



"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)

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Here Are They That Keep The Commandments of God

(Revelation 14:12)



A different look at sanctification.

It is said, "There is only one that is perfect and that is Jesus. No one can ever be perfect." This is despite the direct command, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is

in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). We will place this topic of sanctification in a prophetic setting.

No power

2 Timothy 3:1-5 says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

This is not something we look to the worldly people to fulfill. These things have always happened. But evidently there will come a time when a power would be denied by church people. That power is of God because the people going to church or that call themselves Christian are reduced to just having a form of godliness. Paul saw that the church would be full of these people before Jesus returned.

It is true that the church has always had such people, but what Paul saw was a time when the church does not even preach victory over sin (explained later in

this article), which encourages the list of behaviors. "No one is perfect," they say.

Notice that it is in the "last days". That means it is not until the last days that the church is populated with more powerless people as opposed to the earlier days. In other words, God never describes a people, such as the church, as being something unless well more than half are acting that way.

The vineyard message of Isaiah 5?

God had a vineyard or Israel (Isaiah 5:7) that produced wild grapes (Isaiah 5:1, 4) or fruit or souls that were unsaved. Today, we are Israel.

The nation of Israel is not what God is working through today. We do not have the space to cover this topic again, despite the fact that the vast majority of Christianity today think the nation of Israel is being set up to be used by God and are deceived. We will say this, any theory that is popularly believed in the church today is more than likely wrong. Because another prophesy predicts erroneous preachers will people flock to at the end of time (2 Timothy 4:1-4). And the fables that the church is believing today is that they do not have to worry about sanctification. Jesus freely justifies us, but He also, through the power of His grace, wants us to walk wholly as Him without blame (1 Thessalonians 5:23), which means, no one can point a finger at practicing sins in spirit, soul, or body.

Now back to the vineyard message, God does not declare something wild if it is only fifty percent or less. He also does not declare something wild if it is only two thirds wild for God has used such fractions in His Word before. Even up to ninety percent has God stated specifically.

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

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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.

NEWS FOR CHILDREN OF LIGHT

(1 Thessalonians 5:5)



The following are "sudden destruction" news items that appeared between June 16 and July 15, 2005. [Preview future "sudden destruction" news snippets at www.tstl.net/suddendestruction.]

►►NPR, July 13, 2005 - Police: Bombing Suspects Are British Natives

London police say they believe the July 7 transit attacks were the work of four suicide bombers. They identified four British men of Pakistani descent as chief suspects. The men traveled from Leeds to London and were seen on a King's Cross station security camera before the blasts.

COMMENT: *"But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end [is] not by and by. Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Luke 21:9-10).*

►►Orlando Local 6, June 21, 2005 - Biometrics ID System Debuts At Orlando Airport

Brigitte Goersch placed her hand on a screen that copied her fingerprints, and she then stood in front of an ATM-like machine that captured an image of her eye's iris. A private company hopes as many as 30,000 other people

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Therefore, over ninety percent of the church are not hearing the whole message and the preachers are not giving it. Notice this, we did not say that the churches are wrong necessarily. We are saying that the whole message is not being heard.

Are you having a hard time agreeing with us on this? Do not take our word. Do a quick examination for yourself. Look over all the news reports about churches joining hands, merging, signing documents of agreement, etc. and you will notice that the fine print basically says, "We put our differences aside and we focus upon the things we agree upon." In other words, the whole message is not being preached. The differences between the churches should be worked out by agreeing with what the Word states – not simply agreeing to be silent on the subjects.

So Paul writes to Timothy that in the last days, most of the church are either promoting or participating in the list of sins and denying real victory.

What power is denied?

2 Peter 1:4 says, *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

There are many, many, many people that keep talking about still having a carnal nature, old nature, a nature that we will have until the end of time. Nonsense! That old nature was to die (Romans 6:6, 2 Corinthians 5:17). It is your choice that you still have that nature. If Christ has justified you, then he gives you the power to live a victorious life. He gives you the divine nature. In other words, yes, it is possible to walk this earth like Christ despite having to wrestle with temptation until the end of time.

Does that mean we will never sin?

It is possible that you will commit another sin, but notice that it is only possible. It is not guaranteed. Every second you must do as Jesus -- stay communing constantly with heaven, tune out the world, be bold in your action to deter the tempters, and not take up the arguments of the world.

What is the current position?

For those that do not yet understand, we believe Paul's view of the last day is and has been happening for decades in the church.

What does the main heresy lead to?

