

THE WAY OF HOLINESS

A Christian Newsletter encouraging women to be strengthened through Holiness to face these End Times.

Isaiah 35:8-9 KJV

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

May Christian women everywhere give thanks for the freedom they have through Christ and for the personal freedom granted by our nation. . .“For all things [are] for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God,” (2 Cor 4:15).

Ladies, Let's Learn to Share

Thanksgiving is a time of sharing. In fact, we spend a good part of our lives learning to share -- and teaching our children to share. Yet, we tend to make sharing our faith in Christ far too low a priority. As Christian women, we need to learn both the importance of sharing the Gospel and an effective method for doing so. And we need to learn to rely upon Christ for the strength and courage to share our faith (Philippians 4:13).

First, Recognize That Christians are Commanded to be Prepared to Share the Gospel. In 1 Peter 3:15, we're commanded to "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Understand that God's Words Are the Words That We Should Use to Share the Gospel. Too often, Christians fail to share the gospel because they don't believe they have the right words to do so. In Hebrews 4:12, we read "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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." *We have the right words, because we have God's words!* Let's not neglect to use the word of God when sharing the gospel and leading lost people to Christ! **Understand That When We Share the Gospel, We're Calling Unbelievers to Repentance and Faith in Christ Alone.**

When we share the gospel, our goal is not to coerce an unbeliever to blindly repeat a "sinners prayer." Rather, our goal is to lead an unbeliever to repent of her sins and to genuinely place her faith in Christ.

Importantly, repentance is a critical factor. In fact, repentance is mentioned 66 times throughout the New Testament.

Repentance simply involves a conscious decision to turn away from sin and to turn toward Christ. A true conversion follows repentance and placing one's faith in Christ alone for salvation! 2 Peter 3:9 "...but [God] is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Let's share our faith as well as our baking. *Adapted by J. Thorpe from "How Can I Share My Faith," by Pastor R. Hammond, 9/9/2010, lhbaptist.com. []*

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Navigating Apostasy: Beware of Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves," (Matthew 7:15). "Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain," (Ezekiel 22:27).



The Fabian Society is a British socialist think tank which originated in the late 20th century. "Its purpose is to advance the principles of socialism via gradualist and reformist rather than revolutionary means." (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fabian_Society)

Symbols can tell a lot about the person wearing them. Being aware increases discernment. The wolf in sheep's clothing has long been the logo of this organization. A more modern symbol of this ungodly, socialist society is the turtle. The Turtle logo represents the slow incremental bloodless



changes necessary to bring capitalists societies into social democracy, socialism, communism and then to one world government. []

Photos:
<http://www.australiamatters.com/fabian.html> 2009



Why do both the Old and New Testament use warnings about wolves? Because both eras were very much steeped in shepherding flocks of sheep and therefore knew the extreme danger to their sheep that would occur should a wolf ravage their flocks. Just as a diligent shepherd constantly watches over his flock, the Lord wants pastors to watch over their flocks and individuals to watch over their spiritual lives. In churches, wolves in sheep's (Christian) clothing will tear apart God's true doctrines. In the world, many politicians in sheep's clothing will tear apart the God-given rights to national freedom. The idea behind the "sheep's clothing" goes back to an age-old practice, still used today in large herds. As told to me by a shepherd in Scotland some time ago, shepherds deceive orphan lambs into nursing from ewes that are not their own mothers by removing the skin from the dead mother ewe and fixing it upon the surrogate ewe. The substitute mother would then have the scent that is familiar to the baby lamb. A secretement of the new mother is placed on the orphaned lamb so that it will be accepted and the two would then bond. How very like what happens when a false shepherd, leader or teacher enters a flock of Christian sheep with the purpose of taking it over, changing doctrine or outright destroying it. The false one puts on the coat of the congregation to look like, smell like, and act like them. Eventually the false one and the church bond and he then gains enough influence to make them into his own image.



This is the antichrist spirit at work. This, perhaps, will be the pattern of the False Prophet of the coming Tribulation era as he forms the one world religion that will worship the Antichrist. In Ezekiel 22:27, the Bible tells us that "dishonest gain" and "to destroy souls" are factors motivating the activities of false prophets. The "dishonest gain" they seek may be financial gain like so many (but not all) TV evangelists. They may be seeking fame or power. They may be working to create the one world religion through ecumenical exposure. Whatever the reason, their agenda must be brought to light. No matter how difficult or unkind it may seem, a wolf in sheep's clothing must be exposed to the congregation before the church is torn apart.

