



Peace And Safety (1 Thessalonians 5:3)



What does it mean?

Before we get into the context of this verse, let us ask some serious questions about the meaning of peace and safety. In July 1998, we sought out in Bible study format the meaning of Peace. We will not repeat that article here, but here are some questions to seriously ask.

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3). When God says that people will cry "peace and safety", will people be crying, "The lake is peaceful! The lake is peaceful!" And without the least warning, all of a sudden a tidal wave capsize some row boats? That is silly, of course. How about safety? Is it equally silly to say that God forbids us crying "safety" or to apply to a person who hits a homerun and is safe at home plate? Yes, that is equally silly. Crying out that it is safe to put your money back into the stock market, though a serious mistake in our opinion, again is equally silly to be applied to the "peace and safety" cry even if the stock market were to have a second serious sell off.

So you would conclude that the cry for "peace" and the cry about "safety" is applied to a more specific application.

Let us move the questions up a level. Do you think the verse that Paul wrote was to be applied to some cities declaring zero levels of crime only to be fooled with a sudden outbreak? Some may think so, but even though a peaceful city does yield a safe environment, again we would have to say no.

Let us address a higher and more popular understanding. There are many waiting for world peace to be declared where everyone can feel safe only to be fooled because sudden destruction will crash upon us. If the other applications were so easily dismissed, ought not this one as well? Yes, and here is the Bible reason. *"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars"* (Matthew 24:6). For the past century and beyond, we have always heard of wars or rumors of wars. That is not very peaceful. In fact,

society is on edge waiting for the next World War. So we will never achieve world peace, even to the point of being able to declare "peace and safety".

Ask yourself, what is the most important item to God? Who wins a sporting event? That crime ceases? That the world is living in peace without ushering in the second coming? People's salvation? Ah, hah! The "peace and safety" message must be regarding salvation. There must be a false sense by the majority of people to feel at peace with God and safe with Him when in reality they are not. Therefore, a false hope exists for peace and safety.

How do we know it is a spiritual message?

In Matthew 24, popularly known as the signs for the last days chapter, there is one theme that is repeated throughout while all other items are mentioned just once. For example, wars are mentioned once. Earthquakes are mentioned once. But Jesus said, *"Take heed that no man deceive you"* (Matthew 24:4), *"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many"* (Matthew 24:11), and *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; inasmuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect"* (Matthew 24:24).

Even the Antichrist is not understood properly by most. Stop looking for a military leader. These things are considered by God even more in regards to Antichrist: *"I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth"* (1 John 2:21), *"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error"* (1 John 4:6), and *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son"* (2 John 1:9). It is truth and error, lies and errors, doctrines of Christ instead of being deceived away from them.

So let us reason together to understand the soul winning application of "peace and safety".

What does peace mean?

Peace between two groups of unsaved people

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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.*

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is not what God intended as the meaning.

Jesus said, *"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword"* (Matthew 10:34). Jesus further said, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you"* (John 14:27). Did you catch that? Peace is not like what humans give each other. That peace is usually short lived or given grudgingly.

In fact, Jesus said, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33).

So the peace is not an earthly peace. If it is not earthly, then it must be spiritual. If that is so, there is only one spiritual peace that God is concerned with, and it is not the new wave of Christian yoga to be brought to relieve stress from our stressful lives. The only peace that God is concerned that we have is that of peace between man and God. If we have peace with God, then all other matters are of no concern.

The woman with the issue of blood found that peace. Jesus said to her, *"Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague"* (Mark 5:34). Jesus did not tell her to not be worried about her bleeding anymore. She did not need to be stressed about that anymore. No. This is not what Jesus meant for a few verses earlier she already had that type of peace. *"Straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in [her] body that she was healed of that plague"* (Mark 5:29). The peace from Jesus was peace between God and man, or in this case, woman. She had salvation.

So when the angels sang, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"* (Luke 2:14), they were not singing about the end of hostilities between people. Instead, during their announcement of *"a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:11), they were announcing that in Him would be peace from heaven to earth, and now man would be looked upon with goodwill through Him instead of rightly looked upon as a people condemned to die because God said that *"in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Gen 2:17).

Our Savior saves us from sin. Without the Savior there would be no peace between God and man. Though the earth has been given the opportunity to accept the free gift of peace, it is still an individual relationship through Jesus. Jesus is called, *"Son of peace"* (Luke 10:6). *"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself"* (Colossians 1:20).

