

THE WAY OF HOLINESS

A Christian Newsletter encouraging women to be strengthened in their walk with the Lord through Holiness.

Isaiah 35:8-9 KJV

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Holiness is a Perfect Christmas Gift For the Lord



God the Father gave to us the ultimate gift, Jesus His Son, to be the savior of our souls. What shall be our gift to Him? Ourselves of course! That is His deepest desire. Along with that, we might bring Him the gift of Holiness. How do we do that? Do we come to Jesus with promises of giving up certain

sins that are obviously diminishing our intimate walk with Him? We might say to Him, for example, "Lord, I've decided to honor you by not gossiping any more." That would be fine except that he would remind us that we can do nothing in our own strength. Jesus tells us this in John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye [[are] the branches; he that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing."

The gift of a promise could be a gift that may never materialize. A surer gift would be to give the gift of yieldness to Him-and to allow him to purge the sin from our lives. To again use gossiping as an example, it would be more acceptable to say, "Lord, I give you as a

gift my will. Help me to forsake the *sin* of gossiping. I know this will be pleasing to you because you desire to take our burdens, not our promises."

When we give God promises, we really don't know whether we have it in our

Romans 12:1, "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."

own strength to fulfill such a vow. Jesus has already told us that we don't. The Word warns us against making vows (promises) especially to God. "Better [is it] that thou shouldst not vow, than

that thou shouldst vow and not pay," (Ecclesiastes 5:5). again in Deuteronomy 23:21, it is said, "When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it; for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee: and it will be sin in thee." By giving the Lord our sin itself, we do not have to make a vow.

When we come to Jesus with repentance and a desire to change our behavior, acknowledging that we cannot change ourselves, the gifts we really are giving to Him are those of humility, trust, and honor. When we do this He is glorified in our lives. Only Jesus can change our hearts. Desire to walk in Holiness, as He is Holy. What a wonderful gift to offer our Savior this Christmas. []

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The Bottom Line On Catholicism

Eph 2:8 — “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: *Eph 2:9* — Not of works, lest any man should boast.” KJV

There are many doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church that are totally inconsistent with Biblical Christianity. However, the one that is at the heart of all other RCC apostate doctrines is its rejection of salvation by faith alone. When “good works” enters the equation, a completely false belief system is erected.

According to the **COUNCIL OF TRENT: SIXTH SESSION, CANONS CONCERNING JUSTIFICATION CANON XXIV** “If any one saith, that the justice received is not preserved and also increased before God through good works; but that the said works are merely the fruits and signs of Justification obtained, but not a cause of the increase thereof; let him be anathema.” To be anathematized is to be cursed.

When RC’s profess to be saved, please remember that they have a different definition of salvation than the Bible requires. The bottom line is that faith in good works must be confessed as a sin. Without repenting of faith in good works, salvation is not possible. Interestingly enough, the [RC Douay-Rheims Bible](#) agrees with the [KJV](#). Quoting the DRB, *Eph 2:8,9*, “For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God; Not of works, that no man may glory.” Confusing? Yes! []

Prophetic Gifts of the Magi

What must have been going through Mary’s mind as she and Joseph traveled the 70 to 80 mile journey from their home in Nazareth of Galilee to the tax registration town of Bethlehem of Judea? No comfy room reservations awaited them. In fact, eventually only a stable full of animals was available. Though a teenager, pregnant with a child that was not her husband’s and about to deliver this first baby, we read no account of her being anxious or feeling sorry for herself. The account of this adventure found in Matt 2 and Luke 1:26-35 reads of peace and joy. Joseph had a peace after the angel of the Lord explained to him that Mary was bearing God’s child. Joseph and Mary were both descendants of King David, which fulfilled the lineage prophecies of Isa. 11 and Psalm 132.

Mary had peace because she trusted the scriptural message of the angel that spoke to her. What enormous faith it must have taken for the couple to believe that Mary was to give birth to a child who was one day to be the savior, priest, prophet and King of Israel. The full glorious account of the birth of Jesus can be found in Matt 1:18, 25; 2:1-23, and Luke 1:26-80.

