



"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

VOLUME 07 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2004

PAGE 1

Make You Perfect, Stablish, Strengthen, Settle You

(1 Peter 5:10)



Addressing the new form of the health and wealth gospel

Did you know that a true Christian does not believe in the health and wealth gospel? Is there health and is there wealth in the gospel – yes. But

what constitutes the fake health and wealth gospel is that if you are right with Jesus, you should never be sick, die of any illness, and be rich, or at least pretty well off. They claim that Jesus was in fact wealthy, and they represent the apostles that way as well.

Do you not know that suffering in any area of life actually works perfection of character? If the health and wealth gospel was real, then that means God sent His Son to die for our comfortableness. That does not make sense. Even Paul suffered in a health matter all his life. (See questions and answers for the specific ailment.)

How many of you put a time limit on God's trials or the permitted sufferings of Satan? Is there a certain point in which you deem that someone is not right with God or are not doing God's will?

We have met quite a few people that are in very difficult situations in various aspects of their lives, of whom state that the church has given up on them. We have friends whom we know to be in tight situations and also have received harsh treatment. We even know of people that are going through difficult situations but dare not bring it before the church for fear

of such a rebuke – "Things like this does not happen to God's people" they say.

It is their situations that have impressed us with a "Thus Saith the Lord" message on this subject.

Adam and Eve

After the fall, were they not with God anymore? "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

Although they were promised a future Savior, they were permitted to live and were forgiven because Jesus was actually slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). Yet, their trial lasted the rest of their lives, in so much that they suffered the murder of their son, the loss of salvation for their other son, and overall wickedness multiplying upon the earth. Things went from bad to worse, yet God was with them, and they were right with God after being forgiven.

Noah

"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened" (Genesis 7:11). "And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first [month], the first [day] of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the

WE ARE NOT A CHURCH BUT ENCOURAGE ALL TO ATTEND CHURCH NOT AS A PEW WARMER BUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries at PO Box 10607, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Strengthen faith in God's Word.

MISSION FOCUS:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by reaching out to the communities through our newsletter (since 1998) as well as through our evangelistic seminars (since 1994). It is to help keep those that are discouraged about things they see inside the church from leaving, to ground those that are new or have not heard of these things before, and to strengthen those that are already grounded. And to reach out to those that are searching for a meaningful relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ.

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Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

WEB SITES

We host the following websites:

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ADDED LAST MONTH TO:

WWW.TSTLStore.COM:

- Update Hours
- Moved cluttering items from home page to secondary pages.
- Made links from service tab.
- Reworded our services.
- Reworded our mission page.
- Rearranged home page.
- Redid logo
- Reworded Michael's page.
- Created link directly to ShurFine.
- Added much more text to the home page
- Reworded banner
- Redone virtual tour
- Updated virtual car information.

WWW.TSTLseminars.COM:

- No changes

FUTURE WWW.TSTL.NET:

- The following remain to be transferred to the new site:
 - Daily Devotional
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 - Radio
 - Adult Newsletters
 - Children's Newsletters
 - Children's Coloring pages
 - Forum
 - Prayer Requests
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 - Free Church Web

* Please pray for the time I need to accomplish this.

covering of the ark, and looked, and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried." (Genesis 8:13-14).

Do the math. Using a biblical 360-year cycle, Noah had a trial of being confined in the boat for ten days beyond a year. After losing his home, neighbors, employment, and all the rest that went with it, once things dried out, gardening was a triple chore compared to after the curse when Abel's blood was spilt and when Adam and Eve fell. But in technical terms, Noah suffered more than a year.

Joseph, Son of Israel

From the pit to being a servant to then in prison was no short time frame, "but the Lord was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison" (Genesis 39:21). How long was Joseph left in prison, not counting his servitude and situation in the pit? "And it came to pass at the end of two full years" (Genesis 41:1).

Job

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name [was] Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1), yet he lost everything (Job 1:13-19) including his health for a period of time (Job 2:7). What were his friends and wife like? "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die" (Job 2:9). And the long passages of conversation in the subsequent chapters reveals his friends were no friends.

So how long was it? One commentator says

that it was more than weeks, even more than months, in fact it could be several years.

