31).

Did you notice something was going to be done away, after the perfect law came into existence?

25. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:25).

They had the complete gospel (not written) of God by direct operation of the Holy Spirit, but something else was going to come later on, which was the written word of God. Therefore, the thing that was going to be done away was the direct operation of the Holy Spirit that was put in place until the written word of God was available (The Bible). The written word of God supplanted the direct operation of the Holy Spirit as far as instructions in righteousness; but that did not have anything to do with miracles through prayer. Instructions in righteousness were just one work of the Holy Spirit during the infancy of the church. The written word we have today is the system of love (1 Corinthians 12:31, 13:1-13).

It was a real dark time in the world when the gospel disappeared for about ten centuries. Also, we have no public record of the Lord's church from about 385 AD until 1830 AD, unless you consider the denominations as the Lord's church. We are moving in the direction to have it all taken away again; God will not protect the marvelous blessings if we abuse them. Allowing sin in the church, distorting the Holy Bible with manmade translations is a sure way to bring God's judgment on us. Because of sin God said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man," and it did not (Genesis 6:3). Man must stop trying to manipulate God it will not ever be successful, man has tried it in the past; God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7, 2 Peter 2:15-16).

6. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power (Dunamis Miracle) of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16).

The Power of God has not ceased it will remain forever.

Any power that transpires, which would not have occurred if God had not intervened, constitutes a miracle. Prayers which God answers are miracles. God's power is not limited today when we pray for spiritual things which we cannot accomplish on our own; assuming we have access to the throne..

The miracles required to operate the early church, when the written word was not available, was the infancy period of the church, but when the written word was complete that was the mature stage of the church; we are in that mature period today. A lady said she did not believe we are in that mature period today; I believe she was right, but we should be. The Bible we have today has the power to make us full grown men if we will take it into the heart and obey and live by it (1 Corinthians 13:11-12, Ephesians 4:13-14). The only thing taken away was the one work of the Holy Spirit that supplanted the written word of God until it arrived.

God has not limited His power today; God works in harmony with His written word, and anything is possible through prayer. Many prayers are not answered because the petitioner does not have access to the throne of God, or asking for something not sanctioned by deity (John 9:31, 1 Peter 3:21, James 1:6-8, 4:2-3, 1 Peter 3:7, Matthew 17:20-21, 21:22, Luke 11:13, 18:2-8, Romans 8:26, Philippians 4:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Timothy 2:1, 8, James 5:14-20, 1 John 3:22-24, Jude 1:20). If prayers are not answered that indicates we are not in harmony with God's will; we must run a diagnostic test to determine the problem. Do not expect God to answer prayer for something we may use it on the lusts of the flesh (James 4:3). God will never give us anything that is harmful to the soul; too many material things are detrimental to the soul (Proverbs 30:9). God has provided us with everything which is required to live the spiritual and physical life, but we must work to receive it. God has provided from the beginning water on the earth, but

we must drill for it. God has provided from the beginning means to grow our own food, but we must follow His plan or we will not have any food. God has provided from the beginning spiritual food to keep us alive until we reach heaven, but we must work for it and abide by God's rules in order to reap it.

Ask God and allow Him to determine if we should have what we ask; if we ask for something that is not according to His will, He will not strike us dead, of course, He will not grant it, but continue to study and then ask again be persistent, wear Him down with our prayers that is what He desires. God thoroughly understands the sand formula and will answer prayers with that in mind (Luke 11:5-13, 18:5-8). Any time our prayer is not answered we must do a spiritual investigation in order to fix the problem; the problem will always be on our part never Gods.

7. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10. Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him (Matthew 7:7-11).

If we studied all the above scriptures, we had to notice luxuries are not a gift of God. God places emphasis on spiritual things, and He expects us to do the same thing. The necessities of life are all God ever promised. As someone said praying for food, will not yield a steak; nevertheless, God will take care of His children. God places enormous emphasis on spiritual things since they will last forever (Matthew 7:9-11, Psalms 37:25).

