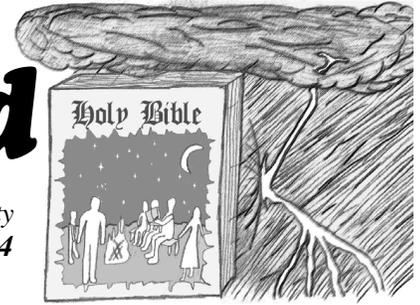


Shelter in the Word

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty
You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. —Psalm 91:1, 119:114



Vol. 2, No. 3

Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty

May/June 1999

What Is Sin?

A Study of God's Word by Raymond Kaping

There is much confusion in the world, and what is and isn't sin has become one of them. Many churches today teach that the law has been done away but we live in societies that have a multitude of laws that we are to abide by. And when you examine the Ten Commandments of the Bible, are such laws as, "you shall not kill" (murder) or "you shall not commit adultery" really done away? Is it O.K. to murder someone?

Jesus Christ taught much on the law and sin and we must learn the truth about the law and sin to have opportunity to truly live life in the fullest. The law that was "done away" as some teach has an underlying reason for its existence. All that is written in scriptures are there for two basic principals as Jesus Christ answered when questioned.

Matt 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

38 "This is the first and great com-

Nearly everyone has heard that Jesus Christ died for the world's sins. He did. But that is **not** the same as saying that he eliminated all sin, eliminated the effect of sin, or eliminated the penalties for sin. If someone steals your car, it is a sin and you will still miss your car. If they drive away recklessly and cause an accident, the people will still be hurt or killed. A biblical understanding of **what sin is** and **how bad it is** gives us an understanding of the need for Christ's sacrifice and a profound appreciation for it.

—Norman Edwards

Note: this study uses the New King James Version (NKJV) Bible.

mandment.

39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

And again as recorded in another gospel:

Mark 12:29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.

30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

31 "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

32 So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.

33 "And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love

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one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

So the very basic principles of the law is love: love of God and the love of our fellow human beings that share this earth with us. To be free of sin is to love God and to love our fellow humans and not to commit any trespass against either our fellow man or God.

The 5th through the end of the 7th chapters of Matthew is Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount, where He teaches the fullness of the law—not that it was done away. He is teaching the way to perfection and to become a child of God, to be "one" with the Father and Son. As you study these chapters note some very important teachings that show us what sin is and what the law of God has to do with overcoming sin. Read what the Lord, Jesus Christ has to say about the law.

Matt 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

18 "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Now if you take a look out the window, you will see that the earth and the heavens are still with us, so the law is also with us, whether we obey and live by it or not. But there is much more to it than what most understand. We live in a Universe that has physical laws such as gravity. Gravity is very important for us to live, without it we all would perish, as even our atmosphere would leave the earth with all things that are not directly attached to it. So the laws that were given to us by God are very important for our health and well being. We would not be very well off if someone murdered us. We would not be very well off if we become infected with AIDS or any other sexually transmitted disease because of our sexual promiscuity. These laws are for us to live long and healthy lives. They are for our benefit, given to us by God out of love.

So this brings us to what is sin. John recorded exactly what the definition of sin was. He writes:

1 John 3:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Now lets look at the Spiritual fullness of the law as taught by Jesus Christ on His Sermon on the Mount.

Matt 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Shelter in the Word is designed to help people become self-sufficient in their Bible study, so that they may be able to serve the Almighty Creator, and receive salvation through His Son. *Shelter* is not affiliated with any denomination, and teaches that eternal life is available to **individuals** who live by the Bible, regardless of their belonging to a church organization.

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PO Box 107 • Perry, Michigan 48872-0107
517-543-5544, Fax: 517-543-8899, e-mail: shelter@youall.com

Shelter staff: Tim & Jeanice Davis, George & Pam Dewey, Norm & Marleen Edwards, Missi Lara, Lee Lisman, Jon D. Pike.

Subscription and literature requests may be sent to the following addresses. (If you decide to send funds to help defer printing and mailing costs, please make it out to the name shown below).

Australia: Dale Heslin; 9 Alice Jackson Crescent; Gilmore, ACT 2905
Canada: Cherie Zimmerman, 268 Pennswood Wy SE, Calgary, AB T2A 4T3
Philippines: Cesar Lumbuan; 2298 Florida St.; Balagtas, Pandacan; Manila
Europe: Guy Hodiament; Gulpen 122; 4852 Hombourg; Belgium
U.K.: Jenny Whiteman; 2 Warren Rd; Narborough, Leicester, LE9 5DR

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You see, Jesus Christ expanded the law to its fullness by teaching that **sin begins in the heart**. What you think is the beginning of sin and if you think in sin very long, it will manifest itself through your actions because of this continual process of sin in your mind. Consider this:

Matt 5:27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

28 "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

You see, sin begins in the heart and Jesus taught immediately after this:

Matt 5:29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

He is stressing the importance of removing sin. Your body will not commit sin without the mind telling it to do so. **So we must cast out sin from our minds** because this is the place that incubates sin until it hatches into a physical act. This is the reason for the examples of casting the body parts that sin from us. We are better off to suffer any loss than to sin and be cast into hell. But we must also understand the presence of sin within us and how forgiveness comes to play in our forgiveness from God. The disciple John wrote,

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

This is a fact of life, that we have sin within us. This is why our Savior Jesus Christ came and

died for us on the cross, our collective sin of mankind. And we must take on this nature of God, forgiveness, so that we may be forgiven and may enter into life. Jesus teaches us of the nature of God in His Sermon on the Mount.

