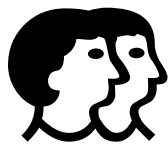


# The Sword AND Staff

“Preach the Word” (II Timothy 4:2) • “Feed the Flock” (I Peter 5:2)



## A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality

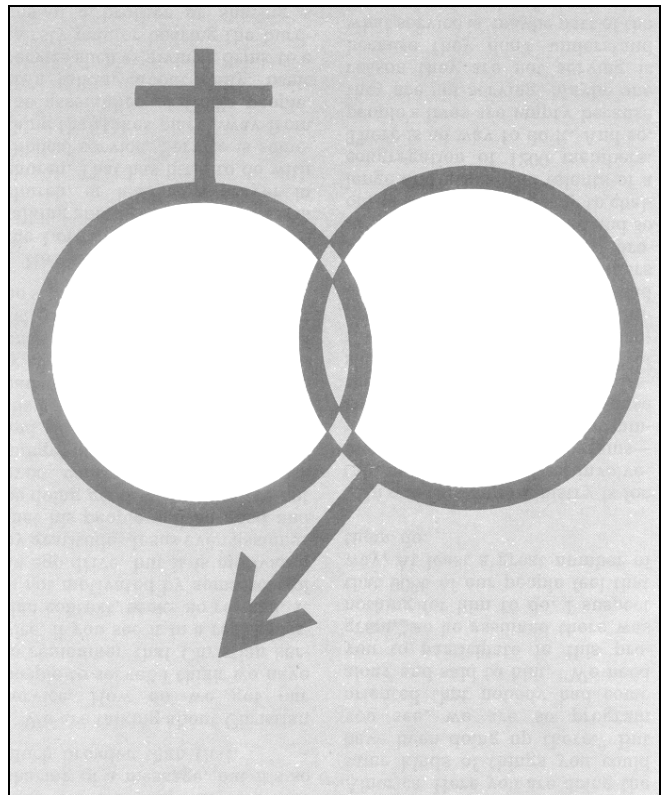


● By JAMES E. GIBBONS—1535 W. Fairfield Drive  
Mount Airy, NC 27030 USA

**WE** ARE continuing our series of “going on unto perfection,” and developing the theme in reference to holiness. As we think about holiness, perhaps no subject is any more in need of a simple, basic study than that of the sanctity of human sexuality.

### The Apparent Need for This Study

Mankind seems to have lost its way. Sex is no longer looked upon with dignity and respect, regulated by set morals and uniquely assigned to the sanctity (and privacy) of marriage. Accompanied by rock ‘n’ roll, the sexual revolution was blatantly ushered in, more accurately looked upon as rebellion and insurrection. Producers of movies and television, apparently bent on bringing about the demise of Christian morality, have flooded the airwaves and people’s minds with their corrupting influence. Their amoral and immoral message is sexual promiscuity. It hits you in the face. A president of this country became center stage in giving the practice of wanton sexual perversion publicity, even international publicity, thus promoting the cause of Satan. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, of the 4,115,590 babies born in this country last year (2004), 1,470,152 were born to unwed mothers. In other words, 35.7 percent (over 1/3<sup>rd</sup>) of all births were out of wedlock. Since its legalization, millions of babies have been aborted. We are told that one out of every two marriages ends in divorce. Sodomy is becoming socially accepted, and there is talk of same sex marriage. Sodomy laws are no longer being enforced, as laws favoring such practices are being put in place. Humanism, reducing man to an animal, has set the stage for all of this. And, sad to say, the “professed” church has not



been immune to this, as tragic “fall out” is all about us (and sometimes among us). If we don’t respect our sexuality, we will not respect what our sexuality produces, other human beings.

### A Study of the ABC’s

The Bible underscores ignorance, and especially not knowing God, as the reason why people engage in fornication and all kinds of unclean and immoral sexual practices. Listen to Paul. “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their minds, Having the *understanding darkened*, being alienated from the life of God through the

(Continued on Page 4)

**THE SWORD AND STAFF**  
Post Office Box 147  
Mt. Airy, NC 27030 USA

E-Mail Address:  
[jamesgibbons@earthlink.net](mailto:jamesgibbons@earthlink.net)

Web Site Address:  
<http://jgibbons.8m.com>

■ **INFORMATION:** We are totally dependent upon your financial backing in the publication of this religious paper. To get on the mailing list, send a contribution. Subsidizing gifts are definitely needed along for us to continue this unselfish labor of love for God and truth. You may use the date affixed beside your address as a reminder to send an offering (perhaps annually). No notices are sent. Make out your checks to CHURCH IN MOUNT AIRY. The extent (and frequency) of publication is determined by incoming support. James E. Gibbons is editor. (Money received for printed material is all considered as an offering). We do not assume responsibility for material from other sources and writers beyond that which appears in this paper. This publication is available in English and Spanish. Please indicate preference. □

—THANK YOU—

## Proverbially **SPEAKING...**

*HAPPINESS is the byproduct of an unselfish and loving heart.*

The best translation of the Bible is that which is translated into everyday living.

*Hope is the only thing that will sustain us through everything.*

Courage is that quality of mind that enables us to meet adversity and advantage with the same firmness and resolve.

*Christianity is a way of life, not death; so, may we live accordingly.*

Miracles in the Bible were not to prove the existence of God, but to prove that the messenger and his message were from God.

*If a man's life is in place, he won't have to worry about his place in life.*

The godly person is a stranger and a pilgrim in this world (Hebrews 11:13), whereas the sinner is a fugitive and a vagabond (Genesis 4:12).

*By getting on our knees we can better ascertain where we stand with God.*

By prayer, and by anticipation of the harsh realities of life, we insulate ourselves against shock and despair. □

# EDITORIAL COMMENTS



## THE NECESSITY OF BEING CONVICTED OF GUILT WHEN COMING TO GOD

**T**O GET our lives straightened out and on course, we must be brought under conviction of the enormity of sin and the incurred guilt on our part. This is a prerequisite to genuine repentance and successfully living the Christian life. We cannot downplay how awful sin is in the sight of the perfect and all-holy Being who brought us into being. It is not a matter of us trying to please another human being or just wanting to "join" a church. This will never bring about salvation or permanent change in our lives. It is a matter between us and the God of heaven, "For all have sinned, and *come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). God has been offended.

We have thought about David's prayer of repentance many times that is found in the 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm. Being led on by impulsive lust, he had committed the sin of adultery. In an effort to cover what he had done, he had Bathsheba's husband killed on the front line of battle. But upon being confronted by the prophet Nathan, and brought under conviction, David responded, "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:13). In his prayer of repentance, Psalms 51, he went a little bit further with this statement, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight..." (verse 4). These are pretty strong and expressive words. Hadn't he compromised a woman's purity? Hadn't he been responsible for her husband's death? And, yet, he says, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned." Perhaps David thought, from the viewpoint of heaven, that God was the primary party who had been injured. David had taken away life given by God and transgressed God's holy Law, committing adultery (all flagrant in God's "sight"). To David the feeling of guilt was so great that it was as if he had sinned against God alone. As a person created in the image of God, he had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. He was overwhelmed with the magnitude of his guilt. Certainly David's conviction of sin was genuine as he was brought to repentance. This is the kind of attitude we must have.