Jesus

From the baptism until the crucifixion was three and a half years. What did Jesus say about His trials? "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air [have] nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay [his] head" (Matthew 8:20).

Paul

"Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; [In] journeyings often, [in] perils of waters, [in] perils of robbers, [in] perils by [mine own] countrymen, [in] perils by the heathen, [in] perils in the city, [in] perils in the wilderness, [in] perils in the sea, [in] perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness" (2 Corinthians 11:25-27).

Though Paul may not have been in financial, physical, and other sufferings for long periods of time, it was quite frequently that he found himself there. One could almost, as a church member then, be tempted to say, "What is it now Paul?"

Many more

And the list goes on. If we had the length available for your retention, we could provide details of such experiences as John being exiled to Patmos, Daniel and his friends suffering at least in the beginning in Babylon and the 70 years of captivity, how long was Abraham and



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PURPOSE: At the very least to get people to open their Bibles and find out why they believe what they believe and not be relying solely upon humans to feed them. We are to be fed by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, which was written by man physically but inspired by the Holy Spirit as prophets of God.

Sarah wondering how the promise was to be fulfilled, Elijah without being able to come home during the 3½ years of drought, and many, many more.

Summary

The short of it is that the theory that if God does not deliver a person from their trials, even with church intervention, in a short period of time, then the person is not right with God or the person is holding back God's blessings is not biblical. We appeal to all to move away from the slyest version of the health and wealth gospel into reality of God's servants.

What did they have in common?

But they all had something in common. They were faithful and grateful to the Lord.

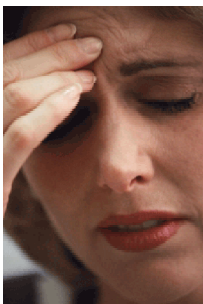
What was the purpose of their trials?

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]" (1 Peter 5:10). It is the perfecting process. Sure many can say they have no known sins that they are attached to, but what of the refining of the character. That is what these trials can be all about.

Further, trials are also a way of witnessing, and again we ask that all be careful *"For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again"* (Matthew 7:2).

We live in a society that usually takes advantage of others. It is difficult to discern legitimate need. Can you honestly say that you are willing to financially support someone directly without reservation? The average person helps only what the church has sanctioned.

THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH (3 John 1:2)



HEALTH SNIPPET:

Topic: Dangers of Getting Stressed Over Health

3 John 1:2 *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

God wants us in good health, but unnecessary stress will counteract the good. Everyone knows that most stress is not good for our systems. We state most because certain stresses are in fact good such as helping us to be energized. But, counting the minutes, etc. will not help your health. Just as service for God, even loving Him, is to be spontaneous. It is just to happen. If you truly love Jesus, you will spend time. If you know sugar, especially artificial sugar, is not healthy, you will act appropriately. Outside of allergic reactions, inquiring what amount of sugar was added to a fellowship meal desert, is probably someone who is living a stressful health style. If you avoided sugar all week, a

HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE RECIPE:

Oatmeal Patties

Blend:

- ½ cup of cashews
- 2 cups water

Combine with:

- 3 cups quick oats
- ¼ cup sesame seeds
- 1 ½ tablespoons salt
- 1 tablespoon of thyme
- 1 tablespoon of marjoram
- 1 tablespoon of sage

Blend cashews and water until smooth. Mix all ingredients together. Let stand for 15 minutes. Form round patties and bake in oven at 350° for 35-40 minutes. Serve with gravy.

small piece of desert should not cause stress. The same goes for those that walk or jog. If you shortened it by two minutes today by accident, do not stress out over it.

IN THE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1 — New Testament Lesson in children's language.

PAGE 2 — Old Testament Lesson in children's language.

PAGE 3 — Character Lesson — Application of character attributes from both Bible lessons.

PAGE 4 — Nature Lesson — Learning from God's nature.

PAGE 5 — Health Lesson — Taking care of the body.

PAGE 6 — Coloring Page — Alternating between either the Old or New Testament

PAGE 7 — Puzzle and Definitions — Matching from both Bible lessons and answers to questions.

PAGE 8 — Learning Activities — Object lessons in our work and in our play.

