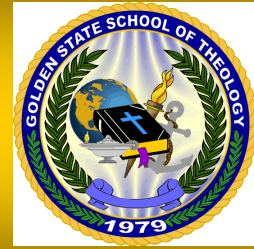


The Golden State Scroll



A publication of Golden State School of Theology

June 2010

*Equipping you to
change the world . . .*

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*And the things that thou hast
heard of me among many
witnesses, the same commit
thou to faithful men, who shall
be able to teach others also.
(2 Tim. 2:2)*

Standing in Chariots

Many years ago I heard Vance Havner make this statement, and I have never forgotten it: "Evangelism is to Christianity what veins are to our bodies. You can cut Christianity anywhere and it will bleed evangelism. Evangelism is vascular; it's our business." Consider another similar analogy: *Doctrine is to Christianity what bone marrow is to the physical body.* Bone marrow produces blood cells: red cells carry oxygen and have a lifetime of 120 days; white cells are part of the immune system and have a lifetime of a few days to years; and platelets are involved in blood coagulation and have a lifetime of about nine days. All that is what doctrine does. Some "cells" sustain and enrich our lives, others keep us healthy from things that would harm us, and still others heal us when we are injured. Further, as cells have limited life spans, the "marrow of doctrine" continues the work of replacing the exhausted cells with fresh ones. While some today insist that "doctrine is not practical," such an idea is ludicrous. Doctrine is foundational.

Another statement, this one by Martyn Lloyd-Jones, is also one that often comes to mind: "The most foolish of all Christians are those who dislike and decry the importance of Theology and teaching. Does not that explain why they fail in practice?" Why are many Christians weak and shallow? Why do many fail to any new trend that comes along? Why do many fail to discern false teaching? Why do many fail to be consistent, faithful, and obedient? Why do many succumb to temptation? Why do many collapse when someone challenges their faith? Because they do not know doctrine. Sadly, they are not being taught doctrine by their pastors; they are not being taught that God's Word alone is Truth. They are being taught that Truth is relative and can be found in many other places. That is why they fail, and that is why Christianity continues to degenerate.

Tragically, *popular thought* has replaced the *principles of Truth*. The more modern trends that arise, the more biblical truths that are sacrificed on the Altar of Change. As Charles Spurgeon so well said: "The Holy Ghost rides in the chariot of Scripture, and not in the wagon of modern thought." Far too many Christian leaders today are sitting in wagons instead of standing in chariots.


The Editor

Entertaining Demons

In the beginning God created man in His own image and after His likeness. He then gave man dominion of the world He had created. Man, however, transgressed God's command and through his transgression brought sin into the world and gave dominion over to God's adversary, the devil. The Scriptures teach that Satan is the god of this world. Jesus taught quite a bit about Satan and his minions, demons. They oppose everything holy and do their best to pervert all that is right. They are actively involved in the affairs of man. We, however, do not have to let them govern our actions. *In the name and through the blood* of Jesus, we are overcomers (1 Jn. 2:13-14; 5:4; cf. Rom. 8:37).

Satan's demons do their best to captivate the minds of God's people. They do this by appealing to the things that bring humankind pleasure. There are three major aspects of humanity that govern people's actions: the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (1 Jn. 2:16). The world uses those to capture the thoughts and hearts of people. We, however, have the ability to choose what will dominate our lives. How much access to our lives do we give those demons?

After God had created all that is in the world, He "saw every thing that he had made" and declared "it was very good" (Gen. 1:31). As a capstone, He then amazingly created humans in His own image. We, therefore, can rightly assume that God enjoys things of beauty and that He derived a sense of joy and satisfaction from all that He accomplished through the creation events. So too, we can rightly enjoy the beauty of God's creation and feel good about the things we accomplish. Demons, however, are on a mission to pervert all that is good. When we depart from God's standards and focus on the perverted extremes that demons place before us, we are entertaining demons. The more we entertain them, the harder they work at taking us down perversion's pathway.

The solution is found in developing our relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. As noted earlier, Scripture teaches that we are made overcomers through the blood of Jesus and the word of our testimony. It also teaches that we are to submit ourselves unto God and resist the devil so he will flee from us (Rev 12:11; Jas. 4:7). The choice is ours. Will we entertain demons by focusing on the perverted, or will we honor God by submitting unto Him and resisting the devil? 

Dr. William Tucker

Honesty in Prayer

By A. W. Tozer

The saintly David M'Intyre, in his radiant little book, *The Hidden Life of Prayer*, deals frankly, if briefly, with a vital element of true prayer, which in our artificial age is likely to be overlooked.

We mean just plain honesty.