After the birth in Bethlehem, “When eight days were accomplished for the circumcision of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he

was conceived in the womb,” (*Luke 2:21*). Then, Mary, Joseph and Jesus travelled six miles to Jerusalem. Luke 2:22 recounts, “And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee,” to their own city of Nazareth.



The scriptures are unclear as to when the three Wise Men or Magi visited Jesus. Matt 2:11 refers to them as going to the “house” which implies they may not have worshiped Jesus in the Bethlehem stable. Herod, however, clearly directed the Magi to go to Bethlehem (Matt 2:8,9). The word for “house” in the Greek can mean “household” or “family”, which would harmonize the two scriptures. Whenever it was that the Magi appeared with their gifts, it must have been an extraordinary experience for Mary and Joseph. What must they have thought when they saw before them the Magi from the distant east, perhaps Persia, bearing precious gifts fit for a king? And why would they travel so far to honor Jesus with these elegant gifts? How did these Magi (astrologers) find Jesus?

God, using the natural occupational curiosity of these astrologers, lead them to observe an uncharted star in the eastern sky. Undoubtedly, they had knowledge of the ancient Old Testament prophecies that a baby King would be born to Israel and a star was involved. They followed the star and eventually it poised over the place where Jesus, the future king of Israel, lay. Matthew 2:11 tells us, “And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.” The gifts they brought validated God’s previous messages to Mary and Joseph. The gifts were prophetic of the offices and sufferings of the life of Jesus. The gold prophesied of Jesus as King, the Frankincense spoke of him as a high priest and the myrrh spoke of him as prophet and sufferings savior. Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit revealed the meanings of these gifts to Mary and Joseph. They must have served to comfort them greatly as the life of Jesus unfolded.

Now, more than 2000 years later, we can see that God’s prophecies regarding the birth of Christ have come 100% true, including Isaiah 7:14 which prophecies Christ’s virgin birth and Micah 5:1-2 which foretells His birthplace as Bethlehem. No other Holy Book of any world religion, cult, or spiritual leader can boast of prophecies that have come true exactly as foretold. []

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Services:
 Sunday School (all ages) 10:00 A.M.
 Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening Service 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

Statement of Faith can be found at
 lhbaptist.com

The Way of Holiness Newsletter can
 be found at lhbaptist.com, under
 Ladies Ministry. Sign up for our free
 monthly e-mail subscription.

Net Neutrality Issue: Pray for God's Will in This Issue

Communications Czar, Julius Genachowski



Obama appointed FCC Chairman Genachowski insists that the Internet should, for the first time ever, be under the control of government rules and regulations. Many fear that the internet freedom that we all now enjoy may be severely compromised. Such government control could lead to fees and taxes applied to internet use. Genachowski plans to circumvent Congressional approval of his bill, using the backing and executive powers of the President. The members of the FCC will take a vote on the implementation or not of regulations late in December.

There are always two sides to consider, so please pray that God's will may be done. Regulating the Internet could impede conservative as well as Christian communication. []

God commands us to pray, "For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;" 1 Timothy 2:2,3



HOW CAN I BE SURE OF HEAVEN?

By Pastor Bob Hammond



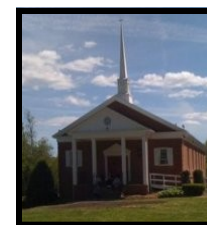
How can I be sure of Heaven ?

1. Acknowledge to God that you have sinned against Him. The Bible says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23).
2. Realize that our sin separates us from God. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
3. Understand that Christ died on the cross and paid for all our sins. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.." (Ephesians 2:8-9).
4. The Bible teaches that, in order

to receive forgiveness of sins, we must repent and place our faith in Christ.