Apathy, Indifference, Lukewarm, No Enthusiasm, Half-heartiness

Of course, we do not know, but it would seem, hell will be populated with people from Christ's church, for apathy more than anything else (Matthew 13:41).

15. I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth (Revelation 3:15-16).

1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God (Romans 12:1-2).

36. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37. And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day (Luke 2:36-37).

25. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28. Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31. Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel (Luke 2:25-32).

24. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me (Matthew 16:24).

29. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life (Matthew 19:29).

33. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

23. And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me (Luke 9:23).

7. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:7-8).

11. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11).

2. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:2-3).

23. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men (Colossians 3:23).

12. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world (Titus 2:12).

14. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

16. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16).

10. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

13. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Matthew 24:13).

25. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible (1 Corinthians 9:25).

5. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

6. The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.

7. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things (2 Timothy 2:5-7).

I do not believe any Bible student would disagree that Christianity is a full-time profession (Hebrews 4:14). It is a life dedicated to Christ and His teachings. In every situation, we put Christianity first before everything else. A living sacrifice means the Christian life is all about spiritual things, and most things are off limits to Christians. Material things are of little significance compared to the profession of the Christian. Putting the Kingdom of Christ first must be the first nature of the Christian. Anything less than 100 % is not acceptable with God. God does not play second fiddle to anything or anyone (Luke 14:25-27, 33, 18:29, Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:1-2).

There is a learning curve in Christianity, a time to gain knowledge and grow in the faith (Hebrews 5:12, 1 Corinthians 14:20, Ephesians 4:13-14). Even before we become a Christian we are to know what the living sacrifice requires, and we must count the cost (Luke 14:27-33).

Oftentimes we hear a person trying to justify apathy concerning the assembly of the church; they say the Bible does not command us to meet more than one time a week. We would immediately recognize this attitude as having nothing to do with the assembly of the church, but we are seeing a strong case of apathy. Not assembling is not the problem it is a symptom of the problem. Apathy is caused by the lack of faith; faith is the motor that drives actions. When faith reaches a God approved level we want more of Christ not less. Many say they do not find deity in the assembly; again God doesn't dwell in the church building, but He does dwell in the Christian (Luke 17:21). God dwells in the church building only when Christians dwell in the church building (Matthew 18:20). We worship God every minute we live, but when we come together we all worship Him as a group. If we are not finding God in the assembly it may be we are not bringing Him there; He has exited the

body (Hebrews 6:4-6). Even though we worship God as the assembled church, worship is still an individual experience (Matthew 18:20).

17. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

Storing and understanding the word of God produces faith. If we do not have the proper understanding of the word of God, then we are not receiving the unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ. Seniority is not a guarantee of a strong faith; there are people who have been in the church for many decades and have refused to accept the truth of the gospel; thus, not allowing faith to be established in their heart. There is only one gospel of Christ, but when misunderstood it is not the one gospel of Jesus Christ, and it will not produce the faith required to live the Christian life. The faith of God is the gospel put into action; the faith that does not produce action is not the genuine faith of the Bible. If we are unable to gain spirituality we might consider the material things in our life, they could be choking out spiritual things. Materialism when put first over the spiritual destroys our relationship with God. There is defiantly a limit to how many material possessions we can maintain and not be detrimental to spiritual health. Multitudes have sold their birthright for a bowl of material stuff. Material things are as temporary as a coffee filter (Matthew 6:21, Luke 12:18-20, Hebrews 12:16, James 4:14, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 3:13, 22, 13:9, 1 John 2:15, James 2:24, 26).