Jesus, the night before his crucifixion, told his disciples many things about the coming of the Holy Spirit (John, chapters 14, 15, and 16). In John 16:8, the Lord said, "And when he [the Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove [convince] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." One account of the Great Commission said that "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem" (Luke 24:47). This convicting of sin, of righteousness,

and of judgment to come takes place when the gospel is preached in its fullness, dealing with the issue of sin. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is quick [alive], 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." We are confronted by the Holy Spirit when the Word of God is preached. In Acts 2:37, following the preaching of the apostles on the day of Pentecost, we read, "Now when they heard this, they were **pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" When Paul "reasoned of righteousness, temperance [self control], and judgment to come, Felix trembled" (Acts 24:25), but spurned the convicting power that was getting next to him. Paul offered this high Roman official no shortcuts into the kingdom of Christ. There are none.

When we sin, we sin against the God who made us. He is the offended and injured party. Let us be convicted of the enormity of this. He is holy. Not only did David attest to the enormity of sin to God, notice Genesis 20:6 and Genesis 39:9. The prodigal son felt the same way (Luke 15:18-21). Peter said to Ananias and Sapphira, who lied about their giving, "Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God" (Acts 5:1-4, 9). (Moses had told the Israelites, "Your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD," Exodus 16:8). Really, they were sinning against God. Sinning is a personal thing between us and God that must be dealt with. Only such an attitude will bring us to real repentance. □

---

### A Fifteen Year Old Boy Challenged, and the Outcome

**T**HE FIFTEEN year old boy, deep in thought, descended the steps of the church building with his father. Isaac Watts had just attended another service and had listened to the congregation haltingly try to follow the singing of the Psalms. "The singing of God's praise is the part of worship nighest heaven and its performance among us is the worst," Isaac complained. He was immediately challenged by his father to write something better, and this was the beginning of a revolution in songs of worship.

Isaac Watts has since become known as the "father of hymnology" and wrote a total of about six hundred hymns. In 1707 the first hymn book was published containing his compositions, and among them was one that grew to be considered the finest hymn ever written, one of the most stately and moving hymns every

conceived, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." It has been sung all over the world and the words still have the same inspiring effect upon singers as at the first. Jesus Christ's great sacrifice, his suffering, and his love for all mankind are so simply conveyed, yet they strike deep within our hearts.

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.  
See, from his head, his hands, his feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

—*The Light*

---

### Wise Words Attributed to Thomas Jefferson

"Determine never to be idle. No person will have occasion to complain of the want of time who never loses any. It is wonderful how much may be done if we are always doing." (*Letter to his daughter, Martha: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1787*)

1. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do for yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want, because it is cheap.
5. Pride cost us more than hunger, thirst and cold.
6. We never repent of having eaten too little.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain has cost us the evils which have never happened.
9. Take things always by their smooth handle.
10. When angry, count to 10 before you speak; if very angry, count to 100.

(*Letter to his namesake, Thomas Jefferson Smith; February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1825*) □

---

*Miracles in the Bible were not to prove the existence of God, but to prove that the messenger and his message were from God.*

---



## A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality (Continued from Page 1)

Because of the need of the material in this article, it is longer than usual. You may want to read it in more than one sitting to better digest all that is written here. It is a delicate subject, and we hope that we have appropriately handled it—*Editor*

*ignorance* that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Ephesians 4:17-19). Also in Romans Paul speaks of those who once knew God, “But became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...*[There is nothing more dangerous than educated ignorance] Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves” (Romans 1:21b-32). Also, notice 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8.

Since the Bible equates the practice of sexual immorality and perversion with ignorance, perhaps it would be good for us to search out the Scriptures anew on this subject (especially since we live in a time of widespread Biblical illiteracy). And, then, in an elementary way study the ABC’s of what God has to say about this. Some people don’t do any better because they don’t know any better, then they become depraved in a perverted lifestyle. Sex certainly has a central place in God’s scheme of things. In the place that He put it, it is holy. It is honorable. By knowing His will in this matter, and knowing God, we can move on “unto perfection” in what He intended. We can perfect our holiness as God wants us to be holy. This is a “must.” Therefore, let us study the sanctity of human sexuality.

### I. THE ORIGIN AND SANCTITY OF LIFE (Genesis 1:26-28)

The study of human sexuality is not just an isolated subject on the fringe of our thinking; it is a study of life itself. Sex is about life, how we came into being and how we look at the big picture of everything, not just unbridled hedonistic gratification for a moment. It points back to the origin of life in creation and how that life is passed on to every generation. The Bible repeatedly tells us that so and so “begat” so and so. Everything about this subject cries out against the vulgar and implores us to handle it with sanctity. Sex is not just a dirty joke. Human life is sacred. If we don’t respect our sexuality, we will not respect what our sexuality produces, other human beings.

### In the Image of God

Coming from God, human life is sacred. Speaking to the oneness of Himself in His triune being, God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” Then we read, “So God created man in his own image...” (Genesis 1:26, 27). Genesis 2:7 adds to this information with, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [the spirit]; and man became a living soul” (also notice 1 Thessalonians 5:23). God is called “the Father of spirits” in Hebrews 12:9. Of death, we read in Ecclesiastes 12:7, “Then shall the dust [the body] return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.” Since God is spirit (John 4:24), we conclude that the “image and likeness of God” has to do with the spirit. It is temporarily clothed with a physical body. And, being in the image and likeness of God, human life must be esteemed with the utmost dignity and respect. It is encircled with the halo of sanctity.

### Worship God, Honor Parents, and Respect Our Fellowman

The Ten Commandments given to Moses were on two tablets of stone, the first directly having to do with God and the second with man (Exodus 20:1-17; 32:15, 16). God, being the Creator and source of life, was to be worshipped. The second table continued with, “Honour thy father and thy mother...” Yes, God was to be worshipped as the source of life, but parents were to be honored as the means whereby this life was passed on to others (and sex was how this was accomplished). Then because life is sacred, one of the Ten Commandments says, “Thou shalt not kill.” This was followed by, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Sex, whereby this life coming from God was passed on to successive generations, was to be held in the utmost sanctity. God has placed sex in the context of marriage and that alone. And the other commandments in this table have to do with dignity and respect in relationship to other people, people made in the image of God. Sex is sacred because God, and life in His image, is sacred. Respecting our sexuality assures that we will respect what our sexuality produces, life, and other human beings.

### The Sanctity of Life in Its Beginning

Eve recognized the uniqueness of human life. With the birth of her first child, she said, “I have gotten a man from the Lord” (Genesis 4:1). It was not just a biological thing that had taken place. The Law of Moses likewise recognized the sacredness of human life, even before birth. Consider this Scripture. “If men strive [fight], and hurt a woman

with child, so that her fruit depart from her [so that she gives birth prematurely], and yet no mischief [harm] follow: he [the one who caused it] shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief [harm] follow, then thou shalt give life for life" (Exodus 21:22, 23). In other words, if the aborted baby died, the person responsible would pay with his life. We are told that John the Baptist would be "filled with the Holy Ghost [Spirit], even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15). Human life is sacred, and even before birth the unborn fetus is fully recognized as a human entity. How tragic that modern man would so lightly esteem and so heartlessly regard human life and practice abortion. There is a Day of Judgment coming.

