

Trumpet Archive Alpha

Trumpet A1

THE INEQUALITY IN EQUALITY

Tom, Dick, and Harry formed a ship-building company. Tom was a skilled structural engineer who specialized in designing and building ships. When he wanted to submit a bid to design and build a new tanker-freighter, he didn't have the money...so he asked Dick and Harry to finance the project. They refused to do so unless they became equal partners with him.

When Tom showed his equal partners his design, they wanted to eliminate the bulbous section on the bow below the waterline because it was ugly. Tom explained the hydrodynamics in an effort to make them understand it was a very good part of the design. But both Dick and Harry were not only uneducated, they'd made their fortune by running a company that made ugly, cheap-but-functional wooden pallets (the kind forklifts move around), and they were determined to gain prestige by showing people they could build something "really classy." There were a number of design features they wanted to eliminate, and a number of comfort and luxury features they wanted to add.

My grandfather, Boppo, was an engineer who built ships for the U.S. Navy. He taught his son, who then taught me, that "the most dangerous ship on which you can embark is a *partnership*." And Tom (in the above example), who thought equality in his partnership was a wonderful *concept*, found out equality *actually gives control to the ignorant and the stupid*: No matter what he did, he could not convince Dick and Harry that they shouldn't change one jot or tittle of his design. They *always* put it to a vote, and when Tom lost 2 to 1, they'd say, "Don't worry; two heads are better than one."

Tom was frustrated and angry. He realized Dick and Harry had good intentions, but they simply lacked the ability to understand either the finer points of nautical engineering or the big picture that, as many Christians in England said when the Puritans were overthrowing the king and forming a democracy: "The foot taketh upon itself the part of the head." Tom realized he needed to be the single head of the company because two of the three heads of the existing multi-headed company were dragging it down – *and they had no idea it was happening!* He realized the fatal flaw of equality is it handicaps those whose knowledge and understanding make them better able to make wise decisions (like him), and it puts the real power into the hands of the majority (Dick and Harry) whose ignorance makes them the least capable of making informed decisions. Tom liked his partners; they were good and sincere men. But their limitations were crippling his ability to properly function. As a complacent Christian who'd never really taken many parts of the Bible seriously, Tom began to understand *why* God designed living beings with multiple members...*but always with a single head*.

When Tom formed his company, he thought making it a democratic partnership was a wise move. And when differences came up like the bulbous bow, when he realized his partners would *never* understand why in this case ugly was better, and therefore they would *never* agree/permit the design, in order to *move on* and complete the ship before the contractual deadline, Tom yielded to the majority. By the time the ship was completed there had been several disagreements with his partners that went the same way the bulbous bow disagreement went – because his partners *could not understand* the technical reasons behind the correctness of Tom's design. Now that the ship was complete, Tom realized with the perspective of hindsight that the ignorance of "the majority" makes it blind and incapable of understanding the correctness of the intellectual minority. But the political weight of the majority combined with the carnal fact that *they think they are right* means – in actual practice – equality actually gives the real power to the stupid masses. Therefore, all of the compromises Tom had to make in order to "move on", he now realized were actually "moving *down*."

Tom had long been bothered by the fact that the educational system in the United States had been going downhill. He now applied what he'd learned from his little democratic partnership to American society in general and to schools in particular. It looked like the intellectual few who ran the schools (people at the top of the social pyramid) had encountered the same fundamental problem he had when trying to deal with the mentally-average-and-ignorant majority (the bottom of the social pyramid): The absolute impossibility of making bottom-of-the-pyramid parents and students understand the importance of certain issues forced educators to make a series of well-intentioned "compromises" over the years in order to "move on." (The battleground issues included the importance of proper parenting at home, and in school the necessity of discipline, authority, homework, passing and failing grades, enforcing proper conduct, reading, and writing to the educational process.) Tom suspected that the fundamental flaw in the educational system and in Western civilization was the theory that you get collective wisdom from the bottom-of-the-pyramid majority. It looked like, Tom thought, that Enlightenment theory (called "the Great [democratic] Experiment" in history) has been a main contributor to the "dumbing down" of every facet of society because whenever people allow equality and democratic social and political theory to tear down the authoritative vertical hierarchy that has existed throughout most of history...the result is *chaos*. And it will always be that way because the bottom of the pyramid will always be too dumb to understand and agree with the top of the pyramid. And the political power granted to the bottom of the pyramid by democracy ensures the inexorable "moving on/moving downhill" slide into chaos – no matter what. The U.S. f-ing Fathers *thought/hoped* providing the bottom of the pyramid with a completely free education would eventually eliminate the pyramid by truly making all men equal. But it didn't work because it was all based on nothing but pagan mythology.

He also thought about how equality affected the family. When his parents divorced, his grandfather told him women's liberation was ruining marriages because it made wives equal to their husbands. It used to be that husbands were the sole head of the household, but now equality turned wives, who used to be members of the body, into competing heads: Now the household was a two-headed abomination with one of the heads (the husband) tending to be analytical, and the other (the wife) tending to be emotional. In the old days when the husband ruled his own house the wife didn't argue...*because she didn't have that prerogative, it simply wasn't allowed*. But now equality has given wives, in practice, more power than their husbands –

for the reasons similar to those of Dick and Harry above: equality effectively gives the weaker vessel more power than the stronger. That's why, Tom's grandfather said, so many Christian husbands now jokingly say things like, "Yeah, the Bible says the man is the head of household, but we know who *really* wears the pants in the family, har! har!" And that's why so many couples now argue over so many things, even embarrassingly-trivial things: the emotional head now has the "human right" to turn the differences of opinion (that are natural and commonly-occurring) between analytical men and emotional women into huge fights. That usually did not happen before women's lib *because wives didn't have that prerogative*.

Yes, Tom realized, equality does have an appeal when viewed from a strictly ideological perspective. But in actual practice it has proven to be fatal to the family by turning the old vertical hierarchy into a horizontal entity with no real hierarchy and with the weaker vessels having the advantage – as illustrated by the modern liberation of children.

In the old days children had no "rights" and were therefore seen and not heard. And families did pretty well considering the fact that they were composed of imperfect humans. For example, when the mom ordered her children to do this or that, the kids – for better or for worse – bit their tongues and did it. They weren't happy about having to clean up their rooms and do other chores...*but they had no option because mom and dad were higher up the chain of command*. In a way, families were like well-disciplined military units in which effectiveness and efficiency were the impressive result of people who knew their place, knew their jobs, and promptly did them without arguing with their bosses. But now children are stupidly believed to be equal – in spite of their tender age, lack of education, and lack of self control. Children now out-argue their parents...because equality gives the weaker vessels unequal power. Equality has made wives and children unequal partners – like Dick and Harry above.

Equality, which was once a nice pagan theory, has proven to be an abomination because it turns governments, societies, families, and military units into "equal partnerships" that are – in actual practice – nothing but disagreeing, bickering houses divided against themselves...and a house divided against itself *divorces*.

One day when Tom was thinking about how bad and wrong his multi-headed situation was from a Biblical standpoint, he realized why God is a dictating Monarch rather than a democratic public servant. That made him wonder if today's democratic egalitarianism is *itself* an abomination to God because it mocks/subverts His authoritative system of vertical hierarchy by giving power to the lowest common denominator – the majority. Tom got on his knees and asked God for forgiveness, and asked Him to help him have enough faith in the Lord to honestly examine the equality-based fundamental principle of democracy: that you get collective wisdom when you empower the ignorant majority; that the hands and feet should join the head up there on the shoulders and have equal votes – just as Dick and Harry did with Tom.

And, because Tom was beginning to understand God's consistency, he wondered if the issue of **old-fashioned, *thus saith the Lord*, take-Him-at-His-word-literally Bible study...which is based on faith**

vs. the **modern idea promoted by theology that committees of men should do their human best to figure out what God really meant to say...which is based on Reason**

was nothing more complicated than the question of **should we get our doctrines from God**

or

should we get them from committees of Bible-rejecting theologians?

Should we have a Single Head

or

should we have multiple-heads establishing doctrine?

And he wondered if the Bible version issue was part of the same question:

Is there one authoritative Bible version (identified by its inerrancy) that could establish doctrinal consistency if it were used,

or

should we *assume* that the multiple Bible versions (all known to be corrupt) that have produced contradictory doctrines, a proliferation of denominations and cults, and widespread unbelief in the existence of the inspired word of God are all *somehow* good?

These Biblical questions bothered Tom, so he asked a couple of buddies who were theologians if they thought the inerrant KJV represented the head at the top of the pyramid, and the corrupt modern versions represented the ignorant majority at the bottom of the pyramid. He asked if they thought tolerating/granting equality to the modern versions was actually giving them the ability to subvert/overrule the authority and effectiveness of the KJV. They listened to him with glazed eyes and told him it sounded like he needed to get a life or a hobby. A few days later he got up intending to do some serious Bible study. But, frankly, he was a little intimidated by the scope and importance of the topics, and he was unsure about how to begin. Then his doorbell rang, and his buddies said they were there to watch the football game with him. Over the next few days Tom gradually lost his sense of urgency about this topic in particular and about Bible study in general...and his life returned to normal.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet A2

TRUE LOVE IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE TO WHOM PRINCIPLES MEAN LITTLE

As I matured as a Bible believer, I came up with the title quote. I was merely articulating a truth I'd observed as my relationship with Christ broadened my understanding. Very briefly, here's a logical buildup to the quote.

Loving self is bad, which is one reason we are to die to self. If I love self, I'll someday put something I want ahead of Christ and what He says in his Book. Putting anything ahead of Christ is idolatry.

Therefore, in order to properly love Christ my love for Him must be greater than my love for self. Selfish love is bad. Love, in order for it to be true love, therefore, must be external (outward-directed) – it must be unselfish (not inward-directed).

