

Teach Your Children to Fear the Lord

When Paul had listed all the sins of the Gentiles and of the Jews and was summing up his argument as to why all need the gospel, he told us why there is so much sin in the world in these succinct words: "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (**Rom. 3:18**). Jesus tells us that it is far more important to fear God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell, than to fear man who can only kill the body (**Matt. 10:28**). In order for our children to grow up into the righteous relationship with God, it is essential that we teach them to fear the Lord.

Shall we read just a few wise words from the sagacious Solomon? "The fear of the Lord is the beginning wisdom (**Prov. 9:10**) ... The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short (**10:27**) ... He whose walk is upright fears the Lord, but he whose ways are devious despises Him (**14:2**). He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death (**14:26, 27**) ... The fear of

By Forrest D. Moyer the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble" (**19:23**).

Do you want your children to be wise, to have longer life, to walk uprightly, to have a secure fortress, to have a fountain of life and to rest contentedly? Then teach them the fear of the Lord. Teach that fear by your own fear of Him. (Need I remind you that this fear is a reverential awe that would do nothing to displease God?) Teach them this fear by teaching them the word of God. Teach them by your example in every phase of your life. Let them see that you will do everything you can to please God and nothing that will displease Him. Build a strong conscience in your children that will absolutely refuse when sin beckons them to go into evil. Your children will praise you in your old age for having taught them the fear of the Lord. Both you and they can be with god together in heaven.



Sick			
Richard Wood (Melanie Smith's Uncle)	Eli Williams (Friend of Sarah Norman)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Jeffery Miller (Friend of Walker Davis)
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Roger Whatley (Daphene Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Gaylord Huffman (Jennifer Daniel's Grandfather)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Betty Bradford	Arline Harkrider (Nichole Pender's Grandmother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Dale Herd (William Herd's brother)	Carl Alexander (Hannah Alexander's Uncle)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Melissa Walker (Chuck Hahn's Cousin)	Judy Nichol's (Suzanne's Mother)	Glenn Weeks (Caralise Hunt's father)

August Birthdays

- 2 – Emma Miller
- 4 – Bess Godwin
- 5 – Andrew Cagle
- 7 – David Golden
- 7 – Anna Leigh Peek
- 9 – Elliot Weldon
- 9 – Troy Swenson
- 10 – Sarah Tam
- 11 – Walker Davis
- 12 – Jon Coleman
- 14 – Elizabeth Wiggs
- 14 – Kalee Reid
- 20 – Caleb Law
- 22 – David Crawford
- 23 – Emily Jones
- 24 – Sophie Hall
- 27 – Chip Freeman
- 27 – Stephen Ambrose
- 28 – Larry Rouse
- 28 – Cole Johnson

News and Notes

- ☒ - Our next Gospel Meeting will be Aug 26-30 with Lonnie Oldag.
- ☒ - Here is the new address of **Clay and Hannah Morris**
4150 Academy Dr., Apt 321
Opelika, AL 36801
- ☒ - We have 3 of our students graduating this weekend: Hannah Alexander, Josh Melson, Suzanne Nichols.
- ☒ - Let us remember Caleb Law in our prayers as he is undergoing tests on his heart
- ☒ - Please remember Chuck Hahn's relative, Eric Halverson, in your prayers as he will be in Afghanistan for 4 months.
- ☒ - Ladies willing to be a part of upcoming women's studies should briefly meet after Sunday Night services in front of the auditorium.

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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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Thoughts to Ponder

The mark of true biblical unity is not the absence of conflict but the presence of a reconciling spirit.

The Unity in Christ

By Roy E. Cogdill

I was riding on a train across the country a few years ago, going somewhere to hold a meeting, and happened to sit down beside a man who was a traveling salesman. I soon found out what he sold, and he soon found out what I preached. He asked me what kind of preacher I was. Resisting the temptation to give him Brother Srygley's classic answer that "I'm a plumb good one," I told him I was simply a gospel preacher. He looked rather puzzled, and then said, "What church do you preach for?" I told him that I was a member of the church of Christ. He was still puzzled, and said, "I know, but which church of Christ do you preach for?"

Then it was my turn to be puzzled. Which church of Christ? How is one going to answer that question? The Bible says there is "one body" (**Eph. 4:4**), and that "one body" is the church. (**Col. 1:18, 24**) The concept generally held by the religious world on this question is confusing indeed. Catholicism does declare there is one body, a universal church, but insists that that one body has two heads — one in heaven, Christ, and one on the earth, the pope. The Protestant

When the Corinthian brethren were calling themselves after Paul, Cephas, or Apollos, Paul wrote to them, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized into the name of Paul?" (**1 Cor. 1:13**) The point is that since Paul had not died for them, and since they had not been baptized in the name of Paul, they should not wear his name. Certainly that same teaching would apply to any other name of man.

churches insist there is but one head, Christ, but contend there are some three hundred bodies attached to that single head. Of course neither Catholicism nor Protestantism presents the New Testament picture of the church. The Bible says there is one body, and that Christ is the head. The church that Jesus built is the one body; the head of that body is Christ himself.

