

## **WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

### **Colossians 3**

**As the world is in the beginning throes of change; what shall we as believers do? This is of utmost importance to us. Even Our Lord Jesus told us of the seriousness of the situation. Matthew 24: 24 - For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

**And if that wasn't bad enough, there's coming a time, when we will have to put our faith on the line.**

**Revelation 13 - And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or**

**in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.**

**This could happen a lot sooner than was expected. Recently, a local radio station was mentioning how the new ID cards will have R F I chips. But how are people going to be persuaded to take them, as implants?**

**A campaign of disinformation ensnares the gullible. Then fear & intimidation will be used to achieve results with the reluctant. Have you noticed how the definition of terrorism has been changed? Basicly, it will have only Biblical Christians who refuse the mark of the beast as terrorists.**

**In the past, believers put too much trust in the political process. Things have changed. Now that the senator has switched, only divine intervention will be effective. So we as believers, are going to have to be sure of our relationship with God. What did they do back then? Well, they asked Our Lord Jesus. John 6: 28, 29 - Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

**So the centre of our being, is the Lord Jesus Christ. But how deep does our commitment go? Luke 14: 25 to 35 - And there went great multitudes with him: & he turned, & said unto them, If any man come to me, & hate not his father, & mother, & wife, & children, & brethren, & sisters, yea, & his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it ? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it , all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

**These times that we are in now, are comparable to the coming in of the Industrial Age. It hasn't been easy so far, but it's going to get a lot worse before it gets better. Pastor Win used to say, "Cheer up, the worst is yet to come." People will react in two ways.**

**Born-again believers will do as Our Lord Jesus Christ said in Matthew 6:33 - But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**

**Of course, we have to act responsibly. The book of Proverbs has much wisdom in it; especially regarding money. This is a good time to get our spending under control, while we still have the option. Any item or service that's not essential, should be let go. Until this is passed, we will probably have to go into survival mode. There's a popular radio show with Dave Ramsey, that uses Biblical principles with great success.**

**But those who do not have the Lord Jesus Christ will be in dire straits. We, at least have Someone who has been through hard times. Hebrews 4:15, 16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

**They don't, so they will try to escape reality, through fantasies, addictions etc. There is already an increase in substance abuse. As it progresses, there could be an increase in family violence; even murder & suicides. And isn't it terrible how many are being devastated by Madoff's big rip-off. We've been binding and loosing over the whole social situation for a while. And believers need to be on the lookout for those who need help.**

**Luke 10: 36 & 37 - Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.**

**In fact, Our Lord left specific instructions for us. John 13: 34 & 35 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

**So how exactly do we love them? We first have to get our attitude right.**

**Paul spoke in Romans 12:3 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

**As Christ moved around in an unclean world, filled with unclean people, He reached out in love to all who came to him. Some of His disciples wanted Him to punish unbelievers. Luke 9: 53 to 56 - And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this , they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.**

**And what about those who suffer misfortunes?**

**Luke 13: 1 to 5 - There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were**

**sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

**And what does Our Lord say about those who work contrary to Him?**

**Matthew 12: 22 to 37 - Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, & by thy words thou shalt be condemned. We need to be more like Our Lord Jesus. Matthew 14: 14 - And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.**

**Peter left us some sound advice. 1 Peter 3:8,9 - Finally, be ye all of 1 mind, having compassion 1 of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.**

**And in the Old Testament, there are many examples. 2 Kings 13: 23- And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had**

respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, & would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet. Psalms 86: 15 - But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

So throughout the whole Bible, our Lord God sets the example.

Remember the Lord Jesus lamenting over Jerusalem in Matthew 23: 37 - O Jerusalem Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, & stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

How did Our Lord Jesus pray for His adversaries on the cross?

Luke 23: 34 - Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

How should we re-act when our adversaries are having trouble? Proverbs 24: 17 & 18 - Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth: Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

Now that's a lot to digest, you say. Is there one chapter that condenses it?

