

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Headship and its Symbolic Practice

Steve Hulshizer

Excerpt

The God of Love and Peace

The God of love and peace shall be with you. 2 Cor. 13:11 The Bible clearly teaches that God is love (1 John 4:8). It is His very nature to love. What He does He does for the blessing of those He loves. He is never harsh or cruel. He is never stingy, and never withholds any blessing from those He loves (Rom. 8:32; James 1:17). Brother or sister in Christ, do you believe this? Do you think God would withhold anything from you which would be a blessing to you? Do you believe that the only thing God would withhold from you would be that which is harmful to you? Well, you may not realize it, but this is exactly what the Bible is all about (Rom. 8:28)! I trust that this will become clear as we proceed with our consideration of the truth of Headship and its symbolic practice.

The Bible also teaches us that God is a God of peace (1 Cor. 14:33). Peace is more than the absence of hostility, it is the presence of harmony. It is the harmonious working together of two or more individuals. In order for there to be this harmonious working together there must be government, or an order of authority. Could you envision a group of people, even a small group of people, working together in harmony without an order of authority, or government? Could you see the employees of a business firm working together without some form of government, or management? Hardly! It would not be long before order gave way to confusion and disorder.

God is never the author of confusion or disorder (1 Cor. 14:33). He never establishes a situation, or condition where disorder exists. On the contrary, He always establishes peace, and the government, or order of authority necessary to maintain it. Even within the Divine Godhead there is an order of authority. Scripture speaks of the Father "sending" the Son (John 12:49; 17:23), and of the Father giving the promise of the Holy Spirit to the Son, Who in turn "sent" the Holy Spirit (John 16:7; Acts 2:33). It also speaks of the

Son obeying the Father (John 12:49-50; 17:4; Heb. 10:7, 9). The presence of an order of authority does not imply the superiority of the Father, or the inferiority of the Son or the Spirit with regard to their Person, for they are all equally God. Position, not Person, is in view when we speak of government. Now within the Divine Godhead there is the perfect order of government which allows the three distinct, coequal, and divine Persons of the eternal Godhead to function in absolute perfect harmony. This perfect harmony is the result of the presence of loving authority and willing submissions. This perfect order of government always produces harmony, and never produces disorder. Never!

Loving Authority + Willing Submission = Peace & Blessing

We see this perfect order of government, or authority, practiced perfectly in the triune Godhead. No one Person of the Godhead ever functions independently of the others, or for selfish reasons (John 5:19; 16:13). There is complete satisfaction, and never a thought of seeking a different position. The Father loves the Son (Matt. 3:17), and the Son willingly submits to the Father's will (Matt. 26:39; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 10:7). The Holy Spirit is willingly submissive to both the Father and the Son (Acts 2:33). This is a "living" harmony, not just a mechanical order. Three living, coequal, divine, and rational Persons, function in the absolutely perfect harmony of loving authority and willing submission. Such Divine harmony is worthy of our meditation and our worship!

This principle of loving authority and willing submission is taught in other portions of Scripture as well. Paul, speaking to husbands says, "love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25), and to wives he says, "submit yourselves unto your husbands, as unto the Lord" (Eph. 5:22; Tit. 2:4). If this order is followed the marriage cannot fail. It is God's perfect plan for order and blessing in a marriage. Men and women, in their own wisdom, have altered this plan, and much disorder and accompanying sorrow has resulted (Prov. 9: 10).

Scripture also says, "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture (loving care) and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). To children He writes, "obey your parents in the Lord" (Eph. 6:1) God's Word to those in church leadership is, "Neither be ye lords over

Continued on page 4

A Dying Tradition

Donald Norbie

In years past there was much personal exercise of heart about giving. Individuals prayed specifically for certain home workers and missionaries and gave to them personally. After a meeting a worker might receive a warm handshake with words of appreciation and find in his hand a bill or check. Or else he would receive an encouraging letter with some funds enclosed. Today this custom is dying out in many areas and all giving is done to the assembly.

One can remember receiving a check and a letter from a missionary in New Guinea. "You taught me the Word in years past and I have been convicted that I have never shared with you financially. The Word states, 'Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.'" (Galatians 6:6) Such personal exercise of heart is tremendously encouraging to the worker and also blesses the giver.