Matt 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

48 "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

And:

Matt 6:14 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Now, we are seeing the relationship between sin and the act of forgiveness. Once we have come to understand that **sin is the transgression of God's law** as expanded and brought to its fullness by Jesus Christ's teachings and that God is providing salvation for us through love and forgiveness. We are also required by God to forgive others as He forgives us. It is an understanding overlooked by so many in that what we do in relationship to our fellow man will directly result what God will do in His relationship with us. As God's law states:

Ex 21:23 "But if *any* harm follows, then you shall give life for life,

24 "eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

25 "burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

By God's law, the perfect penalty for the harm we do to others is to receive exactly the same as punishment. As an example of a hypothetical situation to demonstrate God's perfect form of justice, let's say I stabbed a man and he lived. My just punishment would be to be stabbed exactly in the same place as I stabbed that man, no more, no less. At receiving such a punishment, I would know exactly what my victim suffered by my stabbing him. I would feel the same pain, have to recover and have the same scars and/or handicaps from such a stabbing as my victim. There would be no doubt in my mind of what I did to my victim because I would suffer the same fate as a punishment.

[Editor's note: While the principle of like injury for injury is the basis of judgment in the Old Testament ("an eye for an eye and tooth for tooth"), the "punishment" injury was of no benefit to the first person who was injured. A provision was made to allow the offending person to compensate the injured person rather than just suffer the same injury (Ex 21:19,22,29). This was allowed in all cases except murder--the death penalty was required for that (Num 35:31). —NSE]

You see, in God's perfect judgment, we receive judgment from Him exactly as we judge others. If we hold a grudge against another for their sin committed, God will hold judgement for our sins committed against Him or any other fellow human. By the law, without mercy, we are all dead men. By the law, without mercy, we will receive exactly as punishment what we have done to others. If we could live by God's law in perfection, we would be guiltless, as our Savior was guiltless when they crucified Him. But as you can see, being guiltless does not guarantee that you will live without pain or without being accused of sin or being penalized for some wrong doing you did not commit. Not in this world any way. But God will forgive and give us life eternal which will be much more than the lives we live now. As Paul wrote:

1Cor 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

God desires that we be with Him and inherit all things with Christ. God's intent from the very

beginning is that we become literal sons to Him. It is the reason for the creation of man.

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

13 In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

So from the very beginning, God wanted to raise us up as sons to Him, holy and without blame. As we know, in the Garden of Eden, man was convinced through lies to disobey God and commit the first sin. And with sin came death, which was told before hand would happen to Adam and Eve by God.

1Cor 15:21 For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

We live our lives sinning because we disobey the law of God, which tells us that we are not to do any wrong against our fellow man or God. And by thinking and committing sins against our fellow man and God we are under judgement of God's law, which brings death because of the sins we think and/or commit. And we are not alone in this struggle; those that we hold in high esteem struggled with sin also. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

Rom 7:10 And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death.

11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.

12 Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

And to understand the reason for the written law, Paul wrote,

Gal 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Law cannot save from sin as Paul further writes in Romans:

Rom 7:13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good.

17 But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

19 For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice.

20 Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

25 I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

You see, even Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ and the father of many churches to the Gentiles struggled with sin within himself. Sin is common throughout all mankind. We all have to struggle with it as we live our lives in the flesh. But Jesus Christ overcame sin and death, and He has shown us the way to overcome sin and death too. And the very first way to overcome sin is to understand what it is and work to cast it from our minds and bodies. The second thing is to understand that we all suffer sin within us, and as God forgives us so we must forgive others. We must take on the nature of Christ, our example, of how to overcome sin and death.

We have an advocate to overcome sin and to achieve life in the fullest. He is Jesus Christ our Savior the One who died to bring atonement for man with His Father in heaven. We have to work with Christ to purge ourselves of sin. We have Him as our example of how to achieve perfection and a place with God in His kingdom and to inherit eternal life. He Himself learned perfection too as it is recorded in scriptures.

Heb 5:8 though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

And Jesus was asked what to do to achieve eternal life:

Matt 19:16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, " 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,'

19 'Honor your father and *your* mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Isn't it interesting that Jesus Christ tells us that if we want to have eternal life that we are to keep the laws that so many say are done way? But if all mankind lived in lawlessness, what kind of world would we live in? I dare say one that is much worse than what we suffer today. Because what we suffer is because of lawlessness which is sin.

We have the promise of His return to establish His kingdom on earth. And when He establishes His kingdom, the laws and commandments that so many say are done away will be the law of His kingdom! So let us repent of our lawlessness that is the sin that is in us and seek our Lord Jesus Christ. As Peter taught on the very first Pentecost day of the New Testament Church:

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;

and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

And Jesus taught us about the Holy Spirit:

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--

17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Indwelling of the Father and the Son:

John 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

20 "At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

You see, God is providing a Spiritual helper for us, a comforter, the Holy Spirit. And through this Holy Spirit, Both Father and Son will come and make a home within us to guide us and help us to overcome sin and death, just as Jesus Christ overcome sin and death.

