

BIBLE LIGHT AND TRUTH

Reflections on Scripture

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIANS

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

WORDS AND ACTIONS

When we attend the Memorial Meeting we renew the vow we made at our baptism, “All that the Lord hath said will we do and be obedient.” But because of our mortality, we need to renew each week with those of like precious faith. Our minds need to be centred on the emblems and the sacrifice they symbolize.

We don't know when the Master will return, so constant preparedness is essential. We will be judged on our thoughts, actions and speech, and scripture gives ample example on taming our tongues. The epistles of the New Testament contain a wealth of exhortation and assistance at both ecclesial and personal levels, aimed at, not just the first century ecclesias, but also the twenty-first century ecclesias.

“FALL NOT OUT BY THE WAY”

The strong Moses of forty wanted to use his arms to show his zeal for the suffering nation; that work was stopped and he himself delayed for the 40 extra years they stayed in Egypt.

The Moses of eighty was a calm and well balanced man with a long training for patience, and it was said that he was the meekest man in the land and for that reason God made use of him when his own strength had come to nought.

Our words can help and hinder, bless and curse, build up and tear down. Words and actions can bless or condemn. Remember Moses. He used his power of speech to negotiate Israel's release from Egypt and to plead many times for Israel's reprieve from the Hand of the Lord. and yet he used the same power of speech to speak unadvisedly, costing him his place in the land of promise.

Peter had three opportunities to declare his association with Christ but in speaking unadvisedly, he denied his Master.

James 3:1-9 cites the abilities of an unruly tongue. Words can cut deeply. We must think before we speak, applying God's wisdom. James chapter 3 applies common sense in

The brotherhood to-day figuratively know themselves in the two stages of forty and eighty.

The forty class will be like 40 year old Moses striving to overcome by their own strength. But it is better to be well balanced like the Moses of eighty, who said: “Be still, God is fighting for you.” And Yahweh did it to the glory of His own name.

Let one and all take the lesson, and say, like Joseph of old, “Quarrel not on the

nature exhorting us to apply the same wisdom to our tongues that they only bring forth sweetness. Christ's example of His sweet tongue, on the cross said, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.” Let us not have a double heart as the ecclesia at Laodicea, but bring forth only sweetness. We have been called and have chosen to accept God's call to do His work and will.

It is our duty to behave as God's children. Let us be wise, prudent, diligent and righteous, for Solomon says “they that deal truly are Yahweh's delight, for in the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.” Let us make all of our words appropriate to the great sacrifice we remember.

(anonymous)

way,” because he knew that that quarrel would starve his old father and family. Joseph had provided for them in order to see them all in peace and quietness. The one of whom Joseph was a type, even the Lord Jesus, desires to see his brethren, for whom he has provided, at peace.

What a lesson there is in these his words: “Quarrel not on the way .”

(L.J)



Commandments of Christ

Recognise Him in all your ways, saying concerning your purposes "If the Lord will". (Jam. 4:15; Prov. 3:6)

We have chosen to “seek first the Kingdom of God”. But those who desire to seek God and follow His ways, must make a deliberate effort to subject personal desires to the will of God.

Throughout all the history of mankind only one person, the Lord Jesus Christ, has fully committed His life to the will of His Father, saying in all things, “My Father .. Your will be done”.

If only we could diligently follow the example of the Lord Jesus and always do the will of God. If only we could always make Him our refuge in everything. James reminds us that our lives are very brief, “for what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” Jeremiah tells us that “the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

Thus, in all we desire to do, it must be recognised that it will only succeed, if the Lord wills it. If we subject our will to His, then God will provide all that is needful.

Thus Jacob could truly say from experience: “The God which fed me all my life long ... the Angel which redeemed me from all evil ...”

Indeed we are promised that “The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.”