Simeon said it best. Peace is not between countries or man but us and God. Note carefully what Simeon said, *"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy*

word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation" (Luke 2:29-30). The peace is connected to salvation. We have peace through the salvation brought to us by Jesus Christ.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

And the true message of peace is to go forth. *"Peace [be] unto you: as [my] Father hath sent me, even so send I you"* (John 20:21). As Jesus was sent to bring peace between heaven and earth, we are sent to bring the peace from Jesus to others, that is, after we have accepted the peace first. This mission is evident by the many New Testament greetings that are similar to, *"Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 1:7).

Now notice that we mentioned true message. There is a false message and a true one regarding peace. The false one is not wrong but leaves out the rest of the story. What is the true peace message? *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Just about all churches preach justification well. We are truly saved without keeping the law, any works, or any promises on our part. But there is hardly a mention about sanctification.

True peace brings sanctification. And it is not in a mere promise from heaven or credit from Jesus but a real, transforming sanctification. The inside and outside is wholly, not partially, conformed to heaven.

So, so far we are to understand that "peace" is not physical peace but peace between us and God. Therefore, when preachers preach that you can live in your sins and still have peace, they are in error.

What does safety mean?

We begin with a spiritual application to the physical in the Old Testament. *"Wherefore ye shall do my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them; and ye shall dwell in the land in safety. And the land shall yield her fruit, and ye shall eat your fill, and dwell therein in safety"* (Leviticus 25:18-19). The land we shall dwell in is not the land of Israel of today. The land that we shall dwell in is the new Israel or, as Revelation states, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12). And we shall be quite filled. We shall be safe with God.

Now to be safe with God requires a different form of the word "safe", and that is the word "saved". So if we are safe with God, that means we have been saved.

Job even used it that way. *"Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields: to set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to*

safety” (Job 5:10-11). To be exalted to safety is to be saved from one’s enemies. And the greatest enemy of course is Satan.

And David wrote, *“Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually”* (Psalms 119:116-117). We read the Psalms today not as a literal meaning for us but spiritual in that to live is to have eternal life. To be safe is to be saved.

And David’s son Solomon wrote, *“But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil”* (Proverbs 1:33). Now throughout the Bible and in reality, whenever people listen to God and not man, that usually causes tension, retaliation, and many problems. So this cannot refer to dwelling safely on earth. The martyrs will beg to differ if you were to think so. Therefore we see the application as applying to being saved.

Again Solomon writes, *“The name of the LORD [is] a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe”* (Proverbs 18:10). Or one could simply use the phrase “are saved” instead of “is safe”. What we are proving is that “safe” and “saved” are synonymous.

And another from Solomon says, *“Whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe”* (Proverbs 29:25) or saved. This is especially true when a similar verse uses the word “saved”. *“O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust [in thee]”* (Ps. 17:7).

And in a prophecy, both words are used and could be interchanged. *“In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely”* (Jeremiah 33:16).

So what does peace and safety mean?

The woman who broke open the ointment upon Jesus sensed God’s peace and safety. This next verse ties in the above studies into one verse. Jesus said to the woman, *“Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace”* (Lk 7:50). Being saved and having peace with God are directly connected. In fact, you have the definition directly of what Paul was referring to. Peace and safety is not physical. It is spiritual.

Therefore, there is a false message about being saved and a true. There are various cries in the world today using this word incorrectly. For example, one says that you are eternally saved at a given moment when you accept Christ as your Savior, and that the rest of your life does not impact your salvation because you cannot lose your salvation. However, the other cry of being saved is that of it being a relationship in which you can choose up until the day you die to turn away from it, in that it is a daily choice until your last breath.

The rest of the prophecy

Now that we have established that the use of

“peace” in 1 Thessalonians 5:3 refers to being at peace with God, and we have established that the use of “safety” is synonymous with saved, we then examine the rest of the prophetic verse.

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3).

So the second coming is going to happen like a thief in the night, which is to say, without warning, a surprise, all of a sudden. At least that is what the people in darkness will sense.

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober” (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6).

The sober minded ones, children of the light or knowledge are able to see things clearly, that is a sign of the second coming? Yes, earthquakes and wars. But in the verses we are studying, what is the sign of the nearness of the coming of Christ? *“When they shall say, Peace and safety”* is the answer.

As we studied above, when the voices of those in the church cry and preach and tell of a time of peace with God and that one is in an eternal safe relationship with Jesus then shall He appear to their surprise .

Historically, this message of a false peace with God and the false safety in the Lord was begun in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. So for just a little over a century, this false teaching began and now has grown greatly because *“many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many”* (Matthew 24:11). *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction”* (2 Peter 2:1).