To really understand sin and to have the strength and the power to overcome it, you need the Spirit of God in you. To truly understand the power of the Comforter that God sends to us, you need that Comforter in you. Have you prayed for the truth? Have you prayed for God to comfort you and help you in your struggles in life? His chosen, His children that walk this earth with the Holy Spirit in them are willing to help you come to God.

My friend, even those with the Holy Spirit struggle with sin also. They have to strive to overcome sin and they have to forgive others of their sins against them to receive forgiveness from God for their sins. They have been enlightened to the truth about sin and that sin is in them too. **They cherish the law because it is a guide and a light to see the truth.** I am a sinner and I struggle with sin in daily battles to overcome it. When we recognize this sin that is in us, then we can work to overcome it. I was a man of the world but a few short years ago, and when God came into me through the Holy Spirit; I came to see my sins and shortcomings.

Don't let men deceive you—being baptized is only a beginning of a lifetime of overcoming sin and developing into a true child of God. **You are not instantly transformed into another person at baptism.** You are to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as a helper and comforter in your life in the flesh. But, you can quench the Spirit and put to a public shame the life of your Savior who died for you. And this is a very serious matter and a serious sin as it is written:

Heb 6:4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.

So it is our desire, both of God and His sons, that you receive the truth of sin and to have opportunity to repent of it. It is our desire that you may receive support through the Holy Spirit and from other brethren full of that spirit, to learn the truth about sin and have the support to help you overcome it. It is our desire that you may share in the hope and the joy of the fellowship with Jesus Christ. It is our desire that you may share in the promises of all the wonderful and good things that God has reserved for us in His kingdom. It is our desire that you have the opportunity to experience the fullness of God's love and His promises that we wait for. It is our desire that you can become a member of God's Spiritual family and share in all things that we will inherit with Jesus Christ.

It is my earnest prayer that God will answer your prayers and show you the truth about all things. We are here to help you, please feel free to ask for our help. The truth is, Jesus Christ came to be a servant to all and we are to be like Him, a servant to all our fellow man.

Raymond Kaping

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May our Father in heaven and Jesus Christ, bless us by allowing to be apart of His harvest and bless us with a bountiful increase. 

Sayings to Think About...

Associate with men of good quality, if you esteem your own reputation; for it is better to be alone than in bad company.

—Washington

The great hope of society is individual character.

—Channing

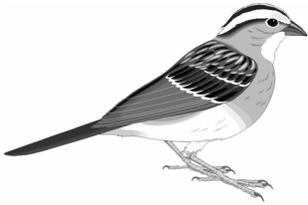
Human improvement is from within outward.

—Froude

Character

When wealth is lost, nothing is lost;
When health is lost, something is lost;
When character is lost, all is lost!

—Anonymous



Natural Faith



by Ramona M. Leiter
**Biblical Principles Seen In
God's Creation**



“Consider the lilies of the field...”
—Mat. 6:28

Appreciation: A Lesson from the Birds

Today I decided to take advantage of the uncommonly perfect weather, and go outside to write this article. My skin is gently caressed by the summer breeze. The air is carrying the sweet serenades of birds, and my patio is graced with intricate, interleaved shadows from the trees above it. No humidity, mid-70s temperature, cloudless blue sky. Not every day is like this! If it were, I would take it for granted.

Life is like that. When we constantly expect perfect pleasure, or more and bigger things, we lose sight of the *simpler* pleasures.

A year ago, God blessed me with just such a simple and wonderful gift. At the time, I was living in the tiny, windswept town of Douglas, Wyoming. It is “in the middle of nowhere” on the High Plains, surrounded by almost treeless grassland. I spent weekdays with my two children running the small family music store there.

One day while driving home through a residential area, I spotted a most unusual flash of color out of the corner of my eye. What was **that**? Why, it was a **peacock**, in all its regal splendor, prancing on the sidewalk and lawns and occasionally ducking under parked vehicles. This wasn't a zoo or a picture book—I was actually seeing this lovely bird in the domain of cats and dogs and tricycles.

I am normally a straight-ahead kind of driver, who doesn't pay attention to this side or that. So the fact I saw the bird at all amazed me. For the next couple of weeks, I related this incident to many people. Then one day, I was working in the music store when an elderly lady walked in and stated, “I am here for my

hair appointment.” I kindly pointed out to her that she had made a mistake, and perhaps the beauty shop she wanted was down the street. She looked flustered as she was **sure** this was the spot she had made the appointment at. She couldn't recall the name of the shop.

She walked out, and I saw her walk back and forth outside. I hoped she would find the place. About fifteen minutes later, the elderly woman returned, again announcing she was here for her haircut. Again I told her she was in the wrong place. Upon recognizing me, she looked frustrated and embarrassed.

She pleaded for my assistance. She had been everywhere including the nearby police station for help, and could not track down the salon. I offered to take a look in my phone book, spotted the best bet in the yellow pages based on nearby addresses, and pointed her in the right direction.

She seemed relieved that I might be right, and in gratitude, she offered me something to say thanks. I had not noticed up until that point what the lady had been carrying all along under her arm. “Please have one of my **peacock's feathers**.”