Jesus said:

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

CHANGE

*All things change around us,
day by day,
Dear, familiar voices die
away;—
Gentle lives, that used to touch
our own,
Pass beyond us to the land un-
known,
And the winding pathway of
the years
Leads us often through a vale of
tears.*

*Only One, of all our hearts love
best,
Stands unchanged beside us—
bears the test
Of our deepest helplessness and
need—
Bends to take our empty hands,
and lead
From our loss, and loneliness,
and pain.
To the wealth of His eternal
gain.*

*Only One is true, and, as we
turn
To His perfect love, at last we
learn,
How the things of earth, that
used to seem
All our highest good, were but a
dream.
And, although our cherished
idols fall,
How, in finding God, we find
our all.*

SELF EXAMINATION

Question to consider:

Do I remember that I am a 'child of God' and try to live my life in a way that pleases Him, whilst living in the "midst of a crooked and perverse generation"?

AN OPEN DISPLAY OF GOD'S FIRE

The earth with its store of wonders untold.. Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old.

One of these wonders is a sedimentary rock called LIMESTONE, which consists mainly of calcium carbonate. Most limestones are organic. Pure limestone is usually white, and geologists tell us that it has been formed from the shells of marine organisms which were once deposited on the ocean floor. Limestone has been extensively quarried all over the world, and used for building and architecture (e.g. castles, churches, town buildings): for road making: for making plaster and cement: for agriculture: and particularly during the Industrial Revolution for the making of iron.

In the 19th century, up to 20,000 tons of limestone were quarried from our local area to be used in blast furnaces for the production of iron. When the molten iron is poured off, the burnt lime helps to remove

impurities (they can be skimmed off).

The ancient Egyptians had lime kilns for burning it. It burns white-hot, giving a brilliant light (limelight), becoming calcium oxide (quicklime), which reacts vigorously with water, thus becoming calcium hydroxide (slaked lime), which can then be powdered. People used to mix this with water for "whitewashing", and as such it is highly alkaline and antiseptic.

Joshua used it to "plaster" the stones on Mount Ebal, so he could write the law on them. Leviticus 14v33-57 tells how it was used to cure "leprosy" in a house. Israel's sepulchres were "whited" to show areas which were unclean.

So what has this to do with fire from God? Well, when Elijah was on Mount Carmel (1Kings ch. 18) the prophet asked Ahab to call Israel and Baal's prophets to Mt Carmel for a showdown, to see which was the real God,

Israel's God or Baal. Carmel was on a limestone ridge and Elijah chose 12 stones (uncut) to put on the altar of sacrifice, with the wood and the bullock. He then dug a trench all around and had all of it covered with 12 barrels of water. This would be seawater, containing salt, no other being available after a 3 year drought. And it filled up the trench.

Baal's prophets could not get their god to light their sacrifice. When Elijah prayed, the fire of God came down and consumed his offering from the top down; the meat, the wood, the limestones (bright limelight!). The burnt stones, now calcium oxide, would react vigorously with the water with a big fizz and steam, thus sucking up all the water in the trench. What a spectacle that would be!

The people had no difficulty in deciding who was the real God!

Sis D. Oakley

BLESSED ARE THOSE SERVANTS

"Blessed are those servants who the Lord when he cometh shall find watching. Verily, I say unto you that he shall gird himself and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

Our eyes will rest upon him with a rapturous sweetness when we behold him the living omnipotent fountain of the covenanted blessedness, which is to prevail to the utmost bounds of the habitable globe.

We shall shout for joy when permitted to share his everlast-

ing life, and "sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of God". In the days of his flesh, men "wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth"

What shall be our admiration in the day of his glory, when his superlative excellence in word and demeanour will not only be seen with our own eyes, and heard with our own ears, but seen and heard with such enlarged capacity to appreciate and enjoy!

We shall be like them that dream. Our mouth will be filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. We shall say,

"The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

Of all these glorious things we are reminded by the recollection that he broke bread 1,800 years ago, and said to his disciples, "Do this in remembrance of me."

Bro R. Roberts

A FINAL WORD

The things of God and human sympathies are not in accord.

The man who is faithful to the former must expect to alienate the latter, to a great extent. Mankind, as regards

the bulk of them, are not sufficiently intellectual or spiritual, to harmonize with the high and exalted things of the Spirit.

They love the things that are

in harmony with their feelings and appetites; and those who minister to them. A man must belong to them to be popular with them. As Jesus says, "*The world loveth its own.*"