

Milk & Honey

Vol. XXIX May, 2015 No. 5

Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Thy Will Be Done

Steve Hulshizer

*And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, **Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.** And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 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. (Luke 22:41-44)*

Scripture clearly presents Christ as the Lamb of God who lived a perfect life and died a sacrificial death. (1 Pet. 1:19) It also teaches that the Son's primary purpose for coming into this world was to do His Father's will. That will energized Him and was one He obeyed with joy. Scriptures such as, "*Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work*" and "*...because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me*" are certainly clear indications of the devotion of the Son to the will of the Father. (John 4:34; 5:30)

The Burnt offering in the book of Leviticus brings before our minds the perfection with which Christ offered Himself completely to God. We see that His mind, motives, work, and walk were all spotless. How good it is for us to view Christ's sacrifice as God saw it in all of its perfection and beauty. We often think of Christ dying for us, which He did, but His first priority was to do the redemptive will of God and to satisfy Him, which He did perfectly by His sacrifice on the cross.

However, when we come to Lord's saying, "***Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me***" (Luke 22:42), we may think with our natural minds that the Lord Jesus is considering circumventing His Father's will. This is far from the truth. We must not entertain such a thought.

As fallen humanity, and even when redeemed we struggle to grasp the full meaning of Christ being Holy humanity. Adam was upright humanity and later fallen humanity. Those who know Christ are redeemed humanity. In contrast Christ was declared to be Holy humanity at His birth. (Luke 1:35)

Now in one who is holy there is not only the absence of sin, but there is a purity that abhors sin and repels it, just as light repels darkness. Now in God's sight man is not only guilty (Rom. 3:19, 23) but he is also "unclean, dirty, filthy, polluted, and unfit" for His presence. (Isa. 1:6) We need to

grasp to some degree how abhorrent sin is to the Holy One in order to gain some appreciation of the passage before us.

In Christ's first statement recorded by Luke, "***Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me***" are the words of a Holy Man recoiling from the very idea of being identified with sin, and becoming an offering for sin by taking our sin upon Himself. (2 Cor. 5:21) Imagine for a moment the reaction of a bride who is beautifully dressed in white when her father, who had just changed the oil in the car, approaches her with his hands dripping with oil to give her a hug. Despite her love for her father, she recoils! So too Christ when contemplating the bearing of "our sins in his own body on the tree." (1 Pet. 2:24) *If Christ did not recoil we would have reason to question His holiness!* But here we have recorded the recoiling of a Holy Man. This is one very clear evidence of His holiness.

Christ's next statement, "***nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done***" is that of the Righteous Man. Christ, the perfectly righteous One was not only free of sin, and did no sin, but as a perfectly righteous man He loved doing the will of God. While He recoiled as a Holy Man, *He obeyed despite the horror set before Him.* Here He who came to do the Father's will expresses His love for the Father, and for us. He is going to do it! He is going to be identified with our sins, which was the will of God, and to come under the wrath of God against that sin. *How horrible for a Holy One, but how beautiful the obedience of the Righteous One!* (Rom. 5:19)

It would be profitable to memorize this short verse (Lk. 22:42) and meditate on it. The perfect holiness of Christ seen in His recoiling from the thought of being associated with our sins and judged of God, but the perfectly righteous One proceeding forward in obedience to the cross and all it involved. No doubt worship will result from such meditation.

Just as the Burnt offering was an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the Lord, so too as we lift up the Son to the delight of the Father there is a sweet savour that arises from our worship. Worship centered in Christ and which exalts the Him, for He is worthy! "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." (Rev. 5:12) *

Shepherding Conference

September 24-27

www.GreenwoodHills.net

Christian Race

William MacDonald
Excerpt from
Truths to Live By - One Day at a Time

“...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (Heb. 12:1, NASB)

Many people have a view of the Christian life that is excessively idealistic. They think it should be one uninterrupted series of mountaintop experiences. They read Christian books and magazines and hear personal testimonies of dramatic events and conclude that this is all of life. In their dream-world, there are no problems, heartaches, trials and perplexities. There is no hard work, no daily routine, no monotony. All is Cloud 9. When they don't find their life fitting this pattern, they feel discouraged, disillusioned and deprived.

The true facts are these. Most of the Christian life is what G. Campbell Morgan calls “the way of plodding perseverance in the doing of apparently small things.” This is the way I have found it. There has been a full share of menial tasks, of long hours of disciplined study, of service without apparent results. At times the question has arisen, “Is anything really being accomplished?” Just then the Lord would drop some token of encouragement, some wonderful answer to prayer, some clear word of guidance. And I would be strengthened to go on for a while longer.