## II. "MALE AND FEMALE CREATED HE THEM" (Genesis 1:27, 28)

Let us go on with our ABC's. Although small children may not understand all of the ramifications, even preschoolers have no problem understanding that they are either boys or girls (but, odd as it may seem, many who are older don't seem to know). In Genesis we noticed God's expressed intention to make man. Then we read, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him:



*male* and *female* created he them" (Genesis 1:26, 27). In chapter 2 of Genesis, we find this more fully elaborated upon. God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve (as someone has said). We are told in verse 24, as the writer Moses gives his inspired commentary, "Therefore shall a *man* leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his *wife*..." This is unquestionably a heterosexual union.

### Homosexual Distortion

Yes, God made mankind male and female (and instituted marriage). That was for the ongoing of the human family (Genesis 1:27, 28), and for the personal and emotional wellbeing of each (male and female). But since Satan is in rebellion against heaven, it is no surprise that he, in time, would try to abrogate, unmake and destroy God's orderly arrangement of things. Homosexual perversion en-

ters to distort the picture. God has had to deal with this in all three dispensations of time (and it is still with us).

### Sodom and Gomorrah, First Record of Such a Practice

We are first introduced to such an unthinkable practice in the Patriarchal Age, the age immediately following creation. The 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis provides the record. And from this unseemly and loathsome episode, the word "Sodomy" has entered our vocabulary. Read this chapter. Reference is made back to the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah repeatedly throughout the Bible. Even in the New Testament Peter says that "God spared not," "turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample [example] unto those that after should live ungodly" (2 Peter 2:6). What was the ungodly living of Sodom and Gomorrah? According to Jude, verse 7, they were "giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh." "Strange flesh" means the unnatural homosexual perversion.

### "It Is an Abomination"

Next, in the Mosaic Age, the Law of Moses is very plain and comes down heavy on Sodomy. The Old Testament was the law of sin and death, as it emphasized the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Leviticus 18:22 unmistakably instructs, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is abomination." Leviticus 20:13 states this again a little more forcefully, coming down with the punishment that came with such behavior, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." Also notice Deuteronomy 23:17 (1 Kings 14:24; 15:11, 12; 22:45, 46).

### The Christian Age Today

Of course we live in the Christian Age today, and the New Testament more limitedly is our rule of faith and practice. What does the New Testament have to say about this? We highlight these truths because some in the circle of so-called "churches" in the denominational world are openly accepting "members" who are living such a "lifestyle" and are ordaining leaders who are likewise living like this. (And the world has already gone that way). But you are either a Bible believer or you are not. True churches need to be vocal and outspoken, lest they become apathetic and their convictions erode. Peter and Jude warned about this (2 Peter 2 and Jude).

(Continued on Next Page)

## A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality (Continued from Previous Page)

### Relevant New Testament Scriptures

Consider these relevant Scriptures, listed in the sequence they are found in the New Testament. This is the Word of God.

- “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves...For this cause God gave them up unto *vile affections*: for even their *women did change the natural use unto that which is against nature*: And likewise also the *men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly...*” (Romans 1:22, 24, 26, 27).
- “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor *effeminate*, nor *abusers of themselves with mankind* [these two refer to homosexual practices], Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10).
- “Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for man slayers, For whoremongers [fornicators], for *them that defile themselves with mankind* [those involved in homosexual practices], for menstealers [kidnappers], for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing contrary to sound doctrine” (1 Timothy 1:9, 10).
- “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after *strange flesh* [unnatural homosexual perversion], are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude, verse 7)

And in the light of Romans 1:24 and 1 Thessalonians 4:7, the use of the word “*uncleanness*” many times refers to sexual sins, and when it is listed with (but separate from) adultery and fornication, it likely refers to homosexual perversion and other deviate sexual practices (2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3-5; Colossians 3:5; 2 Peter 2:10).

### III. “AND THEY SHALL BE ONE FLESH” (Genesis 2:24)

Now let us “zero” in on the more intimate relationship of marriage, the sexual union itself. In the abandonment of morals, the world by its unbridled and disgusting behavior has stigmatized the subject of sex. It has become something dirty to the minds of many Christians, and the sex act itself is regarded as less than holy. Religious people reluctantly talk about it (and perhaps correctly so, because this is a very personal and private matter). However, as this is a study in (and of) the sanctity of sex, we now discreetly continue with the subject. We want to know the teaching of the Word of God.



#### Honorable in All and Among All

To get right to the point, Hebrews 13:4 sums up how the Bible as a whole looks upon this. “Marriage is *honourable in all, and the bed undefiled*: but whoremongers [fornicators] and adulterers God will judge.” God has placed sex in the context of marriage (and any departure from this will be met with judgment). As everything about marriage is honorable, the sexual union is honorable. This word “honorable,” in the language of the New Testament, comes from the same root word, *timé* (*timao*), used in the injunction to “*Honour* thy father and mother” (Ephesians 6:2). Even as parents are unquestionably to be honored, and marriage is to be highly esteemed by all, the sexual union itself is honorable. It is encased in an element of dignity and sanctity, as it is the procreative act (whereby life comes from God) and the most intimate expression of committed love.

#### “They Shall Be One Flesh”

In the beginning after God had expressed His intentions of making man, we read, “So God created man,” followed by, “*male* and *female* created he them” (Genesis 1:26, 27). The end of the chapter gives a summary statement as to what God thought about this creation. “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was very good...*” In the process of making everything, He had said, “It is not good that the man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18), and consequently and sub-



sequently the woman was made (and brought to Adam). Commenting on this, Moses says, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be *one flesh*" (Genesis 2:24).

#### **"One Flesh" Means Sexual Union**

Thus, God instituted and set up marriage, consummating in the sexual union (and the sexual union typifying the oneness of the whole relationship). That is the significance of the expression, "and they shall be *one flesh*." This is how Paul understood and applied it in 1 Corinthians 6:16 (15-20), as he deals with the problem of fornication in the church. The physical union, experienced by being sexually united with a prostitute, was what God had designed for marriage. Thus Paul prods their thinking with questions, one being, "What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be *one flesh*." Thus, "One flesh" in Genesis 2:24 basically has reference to sex.

#### **"Be Thou Ravished Always With Her Love"**

We let the explicit language of Proverbs, as follows, speak for itself as the father gives words of wisdom and advice to his son. "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why will thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?" (Proverbs 5:15-20). Faithfulness to his wife in the intimate relations of marriage is urged, instead of being drawn away by a prostitute.

