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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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A Godly Man

BY THE EDITOR

WHO is a godly man or woman? What evidence exists that reveals them? Who makes them? "For this shall every one that is godly pray unto Thee" (Psalm 32:6). I was disturbed when entering the ministry how many churches were satisfied just to get people saved and then spend time with the new converts pressing them to get others saved. If faith is our portion as a result of hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), such teaching is vital to our spiritual growth. "The prudent are crowned with knowledge" (Proverbs 14:18). The man of God is growing in knowledge of His eternal provision for His children. Since God has chosen a Book in which to reveal Himself, we had better bathe our mind and heart in it. Remember, everything God wants you to know about Himself is in this Book. Oh, how thankful we should be for such revelation! Although Paul met Christ and knew Him by divine revelation, hear his continued aspiration: "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). A godly man lives by faith in the revelation of God declared to him in His Word, the Bible.

To believe God is to rest upon His declared promises. Where are these found? How often do you read them? The greater knowledge of God, the easier it becomes to believe Him. Does He have sufficient power to perform as per His promises? If so, faith is no longer laborious. Paul was conscious of this fact. "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12).

Love and Respect for the Word

A godly man will read it. The noble Bereans searched the Scripture daily. (Acts 17:11) The Bible states that Apollos was mighty in the Scriptures (Old Testament). We will meditate upon it. "It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). In study, he places the promises within his heart and mind. The benefits are tremendous. "Your word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). We must be reminded that it is His holy Word that makes sin offensive to us. It should be more important than our food. "I have esteemed the word of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). "The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver" (Psalm 119:72).

A godly man or woman places themselves under the absolute authority of the Scriptures. They recognize its origin and purpose. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). The power of this Book is never ending in accomplishing God's purpose and plan. Here is the explanation for this ministry. We believe God's Word, so we send it far and near. "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth fruit and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater; So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto

me void but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10,11). "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:3).

Spiritual Growth

We are to be growing stronger day by day. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen" (II Peter 3:18). "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience; and to patience GODLINESS; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity, for if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:5-8).

A godly man will love the preaching and teaching of the Word. Such declaration is called "the power of God to salvation" (I Corinthians 1:24). When one is reading the Word, or hearing it proclaimed, it is coming direct from God. Most preaching and teaching of our day is the speaker's commentary which is wood, hay, and stubble. When we walk out of the church, have we heard from heaven or the mere opinions of men? A godly man will recognize the difference.

He will be a praying man. Remember the first scripture used in this message? He begins the day with prayer. He is conscious of God's nearness and talks over everything with Him. He does nothing that day without calling upon the Lord to help him to do that which is

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ADDICTED (continued from page 4)

In I Corinthians 6, and Galatians 5, we are given clear instruction as to those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. They are not saved people. Most all of us would have no problem understanding this when we relate it to the sodomite who claims to be saved. But when it comes to the control of alcohol, it seems to take on new meaning. Both are equated with not inheriting the kingdom of God — as well as others in those lists. They choose to do this and the record of their practice is not a slipup — it is habitual. They are devoted to these things in a continuous manner. They are addicted. Before salvation, we all were addicted to sin. First Corinthians 5 tells us that there are people who even claim to be saved who act in this manner. The genuine Christian is given a clear command: “**But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.**” The purpose is, of course, to have the person realize what he is doing is wrong. This is done by separating yourself from him. If saved, he would lose all fellowship, be left to himself outside of the local church — given to the destruction of the flesh, in order to bring him to the place of repentance and confession to the Lord, and restoration. If lost, he will find a home somewhere else with people of like mind, saving the church from possible havoc.

The Bible speaks of addiction in only one way, and in only one place: “**I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)**” (I Corinthians 16:15). The world has turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to their own definitions, in order to give man a way out of facing the consequences of their choices. Many churches, seminaries, colleges, denominations, and preachers have done the same thing, but worse, for they have done it with the perfect Word of God. Make sure, predetermine, now, that you will not be one of them

All who are born-again have the same opportunity to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, to determine to persistently, continuously and habitually to be devoted to serving Him and His people. It is the least that we could do for our Lord and Savior Who redeemed us in, and took us out of, the marketplace of sin upon salvation. Be addicted to the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ and His saints. It’s the clear choice for blessing and glorifying God.

Personal Word (continued from page 3)

what their skills are worth on the open market has come up with a figure for the variety of jobs done by dear ol’ Mom.

