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McInteer Sermon Outlines - James

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"WHAT'S FUN ANYMORE?"

James 1:1-4

- I. Is this fun?
 - A. Jack Lennon arrested in London--Marijuana--described as "harmless giggle".
 1. Okla City editorial
 2. Let's have a pot party??
 - B. Mr. Cox sat in next booth at Wewoka--cursing--talking, as a gray haired man about girls & drinking--he gets stewed when with the boys--beer belongs!
 1. Let's have a sot party???
 - C. Movies are to be graded--self imposed D--perhaps decency? X--adult only--I think it out to be "crossed out" entirely!
 1. Let's have a rot party????
 - D. Latham James asked "how are you making out?" Around daters don't use the word--petting and familiarity.
 1. Let's have a passion party?
 - E. We get together and decemate everyone with tongues?
 1. Let's have a slop party??
 - F. Rioters walk through streets--carrying gleeful stolen goods
 1. Let's have a rob party???

II. I'm puzzled--what's fun anymore--is this our idea of a bit time.

III. Strangely the Bible, so many bind in black, has a bouyant note of happiness.

- A. Can I find in it what would make for good times?
- B. Learning what would can I practice it?

IV. This is "Fun"

James 1:2-4 "my br. count it all joy when

A. Some observations.

- 1. Christianity isn't easy
- 2. Divers temptations=
 - (a) Testing
 - (b) Trial--with an end in mind, namely to make you stronger.
 - (c) Does not carry idea of seduction
 - (d) Barclay said "not to make us fall but to make us soar".
 - (e) Barnes said never brought to induce man to sin--in this sense God tempts none (James 1:13-14).
Rather tests whether you will adhere to faith.
- 3. Some of our tests:
 - (a) Sorrow
 - (b) Disappointment
 - (c) Seduction

- (d) Unpopularity
- (e) Sacrifice
- (f) Persecution
- (g) Poverty
- (h) Sickness
- (i) In-laws, neighbors

4. Trials means sterling coinage--word that shows genuineness

5. Patience= unswerving constancy

- (a) Turn adversities into things of greatness
- (b) Christian martyrs died singing
- (c) Bunyan in his *Interpreter's House* has Patience appear as the deep, steady, self controlled character in contrast with Shallow, sensual Passion which grasps the present and misses the future.

6. Results

- (a) make perfect=makes you fit for the task--by the way we meet our experiences it shows whether we are being suited for life or not.
 - (1) "Why have trials--so I can learn to endure more trials?"

- (2) No--but you need endurance!
- (3) Military has harassment to learn poise, leadership, etc.
- (4) "God brings music out of most unlikely places!"

(b) Make complete=entire

- (1) It's like a perfect animal--all blemishes removed.
- (2) Used only here and I. Thess 5:23
- (3) Means without defects
- (4) Will we accept the training, the conditioning?
- (5) Gladstone quote

The very God of peace sanctify you wholly

(c) Nothing deficient

- (1) Reaches day by day nearer the standard of Jesus.
- (2) Character is full!
- (3) Read Procter poem

7. Can you count such all joy?

- (a) Do we seek to hinder the will of God that tests our souls and rebel against the trials?
- (b) Does God use these events to make you better--is this your attitude? Though troubles not enjoyed, they are turned into advantages!

5.

(c) Jacobsen said we normally ask God
To change circumstances to suit us
--but no, God changes us to suit
the circumstances.

Heb. 13:21 "Make you perfect in every

(d) Storms test the house! *good work to do his will*

(e) Like Hamlet we all feel the "slings
and arrows of outrageous fortune".

(f) Christianity asks for a triumphant
spirit based on invincible confidence

(g) Did you ever try to pain a paralysed
limb? No response--try healthy one
and you feel it. Perhaps your pain
proves your faith! "Count it all joy"

West End - '07/27/68

Marijuana Misconception

TOO MANY uninformed people are looking on the use of marijuana as a harmless diversion, the Oklahoma State Medical Association notes in reminding us that this is Community Health Week.

It's a good time to point out again that just because marijuana is not physically addicting does not remove it from the dangerous drug category.

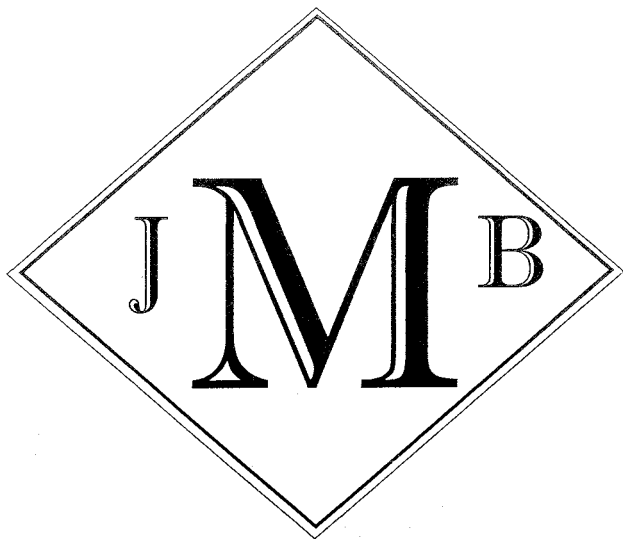
Medical studies have shown that smoking "pot" frequently leads to trying other drugs which are addicting. Using it sporadically can be dangerous too. A person "high" on marijuana is just as dangerous to

himself and his fellow man as a drunk driver.

The best example we've heard of the danger of marijuana came from a Federal narcotics agent.

A department store janitor, bored with the lonely job of sweeping the floors, turned to marijuana. Lost in a euphoric flight of fantasy, he dreamed that his broom was a beautiful woman and danced around the floor with it.

Harmless? Well, a watchman caught him and grabbed the broom. The janitor pulled out a knife and stabbed him to death.



God Inspects My Religion

James 1:27

- I. How do you use the word "religious?"
You say "He's a religious man" - by what standard may I ask?
 - A. He goes to church.
 - B. He has the preacher play golf with him.
 - C. He gives to Christian Schools - but is there not more?

James 1:27

1. Acts 26:5 Strict sect of our religion.
2. James 1:26 Religious and bridled not his tongue
3. Acts 13:43 Religious proselytes

- II. As we examine God's statement we will see how well we jive with His discreption. James states it briefly - it's not all - but a part of the whole. It's a synecdoche - as we say of ships "I saw seven sails." More to a ship than a sail. It is by God's inspection.

III. God cites these features.

- A. A religion that is pure.
 1. This the positive side.
 2. It is an association with God that is free from contamination.
 3. It is not self-pleasing and self-seeking.

4. I'll find pure religion loves people
5. It's like a precious stone, we rejoice in its purity.
6. It leads to peaceful heart - nothing amiss
7. It stands for something Max Weber defined modernity as rationalization, bureaucracy and disenchantment.
8. No foreign admixture

B. It's undefiled.

1. Neither my behavior or practice shows defilement.
2. It has a negative side.
3. Error found in apostolic times - we must be careful
4. Good works were depreciated and even lied about - A. and Saphori
5. Joe Wright's prayer

C. But we have not dealt with religion.

1. Means to bind back.
2. James is not telling everything.
3. It shows our religion mixes us with people.
4. I saw a man pray at Captain D's left him a note to commend
5. Society needs us, as salt touches the masses.
6. James is going to define religion in terms of everyday life

7. We see the signs, slogans, even sagging as in britches.
8. It's practical - not mystic or theoretical as to how many angels can dance on the head of a pin
9. The outward service of God
10. Consists not in speculations and notions, however, just orthodox, not in forms or modes of worship however scripture and necessary not in warmth of affection, or ardor of zeal but in consequence of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus - insists in the possession and exercise of love to God and all mankind.