If no one can be perfect, then who determines how much imperfection is allowed? Why "Strive to enter in at the strait gate" (Luke 13:24)? Why have church standards? Why be so strict on not bearing a false witness such as pulling practical jokes like the world? You know something, that is exactly what is going on. We teach people to dress down for God and dress up for a wedding. Christians enjoy April Fool's Day as much as non-Christians. What is the difference.

What is the prophetic setting?

Revelation 13:15-17, *"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."*

So, when faced with accepting the Mark of the Beast and you have no food to feed your children or spouse, since no one can be perfect anyways, why not accept it? When you find yourself possibly losing your home, is it really going to matter that you pretend to receive the mark for a good reason? You love your family; that is a good thing, right? [By the way, no one has successfully showed us that we are out of here before the Mark of the Beast. In fact, there is a new movement of mid-rapture beginning to sweep the churches. Some day they may even come over to post rapture.]

In either case, whoever faces the Mark of the Beast, these people will have to be willing to die than to give in. Are you willing to die than commit a known sin today?

Conclusion

Revelation 12:11 says, *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

All through history not one person of faith is known for compromising. This includes when they or their loved ones faced death. Remember, you are not responsible when threaten with, "Do this or we will kill them!"

Let the enemy kill them. You stay faithful to God *“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it”* (Matthew 16:25). Because when Jesus declares, *“Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”* (Revelation 14:12), He means they really keep them for there is power in the blood.

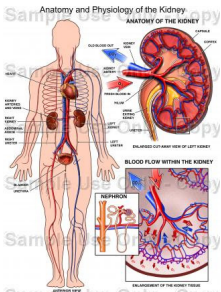
And it is not just keeping them on the big basis but the little matters as well. You may not murder anyone, but do you get angry? You may not rob a bank, but do you waste

other people’s time? You may not say the four letter words, but do you represent Christ rightly? You may go to church, but do your thoughts stay on the right theme for the day, even for the hour?

How do we know it is the little things that count?

Ephesians 5:27 says, *“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”*

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



Topic: Physiology as a Study

Based upon 3 John 1:2, a practical knowledge of the science of human life is necessary in order to glorify God in our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:20). It is therefore of the highest

importance that among studies selected for childhood, physiology (a branch of biology that deals with the functions and activities of life or of living matter, such as organs, tissues, or cells, and of the physical and chemical phenomena involved) should occupy the first place. It is well that physiology is introduced into the common schools as a branch of education. All children should study it. It should be regarded as the basis of all educational effort. And then parents should see to it that practical hygiene be added. This will make their knowledge of physiology of practical benefit.

HEALTH SNIPPET: Calcium

In addition to blood clotting, calcium is used in enzymatic activity and stabilization of enzyme systems, for permeability of cell membranes, for nerve transmission and muscle responsiveness, and to provide the mineral matrix for bones and teeth. Calcium is the most abundant mineral in the body. A high protein diet causes the body to lose calcium. Did you know that human milk contains only 80 mg of calcium per cup, as compared to 288 mg per cup for dairy milk? This should give us confidence that humans are not designed to require the large quantities of calcium provided by dairy milk. During the most rapid growth period of a child, the only food supply the Creator designed was the mother’s milk. This fact indicates that the amount of calcium needed during childhood and youth is far below that usually recommended. In fact did you know that human’s are the only creature that insists on drinking milk after being weaned?

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 – David’s Eyes In the Wrong Place

2 Samuel 11:2 *And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that 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; and the*

woman [was] very beautiful to look upon.

David noticed a fair woman to look upon. Instead of turning his head or walking away, he stared more intently. This developed desires that he chose not to control. It would not be satisfied until an encounter takes place.

Today, youth may be faced constantly by

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this year will follow the lead of the security chief at Orlando International Airport by offering up their biometric information for a program guaranteeing travelers an exclusive security line, and the promise of no random secondary pat-downs, in exchange for a background check by the Department of Homeland Security.

COMMENT: Revelation 13:16-17 *“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of his beast, or the number of his name.”* Although the hand, probably the right one, and the eye, which is close to the forehead sort of matches the description, we do not believe this is the mark of the beast. But we sure do believe it is another method of tracking the mark.

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- Study questions added.