“Based on a survey of more than 40,000 mothers, Salary.com determined that the time mothers spend performing 10 typical job functions would equate to an annual salary of \$138,095 for a stay-at-home mom,” the company said. The company matched the 10 job titles and salaries that most closely approximated what moms do for their families: housekeeper, day care center teacher, cook, computer operator, laundry machine operator, janitor, facilities manager, van driver, CEO and psychologist.

A Pleasant Surprise

The outpouring of interest, prayer support, and personal assistance was quite a surprise when it came my way from all over the nation. Phone calls, emails, letters, and sympathy cards came for a long time. Some were late in hearing of my wife’s passing. Churches and individuals brought food to us. Neighbors came with a sincere desire to help me, not only through my spell of deep grief, but on into the days that followed. Different friends came by to check on me, to see if I needed help. Phone calls came often, asking if I needed anything. Many mentioned the great times we had

(continued next column)

Personal Word (continued)

together in our Miami church. Really, I was overwhelmed. I had taught my church people to do these things, and it certainly came back to me when my hour of need arrived.

Down through the years, I heard from people who were being prayed for. They reported the benefit of those prayers. Now I know what they were talking about. Our son, John, said he was coming to Sebastian to live so he could care for his parents. We were together for one year before Marian’s death. How thankful I am for that. Now he assists in driving me around and assumes household chores on a daily basis. He is an excellent cook. He is employed as a substitute teacher in our county. I thank God for His gracious provisions of such caring and appreciative friends and relatives. My sister and husband from California were visiting us at the time of my loss. We all had about five days of good fellowship before Marian’s departure. They were at the memorial service as were my two sisters from Tampa. They all were of tremendous help in my home.

In the fourth chapter of Philippians God promises to meet our needs. Many were part of that supply. The Sebastian-area people have been most gracious. Not knowing one person upon arrival, God gave us wonderful people to whom we could minister. Recently, they have now ministered to us. This is the Lord’s provision, and I humbly praise Him.

A Godly Man (continued)

pleasing unto Him. A godly man consults with God about everything he does. He has but one Person to please. This affects his relationship with his spouse, children, neighbors, relatives, and fellow workers.

Real joy, peace, and contentment is to accomplish God’s plan and purpose in our brief sojourn upon this earth. We will have an entire eternity to thank God for the privilege of being a godly man. Perish the thought of possessing regret when eternity begins.

Personal Word



Stop and think with me. Anyone, anywhere around the world can view our available items listed on our web-site on the Internet. Over 75 printed messages can be read on their screen and can be downloaded on their printer to read or share with their neighbors, church friends, or relatives. Each copy of *The Challenger* can be read. Many messages on our audio section can be heard. Our literature sheet can be read and downloaded. If one fills out this sheet requesting items, they will be sent their way. All things are without any hidden catches, no guilt trip about sending money. Everything is without cost, solicitation, or obligation. One can

read our messages and publication without anyone knowing it. You can hear our audio chats without anyone else in the room. No offering will be taken. Here is hoping you will get excited about this ministry. Read and listen for yourself. Tell others of this opportunity. Our messages come straight from their Bible. Special web-site-printed cards are available. How many can I send you? Each month we add another issue of *The Challenger* and an audio message which I prefer to call "chats." Meet me at our web-site: thehourofgraceandpower.org.

The Word of God — the Bible

This is the message we are to teach and preach. Here is the method God has chosen to communicate the riches of His grace to sinners everywhere. This Book reveals spiritual growth for His children. What a privilege has been mine to proclaim it for about 64 years. Today, as when I began my ministry, my one passion is to proclaim it in the power of the Holy Spirit and in language that can be understood. This is evident in all of our free offers on our web-site, literature, and audio chats. A big thank you to those who send us gifts for printing, postage, and equipment. I thank God we are not burdened down with an appeal for funds. I am praying that many more will catch this burden from the Lord and help us. Hundreds of thousands of prisoners have never heard the gospel from God's Word. Many more outside of our penal system know not the Christ of the Bible. Some of them are in our churches across America

Global Warming

Millions of dollars have been invested in trying to convince us of an impending disaster due to the rising temperature causing the ice caps to melt and the sea level to rise. They blame pollution caused by industry, vehicles, planes, and gasses we produce, despite the fact that the average temperature has risen and fallen for centuries. How conceited to think that mere man's action is going to change that which God has created and maintains! One biblical verse dispels such nonsense: "While the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter . . . shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). God informed us in Job 38:8-11 that God determined the shorelines and "here shall thy proud waves be stayed." The shores will not be changed by rising oceans! Hebrews 1:3 states that the Lord Jesus is "upholding all things by the word of His power." To fear global warming is to be deceived by men. God has plainly stated His absolute control. Eventually the world will be destroyed by fire, not by man's action that causes the ocean to roar over its assigned banks! (I Peter 3:10-12)