D. Please remember it is "before God."
Our Father

1. Not prior to Him as we do our own thing - but open to his sight
2. That implies we try to please Him
3. Some religions may pass before men; ours must pass before God.
4. Do we see much religion today?

2 Cor. 6:17-18 Come out from among them

Gal. 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burden

5. Note who God is - Father!
 Do all in His presence

6. Word James uses purposefully has meaning of what's done outside - thus widows and orphans - no mystic stuff.

IV. A special way to show it
"Visit widows and Orphans"

A. Visit

1. Means to inspect, to look upon, to care for
2. Involves our seeing and doing what we can to aid
3. Incorporated in the word is your need to exercise yourself to the fullness of your power

Job 29:12-13 Because I delivered the poor
Job 30:25 Did I weep for him - troubled
Job 31:16-22
Matt. 25:45

4. Embraces a generosity akin to God
5. Never devoid of generosity
6. But please know this does not minimize worship and other good works.

Gal. 6:10 "As you have opportunity

7. Personal contact is vital not just impersonal donations to charity
8. Maintain balance

B. Widows and Orphans

1. Least able to take care of themselves.
2. Word suggests this is part of the whole figure - our synecdoche
3. Feel the welfare of society
4. Distress common to all as Dr. Kervorkian does his evil work
5. He that sows sparingly remember also so reaps

V. Keep unspotted from the world

A. Keep

1. Anxiously do it
2. Jealousy guard
3. Watch fullness - as same time praying to and depending on God for sustainment

John 17:15 I pray not..should take-keep

Jude 24 Present you faultless

B. Unspotted from the world

1. Without wrinkle or stain
2. World without God corrupts
3. We can come out from it
4. We can be generous - not a one time affair but do it always
5. In summary - religion shows practical love and sympathy and ever strives for holiness
6. Holy life and charitable heart!

Woodson Chapel C/C

8/28/96

Collegeside, Cookeville, TN

11/10/96

Granny White - 5/28/97

Writing Out Loud...

Chaplain Joe Wright, of the Kansas House of Representatives, prayed the following prayer at the opening of a recent session:

Heavenly Father, We come before you today to ask your forgiveness and seek your direction and guidance. We know your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that's exactly what we've done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and called it moral pluralism.

We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition.

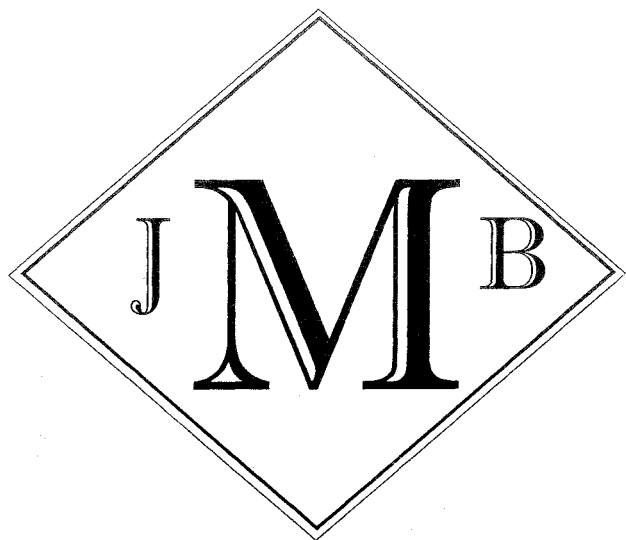
We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by you, to govern this great state. Grant them your wisdom and rule, and may their decisions direct us to the center of your will. I ask it in the name of your son, the Living Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FUTURE

James 4:13-17

- I. I surely do not want to be out of place as I speak of it "Ye know not what shall be on the morrow" (James 4:14).
- A. Facing this limitation I dare not outline it.
- B. Neither must I be devoid of preparation for it.
- II. About the Future, however, there are some uncontested truths. *5 things* *3) Demands* *Necessities* *Preparation* *4) Consequences*
- A. We are all going into it.
1. Unlike those roller coaster rides in Louisville, I can't say to the future "I'm not going."
 2. Every day I've a nudge toward tomorrow. *2) Demands* *by which we meet*
 - a) I accept by faith though I've not been there.
 - b) No contemporaries have returned to tell me what it is like.
 - c) Faith lets me accept things I've not experienced such as tomorrow and death.
 3. I hope to face it with a measure of joy. Norman Cousins said "No one knows enough to be a pessimist."
- B. Future is colored by what I am doing today--the law of sowing & reaping.
1. Fletcher's "Little Things" - #1.
 2. Family
 - a) 15 yr. old Kip Kinkel killed parents, students, Springfield, OR--he was voted "most likely to start World War III."

- b) Diane Loomans card #2.
- 3. Bible -- Meyers card #3.
 - a) Singing -- Hadwin #4.
 - b) Baptism -- Meador #5.
 - c) Change -- Norton #6.
 - d) Worship -- Martyr #7.
 - e) Instrument -- Hildebrand elected 4 popes, then did it for himself-- Gregory the 7th. His first papal act to outlaw all instruments in the churches. Because:
 - 1) No Biblical Justification
 - 2) No historial justification &
 - 3) It's a major cause of tension-- with Eastern churches.
 Further no reformer--Luther etc. used it.
 - f) Authority
 - (1) Shipp card #8 -- Ignorance.
 - (2) Kearley card-Reading--#9.
 - g) Preaching--Brewer--#10.
 - h) Change--Shipp--#11.
- C. Future Demands Preparation.
 - 1. Rear Family *Nesissites*
 - a) Sheets Few Good Etc. -- #12
 - b) Letter to Diognetus -- #13.
 - 2. Proper education--Young--#14.
 - 3. Honesty--Fred Russell--#15.
- D. It can be better, could be worse.
 - 1. Baird on Education--#16.
 - 2. Baird on Relativism--#17.
 - 3. Baird on Television--#18.

- E. It demands that I meet it.
1. Sony--Believe me--#19.
 2. S. H. Hall--Tent chairs--#20.
 3. Church organization--Yeakley-#21.
 4. Lincoln on criticism-#22.
 5. Stott--Lifestyle-#23.
 6. North--Remnant-#24.
 7. Surveyed--Baird-#25.
 8. Bumpus tomb.
Life--Love--Death
Then Love--Life Forever.
 9. Isaiah's Day--#26.

58:6-10

60-1-3

LITTLE THINGS

#1

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land.

Thus the little minutes,
Humble though they be,
Make the mighty ages
Of eternity.

-Julia A. Fletcher

"The Best Loved Poems of the
American People"

Diane Loomans put it this way in her short article titled, "If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again":

#2

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd fingerprint more, and point the finger
less.
I'd do less correcting, and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with
my eyes.
I would care to know less, and know to care
more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.

-over-

I'd run through more fields, and gaze at
more stars.

I'd do more hugging, and less tugging.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much
more.

I'd build self-esteem first, and the house
later.

I'd teach less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

--Dr. M. Norvel Young

Living Lights, Shining Stars

pg. 118

The Bible was not written primarily as a ^{#3} scientific or historical textbook. However, when the Bible speaks in matters related to scientific knowledge and historical knowledge, it is accurate and speaks with as much authority as it does when it speaks about matters of faith and practice. If there are parts of the Bible which are not inerrant, then the question arises, who decides which parts are true and which parts are erroneous? An errant scripture demands the critical judgment of Bible specialists. Therefore, instead of scripture sitting in judgment of men, it would have to be winnowed by man's wisdom to determine how much can be accepted.