When my traveling salesman friend asked me "which church of Christ" I preached for, I recalled something I

(Continued on page 2)

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Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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(Continued from page 1)

had read somewhere about that kind of question, so I asked him, "Do you believe in Christ?" He replied that he did. "Which Christ do you believe in?" I asked. "Oh," said he, "there is but one Christ." "How do you know?" I asked. "The Bible says so," he replied. I asked him where such a statement was found. He couldn't remember, but he knew it was there. I told him he ought to find the passage, for the very same passage that tells him of the one Christ will inform him also that there is but one body. Christ is not divided in body; he does not have three hundred bodies; neither does his single body have two heads — one in heaven, one on earth.

Christ is not divided in body; neither is he divided in message. Nor yet is he divided in name. Right here is one prolific source of division and discord among religious people. It is generally held that one name in religion is as good as another. That simply is not so. We all recognize that it is not so in business or in society. No man wants his children or his wife wearing some other man's name. Business concerns spend millions of dollars in advertising and emphasizing some particular "name," and even go to law to protect that name from infringement or misuse. The banks will honor a check bearing one name, but will pay not one red cent on the same check if it happens to have some other name on it. These things are so simple that we all just take them for granted.

The Bible says that the name of Christ is above every name. **(Phil. 2:9)** No name is as good as the name of Christ. That is what God himself declares about it. Whatever the Christian does, in word or in deed, is to be done in the name of Christ. **(Col. 8:17)** Again, it was Peter who declared that "in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved." **(Acts 4:12)** When the Corinthian brethren were calling themselves after Paul, Cephas, or Apollos, Paul wrote to them, "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye

baptized into the name of Paul?" **(I Cor. 1:13)** The point is that since Paul had not died for them, and since they had not been baptized in the name of Paul, they should not wear his name. Certainly that same teaching would apply to any other name of man. Why should men wear the name of John the Baptist? Was John crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of John? Or what about Martin Luther? Was Luther crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Luther?

The name of Christ is the only name Christ's followers should wear. That is Paul's argument. There is no answer men can make to it. Every man who wears some name religiously other than the name of Christ is simply living in rebellion to the plain teaching of God's word. Christ is not divided in name, any more than he is in doctrine, in body, or in will. Christ's church was built after the divine pattern. He has but one church on the earth; he recognizes but one name for those who are members of that church. Peter wrote, "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name." **(I Peter 4:16)** That is the name Christ's followers wore in the days of the apostles. That is the name which was given them "by the mouth of the Lord," and by which they were known as God's people. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." **(Acts 11:26)** The Lord had no institution for them save his body; he had no name for them save his own.

If men today would but follow the simple New Testament plan for unity in Christ, the divisions which are everywhere in evidence would soon disappear. It is by wearing human names, following human doctrines, belonging to man-made religious organizations that divisions are perpetuated. When men are content to wear the name of Christ, be satisfied with the church, his body, walk in his teaching, and be submissive to his will, there will be unity in all questions of a religious nature. Divisions are contrary to the will of God; they are a continuing affront to His authority. No man who loves the Lord will continue to give his sanction and his approval to such. - **Gospel Guardian, 1955**



The Form of the New Testament

By Bob West

"Why isn't the New Testament written in legal form; i.e., broken down into encyclopedic categories and lists? Instead, it contains much historical, biographical and personal material. Yet we are asked to believe that this is God's law for us today. How can this be?"

The above paragraph sets forth a question which we believe is legitimate and needs to be carefully considered.

As a point of fact, some of the New Testament does have catalogs or lists of things both right and wrong (**see Galatians 5; 1 Corinthians 6; Ephesians 4-6; Colossians 3-4; etc.**). Therefore, the negative effect of the question is somewhat mitigated. Our remarks will be directed to the bulk of the New Testament - why it should indeed be considered as our law and standard of authority.

Consider what would be lost to us if the New Testament consisted only of categorized lists of "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not's":

1. The personality of the speakers. Specific statements in legal form tell us very little about the law-giver. We may conclude that the author of a law forbidding stealing held stealing in abhorrence. Beyond that we are left in the dark. But not so in the New Testament. When Jesus laid down the law that we should "love one another," His inspired biographies reveal how He lived this law every day of His life. This serves to give a moral force to the law which would not otherwise be possible. Much of the "non-legal" portions of the gospel set forth the sinlessness or holiness of Christ. Man is more inclined to

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heed the precepts of a righteous law-giver than those of evil-doers. Therefore, the scriptures which tell of the holiness of our Lord do not distract from the authority of the New Testament. On the contrary, such accounts establish its authority!

2. Corroborative Material. The historical statements in the New Testament regarding rulers, customs and events,

are necessary in that they furnish corroborative evidence for the accuracy of the gospel. The accounts of the miracles were given for the stated purpose of creating confidence in Jesus **(John 20:30-31)**. That which serves to confirm a document surely cannot be cited as evidence against its authority.

3. Illustrative Material. Laws become exceedingly difficult to apply when dealing with complex situations. However, Jesus cut through this problem by demonstrating the truth in stories, illustrations, and parables. He couched the underlying law in language that only the hard of heart would fail to understand. Truths taught in "doctrinal passages" are exemplified in such historical books as Acts. The New Testament is thus made meaningful and alive for those who will recognize it.

There may be other considerations that should be added. But a New Testament without the above material is unthinkable. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable..." - 2 Timothy 3:16.* Every word in the New Testament is there by God's design. Therefore, an encyclopedic catalog of laws would be far inferior to what we have now - God's living law for mankind.