Proper Christians love Christ more than self, and that unselfish love is pure because it contains or embodies the principles and characteristics revealed by the words in His holy Bible. Principles and character traits such as truth, loyalty, purity, integrity, character, fidelity, honor, etc., are intangibles – they exist in our minds – *but only in direct proportion to how much we value them above self.*

If we don't value principles above ourselves, any love we have is *selfish* – and therefore not *real* love. And that is one reason God's inerrant literal word – line upon line, here a little and there a little – teaches us that Biblical love, which is the only true love, *must* contain the complete package of synonyms (p.H1-2) ...without which the "love", "faith", "works", "belief", etc. *are not real, and are not efficacious* (1 Cor 13:1-3). That's one of the ways the Sword/word of God discerns the thoughts and intents of our hearts; it unerringly discerns whether or not the Biblical words out on our "periphery" (Trump W11) have been *internalized* to the point that they, as principles and characteristics, have become part of who we are. God's inspired inerrant words really do exist, and we really must eat/internalize them by *doing* them in the *wholeness* of God's synonyms. If we *are* faithful doers, those living words will reside in our hearts as fire shut up in our bones and we'll not be able to refrain from our duty (Ezek 2:1-3:4,10,11; Rev 10:10,11; Jer 20:7-9; Jn 4:31-34; Amos 3:8).

I'm not the first one to think about all of this; Richard Lovelace was way ahead of me. Lovelace lived in England during the reign of King Charles I. He was a "Cavalier poet." We know what a poet is, but some may not know a "Cavalier" (when it is capitalized) is a follower and defender of King Charles I. Lovelace fought for Charles against Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War. As a poet, Lovelace wrote "*To Lucasta*" about a soldier bravely leaving home to go fight against Cromwell's superior army (excerpted on the Wallpaper's motivational Quotations Page). The soldier replied to his wife's protests that he didn't love her enough to stay home by saying:

I could not love thee, Dear, so much,
Loved I not honour more.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet A3

CHRISTIAN REPENTANCE IS GROWTH

The Lord deserves and demands perfection from us, His servants. Therefore *imperfection* in our service can be viewed as robbery, as denying Him that which He deserves. Young Christians often serve imperfectly because of ignorance, and when they have grown they look back and realize they (in deed, not intent) had rendered unto Him much that was imperfect; their service had been a series of blemished sacrifices made to a holy God whose love, strength, and mercy forgave those imperfect offerings.

In light of that we can see that Christian learning, Christian growth, and Christian repentance are synonyms. As a "mature" Christian, therefore, I realize that because I still learn more every day I am in a constant process of a form of repentance as I strive to become the kind of perfect servant He wants and deserves. In other words, Christian learning and Christian growth should not be taken lightly: Our love for the Lord should motivate us to zero in on *everything* in an effort to better understand how we can improve, how we can stop robbing Him of the kind of servants who fully glorify Him.

Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet A4

THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN

Biblical principles are intangibles; we can't see them. But if we accept them by faith an interesting thing happens. As we study the Bible and obediently incorporate it into our lives our eyes are opened in a way that is amazing. As we look around at life on this planet, we see, and then *understand*, and then *identify* with the teachings and principles revealed in the Bible with such clarity and on such a deep and fundamental level that eventually we realize we neither want life in a world like this nor do we belong. We realize we truly have become strangers and pilgrims on earth...because of the undeniable and wonderful evidence of things not seen. The righteousness, order, and harmony of the kingdom of God are so perfect that the things of this world grow strangely dim...and *we wouldn't have it any other way*.

His word *is* truth. His way *is* right and good and satisfying and fulfilling. And it only gets better. We reach the point that He is all we want, all we need, and all we hope for because we have absolutely no desire to live in the crappy, hypocritical, contradictory, unsatisfying, shallow, mindless nonsense that we increasingly understand this world to be. Every now and then a series of events causes such a strong reaction deep inside me that, among other things, I am able to objectively look at myself and, with thankful wonder (because *faith* and *belief* are concepts I have yet to fully grasp) realize *I am a true believer!*

My wife and I often react to current events in the news by shaking our heads with frustrated disgust and then saying something, for the millionth time, about how unscriptural and chaotic society is. And then I'll sometimes say something like, "The Bible says, 'He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh', and you know what, I'm going to laugh with Him."

The new man, born of the Spirit, feeds on all of this evidence of things not seen, and **The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it* (Rom 8:16-25).

Yes, patience. But we are patiently waiting for Him with an eager, longing hope.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet A5

WHAT MAKES US COMRADES

When we are reproved and rebuked by fellow Christians and/or by the Lord, we are supposed to respond by evaluating, learning, repenting, and growing:

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Many Christians today, however, are so selfish their reactions often indicate self-based disappointment rather than love for the Lord. Those selfish reactions are indications that their relationships with other Christians are not based on spirit and truth; their friendships are therefore more worldly because they are based on getting along and being alike. In fact, that's why I prefer to refer to good Christians as *comrades* rather than as *friends*.

To me, *friends* connotes a relationship based mainly on *liking each other*. But the word *comrades* connotes a relationship based on devotion/fidelity to something or someone outside of the relationship. The Lord is – and must be – our common bond for all of eternity. In His service we shall find love, peace, satisfaction, and contentment. Notice I didn't say happiness. I tend to not like the word *happy* because it is way too dependent on *self*, which in Christianity indicates shallowness, vanity, and carnality.

There have been many times when I've been – from the worldly standpoint of *happiness* – miserable: wallowing in self pity, rejected, misunderstood, and hated. And in spite of the pain inside, I thanked God for blessing me, and I made sure He knew I had "No regrets, Sir! No regrets!"

The Lord has used the things I've suffered to give me insights that have enabled me to understand how to better please Him and edify His people. No pain, no gain.

As comrades we all go through times like that – mostly alone, but sometimes together. And through it all we remain a band of brothers and sisters because as David so succinctly said just before heading out *alone* to face Goliath, “Is there not a cause?” (*You’ve got to walk that lonesome valley, you’ve got to walk it by yourself. Nobody else can walk it for you, you’ve got to walk it by yourself.*)

For us that cause is Christ. And we all learn by doing and enduring. And because doing and enduring teach us what it means to love the Lord and suffer anything for His cause, we recognize, appreciate, and respect any and all saints who demonstrate that kind of selfless fidelity to Him.

I’ll close with a verse I’ve used before because it’s such a perfect example of what I’m talking about. It says our comrades are those whose proper fear/love for God makes them glad to be around others who base their lives on the Bible:

**They that fear thee will be glad when they see me;
because I have hoped in thy word (Psalm 119:74).**

Notice: the verse has nothing to do with *friendship*, and everything to do with fidelity to the written word of God.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet A6

A NEEDLE’S EYE

John 11:7,8 Then after that saith he to *his* disciples, Let us go into Judæa again. *His* disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

In the above Scripture the Lord and His disciples have received word that Lazarus is sick. If we were to read only the above verses we might think the disciples were selflessly thinking about Christ’s welfare when they cautioned Him against going to a place He might be captured and killed. But when we read the following verses we see that the disciples weren’t so unselfish after all: they were afraid they would be killed along with Christ. And their selfish fear of death made them all later forsake Him when He was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.

John 11:15 ...nevertheless let us go unto him. Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Let’s tuck the above perfectly-natural self-centered reaction into the back of our minds and move on. I am now going to say something that is so astonishing and so shocking it will blow your minds away:

“Trusting in riches won’t save you; if you want to go to heaven you have to put your faith in God.”

Are you astonished? Are you shocked? Did I just blow your minds away? Are you now filled with such fear that you’re even wondering if you are going to heaven? No, of course not...because the above statement is not shocking. In fact it’s rather mild.

But theology teaches that the statement *is* astonishing beyond measure.

OK, now I’m going to tell you something else that theology says is so shocking it will astound you:

Back during the time of Christ the main gates of cities, including Jerusalem, were kept open during daytime in order to accommodate the large numbers of pedestrians, camels, sheep, goats, commercial carts, merchants, chariots, etc. But at night those main gates, which were quite large and wide, were closed for security purposes – so an invading army couldn’t rush in. But one or two small night gates were left open to accommodate the few people who might be out and about. For security purposes these gates were narrow enough to prevent military chariots and wide formations of soldiers from getting through. The night gates were just wide enough to allow large animals that were commonly used for transportation, such as camels, to squeeze through as long as they did it one at a time and in only one direction at a time. One of these gates in Jerusalem was named The Eye of a Needle.

And once again you find yourself disagreeing with theology: The above info *does* make sense and it *is* interesting...but no way is it *mind-blowingly astonishing*. Let’s ignore the fact that archeologists and historians have found *absolutely no evidence* that *any* night gate was *ever* named *The Eye of a Needle* in any city in the world, and let’s see what the literal word of God says.

The disciples were not shocked beyond measure when Christ said we should trust in Him rather than in riches, and they were not flabbergasted when He said the only rich men who are going to heaven are those who unload any bulky cargo from their camels and lead the cud-chewing animals through a narrow gate. But even though Christ seems to be directing His comments at wealthy people, which would exclude His disciples, He did say *something* that hit His disciples right between the eyes. How do we conclude that? By reading how they reacted to whatever it was that Christ said:

Mark 10:25,26 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

Theologians want you to believe those who followed Christ were *appallingly stupid*: They claim that right after Christ spoke with a rich man, told him to get rid of his riches, was then rejected by the rich man, and concluded by saying it's pretty hard for rich people to get into heaven, that the disciples, horrified by what they'd just heard, turned and asked each other, "Who then can be saved?!" That's right, theologians think not a single disciple had the brains to say to his buddies, "Are you guys morons, or what!? Everything the Lord said was directed at the rich, which means the poor CAN be saved. Guys...*that means people like us!*"

People are people, and we all tend to selfishly think about ourselves. We noted in John 11, for example, that one of the reasons Christ's disciples didn't want Him to go to Jerusalem was they knew *they'd* have to go with Him and therefore *they*, too, might be arrested and killed. It is significant that the disciples did not react to whatever the full context of Christ's talk about the eye of a needle was by patting themselves on the back and saying, "Yahoo! Lookin' good for us poor folks!" No, in fact they did the opposite, and a clue as to why is: right after they failed to answer their own question about who then could be saved, Christ seems to abruptly change the subject from rich people to all people, which would include His disciples:

Mark 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

The "who then can be saved" reaction of the disciples, together with the fact that Christ did not say, "With rich men it is impossible..." suggests there was more said during this event than God chose to record in His Bible. And our earlier comparison with the selfish motives of the disciples in John 11 seems to be validated by what they say next, because what Christ told them made them fear for *their own* salvation:

Matthew 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

Why would God not spell it out for us in His Book? Did He sometimes speak in parables and write things in His Book so only they that put line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and they that have eyes and ears that see and hear would get it...but theologians wouldn't? Yes.