An interesting side light to this subject relates to an elitist socialist party called the Fabian society. Their logo is one of a wolf in sheep's clothing. How very up-front of them to warn us this way of their agenda! They know no one below the elite level is paying attention, so why not? Many high profile world politicians, such as Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the president of Australia, etc., are Fabians. Just as the false prophets are infiltrating the minds of Christians, so the Fabians and hundreds of like organizations, are infiltrating nations around the world, setting the stage for the antichrist government.

In the Christian world, Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church is an example of a man who is forming church after church into his own image. He is so charismatic that he has indoctrinated hundreds of churches of all denominations around the world by enticing them follow his unbiblical prescription for church growth, false unity, to read his books, watch his TV specials, and attended his Pastors Tool Box conferences. Many of these churches are now entrenched in his apostate teachings or are defunct. Rick Warren encourages the establishment of small groups within a church, led by a newly accepted wolf who "pushes group members toward unbiblical tolerance, feeling-based rather than fact-based "sharing," and silence with regard to Biblical absolutes (<http://www.crossroad.to/charts/millennium-goals-peace.htm>). These groups eventually pressure their pastor to disseminate Warren's books, tapes, and conference materials to the rest of the congregation. Over time, the small groups demand that either the pastor agree to follow Rick Warren or leave. If the pastor agrees to become a so-call Purpose Driven Church, eventually all who disagree will be pushed out to look for another church. Warren, in the November 14, 2007, issue of his *Ministry Toolbox*, told pastors to get rid of those who pose objections. Such can be the power of wolves in sheep's clothing. "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock" (Acts 20:29). []

The Fable of “The Folded Napkin” Dispelled

1 Timothy 1:4 “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.” 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

It is sad, but true, that the lovely story of “The Folded Napkin” that has been wildly circulating on the internet since 2007 cannot be substantiated. The fable states that the folded napkin left on the table of the master of the household after a meal was a guarantee that he was not finished eating and would return. However, this custom has been discredited by learned rabbis, pastors and scholars. In fact, no one yet has been able to substantiate this so called ancient custom which has been erroneously applied to meaning the “napkin” around Jesus’ head in the tomb. Those who spread this legend start their stories with the words, “I was told.” Those who have taken the time to attempt to authenticate it have found nothing in Jewish customs or literature to validate it. The internet story, which originated from a 2006 sermon given by a Baptist pastor whose friend found it in an old book, is built around I John 20:7. (<http://gbdecaatur.org/sermons/NapkinFolded.html>)

John 20:7 (KJV)

And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

John 20:7 (NIV)

as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

An excerpt taken from the internet fable suffices to explain the gist of it:

“Now if the master were done eating, he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would wad up that napkin and toss it onto the table. The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant, ‘I’m done’. But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin, and laid it beside his plate, the servant would not dare touch the table, because...The folded napkin meant, ‘I’m coming back!’”

This allegory seems to readers to be an exciting sign left by the Lord, promising His return. However, if we study the actual words of John 20:7, we find the assumptions to be presumptuous and false. Because our KJV translators chose to translate the Greek word *soudarion* (Strong's Number: 4676) as napkin, instead of grave cloth, or handkerchief, a Western image was attached to it. It is doubtful that folded dinner napkins were even the custom in the days of Jesus. Adding to the confusion, the NIV uses the word “folded” instead of wrapped. Somehow the originator of the article mixed the two versions to make his story. Here is a western type folded table napkin which is quite different from the burial napkin actually meant in John 20:17. Our KJV refers to the napkin as being “wrapped” from the Greek word *enylisso*, which means coiled or twisted in a fixed position. As pictured, the napkin was actually a large cloth used to wrap the head in burial. It was a cloth “*wrapped together in a place by itself*” separated from the grave clothes or shroud. Such an appearance and placement of His grave cloths strongly validates that Jesus had risen without disturbing his grave clothes. The napkin or face covering was still wrapped in the same manner it had been while He was still in the grave. Had His body been stolen, robbers would have strewn them about in their haste. The story of the Folded Napkin emphasizes the return of Jesus. However, the apostle John, in his gospel, emphasizes proof of the Lord’s supernatural resurrection. Lessons to be learned from this article:



(1) Due to changes that occur in language over time, we must take care to understand Biblical words in their proper historical context. Our goal is to understand the meaning that is intended by the Holy Spirit— rather than the meaning implied by modern culture. (2) Christians are to study the Bibles, not just read it. In 2 Timothy 2:15 the Bible says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” It is shameful to divert attention from the true meaning of a passage. It brings shame on a person when they teach something false and shows they have not rightly divided the Word as instructed.

