

"They Clap Their Hands and Shout; They Dance and Play, but They Do Not Burn Incense"

INTRODUCTION

Despite the fact that "all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44). as Jesus said, we still have people who base their religion on "the law," i.e., the Old Testament, or law of Moses. It is needful to know that the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed, and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, and having done so it has been nailed to the cross (cf., John 1:17; Acts 3:22-24; Gal. 3:24; Col. 2:14-ASV).

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER

The Old Testament is not the standard by which we are obligated to live. Many people today have the same problem people had almost 200 years ago. When Alexander Campbell came to America from Antrim, Ireland he subsequently discovered that folks were not distinguishing between the Testaments. On one occasion, a large number of people insisted that Campbell preach. In *Memoirs of Campbell*, Richardson says:

On this occasion, which proved to be quite a memorable one, there was a large concourse present, gathered around the stand, or seated within hearing beneath the shade of the beautiful leafy elms and towering plane trees, which line the borders of the creek, as it winds through the picturesque valley enclosed by lofty hills. When Elder Cox concluded, Mr. Campbell rose, and delivered a discourse founded on Romans viii. 3: "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." "This was the famous "Sermon on the Law."

Campbell, in his discourse that day, showed that Christians are under law to Christ, and not to Moses. According to Richardson, Campbell's son-in-law. Campbell's method was (1) ascertain what ideas we are to attach to the phrase "the law" in this and similar portions of Scripture; (2) point out those things which the law could not accomplish; (3) demonstrate the reasons why the law failed to accomplish these objects; (4) illustrate how God has remedied these relative defects of the law; and (5) deduce such conclusions from these premises as must obviously and necessarily present themselves to every unbiased mind.

THE SAME MISTAKE TODAY

There are people today who base what they do in worship on the Old Testament. They cite book, chapter, and verse for their practices. They clap their hands and shout; they dance, but they do not burn incense. We wonder why the latter is omitted. Since burning incense was a vital part of Old Testament religion, and since an appeal is made to the Old Testament for authority, why is it that only certain portions of the Old Testament are cited? James would have trouble with this because he said, "whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is become guilty of all" (2:10). It is a pitiful thing to appeal to an abrogated covenant (Eph. 2:15) for authority to "clap the hands," "shout," and "dance" in so-called worship.

IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

In spirit and in truth refers to an attitude or disposition of the mind (a mindset) coupled with truth, or according to the direction of truth. A worship that differs from the worship of John 4:24 is a false worship. William Barclay has pointed out that a false worship: (1) Selects what it wishes to know and understand about God, and omits what it does not wish. (2) Is an ignorant worship. In the last analysis, religion is never safe until a man can tell, not only what he believes, but why he believes it. (3) Is a superstitious worship. With regard to "true worship" which has the authority of the New Testament behind it, Jesus said. "for such doth the Father seek to be his worshipers" (John 4:23). The religious world, and some of our brethren as well, have a lopsided view of "spirit and truth." With these folks it apparently is "all spirit" with little, if any, emphasis on "truth." But what has to be remembered is that one without the other is invalid. Spirit and truth must come together just like faith and works.

—Noah Hackworth

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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SOBERING FACTS ABOUT SIN

One called "sin" the saddest word in the Bible and in human speech. Sin is the fountain of woe, the mother of sorrows, as universal as human nature and as eternal as human history. It can be labeled as "the cause of all war and violence and hatred and sorrow and pain." Sin alienates from God, establishes fellowship with the devil being moral perversion, sears the conscience, and ultimately issues in death (Rom. 6:23). There are some things we need to know about sin.

1. **Sin is made to look attractive.** When Eve beheld the "forbidden fruit" she saw it was good for food, pleasant to the eyes and desired to make one wise (Genesis 3:6). What she did not see was sin's true nature. It brought pain, suffering, death and separation from God. Sins true colors are seldom seen until too late.
2. **Sin is fun.** The writer of Hebrews commended Moses because he turned his back on the "pleasures" of sin (Hebrews 11:25). Anyone who would suggest that sin is not enjoyable simply does not understand how Satan works. Sin is not only made to look good, but brings some pleasure when pursued.
3. **Sin never produces everything it promise.** It is enjoyable, but the pleasure is always short-lived ("*for a season,*" Hebrews 11:25). A few minutes of euphoria may result in a lifetime of pain and misery.
4. **Sin is destructive.** Its destructive effects may be experienced now and throughout eternity. Solomon observed that "*the way of the transgressor is hard*" (Proverbs 13:15). Life is made more difficult because of sin in our lives. If it is not dealt with, tin will lead to eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23).
5. **There is forgiveness in Christ, but the scars still remain.** Jesus died to save men from the eternal consequences of sin. We never want to downplay the importance of His role. He is the giver of life. Through Him forgiveness is available to every man. But, though forgiven in Christ, the ghosts of a former life of sin often linger to haunt us. The best advice for life was offered by the apostle Paul when he wrote, "*Abstain from all appearance of evil*" (I Thessalonians 5:22).