What message should we get? Well, after we absorb the fact that Christ's message scared off the rich man and caused His poor disciples to be shocked and frightened into asking "*who then can be saved*" and "*but what about us!?*", we should then *apply* that info by being deadly serious about the war and about doctrinal correctness:

Luke 13:20-24 And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened...Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

What could our Lord have told people about this war and about how few are going to be saved that would cause them to react with *incredulity* and *bug-eyed fear*? Well, He apparently elected not to spell it out for us. So I'm going to offer a possibility.

The rich man went to the Lord, called Him "Master", and said "I'm a Commandment-keeping Bible believer; what else do I have to do to be saved?" Since nowhere in the Bible are we told to sell everything we have and give it to poor people, we might conclude that the Lord's answer to the rich man was directed *only at him* and was intended to be a figurative slap across his smug and cocky face: The Lord read the young man's heart, wasn't impressed, was offended when the man called Him *Master* (He *hates* lip service), and decided to show him He was not his master: He told him to sell his stuff, *and then to follow Him*. And, as with many Christians through the centuries, there was simply no way the man was going to obey and follow Christ because he had *his own* life to live. And *that* is what (I think) the Lord's overall talk was about: obeying and following Him by being a hearer and doer of what the Bible literally *says*. The *vast majority* of His children, from the garden of Eden until today, are simply not going to go through that needle's eye (and we invented theology so we wouldn't have to).

In reference to Luke 13 above: The Lord said the kingdom of God is like a big batch of bread dough that was leavened...and the leaven spreads until the whole thing is leavened. Then He went around teaching. Then He was asked if only a few will be saved. It may be that the Lord touched upon some of the "Recessive leaven" stuff covered in the War College Trumpets. But there is no proof of that. However, whatever He said about how many can be saved was so horrifying it made His disciples ask if *they'd* make it. I hope you can see *why* the Lord has made extensive use of culling over the centuries. And not only that: He has used extremely-horrifying methods of culling His leavened people in attempts to impress upon the rest of us *just how serious, how deadly, and how close this war is*.

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet A7

5% WHORES...IN JESUS' NAME

As a young Christian I went to a fairly large, several-day Christian seminar in a huge auditorium in a large city. It was put on by a man I seem to remember was fairly popular back then, but I didn't – and don't – know much about him.

Two things happened at the seminar that stuck with me. I'll deal with the quicker, easier one today, and get to the more in-depth, thought-provoking one tomorrow.

The man illustrated our Christian growth by equating a newly-saved man to a house with many rooms. In a nutshell, a lot of rooms were cleaned out so the Lord could move in fairly quickly – at first. That meant the Christian was growing fairly rapidly...but also fairly superficially. The rate at which the remaining “personal” or “private” rooms were turned over to the Lord slowed considerably. Most Christians, we were told, never completely surrender all of themselves to the Lord; they always keep one or more rooms for themselves where *they* are in charge – not the Lord.

It was a good story and it made sense. I wanted the Lord to truly and completely govern me, so the story stuck with me. It didn't make the battles within me any easier, but it was a reminder that I should never BS myself about how “surrendered” I was.

It turns out there are a lot (at least in my life) of what I'll incorrectly call “little things” that we want to remain in control of. (I say *incorrectly* because a little leaven leavens the whole lump, an unclean object spoils whatever it touches, a whoring member of a body makes the whole body a harlot, one “little” sin still makes you a sinner, etc.) Whenever we hide something, steal, cheat, lie, “fudge”, don't fully live up to our responsibilities, don't help the church as much as we should...and a million other “little” things that nag at us for a while until...*finally* we forget about them and move on, we, in practice, are unfaithful wives selfishly (and short-sightedly) drifting from one “affair” to another.

When “little” things nag at us we should think of the Lord's still small voice, which the guy at the seminar described as a gentle knocking on the door as the Lord reminds us that we still aren't completely surrendered to Him. If the Lord were standing next to us, just about to announce His Second Coming, and watching to see what we'll do, how we would act in that case is how we should act today. But we'll only act that way if we are glorifying our Husband by completely submitting to His lead. If we resist His will, we make Him look bad because we have, *in His name*, done wrong by rebelling against Him by deciding to remain independent. In that instance we have taken His name upon ourselves *in vain*. And therefore, the very next time we try to end one of our prayers with *in Jesus' name*, we hypocritical, self-centered, rebellious, lip-serving bitches ought to be as distraught as Peter was when the cock crowed...*because we have denied Him!*

HOW THAT LAST ROOM MAKES US *JUST LIKE SATAN*

I'm going to use Satan to illustrate what submissive obedience is...and isn't. I hope this will help show how subtle-but-damning theology, rebellion, independence, equality, Reason, and leaven can be...and why they are so dangerously subversive.

Job chapter 2 illustrates something that is contrary to the way most Christians view Satan and his relationship with God: Satan and the other devils submissively go before the throne of God and make themselves available so He can give them tasks to carry out for Him. In other words, the devils – as servants – voluntarily offer to be doers of God's will. The relationship between God and the devils is cordial; God asks what they've been doing, they tell Him, He asks about Job, and they discuss him. And then the Lord tells Satan that, short of killing Job (like he would later be permitted to do to Jesus Christ) he can do whatever he wants in order to test him.

That scenario does not suggest that Satan snarls at God and tries to attack Him whenever he gets a chance. It looks like Satan is what I call a “95% Christian”: he is perfectly happy to do 95% of God's will, and he thinks that is being a good servant. Compare that with most modern Christians who are “95%-or-less Christians” in order to see how modern Christianity and Satanism are *fundamentally the same*: Today most Christians are willing to serve God in many ways. But even the best of them have certain items in the Bible they reject and don't do. That means *equality* makes them think they have the prerogative to *sit in judgment on the word of God* in order to either *approve and do* what it says, or to *disapprove and ignore* what it says. Satan seems to approve of most of what God wants, which is why I say “95%”. But the fact that Satan rejects 5% of what God says means he is not a true Christian servant; he thinks he has the authority to overrule and reject what God says, he is at violent enmity against the essence of what “God” and “King” and “Almighty” mean, and therefore he is attempting to subvert the definitions of both *authority* (as in *boss*) and *servant* by blurring the distinctions in rank between the two in order to justify retaining sovereignty over that last “little” room. In other words, Satan's definition of a good Christian servant is radically and fundamentally different from God's definition. The outcome of the War will determine which definition prevails.

Modern Christians have no idea that they are *just like Satan* in numerous ways:

- They don't mind serving Him...95% of the time. That means they are “5% whores”.
- They think the kind of servant they are is good and is the way all Christians should be.
- Satan subverted Eve with his Reason-based *Yea, hath God said* method of perverting what God *literally* said. Christians use Reason-based theology to do the same thing. That means, even though faithless unbelieving Christians *intend* that theology be “good for the church”, in actual practice and effect *it is destroying the church* by undermining *faith* in God and *belief* in the modern existence of His word. There is no bigger crime than that.
- Christians who use modern Bible versions are being worse than Satan and Hananiah because they are – in practice – promoting theology and declaring that *nothing* is the word of God, it no longer exists, God did not preserve His word like He said He would. In other words, once theology convinces a born-again Christian that the word of God (as defined by Him) no longer exists, that saint is on his own because *he* must decide what to believe. In practice and in doctrine he'll seem

to be OK 95% of the time, but the faithless unbelief in the existence of the inspired and inerrant word of God makes him independent, *subverted*, and not a true servant...because 5% of the time he'll reject, wrest, "correct", or ignore the Bible *and influence other born-again Christians to do the same thing!* Do not make the mistake of thinking all Bible versions are "acceptable" because they "contain 95% of the truth of God's word". As you mature by spending quality time with the Lord and His Book in your inner sanctum you'll increasingly and unequivocally understand that theology's most effective weapon in its struggle to subvert the church is the plethora of error-filled modern Bible versions.

- Christians who use layman's aids to cast doubt on and to "correct" various words and verses in the King James Bible are being just like Satan and Hananiah by subverting the word of God. They are actively undermining both faith and belief. They are enemies of our own household who are actively subverting faith in *Thus saith the Lord* by foolishly and blindly ignoring the miraculous inerrancy of the KJV by pompously and condescendingly asking with dripping skepticism, *Yea, hath God said?* I say again, they (like Pontius Pilate) have swallowed hook, line, and sinker the self-based Reason of the Greek Skeptics, and therefore boringly and predictably respond to Bible quotes by spouting variations of the air-headed-but-oh-so-"sophisticated" snappy little comeback *What is truth?*
- Christians who believe and submit to 95% of the Bible but reject 5% of it (such as relatively easy things like spanking, women silent in the church, clamoring against authority figures thought to be forward, political activism, etc., and harder things like selfless love, humility, confession, forgiveness, etc.) are Satanically independent of God and are in violent enmity against Him. They are "5% whores", they are wolves in sheep's clothing. (And that "5%" is a normal and forgivable part of our Christian childhoods...*if we eventually grow out of it.*)
- Christians who neither know the Bible nor are striving to become doctrinally-correct Bible experts are no different from atheists who live by *I think* rather than by *Thus saith the Lord*. I say again, Satan knows and goes by 95% of the Bible; but slothful and opinionated Christians who are Biblically ignorant are not even as "good" or "useful" a servant to God as Satan is...*because they can't be!*
- All of the above undermines the authority of God and His word, it undermines the general concept of authority, and it destroys Christian doctrinal unity within the church, which results in a house divided against itself that has over time fragmented into a chaotic collection of cults and doctrinally corrupt denominations and institutions that all utilize theology to justify their beliefs and practices. I say again to all of you Bible believers who have ears that hear: Theology is not to be tolerated; it is a major offspring of Reason that has been and is destroying the essential foundation of true Christianity – *faith*.
- All 95% Christians are also just like "Matt Seven"; at Judgment they will attempt to use their history of being 95% good Christians to whitewash the 5% leaven they never purged.