It is true that much of one's giving will be through the local assembly. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) This is proper and it is part of our collective worship. There may be the expense of maintaining the chapel and there will be the corporate exercise to give to certain workers and to pray for them as a body of believers. But there is still much room for the Spirit of God to move the believer to pray and to give personally. It is too easy for one to fall into a routine of giving to the assembly and letting the elders be concerned about the distribution of funds.

Elijah asks the widow of Zarephath for a drink of water and also requests, "Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand." (1 Kings 17:11) She responds, "I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin and a little oil in a jar." Her plan is to make one last meal for herself and her son – and then die. The famine is extreme in the land. Elijah says to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son." Elijah promises her that her flour bin would never be empty nor her oil jar run dry.

To put the prophet of God first is to put God first. The woman builds her fire, mixes her meal into a small cake, and bakes it. Then in an amazing display of faith she brings it hot from the fire and gives it to the man of God. God first! Her flour never did run out nor did her supply of oil run dry. God is faithful.

Through the preaching of Paul and his company Lydia is converted and is baptized. She then pleads with them, "if you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." (Acts 16:15) Hospitality is a costly giving

of oneself and one's home to others. Lydia is moved by the grace of God to give.

To give personally will prompt one to pray more fervently for the work and the worker. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) Invest money in the Lord's work and your heart will be increasingly occupied with the Lord's things. Money can be sent directly in some cases or through a giving agency or the local assembly. But it is coming from you personally, from your exercise of heart, bathed in your prayers. This will also move you to write to encourage the servants of God, a much needed ministry. Surely our hearts should be moved to give as we remember God's gift to us. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

From *Missions Magazine*, January 1993

Business Card Gospel Tract

RELIGION OR CHRIST

Most people think their religion will earn them a place in heaven, but sadly this is far from the truth. Why is this?

First, most blindly follow their religion without ever comparing it to the Bible to see what it has to say. Despite what many think, most religions, even well-known "Christian" religions, do not believe what the Bible teaches.

Second, religion is *our attempt to reach God* by our own efforts—church membership and service, sacraments, living the best we can, etc. Simply put, religion teaches us to earn our way to heaven.

The Bible, on the other hand, teaches us that we cannot earn our way to heaven. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: *Not of works*, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The good news of the Bible is that *God has reached man* in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is faith in Christ's death and resurrection that saves us from sin and hell, not religious deeds.

Salvation is a gift of God to those who acknowledge their sin and by faith accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Read the Gospel of John and see salvation is in a Person, not a religion.

Write for free tracts.

York Bible Study Program

September 2013 - May 2014

Date	Topic	Teacher
January 11	OT Appearances of Christ	Mark Kolchin
February 8	Basic Church Truths	Mike Attwood
March 8	Messianic Prophecy	Bob Spender
April 12	Fruit of the Spirit	Mark Shelley
May 10	Today's Dangers	John Gordon

Daily Bread

C. A. Coates

“Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread.” (Matt. 6:11) I suppose that we all believe the daily bread here referred to is that which meets the need of the body. Those who know not God seek after what they may eat and drink, and what they may put on. Their concern is all about the body; we can rejoice that our Father knows we have need of these things, and He cares for us in every detail of that need. But I wish to use these words to impress upon you the importance of having your soul nourished every day. We need “food convenient” for our bodies every day, and it is not less needful to have something fresh from the Lord for our souls. Now, come, what have you had from the Lord today? “I have been reading a very good book, and part of one of the periodicals.” I am glad to hear it, but did you get anything from the Lord? “I have read one or two chapters in the Bible.” I am very thankful for that, but still you might read many chapters without getting anything from the Lord to meet the present need of your soul. Reading and hearing are like looking at the food, but it is another thing to get the good of it. Food is that which satisfies a craving - a felt need - and unless we have an appetite there is not even the desire for it. It is one of the great principles of God’s ways that He “satisfies the longing soul,” and fills “the hungry with good things.” (Psalm 107:9) Hence the subject of the soul’s daily bread is a deeply experimental one. The food of which I speak is the gracious supply to our souls of that which answers the exercises, and meets the need of which we become conscious in our experience day by day. I do not mean your external need, but the need of your heart and spirit, in the various experiences of your soul.