-over-

as true and how much rejected as false. Finally, the person who rejects the inerranc of scripture has to fall back on the inerrancy of his personal judgment and give up the whole idea of a written word from God. There is no other logical ground short of complete skepticism about what the Bible contains. In fact, the doctrine of inspiration is that God inspired his writers of scripture to guard against errors; the very thing some people say the Bible contains

Is the Bible Inerrant? - Edward P. Myers

Directions for the Road Ahead

Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg.180

Virtually every point of Christian doctrine was disputed in the first centuries of the ^{#4} Christian faith. But one point on which there was unanimity, uniformity, and universality was that the form of music employed in Christian worship was singling unaccompanied by instrumental music. Every effect must have an adequate cause. Surely nothing less than the most powerful and demanding cause could account for pagans and Jews, who for centuries had employed instrumental music in their worship, to suddenly cease their use on becoming Christians, and for centuries more to employ nothing but singing in the music they offered to God. So striking is this fact that it created a new term in our

language, "acapella," a term that refers to singing without instrumental accompaniment, "according to the chapel (church)."

What Kind of Music Does God Want? - Milo Richard Hadwin

Directions for the Road Ahead: Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 58

I have often been struck with the following paragraph from the Catholic Encyclopedia which accurately states the case for baptism as immersion. #5

The most ancient form usually employed was unquestionably immersion. This is not only evident from the writings of the Fathers and the early rituals of both the Latin and Oriental churches, but it can also be gathered from the Epistles of St. Paul who speaks of baptism as a bath (Ephesians 5: 26; Romans 6:4; Titus 3:5). In the Latin church, immersion seems to have prevailed until the 12th Century. After that time

it is found in some places even as late as the 16th Century. Infusion and aspersion, however, were growing common in the 13th Century and gradually prevailed in the Western church. The Oriental churches have retained immersion, though not always in the sense of plunging the candidate's entire body below water. (Catholic Encyclopedia, "Baptism," Volume 2, pp. 261-262).

The Mystery of Baptism - A Personal Odyssey -
Prentice Meador, Jr.

Directions for the Road Ahead:

Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 135

Names & Things #6
Fourth, there is a danger that the Restoration Movement's gains in the realm of doctrine will suffer serious loss because of the heavy pressure on church leaders today to change the church. Churches of Christ are under attack on so many doctrinal fronts. Our traditional hermeneutic is under assault, and so is what we have believed and practiced traditionally with reference to the role of women. Many are questioning our understanding considering instrumental music in worship, the meaning of baptism, the relationship between the Gospels

and the Epistles, the church's organization,
the trustworthiness of the Bible, and the
validity of our efforts to be nondenominational
in a nation that is full of denominations.

. . . Preface - Howard Norton
Directions For the Road Ahead: Stability
in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg.xi

Justin Martyr wrote around 150 A.D.: #7

We have been instructed that only the
following worship is worthy of him, not
the consumption by fire of those things
created by him for our nourishment but
the use of them by ourselves and by those
in need, while in gratitude to him we
offer solemn prayers and hymns for his
creation and for all things leading to
health. (Apology, 1,13)

-over-

What Kind of Music Does God Want? - Milo
Richard Hadwin

Directions for the Road Ahead: Stability
in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg.59

48
Coupled with our ignorance of the word is a pervading ~~rejection of authority~~ at all levels, including spiritual. The scriptures are no longer considered binding or even relevant. For some, the Gospels contain principles, not commands. The writings of Paul are "love letters" and not doctrine to be followed. The Bible is not complete accurate, say some, having been polluted down through the centuries by translators.

Since we argue that the word is not binding on us today, there is no reason for us to submit ourselves to the authority of Christ, or

over-

of elders in local churches. If the local shepherds admonish or discipline us, we immediately rebel, claiming that they have no right to do so. Instead of accepting their role as pastors and bishops of the flock, we launch a campaign to discredit them, move on to another congregation, or drop out entirely.

The State of the Church Today - Glover Shipp

Directions for the Road Ahead: Stability
in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 9

Hear, read and study. Correct understanding begins with careful listening, close reading and prayerful study. The lack of reading and study is the main reason people do not understand the Bible alike. Twenty percent of Americans, according to a Gallup poll, have never read the Bible except for isolated quotes in literature. Over eighty percent have never read the entire Bible through even one time. Over seventy percent of Americans have never read the New Testament through one time. Only eleven percent in 1990 claimed to be daily Bible readers, and we all know that even

-over-

reading one's Bible through and being a daily Bible reader is not sufficient to be a careful, prayerful student of God's word. The only way we will ever understand the Bible alike is to study it prayerfully and carefully with love for God, Christ, truth, heaven, one another and fear of hell.

Hermeneutics, Culture & Scripture - F. Furman
Kearley

Directions for the Road Ahead: Stability
in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 24

G.C. Brewer, older brother of Lipscomb's ^{#10} Charles R. Brewer, pleaded during an Abilene Christian College lectureship for positives, not negative preaching and writing, in the brotherhood. He said, "If our manner of contending for the truth keeps people from believing the truth, or drives them away from the truth, then we are ourselves enemies of the truth . . ."

He also asked rhetorically, "Why will we then destroy a man who is clean in life, earnest in heart, and faithful to God in everything except some minor point?"

Subject -over-

. . . Jim Turner

Brother Bob

The Life and Times of Robert Gill Neil

pg.146

#11
The mania for change affects congregations. Many of the members, especially younger ones, do not understand why churches should follow the same routine week after week, year after year, while everything about them is in a constant whirl of change. They crave innovation, excitement and adventure.

The desire to feel good triggers a parallel desire to hear only positive words from the pulpit and classroom. Like Israel in Old Testament times, they want their "prophets" to speak only smooth things and to prophesy illusions" (Isaiah 30:10).

-over-

The urge to feel good calls for entertainment in worship and church work, more than serious exhortation and humble praise lifted to God. To accommodate the wishes of the members, song books are closed, "praise teams" of worship leaders (each equipped with a state-of-the-art microphone) lead the worship, sermons are more "how to" discourses and are filled with anecdotes and illustrations.

The State of the Church Today - Glover Shipp
Directions for the Road Ahead: Stability in
Change Among Churches of Christ

Family

GOOD MORNING, DARLING

Photos for
show
prayer

Christ is the spiritual superglue for families today. If we follow his commands and teachings about families, when the floodwaters rise, he will hold us together. He will keep our families afloat. He will keep us safe and dry . . . if we stay in the boat.

#12

A Few Good Men and Women

Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord because he was a *good* man. In fact, he was the only good man God could find on earth. And because Noah had consistently been a good man, God rescued him and his family from the flood. What the world needs now is more *good* men. That's the cry of Promise Keepers, the dynamic men's movement. Our families will be kept safe from the storms of life, in large part, through our application of goodness to our spouses and children. Good men are the most powerful catalysts for creating good families, just as God appointed them to be. The Yale scholar, William Lyon Phelps, told his students: "The highest happiness on earth is a happy Christian family. Every man who has a happy family is a successful man, even if he has failed in everything else. And every man whose family is a failure is not a successful man, even if he has succeeded in everything else."

❖

If you're not a Christian at home, you are not a Christian.

❖

Good women are essential too. In truth, it's often good women who keep their husbands and children on the right track. Most of the noble characters and fine leaders of history have had good, God-fearing wives and/or mothers.

We are told, for instance, that President George Washington's mother was pious and that writer Sir Walter Scott's mother was a lover of poetry and music. But the mother of Rome's cruel dictator, Nero, was a murderess, and the dissolute Lord Byron's mother was a proud and violent woman.

I urge you to place greater emphasis on your family relationships. Attack your family with goodness. Be good to your spouse, your children, and your parents. We each have only one family by blood, given to us by God. We should cherish and nourish it. It takes effort, initiative, patience, perseverance, forgiveness, and charity. In fact, family is the best of all places to practice the Christian virtues. If you're not a Christian at home, you are not a Christian.