Did you see that? Peter says exactly what Paul said, but in different words. Paul said that if you hear about “peace and safety” in wrong context, that will usher in sudden destruction. Peter said that the heresies regarding Jesus paying the price will bring in swift destruction.

What would the heresies and denial be? It is what we have studied to this point. People may be *“having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof”* (2 Timothy 3:5). The lack of the sanctification part of salvation is what is being denied. People put on their church clothes over their practicing sinful lives.

And what is the result of the false message of

THINK ON THESE THINGS

(Philippians 4:8)

What Will The Reward Be?

Revelation 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

It is hard to imagine that a reward can be something not desired, but that is what this verse reveals. We shall not be individually rewarded with various amounts of heavenly treasure.

There are only two rewards: Heaven or Hell. Eternal life or the second death. The New Jerusalem or to be an outcast. To live or to die.

Those whose works point to the world shall receive the painful reward of hell, the second death, to be an outcast, to die. Those whose works are heavenly motivated shall enter into heaven, have eternal life, enter into the New Jerusalem, and live.

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these false prophets? The answer is that *"iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold"* (Matthew 24:12). It will cause iniquity to abound among the believers. This in turn will cause the love for one another's souls to grow cold because it does not matter what one does with the rest of their lives seeing they are blinded in their iniquity.

But how can we tell that a false peace with God while living in iniquity and a false hope of being saved while still in sin is the error? Because the very next verse in sequence states, *"He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved"* (Matthew 24:13).

And for those that wonder how close we are in understanding these verses, look at Paul's prediction of what the church would become in the last days. *"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 3:2-5).

But that is not all. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables"* (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

There may be verses that appear to support the false peace and false safety, but rightly understood, each one of them can not be accepted without contradicting the fact that one is saved only when they endure until the end.

And what destruction are we concerned with? Matthew 10:28 says, *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* And Acts 3:23 *"And it shall come to pass, [that] every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."* That is hell.

Let us have true peace and safety

"Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. Greet one another with an holy kiss" (2 Corinthians 13:11-12).

True peace involves perfection. That is not simply claiming that Jesus is the only one perfect, and His perfect life covers your imperfect life. That is true. Our previous life is covered with Jesus' perfect life, but the command to go be perfect is the result of the verse read earlier. *"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly"* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

If one believes rightly, has the changed heart,

thinks always of the kingdom of God first as in always, then *"let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body"* (Romans 6:12). Sin shall not gain the upper hand.

And if you *"put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to [fulfill] the lusts [thereof]"* (Romans 13:14), again, *"whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith"* (1 John 5:4).

Now as we shall be tempted until the end, keep in mind that *"the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly"* (Romans 16:20). But not until then shall we have peace on earth with unbelievers. And unbelievers include Christians still living in sin.

And a true believer will not let their heart wax cold with indifference to their fellow man. Because *"peace [be] to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Ephesians 6:23). And *"[Let] love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. [Be] kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. [Be] of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recom-pense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."* (Romans 12:9-18).

Finally

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things [are] honest, whatsoever things [are] just, whatsoever things [are] pure, whatsoever things [are] lovely, whatsoever things [are] of good report; if [there be] any virtue, and if [there be] any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you" (Philippians 4:7-9).

When will the God of peace be with you? The day you declared to be in eternal safety long ago? No. When you do those things that you learned, received, and heard of giving example that you are at peace with God and in His safety or saving grace.

This may all have been a new understanding, but God does not condemn one having made a mistake. One is condemned when they purposely stay in the mistake.

ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



Wormwood (Part 2)

Repeating the opening from last month in summary: *“Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go [and] serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and worm-wood”* (Deuteronomy 29:18). *“The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven”* (Deuteronomy 29:20). Continuing to put poisonous plants into the bodies will

result in having the name removed from the Book of Life.

Another poisonous plant people place into their bodies and the more so today is that of caffeine. Listen to me, someone that gets very little sleep and who used to be a caffeine addicted person – you do not need caffeine to perk you up. In fact, your body eventually gets used to the level of caffeine and so it has little to no affect.

Just because it is popular and legal does not make it right. The affects of caffeine may not even be felt until it is too late. Speeding up the heart for an extended period of time probably will lead to a heart attack.

FOR MY THOUGHTS [ARE] NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER [ARE] YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD.

(Isaiah 55:8)



Work or not to work?

Revelation 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to*

give every man according as his work shall be.

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

How can we be rewarded for our works and yet works not save us? It is answered by the dual view of works. Galatians condemns any form of works so as to become in favor with God for justification. Keeping God’s commandments will not save us. Even the literal interpretation of the fourth commandment to keep the seventh day as the Sabbath instead of Sunday, by ceasing from all secular activity Friday night through Saturday night, though noble, it will not save. You could even fast every day of lent surviving on simple nourishment through water and vitamins. Again, noble but not counted for salvation.