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BIBLE STUDY

Revelation's Conglomerate Beast
Part 7
(Revelation 13:2)

1. What did the clay and iron mixture represent matching the ten horns from Daniel 7? **Daniel 2:41, Daniel 7:24**
2. How equal will they be? **Daniel 2:42**
3. How united will they be? **Daniel 2:41, 43; Revelation 17:13**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Revelation's Conglomerate Beast Part 6 (Revelation 13:2)

1. What did the iron represent, which matches the unnamed beast of Daniel 7? **Daniel 2:40** *"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all [things]: and as iron that*

(Continued on page 5)

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT (Prov. 22:6)**Character Examples From the Bible – Joseph of Arimathaea**

Mark 15:43 *Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.*

Joseph knew what the right thing to do was and he acted upon it. Without regards to what the rest of his fellow counselors would think or what they would do, including loss of position, he did what was right. Likewise, a child should be taught at a young age to also do the right no matter what. This training can begin at a very young age and prepares them for all the errors they will face in life.

NEWS FOR CHILDREN OF LIGHT (1 Thessalonians 5:5)

The following are "sudden destruction" news items that appeared between October 16 and November 15, 2004.

[Preview future "sudden destruction" news snippets at www.tstl.net/suddendestruction.]

▶▶None listed.

ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH (Daniel 10:21)**QUESTION #1 – Hagerstown, MD – What was Paul's thorn in His flesh?**

ANSWER #1 – 2 Corinthians 12:7 says, *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."* Many do not know what it is.

Galatians 4:13-15 provides the answer. *"Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, [even] as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if [it had been] possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me."* If they would pluck out their eyes to allow Paul to have them, that means that Paul had poor eyesight. In other words, Paul never fully recovered from his experience of being blind. It was his reminder of when and how He met Jesus.

QUESTION #2 – Harrisburg, PA - What does God say about astrology?

ANSWER #2 – Astrology is a broad term. The Bible use is more conducive to the astrologer that studies the stars for answers and guidance in decision-making instead of consulting God and His Word. Under this understanding the Bible states the following.

Isaiah was pronouncing a judgment upon the people who were not seeking God but their own pleasures. He tells them what will happen if they seek astrologers for answers: Isaiah 47:13-15 *"Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from [these things] that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: [there shall] not [be] a coal to warm at, [nor] fire to sit before it. Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, [even] thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every*

one to his quarter; none shall save thee.”

In Daniel chapter 1, we see that those that serve God are found to be better than those that seek counsel from other sources including astrologers. Daniel 1:19-20 *“And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers that [were] in all his realm.”*

In Daniel chapters 2, 4, and 5, we see that these fortune-telling astrologers are truly powerless. It is summarized in Daniel 2:27-30 *“Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise [men], the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king. But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came [into thy mind] upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for [any] wisdom that I have more than any living, but for [their] sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.”*

Therefore, “Thus Saith the Lord”, do not consult them nor be reading their messages, in other words, do not be entertained by horoscopes.

QUESTION #3 – Mechanicsburg, PA – What was Baalpeor all about?

ANSWER #3 – On the verge of entering into the Promised Land on the second attempt, *“Israel abode in Shittim”* according to Numbers 25:1. But this would not be just another temporary campsite. This would be a place were the devil could entice and try to wreck the progression forward into the Promised Land.

Numbers 25:1 goes on to say, *“the people began to commit whoredom with the*

daughters of Moab.” That would be the people of Israel of course and what they discovered is that in a neighboring city of Moab, there were some loose women there. Now they were well aware of what they were doing. As Israel trekked across the desert, their enemies were destroyed before them. This put fear in the various countries. But they noticed one thing. If Israel disobeyed their God and went into apostasy, Israel would lose the battle because God could not condone sin in the camp. The only exceptions to this were when the glory of God was at stake and then God dealt with Israel in another manner. So, the objective was to cause sin to run wild in Israel. First, entice the men to commit whoredom. Second, bring it into the camp of Israel. Third, watch it grow. Fourth, watch God withdraw His protection. And fifth, watch Israel become defeated.

Continuing on in Numbers 25:2, *“And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.”* To seal the plan, outright worship of another god would guarantee the wrath of God, and so the Moabites took this extra precaution.