Some Facts worth considering

The ability to know when faith drops below the danger zone is a valuable gift. Walking too close to the devils border could land us on the wrong side. The inborn spiritual instinct of the Christian does have the ability to pinpoint ones current level of spirituality. The level of faith we have will determine if we are ready to stand trial. The spiritual individual is ample qualified to distinguish between the light and darkness zone. How many works does it take to activate God's grace? Are there some things God loves, and are there some things He hates? How does my list of loves and hates compare to that of Gods? Is it true the high court in heaven offers no appeals? All responsible people will

give an account for their actions. Should we consider the verdict after the trial has ended? All shall be weighed in the balances which will determine our outcome. Did someone say some books would be opened on judgment day? What are the option we will face after judgment? We wonder who is spiritual enough to stand trial. Can we change the, “book of life” after death? Can we ask forgiveness of sins after the last breath? Will anyone enjoy standing before the supreme judge? Is it a comforting feeling or a freighting thought, when we realize God knows every thought and sees every action?

This is extremely a great comfort to know the blood of Christ does not cover up sins it removes them. The Christian can ask God for the forgiveness of sins and God will apply the blood of Christ, only if we repent. Repent means turn from the sin we desire God to forgive, put distance between the sin and your soul, abhor it. If we continue flirting with a sin, God will not forgive it. Identify sin mark it hate it and realize its destructive nature that is repentance.

What is the level of intelligent immediately after death? What is the level of intelligent immediately after judgment? Fathers, mothers, wives, husbands, children, loved ones that passed from this life yesterday, are they thinking about us today? Do we have bargaining power at the supreme trial? Will the VIP’s be given special consideration at the judgment? What is the payback for living a total dedicated life for the Master? Will the judgment of God be fair? Most souls will be rejected on judgment day, according to the Bible (Matthew 8:12, 13:52). Many souls in God’s kingdom will be cast out at the judgment of God, according to the Bible. Is the majority always, right? How wrong is it to be an independent thinker, humbly standing on the word of God? How many earth hours of Bible study would be required to qualify a soul to stand in judgment? Failing to do good works, can that affect the outcome at judgment? Will the judge show partiality depending who stands before Him? Who will be able to stand before the judgment of God? Will all souls who have obeyed the gospel plan of salvation enter into eternal life? Would it help to know all souls will be held accountable for their actions? If the judgment of God did not turn out good, how much would we give in exchange for our soul? If things did not turn out good at the Day of Judgment, and a second chance was granted what changes would be considered? While we live, changes are possible. How serious should we consider the above comments and

questions (Matthew 7:13-14, 13:41, 8:12, 22-23, 10:30, 12:36, 16:26, 25:34, 46, Acts 2:38, 20:28, Romans 2:11, 10:17, 14:4, 10, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Philippians 4:3, Hebrews 1:9, 9:14, 11:6, James 4:7, Ephesians 2:8-10, Luke 11:35, 13:3, 16:27-31, John 3:19, 1 Peter 1:19, 1 John 1:7, 17, Revelation 3:5, 6:17, 13:8, 17:18, 20:12, 21:1-5, Malachi 2:16, Psalms 45:7, Amos 5:15, Daniel 5:27)?

Using the Greek Lexicon the Right Way, if you decide to use it

I have already talked about this subject, but it so extremely eternally important we understand it thoroughly, we will review it again in more precise and complete details. Especially words which explain doctrines we hold may require thorough analyses of how the Holy Spirit uses the word. The lexicons are responsible for many false doctrines, which renders this subject extremely important.

Step #1.

When we are, studying the Bible and discover a word we desire to define, write the word down with chapter and verse where it is located.

Step #2.

Open up the Greek lexicon and type in the word to be defined.

Step #3.

One or maybe a dozen Greek words will appear for this one English word.

Step #4.

Click the first Greek word and it will appear with definitions and places where it is recorded in the Bible. Look below the definition at the book chapter and verses where this word is located in the Bible; if you do not find your chapter and verse where your word is used go back and click on the next Greek word continue this process until you find your verse. There may be one to one hundred Greek words.

Step #5.

After finding your verse its time to study the scriptures.

Step #6.

Look below the definitions and write down all the scriptures in the Bible where this Greek word is located, there may be many.

Step #7.