#### **"To Avoid Fornication"**

The city of ancient Corinth was notoriously famous as a cesspool of sexual immorality. There was a saying that "not every young man should go to Corinth." To Christians who lived in such an environment, Paul wrote, "To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence [conjugal rights]: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of [authority over] her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of [authority over] his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not [deprive ye not in this matter] one the other except it be with con-

sent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency [lack of self-control]" (1 Corinthians 7:2-5). This language is plain in showing the appropriateness of sexual relations between a Christian man and his wife. God has created us with sexual drives and feelings, which only can be acceptably fulfilled in marriage. If we remain unmarried, God expects us to live celibate lives.

#### **Because of the "Present Distress"**

In view of what Paul has said in these verses above (1 Corinthians 7:2-5), some might be perplexed by the verse right before this (7:1). Here he wrote, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman [to marry]," but then he goes on, after saying "Nevertheless," to make suggestions about marriage that we have just noticed. Why did he say, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman"? Perhaps verses 26 and 27 have the answer, "I suppose therefore that this is good for the *present distress*, I say, that it is good for a man so to be [remain as he is]. Art thou bound unto a wife? Seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife." The present and coming times of persecution and distressful situations would not be conducive to married life and having children. They could survive better unmarried without a family to have to look after. Looking to the coming of the destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus had said, "And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!" (Matthew 24:19). Circumstances like that seem to be in Paul's mind when he said, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman." It was not to disparage the institution of marriage. In fact, Paul later wrote to Timothy warning about a coming departure from the faith wherein its adherents would be "forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats" (1 Timothy 4:1-6). Yes, marriage is honorable in every way.

#### **An Interesting Question**

Winding down our thoughts on being "one flesh," an interesting question naturally enters our minds. Why has God created us in such a way that the act of procreation is such an intensely pleasurable experience? (Only to be marred by the pains of childbirth). Perhaps the pleasure of the procreative act is to encourage such a union so that mankind will reproduce. Also, perhaps it typifies and is indicative that life itself should be a pleasant experience. Reproduction comes across as a beautiful and fragrant experience in the blossom

(Continued on Next Page)

## A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality (Continued from Previous Page)

of flowers and in the delicious fruit on trees in the plant kingdom. It is almost like God is celebrating life, which should be a joyous experience. But the pains of childbirth remind us that we are sinners (Genesis 3:16) and that we have thrown God's order of things out of kilter.

### IV. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS AND RELATED MATTERS

Under this last section, we would like to deal with several other matters related to the theme of this article, but perhaps miscellaneous in nature. What we are writing here is not exhaustive, but important enough to be "touched upon" in this study. We have been trying to look into the sanctity of human sexuality. Becoming and being informed, we will be better equipped to be "perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

#### "Until Death Do Us Part"

The Pharisees approached Jesus with a question whereby they hoped to ensnare him, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" His answer summed up several Scriptures that we have already studied as he got to the crux of their question. (Herein we see the teaching of the kingdom). "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave [be glued] to his wife: and they twain [two] shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain [two], but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, *let not man put asunder*...And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away [divorce] his wife, *except it be for fornication*, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:3-9). In this day of laxity, and the breaking down of the home, this matter needs to be taken seriously. God's plan is that marriage be "until death do us part."

#### "Whosoever Looketh on a Woman to Lust After Her Hath Committed Adultery With Her Already in His Heart"

Another matter that, likewise, really needs to be taken seriously today was spoken by our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That *whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery* with her already in his

heart" (Matthew 5:27, 28). In dealing with this problem, Jesus speaks of plucking out ones eye and cutting off a hand, spiritually speaking, rather than having the whole body "cast into hell" (5:29, 30). Like punishment for the overt act of adultery (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 21:8), lust (adultery in the heart) will cause a person to go to hell (unless there is repentance). God's

(Continued on Page 11)

## BIBLE QUESTIONS

### (Random Questions Over the Bible)

1. Who in the Bible said, "Am I my brother's keeper?"
2. What are three instances in the Bible where men were ill advised by their wives?
3. Which one of the twelve tribes of Israel had its inheritance (assigned territory) within the bounds of another tribe (the tribe of Judah)?
4. What was the occasion in the Bible when 42,000 people lost their lives because they could not correctly pronounce a word?
5. What three different men at three different times through insurrection tried to usurp the throne from King David?
6. What was a common expression used in the Old Testament to refer to the extent of the land of Israel?
7. How many years had it been since Israel came out of Egypt when Solomon began to build the temple?
8. During a time of dearth and famine in the land, by what two unusual ways was the prophet Elijah fed?
9. "A soft answer turneth away \_\_\_\_\_ : but grievous words stir up \_\_\_\_\_."
10. What Old Testament prophet questioned, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings?"
11. What two different cities in the Bible are called the "city of David" (one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament)?
12. Who wrote the longest books in the New Testament Scriptures (and identify them)?
13. Who said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"?
14. According to John the apostle, why has he written the gospel account that bears his name?
15. What verse can be looked upon as a key verse to the book of Acts?
16. What man took the place of Judas to be numbered with the twelve apostles?
17. Where was Paul when we are first introduced to him as Paul instead of Saul in the book of Acts?
18. Where do the "we" passages first begin in the book of Acts, indicating that the writer of the book was present in what was taking place?
19. What two reasons does the apostle Paul give as to why women are not to teach or usurp authority over men in the church?
20. Which one of the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation had a name that it was alive but was "dead" as far as the Lord was concerned?

(NOTE: Answers found elsewhere in this issue of the paper)



# READERS'

## ...Response

**APOLOGY:** Please accept our humble apology for slowness in getting correspondence answered. "We" have no staff of secretaries, etc. to handle such, and this is done by the "editor" as time allows. Be it known that you are sincerely appreciated. ☐

### GEORGIA:

■ "Please send your book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*. Use balance for your expense of printing and publishing. I appreciate your magazine *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I read it often and get much comfort from its contents. Thank you and keep up the good work."

■ "I have received *THE SWORD AND STAFF* since 4-1-88 and found it to be a great tool for teaching the truth...I used his [brother Elliott's] work on prophecy while teaching a Wednesday P.M. adult Bible class. It was the greatest study ever, so they said...Keep up the good work. God bless."

### SOUTH CAROLINA:

■ "We appreciate *THE SWORD AND STAFF* and share our copies with friends.

"Please add the following name to your mailing list. This publication will help her to live a good Christian life..."

### NORTH CAROLINA:

■ "Thank you for the recent copy of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. I've looked up and noted your website's many features and articles..." (E-mail)

■ "Thank you so much for the time and effort you put into your paper, *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. These are truly timely subjects that you are writing about God bless you and your work..." (E-mail)

■ "I appreciate your lifetime of service to the Lord and I am sure you have reached many people through your work that might never have been reached otherwise.

"I am eighty three years old...In all my life I have never seen a time when there was so much evil and wickedness going on...and going on so brazenly. At

least Adam and Eve tried to hide from God! The wicked of our day have no shame.

"I can't help but wonder if all of these tragedies of nature are a warning sign...and there have been so many of them lately..."