Two scripture illustrations may perhaps serve to make my meaning clear. On the night of the passover in Egypt the children of Israel had the blood of the lamb to make them *safe* and the word of Jehovah to make them *sure*; but they had also the lamb roast with fire for their *food*. The soul in the position thus typified has a perfect shelter from judgment in the precious blood of Christ. It is a solemn hour for him; he has no doubt as to his safety, but still it is a solemn hour, for God in His holiness is passing over. Is there no food for him? Is there no gracious supply of the very thing which will meet his present need? Indeed there is: he feeds with self-judgment on the Lamb “roast with fire.” He appropriates to himself, and takes into his moral being, the precious fact that Christ has fully borne the judgment of God, and this meets the hunger of his soul. The meaning of Calvary’s darkness becomes great and real. The soul enters into it, takes possession of it by faith, *feeds upon it*. I trust we all know something of this!

At another stage of their experience the children of Israel were found in the wilderness - the place of no human resources - but they had *food* there, and they had it *every day*. Those who have seen the salvation of God, and have escaped from the judgment-land by faith, find themselves in the wilderness; that is, in a place where they have fresh needs and exercises every day, without any human resources to satisfy those needs or answer those exercises. But the manna fell *every day*. If they had fresh hunger every day they had also fresh food every day. And, beloved brethren, for the renewed needs and exercises of every day we may have renewed supplies of heavenly grace to sustain us in the path of faith. There is One in glory who knows every bit of the wilderness, for He has been through it. He is out of it now, but from where He is in glory we may have the daily supply of grace suited to our wilderness experiences, from One who knows well what wilderness circumstances are. Paul would have liked to escape from the exercise caused by the thorn of the flesh (2 Cor. 12), but he was better off with it than without it, for along with it he got what I think answers to the manna - “My grace is sufficient for you.” I am sure if you have known anything at all of this you will say that it is infinitely better to have the exercise and the grace than to be without them. As I said, this is very experimental, and when we come to experimental things we find out where we are. Doctrines will not help you in your everyday needs and exercises; you must have the supply that is suited to them fresh from heaven. *You must have daily bread*. The manna that sustained you through yesterday’s experience will not do for today. You must have fresh grace from the Lord in glory for every hour of need. Thus the heart’s intercourse with heaven is kept up from day to day, and our affections become more and more attracted to the Person and the place from whence our supplies come.

You cannot get on, as a Christian, on your own resources. Your only strength lies in “the grace that is in Christ Jesus,” and you may have it fresh as the food of your soul every day and hour. This would keep us out of all ruts and formalities - there would be nothing humdrum or mechanical about our lives - because everyday would bring fresh experiences of the grace of Christ, and the sense of His interest in us would knit our hearts more and more to Himself. May the Lord preserve us from becoming insensible to our daily need, or indifferent to the present grace that His love delights to supply as our **daily bread**. *

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“If the Holy Spirit guides us at all, he will do it according to the Scriptures, and never contrary to them.”

George Muller

“Before the Word everyone must give way.”

Martin Luther

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That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: Eph. 1:10

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Continued from page 1 — *Headship and its....*

them,” but rather “feed the flock” (Ezek. 34:4; 1 Pet. 5:2-3). They are to care for the saints with the tender loving care of a shepherd. To the saints He says, “Obey those who have the rule over you (Heb. 13:17). Employers and employees are also to function by this principle (Col. 4:1; 3:22). Loving authority and willing submissions working together in harmony always results in order and blessing. Nowhere is this more evident than in the willing submission of God’s Son to the loving authority of His Father (John 17:4, 21, 26).

Now in whatever God creates He establishes an order of authority, or government. Whether it be in the angelic hosts, in the lights of heaven, in the inner man, in marriage, or in the church, God establishes government, or order of authority to maintain order and produce blessing. *

Headship and its Symbolic Practice Free Copy

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Editor: Stephen Hulshizer
Fax/Phone (717) 467-5729 phone/fax
Email/Web site info@STW1982.com / www.STW1982.com

Business Card Gospel Tract

JUST A SECOND

Seconds fly by without our noticing. However, these seconds eventually add up to a lifetime, and then, in a second, life is over.

When we come into this life we do not know how many of these seconds we will have. Some have a great number, others very few. Some see the end of life coming well in advance, others have no notice and are taken in a second.

Knowing that in any given second you might reach the end of your life, what have you done to prepare for what follows?

Many assume they will go to heaven for one reason or another, but what if their assumption is wrong? What a terrible shock that would be! Read the Bible and learn how you can be sure of going to heaven. Start by reading the Gospel of John. Here are a few verses you will find there.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3:36)

The seconds are passing!

* * *

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