Romans 13, Ephesians 5 are good, but let's look at Colossians 3.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And what soever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your

own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged. Servants, obey in all things *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: & there is no respect of persons. First, we need to be firmly rooted in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 13: 5 - Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Andrew Murray wrote a book that I highly recommend, it's called "Absolute Surrender". Colossians 3: 1 to 4 - If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Our focus of attention has to be Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 6: 19 to 21 - Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Deuteronomy 10: 12 & 13 - And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

But what about those who have not overcome selfishness; still wanting to do their own thing? Romans 12: 16 - Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

1 Corinthians 6: 19 & 20 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Colossians 3:5 to 7 - Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

**Mortify what? Is Paul talking about human sacrifice? No! Is he talking about animal sacrifice? No! Even though all the cultures of Canaan did human, mainly infant sacrifice to molech; God forbid His people from doing it. Deuteronomy 18: 9 to 14 - When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do .**

**By the way, these admonitions are still valid to-day. God does not want His people involved in the occult. And as for infanticide; no. That even includes embryonic stem cell research. It seems that since it was re-instated, there have been many more tragedies.**

**The Washington Post - Wednesday, April 8, 2009**

**Some Link Economy With Spate Of Killings - In One Month, 57 Die In Eight Mass Murders** By Philip Rucker Washington Post Staff Writer

**"The carnage that occurred during less than 48 hours last week capped a recent string of unusually brazen mass killings, which crime experts say have touched more people and occurred in more public settings than in any time in recent memory. Comparative statistics are difficult to come by, but during the past month alone, at least eight mass homicides in this country have claimed the lives of 57 people. Just yesterday, four people were discovered shot to death in a modest wood-frame home in a remote Alabama town. "**

**As the spirit of death is unleashed even greater; only pain and misery will follow. Believers will have to pray even harder for the protection of our loved ones. Pastor Win's "Warfare Prayers" are still a good place to start.**

**Blood sacrifices still invoke a lot of spiritual power. If it didn't, there wouldn't be any S R A. 2 Kings 3: 27 - Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.**

**Even some of Israel's kings rebelled against God; some like Manasseh did sacrifice their children. But God was not impressed. Even spiritual infanticide is not allowed. To-day it's called infant baptism.**

**According to Mark, only believers can be baptised into the Body of Christ.**

**Mark 16: 15 & 16 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

**Remember, in John 6, when Our Lord Jesus was telling the people about how close they were to get to Him. They were not able to understand. They thought that He was advocating cannibalism. Even to-day, there are those who believe that they are eating the Body of Christ. They too are wrong.**

**John 6: 63 - It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

**And as for animal or bird sacrifices; they are no longer needed.**

**Hebrews 9: 11 to 15 - But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us . For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.**

**So beware of those who would get you to kill a rooster on Passover. It's not a matter of "greater holiness"; but of legalism, and going back to the Old Covenant. Thankfully, I am under the Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the New Covenant. John 1: 17 - For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

**Next, Paul gives a list of ungodly characteristics. Fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. These refer to sins of a sexual nature, which go against God's call for purity. There are many negative influences out there. It used to be only TV, but now the social networks can be a major evil influence.**

**Jan. 28/09 - Olivia Lichenstein in MAIL ONLINE wrote: How the faceless and amoral world of cyberspace has created a deeply disturbing... generation SEX The theme of her article is: Not only do social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Bebo encourage teens to share information about themselves; but when they are not taking their clothes off, their role models are spilling their guts about their 'private' lives all over the pages of every national newspaper, magazine and on television.**

**Mortifying the flesh does not come easily. But we can't just give up, saying that everyone is doing it, so it must be OK. What does God think about it?**

**Verse 6 - For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of**



**disobedience.**

**The wrath of God is not something you want. What about those who almost gleefully await for God's punishment on the ungodly?**

**Romans 2: 1 to 3 - Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?**

**1 Peter 4: 17 to 19 - For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.**

**What are we supposed to do when we are enticed to sin?**

**Joseph faced that situation also. Genesis 39: 7 to 13 - And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, etc.**

**Joseph exhibited a modern day rarity, self-control. Galatians 5: 22 to 26 NKJV - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**

**It's not easy, but we have to work at it. Like Joseph, staying out of trouble is a lot easier than cleaning up the mess.**

**As for those unclean thoughts, 2 Corinthians 10 :3 to 6 - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to**

**the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.**

**So we take these captive to the obedience of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and bind them to His authority. Also break off regularly the psychic prayers, match-making etc. that's flying around. Of course, get deliverance.**

**And in case that's not enough, Paul has another list to get rid of.**

**Colossians 3: 7-10 - In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:**

**We have to clean up our mouths. James has a lot on this, but he summarizes it up in James 3: 10 - Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.**

**It involves more than just watching what we say. These are also sins that will have to be confessed.**

**Mark 7: 21 to 23 - For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**

**These are undesirable qualities, even evil spirits that will have to be cast out in Jesus' Name. We are under constant assault, and have to take corrective action.**