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- None

BIBLE STUDY



Understanding Revelation 14:7

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

1. If one fears God, what will they do?
Ecclesiastes 12:13
2. In the age of hypocrisy, one can sing songs and pray to God, yet act a whole different way. Focusing on right actions, what is one way to give glory to God? 1
Corinthians 10:31
3. What is associated with judgment and protects from evil? **Ecclesiastes 8:5**
4. What did John quote when he wrote "made heaven, and earth, and the sea"? **Exodus 20:11**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Pieces of Revelation 10?
(Revelation 10:1-11)

1. What little book is in the opposite state than what is stated in Revelation 10:2? **Daniel 12:9** "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end."

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similar images. Youth need to learn not to be curious about it or it will lead to very similar results. Many youth take up masturbation, premarital relations, and even rape.

So children need to be taught that modesty is very important in both genders. Next familiarity between genders needs to be addressed. Many talk with implied

conversation that begins inappropriate comments and actions.

Overall, both genders need to understand their place, respect, and how to properly conduct themselves when in the presence of each other. Further, if something were to be set in motion, children need to be taught properly how to deal with it.

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 June 16 and July 15, 2005. [Preview future news snippets at www.tstl.net/news.]

The Christian Century calls Osteen an "easy theological target" who turns the language of the Scriptures "into a vague religiosity, or into more digestible categories of self-help and self-improvement."

►►NY Daily, July 14, 2005 - Thugs busted in slaying at Queens party

Two Queens gang members were busted yesterday, accused of blowing away a female pal at a drug-laced party just because they felt like it, law enforcement sources said.

COMMENT: Acts 3:19 says "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." A church not dealing with sin is a church not representing the mercy of Christ to the fullest.

COMMENT: "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because [there is] no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away" (Hosea 4:1-3).

►►BBC, July 14, 2005 - Sweetener 'linked' to leukemia in rats

Fresh doubts about the safety of an artificial sweetener have been raised by Italian scientists who have linked its use to leukaemias in rodents. Aspartame is 200 times sweeter than sugar and is used throughout the world in low-calorie drinks and foods.

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

►►ABC, July 14, 2005 - America's largest church soon opens where Rockets

The arena was home to the Rockets when they won two league titles in the 1990s and the Houston Comets of the WNBA when they won four. It now seems fitting that "discover the champion in you" has long been the church's slogan. Critics have sometimes taken Osteen to task for downplaying the sinful nature of humanity and the need for repentance. An article this week in the liberal Protestant magazine

►►Great Caesar's Ghost! Gallup finds 1 in 3 Americans Believe Houses Can Be Haunted

NEW YORK Gallup reports today that its latest poll found that one in three Americans "believe in ghosts." The numbers: 32% of all adults say they believe that "ghosts/spirits of dead people can come back," while 48% do not, and 19% are unsure. An even larger number of Americans believe that houses can be

haunted, with 37% holding that position, 46% saying no, and 16% not sure.

COMMENT: "[As] the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no [more]. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more" (Job 7:9-10).

►►Times On Line, July 4, 2005 - Clergy who don't believe in God

HUNDREDS of Church of England clergy doubt the existence of God and fewer than two thirds believe in miracles, a study out today says.

COMMENT: John 6:64 *But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.*"

►►Barbados Nation News, June 26, 2005 - Teen witch caught up in spells

It is the latest craze among teenagers not only in the United States and Europe but also right here in Barbados. Jason is just one of a growing number of youngsters who has rejected Christianity and is embracing witchcraft as a way of life. They cast spells to pass exams, predict the future by communicating with the spirit world and even place curses on others.

COMMENT: "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I [am] the LORD your God" (Leviticus 19:31). So if you think Harry Potter material is harmless, think again. It is fueling the latest craze. God knew what He was talking about, and now the people will reap what they have sown.

►►BBC News, June 23, 2005 - 'Religious left' launched in US

A group of progressive Christians in the US have launched a new political movement to counter what they describe as the power of the religious right.

COMMENT: 2 Timothy 4:3 *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine."* Progressive means that they go by what the world dictates and not the Word.

►►Sun Herald, June 23, 2005 - New group may spark Presbyterian split

The group - which calls itself the New Wineskins Initiative - also proposed a radically reorganized, mission-minded denomination to halt decades of decline in the Presbyterian church, which has a current membership of 2.4 million. The Rev. Tom Edwards of Wichita, Kan., who organized the Edina meeting, said Presbyterianism is too top-heavy and must "start serving the local congregation and stop being a structure that exists for the local congregation to serve the national bureaucracy."

COMMENT: Ephesians 6:14 *"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness."* The article states that the leadership are looking into compromising between those that are permissive about homosexuality and those opposed. There is no compromise. It is either right or wrong. The article also states that it is the church that is causing the divide. What these people need to learn is history. The whole Protestant world was born out of disagreement with the church in the 1500's and earlier from not being biblically based.