Reach out to your extended family too. Show concern and love to your aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws. Take time for family. Make special occasions, such as birthdays and holidays, major events. Keep up with family members. Use the telephone, revive the lost art of letter writing, communicate by e-mail, visit those you can every time you can. Sponsor a family reunion, where the best of your heritage, especially your spiritual heritage, can be passed on from generation to generation.

Kids, Kindness, and Kudos

Pablo Casals, world-renowned cellist, once described the duty of families toward children in this way:

Each second we live is a new and unique moment of the universe, a moment that will never be again . . . And what do we teach our children? We teach them that two and two make four, and that Paris is the capital of France.

When will we also teach them what they are?

We should say to each of them: Do you know what you are? You are a marvel! You are unique. In all the years that have passed, there has never been another child like you. Your legs, your arms, your clever fingers, the way you move.

You may become a Shakespeare, a Michaelangelo, a Beethoven. You have the capacity for anything. Yes, you are a marvel. And when you grow up, can you then harm another who is, like you, a marvel?

involved, or it would not have survived. And when we look at the power of the Roman civilization at that time and see the coliseum and other arenas where gladiators fought Christians to amuse the populace, or where Christians were mangled by wild animals for the entertainment of Roman royalty, we know what a powerful, evil force it was. And yet, the early church grew rapidly, in spite of and because of persecution. Their goodness overpowered the forces of evil. Notice how those early Christians are described in this anonymous "Letter to Diognetus," which possibly dates from the second century:

Those Christians

#13

For Christians are not differentiated from other people by country, language, or customs; you see, they do not live in cities of their own, or speak some strange dialect, or have some peculiar lifestyle.

This teaching of theirs has not been contrived by the invention and speculation of inquisitive men; nor are they propagating mere human teaching as some people do. They live in both Greek and foreign cities, wherever chance has put them. They follow local customs in clothing, food, and the other aspects of life. But at the same time, they demonstrate to us the wonderful and certainly unusual form of their own citizenship.

They live in their own native lands, but as aliens; as citizens, they share all things with others; but like aliens, suffer all things. Every foreign country is to them as their native country, and every native land as a foreign country.

They marry and have children just like everyone else; but they do not kill unwanted babies. They offer a shared table, but not a shared bed. They are at present "in the flesh," but they don't live "according to the flesh." They are passing their days on earth, but are citizens of heaven. They

obey the appointed laws, and go beyond the laws in their own lives.

They love everyone, but are persecuted by all. They are unknown and condemned; they are put to death and gain life. They are poor and yet make many rich. They are short of everything and, yet, have plenty of all things. They are dishonored and, yet, gain glory through dishonor.

Their names are blackened and, yet, they are cleared. They are mocked and bless in return. They are treated outrageously and behave respectfully to others. When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when punished, they rejoice as if being given new life. They are attacked by Jews as aliens, and are persecuted by Greeks; yet those who hate them cannot give any reason for their hostility.

To put it simply—the soul is to the body as Christians are to the world. The soul is spread through all parts of the body and Christians through all the cities of the world. The soul is in the body but is not of the body; Christians are in the world but not of the world.



Those Christians are our spiritual ancestors. When we finally have our great family reunion on the Day of Judgment, will they be as proud to call us relatives as we are to claim them? Will those who record our history have anything worthwhile to say about Christians today that even slightly compares to this letter? Perhaps so, if we follow the direction of 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22: “Test everything. Keep what is good, and stay away from everything that is evil.”

“They have children like everyone else, but they do not kill unwanted babies.”



The United States ranks twentieth among the twenty-two industrialized nations in literacy. Look at these staggering statistics: 014

- * Some 44 percent of American adults never read a book, including the Bible, in the course of a year.
 - * Upon high school graduation, the average student has watched fifteen thousand hours of television, compared with twelve thousand hours spent in all school classes
 - * Average middle-school age children read books for pleasure for no more than five minutes a day. But 27 percent of all
- over-

nine year olds watch more than six hours of television a day.

* Over 80 percent of U.S. colleges and universities have to provide remedial courses for freshmen because high schools are often issuing graduation certificates to seniors who can't actually read or write well.

* Ten percent of Americans read 80 percent of the available books.

*Only 1 out of 10 Christians ever visit
2 Chr. book stores Novel libraries
7/62*

In 1963 prayer was taken out of public schools, and religious principles were separated from education. According to research from Wallbuilders, the resulting trends that developed in the twenty years immediately following that change in American education are staggering. We know that statistics do not always give the entire picture and that education certainly cannot be blamed for all the deterioration in our society, but these trends are shocking.

* In 1962, the average SAT score was around 985; by 1994 scores had fallen to around 900.

- * Sexually transmitted diseases in children ages 10-14 have risen from 14 per 100,000 in 1963 to as high as 66 per 100,000 in 1989.
- * Around 240,000 violent crimes were committed in 1961-1962. By 1993, that number had risen to 1.9 million.
- * In 1960, only 6 percent of births were to unmarried women. By 1990, the number had risen to 28 percent.

Th. Roosevelt "when you educate a man in mind & not in morals, you educate a menace to society"
Yerkes Living Right Pg 90

Two of the stories Bob told that night are worth retelling. In saying how hard it was to remain humble on a night like this, he quoted an old Fred Russell story. The sportswriter was the guest speaker at an undertaker's convention. He turned to the undertaker next to him and asked, "What's the hardest thing you ever had to do?" The undertaker said without hesitation, "Look sad at a \$25,000 funeral." #15

. . . Jim Turner

Brother Bob

The Life and Times of Robert Gill Neil

But symbolism aside, we should consider the overall cultural effect of increased secularization of education and culture in the last three decades. As not just prayer, but many other activities that might suggest the promotion of religion were challenged and removed from school, how were those who were being educated effected. It is in school that most of us find out those things our society thinks are important enough for us to learn. For that reason, silence about a subject in public schools is hardly neutral. Students understandably feel that whatever is not presented in schools is not, apparently, worth knowing.

-over-

Boomergeist: The Spirit of Age - Jim Baird

Directions for the Road Ahead:

Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg.165

Of greatest concern is the fact that cultural diversification creates a fertile breeding ^{Jim} ground for relativism. By relativism, I mean the view that culture is the ultimate foundation of morality. According to relativism, different cultures simply create different patterns of right and wrong, and there is no absolute standard by which any culture can criticize any other. Actions can be judged right or wrong within the confines of a particular culture, but no actions are right or wrong in themselves. Cultural diversification does not mandate relativism by any means, but the difficult intellectual and moral problems generated by

-more-

cultural diversification create a climate in which relativism seems to offer a seductively easy set of solutions.

Boomergeist: The Spirit of the Age - Jim Baird

Directions For the Road Ahead:

Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 172

But whatever conclusions they reached, it is certain that they would not conclude from ~~television~~ ^{#18} that nine out of ten of us believe in God, eight out of ten of us pray regularly, seven out of ten of us are church members, and six out of ten of us claim that religion is very important in our lives. Our culture as shown on television for the past thirty years simply does not include religion.

Meanwhile, television has achieved a dominance in our lives that no other art form has ever approached. We are told that someone who makes it to age eighteen in America will have watched close to 19,000 hours of television.