What a simple but awesome gift! The mighty God who holds the world in His hands cared enough about the small things in my life to bless me with first seeing a live peacock, and shortly after used this woman to give me the gorgeous, shimmering feather of one. And along the way I hope I was of help to her too.

I kept that feather displayed for the next three months in the store, and it rode behind me in my car all the way to Michigan when we moved back there in the fall. My summer of encounters with peacocks was a lovely sign of God's provision of not just our needs, but also for our simple pleasures.

As a result of living in an impatient, spoiled society, we may find ourselves expecting God to give us everything we want—A lavish lifestyle. Grandiose spiritual gifts. Well, maybe it is time to ask God to help us to see the beauty in the **simple** gifts He gives us. A person who can be satisfied in this way will be much happier in life—as I am learning to be day by day. And especially on this beautiful gift of a summer day.

Matt 7:9 "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!





It's About Time

Biblical Chronology Made Easy!

This is a summary of the Old Testament with the major periods and the *general* date for each. These major people are *approximately* 500 years apart. Future lessons will cover the New Testament period, the *most* significant point in all of historic time—the lifetime of Jesus Christ. Memorizing these people and events will give you a good framework for other Biblical learning. (If memorizing comes slowly, copy this and put it in your Bible!)

Before Abraham

Particularly memorable Bible stories leading up to the lifetime of Abraham include:

- The Creation account,
- The story of Cain murdering Abel
- The Flood
- The building of the Tower of Babel

Thus you can commit to memory that all of these events would have occurred **prior to** 2000 BC. Some significant Bible characters whose lifetime would have occurred during this period would include:

- Adam and Eve
- Cain and Abel
- Methuselah (the oldest man recorded in the Bible)
- Noah (and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth)
- Nimrod, founder of ancient Babylon

Abraham—2000 BC

Significant Biblical stories around the lifetime of Abraham, and leading up to the time of Moses (2000-1500 BC) would include:

- Abraham's calling by God to leave his home and go to Palestine
- The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Significant Bible characters of this time period include:

- Abraham and Sarah
- Isaac and Rebekah
- Jacob and Esau
- Jacob's wives, Rachel and Leah
- The sons of Jacob, from whom the tribes of Israel were named: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph, Benjamin
- The sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh

Moses—1500 BC

Significant Biblical stories around the lifetime of Moses, and leading up to the time of David (1500-1000 BC) would include:

- Joseph sold into Egypt as a slave, unjustly imprisoned, interprets the Pharaoh's dreams, made a prince in Egypt, invites Israelites to Egypt during severe famine.
- Israelite slavery, the plagues and the Exodus
- Israelites crossing the Red Sea
- The giving of the Ten Commandments
- The wandering of Israel in the Wilderness
- Conquest of the Promised Land by Israel
- The Battle of Jericho
- The stories of the "Judges"

Significant Bible characters

of this time period include:

- Moses, Aaron and Miriam
- Joshua and Caleb
- Samson and Delilah
- Deborah
- Ruth

David—1000 BC

Significant Biblical stories around the lifetime of David, and leading up to the time of Daniel (1000-500 BC) would include:

- David and Goliath
- David and Bathsheba
- Stories of Kings of Israel and Judah

Significant Bible characters of this time period include:

- The little boy and later prophet, Samuel
- King Saul and his son Jonathan
- King Solomon
- the prophets Elijah and Elisha
- the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah

Daniel—500 BC

Significant Biblical stories around the lifetime of Daniel, and leading up to the time of Jesus (500-1 BC) would include:

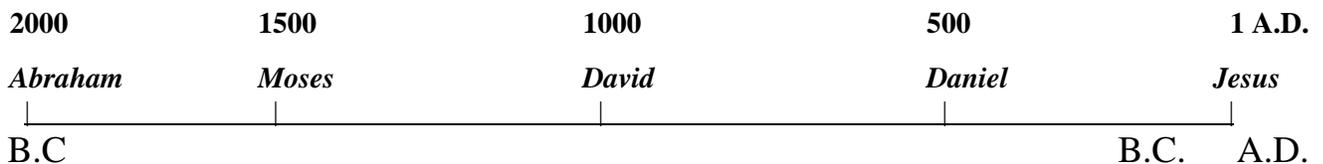
- Daniel in the Lion's Den
- The fiery furnace
- The handwriting on the wall
- The story of the Book of Esther

Significant Bible characters of this time period include:

- Daniel's companions, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Hebrew names, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah)
- The Prophet Ezekiel
- Nebuchadnezzar
- Belshazzar
- King Cyrus

—PSD & NSE

Simplified Bible Time Line



Will All Christians Be In the First Resurrection?

by Norman Edwards

For some time, I have been studying the subject of judgment and what happens after people die—especially to Christians. I had prayed to the Eternal for understanding. For years I had understood that the popular belief that people go either go to heaven or hell at death was not in the Bible. The Bible continually speaks of resurrections and judgment. I had also understood that God must have a time of correction and judgment for those who never heard the Gospel of Christ:

2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

How can God want to save everyone, but never give most people a chance to hear His message? Revelation 20 shows that all those who have died will be judged by their works and what is written in books:

Rev 20:12 (NKJV) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Since knowledge of Christ is necessary for salvation, that knowledge must come during this latter time of judgment. Speaking of the future, Isaiah said: “They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Is 11:9).