(3) Always question new biblical “nuggets”, especially from the internet. If you can’t check them out, don’t share them.

(4) Holiness is based on Truth. It is a sin to teach what is not true even if it is seemingly innocent presumption. In Psalm 19:13 the Bible says, “Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.”

(5) Do not check with other Bible versions for more clarity of a passage. The KJV will always prove itself accurate with study. In the above case, mixing KJV with NIV led to creating a fable which deceived many Christians. []

Pray for U.S. Domestic Violence Czar



The Lord commands us to pray for the leaders of our government (1 Tim 2:2-3).

President Obama's Energy Czar, Carol Browner, was featured in this column in October, 2010. Prayer for her salvation was requested, as she is a long-time socialist. This month our focus is on Lynn Rosenfeld, Domestic Violence Czar. The office of a Czar is a presidential appointment which requires no senate approval. There are presently more than 30 Czars, with more positions in the making. These men and women are considered top advisors to the President. Lynn Rosenfeld has an extensive background in overseeing Domestic Violence organizations. She will need much prayer for the job she has undertaken. Domestic violence is on the rise. Please pray that she will be effective in bringing this issue into the national spotlight. Vice President Biden has been active in this area by promoting bills to increase aid to victims. According to Biden, there are 48 million reported cases of domestic violence this year. Physical abuse often begins with verbal/emotional abuse. I would encourage Christians to become more aware of the sin of emotional abuse, which used to be called mental cruelty. Being aware can bring to light otherwise unnoticed symptoms. The next victim could be your daughter, mother, friend or neighbor. Men and boys can also be victims. "Be kind one to another, tenderhearted..." (Eph 4:32).



Verbal Abuse Alert!

"Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire," (Matt 5:21, 22).

Hell fire seems like a pretty strong punishment for name-calling. But Jesus, here, is talking to the religious Jews of His day. This statement undoubtedly still holds today. But Praise God, the redeemed have been saved from Hell and have the privilege of repentance and forgiveness. However, sin can not be repented of if it is not identified. In this passage, Jesus identifies a grave sin. He considers name-calling as serious a sin as murder because He sees what most people do not: verbal abuse kills! It kills the spirit and soul of a person. So many people would mock that statement. Perhaps they have never been the victim of any of the many forms of verbal /emotional abuse, which is actually human spirit abuse. Millions of women, children, elders and men, suffer from the accumulative effects of the many forms of verbal abuse. If the wounds could be seen they would be bloody and shocking. Yet, because the wounds are in the spirit and soul of a person and manifest as depression, emptiness, confusion and sadness, they are rarely noticed.

Yes, Jesus knows that the name-calling of words like *raca*, (a term of contempt, the root word means "to spit") or in our day the words such as stupid, idiot, etc., can cause great pain especially if one is subjected to it repeatedly. The word fool was, in Biblical times, a word that meant that someone was wicked or reprobate. In today's language it is like calling someone a bum, a good-for-nothing or worthless. Obviously, this behavior does not portray Christ-like love. *IVP New Testament Commentaries*, makes this statement concerning Matt 5:21,22: "Malicious slanders and censures are poison that kills secretly and slowly. Christ told them that no matter how light they made of these sins, they would certainly be called into judgment for them."