"Honest dealing becomes us," says M'Intyre, "when we kneel in His pure presence."

"In our address to God," he continues, "we like to speak of Him as we think we ought to speak, and there are times when our words far outrun our feelings. But it is best that we should be perfectly frank before Him. He will allow us to say anything we will, so long as it is to Himself. 'I will say unto God, my rock,' exclaims the psalmist, 'why hast thou forgotten me?'" (Ps. 42:9). If he had said, 'Lord, thou canst not forget. Thou hast graven my name on the palms of thy hands,' he would have spoken more worthily, but less truly. On one occasion Jeremiah failed to interpret God aright. He cried as if in anger, 'O Lord, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived' (Jer. 20:7) These are terrible words to utter before Him who is changeless truth. But the prophet spoke as he felt, and the Lord not only pardoned him, but met him and blessed him there."

Another spiritual writer of unusual penetration has advised frankness in prayer even to a degree that might appear to be downright rudeness. When you come to prayer, he says, and find that you have no taste for it, tell God so without mincing words. If God and spiritual things bore you, admit it frankly.

Continued on page 3 . . .

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a publication of
Golden State School of Theology

P. O. Box 693455
Stockton, CA 95269 (New Address)
(209) 931-1888
info@goldenstate.edu



Paul F. Graves, ThD, PhD, DMin
James L. Parker, ThD
Bill Taylor, DMin
Ronald Moore, ThD, DMin
Donald P. Lyles, DRE
Kenny Flaming, DRS
William Tucker ThD, DMin
J. D. "Doc" Watson, ThD, DRE

President, CAO
Chancellor
VP Academics
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Dean of Student Affairs
Director of Mentors
Editor

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This advice will shock some squeamish saints, but it is altogether sound nevertheless. God loves the guileless soul even when in his ignorance he is actually guilty of rashness in prayer. The Lord can soon cure his ignorance, but for insincerity no cure is known.

The basic artificiality of civilized human beings is hard to shake off. It gets into our very blood and conditions our thoughts, attitudes, and relationships much more seriously than we imagine. A book on human relations has appeared within recent years whose underlying philosophy is deception and whose recommended technique is a skillful use of flattery to gain desired ends. It has had an unbelievably wide sale, actually running into the millions. Of course its popularity may be explained by the fact that it said what people wanted to hear.

The desire to make a good impression has become one of the most powerful of all the factors determining human conduct. That gracious (and scriptural) social lubricant called courtesy has in our times degenerated into a completely false and phony etiquette that hides the true man under a shimmery surface as thin as the oil slick on a quiet pond. The only time some persons expose their real self is when they get mad.

With this perverted courtesy determining almost everything men say and do in human society it is not surprising that it should be hard to be completely honest in our relations with God. It carries over as a kind of mental reflex and is present without our being aware of it. Nevertheless, it is extremely hateful to God. Christ detested it and condemned it without mercy when He found it among the Pharisees. The artless little child is still the divine model for all of us. Prayer will increase in power and reality as we repudiate all pretense and learn to be utterly honest before God as well as before men.

A great Christian of the past broke out all at once into a place of such radiance and victory as to excite wonder among his friends. Someone asked him what had happened to him. He replied simply that his new life of power began one day when he entered the presence of God and took a solemn vow never again to say anything to God in prayer that he did not mean. His transformation began with that vow and continued as he kept it.

We can learn something there if we will.

(From *God Tells the Man Who Cares*)

Bible Quiz

There's a mixture of questions in six categories: OT, history and geography, prophets and prophecy, names, NT, and wisdom. Use our monthly quizzes for personal use or use them in a group. The answers and scoring appear on page 4.

1. How did Jephthah identify whether a person was an enemy renegade Ephraimite or not?
2. Name the paternal grandfather of Jesse.
3. What was the first thing that Satan tried to tempt Jesus to do in the wilderness?
4. Which book did Jesus quote when he said to Satan, "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God?"
5. Which OT figure was an offspring of a sexual relationship of a nephew with his aunt?
6. What nationality was the man who supervised the rescue of Jeremiah from a mud-hole?
7. The lost sheep that returns to the fold in Jesus' parable causes more joy in heaven than what?
8. Which OT book tells us to search our hearts and be silent when we are in our beds? (For a bonus point, which verse?)
9. Who challenged the Israelites for forty days with no acceptors?
10. Which of the seven vials (bowls) will dry up the Euphrates River according to Revelation?
11. How many times did God order a census be taken in the book of Numbers?
12. Which apostle accepted the first Gentile convert without circumcision?
13. In which chapter of 1 Corinthians does Paul discuss speaking in tongues? (For a bonus point, which verses?)
14. How did Korah, Dathan and Abiram die?
15. What son of Kish became king of Israel?
16. Which prophet foretold, "a voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord"? (For a bonus point, which verse?)
17. How many generations were there from Obed to David?
18. How often is the Year of Jubilee celebrated in Jewish tradition?
19. Who said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me"? (For a bonus point, which verse?)
20. According to Solomon in Ecclesiastes, what increases with knowledge? (For a bonus point, which verse?)