-over-

That is 6,000 more hours that he will have spent in school, and even if his parents are very religious, it is 15,000 hours more than he will have spent in church. So why should his conclusions be any different from our hypothetical alien sociologists? His natural assumption will be that religion is just irrelevant to the culture at large. Even if his own family carries on a high level of religious activity, he is tempted to think of that as 'odd' and somehow out of step with the world. Religion as he experiences it is never on television and television is by far the single biggest ave. by which the public world communicates him

Why not conclude that religion may be important as a private matter but has no role to play in the public world

BARRO Pg 167

BELIEVE ME, IF ALL THOSE ENDEARING YOUNG CHARMS

BELIEVE ME, if all those endearing young charms, #19
 Which I gaze on so fondly to-day,
 Were to change by to-morrow, and fleet in my arms,
 Like fairy-gifts fading away,
 Thou wouldst still be adored, as this moment thou art,
 Let thy loveliness fade as it will,
 And around the dear ruin each wish of my heart
 Would entwine itself verdantly still.

It is not while beauty and youth are thine own,
 And thy cheeks unprofaned by a tear,
 That the fervor and faith of a soul may be known,
 To which time will but make thee more dear!

On several occasions Bob led singing in #20
Shreveport, Louisiana. The invitations began
when one of his Lipscomb classmates, Rufus
Undersood, became the located preacher there.
The first time Bob was in a Shreveport series,
the new Cresswell Street Church of Christ
building was dedicated with S.H. Hall as
evangelist. Bob learned the value of well-
planned tent meetings working with Hall. Before
the Nashville suburb of Bellevue had a church
building, the Hall-Neil duo led a series of
services there. "Whenever Sam Hall was in a
tent meeting, the chairs would be far apart
the first night, but they would be full.

-over-

Then as the meeting attracted increased interest and bigger crowds, he would move the chairs closer together," Bob recalls.

. . . Jim Turner

Brother Bob

The Life and Times of Robert Gill Neil

pg.97

In many traditional/authoritarian congregations that follow the presbyterian model, the preacher does the pastoral work, the elders are the operational managers, and the deacons are not quite sure what they are supposed to do. One of the main problems in this approach is the fragmentation of the leadership roles as presented in the New Testament. According to the tradition/authoritarian view, an eldership is primarily a decision-making body similar to a board of directors.

#21

-over-

Trends in Church Leadership - Flavil R. Yeakley
Jr.

Directions for the Road Ahead:
Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 194

President Abraham Lincoln faced unusually severe criticism much of his life. His advice is still good for us today:

#22

If I tried to read, much less answer, all the criticism made of me and all the attacks leveled against me, this office would be closed for all other business. I do the best I know how, the very best I can. I mean to keep on doing this, down to the very end. If the end brings me out all wrong, then ten angels swearing I had been right would make no difference. If the end brings me out all right, then what is said against me now will not amount to anything.

-over-

John R. Stott wrote in Christian Counter-^{#23}
Culture (1978) that God is calling his people to
be different from the world in which they live.
He says,

In deed, if the church realistically
accepted his standards and values. . .
and lived by them, it would be the
alternative society he always intended
it to be, and would offer to the world
an authentic Christian counter-culture.

Human Opinion vs. Divine Doctrine - Howard
Norton

Directions for the Road Ahead:
Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 123

The Old Testament applies the word "remnant" to the faithful among the Israelites who made it possible to continue God's covenant with the nation (Isaiah 10:20-22). Thus a relatively small number can make a significant impact by remaining true to the covenant.

Churches of Christ today can serve in that same role. We can be God's remnant in our age: (1) by committing ourselves to teaching Christ and the church as taught by inspired writers of the New Testament, (2) by demonstrating to the world how these truths can be practiced today, and (3) by calling on all others -- whether believers in Christ or non-believers -- to join

us in this effort. We can understand the essentials of "the faith, once for all delivered to the saints." We can practice these essentials as first century Christians did in following "the apostles doctrine." We can and have had an effect on denominations around us to bring them closer to these teachings and practice

How to be Undenominational in a Denominational World - Stafford North

Directions for the Road Ahead:
Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg.211

Having surveyed some key elements of the ^{#25} spirit of the age, we should end by reminding ourselves that the spirit of the age is making the age very sick. Secularism and relativism are literally soulless, and no culture can endure them for very long. Sooner or later, our culture will vomit them out, and begin seeking something that can give it back some reason for continuing. It will need a vision of objective truth and moral standards, with purposes that somehow get beyond the trivia of the here and now. I am convinced that when that day comes, Christianity can be there to supply that need, but only if Christianity has not succumbed to secularism

-over-

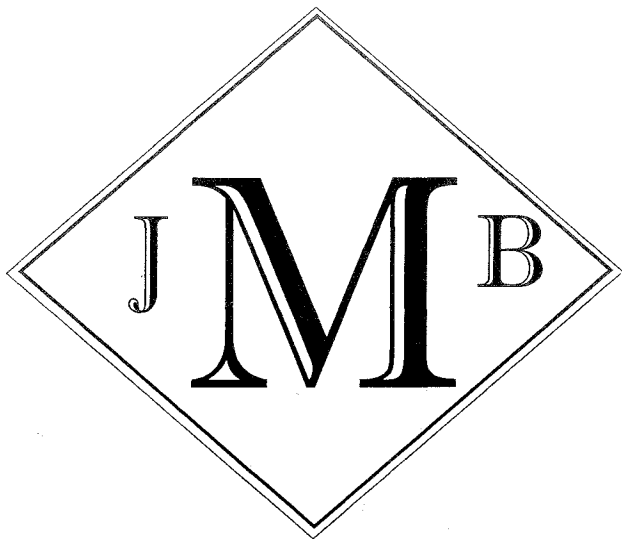
and relativism itself. How sadly ironic it would be if, just when the larger culture begins seeking the truths we have clung to for so long, we leave them to embrace the very values that the culture has found so deeply empty.

Boomergeist: The Spirit of the Age - Jim Baird

Directions for the Road Ahead:

Stability in Change Among Churches of Christ

pg. 176



A HOLY GIFT--WISDOM

James 3:17-18

I. Of all things desired; and of all things beneficial to self and others--what is greater than wisdom?

A. Its possession makes the path smoother.

1. Grandmother came to see the family.

Little boy "so glad you've come-- now Dad can do one of his tricks."

"What do you mean?" "Heard him tell Mom if you came again he'd climb the wall."

2. We will be more adroit at converting someone--not the fire and faggots Rome earlier used.

B. The wisdom of which we speak is:

1. More moral than intellectual.

2. Has its origin in Jesus and displays His characteristics.

3. Wins victories over low motives.

4. Comes to folk who ask.

James 1:5 *If any of u lack wisdom let him ask*

1:17 *Every good gift & every perfect gift is from*

5. Unlike Dr. Shultz who said, "Talk to someone with a little sense--so I call you because you have as little as anybody I know."

6. "Wisdom enlightens the mind, informs the Judgement, regulates the life, and he who lives under its influence is wise in the estimation of God himself."

C. Called one of God's communicable attributes.

1. Those not: independence, immutability, infinity, simplicity.
2. Those are: wisdom.
3. We learn wisdom from:

a) Fear--Reverence

Ps. 111:10 *The fear of the Lord is the beg. of w.*

b) The Word² good words. have all these do

Ps. 119:99 *Thy testimonies are thy med.*

4. Clipping on wisdom.

II. James identifies this marvelous product that comes from above.

A. God gives it.

B. It is identified by feature we now examine.

III. Wisdom Is:

(1) A. 1st Pure--first word to describe it.

1. Chaste, pure, in relations to its possessor.
2. Pure from all earthly, natural, devilish.
3. Synonym for holy.
4. Pure in respect to its object, motive, tenderness.
5. Free from iniquity and defilement.
6. Prerequisite to ~~preach~~ is purity.

(2) B. Next It's Peaceable. *Peace*

1. Shalom, the first and last word in greetings.
2. Peaceable in relationships to others.
3. Quiet and inoffensive.
4. Lives in peace and promotes it.
5. Peace shown in attitude.