►►Irish Abroad, June 23, 2005 - Right to Die Woman Loses Case

American right-to-die activist Reverend George Exoo and an assistant traveled to Ireland to be present when she committed suicide. Exoo denies helping the 49-year-old, who suffered from depression, end her life, but says he was in the house with her when she committed suicide.

COMMENT: Deuteronomy 30:19 *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."* This pastor evidently is not a Christian. He is in name only. First, he should never have taken the title that belongs to God alone (Psalms 111:9). Second, depression is not a good reason to permit suicide, nor does the Bible provide suicide as a means to deal with even medical problems. Providing a means to relieve the pain, without death, is all that is permitted (Proverbs 31:6), of which Jesus refused on the cross.

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2. What does water, found in Revelation 10:2, represent in Bible prophecy (see Revelation 1:1 to see why the contents of Revelation are not literal)?
Revelation 17:15 *"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."*
3. What book contains the subject of no time remaining as stated in Revelation 10:6? **Daniel 8:17, 19** *"So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end [shall be] the vision. And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end [shall be]."*
4. What is sweet as honey as stated in Revelation 10:9-10? **Psalms 119:103** *"How sweet are thy [God] words unto my taste! [yea, sweeter] than honey to my mouth!"*

Revelation 10 speaks of the book of Daniel that would no longer be a closed book but an opened book. It would be opened to a few people as well as many peoples, multitudes, nations, and areas of the earth speaking many tongues or languages. It would be a time when there is very little time left on earth. In fact, the message would be about the end of time. But God's words misunderstood can leave a bitterness or upsetting feeling in the stomach. Evidently the first understanding contains a mistake. But the last verse tells of a second movement to teach the right understanding would be born from the first.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES



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ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH

(Daniel 10:21)



QUESTION #1 – Grasonville, MD – Could you explain Proverbs 22:6?

ANSWER #1 – “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Many misunderstand this verse. They have high expectations. They figure if they train the child to be good then they will make a really good Christian, at least one destined for heaven.

The parents are first taken back by backsliding. It is when the child is older in years. The parents might be in the grave before the child turns around.

The most important point in this verse is that parents are to train the child in the way they are to go. This is different from teaching.

A lot of parents think that this verse is teaching by speaking and textbooks. However, training includes being an example. If parents teach one thing and act another, the parents have not trained the child the way to go because poor examples replace the textbook and the verbal teaching.

Do not be surprised that the child can recite the New Testament and yet be lost. That is because the parents denied the power of a victorious life and the love of Jesus. And it does not have to be that serious of a matter to accomplish this.

Tell a child never to lie and yet bring them up with Santa Clause is our most popular real example. But here are few more. Cut down ministers in front of children, and they develop a bad taste for ministers, which is, in the child’s eyes, the basis of church. Perform practical jokes while the Bible teaches not to be doing that and then excuse it is quite popular and hypocritical. Be fake at church and then at home be someone else is even worse. And the list goes on.

The bottom line is, to train up a child so that in later life they do not depart from it is to do it by example in addition to verbal

and textbook. “*And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This [is] the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left*” (Isaiah 30:21).

QUESTION #2 – York Springs, PA – Did not Jesus do away with the 10 commandments and replace them with 2 - love God and neighbor?

ANSWER #2 – No, he reiterated the Old Testament based upon the Ten Commandments. Jesus was not teaching something new when He said, “*Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*” (Matthew 22:39). He was quoting Leviticus 19:18, “*Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I [am] the LORD.*”

So seeing that it was a quote of the Old Testament, Jesus was not replacing the Ten Commandments with “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*” (Matthew 22:37-39). The reason is because then the Ten Commandments would have been replaced under Moses, and that did not happen.

Besides, Jesus quickly followed up with “*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets*” (Matthew 22:40).

People do not know how to love, which is not simply doing the kind thing or doing something with a smile. It is based upon how we treat God and how we treat our neighbors. And for this, Jesus says, “*If ye love me, keep my commandments*” (John 14:15) – No other gods before Him; do not make gods and bow down to them; do not take the Lord’s name in vain; and keep holy His Sabbath day (not just an hour or any day you please). That covers the relationship with God in loving Him.