The Christian life is a long-distance race, not a 50 yard dash, and we need endurance to run it. It is important to start well but what really counts is the endurance that enables us to finish in a blaze of glory.

Enoch will always have an honored place in the annals of endurance. He walked with God—think of it—for 300 years (Gen. 5:22). But we need not think that those were years of undiluted glamor or uninterrupted thrill. In a world like ours, it was inevitable that he should have his share of trials, perplexities and even persecutions. But he did not grow weary in well doing. He endured to the end.

If you are ever tempted to quit, remember the words of Heb. 10:36NEB, “You need endurance if you are to do God's will and win what He has promised.”

A noble life is not a blaze
Of sudden glory won,
But just an adding up of days
In which God's will is done. *

York Bible Study Program

May 2015

Date	Topic	Teacher
May 9	Lessons from Church History - Prayer	Bruce Hulshizer Tom Irwin

Wake Up Call

William Newell

“Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.” (Rom. 13:11)

The hope of the imminency of our Lord's coming, with the consummation of salvation in bodily redemption and glorification, is constantly used by the apostles in exhorting believers to a holy walk in love. This present verse sets before us the awful tendency to sink down (as did the ten virgins!) into slumber and sleep, into a state of spiritual torpor (sluggishness) in which no Christian duties are effectively done. Believers are to “know the season.” Our Lord sternly arraigned the Jews of His day for their ignorance concerning “the time”: “When ye see a cloud rising in the West, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it cometh to pass. And when ye see south wind blowing, ye say, There will be a scorching heat; and it cometh to pass. Ye hypocrites, ye know how to interpret the face of the earth and the heaven; but how is it that ye know not *how to interpret this time* (Luke 12:54-56).”

There their Messiah was, in their midst, and they knew Him not! Why? Because they did not apply themselves to know the time they were in, although they could have known it, both from the prophetic Word which was being fulfilled before their eyes in Christ; and also “of their own selves,” if they had set themselves to judge truly of the moral conditions about them and the necessities of action involved therein. If the Jews even then were called by our Lord “hypocrites.” for applying their God-given discernment to the signs of the weather, and neglecting to apply it to spiritual things, and so going on blindly to judgment; how much more this should arouse us who have so much greater light and knowledge, in view of Christ's death and resurrection, and the presence of the Holy Spirit; and the certainty of our Lord's coming, and our uncertainty as to the day and hour! *

Unto The End

“Having loved His own which were in the world He loved them to the end,” (John 13:1) He loved them through everything — through Israel's rejection, the treachery of Judas, the denial of Peter, the forsaking of all the disciples, the agony of Gethsemane, the mockery of Gabbatha, and the crowning suffering of Golgotha. Nothing could abate His love. “Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it” (Song of Songs 8:7). How often have we sung with deep feeling: J. N. Darby

A Set Mind

H. A. Ironside

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (Col. 3:1,2)

Occupation with Christ risen in the energy of the Holy Spirit, is the power for holiness. We are called upon to seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting on the right hand of God. Our real life is there, our truest, best interests are all identified with Him. As the heart is taken up with Him we will be concerned about representing Him aright in this world where He is still rejected and His claims refused. As a watch is set to the sun, in order to mark the time correctly, so let your mind be set to Christ risen, in order that His life may be seen in you. This is in contrast to the things spoken of in Philippians 3:19 - "who mind earthly things." The time for this is past for those who are now one with Christ risen. This will not make us impractical and visionary, but we shall live all the more consistently, thus fulfilling our varied responsibilities in the home, in business, in the State and, of course, in the Church, as our minds are fixed on heavenly things. We will manifest the heavenly character, just where we come closest into contact with the things of the earth. *

A brief application of Genesis 4:3-5

Andy Shelor

Would Cain's offering have been any more acceptable to God if he had brought a lamb and yet mingled it with his garden produce? I think we can adamantly say, "No!" This truth is often correctly applied to the doctrine of salvation. Yet how often it is that, when we come together for worship, we compromise this principle by mingling with the remembrance of Christ things that are of human origin or that direct our thoughts to things of man. How often do we hear offerings that contain personal stories or sermons reflecting more upon the clever preparation of the speaker than of Christ? Are we not in a sense contaminating the altar? Let us remember that our worship is not acceptable to the Lord because of how cleverly we dress it up, but purely as it is based solely upon the Lamb of God, our Passover, who was sacrificed for us. (1 Cor. 5:7) *

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By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Heb. 13:15

Shepherding Conference

September 24-26

(Date corrected from March issue)

Greenwood Hills Bible Conference

Mark your calendar

Register at GreenwoodHills.net

SELECTING A SPOUSE

Be teachable - Pr. 22:3

Result of bad choice - Pr. 12:4

Wrong choice is not easily corrected

"What saith the Scriptures?"