Now continuing in Numbers 25:3 we see that the plan was well underway. *“And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.”*

But would it work completely? Numbers 25:4-8 *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor. And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who [were] weeping [before] the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw [it], he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.”*

(Continued from page 4)

breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.”

2. What actions did it perform to create pieces? **Daniel 2:40** *“And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all [things]: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise”, Daniel 7:7* *“After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it [was] diverse from all the beasts that [were] before it; and it had ten horns.”*
3. Who was so feared that caused many to be willing to hand Jesus over to be put to death? **John 11:47-48** *“Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all [men] will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”*

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So the answer is no.

Other references include: Deuteronomy 4:3 "Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you." Psalms 106:28 "They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead." And Hosea 9:10, "I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: [but] they went to Baalpeor, and

separated themselves unto [that] shame; and [their] abominations were according as they loved."

Although this may answer the question, ask yourself, is Satan trying the same thing on a global basis? Right on the verge of entering the heavenly Promised Land, is Satan using women to entice God's people today? The answer is yes. But Satan is also using men to entice God's women as well. Do not let Satan succeed. Hold your ground through Jesus Christ.

WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?

(Isaiah 53:1)

- COMMENTS ON ITEMS IN THE NEWS -



The following are news items that appeared between October 16 and November 15, 2004. [Preview future news snippets at www.tstl.net/news.]

▶▶WorldNetDaily, November 13, 2004 - Prominent pastor faces harsh sentence

A prominent Beijing house-church leader, found in possession of a massive cache of Bibles and Christian literature, faces a harsh sentence if convicted in his upcoming trial, according to Chinese contacts of the U.S. activist group Voice of the Martyrs.

COMMENT: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:43-44). Pray for their release keeping in mind that God worked a miracle by rescuing Peter deep in a dungeon between two guards (Acts 12:5-11).

▶▶CNN, November 13, 2004 - Couple planned to 'sacrifice' children

A woman and her boyfriend are accused of plotting to sacrifice the woman's three children on a church altar. Police said Mancini told them that Jesus sacrificed himself for her, so she was going to sacrifice the boys to free her soul.

COMMENT: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,

and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1). There is nothing extra one has to do to be set free from sin, from Satan's grasp, to be justified as if you have not sinned, except believe (Acts 13:39).

▶▶God Doesn't Mind Bling, Rapper Ma \$e Says

Thou shalt bling? According to Ma\$e, God doesn't mind when people adorn themselves with flashy jewelry. "He don't have no problem with you blinging," the rapper said in an interview with The Associated Press, during which he wore a jeweled necklace and bracelet. Ma\$e retired from rap in 1999 to follow a religious calling, but returned to hip-hop this summer with the album, "Welcome Back," which is free of the cursing, drug references and womanizing that peppered his earlier work. Ma\$e continues to preach in the Atlanta area.

COMMENT: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward [adorning] of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel" (1 Peter 3:3). Actually, God does mind. Every penny we receive is God's. We are to rightly use the funds. What is right? "Seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33) of course, but you are to use what you need and not what you want. The rest is to be used for His service.

▶▶WorldNetDaily, October 28, 2004 - Kerry tied to '666'?

Was it a biblical warning or just

imaginings running wild? During his presidential campaign in Iowa today, Democrat John Kerry was surrounded by a sea of handheld signs displaying the number six on them. The signs actually are part of a final-week campaign countdown, and read: "6 More Days To A Fresh Start."

COMMENT: The answer is that imaginings are running wild because 666 is very misunderstood. True that it applies to a man associated with the beast power (Revelation 13:18). But it is not a political focus but a religious/political focus contending for God's truth vs. Satan's lies (1 John 2:18-22, 1 John 4:1-3, 2 John 1:7-9), found where many nations exist and not just represented (Revelation 13:1-2, 17:15), would take on titles belonging to God alone (Revelation 13:6, Matthew 23:8-12), be a small kingdom (Daniel 7:8), would conquer three other kingdoms to come to power (Daniel 7:8, 20, 24), a single person would be leader of this kingdom and not a congress and senate or a king and queen (Daniel 7:8), have seeds in the apostolic age (2 Thessalonians 2:7, 1 John 4:3), is located on seven mountains (Revelation 17:9), set up a counterfeit service to Christ's true service (Daniel 8:11, Hebrews 9:11), would attack the Bible, Christ's teachings, and Commandments (Daniel 8:12, John 17:17, John 14:6, Psalms 119:142), would think to change God's laws (The Ten Commandments) (Daniel 7:25), and would have a mark of authority that if people accept, they will be eternally lost (Revelation 14:11). This is just a small list of the more than 84 references in the Bible. USA is not that power nor is any USA president ever going to be.