**Romans 12: 1 & 2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

**As Pastor Win used to say, "The battlefield is in the mind". So if we are not continually renewed by the transforming of our minds, we will slip back into conforming with the world. Prayer, Bible study, Christian worship, fellowship and service are needed too. And as we walk closer with Our Lord, the new life in Christ will shine through more. John 8: 12 - Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

**Colossians 3: 11 - Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all & in all. The religions of that day were fairly limited. But under the New Covenant, the Body of Christ can be joined by anyone, anywhere. There are no barriers to joining God's Church, and there is no room for prejudice.**

**Romans 10: 9 - That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**Even to-day many faiths don't have the freedoms that Biblical Christians have.**

**This is mentioned in a story around March 9/09 -**

**CAIRO (AP) — The sentencing of a 75-year-old widow to 40 lashes and four months in prison for mingling with two young men who were reportedly bringing her bread has sparked new criticism of Saudi Arabia's ultraconservative religious police and judiciary.**

**Colossians 3: 12 to 14 - Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.**

**The next area that Paul deals with is inter-personal relationships. This is very important, as there is so much selfishness in the world.**

**What did Our Lord Jesus say about it?**

**John 13: 34 & 35 - A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

**We desire to be like Our Lord Jesus, in loving the sinner, but hating the sin. We will need to get a daily supply of bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, and patience. Now Paul says that we have to forgive each other. But how often? Matthew 18: 21 & 22 - Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

**Is forgiveness really this important? Matthew 6: 12 to 15 - And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

**Remember, that unforgiveness is one of the major blocks to deliverance.**

**And it will cover a multitude of demons; like death and cancer.**

**Colossians 3: 15 to 17 - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

**How do we as believers go around in this unclean world?**

**Romans 12: 21 - Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

**And let the peace of God rule in your hearts.**

**The peace of God, isn't that what the world is missing?**

**Philippians 4: 7 - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,**

**shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

**Yes, the peace of God will help us to keep our hearts and minds secure and sane in the Lord, while the world is trying to escape reality.**

**Psalms 31: 24 - Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.**

**2 Thessalonians 2: 16 & 17 - Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.**

**Called in one body. You wouldn't know it to-day with all the various denominations etc. 1 Corinthians 12: 25 - That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. Be ye thankful. Is the Church known for giving of thanks more than once a year? Romans 1: 20 & 21 - For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**As Paul describes the downward spiral of mankind, unthankfulness to God is a major factor. Psalms 136: 1 - O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.**

**Psalms 18: 49 - Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.**

**We, as God's people need to be more thankful to Him, wherever we are.**

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. The closest many people get to the Word of Christ, is in taking His Name in vain. Deuteronomy 6: 6 to 9 - And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, & they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. & thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, & on thy gates.**

**Hebrews 4: 12 - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

**That's why my messages are mostly Scripture. The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to work in each of us. And remember, Luke 21: 33 - Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.**

**Sola Scriptura! You probably don't hear that these days. But 500 years ago, that call led millions from religious tyranny to freedom in Christ.**

**What has happened to that revival fire, that swept the world? If it doesn't**

**come back soon, it will be a quiet 500th anniversary of the Reformation. What other area should we be forthright in? Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

**Have you noticed that those in the world have no qualms about singing their ungodly music? When was the last time you heard while shopping, a gospel song being sung? It was probably by a small child. They seem to be freer and more trusting in Our Lord Jesus than most of us grownups.**

**But what about in our homes? What kind of music do we play there?**

**There's a lot of Christian music, that isn't. If you are not sure, ask Our Lord Jesus to show you. A while ago, we found a web site that had over 1100 hymns. I had not heard of most of them, but they are all based on Scripture. So we've downloaded them, words and music. We use them in our services. In fact, They are playing in the background most of the time.**

**Not only do we praise Our God while singing, we are giving Him thanks. We are also encouraging and exhorting other believers.**

**Psalms 18: 49 -Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.**

**Psalms 30: 4 - Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.**

**And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

**1 Timothy 4: 12 - Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**

**1 Peter 2: 11 & 12 NKJV - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evil doers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

**One of the biggest tests to pass is; to not abuse our privileges. We need to follow Our Lord Jesus more closely in this matter. And Paul said in Romans 15: 1 - We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.**

**The next area that Paul mentions is the family; which was under extreme stress even before this economic downturn. If you had to come up with a description of current society; it would be dysfunctional families.**

**When Paul wrote to the Colossian Church in chapter 3, he uses 3 words. And these are verbs or action words. They are submit, love, obey. But which applies to whom? If you follow the world's standards, it comes out as; Isaiah 3: 12 - As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.**