"The best prayers often have more groans than words." (Unknown)

O Come Let Us Worship

Part 6 of 10

Praise [Hallelujah] (2)

TÔD □ H, H LA, H LAL Y H

One unknown writer submits, “How is praising God possible? Singing songs and hymns, clapping our hands, even jumping for joy. . . . the list is endless.” Sadly, however, some of those things nowadays are more man-centered than spiritual. Much more to the point is what *Scripture* says about how to **praise** God.

It is not surprising that more than half the occurrences of *H LAL* are in the Psalms. Psalms 146–150, in fact, have been dubbed the “Hallelujah Psalms,” each beginning or ending “Praise ye the Lord” (*H LAL Y H*). If there is one psalm that stands out as a succinct outline of how to **praise** God, it is Psalm 100. It and Psalm 145 are the only two with the specific heading, “A psalm of praise.”

Praise here is actually a different Hebrew word, *TÔD □ H* (8426), which is derived from *Y D □ H* (“to confess publicly”) and expresses the idea of an offering or sacrifice of thanksgiving. “The basic difference between this verb and its synonym, *H LAL*,” writes one authority, “is that [*H LAL*] tends to stress ‘acclaim of,’ ‘boasting of,’ or ‘glorying in’ an object, while *Y D □ H* emphasizes ‘recognition’ and ‘declaration’ of a fact, whether good or bad.” One might “acknowledge” his sin (Ps. 32:5), for example, or more commonly **praise** (Ps. 99:3; Isa. 38:19) and “give thanks” (Ps. 97:12; 136:1–3, 26) to God. We see no fewer than seven ways to **praise** God in Psalm 100.

First, “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands” (v. 1; also 98:4). “Joyful noise” is *RŪA*, which primarily means “to shout.” It appears, for example, in Joshua 6:5, where the people were to “shout with a great shout” to bring down the walls of Jericho. It often indicates a shout of joy in response to God’s deliverance (Job 38:7; Ps. 95:1, 2; Zeph. 3:14; Zech. 9:9), a war shout (Josh. 6:16; 1 Sam. 17:20), or a shout of victory over an enemy (Jer. 50:15).

How can we “make a joyful noise”? Simply by announcing who God is, what He has done, and what He is doing. Sometimes this will have to be announced pretty loudly just to be heard over the noise of the world and the attacks of the critics. Speaking of God’s attributes is a practical way of

doing this, praising Him as the omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, immutable, holy, righteous, just, sovereign, loving, merciful, and gracious God. **Hallelujah!**

Scriptures for Study: Read Psalms 26:7 and 107:22. What is one wonderful way we can show “thanksgiving” (*TÔD □ H*)?

Excerpted from our editor’s devotional book, *A He-*

“All in the church may hear the Word of Christ, but few hear Christ in the Word.”

Puritan George Swinnock

Bible Quiz Answers

1. By a pronunciation test.
2. Boaz (Matt. 1:5).
3. Change stones into bread (Matt. 4:3).
4. Deuteronomy (6:16) (Matt. 4:7).
5. Moses (Ex. 6:20).
6. Ethiopian (Jer. 38: 7-12).
7. The 99 that never strayed (Lk. 15:7).
8. Psalms (4:4).
9. Goliath (1 Sam 17:16).
10. Sixth (Rev. 16:12).
11. 2 (Num. 1 and 26).
12. Peter (Acts 10:1–48).
13. 14 (vs. 4–6).
14. They were swallowed up by the earth (Num. 16:28–35).
15. Saul (1 Sam. 9:1–3).
16. Isaiah (40:3).
17. 2 (Matt. 1:5–6).
18. Every 50 years (Lev. 25).
19. Jesus (Lk. 23:28).
20. Sorrow (Eccl. 1:18).

Scoring: All Questions Correct = Bible Scholar Extraordinaire; 1 wrong = Bible Scholar; 2–3 wrong = Seminary Graduate; 4–5 wrong = Second Year Seminary Student; 6–7 wrong = First Year Seminary Student; 8–9 wrong = More than just a Pew Warmer; 10–11 wrong = A Growing Believer; 12 or more wrong = A Babe in Christ but just taking the quiz proves you want to grow.