But as my studies progressed, I began to realize that the Scripture also spoke of a future judgment for Christians—for those who have the Spirit of God. I had studied the concluding verses of Luke 12 before, but never really understood them—probably because they did not fit into my previous understanding. It was not until I began answering the following letter that I clearly saw that these verses clearly explain the possible outcomes of the Christian life better than any other section of the Bible. Here is the letter and answer:

June 24, 1999

Dear Norman,

I like your literature, which has opened up new ideas to explore by God’s Word, and your open-mindedness from people who do not agree with you. That takes character.

But I’m a little confused after reading Mar-Apr 1999 *Shelter in the Word*. “Will Christians Be Judged?” On page 7 you wrote, “The Bible is not absolutely clear about who will be in this first resurrection.”

In my English and Finnish Bibles both say 1Thess 4:16: “the dead in Christ shall rise **first**.”

If we are qualified at all to be in the first resurrection, we get the guide from Rom 6:1-3. No one is perfect but I don’t believe that our journey is a guessing game—where is our faith?

Norman, I would like to hear your comment. Thank you for giving me something more to study.

Jennie Baker, Illinois

Dear Jennie Baker,

Revelation 20:6 clearly states about the first resurrection: “Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.” Those in the first resurrection apparently need no additional time of learning to be judged righteous. They have no chance of the second death. But does the first resurrection (those “dead in Christ” who “rise first”) include everyone who ever knew Christ? Notice what Jesus says clearly addressing believers

Luke 12:42 The Lord answered, “Who then is the **faithful and wise manager**, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?

43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.

44 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45 But suppose **the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk.**

46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 **"That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.**

48 **But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment** will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Notice that there are four categories of servants in this section—all people who serve Christ:

1. Good servants who help Christ's other servants—they will reign with Christ (like Rev 20:6).
2. Bad servants who persecute Christ's other servants. Their punishment is to be treated **like** unbelievers (they couldn't have been unbelievers to begin with).
3. Servants who knew what to do but did not do it. They will receive "major" correction.
4. Servants who did not know what to do. They will receive "minor" correction.

The last two categories of people receive "stripes"—a corrective punishment. It does not make sense to "beat a person", then give them immortality. Nor does it make sense to "beat a person" then give them eternal death. On the other hand, these believers are not promised rule with Christ—they have to learn things first. In some way, these last two groups could be considered one in that they probably blend together—there will be some people who knew what to do, but only did some of it. They will receive a "middle" number of stripes. Indeed, throughout history there have been many people who claimed to be Christian, but who have had greatly varying doctrines, and have carried out their understanding to varying degrees.

The "dead in Christ" who "rise first" must be only the category **1** people, above. They are ready to help Christ rule. Notice also:

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The dead in Christ rise first, and then the kingdom continues (where correction is being given) until Christ determines who all of "his enemies" are, and puts them "under his feet". Only when this is done, is death destroyed.

Does all of this mean that our life is a "guessing game?" No. It might help to think of it like this:

Imagine yourself learning to fly an airplane under the guidance of a loving, kind person who is the best pilot instructor in the world. It is up to this master pilot to tell you when you are ready to begin flying alone. You would like to qualify for solo flight before your brief course is over. If you do not, you will have to come back for extra lessons after the course. You do not want to do that—nobody in the course wants to do that. **But, you would rather come back for extra lessons than fly and crash because you are not ready. You have confidence that the master pilot will do what is best for you.** So, we do not have to guess. We have confidence that the Eternal will put us where we belong: in the first resurrection, or in a place where we can be further trained.

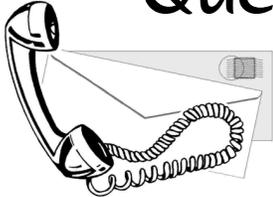
What about Christians who have never understood this Bible teaching? What about those who thought they "had it made"? The four categories apply to them. If they were serving their fellow believers, they could be in category **1**. If not, they will probably be in category **4**—receiving light correction. But a person who thinks he is saved because he has said the right things or is in the right group, yet smites his fellow believers will be treated like an unbeliever.

There are many other scriptures that show that all Christians will be judged (see *Shelter in the Word*, Mar-Apr 1999). Some of that judgment is in the future, but some of it begins now: "For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?" (1Pet 4:17.)

—Norman Edwards

Questions & Comments

from Our Readers



February 4, 1999

Dear Christians,
Greetings in Christ's Holy

Name. [Literature request omitted.]

I would also like some information about the Christian way of disciplining disobedient children. What to do when the child disobeys, insults, is sassy or ignores you? What does God's Word have to say? What does His Church practice? How to help a young child obey at home or at school?

Thank you very much for answering this letter.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

—TP, Greece

Dear TP,

When babies are born, they can do nothing for themselves. Their lives are dependent on others. If parents did not take care of them and keep them from danger, they would die. However, the goal of every child is to become an effective, independent adult. "For this reason a man will **leave his father and mother** and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen 2:24). Some parents actually want to keep their children from maturing—for the parent's companionship or dominance (they need somebody to control). But even for parents who do realize that child rearing is a process of gaining and releasing control, the task of doing so is always a challenge. If the parents do not do this job, children will sometimes do it for them, by rebelling or running away.