**1 Corinthians 7: 10 & 11 - And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.**

**Revelation 2: 20 - Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**

**So what is God's order? Colossians 3: 18 to 21 - Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.**

**That's the way God set up the family. Those who obey will be blessed. Those who rebel, won't be. There's a lot of role reversal today. But if we want to succeed, we had better do it God's way.**

**Ephesians 5: 25 - Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.**

**Husbands, first need to be completely committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we will be able to love our wives; with Christ-like sacrificial love.**

**And it is the husband's responsibility to support his family.**

**1 Timothy 5: 8 - But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.**

**What do you do when others descend upon you expecting you to support them the rest of their lives?**

**2 Thessalonians 3: 10 to 13 - For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.**

**So when they say that God told them that you were going to support them; tell them that when God tells you, only then will you do it. We are not responsible for all the world's problems. But we do pray asking the Lord to guide us to those He would have us assist.**

**Mark 14: 7 - For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.**

**Be on guard against christian con-artists. They are scoundrels, using the Name of Christ to take advantage of you. They usually use medical conditions and personal prophecies to gain control over you. So cut off their evil, sympathetic and ungodly soul ties. Cut off their witchcraft controls, psychic prayers etc.**

**Years ago, a christian couple approached us for money, so that their**

**children weren't taken. We fell for it, borrowing the money for them. They then went out and bought a big TV, much better than we had. Needless to say, the money was never repaid. They even came back later for more. Burn me once, shame on you. Burn me twice, shame on me.**

**And while we are on the subject of religious game playing; watch out for those who always come for deliverance, while refusing to do regular warfare prayers. If they are able to do them, but refuse, they are rebellious, and probably won't get much lasting help. As the husband gets closer to the Lord, it makes it easier for his wife to fulfill her role.**

**Genesis 2: 18 - And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.**

**The world tells women they have to outdo men. What does God say?**

**Proverbs 12 :4 - A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.**

**Proverbs 31: 10 to 31 - Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it ; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also , and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.**

**Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. So children, I know that you want to please Our Lord Jesus. How are you going to do it? The world says to rebel. God says to obey. Who will you believe? Who loves you and takes care of you?**

**The Bible says in Exodus 20: 12 - Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy**

**days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**

**But what do you do if ungodly things happen? You take it to the Lord in prayer. God has set limits. Colossians 3: 21 - Fathers, provoke not your children to anger , lest they be discouraged.**

**Yes, discipline has to be maintained. Also by using constructive criticism, we can encourage and build them up.**

**The last area of concern is our livelihood. Even though we spend the best hours of our day at work, our families are more important. Does the Bible say anything about work and employer employee relationships?**

**Colossians 3: 22 to 25 - Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: & there is no respect of persons. This nation was built on God's blessings and the Protestant work ethic. So when we work, we are doing our best for the Lord. And if we don't do our best for the Lord, we will have to give an account for it.**

**Matthew 25: 14 to 30 - For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers,**



**and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

**And in order for nations to be restored, a return to the Lord Jesus Christ is necessary. The challenge is still out there. Joshua 24: 15 - And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

**Did anything happen when they exercised their free will to rebel?**

**Judges 10: 6 & 7 - And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, & forsook the LORD, & served not him. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, & he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, & into the hands of the children of Ammon.**

**Judges 10: 10 to 16 - And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, saying, We have sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim. And the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines? The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand. Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation. And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee; deliver us only, we pray thee, this day. And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel.**

**So what does this have to do with work? Well the spirit of rebellion manifests there a lot. It is rampant in the labour movement. Believers in that environment have to stand strong against ungodly forces from both sides. It is required of us, it is not an option. We have to serve with our utmost abilities.**

**Luke 3: 12 to 14 - Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.**

**2 Corinthians 5: 20 - Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though**

**God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

**Yes we represent the Lord Jesus Christ wherever we go. Are we pleasing to Our Lord? 1 Peter 2: 11 & 12 - Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

**The Israelites followed the Lord around for forty years.**

**Exodus 13: 21 & 22 - And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.**

**Deuteronomy 5: 22 - These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.**

**We still have God's Word to lead us.**

**Matthew 7: 24 to 27 - Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

**So as we go out into the dark world, let the Christ light shine brightly in us, remembering 1 Corinthians 16: 13 - Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.**

**Pastor T. John Franklin**

**Church of Salvation, Healing, and Deliverance**

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