To repent is simply to make a conscious decision to turn away from sin and to turn toward Christ. The Bible says that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). God promises eternal life to those who trust in Jesus Christ alone. Have you made a decision to receive Christ into your heart? []

Please let the person who led you to this newsletter know or call Pastor Hammond at 203-208-3450



Long Hill Baptist Church, Trumbull, CT

Watching Our Words

Verbal Abuse Update

The words “verbal abuse” do not convey the depth of damage done to a victim. This sin of extreme self-centeredness is a mix of verbal abuse, emotional abuse, and other forms of narcissism. A more accurate term to use would be emotional violence. For instance in some states, emotional /verbal abuse is considered to be domestic violence.

NJ Domestic Violence Facts

www.divorcenewjersey.com

Domestic violence is the repeated and patterned use of controlling and coercive behaviors to direct, shape and limit a domestic partner's feelings, thoughts and actions. Power and control tactics are typically used over time in concert with one another, including:

- emotional abuse
 - physical abuse
 - economic abuse
 - sexual abuse and exploitation
 - isolation and entrapment
 - threats and intimidation
 - control and abuse of children
- “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.” (1 Cor 13:4,5)*

Abusive spouses are typically vain, conceited and puffed up. They are easily provoked, and often display anger or withdraw. They often seek to punish the other and to do only what is best for them. In 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, Paul suggests that the “unseemly” behavior of an emotionally-violent spouses is often rooted in sinful, self-centered focus on one’s own interests, rather than a kind-hearted, long-suffering concern for one’s spouse. An emotionally abusive spouse needs to learn to yield to the Holy Spirit to replace fleshly attitudes and behaviors with the long-suffering, kind love of Christ. Praise God that the Holy Spirit indwells all genuine believers -- that any might overcome the sin underlying emotional abuse. []

Amos Then and Today: The Hypocrisy and Pride of the Elite

Amos 6:8,” Saith the LORD the God of hosts, I abhor the excellency (arrogance, pride) of Jacob, and hate his palaces: therefore will I deliver up the city with all that is therein. ¹³Ye which rejoice in a thing of nought, which say, Have we not taken to us horns by our own strength? ¹⁴Woe to them *that are* at ease in Zion, ¹⁴ But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation.”

Obama Panel Probes Stimulus Waste -- at Ritz Carlton Hotel

By: Byron York

Washington Times, Chief Political Correspondent, 11/11/10 10:10 AM EST

“Members of a key panel have scheduled a meeting on November 22 to consider ways to prevent



‘fraud, waste, and abuse of Recovery Act funds’. The meeting will be held at the super-luxe Ritz Carlton Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona.” While our country is tightening its belt, government officials planned to meet in the lap of luxury. An Obama panel planned to wine and dine itself, saying, “Look how important we are,” while they pretended to fight the waste of others. Yes, their horn (power), is showing and so is their hypocrisy. The actions of such hypocrites could justify God in judging the United States as He did Israel. Isaiah warns, “For every-

one is a hypocrite, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this, His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still (against them), (Isaiah 9:17 KJV). [] Photo: http://www.travelpost.com/hotels/The_Ritz-Carlton_Phoenix/

MEETING CANCELLED

Only in America! Such a cry went out from the American people and the conservative media that the government had no choice but to cancel this hypocritical meeting. No future date or venue has been set.

Now this is definitely different than in the time of Amos. Then the elite did exactly as they pleased and no one could stop them. They would not even listen to God’s pleadings. One particularly grave offense that was commonly committed before God was for the elite of the day to, “lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar,” (Amos 2:8). This act oppressed the righteous and the poor. The garments laid to pledge by the altar were garments left by the poor in lieu of a debt to someone wealthy enough to lend them money. The agreement was that every night, the debtor was to be allowed to retrieve his garment which he needed to keep warm. The garment was to be returned each morning to the loaner and so it went until the debt was paid. It was cruel to not return the pledged garments as agreed for they might well have been the only warm covering owned by the poor person.

Deut 24:12,13 tells us, “ And if the man be poor, thou shalt not sleep with his pledge: In any case thou shalt deliver him the pledge again when the sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own raiment and bless thee: and it shall be righteous unto thee before the LORD thy God.”