Being 95% Christians actually means those Christians never were submissive to Christ or to His Holy Bible. They were *always* sitting on the throne of Self. That means they were *always* sitting in judgment on what the Bible says in order to see if they liked and agreed and would submit to it...or if they'd grab a layman's aid to change it, switch to an error-filled version that justified their ignoring unpopular verses because "who knows what they really should say", or turn to science to "prove" the Bible was written by fallible men – not by God – because science incorrectly said the stars and planets are not in the firmament; rabbits don't chew their cuds; the Creation is a lie; and unicorns, devils, and miracles never existed.

That last little room, that last 5%, that last bastion of Self is Satanic because it is an attempt on our parts to retain control, to be independent, and to have the prerogative to overrule or ignore the plainly-written commandments of Almighty God whenever we don't like them. The word of God is designed to be a two-edged sword that will help us see that a number of "little things" in the Bible that we've either outright rejected, been afraid of, or ignored aren't so little after all...because they mean we are not fully committed, we haven't surrendered all, we are not yet *good and faithful servants for whom anything and everything God says is of the utmost importance and must and shall be carried out immediately* in order to glorify Him as our one and only Head, and to establish by our works of submissive obedience that we have finally achieved our goal of dying to Self so we can actually be His servants.

The subtlety and danger of the 5% reserved for Self is why I said on TheSwordbearer.org web page *Warriors' Country* that as you mature you'll realize AOR really only covers basic fundamentals of Christianity. You must not think knowing about equality, Reason, theology, democracy, Bible versions, etc. is nearly enough. Christianity isn't about knowing the "right answers", it's about how to successfully fight our way through this war as we learn that our submission to the written word of God (every verse in the Book) is how we gradually wean ourselves of pride, stubbornness, willfulness, and Self and grow into the humble selflessness of being ready, willing, and able to serve God IAW His written word *no matter what* and no matter how "trivial" we may pretend something is. Making Biblical submission part of who we are is our primary job – and it isn't easy. Yes, knowing the Bible and being doctrinally correct and mature is a necessary prerequisite, and knowing the stuff in AOR and in these trumpets can help, but how we live with the Lord day in and day out as we go about our earthly life, and how we handle the situations we encounter is our test – and *we can't make it alone!* We need the Lord to forgive and teach and shepherd us. Iron-sharpening-iron fellowship with Bible believers is helpful, but because our duty is to become *His* servants we must each develop our relationship of wifely submission to Him by patiently – through faith, hope, and love – being a doer of the word in every "circumstance" in our lives. Those experiences, no matter whether we handle them Scripturally or if we stumble at the word, will often cause suffering in the form of pain or humiliation or fear. And we will slowly learn *obedience/submission* by the things which we suffer (Heb 5:8) *if* we are "exercised" thereby by profiting from those experiences and using them to shape our Christian character, which according to Rom 7:11-25 can be an agonizing process as we increasingly grieve over the fact that our failure to live by every word of God is *hurting* our beloved Saviour.

Love for our Lord is crucial because *if we really do love Him* these “little things” that we try to hide, excuse, or ignore along the way will increasingly torment us and bring us to a crisis point in our relationship with Him. We will hate ourselves so much and be so miserable that we’ll eventually realize our lives (and our futures) would be much better if we surrendered *completely* to Him. If we *do not* love Him, though, the easier course is to continue BSing ourselves and hope the Lord is looking for independent, unfaithful, cheatin’, unreliable, argumentative, bossy, 95% wives like us who “only” go a-whoring 5% of the time.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet A8 PICKING ON A PIANO

When our destroyer pulled into Jacksonville, Florida, three of us young midshipmen on liberty walked out of a Dairy Queen wearing Tropical White Long and licking ice cream cones. Out of nowhere a young beauty in a light pink Sunday dress appeared in front of us and said, “Y’all are midshipmen, aren’t you?” Later, in her parents’ living room, I was sitting next to her on a piano bench. As a young man ignorant of music and unable to carry a tune in a bucket, I was astonished – when her fingers stroked the ivory keys – at how the music swept over me. I have been fond of the piano ever since.

Years later, when I told somebody that I liked music, my wife indirectly taught me something about *tradition*. She pointed out that I do not like music, have never liked music, and have no talent for music. When I protested that I like golden oldies, marching music, and Christian hymns, she replied that I like those not because I like *music*, but because I like things I’m familiar with (tradition): During high school I never listened to music on the radio...but many within earshot did; at the Naval Academy I attended military functions at which marching music was played, and I spent many hours on parade grounds and in football stadiums marching to John Philip Sousa; and in church I developed a love for hymns...even joining the choir.

But, but...*didn’t I like the piano in Jacksonville?* Ah, no; it was probably *the girl* I liked – not the piano.

All well and good, you say, but we didn’t come here to talk about *me and what I like*, we came here to talk about *the Lord and what He likes*. A timely objection, sir, thank you. And with that, let’s get about our Father’s business.

Yesterday I discussed the first of two things I encountered at a large Christian seminar (hiding from the Lord in “private rooms”). Today I’ll cover the second – music *without* a piano.

At the end of each day’s agenda, all of us at the seminar stood and sang a hymn. There was no piano in the rented auditorium, so we sang *a cappella*. I already knew I liked church music with a piano, how would I like it *a cappella*? I was astonished – as hundreds of voices praised God – at how the music swept over me, even producing an emotional response: In my heart we were all at the beginning of eternity standing in an auditorium, singing as the Lord, having won the war, walked onto the stage to initiate His glorious reign:

All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall.

OK, after a pause as I sang – with love and sincerity – that hymn to the Lord in my heart, I’m back.

Later, as time went by in my young Christianity, I learned that some churches think we shouldn’t have pianos or any other form of musical instruments (such as a full rock band); those churches sing their hymns *a cappella*. Hey, I thought, nothing wrong with that...as my thoughts returned to how much I enjoyed singing *a cappella* at that seminar.

Nothing wrong with that!? Who did I think I was? Who put me in charge and gave me authority to make pronouncements about right and wrong? *I* liked piano hymns in church...and *I* also liked *a cappella* hymns. Didn’t we earlier agree that we didn’t come here to talk about *me* and what *I* like?!

OK, the subject has now been narrowed to what does *the Lord* think about pianos in church. Should we all vote on it? No, we should consult that which – with our lips – we claim to be our sole authority in all matters:

Read the following and note 1) *David* thought the Lord should no longer live in the tent He designed for Himself; 2) After Nathan went along with David (because David was a good Christian), the Lord not only told Nathan He did not want David building Him a new house, He also asked a pointed question to underscore *His sole authority*: “*When did I ever ask anybody to build Me a new house?*” 3) The Lord also told Nathan to remind David he was picked to replace Saul as king because David was a humble shepherd who glorified God...not an uppity king deciding *on his own (!)* to replace God’s curtains with cedar walls. So, obviously the Lord likes us to *follow* Him by paying attention to what He *does* say and what he *doesn’t* say: do not add to or take away from His literal words.

2 Samuel 7:2-8 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee. And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar? Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith

the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel:

Now let's pretend David invented the piano because he wanted to praise God with it every Sunday:

1 Chronicles 23:5 Moreover four thousand *were* porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, *said David*, to praise *therewith*.

So far we can only suspect that maybe David – like he'd done with his “better temple” – was dreaming up more “good ideas” (musical instruments) without *waiting for*, without *following*, without *hanging onto God's every word*. But here comes some more evidence that suggests the Lord wasn't pleased with 1) David's decision to come up with instruments of worship *he* liked, and 2) even though God tried, through Nathan, to teach David to *quit coming up with stuff he* liked, David expected God Almighty to meekly accept David's musical instruments as forms of worship:

Amos 6:1,5 WOE to them *that are* at ease in Zion... That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

The word *invent* suggests that God's people came up with things *on their own* from their own fertile brains without having been told to do so by the Lord. Let's see how the Bible treats inventions. (Note, the only reason God deals with inventions in the Bible is they all had to do with how His people thought they were serving and worshipping Him. The Bible makes it clear we are not worshipping, serving, or loving the Lord unless we are being obedient followers of His literal word – neither adding nor subtracting. These inventions in the Bible are bad because they relate to God, but they have nothing to do with, say, inventing an automatic livestock waterer.)

Psalm 99:8 Thou answeredst them, O LORD our God: thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance of their inventions.

Psalm 106:29,39 Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them...Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.

Now we're going to zero in on why Amos 6:5 above may have added “to themselves” after the word *invent*. We're going to see that doing things for Self is never pleasing, serving, following, glorifying, obeying, or worshipping God...because anything that makes us *competing heads* by doing what *we think* is right and good is actually *carnality*, which is violent enmity against God because it is, in practice, an attempt to *dethrone* Him by making Him no longer the one and only Head and authority in all matters of faith and practice. The first Scripture below is from when God's people – without His permission – built the unauthorized altar, *Ed*; and the second Scripture concerns the infamous tower of Babel.

Joshua 22:26 Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar,

Genesis 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

With all of that under our belts, let's do two things. First, let's pretend we're starting a church and we're deciding if we're going to have a piano with which to praise God. When some of the other men say things like, “Well, I think so-in-so”, and “Well, I like so-in-so”, are you going to speak up and say, “Yeah, but what does the Lord think about all of this?” ...like you did to me above? I hope so, brother.