If you are guilty of name-calling or other forms of abuse, confess to the Lord that you may have injured others just as badly as if you had beaten them. Confess and repent of the anger, resentment, pride, contempt or control that is in your heart causing this behavior. Jesus knows that from a small seed a great tree can grow; in this case bearing bitter fruit. Having confessed and repented, then follow the Lord's direction for bearing the sweet fruit of repentance. "*Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift," (Matt 5:23, 24)*. If you are about to bring gifts of praise, thanksgiving and worship to the Lord, put them on hold until you have apologized to those you know in your heart you may have wounded with verbal abuse, and of course, other trespasses. Then, return to offer your gifts to God with a cleansed heart, committed to not doing it again. "*Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling," (1 Timothy 1:5,6).*

Abuse of any kind is a "love thy neighbor" heart issue. A person who calls names does not respect others properly and may behave in other inappropriate ways towards people especially if they feel others are beneath them. Romans 12:3, warns all "*not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.*"

Next month, the [Way of Holiness Newsletter](#) will discuss the other forms of emotional abuse that this subject encompasses. Both men and women may be guilty of this, though professionals agree that the percentage of women victims is much higher. []

Amos Then & Today



In the days of Amos the Prophet, social issues were not much different than they are today. One of the roles of a prophet was to speak out about such social issues and warn the people of God's judgment. "More than any other prophet, Amos spoke out about social evils, such as abuse of power, oppression of the poor, dishonest dealings, insincere religious rituals, lives of leisure, and many possessions. Their lives of luxury blinded them to the needs of those around them."¹

Amos' occupation as a shepherd and a herdsman (Amos 1:1) gave him status in his community. As a businessman, he bought and sold herds as well as fruit (Amos 7:14). Undoubtedly he sat at the "gate", the businessman's gathering place, and was aware of the ungodly activities of Israel and the happenings of the daily news in his own community. God implored Amos to call Israel to repentance. God became very angry because Israel was not heeding the warnings He gave Amos to deliver.

Finally, God's warnings turned to judgment. He gave Amos a vision that likened Israel to over-ripened fruit, implying that Israel was now ripe for judgment. When fruit becomes so ripe that it is beyond the eating stage, nothing can save it. God was saying to the nation of Israel that it was beyond being salvaged from its sins (Amos 8:1-2). God's judgment fell upon them because they still failed to repent.

Is the United States now approaching the same over-ripened condition? Pray it is not. God did not spare Israel from dispersion and utter destruction. He would be justified in not sparing our nation unless we heed His warnings. "Seek good and not evil that ye may live..." (Amos 5:14). To quote part of a poem by Joanna Fuchs (Poemsource.com):

Today More Than Ever

In today's chaotic world,
With everything around us crumbling,
Morality held in contempt,
Our leaders false, corrupt, or bumbling,
Today more than ever we need Christ.

¹Fascinating Bible Facts, International Pub. Ltd, Lincolnwood, ILL, 1992.

Just for Fun

The Turkey Shot Out of the Oven

Jack Prelutsky

The turkey shot out of the oven
and rocketed into the air,
it knocked every plate off the table
and partly demolished a chair.

It ricocheted into a corner
and burst with deafening boom,
then splattered all over the kitchen,
completely obscuring the room.

It stuck to the walls and the windows,
it totally coated the floor,
there was turkey attached to the ceiling,
where there'd never been turkey before.

It blanketed every appliance,
it smeared every saucer and bowl,
there wasn't a way I could stop it,
that turkey was out of control.

I scraped and I scrubbed with displeasure,
and thought with chagrin as I mopped,
that I'd never again stuff a turkey
with popcorn that hadn't been popped.

ancestry.com/~homespun/tpoems2.html

A Note from Jackie



Speaking of food, last month being apple time, the Ladies Ministry of Long Hill Baptist Church had a fabulous time on Oct. 8, first picking apples at local farm, then

cooking pies in the afternoon. That evening the pies were served as dessert following a fun time of fellowship (along with teenage daughters) study, and prayer. The evening closed with making candy apples. God speaks of apples often. One example is, "Keep my commandments,

and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye", Proverbs 7:2. The word here for apple is from the Hebrew word, *ishown*, (Strong's #380), meaning *manikin*, i.e., the pupil of the eye. How carefully we all guard the pupils of our own eyes, without which we could not see.

own eyes.

When our pupils are threatened, our reflexes instantly protect them. This is the care God wants us to give to the "apple of His eye", His commandments.

Your sister in Christ,

Jackie Thorpe

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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.

Saturday Evening Prayer 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.

THE WAY OF HOLINESS

Isaiah 35:8-9 KJV

*A Christian Newsletter encouraging women to be made
strong through holiness in these End Times.*



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, not in a church, not in a religion or good works, only in Christ. Have you made a decision to receive Christ? Please let Pastor Bob or the person who gave you this newsletter know.



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