Israel did not listen to the warnings of God proclaimed by Amos. The country was destroyed and the people scattered.

Surely, the elite of our county are equally unrighteous when the people’s money is lavishly spent on themselves. Praise God, Americans have the freedom to speak out and be heard. []

Do You Believe in Angels ?

“Do You Believe in Angels?” This was the caption on the front page of the Bridgeport Post Newspaper as long ago as 1994. (I saved the paper as part of my research on the New Age).

“Yes, of course, Christians would answer.” The Bible is full of accounts of angels as God’s messengers (e.g. Luke 1). They worship Him (e.g. Rev. 4:8). They rejoice with Him when a sinner is saved (Luke 15:10). They do war as directed by God (Dan. 10:13). They serve as ministering angels and guardian angles of the saved. Hebrews 1:14 asks concerning angels, “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” The Bible even implies that angels are present at our worship services! (1 Cor. 11:10).

Angels must do God’s bidding only. The Bible does not give Christians authority to worship or to call on angels (Rev 19:12; 1 Tim 2:5). Why then did the newspaper have a picture of a woman who was communing with angels? Because she was a New Age channeler of spirits which she called angels. Spiritists,

mediums and psychics channel fallen angels (demonic spirits) not the angels of heaven. Sadly, this woman was applauded for helping parents, children and teachers to make contact with their inner angels. New Age spiritists are very much present in our society today.

New Age books are laced with beautiful pictures of angels and speak deceptively of the personal power they bring. These books falsely teach that angels may be summoned through relaxation techniques such as meditating by emptying the mind, yoga, and visualization. These are not activities in which Christians should be involved; they invite demonic activity (Gal. 1:8; 2; 2 Cor. 11:14). Many New Age books are published by Ballantine Press and Mamare Press. Moms, check your daughters’ books. They may be reading occult books. Don’t be fooled by the covers. Today guardian angel pins, (we don’t wear likeness pins of Jesus so why should we wear angel pins) angel trinkets, angel workshops etc., are flourishing (supported by many a Christian). **Beware**, dabbling in spirits is forbidden by God. Deut 18:10 still stands as a warning: “there shall not be found among you (anyone)... that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter or a witch.” They are servants of Satan. []

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Elisha A. Hoffman, pub.1887

*What a fellowship,
what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting
arms;
What a blessedness, what
a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting
arms.*

*Refrain:
Leaning, leaning, safe and
secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning
on the everlasting arms.
Leaning on the everlasting
arms.*

*What have I to dread,
what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting
arms?*

A note from



Jackie Thorpe

“Leaning On the Everlasting Arms” is God’s Rx for Not Feeling Overwhelmed by the Holidays

Many years ago I attended a Baptist Retreat and Vacation Center for a week. There was a young man there who was blind since birth. When his peers discovered that he had never experienced the fun and delight of swimming in a lake, they chided and encouraged him until he finally agreed to try it.

Armed with a giant, inflated,

black rubber tube around him, he entered the water.

Timid at first, he gradually lost his fear and splashed around while hugging his life support, the big black tube.

Later at testimony time, you would have expected that he would share all the fun and excitement of his first water experience. Instead, he told of how this was the first time he ever grasped the

significance of the hymn, *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*. Only resting on that old, black tube gave him the confidence to trust that he would not drown. He likened this to our need to blindly trust in the Lord for our peace and safety, by leaning on His all-protective, supporting arms.

Ladies, this holiday seasons, if you are feeling overwhelmed with plans,

shopping, fatigue, too little time to get it all done or saddened memories of previous ‘not so good’ Christmases, read the hymn above again. Jesus wants to be your big, old tube. He will be your support in the deep waters of life. With such a savior, ask yourself, “What have I to dread?” In Jesus you are “safe and secure from all alarms.” Please rest in Him this Holiday season. *Merry Christmas,*

Jackie Thorpe