Second, let's say you've just joined a church, and it's a good one with edifying sermons and Bible studies, and everybody seems to be Bible oriented. But let's also say the church has a piano, and you think that not only are there no Scriptural grounds to have a piano, but that there is Biblical evidence that, while the Lord may *tolerate* musical instruments He didn't authorize (like He did with David), He may very well think they are abominations because they are (unintentional) challenges to His position as THE authority in ALL matters of faith and practice. And you firmly believe the Lord will be pleased if the church decides to get rid of the piano because 1) you know the Lord will not be offended by *a cappella* singing, and 2) even if the Lord has nothing against our own unauthorized inventions like pianos that have nothing to do with *Him* and His literal word, and everything to do with us and what *we* think and like, we know He'll understand and appreciate that our decision to sell the church's piano was motivated by a desire to glorify Him as our true authority in all matters – especially those that have to do with worship services.

If the church you've joined is made up of 100 left arms (as I discuss in Trumpet B5) all trying to emulate (Galatians 5:20!) each other, you may find that doctrinal discussions are not appreciated and taken seriously. But if your church is one body with many different members who appreciate and actually feed on doctrinal discussions, thank God, brother, for allowing you to find a good group of saints.

In closing, the *a cappella* vs. piano issue gradually taught me that *I like tradition*. But because tradition can make the word of God of none effect in matters of faith and practice, I have to be especially careful to evaluate my preferences to see if they are supported by Scripture or not. By the way, if you are one of the many Christians who merrily sings along with your church piano while at the same time badmouthing churches that use electric guitars and drums, you're like me – influenced by tradition. There is, in principle, no difference between rock-band instruments and pianos; neither was authorized by God to be used to serve and please Him.

I've also learned that “little” issues like this piano business have the potential to make me barricade myself in “my” private room and get stiffnecked and hardhearted when I hear the Lord's still small voice or His gentle knocking on the door. And if I don't want to talk with *Him* about it, I'm certainly not going to come out of the closet by trying to start a doctrinal discussion in church about pianos. But because I really do love the Lord, brother, and really do want to please him, I do not

want to find out at Judgment that something as stupidly-trivial (in *my* opinion) as a *piano* (of all things!) caused me to offend God. My duty, indeed, my heartfelt *desire*, is to please Him in all matters – no matter how big or small *I* might think them to be. I'm not here to *decide*, I'm here to *obey what He wants* by getting my marching orders from the literal, written word of God.

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet A9

A COMRADE'S LOVE AND HUMILITY

One time a comrade was a guest at our farm. After evening chow he said some things that made me tell him he was a BS artist. When he protested, I went into some embarrassing detail. He seemed to make a half-hearted admission, and after some discussion we all went to bed. The guest room was upstairs. Rather than retire to my bedroom, I went and sat in a dark corner of the living room to spend some time with the Lord – during which I brooded about what had happened.

Was that a creaking noise on the stairway? Then I heard the door at the foot of the stairs quietly open. His shadow slowly angled across the living room. What in the world? I was afraid I'd hurt him; maybe I'd been too harsh. In the almost-dark I saw him quietly pick his Bible up off the counter where he'd left it...and silently glide back upstairs.

What a blessing that was! In his hurt and embarrassment he was putting off going to bed in order to spend time with the Lord in His word. For him the big issue wasn't his relationship with *me*; it was his relationship with the Lord! You can't have that kind of humility unless it has as its foundation a true selfless love for the Lord. I admire and respect that kind of Christian manliness, and we can all profit from his selfless example of taking it to the Lord in prayer.

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet A10

OUR NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN CALLING: SUFFER...AND ENDURE TO THE END

Back in my youth I came up with this motivational quote about physical endurance:

Mental stamina – determination – is a quality of the mind *shattered* by fatigue.
But physical stamina – endurance – is *built* upon fatigue.

It is quite common for Christian athletes to gladly suffer physically during their pursuit of athletic glory. But are we as willing to suffer for eternal glory?

Now I'll alter the quote in order to make it more directly apply to our Christian walk and the Biblical injunction to *endure to the end*:

Any good Biblical intention – determination – is a state of mind *shattered* by life's experiences.
But Christian obedience – endurance – is *built* upon the trials of life.

The Bible words it this way:

Hebrews 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

In fact, suffering as a Christian is so good, we are told it is going to happen to us, and when it does we shouldn't despair by thinking *why me?*, we should *rejoice* and be *glad* because:

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, think it not strange [unusual] concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange [unusual] thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit [attitude] of glory and of God resteth upon you:

In other words, the road to eternal glory is a rough one, and if our road isn't rough we should be worried that we're not considered worthy to suffer...*because it is unusual not to encounter fiery trials!* Verse 14 says if we are "happy" when sufferings occur, that positive attitude is called "the spirit of glory."

Another reason to be worried if we're not going through grief and suffering is the never-preached fact that *suffering is our New Testament Christian calling*:

1 Peter 2:19-21 For this is **thankworthy**, if a man for conscience toward God endure **grief, suffering** wrongfully. For what **glory is it**, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer **for it**, ye take it patiently, this **is acceptable with God**. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

One of the reasons fiery trials are good, as stated above, is we learn obedience from them. That doesn't mean we're always going to be successful. Growth often happens this way: We let our natural weaknesses cause us to deny Christ (like Peter) and fail the test, and then our love for Christ causes our conscience to bother us, and then we repent by being a doer of the word when the next trial comes along, and the growth that results makes us realize the trials have actually been good for us in a number of ways...so we actually understand *why* the Bible says we should rejoice when trials come along – they are opportunities.

We need to make sure we faithfully serve God in the “little things” that we tend to easily ignore and brush aside and forget because our natural carnality makes us rationalize them as “little” and therefore unimportant. Not so, comrade; they are excellent opportunities for growth: If we pass those little tests, the understanding and growth that result will help us when a “fiery trial” comes along. I say again: *every day*, brother, *in every way*.

Since trials are good, and since they are what we are called not only to endure, but to *endure to the end*, how can we make sure trials come our way? The answer is always the same: Learn the Bible and do the Bible. If we do that, everything else will fall into place. That is how our Good Shepherd leads us.

In closing, I'm going to let Peter's Christian growth make the above point (and I know some of this will be repetitious). At first, Peter thought suffering to be bad and therefore must be avoided. Pay attention to what Christ says in response to Peter: that we must deny self and our preference for the things that be of men, suffer, and then be rewarded in the future:

Mt 16:21-27 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Peter did learn. In fact, he learned so much about how *necessary* and *profitable* suffering is that he began preaching it as our NT Christian calling, warned us not to expect immediate results from our suffering, and actually *blessed us by saying* “*may you suffer for the Lord*”. The change in Peter's “do not suffer” mindset in Mt 16 to his oft-repeated “may you suffer and rejoice when you do” mindset is dramatic – and is ignored by the modern church.

1 Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1 Pe 3:13,14 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

1 Pe 4:1,2,12,13,19 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God...Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you...But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy...Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1 Pe 5:6,10 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time...But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

It isn't necessary for me to add the following verses, because you already know our trials and tribulations along our Christian walk are designed to teach us that we are the problem, *we are not to be heads doing what we honestly think is right, and are therefore to train ourselves to be humble servants by doing the word of God*. But I'll let these verses emphasize the importance of Peter's message above.

Je 17:9,10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Ro 8:4-7 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet Archive Bravo

Trumpet B1

Marital Relationships Part 1: LOVE

The Old Testament era *required* marriage and the Old Commission to be fruitful and multiply because God used the three physical patriarchs (Adam, Noah, and Abraham) to populate the church. But by the time the New Testament era arrived, big changes were needed because the leaven of false doctrine and ideology corrupted the generations of those three patriarchs (also called the “measures of meal”, which includes *all* societies around the world because they are the leavened offspring of Noah that God cast off.) As a result, God replaced physical patriarchs with Himself, replaced the Old Commission with the Great Commission, and replaced the OT with the NT. And in the NT, for the first time in history (and consistent with the Great Commission), God advised us not to marry and have children. It is advisable for us NT saints not to marry because:

- It is always better to take God’s advice than to go against it.
- Because the leaven of philosophy is invisible, and because it seems so good to the Natural old man, and because it is so widely regarded as “Christian”, it is very possible – if not highly likely – that no matter how carefully you choose a spouse you are going to marry an apostate Christian, a Laodicean Christian, or a pagan in sheep’s clothing.
- If you have children the Lord is under no Old Commission obligation to give your children the new birth. It is therefore very possible – if not highly probable – that your kids will be pagans who think they’re Christians just because they said the “sinner’s prayer” and were immersed in water.
- Even if your spouse and children *are* born-again Christians, the time and effort you have to put into a family home, family members, relatives, and all of the associated social stuff will take away from time spent tending to the Lord and His church – and this at a time when the church is in deep and serious trouble and needs all the dedicated warriors it can get.

1 Cor 7:32-34 He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife. There is difference *also* between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please *her* husband.

If you are married, it is probably because:

- You didn’t have enough self discipline to keep yourself from committing Biblical fornication if you remained unmarried.
- You do have self discipline but you decided to go against God’s advice to remain single.
- You didn’t understand God’s precepts about NT marriage because your church never taught you about them, or you didn’t know the KJV is to be taken literally because it is God’s inspired and infallible word.
- You got married before you became a Christian.

Note: If the Lord gave you the new birth *after* you were married, it means He has a reason for doing so. He may want to use your marriage so He (as the Potter) can shape you (as the clay) into the kind of vessel He deems fit for His purposes. Being married is *not* something you should be ashamed of.

No matter why you got married the fact is marriage can be a very rough row to hoe because this dark era of rampant doctrinal apostasy, self-centered willfulness, materialism, egalitarianism, and faithless unbelief and Reason spread by the Enlightened principles of democracy and theology have made us liberated, selfish children of pride. We grew up in an Enlightened culture that has brainwashed us and instilled us with beliefs, instincts, and values that are un- and anti-Scriptural. That cannot be undone overnight; it is a long journey of growth that will be full of missteps and mistakes and regrets. I say again, Bible knowledge and good intentions *are* necessary prerequisites to becoming a proper Christian warrior, but they will *not* lead you down a wide path strewn with rose petals. It will be a narrow path with difficulties that will cause most Christians at various points along the way and for various reasons to take an exit and get back on the easier and more comfortable highway to hell.

