

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



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ENJOYING THE HOLIDAYS PUTTING THE WILL OF GOD ON DISPLAY "The Light of God and the Renewed Mind"

It is true that the birth of Christ wasn't on the 25th of December and that rabbits and eggs were used in pagan worship at the time we call Easter. I'm not sure about the turkey during Thanksgiving. Many people have thrown the baby out with the bath water when it comes to the holidays. I'm not a pagan and I don't worship what the pagan symbols represent. To know the truth about a Savior being born to redeem the human race and dying on a cross and being resurrected three days later is far from a wrong date or a green tree. There is something special about singing Christmas Carols and songs about Baby Jesus. It is true that Christmas is commercialized and exploited but it is overshadowed by the eyes of a child opening a Christmas present and knowing that someone cares. Our Father will always override the bad to reveal the good in any situation while the enemy works hard to reveal only the bad. I surely would like to see a white Christmas this year, wouldn't you? Probably some of you Charismatic folks are trying to bind those words but it's too late, for my order is in and it has been processed. I hope each one has the greatest holiday season of your life. May the Lord richly bless you according to the promises of His Covenant. Thank you for making me and my family a part of your life, especially during this special holiday season.

Pastor George Ferrington

It is understandable that the Church as a whole has a hesitancy when the mind is considered a tool of God. There have been times in church history that the intellectual aspect of the mind had been exalted to the point that it wiped out the Christian's lifestyle of faith. Because of this, men of faith have been lured into a mindset of skepticism and doubt of the supernatural. Therefore, theology has been exalted at the expense of belief, and academic assessment has replaced firsthand, supernatural experiences. So, all of this brings us to the point that there is good reason not to let the mind dictate how we will believe. But the real truth is, Christians often react to error and create another error in the process. In this case, the error is that the spiritual aspect of the church has downplayed the importance of the mind, implying that it has no value at all, and that it is irredeemably corrupt and humanistic. In actuality, the mind is a powerful instrument of the Spirit of God, and the human spirit. God has made the mind (soul) to be the gatekeeper of Kingdom activity on this earth. The tragedy is when a Christian refuses to renew the mind's thinking process and it goes astray.

This is a good time in the study to look at the unrenewed mind and examine the different manifestations that it causes. In Jeremiah 6:19, we are told, **"Hear O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people—The fruit of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words nor My law, but rejected it."** First and foremost, God is trying to get His people to hear Him. **"O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord"** (Jeremiah 22:29). God's message here is to His people whose thoughts are always of this world and it's system of thinking. In Jeremiah 17:10, God says, **"I the Lord search the mind, I try the heart, even to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."** Here God is revealing a great truth; all the issues of man's life proceed from his mind and heart; therefore, God's spiritual law causes man to reap according to the "fruit" of his mind and heart. This judgment of God's spiritual laws certainly include the thoughts of man, whether positive or negative, whether in line with His thinking or whether in line with the world's thinking. Man will reap a 30, 60 or 100 fold return based on the fruit of his thinking. If this thinking is in line with God's thinking, then the return will be positive to what degree man is in line with God. This is when man is operating with the mind of Christ. The same law applies to a man who thinks negative thoughts out of line with God. They will reap negative results based on the degree of being out of line with God. It is in the unrenewed mind that God's freedom to establish His will on earth is severely limited. Paul knew the great importance of the mind, so much so that he urged believers everywhere to **". . . be transformed by the renewing of the mind."** The profound truth of this is that only the renewed mind of a believer can

Happy Thanksgiving

FREEDOM

Since the beginning of the human race, in the back of every mind, there is something that longs or desires for something or someone to worship or acknowledge as being above our level. Sticks, stones, trees, natural formations of every kind. Farther down that path, when metals were found, crafted designs came into

existence. Mankind has always wanted something or someone, to which he could be subservient. All of the things that he did not understand he attributed to this mental-imaged being. Sin and evil have been on this earth before Adam and Eve. Satan, in the form of a snake, went to Eve instead of Adam. The reptile instinctively knew that Adam would have refused to eat the fruit, because God Himself told him that it was forbidden and God Himself had told him not to eat of it. Not so with Eve. Satan knew that Adam would try to do what pleased Eve. Men have been doing that ever since. Who then was satan's target? Eve or Adam? His target was us, you and I.

