

"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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Marvel Not, My Brethren, If The World Hate You (1 John 3:13)



Are Christians affective if worldly people like them?

Although we are not to go out of the way to make the world hate us, at some point worldly people will desire your presence less and less. If after a period of witnessing, you still have close friends that care very little about God and enjoy the worldly life more, it is not you that is having an influence; it is they who are influencing you. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4).

"Ye [are] my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I [am] he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me" (Isaiah 43:10). "I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when [there was] no strange [god] among you: therefore ye [are] my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I [am] God" (Isaiah 43:12). "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). "Ye [are] witnesses, and God [also], how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father [doth] his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory" (1 Thess. 2:10-12). How is your witnessing?

What is your responsibility?

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16). "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19-20). As you learn more and more about the will of God, you are supposed to be used of God to tell others in a way that lifts people up out of their sins and not push them away from God.

For instance, if you read "Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1) and know full well that the Bible does not contradict itself, so then you realize all those implied places where it is alright to drink alcohol and supposedly that Jesus drank it and even made it, must be in error of understanding. Once you learn that, you are now responsible to help even the minister who drinks a little to give it up without coming across "Don't you know the Bible condemns any drinking of alcohol except in cases to ease medical suffering (Proverbs 31:6)?" That usually is not affective. It breeds animosity.

How should you spend your time outside of working hours?

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). "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). Bible study is not to be something that occurs one moment out of the week or whenever you have a question and are curious about the Bible's position. It should actually be a daily ritual. And it is not a matter of studying one particular theme. Try to know the Bible inside and out.

How are you to argue?

Before giving the answer, notice that we are to enter into discussions, arguments, and limited debates. The notion that we are not to get into such with people and just show them "love" is Satan trying to silence you. If you say nothing, Satan wins. Although there is a time and place, avoiding disagreements altogether serves

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

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Do You Have A TSTL For That???

If someone asked you "why do you believe that or why do you do that" could you give them an answer from the Bible — a TSTL?

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.

Debt Reduction Progress


Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 has accumulated in debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the ministry expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when Jerry's lost his job due to religious conflict. Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment but it requires very long hours, especially now with traveling home each night to see his family (1.5 hr drive), and then he must stay up late to do the work. Can you help lower this debt faster?


\$76,107	Prior Balance
- 540	Readership
- 660	ShurFine Grocery Store
- 7,148	Jerry
\$67,759	Current Balance

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

WEB SITES TO CONSIDER

 **TSTL.NET** is for the general public

 **TSTL4MINISTERS.NET** is for any minister, bible worker, teacher, etc.

 **TSTL4CHILDREN.NET** is for the children and the contents will be a transfer of children's material from TSTL.NET to this new site.

Satan and not God.

"For he mightily convinced the Jews, [and that] publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ" (Acts 18:28). "Be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:9). "Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). "As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father [doth] his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory" (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12). "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (Titus 2:15). "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13). "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

As you see, leaving someone in their ignorance or even in sin for the sake of receiving the title "kind person" or just trying to keep the earthly relationship going without risk is wrong.

When a person is in error, one ought to exhort them.

How are we to exhort?

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2). Nothing short of Bible truth!

What limits are there?

"Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). There is a time and place. Do not correct a person in the middle of their speech. Do not correct an ignorant man in public, however, do correct a deceitful man in public if spoken deceitfully in public.

What are we to do with minor differences in the church while under the public's eye?

"But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers" (1 Corinthians 6:6). Although we are not to be going to court with like believers, especially before unbelievers, the principle still applies for minor issues. Squabbling over the color of Jesus' sandals or even if He wore any is not something to be doing, especially before the public's eye.

What does the future hold?

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14). We are to be witnesses and not silent bystanders. We need to be active in exhorting, which goes beyond simply being a living example. That is the first step. The second is to tell.

Conclusion

It is time to wake the people up. Let them not slumber and sleep, especially your family members, friends, and neighbors. Let not those in the church you greatly disagree with be left to lead the congregation in error. You heard the command – exhort. Stir the minds of the people. Remember, it is not as important to be making friends here, but rather to be making friends for heaven.

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

(Isaiah 53:1)



► **BrietBart, August 12, 2007 - Lutheran Congregation Keeps Gay Pastor**

The support for the Rev. Bradley Schmeling at St. John's Lutheran Church came a day after the national assembly of the ELCA in Chicago urged bishops to refrain from defrocking gay and lesbian ministers who violate a celibacy rule. The assembly's action fell short of permitting ordained gays churchwide.

COMMENT: *"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" (2 Timothy 3:1-5). A minister has the greatest form of godliness. How can someone be permitted to speak in the pulpit when committing condemned sin by the Word of God? So yet another denomination continues to think such issues are insignificant to God. And to think, Martin Luther, who was upset over 'a small thing' like indulgences for it was nowhere in the Word of God would be very upset with his church today being very blatant about a specific sinful practice explicitly revealed in the Bible.