The “journey” is simply *being a doer of the word*. Growth = doing + time. It’s a simple formula...but it’s not easy; it is a difficult journey whose trials and tribulations will turn you into a proper servant-bride of Christ. And the journey is made more complex and therefore more difficult by families, friends, neighbors, jobs, living quarters, debt, transportation, clothing, entertainment, hobbies...and the old man. You can’t get rid of the old man and you can’t get rid of your wife and kids, but if you could reduce some of the other stuff you’d have more time and energy to put into the things that are left.

If you are married your journey will be more difficult than it would have been if you had no wife (and children). With that in mind let’s define and describe the different kinds of love in this trumpet, and then apply them to wives and husbands in the next two trumpets.

LOVE

Love is the all-important foundation of our Christian service. Knowing about love can help us monitor ourselves to see if our words and deeds are based on the right kind of love or not. There are three main kinds of love that affect marital relationships: principled love, compassionate love, and selfish love.

PRINCIPLED LOVE

Principled love is based on the kind of selfless dedication that results from our deepening *appreciation* for the Lord and the truth of His word.

Appreciation is a fruit of submissive obedience and the resultant increase in our understanding and wisdom over time. This *appreciation* is not just *agreeing* with the Lord, it is an *admiring and grateful* agreement based on understanding the supreme goodness and value of His way and word.

Principled love is neither selfish nor materialistic; it is based on a love and appreciation for the truth of Scripture and the doctrines and principles revealed by them. Principled love can also be called soldierly love because it typifies the kind of disciplined, black-and-white, orders-are-orders mentality of soldiers who have an idealistic and selfless dedication to duty. This kind of love feeds on the *nobility* of duty and it makes the performance of duty its own reward and satisfaction, and the more the accomplishment of that duty requires selfless dedication and a willingness to suffer the more noble and satisfying it becomes. This is the kind of love that makes submissive obedience to God more important than anything else – including mortal life.

Not surprisingly, therefore, this principled love tends to be found in Christians who are unselfish, disciplined, mentally orderly, and known for integrity, honesty, dependability, and the kind of strictly-virtuous character sometimes associated with martinets. Principled love tends to be found in Bible believers who understand the rightness and necessity of taking the Lord at His word *literally*. The idealistic dispassionateness of principled love is important to the welfare of the NT church because it is needed to overcome the tendency “compassionate love” has to make Christians not take the Bible literally...and therefore to *not* obey God’s NT orders to *walk away* from Christians who are infected with subversive leaven. (Subversive leaven and God’s NT tactics to combat them are discussed in the War College series of trumpets.)

I could call this kind of love *idealistic love* but I prefer to use the word *principled* because I want it to serve as a reminder that our “brotherly love” for each other is not based on *liking* each other (as discussed in Trumpet Alpha 5), it is based on the Christ-and-Bible-centered *appreciation* defined above.

Two OT examples of how principled love is necessary to do one’s duty in spite of the presence of “compassionate love” include 1) God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son, and 2) He told Capt. Jehu to perform some wet work. Proper principled love is external (that is, *unselfish*), it is grounded in faith and belief, and it focuses on submissive obedience to God and His word. Another example of principled love in action is King David’s ordering the execution of the young man for merely believing in the subversive (because it undermines *authority*) concept of regicide. You and I today, taught by Enlightened Christianity to give too much weight to *compassionate* love, would have hurt the church and the War effort by sparing the young man’s life (back then) or by not breaking fellowship with him (today). But David’s *principled love* evaluated the doctrinal situation, recognized the *necessity* to put aside his *compassionate love*, and ordered the execution.

As truly necessary to Christianity as principled love is, it would make us all treat the word of God as if it were a must-do laundry list of rules like the Pharisees did...if it weren’t for the presence of the also-necessary *compassionate love* – which is what made David able to understand the doctrine of expediency when he ate the shewbread.

COMPASSIONATE LOVE

Compassionate love is, like principled love, *external*. It unselfishly focuses on other living beings rather than on the Pharisaical letter of the law – as in *I will have mercy, and not sacrifice*. Compassionate love is subordinate to principled love, and therefore some doctrinal maturity is required in order to put things into proper perspective in order to know which kind of love should govern different situations. Compassionate love dominates in situations like pulling a sheep out of a pit on the sabbath and when feeding the shewbread to hungry comrades. Principled love dominates in situations like spanking children and walking away from beloved – but subverted – brethren.

Principled love unselfishly focuses on the substance of things hoped for such as God, His word, doctrine, and principles. Compassionate love, on the other hand, is largely about people. We must learn when to apply these two kinds of Christian love. The Lord Jesus Christ is a perfect example of the application of the two loves: Compassionate love made Him die on the cross for us; principled love made Him die on the cross for tactical, legal, and strategic reasons. In other words, He was a perfect example of two (husband and wife) being one flesh; of head and body being in perfect harmony; and He showed principled love and compassionate love to be wrongly divided in our fallen, carnal natures...because in our glorified bodies they won’t be two different loves, they’ll both be perfect parts of God’s love or Christian love or whatever you want to call it.

The reason doctrinal maturity is so important to our Christian walks is the obvious fact that without a proper understanding of doctrine we won’t know how and when to let principled love overrule compassionate love – and vice versa. And because principled love is superior to compassionate love (in that it must decide and dictate when compassionate love is appropriate and when it isn’t), principled love must *always* be present. I say again: If the cerebral, Bible-oriented principled love is not present, compassionate love will always be carnal...just as any action is carnal if *discernment* is not present. And therefore just as discernment must be a Bible-based *learned discipline* that regulates our behavior, so too must we learn to understand and properly utilize principled love. In fact, it isn’t wrong to say discernment and principled love are in practice the same thing. I am distinguishing between them in order to show that discernment/principled love is a necessary part of true Christian love, because *without it’s regulating presence*, God Almighty and His word are *absent* from compassionate love – which makes compassionate love (in that case) a selfish, carnal abomination.

There is nothing wrong with feelings and emotions being part of compassionate love – as long as they are subject to and approved and permitted by the discerning element of principled love. But understand that compassionate love is still true love even if feelings and emotions are absent...because true love is based on *actions* not *feelings* (as discussed in Alpha 2).

SELFISH LOVE

This is worldly love; the kind of love most people think of as “love”. But Bible believers quickly realize, when reading certain things God says about love (such as some of the verses in Alpha 2), that some Bible study is needed in order to gain a proper doctrinal knowledge of the subject of love. And then over time as we apply the Bible when reflecting on our observations and actions in life, our doctrinal knowledge will blossom into a deeper *understanding* of love, which will then increase the depth of our above-defined *appreciation* – which is all part of the never-ending cycle of growth/maturity. That’s how we begin (as young Bible believers) to disdain the kind of compassionate-and-selfish-love-based modern “Christianity” with its shallow and contradictory actions and “beliefs”, and to gravitate more toward the selfless nobility of dispassionate principled love. But then more Bible study and experiences and quiet time spent in our inner sanctums (“study to be quiet”) reveal the Pharisaical nature of principled love when expediency reveals circumstances when compassionate love *must* be applied – even at the (apparent) expense of principled love. And more growth reveals the head/body relationship of principled/compassionate love and how it is incumbent upon us to learn how the two loves must be joined just as a husband and wife are joined, and to learn how to properly glorify God by becoming one flesh – head and body – by knowing when principled love (head) and when compassionate love (body) are called for.

I won’t dwell on selfish love because we already know it is based on *things* and on Self (rather than on people or principles) that are worldly, trivial, and shallow such as personal appearance, fashion, wealth, personality, tone of voice, emotions and feelings, or any of the petty, misleading, self-based ingredients assigned to “love” (such as laughter and happiness) by modern society...and I’ll call this worldly foundation “liking”. Yes, I definitely do often have some of those “liking” feelings and emotions as part of my relationship with the Lord, but those feelings and emotions are based upon and a result of the above-defined *appreciation* that blossomed over time as I dedicated myself to being submissively obedient. I say again: my “lovey-dovey” feelings for the Lord do exist, but they are neither *conditional* nor are they *based upon* the shallow worldly “liking” above.

Remembering the definitions of principled love and compassionate love, let’s apply them (and other things) to Christian wives in Trumpet Bravo 2 and to Christian husbands in B3.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet B2

Marital Relationships Part 2: CHRISTIAN WIVES

When discussing wives in this trumpet and husbands in the next I’m going to make general statements that will not apply in every case or to every individual. So only pay attention when the shoe fits...and discard the rest. I’m trying to be helpful, but my knowledge and understanding are limited and I only see through a glass darkly. But because I’m speaking to fellow Bible believers, I know that your knowledge of Scripture, your ears that hear the still small voice of the Comforter, and your dwelling place in your inner sanctum will keep you from blindly accepting everything I say...and you may be edified in ways I didn’t intend. My hope and prayer is that you’ll treat this as a quiet one-on-one Christ-honoring Bible-oriented discussion between comrades who want to discuss things that are necessary and important...but that are largely ignored or trivialized by the modern church. Mistakes in my life have shown me that I’m no expert on marriage, but I hope this discussion might help you have an easier time – and fewer regrets – than I have had along the way.

As a younger Christian who was learning about a lot of different things, I made a mistake: My limited perspective made me think being a Christian husband is a tougher job than being a Christian wife. My life as a Bible-believing man and husband had had enough difficulties, mistakes, and regrets that I began to think I’d have been a better Bible-believing woman and wife because I thought my characteristics made me better suited to the life of a servant. For example, I am generally neither selfish nor materialistic. Part of that is because of character, and part is because of self-discipline. I am idealistic and dedicated, which contributes to my general lack of selfishness. I have a soldier’s mentality and I tend to have a black-and-white view of life. I *identify* with the concept, the necessity, and the performance of duty. Performing my duty is its own reward and satisfaction, and the more my duty requires selfless dedication and a willingness to suffer the more noble and satisfying it becomes. I think my soldier’s mentality has made it easier for me to love the Lord – even when He is a hard master – because I *appreciate* (as defined in the previous trumpet) the fact that He is the one and only Head...and I am His body/servant. And I *trust* Him completely, which is part of true belief.