Prov. 3:17 *(W) ways in ways of pleasant* 3.
all her paths are peace

C C. After This Comes Gentle.

1. Soft, mild, yielding, not rigid.
2. Neither is it compromising.
3. It is courteous, one translation.
4. Moderate, forbearing.

(4) D. Easy to be Entreated.

- Defiant? What you've got when you know what you had when you had nothing*
1. Teachable--ready to welcome truth from whatever quarter it may come.
 2. Active reasonableness. *cray Pattis - quote*
 3. Practical approach. *Clark (dead) OK - not a living one*
 4. Easy to be persuaded or convinced, not stubborn or sore.
 5. Submission--open to suggestions.
 6. Put best construction on acts of others.
 7. Considerate, fair, reasonable in all deliberations.
 8. Translations
 - Open to reason
 - Conciliatory
 - Compliant
 - Willing to yield - *NKJ*
 - Ready to be convinced
 9. Easily persuaded as to what is good as well as from that which is evil.
 10. Not crafty or guileful.
 11. Grants accessibility.
 12. Willing to consider another's viewpoint and concede if found to be in the wrong.
 13. Some like concrete--all mixed up and thoroughly set.

14. Not overbearing or extreme.
15. Contridictions do not ruffle.
16. Submission--open to suggestions--
ready to listen to others.
17. Frank, open.
18. Compliant.

(5) E. Full of Mercy.

1. Seeks nothing but God's glory and uses no other means to obtain it other than what he prescribed.
2. Does not put self first.
3. Submissive to proper discipline.
4. Translations:
 - Rich in compassion.
 - Full of kind actions.
5. Hostility does not provoke to retaliation.

(6) F. Good Fruit

1. Full of this.
2. Good--anything beneficial and beautiful.
3. Good--anything that is beneficial to others. (Tolle)

(7) G. Without Partiality

1. Free from double mindedness.
2. Without respect of persons.
3. Without variance margin, without doubtfulness.
4. Margin without wrangling.
5. Certain of self; without doubtfulness.
6. Without mixture of aims.
7. Unambiguous.
8. Straight forward.
9. Without uncertainty, indecision.

dictated
incomplete

why women dumb
so they can like you,
men

(8) H. Without Hypocrisy

1. With mask played a part, actor.
2. Appears outwardly to be something not inward or internal.
3. Translations

Free from insincerity.

IV. Fruit of Righteousness Sown in Peace of Them That Make Peace

- A. "Let others reap the fruit of contention and all the advantages they can propose to themselves by them; but let us go on peaceably to sow the seeds of righteousness and may depend upon it so our labors shall not be lost."

(Scott)

B. Proverbs seen:

Isa. 32:17

Amos 6:12

Matt. 5:9

Hebrews 12:11

1. Righteousness is right doing.
2. Righteousness is keeping the commandments.

Ps. 119:172

V. No Wonder Paul Said

Walk in Wisdom

Col. 4:5-6 *walk in wisdom - w/o - redeem time*

- A. It entails walking by Scrp.

Eph. 5:7

- B. Living Christ's way we show God's will to all.

C. Practice of Christian prudence.

D. Wisdom rests on the knowledge of God.

Col. 1:9

Col. 2:2-3

E. Redeem time.

1. Those without--watch our actions in presence of non-Christian.
2. Christian need not be inferior to any man in his own walk of life in the knowledge of his business and duties in a secular position.
3. Redeem--buy up.

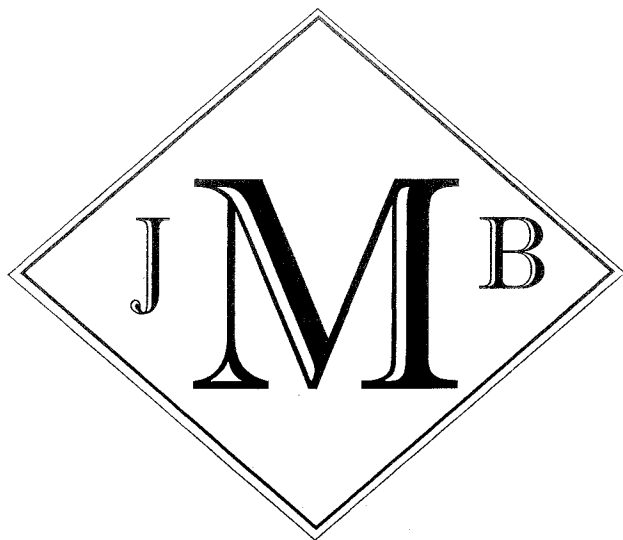
F. Speech

1. Salt cures.
2. Know well how to answer.
3. Never insipid--comes with an edge.

Red River, New Mexico
Silver Point C/C

6/23/96
7/31/96

Reverence is the attitude of mind of the man who is always aware that he is in the presence of God. It is the attitude of this man who speaks every word and performs every action and who lives every moment conscience of God.



THE WISDOM THAT IS FROM ABOVE

James 3:17-18

- I. James does the Lord no disservice but false placement of blessings.

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is

3:15 "This wisdom descendeth not from above

5:12 "But above all things, my brethren, swee

And now

James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is

- II. In contradistinction to the evil wisdom there is one from above. It has these 8 features with a heavenly source.

A. Pure.

1. Purity the inner character of the wise.

2. Free from stain & defilement.

2 Cor. 1:12 "For our rejoicing is this, the testi

1 Jn. 3:3 "And every man that hath this hope i

3. Pure came from word meaning pure enuf to approach the gods.

4. 1st influence is to make you holy. 1st effect is to make you upright.

5. Do we just avoid grosser sins but embrace little ones?

B. Peaceable.

Prov. 3:17 "Her ways are ways of pleasantness, &

1. But not peace at price of purity.

2. Right relationship between man & man; man & God.

3. In Israel today greet you c Shalom.

4. This is word for orderliness - not given to conflict.

C. Gentle.

- 1. Means forbearing, fitting, fair, reasonable.
 - (a) Matt. Arnold called it "sweet Reasonableness"
 - (b) Aristotle called it the forgiving man - doesn't stand on strict justice but listens to merciful considerations.
- 2. Jesus was meek.

(list of men I can whip)

 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts (Meekness is power under control of love)"
- 3. Gentleness does not always insist on its own rights.
- 4. Not stubborn, refusing to do a thing because it was suggested by another.
- 5. Some wisdom takes delight in hurting, cutting, severing thus relationships.
- 6. True wisdom knows when it's wrong to apply strict letter of law; how to forgive & when strict justice gives the perfect right to condemn
- 7. It's ever ready to obey. FARMER HOUSE W/NOA
- 8. You treat the sick of body kindly - not disdain their weakness. Do the sick of soul the same way.
- 9. It yields to inferiors when it does not need to - not always insisting on its rights.
- 10. It is absence of bad manners.
- 11. Some find it intolerable to recognize any authority but self - they are always right! They view any correction as interference.

D. Easy to be entreated. Men Named Davis

- 1. Chr. truth must ever be presented in a Chr. spirit.

2. Share the gospel in a gracious manner OMC

3. Easy = conciliatory like pupils who obey law

4. It's w/o variance, unambiguous, w/o partiality, w/o feigning, unwavering. **Brown letter**

5. Easy to persuade to listen to reason.

6. Compliant, but does not refer to things that of themselves are wrong. *In conversation, one*

7. You can talk & He will listen. $\frac{1}{2}$ of it is

E. Mercy (Full of). *listening!*

1. Has pity for man who suffers unjustly.

2. Mercy for man in trouble even if he caused his own. **Coin word** - *Seaton is nature's*

3. Hard not to become cynical. *made his own*
Opp - keep inside
out

F. Good Fruits.

1. Fruits of good living - just, benevolent, kind.

2. It's the produce of Christian living.

3. (Some tie this with other "full" (of mercy), thus making 7 traits of wisdom as there are 7 fruits of the spirit & 7 graces.