Study every scripture where this word is located (I copy them down making me a little book) study each verse in its context. Keep in mind the translators may use different English words for the one Greek word, but the meaning should be the same. At this point, you should have the Holy Spirit's definition of the word. Every context where you find this word will give its one God given meaning without exception; proving one Spirit wrote the Bible. One word of caution, with many versions of the Bible this will not be true, please do not use them.

Step #8.

If you would like go back to the Greek definitions for the word and choose the one the Holy Spirit in the scripture sanctions, if any. This process is not necessary, but it might be interesting. You may find one or a multitude of definitions, but we are only interested in the one the Holy Spirit sanctions. This is the only way to use the Greek lexicon and choose the Holy Spirits meaning to words. In almost every case, we will find one of the definitions in the Greek lexicon which will agree with the Bible. In every case, the Bible must have the final say in defining the word. It is vitally important that we do not deviate from this procedure; else we may find ourselves teaching false doctrine. We can be assured this method is approved by God if we are using a God approved version of the Bible. Often time the Greek definition will be in harmony with the word of God, but it must be checked out always. You will find many definitions in the Greek lexicon which is not in line with the Bible.

When Jesus was on earth, there were several different Greek languages or dialects; the one the Lord used was Koine Greek (common). Some lexicons (dictionaries) are designed to cover all Greek dialects which is one reason we have so many different words and their meaning. Many lexicons update them to reflect the modern-day word usage. At the time Jesus taught, the koine Greek words had many different definitions, which make it mandatory to define words by Bible context.

The Greek language dates back to Alexander the Great and his Father Phillip 11; hundreds of years before Christ came to this earth. Alexander was the individual who developed the koine Greek. It is imperative we do not rely on the Greek lexicons to determine the interpretation of the Bible. The reason the Latin Vulgate is one of the better translations because it was translated from the original language in the culture of the Koine language, still reflecting the influence of the apostles and writers. (400 AD) Erasmus did tamper with the Vulgate but maybe not the critical issues. Even though, it is written in the Latin language, we can read much Latin if we read English. The old 1611 King James Version was translated using the Textus Receptus meaning text received or The Latin Vulgate as its principal source, the two are similar. The Latin Vulgate is now available in English. Latin and Greek are related languages and oftentimes use the same words with a little different spelling; they both date back before Christ. The English language originated from the German language starting about 500 AD that makes it difficult to translate the old Greek language into English.

The church writers today, as well as preachers, quote from Thayer online Greek lexicon as though it was inspired by God, when this lexicon is probably the most liberal online lexicon we could find. This Lexicon lists all the definitions which society has used, but all are not compatible with the word of God. The definitions used in lexicons mean sometime somewhere this definition did exist, but it does not mean that is the way it is used in the Bible. The Koine Greek had been spoken well over 300 years before Christ came to this earth which means it had numerous definitions, which had evolved.

Of course, any definition in a lexicon that is not in harmony with the Bible must be discarded. I have found that many people are surprised when they learn there are many Greek lexicons. Some Greek Lexicons are no more than some mans doctrine; if we base doctrine on these lexicons we will be teaching false doctrines. I have spent countless hours researching this subject; I would suggest that any person who teaches in any capacity do the same, especially if we are quoting from them. Just about every teacher of the Bible uses Thayer and Smith's online Greek lexicon because it is free, easy to use, and accessible to all. Most commentaries quote from this manmade book. If we are desirous to know the Holy Spirit's meaning of Greek words as they were used in the first century, then we must allow the inspired word of God to define them. No translation of the Bible is translated without mistakes, but the better translations do not have soul condemning mistakes in them. There are not enough English words to describe the Greek text in many cases, but many of the translators did an excellent work.

Joseph Henry Thayer (1828-1901) was a member of the "Crombie Street Congregational Church," he was a graduate of Harvard university and did graduate work at Yale. He was the author of the Thayer lexicon and was instrumental in creating the "American Standard Version Bible" he was a highly educated man, but he was a sectarian and started a denomination, he supported many false doctrines. He was co-author of the Smith Bible dictionary. Dr. Smith declined to comment on fornication for obvious reasons. Thayer was involved with many of the churches which started after the monk Martin Luther started the restoration movement, when he nailed the ninety five theses on the church building door in 1517. Calvin (1509-1564) taught the false doctrine of predestination about the same time.