### TENNESSEE:

■ "I would like your permission to print in our church bulletin your article, 'Christianity Without Denominations' [Vol. 43, Number 3, p. 12 (44)]. Enjoy your paper..." (E-mail)

■ "Hope this finds you doing well. We still enjoy our *SWORD AND STAFF* very much. I am sending you a check to help cover the expense of sending them to us. God bless you in your work and help you keep on keeping on for Him. Many, many thanks from all of us here in Tennessee."

■ "Please send one copy of the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*..."

"I am very pleased, brother Gibbons, for the work you do in *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. You are teaching the truths of the Bible in your paper. I study the paper carefully. I teach the same truths you do. Your answer to the man who thought Matthew 19:9 referred to the teaching of Moses is very good. So are all of the other articles."

### KENTUCKY:

■ "Would you please mail *THE SWORD AND STAFF* to my friend, who is a new convert and is seeking knowledge?..."

■ "I would like to get a copy of your newsletter [paper]. I saw one at the court house. It really had some interesting items." (E-mail)

### WEST VIRGINIA:

■ "May I print your poems (in their entirety) in our church bulletin? One of my elders...directed me to your printed version of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. Thank you so much".

### PENNSYLVANIA:

■ "Your article on 'perfecting holiness' is much needed in the church today. Now give some practical examples of how/ways to be holy (deeds)..."

■ "Thank you for your efforts with teaching and printing the pure, undiluted gospel of Jesus Christ through the pages of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. May this be an encouragement to continue with your efforts..."

"Also, I'd like to order four more copies of the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*..."

### NEW YORK:

■ "I would like first of all to thank you for the great work you do with *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. Also to encourage you to 'farm out' the work that can be done so that your time may be 'invested' to do more writing or whatever you need to do...Thanks again for your faithfulness to this great work."

(Continued on Next Page)

## READERS'...Response

(Continued from Previous Page)

■ “A few Sunday’s ago, as we were speaking about the subject of the Holy Spirit, I shared with the congregation the story of my confusion regarding that topic, and how one day I found a booklet written by you on top of a garbage can that was in front of a church. It was an answer to my prayers and it helped me to better comprehend the Bible’s teaching on the Holy Spirit...”

■ “I am writing to you because I have received news that you write a paper that is very edifying and educational for the Christian. The news came to me from the Dominican Republic where some brothers have knowledge of your work and they have asked me to receive your studies.

“Can you send me bound volumes for the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 in Spanish?...” (Translated)

### OHIO:

■ “Please send me a copy of the book **NOBODY LEFT BEHIND**...”

“I’m grateful for your newsletter **THE SWORD AND STAFF**. It’s helped me greatly in my study of God’s Word.”

■ “Please send 1 copy of **NOBODY LEFT BEHIND**...1 copy of **POEMS OF THE SOUL AND PROVERBS**...”

“Keep up the good work for our Lord and Savior Jesus! Thank you very much! May God continue to bless you!”

■ “Please send the two bound volumes of **THE SWORD AND STAFF** [checked] and the extra is to bring my subscription up to current standing. I thank you and keep up the great work for the Lord. I find **THE SWORD AND STAFF** very interesting and a great teaching tool.”

### INDIANA:

■ “Please remove our church from your magazine mailing list...Thank you for removing us from your magazine list.”

■ “I have received your **SWORD AND STAFF** since 1980 and have enjoyed every issue. We need more people to read it, and the Bible, and to do what it says...I am sending \$25.00 for 2001-2002 bound volumes and **NOBODY LEFT BEHIND**. I am sure God will bless for all you do...”

### ILLINOIS:

■ “...We just received **THE SWORD AND STAFF** and have read it from cover to cover. We always look forward to getting it...”

■ “Please send a copy of the current **SWORD AND STAFF** to a friend of mine. I know he will enjoy it, as much as I have over the past thirty years. Keep up the good work.” (E-mail)

■ “I have received Volume 43, Number 3. You talk about a series that you started ‘**MANY, MANY IS-**

**SUES**’ ago. I have kept all my issues, and wondered if you can tell me the Volume and Number of those back issues. This would make it a simpler task of going back to find them. I have enjoyed **THE SWORD AND STAFF** nearly 50 years I think, and have (I think) all of them. I look forward to the next issue each time. Thank you for your ministry...” (E-mail)

### Editor’s Reply:

Thank you so much for writing. I am glad that you have enjoyed and found **THE SWORD AND STAFF** valuable through the years. You mentioned that you had received Volume 43, Number 3. Each year is called a “volume”—so this is the 43rd year the paper has been printed.

The series about going on unto perfection (maturity) began with Volume 38, Year 2000, Number 3, with the article “Let Us Go on unto Perfection.” It was followed by “An Explanation of Matthew 5:48.” Then with the next issue, Volume 39, Year 2001, Number 1, several articles on perfecting faith were written. Here is a listing with the dates.

1. “Perfecting and Exercising Faith” (Volume 39—2001—Number 1)

2. “What Is Believed about God Determines How He Is Trusted and the Kind of Obedience Rendered” (Volume 39—2001—Number 2)

3. “How Faith Is Acquired, Increased and Perfected” (Volume 39—2001—Number 3)

4. “The Question of Faith and Works” (Volume 40—2002—Number 2)

5. “Faith Defined and Illustrated” (Volume 40—2002—Number 3)

6. “The Moving Impetus of Faith and Grounds of Our Assurance” (Volume 40—2002—Number 4)

7. “The Life of Faith” (Volume 41—2003—Number 1; Volume 41—2003—Number 2)

After an interlude, some articles on love and holiness have followed in this series this year. If you don’t have or can’t find the said issues, they are available in bound volume form as listed on the back page of **THE SWORD AND STAFF**. Two years of publication are in each book as indicated. □

### MISSOURI:

■ “...I came across an article on your website entitled ‘**DIAKONOS = Deacon**’ (Is there an office of the minister?). I give you a hearty ‘Amen’ to your comments on the word **diakonos** and as well as the following statements: ‘Therefore, we conclude that the modern office ‘**THE MINISTER**’ is an unscriptural position not taught in the Word of God...He is a clergyman who has taken over the job of a defunct eldership and that of an inactive membership’...”

### TEXAS:

■ “I lost my first copy of **NOBODY LEFT BEHIND**. I hope someone found it and will benefit from its accurate teaching. Would you please send me two more copies? I met a nurse at the doctor’s office the other day and told her about it and she wanted to know how to get one. So I thought I would send her a copy.”

#### OKLAHOMA:

■ “Thank you for *THE SWORD AND STAFF*. With so much being written that is so far from the truth, it’s very refreshing to have the truth of God’s Word to enjoy and learn and refresh. May God bless your efforts to keep up the good work.”

■ “...I have greatly enjoyed your willingness to share your Bible knowledge with others. *THE SWORD AND STAFF* is a diamond that shines brightly. The publication has helped me tremendously!! I would like a complimentary copy, please. And information on how I can get copies of previous issues. Thank you so much. Your teaching has blessed me greatly as well as to help me grow into a more mature Christian and I am able to share what I have learned with others. Again, Thanks and God bless!!!!” (E-mail)

#### CALIFORNIA:

■ “With much excitement we have read and dwelled on your most excellent articles based on Biblical principles, sharing the truths in God’s Word, the Bible. Enclosed is an \$8.25 check for the 2004-2004 bound volumes of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*...