Author Unknown

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11.00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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The following article appeared in a bulletin that I recently received:

THE KIND OF LOVE I WANT

It was approximately 8.30 a.m. on a busy morning at the doctor's office when an elderly gentleman in his 80's arrived to have stitches removed from his thumb. He stated he was in a hurry to make an appointment by 9.00 a.m.

I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it might be an hour before he would be seen. Seeing him look at his watch, I decided, since I was not busy with another patient I would evaluate his wound. On examination, I saw it was well healed so I talked to the doctor and got the supplies to remove his sutures.

While redressing his wound, we engaged in conversation. I asked him if he was in a hurry to meet another doctor's appointment. He said no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health. He said that she was a long-time victim of Alzheimer's Disease.

I asked if she would be worried if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was; in fact, she had not recognized him in five years. I was surprised and asked, "And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?" He smiled, patted my head, and said, "She doesn't know who I am, but I still know who she is."

I had to hold back tears as he left. Goose bumps covered my arm as I thought, "That's is the kind of love I want in my life.!"

True love is neither physical nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be and will not be.

Author Unknown

As I read this article, I could not hold back the tears either for as I read it I thought about my dad, and how he had done the same for my mother. Dad and Mum were married for 62 and a half years before mum passed away in 1996. For as long as he could possibly do so, dad took care of mum at home even though it was very difficult for him. Even then she did not know him much of the time and would often physically hit out at him and it was extremely difficult for him to do the things for her that needed to be done. Very reluctantly, after he had been ill, and the doctor told him he had to put mum in a home, he relented. After mum went to the home dad would go every day and sit with her, even though she did not recognize him. I remember one year, before my annual mission trip to England, I had arranged with my brother and sister and their families to meet at the home in the afternoon. Dad didn't even know I was coming. I arrived first. He looked up and saw me enter the lounge and started to say, "Hello" when he realized who it was. The others continued to come after that and we spent the rest of the day with them until it was time to leave and we took dad out for an evening meal.

Dad continued his ritual for a number of years until mum finally passed away on February 11, 1996. He only missed when he was too ill to leave the house. He would not have had it any other way. Even though they were not Christians and would not profess to have been such, they exemplified the love that husbands and wives should have for each other. I know mum would have done the same for dad had the situation been reversed. When mum died, we all thought that dad would not survive long without his "sweetheart" but he continued to live an active life for another nine years passing away on February 12, 2005 some nine years later. One of his last acts was to go to the grave site that he had so lovingly tendered for nine years on the anniversary of her passing. He passed away the next morning soon after rising and getting the mail as he was preparing to get a cup of tea before beginning his day.

Yes, dad and mum left a great example of love to their children and grandchildren. The love that dad showed for mum in those final years truly exemplifies what love should be.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25).

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lanny Niver's father, Tim Arnold's father.

It was good to see Helen Culpepper out again last Sunday. We trust that with improving weather she will be able to get out more.

Sister Peebles was unable to be out Sunday but was doing better during the week.

Ted Rush, preacher for the Mauldin, SC church is in the Self Regional Medical Center in Greenwood, SC. He is scheduled for heart by-pass surgery on Monday. Please keep him and sister Rush in your prayers.

There will be a "pot-luck" fellowship following our services this morning. Plan to stay and eat with us.

LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST RADIO PROGRAM
1050 AM -- WFAM
Sundays 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m

"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

In the Los Angeles Coliseum some years ago, more than 100,000 spectators were present for an event honoring the city's war heroes. The master of ceremonies said, "Perhaps you sometimes say to yourself, 'My job isn't important because it is such a little job!' But you are wrong. The most obscure person can be very important. Let me show you what I mean." Suddenly, on cue, the great transformers which provided the stadium lighting were shut down leaving the coliseum in total darkness.

Then the speaker struck a match, and in the blackness the tiny flame could be seen by all. "Now you can see the importance of one little light,?" asked the master of ceremonies. "Suppose we all strike a light." Instantly matches were struck all over the stadium and everyone gasped with surprise. Quickly and effectively they understood that it is within the power of each individual to "light a candle" instead of "curse the darkness."

Jesus said, "*Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men that they see your good works and glorify your father which is in Heaven*" (Matthew 5:14-16). The apostle Paul adds this admonition: "*Do all things without murmuring and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world*" (Philippians 2:14-15).

It is true our match-lighting influence can make a difference in a world darkened by sin. It is also the case that our collective lights can come together to shine a great beam of soul-saving illumination. Individually or collectively. God expects us to bum brightly where we are to make a positive difference in our sphere of influence. Remember: "You are the light of the world!"

John B. Tracy