Stay-at-Home Moms

As a young man I observed the devastation of mothers going to work in the defense factories during the second world war. Family relationships changed. Mothers, so they

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Personal Word (continued)

thought, had a greater impact in their families and also the community. Have you noticed in the Bible that the mother and wife's place is in the home, not in the business world? Since when does the mother's ability entitle her to join the work force outside her home? Mothers, your greatest responsibility is the rearing of your family. Your children are to be first, second, and third in your time, talent, and ability. I hear it over and over: "But I am just a housewife." There is no higher position on the top side of this earth. Every time I approach this subject in the years of my ministry, I have been challenged that I know little of which I speak. I know that some mothers, without a husband in the home, must earn a living for her family. It's too bad and sad that some relative won't pick up the tab. What a price mothers pay for being absent in their home when children are present. By the way, I think high school kids need mother at home as much, if not more, than any other age.

"That they (aged women) may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husband, to love their children, to be discreet (sensible), chaste, keepers AT HOME, good, obedient to their own husband that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:3,4). *Every mother needs a career.* She already has one in her own home. Some conclude that a woman does not work except outside of her home.

Salary.com, a company that helps both employers and employees calculate

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FROM THE DESK OF . . . DR. MICHAEL ECCLESTON

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ADDICTED

“And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.

“But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever:

“Thus we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters.”

Jeremiah 35:5-6,8

Jonadab was alive during King Jehu’s reign some 300 years earlier. The Rechabites were a people closely associated to the Kenites and Midianites. They were certainly not Jewish, but they were friendly during the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites, and asked to go with the Israelites. By the time of the Judges they had become part of the Hebrew nation. In II Kings, they assisted in going after the idolatrous house of Ahab. For the whole time of their association together with the Jewish people, they remained strangers (Jeremiah 35:7). Jonadab made four decrees that were still being obeyed in Jeremiah’s day: 1) to drink no wine; 2) to not build houses to live in; 3) to not sow seed, nor plant vineyards; and 4) to dwell in tents. All this was in order for them to live in the land for many days. By not consuming alcohol, they contributed to preserving their health and prolonging their lives. By not engaging in Israel’s main occupations, they didn’t solicit any jealousies from them as competing with them, with the distinct possibility of kicking them out of the land. The only reason that they were in Jerusalem at this time was because of the invading armies of the Syrians and Chaldeans. They were a nomadic people.

We needed this background to get to an important point to assist us into our subject. I truly believe that the Rechabites were a picture of a time when the saved Gentiles would be grafted in with the saved Jews to make one body in the New Testament — the church, as manifested by the local church. With that said, it is clear to me that the Rechabites were an addicted people — but not according to today’s standards.

Addiction is a word with multiple associations today. I seriously want us to understand the secular and the biblical definitions of the word and the ramifications afterward. Webster’s Dictionary defines addiction this way: 1) **to give or devote oneself persistently or habitually;** and 2) **to cause to pursue or practice continuously.** The Word of God gives this definition: **to determine, to arrange, to set.** Both agree to something that has been lost or ignored in dealing with many problems. Addiction is willful and a continual behavior toward some end. Not exactly the scenario painted by many voices today with their “you can’t help yourselves,” “you’ve got a disease,” or “you’re hopelessly addicted,” unless you submit to long treatments and dragged out counseling. Look at Ephesians 5:18, **“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess: but be filled with the Spirit.”** We who are born-again have been given a double command: one is negative and one is positive. The standard explanation of the first is that this is forbidding the misuse of wine, in getting drunk, while it is allowing for social-type consumption of alcohol. And the point is noted. But, the verse is a direct contrast of negative and positive. If the above explanation is true, then it is also true that a Christian can be content with being 85 percent filled with the Spirit, or 10 percent, or not at all! Obviously, that is not the proper explanation. What the verse is talking about is **CONTROL.** One kind of control is prohibited, while the other must be embraced. We who are saved are forbidden to be controlled in any degree by another spirit (in this case, alcohol), while commanded to be controlled in every degree by the indwelling Holy Spirit of God. By the giving of the command, all Christians have been given the divine power to obey both: to be addicted to both!

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“Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord” I Corinthians 15:58

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