Exactly what needs to be done to help a disobedient child depends on their age, stage in life, and previous child rearing (or lack thereof). We do not have extensive material on dealing with this, but we know of two other groups that do:

Growing Families International, Inc

9259 Eton Ave; Chatsworth, CA 91311

818-772-6264; fax: 818-885-7011

toll free: 800-396-4434; e-mail: info@gfi.org

Focus on the Family

Colorado Springs, Colo 80995

719-531-3400; toll free: 800-232-6459

e-mail: mail@fotf.org; web-site: www.family.org

July 3, 1999

Dear Norm,

I'm a little late in noting this error in *Shelter in the*

Word. I know that you assume responsibility for the printing of this section of your enlightened publication, so I will bring to your attention, and have in the past to several ministers, that a more careful reading of 2Sam 11 is required.

In *Shelter in the Word*, Jan/Feb 1999 page 13, second column, paragraph 3 in the words of PSD (Pam Dewey?) "David saw her bathing on a rooftop..." Please, please, don't continue to teach this error. 2Sam 11:2 says "David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself". In modern parlance, David was a peeping Tom. Because of the continual teaching of the error of PSD, Bathsheba has borne the stain of immodesty in her character. We must not wrongfully accuse her of flaunting her beautiful body on a rooftop if we love truth.

Would you please have a little space to please correct this? You can see how your publication causes us to search carefully for truth. I'm very grateful.

Sincerely,

Muriel Crawford, Canada

Dear Muriel Crawford,

"PSD" does stand for Pam Dewey, but I edited that part of the article and inserted the phrase about Bathsheba bathing on the roof top. You are correct that the Bible does not say that she was bathing on a rooftop. However, history and archeology indicate that this was a common practice. It was a modest thing to do. Why? Houses at this time were usually one or two rooms. There certainly were no bathrooms—there was not privacy inside. The roofs of houses were often flat with a wall around the edge (Deut 22:8). A person sitting on top of the roof could not be seen by someone on the street and probably not by someone on a nearby roof—unless that nearby roof was very high.

The King's palace was on the highest part of the city and built much higher than the rest of the buildings. It was designed to give a military advantage—to let the King and his soldiers see any advancing enemy and allow them to propel objects down upon them. It also made it easy to look down upon people bathing on rooftops. Is it unreasonable to think that anyone would have bathed on their roof-top knowing that the King could have been looking down on them? No. Today, people use changing rooms at clothing stores, pools, gyms, etc. knowing that somebody might be watching them through a one-way mirror or on a security camera. Since they never hear about it, they don't worry

about it. Kings generally had all the wives and concubines that they wanted, so they left the people alone.

In this case, the fault was clearly David's. Anytime one comes upon someone who is not properly dressed, he or she should look away, rather than stare or lust after the person.

—Norman Edwards.

April 7, 1999

Norm Edwards and Family,

Thank you for serving us with your newsletter. I really appreciated some of the articles in *Shelter* this time too (especially the one on perfectionism). This is such a hard trait to deal with and it leads to much guilt and low self-esteem.

We are sending an offering to help with the work you are doing.

Mariam Parks, Missouri

Dear Mariam Parks,

Thank you for your encouragement. It is helpful for us and our readers to know that we all struggle with these quiet difficulties. What we know is perfectionism in ourselves, often appears like righteousness to others. (Hey, isn't that why most perfectionists do it?)

—Norman S. Edwards

July 7, 1999

Norm,

I wrote this to share with friends and neighbors after I read the alarming article in our newspaper. I fear that very few are preparing.

Late breaking news: **Your city probably cannot protect you against a Y2K disaster for more than a few days.**

When the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, will **your** tap water quit flowing and **your** commode quit flushing?

We have been hearing about this possibility for months, but have you personally made any preparations for water and waste disposal? Cities are worried about Y2K. Shouldn't you be?

A June 25, 1999 article in the Northwest Arkansas Times warns that if there is a widespread power outage, water will not continue flowing to Northwest Arkansas residences for more than **four days!** And that "without power it is nearly impossible to get sewage to the wastewater treatment plant." What sewage gets there while water is running will have to be released into the creeks after 15 days. (Were you planning on drinking creek water in a pinch?)

Where do you live? It is probably the same or worse there. What will you do? Drill a well and get solar panels to pump the water out? Catch rainwater off the roof into barrels?

Shouldn't you at least have a good water filter—one

that filters out all those bacteria and viruses that could make you deathly ill? According to the book, *Building Your Ark*, by Lia Danks, it should filter out organisms less than .2 microns in size. A good filter is a must if pure water supplies are cut off.

Disasters could strike at any time, but we know when Y2K will strike. It is not many days away. No one knows how serious it might be. Many voices advise us to **be prepared.**

Lois Gordon, Arkansas

Dear Lois Gordon,

Thank you for caring for your friends and neighbors. As we wrote in our Nov/Dec 1998 issue, page 3, one of the biggest problems is helping people accept that God could let a disaster occur in the United States. The whole country has not been in any kind of major nation-wide calamity here since the Civil War, or maybe the Great Depression.

We hope that you have been effective and been able to help people. I receive a number of statements like yours, most a whole lot fancier—but they usually end by asking me to buy some Y2K product at an inflated price. It is better that people prepare and help someone else make profits, than it is for them to never prepare at all. It is so much nicer to see something simply designed to help, not make a profit. Unfortunately, in this day of marketing, people are often suspicious of them because "there has to be a catch somewhere" and they just have not found it. Thanks again.