W. E. Vines 1873-1947, Brethern assembly, Vines connected his dictionary to Thayer's lesicon by numbers. The foreword in Mr. Vine's book stated, "Words are not static things. They change their meanings with the passage of time. Not only in recent English, but in ancient Greek as well, we find words changing their meanings. There can be no true Biblical theology unless it is based on sound Biblical exegesis, and there can be no sound Biblical exegesis unless a firm textual and grammatical foundation has been laid for it." He referred to the,

“Language of the Holy Ghost” this is what we must obtain. Even when we have the original words of the Holy Spirit we must allow the context to determine their true meaning, for, in most cases, there are many different definitions to choose from. This is because the New Testament Greek was old when Jesus came to this earth, which in most cases had collected many different definitions for every word. It is true any active language evolves from generation to generation, and the dictionaries reflect this change, that is the procedure they take. I have an old English dictionary that is different from the new ones today because they reflect the new meaning of words which society uses.

I set out many years ago to learn the Greek language which I now know is of little value. The first steps in understanding the mind of God, chose a version of the Bible which has been translated according to context, and allow the Holy Spirit to define each and every word and give its meaning. Each and every word of the Bible can be defined by the Holy Spirit by using the procedure set out in this book.

I cannot explain it, but when we go on line to Thayer and Smith’s lexicon the word porneia is illicit sexual intercourse, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals, with close relatives etc. The American Standard Version Bible which Thayer translated rendered porneia as fornication. Also, I have an old Thayer Greek lexicon book which I have had for many years, and it translates porneia as illicit sexual intercourse, prostitution, and fornication. Again we must allow the Holy Spirit to give us the correct definition.

Different lexicons are like the different versions of the Bible; some have gone to great lengths to maintain true meanings of words as used in the society in which Jesus and the writers of the Bible lived; proving them by context. The most used lexicon has many definitions to choose from which must be sorted and proved by the word of God. The most popular version of the Bible which the religious world has adopted today has chosen definitions from the lexicons which are not compatible with the context given by the Holy Spirit. I hope this subject will be research and not take my word, for it is eternally important.

Below is a web page for some Greek lexicons on porneia. Many lexicons are not on line for free, and they are very expensive to buy. I would not recommend any lexicon, for they are all the work of man and are not inspired by God, but some are more in tune with the word of God than others. Check this web page out it has a multitude of Greek lexicons.

[http://www.the-goldenrule.name/Fornication_GREEK/
Fornication_GREEK___MORE.htm](http://www.the-goldenrule.name/Fornication_GREEK/Fornication_GREEK___MORE.htm).

Again it is not necessary to use the Greek lexicons at all; a genuine translation of the Bible will be sufficient to know the truth, but if we prefer to use a lexicon it is best used to locate all the places in the Bible where the Greek word is located, and ignore the definitions.

Please check out what I have written, and do not build a resistance against it before checking it out by the inspired word; no good can come by any of us holding to the traditions of the church fathers. Do not allow my words or the words of any man to draw you away from the words which came from heaven. God will help us to decipher the truth that is His promise to His children. I understand what I am asking is a tremendous amount of work, but I am asking every person to study each, and every scripture I have recorded, that is where the truth lies (Ephesians 1:17:19, 3:16-21).

Understanding God's inspired will is possible even with all the translation problems we have today. The devil has seized the opportunity to cash in on the translation crises. We must educate people on how to identify the pure, inspired word of God, without the aid of man. There is only one way to make sure we have the unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ this is covered in this book.

There is no doubt we lose some clarity when a language is translated into another language, especially when we go from a language that has collected many words by being in existence for many hundreds of years longer than another. Nevertheless, God has provided a method which will bypass much of the historical confusion. This method is simple and is approved by God.

Thanks Burrell



Christianity in the Twenty First Century

Absolute Truth is Possible

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