▶▶**WorldNetDaily, October 21, 2004 - District bans Halloween to not offend witches**

A Seattle-area school district has banned Halloween activities partly because the celebrations and costumes might be offensive to real witches.

COMMENT: "For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft" (1 Samuel 15:23). Witchcraft, and implied anything that has to do with witchcraft such as witches, is a sin along with rebellion. So this is good news for the wrong reason.

▶▶**USA Today, October 21, 2004 - Gay Episcopal bishop says 'Holy Spirit led us'**

The openly gay Episcopal bishop whose ordination threatens to fracture the worldwide Anglican Communion said Wednesday he "genuinely and deeply regrets" the pain this caused some believers, but he sees no need to repent because "the Holy Spirit led us."

COMMENT: How does he know that it is the Holy Spirit? It certainly is not the Holy Spirit convincing him that he is being led by the Holy Spirit because if you have the Spirit then you will follow the truth (John 14:13, 17), which the homosexual lifestyle was never God's intention for He made us male and female (Mark 10:6). The male spouse is to find a wife (Mark 10:7) not another male. Further, when the Lord cannot speak to such people of their wrong course, the homosexual lifestyle is as if God has given up on the person (Romans 1:22-27).

▶▶**AP, October 20, 2004 - Peru eyes U.S. market for tasty guinea pigs**

After 34 years of patient tinkering, researchers at Peru's most prestigious agrarian university have bred a new culinary export they hope will scamper onto dinner plates throughout America and the world: the super guinea pig. Today, churches in Lima and Cuzco still display Indian depictions of the Last Supper with Jesus and the 12 disciples eating roasted guinea pig.

COMMENT: "For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one [tree] in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 66:15-17). At the second coming, Jesus will destroy those that persist in eating the mouse or rodent of which the guinea pig is one. Let us put aside such worldly tastes remembering that all that Jesus did was put away the ceremonial washing (Matthew 15:16-20) and not permit anything goes. Further, Peter was not given instruction to eat anything but to allow Gentiles into the church instead of calling them unclean (Acts 10:28).

BIBLE THOUGHT

One Mind

Revelation 17:13 *These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.*







Does God intend for us to have one mind? Romans 15:6 "That ye may with one mind [and] one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." The answer is yes, if the mind is like Christ's. The answer is no, if the mind is not of Christ.

Secular issues fall on the wrong side usually. For instance, a community that declares that all doors must be painted green or be fined is not the mind of Christ even though this looks so innocent.

Banning together to fight for a secular cause despite questionable activity on a personal basis is not the mind of Christ. Though the group sees nothing wrong with the activity, whatever it is, for the sake of the group at large, all are to compromise, even if it goes against personal and religious convictions.

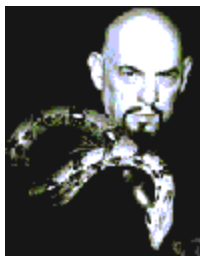
Be careful who you yolk yourself up with. You might be yoked up in a chain with the beast and not know it. Keep your individuality and strive for the mind of Christ.

DECEMBER 2004

-  **MAIN ARTICLE:** Make You Perfect, Stablish, Strengthen, Settle You (Page 1)
-  **HEALTH:** Dangers of Getting Stressed Over Health (Page 3)
-  **PARENTING:** Joseph of Arimathaea (Page 4)
-  **BIBLE STUDY:** Revelation's Conglomerate Beast Part 7 (Page 4)
-  **NEWS:** Kerry tied to 666??? (Page 6)
-  **QUESTION:** What was Paul's thorn in the flesh? (Page 4)

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