Whatever your work shall be it is not for saving of the soul.

However, because you now are in a saving relationship with God through Jesus Christ, your works shall now be motivated from a changed heart. The changed heart will cease

from all sin. And believe me, that is work as many of you have experienced. Some souls are just so addicted to things that the final steps are a chore.

Because they love Jesus for what He has done for them, they will also perform the works of the law by keeping all of the commandments. They will perform good deeds towards society. They may even give tithe and plenty of offerings.

These works, though not for salvation give evidence that they have salvation. That is what Revelation 22:12 is stating. There is no contradiction. We are saved without works, but once we are saved through Jesus Christ, we will go to work. But be careful. One may give outward evidence of works, but if the heart is not right, all those works are in vain.

From a different perspective, someone prostituting, dealing drugs, or holding up grocery stores shows by works they do not desire heaven. On the other hand, someone living with an addiction shows by giving that addiction up that they have Jesus ruling in their hearts.

So you have three categories of people. Outright evil works shows that one is not justified even though giving those evil works up does not earn heaven. Giving up those works and performing good works gives evidence to either putting on a pretended conversion, which will end up being like the first group, or being truly justified by Jesus and will be rewarded with heaven.

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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.



A God of Truth (Deuteronomy 32:4)

1. How powerful is the truth?
John 8:32

2. Where do we find the truth? **John 17:17, Ephesians 4:21, Psalms 119:151**

3. What happens to Jesus' sacrifice towards us if we purposely reject the truth?
Hebrews 10:26

4. What will happen to people who do not believe the truth? **2 Thessalonians 2:12**

5. If we keep to the truth, whom are we protected from? **1 John 2:21-22**

6. What does he do with the truth? **Daniel 8:12**

7. Who will help us to understand the truth?
John 16:13

8. If we are grounded in the truth, what are we part of? **1 Timothy 3:15**

9. How can we tell if someone is not part of what we are part of? **1 John 2:4**

10. What does obeying the truth produce? **1 Peter 1:22**

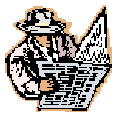
ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Falling (Psalms 56:13)

1. What upholds the fallen? **Job 4:4** "Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees." God's words.
2. What has God done for our soul as He also keeps our feet from falling? **Psalms 116:8** "For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, [and] my feet from falling."
3. What should a righteous man not do? **Proverbs 25:26** "A righteous man falling down before the wicked [is as] a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring."
4. Who fell down before Jesus? **Luke 8:47** "And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately."
5. What did Jesus do for us? **Luke 22:44** "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."
6. What did the act of falling signify? **1 Corinthians 14:25** "And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on [his] face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth."
7. What will happen before Jesus returns? **2 Thessalonians 2:3** "Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." As in falling away from the truth.
8. What is Jesus able to keep us from? **Jude 1:24** "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy." As in keep us from falling into sin.

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

(Isaiah 53:1)



► **►CNN, May 7, 2009 - Another racy Prejean photo emerges**

A second lingerie-modeling photo of Miss California USA Carrie Prejean has appeared after she assured pageant officials this week that the earlier shot was the only one she had appeared in. The 21-year-old Miss USA contestant has been the center of controversy since she declared her opposition to same-sex marriage in a response to a question on the national pageant stage last month. She finished as runner-up to Miss USA.

COMMENT: Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* Although we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, highlighting Miss California as a Christian role model (other news articles) is very contradictory. God would not have His children strip down to a bikini and be shown all around the world let alone the racy photos that are coming out. Our light shines the brightest when we forsake the world.

► **►World Net Daily, May 5, 2009 - Census GPS-tagging your front door**

It's no big deal for the White House to know the coordinates for your front door, is it?

COMMENT: It is one thing to find the coordinates on the Internet for your home and it is another thing to have that easily attached to other census information and held by the government. Whatever precautions you may take, technology is one step ahead. There are people who will not e-mail church discussions because the government may get a copy, but they are comfortable with using a cell phone seeing distance is sometimes a problem with meeting face to face. Well, because all such communications are digitally transmitted, they have a copy of that conversation as well. So if you are going to use one technology over another, fear not to spill your secrets on any of them if you are going to do it on one of them. And there are advantages to using technology. So, *"Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he [is] their help and their shield"* (Ps. 115:11).