“Because of Jesus Christ, we send much love to you in His precious and all sufficient name.”

#### WASHINGTON:

■ “Much appreciate your efforts.”

#### PUERTO RICO:

■ “God bless you all. Hoping in the Lord Jesus Christ that this ministry be prospered in everything, beloved brothers, the paper *LA ESPADA Y EL CAYADO [THE SWORD AND STAFF]* has come into my hands and it has some very wise articles and it is a word which edifies my soul. I would like to know how much it costs so that I can receive it and share it with others. I would like to subscribe...” (Translated)

#### NIGERIA:

■ “I have come across many of *THE SWORD AND STAFF*...I get them from my brother. Now I want to enlist my name in your mail. It is an ‘open door’ for me as a gospel minister.

“Thanks and God bless you.” (E-mail) □



## A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality (Continued from Page 8)

law has placed sex and strong compulsive sexual feelings in the context of marriage. Here this is lawful and proper. However, such compulsive feelings outside of marriage are called lust, which is unlawful desire. These feelings must be reined in.

### Modest Apparel and Eye Control

Modesty, having the body properly covered, is taught from cover to cover in the Bible. Adam and Eve, who were being expelled from the Garden of

Eden (subsequently to set up human society), had their bodies clothed and completely covered by God. “Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them” (Genesis 3:21). Speaking of spiritual nakedness, but at the same time showing the parallel truth in reference to the physical, the Lord said to the Laodiceans, “I counsel thee to buy of me...white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the **shame of thy nakedness** do not appear...” (Revelation 3:18). In the preacher’s handbook written to Timothy, the apostle Paul taught “that women adorn themselves in **modest apparel**, with shamefacedness and sobriety...” (1 Timothy 2:9). There are undertones of the possibility of sexual impropriety behind all of these words. David, although he was called a man after God’s own heart, succumbed to the sin of adultery. It all started with the lust of the eyes. One night when David had arisen from his bed and had walked the stairs to the upper level of his king’s quarters, “from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon” (2 Samuel 11:2). We know the rest of the story. Adultery in the heart became the overt act. Realizing such potential danger, Job said, “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?” (Job 31:1).

### Unseemly and Indecent

In view of these sobering truths, it is alarming to live in the kind of world that we have to live in today. Sex no longer seems to be a sacred and private matter exclusively limited to the holy bonds and bounds of marriage. Its cheap and degrading display hits a person right between the eyes at every turn, whether it be in entertainment, advertising, or how a person dresses (or undresses). Style always seems to be geared to sex in some way. We live in a society wherein young women and older women present themselves as painted sex objects. Everything seems geared to invite the illicit and lustful gaze of the opposite sex. And if dresses are not embarrassingly short, as “style” many times would have them, another vulgar and provocative sight is there to be seen. Young women unabashedly put themselves on display in their skin tight, hip hugger jeans, indecently exposing their naked middle. Virginity evidently is looked upon as something outdated and undesirable. We are sad to say, but many “professing Christian” women and girls cannot be distinguished from those of the world in this matter. Like the demoniac healed by Jesus, may we kindly say, they need to be “clothed, and in his [their] right mind” (Mark 5:15).

(Continued on Next Page)

## A Study in the Sanctity of Human Sexuality *(Continued from Previous Page)*

### Paul Has Some More to Say

As we move on toward a conclusion in this article, here are some summary statements about sexual sins and their consequences the apostle Paul makes in Ephesians 5:3-7, as well as other sins. “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh [is fitting for] saints. Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting [off color jokes], which are not convenient [not fitting, not decent]: but rather giving of thanks. For this we know, that no whoremonger [fornicator], nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain [empty] words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.” This would cover all the sexual sins and off color jokes about them. “All uncleanness” is very inclusive. Paul even went on to say, “For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret” (5:12). What about such being featured as prime time entertainment, then? (Philippians 4:8 would be a good Scripture to consider here). Human life is sacred, and this underscores the sanctity of human sexuality (and the home). Life is not a dirty joke. It is a trust from God.

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Yes, the Bible teaches the sanctity of human sexuality. The concise statement in Hebrews 13:4 “pretty well” sums it up, “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers [fornicators] and adulterers God will judge.” Let us respect and follow God’s wise arrangement of things, holding this in the highest esteem. It is for our well-being, and there is a great Day of Judgment coming (Revelation 20:12-15; 21:8).

Needless to say, in this day and time, many have made a mess of their lives in sex related matters. Howbeit, there is hope. God has no delight in the death of the transgressor (Ezekiel 33:11). The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:20, “But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.” In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, the picture is pretty dismal as Paul lists all of these different kinds of sinners, then solemnly declares that they “shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Among those sinners are “fornicators,” “adulter-

ers,” “effeminate” and “abusers of themselves with mankind” [those who practice homosexuality]. But the verse that follows (6:11) is most encouraging. “And such *were* some of you [past tense]: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” How wonderful! Christianity is all about forgiveness and redemption. Didn’t Jesus say to the woman taken in adultery, “Neither do I condemn thee: *go, and sin no more*”? (John 8:3-11) S



### Here Are Some Issues the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) Supports:

- Legalization of homosexual marriage
- Legalization of child pornography
- Legalization of prostitution
- Legalization of live sex acts in public
- Legalization of sex between adults and children
- The ACLU defends the North American Man Boy Love Association whose motto is "sex before 8 or it is too late."
- Removing "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance
- Removing our motto "In God We Trust" from our money
- Forcing the Boy Scouts to accept homosexual scout leaders
- Removing prayer from school and public events
- Abortion on demand, without parental consent
- Legalizing illicit drugs
- Physician assisted suicide
- Partial-birth abortion
- Mandatory sex education
- Legalized polygamy
- Tax supported profane art

### Here Is What the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) Is Against:

- Parental notification for minors having abortion
- School vouchers
- Filters on public library computers
- Student led prayer in schools
- Nativity scenes on public property
- Sex offender registries
- Broadcast decency laws
- "Choose Life" license plates
- Tax exemptions for churches
- Posting of the Ten Commandments on public property
- Prayers before high school football games
- Parental consent laws
- "Abstinence before marriage" sex education

**To confirm these facts, or to learn more, simply place the words "ACLU supports" or "ACLU opposes" in your search bar on your computer. —American Family Association** □



## It Should Make a Difference

**P**EOPLE say that it doesn't make any difference what we believe as long as we are honest and sincere. But this is really a contradiction. If a person is honest and sincere, and reads what the Bible says, he will be disposed to believe it and want to put it into practice (not something else). □

---



---

# BARBS

...with a POINT

---

**IF you live** like a fool, you will die accordingly.

*Many people are baptized, but, sad to say, don't even get wet as far as Christianity is concerned.*

You can't walk with the Lord if you try to have one foot in the church and the other in the world.

*You can never be filled with the Holy Spirit unless and until you empty yourself of self.*

If you would preach, or teach, you must study (if what you say is to have any substance to it and really be of help to others)—1 Timothy 4:13, 15, 16; 2 Timothy 2:15.