4. Full of = present in large degree.

5. Do much for widows & orphans.

G. W/o Partiality.

1. It's not divided.

2. Not wavering.

3. Not hesitant.

4. Not vacillating.

5. It knows its own mind, chooses its own course, and abides by it.

6. It has convictions that will not change.

7. Some think it clever never to make up their minds.

Crossed eyed traffic judge - Name - Didn't ask you - I didn't say anything

(?)

8. Lit. not to be distinguished = no doubt about its origin or nature or impartial as it deals c others.

9. Not vacillating - you can depend on one's position. He's consistent.

10. He's not a politician - setting his sails to any wind that blows strongest.

11. "He looks on human affairs from divine heights" has fixed principles - Speakers Bible.

H. W/o Hypocrisy.

Don't work inside -

1. Wholeheartedly committed to truth. *He's work outside*

2. Some come to meetings & church just to keep preacher off their backs.

3. W/o hypocrisy lit. straightforwardness.

4. Genuine - doesn't pretend to be what it isn't.

III. It's the guide of the church's evangelistic efforts.

V. 18 "And the fruit of rt. is sown. **Blind man's dog**

A. Conducive to growth. **led into traffic** - gave

0. "And" shows it's an additional thought. *discuss*

(a) Full of good fruits. *why? find mouth so kind - his tail into street*

Prov. 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree

Amos 6:12 "Shall horses run upon the rock?

Amos 5:7 "Ye who turn judgment to wormwood

Hosea 10:12 "Sow to yourselves in righteousness

Prov. 9:21 "

Isa. 32:16 "Then judgment shall dwell in the

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger

I Jn. 2:29 "If ye know that he is righteous, ye

I Tim. 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee th

II Tim. 2:11 "It is a faithful saying: For if we

(b) Beware of church splitters.

- 1. Nothing good grows in an atmosphere where men are at variance c ea. other.
- 2. Such is sterile soil.
- 3. Man who disturbs relationships cuts self off from God.
- 4. Peace is its proper habitat.
- 5. Farmer doesn't sow field while in the midst of a battle - but in peace!

B. Fruits.

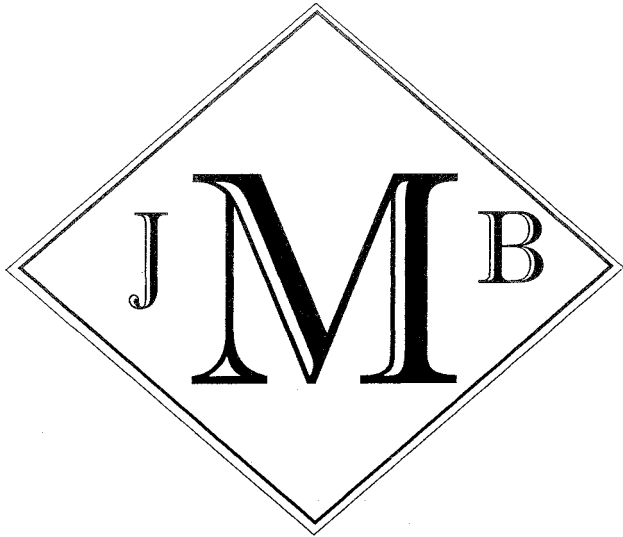
- 1. These are the good things righteousness prompts us to do.

Isa. 32:17 "And the work of righteousness shall be pe

*peace; & the effects of righteousness
quietness & assurance forever!*

Thes End 12-26-71

*Elders + Preachers Dinner, A.C.C. Lectureship 2-22-72
Arkansas School Boards Assn., Little Rock 4-28-
Madison Academy, Huntsville, Teachers Dinner 3-7-72
J.C. - Fayetteville Tenn 1/18/73*



YOUR SPIRITUAL IQ

James 3:17-18

I. Do any of you know your IQ?

- A. Dan Webb at New Concord told of his love of George DeHoff. Said he was a genius, knew Foy Wallace was.
- B. Smart folk--whom do you admire?
- C. Give you a little test and you can check your spiritual IQ.
 - 1. How much time for this lesson?
 - 2. Want to make 7 points.

II. The Wisdom from Above

- A. There is a devilish, earthly wisdom, sadistically smart I do not want. (Those Jonesboro children, crying in their cells, wanting to exchange jail for pizza, and desiring to sit in their grandmother's lap when she comes-- what a contrast.)
- B. There is a wisdom from above--this elevated matter above gray matter is what we want.
 - 1. 7 great excellencies.
 - 2. 7 the perfect number--7 colors in the rainbow.

Prov. 9:1 "Wisdom hath builded her house"

- 3. Meyer calls it the string of pearls of good things.
- 4. Origin of true wisdom is from above.

III. Look at the 7 items--are you using them daily?

A. 1st--Pure

- 1. It's the one inward thing listed.

2. Defined:
 - a) Chaste
 - b) Unsullied
 - c) Holy
 - d) Not sensual
 - e) Not selfish
 - f) Not openly sinful
 - g) Free from stain & defilement
3. He speaks of moral purity.
4. Then be pure at all costs.

B. 2nd--Peaceful

1. 1st mention of things outward.
2. Be indisposed to conflict.
3. Avoid dissension.
4. Opposite of confusion.
5. You are not given to conflict.

C. #3 is Gentle

1. Defined as forbearing under provocation.
2. You are considerate.
3. Not rigid.
4. Neither rude, harsh, cruel, over-bearing.
5. You practice fairness.

D. 4thly is the listing of easy to be entreated.

1. One is forbearing, easy to be considerate.
2. Submissive.
3. Ready to forgive.

4. Accessible, compliant.
5. Open to conviction.
6. Willing to listen.
7. Not stubborn.
8. Can be persuaded.
9. Ready to be guided.
10. Obedient.

E. Full of Mercy & Good Fruits

1. Overflows with kindness.
2. Seeks to do all the good one can.

F. 6th Without Partiality

1. Found only here in N.T.--but once is enough like time reference in Acts to Lord's supper (Acts 20:7).
2. Without variance.
3. Without doubtfulness.
4. Steady.
5. Persistent.
6. Never divided in own mind.
7. Not fickle.
8. Loves all without respect of person.
9. Without wrangling.

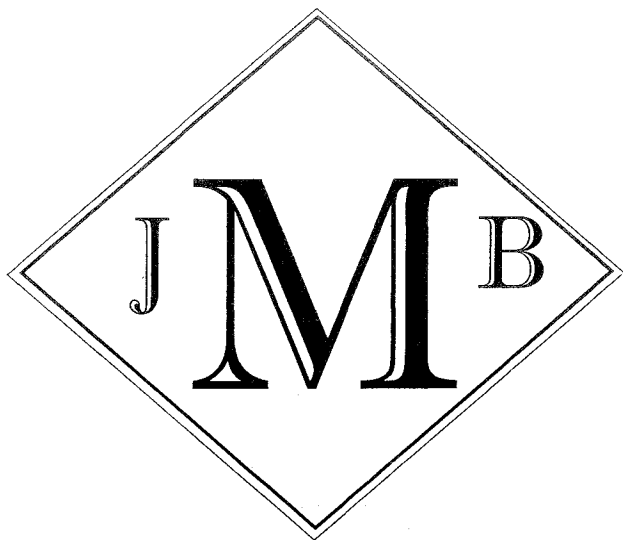
G. No. 7 is Without Hypocrisy

1. Always sincere.
2. Certain of itself.

IV. "The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

- A. Let's propagate Righteousness and Peace.