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DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven
(Psalm 32)

1. "Impute not iniquity" is the request of not placing the accountability of the sin upon ourselves for in our sins we would die.

Therefore, in B.C. times, God instructed the Israelites to symbolically act out the removal of sin from the sinner to something else. What was that something else? **Leviticus 16:21**

2. In place of the removal of those sins, what is imputed or given to us freely?

Romans 4:22-24

3. How can it be that they are found with no guile when prior to confessing and forsaking their sins they have sinned many times?

Revelation 14:5

4. God says He will then instruct us in the way to conduct our lives. Where does that instruction primarily come from? **2 Tim. 3:16**

5. Those who do not search the scriptures, confess, and forsake their sins are considered to be what? **Psalms 78:8**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

What Is Death (Genesis 2:17)

- How many deaths are there?
Revelation 2:11 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Since there is a second death, there must be two.
- What causes one to die of the last death? **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Both the saved and the lost die the first death right now. Eternal life is still given to those that are saved at the resurrection. Death must be the reward of the lost then.
- If we die the first death, what do we hope to be part of to avoid another death? **Revelation 20:6** "Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."
- What happens to hell in the end?
Revelation 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." In other words, hell is burned up. Hell ceases to exist at some point.
- How do we not be hurt of the last death? **Revelation 2:11** "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

amounts, and any other means to paying the debt down.

» LA Times, July 31, 2007 - Transplant surgeon charged with trying to hasten patient's death

A San Francisco transplant surgeon was criminally charged Monday with excessively prescribing drugs to a 25-year-old disabled man last year in order to hasten his death and harvest his organs sooner.

COMMENT: Here is real example of what the end justifies the means thought process does. It is good in the end to save a life. To do so, today we have transplants. If the person is going to die soon anyways, why not speed up the time, which is the means, to accomplish

Think On These Things

Blessed Is That Person

Blessed [is he whose] transgression [is] forgiven, [whose] sin [is] covered. Blessed [is] the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit [there is] no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

Thou [art] my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, [or] as the mule, [which] have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. Many sorrows [shall be] to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all [ye that are] upright in heart.

(Psalms 32:1-11)

(Comments on the News continued from page 2)

» World Net Daily, August 9, 2007 - Dow down as credit meltdown accelerates

A worldwide meltdown of credit markets accelerated overnight as BNP Paribas, France's largest bank, became the fourth major bank to suspend redemptions in major multi-billion dollar investment funds because of the bursting of the mortgage sub-prime credit bubble in the U.S.

COMMENT: "Owe no man any thing" (Romans 13:8). Depending upon credit is the wrong approach if one wants to stay biblical. If you owe as TSTL also does, make plans to pay it off as soon as possible and make plans and budgets to try your best to stay out of debt. That includes early payments, extra principle

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(Bible Study)

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the saving of a life, which may pass away if not done as soon as possible accomplishing the end. God says no to any disobedient step to accomplish the end. It is based upon "Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22). So cease with winning souls by worldly means. Cease raising funds through gambling – that includes bingo and 50/50 chances. Cease lying to a boarder guard when smuggling Bibles. Secret movements and not revealing an identity is one thing, but to lie is wrong.

» **World Net Daily, July 28, 2007 - Should dating Christian couples kiss?**

Jonathan Falwell states in his column, "The ChristiaNet.com poll noted, "Many people in our culture today have become desensitized to what is right and wrong." Teens should not have to answer these questions alone. Allowing them to decide for themselves, or worse, making their decisions based on what they see on television is setting them up for failure.

COMMENT: Up until the 1900's courtship was the way. There was no dating. Therefore, kissing and touching were not a question. Everything happened under supervision. But Christians today do as the world - date. "A

virtuous woman [is] a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed [is] as rottenness in his bones" (Proverbs 12:4).

» **MSNBC, July 23, 2007 - Chihuahua saves boy from rattlesnake**

Zoey is a Chihuahua, but when a rattlesnake lunged at her owners' 1-year-old grandson, she was a real bulldog. "She got in between Booker and the snake, and that's when I heard her yipe," Monty Long, the boy's grandfather, said Thursday.

COMMENT: It takes Chihuahua to teach us "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

» **SKY News, July 16, 2007 - 'Your Cleavage Is Distracting Me'**

The 20-year-old passenger said the man claimed her busty cleavage was distracting him when he looked in the mirror. The driver then told her to sit somewhere else - otherwise he would throw her off the vehicle. A spokesman for the bus company has defended the man behind the wheel.

COMMENT: 1 Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array."

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