—Norman S. Edwards

April 20, 1999

In Sudan 4 million non-muslims (mostly professing Christians) have been displaced by a genocidal war by the government. 1.5 million have been killed over the last 15 years in an effort to do away with them.

Where is Bill Clinton?

Are they the wrong color, the wrong religion?

Joe

Dear Joe,

I am not an expert on international relations, but I have read several news reports about other areas of mass genocide where the United States or United Nations did not get involved. It is obvious to the world that we stopped Saddam Hussein's attack of Kuwait because we needed the oil from there. I have read reports of a mine in Kosovo that has a contract worth over a trillion dollars (1,000,000,000,000) with a Greek company. There are oil fields and other resources in Kosovo. The Bible indicates that people in authority should judge justly and not take bribes (Deut 16:18-19). Our leaders have used their power to look after their own interests, not to do justice.

—Norman S. Edwards

Thorn in the Flesh

by Tommy Willis

2 Cor 12:7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

In this scripture, we see Paul asking three times to be relieved of his "thorn in the flesh". But God told him that he would have to endure this affliction because He was using it for Paul's growth pattern. Having physical ailments myself for many years, God has used this biblical principle to help me be more at peace with my affliction.

God will allow certain "thorns" in our life to teach us the vital lessons we need to learn. Your "thorn" may not be physical ailments such as mine, but God is going to use some kind of suffering pattern in your life to teach you the lessons you need to learn:

Acts 14:22 "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God..."

The example we see in nature can help give us some insight here. Think about an oyster. Through the constant irritation of a grain of sand in its flesh, a beautiful pearl is created. And God will often use some irritation in our lives to create something much more valuable than a pearl—the "mind of Christ" within us!

The more you touch down on this spiritual reality, the more it will help you not to complain when going through trials. Remember, even though all the nation of Israel was set free from slavery in Egypt, it was the complainers who never went into the Promised Land! So it's very important for us to let God develop this attitude in us toward the suffering patterns we must go through.

It's natural to want to be comfortable. But much of our growth pattern does not come about by us being

in our Christian comfort zone.

Matt 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Suffering is what causes many to be offended. In this scripture we can see the connection of not becoming offended and enduring to the end—no small accomplishment!

There is an element in human reasoning that thinks it is going through so much more than those around it, that its problems are unique. This is especially true when those trials get severe. We then let the pain cause us to turn inward, and in doing so we cannot see the sufferings of those around us. Many may be suffering more than we are, but we will never see it with this frame of mind. Our trials then get magnified beyond reality and everything gets worse as we allow ourselves to get into a "self-pity party".

Over the years I have watched myself and many others cry out, "Why?" to the sufferings we were going through, especially when those trials were severe. But we are asking the wrong question here. By asking "Why?" we can easily begin complaining. What we need to do is ask: "What can I do to glorify God with this problem?" This is the direction we need to learn in our trials. By doing so, we will stay on much safer ground. Because in asking why, our human reasoning can easily get to such a negative pattern that we can even start blaming God, as if He is not doing His part. And when we do this, we get on very dangerous ground indeed!

Much of the problem is that we often dodge what Christ did on the cross. Many times God allows situations to come our way that offer us understanding through suffering as Christ suffered, but we avoid it and choose a lesser path. And when we do this, it brings on spiritual poverty.

Suffering—the very word makes us uncomfortable. But if we seek God as we should, then He will teach us how to endure suffering. That's why the lesson of Paul's thorn was recorded for us. Paul learned to be at peace with the suffering. This is truly success in trials—to be at peace while going through the suffering. When God told Paul His grace was sufficient, He was teaching Paul that having God **with** him was all

that he needed. By God being there, he would be given grace to endure through it no matter how difficult the trials were. So Paul stopped asking to be relieved of this thorn in the flesh as he saw the sufficiency of God would come forth through the weakness.

Since suffering is involved with growth, then the best thing we can do is learn the lesson of this spiritual principle of Paul's thorn in the flesh. This principle can apply to every trial we have to go through!

Whatever your "thorn" may be—it might be a struggle with your job, or with family members, or conflict within a church group you fellowship with—whatever it is, learn to trust God, and He will teach you the lessons that you need to learn from it all. Keep in mind that if He allows it to come upon you then He knows that you can learn from this trial:

Rom 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Many times we allow the pain of the trial to cause us to lose sight of God. So it's extremely important to keep in mind that God has it all under control. Much of the problem with our human reasoning is that, when things are going well, we feel blessed by God. But when we are suffering greatly, we may feel God is not around. But we need to learn to rely on scriptural facts, and not on feelings!

A point of real maturity will be when we learn to rejoice while going through the trial itself:

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

We are to rejoice if times are difficult, because God is using it for our growth pattern, to teach us maturity and patience.

As we learn this vital biblical principle of 2 Cor 12:9—"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"—and we learn that God will supply all we need, then we can do as Paul did in the last part of the verse—"Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 

Blood, Toil, Sweat, and Tears

by Lenny Cacchio

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Winston Churchill rallied the people of Great Britain during World War II by promising them an easy time of it. Oh, there might be some inconveniences here and there, but we'll get this war out of the way and you'll get more benefits from the government than you ever asked for. That's how Sir Winston won the war, right?