Thinking the role of a wife to be easier was a good, well-intentioned *beginning* to my process of learning about marital relationships. But it was wrong: Just because being a man and husband has been difficult for me doesn’t mean I’d be any better as a wife. I learned that tiny little fact when I began examining myself as the Lord’s wife. If the willful disobedience and disrespect with which I have treated the Lord is any indication (and it is the only true and accurate indication), I’d have sorely tried the patience of my earthly husband if I’d been a woman. All things considered, being a Biblical servant-wife is a difficult process, and being a Biblical master-husband is a difficult process – and they are *not* as easy to *live* day in and day out as they are to *understand* when reading the plainly-worded stuff in Eph 5 and other places. Being a Biblical wife and husband is a *growth process*. That growth process takes time and is built upon mistakes and repentance. With that in mind, my beloved sister and fellow servant, let’s look at love, covetousness, humility, and forgiveness.

LOVE

In general, women tend to have more *compassionate love* (Trumpet Bravo 1) than *principled love*. Compassionate love is good, but because compassionate love is people-oriented it must be regulated/governed and either approved or restricted by principled love, which is more Christ-oriented. People-oriented love, when combined with a woman's tendency to be more emotional than men, can cause a Christian wife to think she is *right* to argue with her husband when he is froward. But, as you already know, the Bible not only tells us to respectfully submit to froward authorities, *it tells us why we should do so*:

1 Pet 2:17-3:6 Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. Servants, *be* subject to *your* masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this *is* thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not...Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear. Whose adorning let it...*be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well...

That's but another example that the issue is *authority*, not right and wrong...or personality. I say again, it is *never* Scriptural to argue with the Lord *under any circumstances*, and if a Christian wife argues with her earthly husband she is, in practice, indicating that *her will* in that particular situation is more important to her than the plainly-stated will of God Almighty.

That paragraph will be causing you to have an uncharitable reaction unless you already have taught yourself – through trial and error and fights and tears and bitterness and repentance and time spent with the Lord – to *appreciate* the Scriptural importance and necessity of principled love, and to have actually made it part of your process of discernment. If so, your principled love has caused you to understand the Biblical truth of what I say.

That discerning principled love is all well and good, but it isn't any easier for you to put into practice every time it's needed with your earthly husband than it is for me with my Heavenly Husband. So let's mention some things that may help you see the big picture more clearly so you can more quickly recognize what's going on inside you and therefore get control of yourself before you do something you'll regret at Judgment.

COVETOUSNESS

Covetousness is a foundational sin. It might help to better understand and avoid covetousness if we identify the two things that lead to covetousness.

1. The most basic "sin" is **equality**. Equality cannot (as in *must/should not*) exist in God's kingdom. God's kingdom is based on *authority* (starting with Him), and equality is anti-authority. But technically equality itself isn't a sin; it's an evil concept or ideology. God created it for a reason (as covered in AOR). Equality is the engine that gives us the power or ability to have our own opinions and wants, which makes us *heads* that compete against the One True Godhead...and against earthly authorities God has put over us such as husbands. Equality is the "prime mover" that gets the ball rolling in the direction of sin.
2. **Temptation** is what results when equality puts us on the horns of a dilemma: Should we agree with and/or submit to God's will and way (or that of our earthly husband), or should we live according to our own opinions and wants? All sins begin or end at this fork in the road. It's always this simple. But temptation itself isn't a sin, either – it's a normal *choice* we all face many times.
3. **Covetousness** is when we yield to/exalt Self by deciding to put our will/wants into action rather than submit to the will of our authority. All sins have this sin of covetousness at their root. It's as simple as that.

This choice between doing what God tells us or doing what we want is the fundamental choice that leads to either submission or to sin. And since covetousness is based on Self (not on God), the Bible says covetousness is idolatry – because our god is Self/our belly. And because covetousness causes us to resist God's will, the Bible says stubbornness, rebellion, and witchcraft are synonyms. And when we consider the fact that *clamoring* (called *murmuring* in the OT) is part of stubbornness and rebellion, we begin to see that all sins do indeed trace their origins to covetousness...which is always anti-God/authority and always pro-Self/"liking".

In sum, all sins come from covetousness. Covetousness exists in direct opposition to God's authority. Therefore we can easily see that *all sins are against some authority*, whether it be God's authority or man's. For example, when a child backtalks his mother, when a wife backtalks her husband, when a man backtalks his boss, when a person steals a pair of shoes, or commits adultery...all of those originate when a person wants to do something that is against the known will of either some human authority or the written will of God.

Covetousness is very personal and very powerful. It isn't just wanting to do something; it's more powerfully attached to Self than that, which is one reason it is *idolatry*. When your husband is being a jerk, which causes your self-righteous sense of justice to make you angry, pay attention and see if you can tell the instant you yield to your anger (and the yelling *really*

begins). That instant of yielding to sin is the same in everybody – it’s a *choice*, and we all have to make that choice in order to sin. In modern times democratic egalitarianism has made it so acceptable and common and so *easy* for wives to give their husbands a tongue lashing that it’s actually widely regarded as humorous. That makes the wifely sin of clamoring so “normal” that many Christians don’t know it’s a sin for a wife to continue to resist the will of her husband once she realizes she is angering him. At that point she needs to do what any good servant of God Almighty would do: “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry”:

Ps 2:11,12 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little.

Eph 5:1-33 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children...But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints...For this ye know, that no...covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord...See then that ye walk circumspectly...Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing...For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

It’s easy to say that, and it’s easy to prove it with Scripture. But because tradition makes the word of God of none effect, and because that sinful behavior is widely regarded as *not* sinful by modern Enlightened church-going Bible rejecters, and because the individual-exalting principles of the Enlightenment have made what you and I want and feel so important and right and good, actually kissing your husband at that point, or prostrating yourself (1 Sam 25:23,24,41) while apologizing is so *hard to do* it requires the kind of *humility* that enables us to actually put “dying to self” into practice (being a doer of the word, not just a hearer only) by doing the exact opposite of the very sin every fiber of our being is *clamoring* to do. When I use the word *clamoring* I do so in order to emphasize the fact that our natural, carnal old man is *sinning* when, instead of submissively obeying the head (our inner-sanctum-dwelling, Scripture-abiding new man), it tries to get us to sin by clamoring against our heavenly and earthly authorities. Neither our modern society nor our churches have taught us not to *covet* – not to yield – to the sinful clamoring of the old man. We were never taught *yielding* is the sin/idolatry of covetousness in that situation. And if our parents did not spank us, we probably also lack much of the humility and self-discipline necessary to subdue the old man’s clamoring and then actually apologetically kiss our husband/Husband. And the reason we won’t do it isn’t so much because we think it’d be embarrassing and/or demeaning, but because that kind of *Biblical humility just isn’t part of our character*, it isn’t part of *who we are*. And all of that makes it very difficult for Christian wives to submit to their earthly husbands – and for all of us Bible believers to submit to our Heavenly Husband: *we are not submissive people*; we are willful, full of self, and independent...we are idolaters because our true god is, in practice, *self*.

HUMILITY

What I’ve said above is just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much about being a Scriptural servant-wife that is anathema to modern freedom-and-independence-worshipping society, and is so contrary to our Enlightened characters, that we Bible believers have huge mountains to move during the challenging process of becoming proper servant-wives of Christ...and that process is both slowed down and made all the more difficult by the fights and distractions and emotions and duties we burden ourselves with if we are married. That’s why – for our sakes as individuals and that of the church as a whole – the Lord advised us not to marry. But for a number of reasons – most of which were beyond our control – we did marry. These trumpets on marital relationships are an attempt to help Christians have enough understanding that they might actually use the challenges of being married, the challenges of being Scriptural spouses, as *learning aids* that can help us become better servant-wives of Christ.

So, dear sister in Christ, no Christian with any maturity can fail to recognize the difficulties you face in trying to transition from your life as a happily-married wife who isn’t really bothered by the “normal” fights you have with your husband into a wife who is increasingly bothered by the fact that all of the above *is true*. If you discuss all of this with your husband and let him know your love for the Lord Jesus Christ has made you want to serve and honor Him by obediently becoming the kind of earthly wife He describes in His Book, will that humble submission by you tend to make your husband’s already-existing selfish, inconsiderate flaws and annoyances *even worse* as he becomes an arrogant dictator? Yes, it might...but I’ll speak with him about that in the next trumpet. In this trumpet I’m trying to help *you*, and your *fear* shouldn’t be causing you to focus on potential pitfalls you’ll likely encounter during the process of becoming a good and faithful servant of the Lord; your *principled love* for the Lord should be causing you to gird your loins because *nothing* will *ever* cause you to take your eyes off Jesus. Besides, if you are worried that the “suffering” that is your Christian calling (1 Pet 2 & 3) includes properly submitting to *the man you love and trust more than any other on earth*, that worry should help you realize your problem isn’t really your husband’s frowardness, and it isn’t really the *incredible hardships* (!) he’ll force upon you – your problem is *you!* You do *not* want to be *anybody’s* servant – not even your loving husband’s servant. You want to keep the Bible and Christ and your husband out of that room you’ve reserved for Self in the “house” that is *you*. Yes, you’re willing to decorate all the *other* rooms of yourself (Trumpet A7) with “Christian” furnishings, but you’re Naturally, carnally, and instinctively loathe to surrender that last room of Self, the room from which you rule and reign.