After being driven from the garden, world sin increased rapidly until Noah's time. Only Noah and his family avoided the extinction. Human sin was brought to a halt. But immediately following the flood, one of Noah's sons brought sin back into force. Never to subside, to this day. Sin is to be avoided, but the harder we try, the less able we are. That human nature wins out over our efforts every time. Can we then, in our day, reduce or eliminate sin? No, we can't eliminate sin, worldwide, statewide, or even locally. The only possibility is the one on one of individual salvation. When all is said and done, we really can't do much about that either. How then can anyone be certain that he or she is going to heaven? In Hebrews 1:14, after a lengthy discussion about what angels are, we read that angels are spirits who serve God, and are sent by God's Spirit to help those who are chosen, and are about to receive salvation.

So you see, we are such sinful and unreliable people that God does not even trust that gift to us. He provides for our salvation with trusted spirits (angels) and His own Holy Spirit. He will never give up on us. Hell will be filled with people from every nation, tribe and race, that determined not to accept His offer. Jesus had made the sacrifice and His Word says, ". . . **if we will believe on Him (Jesus), we will be saved.**" No oaths of allegiance, no body cutting or marking, no clubs to join, just our hearts accepting His love, and gift to us.

The Bible tells us of a time that Jesus was so enthralled by God's Spirit within Him that He leaped into the air and twirled. For thousands of years, the followers of one weird religion or another were ordered to leap into the air and twirl. This was a pretend copy of Jesus's worship. Thousands twirled without end until after several days of non-stop leaping and twirling, they would just fall dead. This counterfeit satan approved act was finally forbidden by law in the dozen or so countries in which it was practiced. This all ended in the 1920's.

Today, the entire world is being perverted to the point of destruction by hatred, anger, lust for vengeance and deceit. Jesus is reacting to this massive sinful sweep with the exact same nature that He always has. He loves us and offers salvation to all. The sin is the world's rejection. To the ones that the Bible offers to let drink from the well without paying, He also offers eternal life, without cost to all those who will accept.

Bro. Vic Clayton

A SPECIAL NEED

For those of you that don't know--Brother Vic Clayton had a serious auto accident recently. He is in the hospital in Shreveport, still comatose. It is unclear what his condition is, as he has not regained consciousness since the accident. The doctors still have him in very serious condition. This is a time for the family of God to pray that God will bless and heal, as only He can. Just what that blessing and healing consists of is not for us to say. Bro. Vic is loved and we miss him. May God be glorified and His kingdom blessed by the life that Bro. Vic lived and the witness of Jesus that he freely shared. To God be the glory.

JEZEBEL IN THE CHURCH

Part 4

Jezebel in the Church—you may ask, how can this be? Many times we are too concerned with what others will think about Jezebel being exposed than about the damage she is causing. When this spirit uses someone others view as a leader, or

important, or critical to the success of the church, the natural human tendency is to avoid confrontation. Why? Because we don't want to offend this person and possibly those in their sphere of influence.

As we have seen in the prior issues, Jezebel's primary, if not only, mission is to destroy the operation of the spirituals in the church; starting with the local church and extending to the area churches, and moving on to the universal church. The spirituals is the one area of the church that the devil has fought the hardest; he knows that when the spirituals are in operation, the Word of God is being manifested and his works are being destroyed. Jesus said that He came to destroy the works of the devil—as covenant brothers and sisters of Jesus, we are commissioned to continue His work here on earth by doing the same.

Too many times, I have heard and experienced Jezebel working through seeming devout people to discredit and ridicule groups operating in the spirituals. The devil hates the operation of the spirituals so much that he will use anyone to accomplish his end result. The Bible tells us not to give place to the devil. When a person ridicules and discredits a group or leader of a group operating in the spirituals, they have given place to the devil in their life. Many times a leader who ridicules and discredits another leader is being led by the Jezebel spirit. Why? There are many passionate reasons, such as envy, pride, and dislike of the leader, but mostly it is because the Jezebel spirit is causing emotions to rise up in them to cause them to ridicule and discredit.

The ones being used by the Jezebel spirit usually believe they are doing what is "best" for the church; when in reality they are tearing down the very essence of what Jesus designed the church to be here on earth. They will go to great lengths to discredit the group, they will send someone to have a "vision" to be interpreted so they can say the interpretation was incorrect (sometimes they will send two, one to have the vision and another to have a conflicting interpretation), and many times they will send several in an effort to gradually take control of the meeting. Jesus and His Church would be better served if they would pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for those that are working in the spirituals instead of trying to discredit them.

Jezebel's tennacles can be far reaching. She will send "special" people who are quick to tell you they have a "special" gift or anointing to the local church to work against the spirituals as well as using existing members of the church. The easiest targets for Jezebel are those that are not strong in the Word or have moved a little off center in what they believe or on what they are focusing their studies—just because it is good doesn't mean it is God.

