

The Broadmoor Bulletin

A Monthly Publication for the Christians at Broadmoor

March 2009

Longing for Whatever God Says

How sweet are Your words to my taste,
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalm 119:103

There is a strong, vibrant link between loving God and longing for His word. If Scripture study is nothing to us but an obligation or a chore, we ought not to be so bold as to say that we love God or that we take Him seriously. It is no less true with God than with anyone else: we are *delighted* to receive communications from those whom we love. "This is the love of God," John wrote, "that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3).

The problem that many religious people have, however, is that while God's words are sweet to our taste in general, we shrink away from the parts of His word that we *ourselves* most need to hear. Thus our three goals should be: to long for *God*, to long for what He *says*, and to long for *whatever* He says!

There happens to be a quite practical reason why we should be open to whatever God says. As J. I. Packer has pointed out, "One of the many divine qualities of the Bible is this: that it does not yield its secrets to the irreverent or censorious." If we find some of God's words less than sweet because our hearts are not open and receptive to our responsibilities, then it's not likely that we'll even understand the *meaning* of the words we need to understand. Adopting a resistant attitude is a sure way to cut ourselves off from the comprehension of God's words (John 8:43, 44).

If we are eager to *hear* what God has to say, however, and if we are also eager to *do* as He instructs (James 1:21, 22), then we will certainly be able to understand all that we need to understand. And not only that, but we will become hard-working, thorough students of the Scriptures. We will be more than dabblers in God's word. Perhaps we shall even be able to identify with the well-known words of Martin Luther: "I study my Bible as I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf."

"Make it the first morning business of your life to understand some part of the Bible clearly, and make it your daily business to obey it in all that you do understand." John Ruskin

Gary Henry

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

James 1:21 – 22

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5

Help, Don't Hinder

What do you do when you see a fellow Christian make a mistake? It may be a simple error of judgment, or it could be a more serious blunder - a sin that can potentially send his soul into eternal hell. What will you do?

Actually there are several options open to you. You could ignore the situation totally. Or you might, in your own mind, ridicule his foolishness. If you're a little bolder, you could gossip with others about his error - belittling him as you do so. You see, there are a number of things you could do.

But, of course, there is only one thing you should do - there is only one God-ordained course of action.

- "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (James 5:20).

- "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

The fact is that we all need the help, encouragement and strengthening that comes from our brethren. Sadly, too often we do things that hinder rather than help our brother when he is down.

The next time you are confronted with such a situation, remember that - if you want to please God - your choice is already made. If your brother has made a mistake, there can be no ignoring of the problem, no back-biting gossip, no thoughts of ridicule or humiliation. Go to your brother with the help he needs. Don't forget that you are certain to need this kind of help in the future, too!

Greg Gwin

For an additional study on gentleness, visit the site http://www.executableoutlines.com/fs/fs_16.htm to view an outline by Mark Copeland.

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1 – 3

Times of Service

Sunday Bible Class	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	9:55 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.broadmoorchurch.com>

Sadly, Some People Choose Not to Obey

Jeremiah records in Jeremiah 6:16:

Thus saith the Lord, "Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls". But they said, "We will not walk therein."

When reading this passage of scripture you are probably saying to yourself, "I can't believe that these people would have the nerve to come right out and say that they will NOT walk in the paths of righteousness." Yet many today might as well be proclaiming the same thing!

Many CHOOSE NOT to walk in God's way and as a result will suffer the eternal punishment (2 Thess. 1:7-9). As the Lord promised rest for their souls if they would walk in His way long ago, Jesus promises rest for our souls if we will obey Him today. In Matthew 11:28-29 He says:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Won't you obey Jesus and come unto His eternal rest?

Richard Thetford

USE YOUR BIBLE

THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISES: (Gen. 12:1-3)

PHYSICAL PHASE – "I will make of thee a great nation."

Many descendents (a great people) Gen. 15:1-5

Certain lands, as a home territory. Gen. 15:18-21

SPIRITUAL PHASE – "In thee (thy seed -- Gen. 22:18) all nations of the earth blessed." (See Gen. 26:4, 28:14)

Inspiration assures us that this refers to blessings in Christ. (Read Gal. 3:8, 13-16. Acts 3:25-26)

FULFILLMENT OF THE PHYSICAL PHASE OF THE PROMISE:

JOSHUA, and fulfillment. Josh. 21:43-45 "There failed not aught."

SOLOMON, and fulfillment. 1 Kings 4:21-24, 2 Chron. 9:26, Neh. 9:7-8

CONDITIONAL NATURE OF THE PHYSICAL PROMISE:

JOSHUA, and conditions. Josh. 23:14-16 "and ye shall perish from the good land."

SOLOMON, and conditions. 1 Chron. 28:6-8 "if he be constant" "that ye may possess"

ISRAEL'S SINS, AND THE RESULTS:

Compromise with the enemy. Judges 1:21 (Cf. Josh. 23:11-13)

Israel "broke the covenant" with God. Judges 2:1-4

Lesson of Broken Potter's Vessel: Jer. 19:1-11, 15 "Because they have forsaken me--- I will break this people."

SPIRITUAL PHASE OF ABRAHAMIC PROMISE IS SURE, IN CHRIST. (Heb. 6:13-20)

By whom Jewish remnant redeemed. Isa. 1:9, 4:2-4, 10:20-23, 11:1-12

By whom Gentiles also redeemed. Isa. 49:5-6, 56:6-8, 62:1-2, 66:18f.

JESUS CHRIST, FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY AND THE ONLY HOPE FOR ALL NATIONS

Read carefully Rom. 11:1-f. with above outline in mind. The Jews, as a nation, were broken. A remnant was preserved so that Christ could come of the seed of Abraham, as promised: but the "redemption" in righteousness, as promised in Isaiah, etc., refers to salvation for Jew AND Gentile, through individual acceptance of Jesus as the Christ, and obedience to Him. Heb. 5:9.

Plain Talk, March 1964

<http://www.cedarparkchurchofchrist.org/ptalk/v1/n3e.htm>

YOUR Duty to an Erring Brother

Every Christian has a responsibility towards an unfaithful brother or sister in Christ. If you are aware of sinful conduct on their part, you are absolutely obligated to take action. It is NOT the sole responsibility of the elders, deacons, or preacher. It is NOT the exclusive duty of a handful of the stronger members of the church. YOU have a real and specific burden in this important matter. Note:

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." (Galatians 6:1)

If you fail to take this corrective action towards a sinning brother:

1. You are guilty of sin yourself, for you are directly choosing not to do what God commands that you must do.
2. You are demonstrating a lack of love for the one who is in sin. Do you not care that he/she is on a course that will lead to their soul's eternal damnation in hell?
3. You are allowing a situation to continue which will bring shame and reproach upon the Lord's church. You thus become responsible, at least in part, for the loss of respect and reputation which the church suffers.
4. You are showing that you don't have a serious concern for the lost souls in this community. Your failure to act will likely cause them to focus on the hypocritical conduct of the sinning brother and thus turn away from the truth and their own salvation.
5. You are contributing to the discouragement of other Christians who will ultimately become aware of these sins. Your inaction will simply add to the grief caused by the initial sins of the brother you should have corrected.

With all these negative consequences, don't you see that you really MUST do the right thing when you become aware of a sinful situation in the life of a brother or sister in Christ? Think!

Greg Gwin