*Faith moves mountains, and if we really have faith, it will move us, too.*

Much of the modern preoccupation with prophecy is not unlike palm reading, fortune telling and astrology, being little more than a carnal curiosity about the future.

*The church is the body of Christ and in a very real sense to forsake the assembly of the church is to forsake Christ (Hebrews 10:25).*

If your convictions are eroding, you are backsliding (and in a matter of time your Christian life will fall apart if not corrected).

*When the church mimics the world, it is not imitating Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).*

You don't drive sheep, you lead them; and as a leader of the flock of God, you first must lead by way of example.

*Some people are going to do what they please whether it pleases God or not.*

The person who thinks he is perfect, aside from the blood and forgiveness of Christ, has by his very thoughts shown that he is not perfect.

*If peacemakers are called "children of God" (Matthew 5:9), what would troublemakers be called?*

If you are bored by the "old, old story," chances are you won't get to sing the "new song" in glory for it will be the "old, old story."

*If you don't love the truth, you are a "sitting duck" for apostasy (if you are not already an apostate).*

Cheap grace only cheapens Christianity; although salvation is free, it cost Christ everything and we personally must count the cost before entering into discipleship.

*Some people if they are not in the driver's seat will not even go along for the ride.*

Creation implies purpose, purpose implies responsibility, and responsibility implies accountability (so that's why some people rather believe in evolution).

*Doubt won't help you out when you are down and out; trust is a must.*

People inordinately preoccupied with making a "buck" usually "pass the buck" when it comes to their responsibility in spiritual matters.

*In lighting up a cigarette, you extinguish your light for Christ.*

It is hard to reason with unreasonable people, for usually they don't have a reason.

*Irregular church attendance indicates that there are other irregularities in a Christian's life.*

It seems senseless to talk about getting back to and restoring the church of the New Testament, then bypass that church and set up other organizations to do the work of the church.

*Christianity has no greater enemies than its inconsistent friends.*

Don't die until you have learned how to live, and you haven't learned how to live until you have learned how to die.

*By having second thoughts, many times we save ourselves from the folly of the first ones.* □

### *Leftovers*

Leftovers are such humble things;  
We would not serve them to a guest,  
And yet we serve them to the Lord  
Who should always have the best.  
We give to Him leftover time,  
Stray minutes here, a little there;  
Leftover cash we give to Him,  
The pocket change that we can spare;  
We give our youth unto the world,  
To worldly pleasures, lust and strife;  
Then in declining years we give  
To Him the remnants of our life.

—*Author Unknown*

## “Yea, and...Amen”

“For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

The word “amen” is a most remarkable word. It was brought over directly [and intact] from the Hebrew into the *Koiné* Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that it is practically a universal word. It has been called the best-known word in human speech. The word is directly related—in fact, almost identical—to the Hebrew word for “believe” (aman), or “faithful.” Thus, it came to mean “sure” or “truly,” an expression of absolute trust and confidence. When one believes God, he indicates his faith by an “amen.” When God makes a promise, the believer's response is “amen”—“so it will be!” In the New Testament, it is often translated “verily” or “truly.” When we pray according to His Word and His will, we know God will answer, so we close with an “amen,” and so also do we conclude a great hymn or anthem of praise and faith.

The word is even a title of Christ Himself. The last of His letters to the seven churches begins with a remarkable salutation by the glorified Lord: “These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God” (Revelation 3:14). We can be preeminently certain that His Word is always faithful and true, because He is none other than the Creator of all things, and thus He is our eternal “Amen.” As our text reminds us, every promise of God in Christ is “yea and amen,” as strong an affirmation of truth as can be expressed in the Greek language.

It is, therefore, profoundly meaningful that the entire Bible closes with an “amen.” “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen” (Revelation 22:21), assuring everyone who reads these words that the whole Book is absolutely true and trustworthy. Amen!—*Source Unknown* □

## Ten Commandments for A Happy Church

1. Speak to people. Speak to everyone, especially to those whom you don't know. There is nothing quite so nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile. Your smile is one of your finest assets. Use it! It doesn't cost a thing!
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to any person's ears is the sound of his or her own name. If you don't know the person's name, introduce yourself and likely the person will respond with his or her name.

4. Be friendly and helpful. If you want friends, learn to be a friend. Everyone needs them. No one has too many.
5. Be cordial. Try to speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. Try to like everybody and everybody will like you. Do not limit yourself to a few friends when there are so many likeable people about you.
7. Be generous with praise. And be just as sparing with criticism.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Usually, there are three sides to a controversy: yours, the other person's, and the right one. Try to see all of them.
9. Be alert to give service. It is what we do for others that counts most in life. Try giving yourself away. It's fun.
10. Develop a sense of humor. To this good sense of humor, add a generous dose of patience and a dash of humility. Then get ready to receive many blessings. They're sure to come!—*Selected*

## A Modern Parable on Tipping

**N**OW IT CAME to pass that a certain man invited a church man to lunch and they went to a popular restaurant. The waiter was very efficient, and the food was good. As they arose to depart, the church man observed that his host laid some money under the edge of the plate. And the waiter, who stood by, smiled happily; which being interpreted, meant that the tip was satisfactory.

Now, with such customs not all are familiar and this parable entereth not into the merits or demerits of tipping. But the church man began to mediate on that money which was tipped. He well knew that the proverbial tip must be at least a tenth, if not more, lest the waiter unhappily turn against you. And it came to him that few people so honor their God as they honor their waiter. For they give the waiter the tenth, but they give unto God whatsoever little they can spare!

Verily, doth man fear his waiter more than he feareth his GOD? And doth he love God less than he loveth his waiter? Doth he desire to please his waiter more than pleasing his God? Truly, a man and his money are past understanding! □

### AN INTERESTING ASSIGNMENT

*Make a list of noteworthy uses of the number 40 in the Bible in reference to happenings and people and see how many you can “come up with.”* (See what we found on next page)



## AN INTERESTING ASSIGNMENT

(The List We Made of the Use of the Number 40 in the Bible)

1. The Flood—Raining 40 days and nights as world was flooded (Genesis 7:12).
2. Egyptian Embalming—They were involved 40 days in doing this (Genesis 50:2, 3).
3. Mount Sinai—Moses was 40 days and nights in getting the Law (Exodus 24:18; 34:28).
4. Spies Searched out the Land of Canaan—40 Days involved in doing this (Numbers 13:25).
5. Israel's Wilderness Wandering—Israel wandered 40 years in the Wilderness (Numbers 14:33, 34; Joshua 5:6; Amos 2:10).
6. Stripes—Judicial Punishment not to exceed 40 stripes (Deuteronomy 25:2, 3).
7. King Solomon's Stalls—He had 40,000 stalls for his horses (1 Kings 4:26).
8. King Solomon's Reign—He reigned 40 years (1 Kings 11:42).
9. Elijah's Eating and Drinking—Elijah miraculously went 40 days and nights on the strength of one meal (1 Kings 19:8).
10. King David's Reign—He reigned 40 years (1 Chronicles 29:27).
11. Jonah's Preaching—He said Nineveh would be overthrown in 40 days (Jonah 3:4).
12. Jesus' Fasting—After his baptism he fasted 40 days (Matthew 4:2).
13. Time on Earth After Resurrection of Christ—The Lord was seen of his disciples, off and on, 40 days before his ascension (Acts 1:3).
14. Man Healed—The man was above 40 years old who was healed by Peter and John (Acts 4:22).
15. Life of Moses—His life can be divided in three equal 40 year periods (Acts 7:23, 30, 36).
16. King Saul's Reign—He reigned 40 years (Acts 13:21).