Now how about loving the neighbor? Jesus

said, "Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and [thy] mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 19:17-19). Please notice that Jesus runs down the second part of the commandments. He runs down the list that shows our love to our neighbors. How do we know this is how we show our love? After "The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go [and] sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come [and] follow me" (Matthew 19:20-21). Please notice that Jesus is addressing the man's relationship to the poor. Evidently the young man ignored or did not care for, which is love, for the poor. That means he really did murder by allowing people he could have helped but left them to starve to death; he probably did steal by keeping what God blessed him with to give to the poor; he probably made a false witness by saying, "I would help you but I don't have any change on me right now," which was a lie because he was not interested in helping; and he probably did not do much for his parents being so obsessed with gaining wealth. He probably patted himself by saying that he sends gifts to them.

So as we see, the Ten Commandments are the specifics. Jesus simply gave a summary.

QUESTION #3 – San Diego, California – How do we participate in sports?

ANSWER #3 – If at all, one should treat it similar to practice. Some sports are completely out of the question, and if one should not participate in them, then one should also not watch them. Boxing and wrestling are two examples.

To play the game and not treat it as practice requires deception, which God counts as sin all of the time. In basketball,

to fake one way and go another to get around the person is one example. To pretend you are throwing the ball towards the catcher when in fact you are throwing it to first base is another example. Pretending you are handing off to another and turning around for the long bomb is still another.

Playing catch, hitting a few balls, shooting hoops, are not condemned. It is in the context already provided that it is.

In short, though many Christian schools have changed on the subject, there is to be no competition. How can you esteem others greater than yourself, as Paul wrote in Philippians 2:3, when you have to be pumped up for the game, show yourself as superior, and simply go out to win at any cost?

Good sportsmanship does not make matters better. It is a farce. It is a method of making sports allowable when it is not. All that sportsmanship means is that you will not play dirty. But the goal is always to win. In God's game, we are taught that all can be winners if they want, and we are to help each other reach that goal. Could you imagine allowing the other team to be a winner. It is called "Throwing the game!"

Matthew 7:16 says, "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" What is the fruit of sports? Fights frequently among players and fans. Many characteristics revealed that are condemned by God – being greater than others, having a killer instinct, deception used, focus all energy to the sacrifice of body and mind to the goal of winning what will be a non-memory in the new earth, being proud, and much, much, more.

The converted know what we are talking about. The unconverted are those upset at this answer. But, do not get angry. Pray that God will open your eyes, so that you may escape.

A lot of people think we sit on a high horse and point out everyone's wrongs. The truth of the matter in this case is that I grew up knowing only baseball. I ate, slept, and thought of nothing but baseball. The saddest part of the year was mid October through the beginning of February – the off-season. First thing my friends and I did after school was play baseball. We would

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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 3 — Question and Answer.

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

Health Lesson — Taking care of the body.

PAGE 5 — Coloring Page — New Testament

PAGE 6 — Coloring Page — Old 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.

FREE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER

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AUGUST 2005

Did you know that the subject of sanctification is also in a prophetic setting? (read the main article on page 1)

King David provides a lesson on dealing with pornography. (read the parenting article on page 3)

Did you know that not all Christian ministers believe in God? (read the article in the general news section that begins on page 4)

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play in the rain, slide in the street, and so forth. For me to walk away from it was not easy. In fact, there are days when we get near a ball field and two teams are playing that I want to relive those old days, but I quickly call to mind that I had no care for God in those days either. Earlier in my Christian life, I joined a Christian ball team. What did I see? Fights, bragging, and sacrificing of the body even to injury for the sake of winning a stupid game. OK, the last one in the list was about me. But when I witnessed fights on our team, I realized something is not right. It is the spirit of the game. There is no avoiding it. Again, picking up a bat, ball, and glove and just playing around like batting practice is not a problem, though there are other useful means of labor.

Though some sports are for exercise, it is a time waster. It also creates unnecessary risks of unhealthful conditions – broken bones for one thing. Exercise should be useful in nature.

BIBLE THOUGHT

Tell the signs

He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, [It will be] fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, [It will be] foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O [ye] hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not [discern] the signs of the times? (Matthew 16:2-3)

It does not take a genius to realize that when the churches ushered in nailing the commandments to the cross and making no difference between the ceremonies and God's holy Ten Commandments written with His finger on stone placed separately from the rest of the laws that chaos would result. A whole generation later and now we have church members that are more untrustworthy than the worldly people. We have murder, rape, and theft higher than decades ago. And yet one thing has not changed. People still look up at the red setting sun and tell the weather for the next day. Let us discern the times we live in.