► **►AP, April 26, 2009 - Swine flu fears prompt quarantine plans, pork bans**

Countries planned quarantines, tightened rules on pork imports and tested airline passengers for fevers as global health officials tried Sunday to come up with uniform ways to battle a deadly strain of swine flu.

COMMENT: This is actually good news for God does not want us eating swine's flesh anyways. Isaiah saw the return of Jesus. Included in the lost are those eating swine's flesh. *"For, be-*

hold, 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). Keep in mind that we are sad for the deaths and sickness but also we rejoice for it is a sign of the soon return of Jesus. *"There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places"* (Matthew 24:7).

► **►Times Union, April 26, 2009 - So you think times are tough now?**

Does the thought of spooning into a steaming plate of woodchuck, muskrat, raccoon or squirrel leave you squeamish? Then you didn't live through the Great Depression the way 91-year-old Russell Gordon did.

COMMENT: That may be newsworthy for Russell, but any that are true to the Word of God, remember God's principle: *"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."* God says that these things are unclean (Leviticus 11:4). And no, Acts 10 did not give us permission to eat unclean. It was a symbolic vision explained in Acts 10:28. And no, Jesus did not permit eating any food for Peter tells us in Acts 10 that He did not take Jesus' words to mean that, for he did not eat anything unclean well after the resurrection (Acts 10:14). Besides, Jesus' speech was all about the ceremonial washing before eating (compare Mark 7:18-23 to Matthew 15:16-20). God would rather have you starve to death than to break His commands.

► **►Catholic News Network, April 23, 2009 - Pope says Scripture must be interpreted within church community**

The interpretation of sacred Scripture cannot be subjective, but must be interpreted within the church community, said Pope Benedict XVI. "Only within the ecclesial context can sacred Scripture be understood as the authentic word of God that acts as guide, norm and rule for the life of the church and the spiritual growth of the faithful," he said. "This entails rejecting every interpretation that is subjective or simply limited to a mere analysis (and therefore) incapable of being open to the overall meaning that has guided the tradition of the entire people of God over the course of centuries," he said in an address to members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission April 23. The commission of biblical scholars is an advisory body to the Congregation for the Doctrine of

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the Faith and its president is U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the congregation. During their meeting April 20-24, commission members concentrated on the theme "Inspiration and Truth in the Bible."

COMMENT: Though we agree that subjection should not be a means used in interpreting the scriptures, we do not agree with the condemnation of analysis if it includes comparing verses with like verses in the Bible to come to an interpretation. Further, we do not agree that the Bible is to be interpreted within the church community. Any and all denominations that state such are basically stating, "Let us interpret the scripture for you so that it does not contradict our belief." Jesus brought the Word to the common people and not the scribes who were the interpreters. There is but one correct way to interpret the scriptures. *"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts. For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little"* (Isaiah 28:9-10). Gather all verses and even part of verses of the subject matter and read them all together. Then you have the interpretation even without human subjection. Besides, what happens when the Bible teaches one thing and the church does another? The

sad result is that usually the church doctrine is above the Bible. And that is just plainly wrong. For those that oppose being subject to a book, keep in mind, you are either subject to a belief system or worse, your own opinion, which has appeared to be in error on more than one occasion.

► **Fox News, April 20, 2009 - Carrie Prejean Says 'God Was Testing My Faith' With Gay Marriage Question**

In her interview, Prejean talks about being "tested" by God, the outpouring of support, and the first thing she and her family did after the show.

COMMENT: 1 Peter 1:7 *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."* Though we question this woman's activity, she did show an example of this verse. She traded the crown that perisheth while being tried and she is stating words giving glory to God.

► **Scotsman, April 18. - Kirk's magazine criticizes Bible's stance against gays**

"Every student of the Bible is a selective literalist. Those who swear by the anti-homosexual laws in the Book of Leviticus wouldn't publicly advocate slavery or stoning women taken in adultery. They presumably no longer accept Biblical teach-

ing on matters such as polygamy and adult activity with slaves. And yet there are many who continue to be bound by a few Biblical verses – none of them in the Gospels – about homosexuality, nowadays understood as a matter of genetics rather than lifestyle."

COMMENT: Matthew 19:4-6 *"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made [them] at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."* This is clear of God's will. That means all other relationships are not. Further, a demand for gospel only evidence just made humans greater than the Bible. They just declared the rest of the Bible null and void. So Romans chapter 1 means nothing where Paul records the fact that if man lusts after man, God will let them have each other because He has given up upon them. And yes God does give up on people when they pass the point of no return. That is why nations were "utterly" destroyed in the Old Testament.

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► **NBC, April 16, 2009 - Young girls walk in on 4 having marital activity in restaurant bathroom**