- B. Let there be a great future harvest.
- C. Take the initiative in cultivating such an orchard.



THE COMING OF THE LORD

James 5:7-8

- I. Of all things that await earth's experience - nothing can compare to the coming again of Jesus Christ.
 - A. From the storm of indignation that is over James moves to tender & affectionate matters the rest of his book - and he does it with the words: "Be patient therefore, br. unto the coming of the Lord." James 5:7

B. It moves with great features.

1. It will be sudden. *Not in business that day shall*
Matt. 24:27 "For as the lightning cometh out of
I Thess. 5:2 "For yourselves know perfectly the
2 Pet. 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come

2. We shall be changed.

I Cor. 15:51 "Behold I show you a mystery; We

3. We'll be c Christ. *let not your heart
in my fathers house*
John 14:3 "I go & prepare a place for you

4. We'll be like Christ.

I Jn. 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of Go

5. We'll have new bodies with limitations forever gone. *who shall change our vile bodies that it may*
Phil. 3:20-21 "For our conversation is in heav

II. The Coming of the Lord.

A. 3 words describe it. *PEAR-Ra-See an*

1. Parousia = someone's presence or arrival.

Final invasion of earth by Heavenly - coming of King to receive final submission of his subjects. Means "presence of Christ".

4.
Matt. 28:19

Rev. 1:7 "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and every knee shall bow to him; and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord, and he shall come with the clouds of heaven."

Heb. 9:28 "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and shall appear a second time, without sin, to save them."

2. Epiphaneia = appearance of a god to his worshippers, ascension of an emperor - God mount His throne. *Epiphany - Epiphany*

3. Apokalupsis = unveil, lay bare, unveil power & glory of God. *A-pok-a-lip's*

B. It's time I do not know.

1. If Christ doesn't know it, the speculation of man will not reveal it. *no, not the angels - Father only*
Matt. 24:36 "But of that day & hr. knoweth no man, neither the angels, nor the Father."

42 *What is the sign of the end of the world?*

(a) Bible sets no date other than to say at hand.

2. I must be constantly ready, ever watching.

1 Pet. 4:7 "But the end of all things is at hand: therefore be sober, and watch, for your adversary the devil walketh about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

(a) Long delay (to me) must not beget despair.

(b) Jacobsen, "They lived for eternity."

(c) Know of none who teach second chance.

(d) Scoffers doubt return. *walking after their own lusts*

2 Pet. 3:3-4 "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming? for ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as of old time.'"

3. "At hand" - what does it mean?

(a) My judgment is at hand for I soon die.

(b) Jerusalem's judgment? *Could come anytime*

(c) Coming so real always regarded near at hand.

(d) No delay to God - it's on schedule.

C. It makes the judgment.

1. Matters are in God's hands.

2. He will punish wrongdoers.

3. How do you see it?

(a) With sadness, fear, sentence, punishment,
depart, ye cursed.

(b) With joy - as Minn whirled thru house,
"My Daddy, My Daddy."

West End 2-20-72

M.T.S.U. Christian Student Center Lectureship ³⁻²⁻⁷²
Cainville, Ark., 4th & 21st, 4-7-72

College Terrace Church, Ft. Smith, Ark. 4-27-72

Poinsett Church, Greenville, S.C. 5-4-72

Lamar Ave. Church, Paris, Texas 5-24-72

Hartsville, Tenn. Church 6-22-72

5 Bapt.

Sherrill Ave. Church, Florence, Ala. 8-2-72

Traymore Church, Columbia, Tenn. 9-1-72,

Overland Park, Kansas Church 10-11-72

Green Lawn Church, Lubbock, Texas 4-19-73

College Church, Ala. City 9-12-73

Whenever He Comes His Spirit Was Late

Isle Of Rhodes (UPI) — Maria Morfotou was hospitalized and Maria Petra was arrested after a violent argument over the second coming of Christ.

Police said 46-year-old Mrs. Petra clobbered Mrs. Morfotou with a rolling pin for refusing to accept that Christ will come again on Aug. 15.

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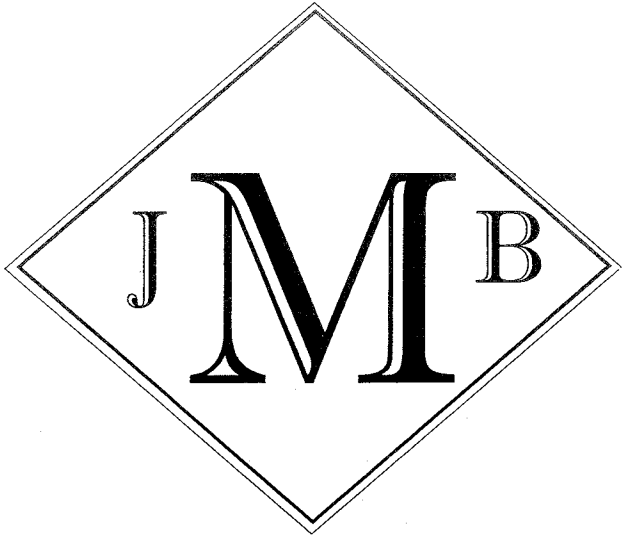
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THAT HARD PASSAGE ON PRAYER: OIL, SIN, SICK,
ELDERS, RAISED James 5:13-20

- I. James starts & ends c'Prayer.
 - A. Pray for wisdom 1:8.
 - B. Makes circuit & ends c prayer.
- II. Several things are seen - some hard to understand.
 - A. We know:
 1. Prayer is always appropriate - no circumstance puts us out of reach of God.
 - a.) Appropriate in all seasons.
 - b.) Suffering? Sick? - Pray.
 2. Prayer is shared - with others.
 - a.) Great to know you pray for me.
 3. Prayer is submissive to will of God.
 4. Prayer is powerful toward restoration: physically & spiritually.
 - B. We don't know: (At Battle of N.O. Jackson walked thru powder smoke to see effect of artillery, "Boys, elevate them guns a little lower)
 1. How God answer prayer: does He change or do we?
 2. One said, "Prayer has no persuasive effect on God."
 3. Rather, we ask God to do what He's already going to do - gradually we come to it! Prayer works on you - it changes you—it relates you to what God is doing - You see things from His viewpoint.
 - C. That hard part (V. 14-15).
 1. Is it Rom. Catholic extreme Unction?

2. Is it only early church history? Gone now.

3. It's for today.

D. See These Things:

1. Sick = helpless, weak, weary. It has to do with long-term disorder.

2. It is connected c sin.

Mk. 2:5 "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto th

John 5:14 "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple

1 Jn. 5:16-17 "If any man see his brother sin a sin wt

a.) Phrase means he has probably committed sin.

b.) It's persistent sin - with a deliberate, high han

c.) Ailing man takes the initiative - He calls elders.

d.) Not forward at a service!

3. Elders.

a.) On call.

b.) Administration, teach, pastor.

c.) Power of stronger come to weaker.

d.) They represent the body.

e.) When one part of your body cries for help - all parts come!

4. Oil (5 glicks).

a.) Holy Spirit.

b.) Real.

c.) Symbolic.

d.) Best medicine at time.

5. Confess.

a.) Get rid of sin before it does you in.

b.) It (sin) will destroy - do something about it.

c.) Our needs are spiritual more than physical.

D. Conclusion.

- 1. No benediction.
- 2. No doxology.
- 3. No farewell.
- 4. Some will fall - stray.
- 5. Save him. Kiss - enuf already.

Prov. 10:12 Love covers all transgression

Prov. 11:13 "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he th

*Training for Service Series, Huntsville, Ala.
 Memorial Parkway Church 3-17-82*