### *The Printed Page*



The printed page is the greatest pulpit  
That God has given to man;

Its message stirs the heartstrings  
In every tribe and clan.

It shouts to souls in silence  
Or whispers in a crowd;  
Gives courage to the humble,  
Or flays the monarch proud.

It prompts no false demeanor,  
Upholds no vain display.  
It pleads, persuades and reasons,  
At night or in the day.

It reaches every cranny  
Where men and women dwell;  
Goes in unhappy mansions  
And into prison cells.

And whether book or pamphlet  
A leaflet or in tomes,

It speaks in store and factory,  
In tenements and homes;

It never shows resentment,  
Though slighted for an age;  
And brings the light to children,  
To fools and to the sage;

This preacher has no equal,  
This pulpit has no peer;  
The printed page lives on and on  
To comfort and to cheer.

—Anonymous

Perhaps you can find more noteworthy and interesting things involving the use of the number 40 in the Bible, but these were the ones we "came up with." This was interesting. Check it out.



### When the Bible Was Put into Chapters and Verses

**T**HE BIBLE has 66 books, divided into 1,189 chapters consisting of 31,173 verses. The Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton about 1228. The Old Testament was divided into verses by R. Nathan in 1448 and the New Testament by Robert Stephanus in 1551. The first printed Bible into verses was an Old Testament Latin edition by Pagninus, printed in 1528. The first complete English version of the Bible divided into verses was the Geneva Bible, printed in 1560.—*Selected*

#### *Answers to:*

### **BIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Genesis 4:9;
2. (1) Genesis 3:6-8; (2) Job 2:9,10; (3) 1 Kings 21:1-14;
3. Joshua 19:1,9;
4. Judges 12:1-6;
5. (1) 2 Samuel 15:1-10; (2) 2 Samuel 20:1-2; (3) 1 Kings 1:5-10;
6. Judges 20:1; 1 Samuel 3:20; 2 Samuel 17:11;
7. 1 Kings 6:1;
8. 1 Kings 17:1-16;
9. Proverbs 15:1;
10. Malachi 3:8-10;
11. (1) Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 11:4-8); (2) Bethlehem (Luke 2:4);
12. Luke (Luke and Acts);
13. John 1:29;
14. John 20:30,31;
15. Acts 1:8;
16. Acts 1:15-26; 2:14;
17. Acts 13:4-13 (verse 9);
18. Acts 16:10-17, etc.;
19. 1 Timothy 2:11-14;
20. Revelation 3:1.

#### Order Bound Volumes of

#### *La Espada y El Cayado*

- ☐ 1995-1996 volumen encuadernado de "La Espada y El Cayado" (en español) —\$7.75;
- ☐ 1997-98—\$7.75
- ☐ 1999-2000—\$7.95



# The Sword AND Staff Treasure

**Bound Volumes of The Sword and Staff  
for 2003-2004 Now Ready!**



**THE MATERIAL** in *The Sword and Staff* is timeless and timely, being the presentation of the eternal truths of God's Word. Therefore, we save a good number of the papers back each printing and every two years put them into a bound volume with an index for easy reference. This makes this valuable material available for those who have missed out

on earlier editions. Also, it makes the material available in more of a permanent form for further and future use (even for those who have gotten the individual copies). This is a good source for sermons, lessons and simply for good basic Bible study if you are hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Many have taken advantage of this.

We suggest that you send \$8.25 to help with the cost incurred in printing and mailing and order this book today. Also, see the back volumes that are available and add them to your library. We believe that you will be glad that you did. Send your order to *The Sword and Staff*. Address is found elsewhere on this page.

**2003-2004 bound volumes of The Sword and Staff—\$8.25**

**NOBODY LEFT BEHIND: INSIGHT INTO "END-TIME" PROPHECIES—\$15.00**

**(CLIP AND MAIL\OR WRITE)**

Gentlemen:

Enclosed find my contribution. Please put me on the mailing list of *The Sword and Staff*.  New  Renew

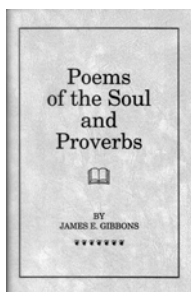
Name: .....

Address (with zip): .....

**(Check for bound volumes of The Sword and Staff)**

- 1987-1988 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.50
- 1989-1990 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.50
- 1991-1992 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.50
- 1993-1994 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.50
- 1995-1996 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.75
- 1997-1998 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.75
- 1999-2000 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$7.95
- 2001-2002 bound volume of *The Sword and Staff*—\$8.25
- 2003-2004 bound volumes of *The Sword and Staff*—\$8.25
- Poems of The Soul and Proverbs** (by James E. Gibbons)—\$5.00; 5 or more copies, \$4.00 each

## Second Binding of Poem Book!



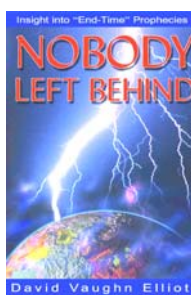
**WHEN** we first came out with this little poem book by the editor of this paper, we didn't know what to expect. And we were pleasantly surprised at its good reception. After all, much of the Bible is written in the form of poetry, and God has used this more of an elevated mode of expression to get His point across even in books of the Bible not classified as poetry. So, we should

not have been totally surprised that people who are faithful Bible readers would be receptive to this kind of writing.

Many of these books have been ordered and widely distributed throughout the land, and now we have made another major binding of this little volume. Send \$5.00 for a single book and \$20.00 for 5 books. Order today.

## Second Printing Now Ready!

**THIS BOOK** is definitely filling a need, as materials



along this line are not in print or available. Comments and repeated reorders are indicative of its good reception.

● "The book is exactly what has been needed!"

● "This is one of the greatest books I've ever read—very informative and Scriptural."

● "Thank you for the book *NOBODY LEFT BEHIND*. It is a very good book. It sure puts prophecy in perspective, and it is well written."

To help with the expenses of printing and publishing, we are making this book available on a contribution basis. We suggest that you send a contribution of \$15.00. Place your order with *The Sword and Staff* today. You will appreciate this book.—*Editor*

➔ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** jamesgibbons@earthlink.net

➔ **Check Out Our Web Site:** ↓ ↓ ↓

**http://jgibbons.8m.com**

**The SWORD and STAFF**

Post Office Box 147

Mt. Airy, NC 27030 USA

Telephone: (336) 789-1044

To Addressee or Current Resident



Non-Profit Organ.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Sugarcreek, OH 44681  
Permit No. 44