Faith & Obedience = God's best

Many lives ruined by bad choices

"Prudent wife is from the Lord" Pr. 19:14

Make no decision w/o the Lord - Pr. 3:5-6

Look to others for help Pr. 12:15; 15:5

If parents/friends oppose...be careful

Witnesses To Be Listened To

Scripture

Holy Spirit

Prayer

Important people

Circumstances

Is he/she a Christian? - 1 Kg. 16:31; 2 Cor. 6:14

Does he/she love the Lord? - Psa. 31:23

Does he/she fear the Lord? - Pr. 1:7

Is he/she spiritually minded? - 1 Cor. 2:5

Is he/she self-centered? - 1 Cor. 13:4-5

Does he/she give sacrificially? - Eph. 5:25

How does he/she handle money? - Pr. 15:27

Is he/she an impulsive buyer? - Pr. 21:5

Does he/she make wise choices - Gen. 13:11

Is he/she enslaved to anything? - Pr. 20:1

Is he/she a worker? - Pr. 21:25; 26:14

Is he a leader? - Eph. 5:21-28

What is his/her father like? 2 Kings 18:3; 21:20

What is his/her mother like? 1 Kings 22:52

Who are his/her companions? - Pr. 13:20

Is he/she argumentative? - Pr. 19:13; 21:9

Is he/she kind? - 1 Cor. 13:4

How does she present herself? - 1 Tim. 2:9-10;

1 Pet 3:3-5

Do you want him to be the father
of you children?

Do you want her to be the mother
of your children?

"Physical attraction **must not take priority** over spiritual and mental aspects of relationship!" Pr. 31:30; Jud. 14:2-4

It better to be a Miss than a Mistake!

"Christian homes do not just happen -
They are built!"

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Milk & Honey

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*O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me,
except I drink it, thy will be done. Matt. 26:42*

May 2015

Reason And Revelation

C. H. Mackintosh

Feeling as we do the deep solemnity of the present time and the danger which besets the Christian's path on every side, we press upon our readers the immense importance of the Word of God and implicit subjection to its holy authority in all things.

We do not exactly feel called upon to take formal notice of attacks upon the Word. We look upon such attacks as the direct and positive work of Satan who is seeking in every possible way to shake the foundations of our most holy faith and to pave the way for the march of infidelity and blasphemy which will before long darken the whole civilized world. It is surely most appalling to think that the professed pastors and teachers of Christianity should be the very men to rise up and lay impious hands upon the pillars upon which Christianity stands. May the Lord have mercy upon them and open their eyes that they may see their folly, guilt and danger, and flee for refuge to that precious blood which cleanses from all sin!

Still, though we do not deem it our place to review or expose infidel books, we will raise a warning cry against the influence of infidel principles. We see in all directions an effort to humanize everything divine and sacred; to bring everything down to the level of man's blind and perverted reason; to exclude all that is mysterious, all that is heavenly and divine; to exalt reason and insult revelation; to shut out God. Yes, beloved reader, this is the enemy's grand effort — to shut out God and upset God's revelation. We look in one direction and we see professedly Christian teachers seeking to undermine Christianity. We turn our eyes to another direction and behold a so-called Christian bishop sit-

ting in judgment upon the Pentateuch and defiantly denying its divine inspiration. We look again and see some daring to approach the profound mystery of the cross, to speculate as medical men upon the causes of the death of Christ!

We shudder at the contemplation. We ask, where are we? What will come next? Is God to be shut out in everything? Must He not speak at all? Is He to be refused a hearing if He utters a word which man's stupid reason cannot understand? Does faith come by reason and reason by the word of man? It would seem so. The rare and exquisite touches of the pen of inspiration must be tried by the clumsy rules of arithmetic or the far more clumsy rules of the infidel's moral sense. The precious sacrifice of the Son of God must be treated more as a subject for a doctor's case-book than as a holy mystery revealed in the pages of the Book of God.

May God preserve His saints in these perilous times! May he fill our hearts with a very deep sense of the solemnity of the present moment and lead us to keep close to Himself and to His Word! Then shall we be safe from every hostile influence. Then shall we not regard the sneer of the skeptic or the arguments of the infidel. We shall know where all such things come and where they go. Christ will be our enjoyed portion, His Word and Spirit our guide, His coming the hope of our hearts. *

Milk & Honey Information

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