

BIBLE LIGHT AND TRUTH

Reflections on Scripture

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIANS

“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS” MATT 6:23

FORGIVENESS

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matt 6:14-15

These are grave words of our Master to consider. How easy it is to take offence, yet how hard sometimes to be merciful, patient and longsuffering. It is sobering to consider that our attitude towards each other, determines the degree of mercy extended towards us.

Again Jesus said: *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good*

measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.

For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”
Luke 6:36-38

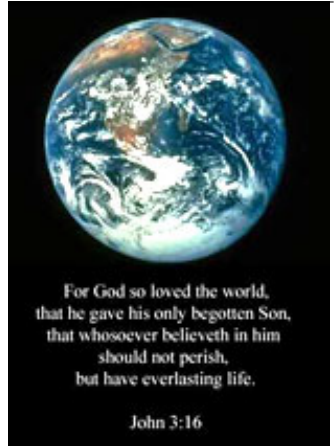
The quality of mercy is one that God expects of all His children. He has extended His mercy towards us and therefore expects that we will show equal love and mercy to wards each other. The quality of the relationships that we have will be governed by our attitude of mind. Paul exhorts that *“in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”* Phil 2:3 This stance reflects the willingness to give of our selves, to put God and His ways first, to put each other first and to put ourselves last.

David wrote: *“You do*

not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”
Psalm 51:15-17

Attitude of mind and behaviour toward each other is encompassed by one word – love! John exhorts us to love one another (1John 3:23; 4:20-21) and the demonstration of love is very practical as a study of 1Cor Ch.13 will show.

God showed His love towards us while we were yet sinners. (1John 4:10-11) Jesus showed his love by laying down his life. (1John 3:16) So how do you show your love and support towards your brethren and sisters? It would be a lonely walk to the Kingdom without them!



PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

There is nothing in the world so valuable as the Truth. It is the ‘one pearl of great price’. Its joys are constant, and it will last till the end of our pilgrimage.

Sweet was our first love, when we grasped the precious promises, and learned to love and honour those in Christ before us.

New joys came when we were allowed to take our humble part in the work, and with God’s blessing saw the ecclesia prosper and the number of believers increase. Those were days of small things, labourers being few, though the harvest was great.

Long years of toil have brought days of feebleness, when the younger brethren take our places, and with splendid courage continue the work.

This is the crowning joy, especially if some of our own beloved children are found among them.

Bro W. Buckler (circa 1921)

CHCH What’s Missing UR!

Seen on a board outside a church a few years ago in an attempt to boost flagging attendance. There are a myriad reasons why we cannot attend Sunday meetings or Bible Class, some understandable, some not so. It is also true that attendance at meetings is only a small part of our life in the truth, fellowship goes far beyond this one aspect of our lives.

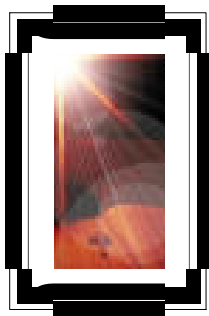
There are many kind, loving and supportive acts, that take place behind the scenes, unknown to others. Yet these acts are important and indispensable to the building up of each other and the strengthening of the Ecclesia. We also know that they are known to God and will receive their just reward.

However, we also strengthen

each other by being together, encouraging others by our very presence and showing that the truth means so much to us. It also sets an example for our young ones to follow. Each ecclesia is only as strong as its members. All are needed, all need each other.

So please try and get to your ecclesia as often as possible - **You are missed!**

THOUGHTS ON THE COMMANDMENTS: COMMANDMENT No 26



Jesus said:

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love.”

Concerning brethren and sisters: Grudge not, judge not, condemn not one another.

We are very prone to judging others by what we see, think, hear and by what we think others should do. How prone we are to complaint and judging each other as if we alone were right. Yet Jesus said: “Do not judge, or you will be judged” Matt. 7:1 Scripture teaches us that the mercy we will receive at the judgement seat is dependent upon the mercy we have shown to others. Paul writes: “Therefore let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your broth-

ers way.” Rom 14:3 So when we criticise others then let us remember the words of Jesus that we should remove the beam from our own eye before trying to remove the mote from our brothers eye.

We share a wonderful hope; therefore let us “Hold fast to that which is good”. May we ever strive to follow in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus. Paul exhorts us saying “in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

Now Jesus taught that no servant is greater than his master and set an example for us to follow by washing his disciples feet. The greatest said Jesus is the one who serves. If we judge

others, we are putting self first, not last!

So let us work harmoniously together in whatever comes to hand for us to do in the Lord’s service, striving to encourage each other. As the last quote of this commandment says:

“judge nothing before the appointed time, wait till the Lord comes. He will bring light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.” 1 Cor 4:5

May it be that we all according to the mercy of God, receive praise and a place in the Kingdom we all long and pray for.

The Difference

I got up early one morning
And rushed into the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn’t have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me
And heavier became each task.
“Why doesn’t God help me?”
He answered, “you didn’t ask.”
I tried to come into God’s presence.
I used all my keys in the lock;
He gently and lovingly chided,
“My child you didn’t knock.”
I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

POWER TO OVERCOME

A thorough knowledge of the Truth is indispensable to give a man a good start in spiritual matters. At the same time, let us not deal exclusively with the light in that particular form, because it ought equally to be seen in a man’s action. It ought to be seen that he is influenced by the Truth; that he is a different man from what he was before; that his schemes are different; that the whole order of his life is shaped to a different pattern; that all his actions and general manifestations of his character have been moulded and influenced by the knowledge of the Gospel. We ought in every sense to exhibit the light as he who was the light of the world did. He is our example — the first-born among many brethren — the forerunner — the chief.

Whenever we want to test ourselves, or determine the particular line of conduct to pursue in reference to any matter, we cannot do better than look at him — the author and finisher of our faith, and ask ourselves what he would have done under similar circumstances. Our answer will always be ready to hand, for his life is detailed with very great minuteness in the four Gospels; all we have to do is to become familiar with these details. The real source of the spiritual weakness is non-acquaintance with these.

Let the word of Christ dwell richly and there is power to overcome. And it is because people do not keep the company of the Truth that it fails to dwell richly. Let them keep its company, and they will by-and-

by see and feel its reality. In plain English, let them give the study of God’s book that place in the economy of their lives which they are commanded to do in those words of the Spirit by Solomon, which pronounce a blessing on the man who standeth daily at wisdom’s gates, and waiteth at the posts of her doors; who meditates, as David hath it, day and night on the law of the Lord, and whose delight is therein.

Those who do not give the Word this place in their lives sin against themselves. They neglect that which is for their own benefit, for a man loses a great deal, even as regards the present experiences of life, who allows himself to omit the study of the Word from his daily programme. (R. Roberts)

**Names
and**

Titles of God 1

**English Form
GOD**

Hebrew Equivalent

- El
- Eloah
- Elohim
- Tzur

Significance

- Might or Power**
- Mighty One**
- Mighty Ones**
- Rock or Strength**

El: (Pronounced ‘Ail’, rendered ‘God’) Stands for the Great First Cause, for Power Uncreate, the substratum of all creation. In the mind of a Hebrew the idea of Power, Might, Strength stood out in bold relief. David said ‘It is El that arms me with strength’ Psa. 18:32