She is not a respecter of persons; she will use anyone she can, anyone that has or is willing to give place to the enemy. Another trait of Jezebel is that she will sacrifice one or all of her followers to save herself and the position she has gained in the church. She is all about self survival. More next time.

Your servant in Christ, Ray Jennings

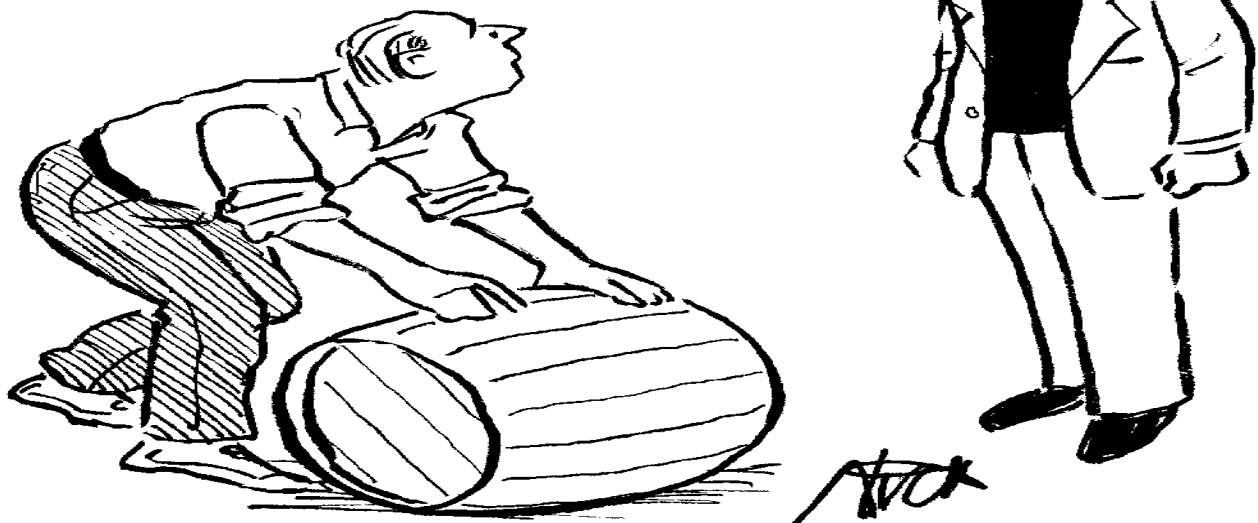
A THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

When I consider the

Thanksgiving holiday, I remember all of the times we have met as a family in the past on this blessed holiday. When my dad was living, and my parents lived at Jigger in the home I grew up in, there was always a "homecoming" of all of the kids and grandkids to grandma and grandpa's house. The weather was usually accommodating for being outside and at meal time the food that is traditional was always on the table. You could count on certain ones bringing the dishes that they always prepared for the meal and it was always good. Those were good times that create the memories we hold dear for a lifetime.

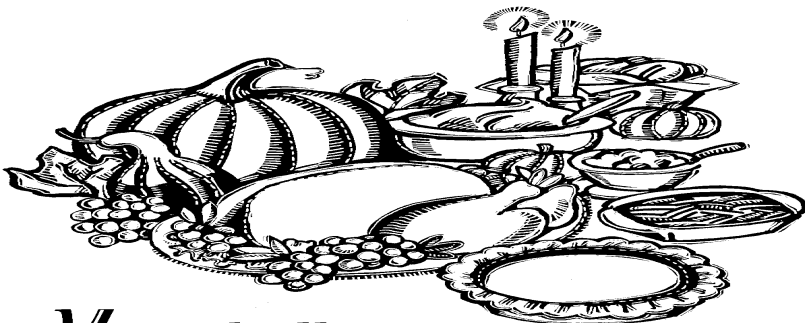
Today, we are making our own memories. The settings may have changed, and the traditional menus may be somewhat different, but the family still comes together and they still look forward to this as a time of peace and joy. This Thanksgiving, we will have our entire family at mine and Judy's house for a birthday celebration for my Mom. She will soon be 90 years young. We have so much to be thankful for, and I hope you can say the same. May you all be blessed and prosperous at this joyous time.

Bro. Mike Woods



“Charlie, we’d prefer you bring the grapes to our harvest festival.”

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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You shall eat your fill and bless the **LORD** your God for the good land that he has given you.

Deuteronomy 8:10