Not!

He promised them blood, toil, sweat, and tears. He promised them a fight on the beaches and fight in the streets. He promised them that they would never surrender. To get the best from the British people, he knew he had to give it to them straight and appeal to their higher instincts.

Jesus knew that too.

Too often these days the Gospel is presented as the easy way out. We make of God a giant Bayer aspirin tablet: take God twice a day and all your hurts will disappear. But Jesus doesn't present that type of life for the Christian. Instead he challenges us to rise above mediocrity.

He said we must take up our cross and follow him. He said our enemies would be those of our own household. He said we must be willing to drink of the cup from which he drank. He said some of us would be delivered to be afflicted and killed.

Now I ask you: is that the way to build a following? Jesus could have said, "Folks, we're starting a new little enterprise here. We'll give it our best shot, and if things work out you'll have prosperity, happiness, and people will look up to you. You'll have power and authority. To enjoy all these benefits, all you have to do is follow my ten point formula for success, and the world will be at your feet."

If our people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, it might be because they refused to hear the truth. As Isaiah said, "This is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the Lord; who say to the seers, 'Do not see,' and to the prophets, 'Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.'" (Isa 30:9-10, NKJV)

The way of God is a challenge. It appeals to our higher nature. It calls forth our best. It calls for self-sacrifice rather than self-esteem. Let us preach the Gospel for its nobility, not as an anesthetic. 

Y2K Update

Many things have been happening related to the Year 2000 computer bugs (Y2K). We do not have time to detail all of them in this very brief report. **If you have not read the past three *Shelter in the Word* issues on Y2K, then please do so—they are still very applicable. There is still time to prepare!** These very important points are becoming more clear:

1. **No person, government or agency will have a clear picture of what is going to happen until January 1, 2000.** The cost and time of thoroughly testing computer systems that are “probably compliant” or “probably don’t matter” is turning out to be extremely difficult. However, organizations are very slow to document exactly which systems because they are **not** testing—because they will be liable if they have records that show they ignored a system that turned out to be important. On the other hand, public utilities do not want to make public statements that sound like they do not know what they are doing (at least one has said that it will **not** issue a statement of Y2K compliance). The North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) helped them out some by providing a sample report, complete with quotes from the local utility manager. It turns out that many of the utilities essentially copied that sample report, altering only what was utterly necessary for their installation. In other words, the reports sent to NERC tell us very little about what is really happening at each utility. There is no chance that a thorough, veri-

fied testing program can be implemented before January, 2000.

2. **Law enforcement agencies are preparing for public unrest during Y2K.** I have

read several reports of Armed Forces, National Guard and local police training for crowd control techniques of “hungry mobs”. Magazines that cater to law-enforcement groups are discussing the purchase of anti-personnel weapons and how officers should train their families to use them should the officers be required to serve long shifts and be away from home.

3. **International areas will almost certainly have much more trouble than the USA.** We have covered this in previous issues, but reports continue to surface. Some countries are just now beginning to assess the problem. There is almost no chance of getting needed help.

A good example of the nature of what can go wrong is found in the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys, Calif. On June 16, it was being tested for Year 2000 compliance, and its computer erroneously closed a gate, which caused 4 million gallons of sewage to be spilled into a Van Nuys park. What does the date have to do with the state of a sewage gate? **Nothing, but maybe everything!** But having programmed computers for years, I can give an analogy that will explain it:

When cars are designed, moving parts, such as the front wheels, have a “design clearance”—a space wherein they are allowed to move. Designers of other systems of the car must keep that space clear. It is possible that an improperly designed wheel could occasionally go outside of its clearance. As long as nothing else were in its way, the design would work fine. But suppose someone converted a car to a new type of fuel and ran a fuel line just outside the wheel’s official clearance. Because of the improper wheel design which exceeds its clearance, it cuts the fuel line when the driver turns right and hits a bump at the same time. Fuel would spray into the engine and cause a fire.

Similarly, parts of a computer program can “exceed their clearance”—use parts of the computer’s memory that they are not supposed to use. However, if no other part of the program is using that memory, it will work—just like the improperly designed wheel. However, if someone makes a change to the program, the memory used by the computer may be reorganized. The part of the program that was harmlessly “exceeding its clearance” is now creating havoc. Since it is not as easy to “see inside” a computer program as it is a car, it may be very difficult to figure out what is causing the trouble. There are ways, but it is not always easy—especially on old computer programs that have been working untouched for years—or decades.

—Norman Edwards 



Share Your Shelter

Our Savior never argued or tried to force someone to believe in Him. We should not do that either. But if *Shelter in the Word* has helped you, you can share it with others who might be interested in it or helped by it. One of these methods might work for you.

1. Talk to them about what you have learned and encourage them to study the Bible themselves.
2. Copy your *Shelter* and give it to them (almost any office or copy store will do this for \$1 to \$2).
3. Give them your *Shelter* (we will send you a replacement issue if you write or call).
4. Copy just this page or write down the address or phone so they can request their own subscription.

For subscriptions and other literature, write or phone:

Shelter in the Word

PO Box 107; Perry Michigan, 48872-0107

Tel: 517-543-5544; Fax: 517-543-8899

e-mail: Shelter@youall.com