That means the Christian characteristic you must quit rendering lip service to and actually force into your actions until it becomes part of who you are *humility*. We all are children of pride, and we therefore all have problems with true Biblical humility. We've all learned what little things we can do, and how we can word things in order to make ourselves appear to be humble. But true Christian humility like Moses had actually requires us to combine principled love with self-discipline so we can die to self by subduing the oh-so-appealing clamoring of the old man and actually make the inspired and inerrant literal words of the living God our lives.

Humility is not a natural characteristic. It is a learned characteristic; its appeal springs from *appreciation*-based principled love, and we then use self-discipline to force it upon ourselves. Just to be clear: How do we "force" ourselves to be humble? Is humility a state of mind or a certain bodily/facial posture? No. Humility is *being a doer of the word*. That seems simple at first blush. But when we think about the fact that being a doer includes Eph 5 we begin to appreciate why humility is so hard to attain.

The good news is dying to self and forcing ourselves to be Biblical servant-wives has huge spiritual-growth benefits – even more than doing other Scripture. Why? Because our *purpose* is to be *servants/slaves*. And when we obediently submit to God's plan by becoming self-disciplined, selfless, humble *servants* who willingly endure wrongful suffering for His name's sake, He truly becomes our Lord and is exalted and glorified and pleased. And He rewards us with *growth*. "Growth" may not sound like much, but the satisfaction, contentment, vision, Biblical understanding, and peace that are byproducts of growth passeth all carnal understanding and are ways the Holy Ghost manifests Himself to *doers of the word*. If we truly want eyes that see and ears that hear we must draw upon principled love and humility to fight the good fight against the Self that is barricaded in that last room, and quietly – without fanfare – be the kind of servants *now* we hope to be for all of eternity.

FORGIVENESS

The process of repenting from your worldly relationship with your husband can be made a little less difficult if the two of you deliberately draw upon humility and use it to discuss all of this and all of the bumps and battles you encounter along the narrow-and-difficult way that leadeth unto righteousness. We don't all grow at the same pace, and that is one of the difficulties we must deal with. Young Christians often think more mature Christians are wrong about certain Scriptures – or at least too zealous or too literal about them. More mature Christians at the same time think the younger Christians are stubbornly and willfully and knowingly refusing to submit to what the Bible plainly says. Eph 5 is a perfect example because it is easy to read and understand, but it cannot be made a part of our lives overnight because becoming a Biblical self-denying servant who walks in the Spirit is not as easy as knowing the right answer on a quiz. And it is not the quickly-attained result of a single battle won against Self. Servanthood is only attained after a long and difficult *war* during which battles are won and lost and over time we realize *Self* truly is the problem, and the war with Self is as agonizing as Ro 7 says it is. I say again, dear sister: you are going to sinfully deny the Lord *repeatedly* (just as I have done) by yielding to the covetous clamoring of your carnal, selfish old man. And if you *care* (via principled love) as much as Peter did when he heard the cock crow, you'll realize Paul wept as bitterly over his Rom 7 failures as Peter did over his – and as you will over yours. And after you've cried and confessed and apologized and discussed your failures with your Husband and then with your husband so many times that you wonder if you'll *ever* conquer the old man, it'll gradually begin to dawn upon you that your failures are becoming less frequent...and your successes actually make you feel better and more confident and more *satisfied*. And you'll take that humble, satisfaction-fueled *hope* the Holy Spirit has rewarded you with to the Lord, thank Him, and ask Him to please continue teaching you and training you. (**Teaching: Imparting knowledge that is fairly easily learned. Training: Imparting knowledge that is more difficult/unnatural to learn and must therefore be preceded/accompanied by suffering** – see Heb 5:8 and all the Proverbs that deal with the good byproducts of spanking. Yes, *suffering* is a necessary part of growth, which is one of the reasons behind our Christian calling in 1 Pet 2:21.) What I'm trying to say is principled love will allow us to gain an *appreciation* for the suffering we are called to endure. We'll *believe* humbly submitting to suffering is a God-ordained and necessary part of becoming one of His servants. And, dear sister, if humbling yourself before, and "suffering" at the hands of the earthly husband who loves you more than any man on earth is part of that servant-in-training process, you should thank God for opening your eyes, and you should (if I may be so bold as to suggest):

1. Kneel down and thank God for His Weapons Manual that tells us exactly what we need to do in order to grow into the kind of strong, confident, humble servants for whom *life itself* is carrying out His every command (Phil 1:1-2:18 with emphasis on 1:20,21 & 2:7,8,12,14,15).
2. Ask God to help you gird your loins against the selfish and covetous clamorings of your carnal old man, and to give you the love-fueled strength and faith to be humble...and even *awkwardly* humble if that's all you can manage at this stage of your growth.
3. Take a deep breath and go have a Christ-exalting discussion with your husband – *now* – during which you ask him to help you become the Biblical wife Christ has ordered you to be. Honestly tell your husband about your fears and worries and awkwardness – cry if you have to, but have the kind of humbly-honest session with your husband that will allow you, when you speak with the Lord before turning in tonight, to tell Him you think you made a good start...and you intend to fight the good fight against Self daily in order to prove you really do want Him to rule all rooms in your house.

I think you'll be encouraged by your husband's reaction. He may even feel as awkward and as uncertain as you are about how to proceed. You both may be afraid of how you'll handle it when you next get mad at each other. And it's going to happen. With those future challenges/battles in mind, I think it'll help if you keep two things in mind:

First, **there will never be another fight unless you sinfully yield to your carnal self.** Never, *ever*. Biblically speaking, any and all fights that may occur *are your fault*. It does not matter how froward or wrong your husband may be about *anything*...whether it be your hair, your children, the Bible, your attitude, your intentions, your tone and/or volume of voice, your parents, or whether the moon is made of green cheese or not. When you become aware that you're getting mad at your husband, or if you become aware that he is getting mad at you, subdue your angry reaction, think of the Lord and this moment being replayed at Judgment, and say and do things that will show you and your husband and God that you are deliberately suppressing your anger and are humbling yourself before the authority of your husband and your Husband. You will have to **force** yourself (and it's *not* easy) to make that humble gesture because Self and anger and resentment and pride will, when covetousness puts you on the horns of the dilemma we always face, make you *want* to fight or stalk away – *anything* but looking into your jerky husband's eyes and humbly saying things you'll be glad you said when you watch them replayed at Judgment. If you win that battle with Self, your earthly husband will probably react the same way you would if you were in his shoes – he'll be a bit surprised...and then your obvious attempt to humble yourself before him and before God will cause *him* to be impressed and humbled. How he deals with his own feelings (which may be carnal and disappointing to you) may vary because he's as new to this as are you. The important thing for you to remember is to *stay in control*: you've made an impressive start on your journey to *actually being* the Lord's servant, so don't ruin it now – no matter how he reacts. And that brings up my second point, *forgiveness*.

Your husband has clay feet just like the rest of us do. So he is going to anger and frustrate and disappoint you from time to time. But just as you want Christ to forgive you for treating Him badly, and just as you hope your earthly husband will forgive you for losing some battles with Self and sinning by treating him (and therefore your Heavenly Husband – 1 Cor 11:3-5) with disrespect, so should *you* forgive your hubby when he rightly or wrongly offends you. Just force yourself to *let it go* – *win* another battle against Self, *earn* another medal at Judgment, *shew* the Lord you actually *do* love Him more than Self. And sometime later when you think the time is right and if you think it'd be profitable if you calmly and respectfully and humbly bring some issue up for discussion with your husband, good; in fact, that's actually part of your "helper" duties – you are trying to help him be a better Christian (if applicable), husband, and man. But remember to follow his lead, and if he wants to shut down the discussion before it even begins, do so instantly and humbly by *winning, earning, and shewing*.

None of this will be lost on your husband. And as your new, Biblical relationship comes up in various conversations, the two of you will become more comfortable about discussing events and confessing to each other, and you'll become more confident as you two realize you really are becoming more and more like *one flesh* – with your husband as the God-ordained head, and you as the God-ordained body. And you'll realize with relief and thanksgiving that *God's way really is always the best way*. And that realization will add to your *appreciation*, which will strengthen your *principled love* and deepen your *compassionate love*...as the process of *growth for doers of the word* continues as it always has.

I'll close this section on forgiveness by reminding you of the many verses in the Bible that repeatedly warn us that the Lord will not forgive our sins against Him if we don't forgive other people who trespass against us. It may help whenever your husband is a jerk to you if you think of the many times you've been a jerk to the Lord.

One of the interesting things about Christianity is the fact that it really doesn't matter if we're married to each other or not – we should treat *all* Christians with the same love, humility, forbearance, and forgiveness with which Christian husbands and wives should treat each other. We're all trying to be the best *servants* of Christ that we can possibly be. And we have all been unworthy sinners and selfish jerks from time to time. So let's all be the kind of comrades whose selfless devotion to the cause of Christ (as spelled out in His inerrant Bible) makes us set our affections on things above, not on petty things on the earth.

When a wife properly incorporates Bible-based principled love and appreciation into her character, it'll make it easier for her inner sanctum to realize that submitting to her froward husband is really submitting to Christ Himself by believing and doing His word. In other words, by submitting to her husband she is – by her works that will be replayed at Judgment – establishing herself as a *Bible believer* who will tearfully sink to her knees with thankful joy and relief when her true Husband, Lord, Saviour, and God tells her how much she blessed His heart by biting her tongue whenever her old man made her want to rise up and become another husband-head/Husband-Head.

Do not let Enlightened women's liberation cause you to give lip service to the fact that God has ordered you to be a servant who honors her husband with submissive obedience as if he were God Almighty. That only sounds strange, offensive, demeaning, and wrong to the stiff-necked and hard-hearted people who have been subverted by the very philosophy Christ warned them to avoid. Sadly, that leaven has so thoroughly infected the church over the last hundred years that apostates now vastly outnumber Bible believers. Keep in mind that there are no laws prohibiting women from letting their husbands be their bosses. And always remember the modern difficulties associated with having spouses and children, and the vast amounts of time they will subtract from serving God and the church, and the peer pressure that will tempt us to take the broad, easy path by allowing our families to be modern, liberated, unscriptural abominations...*which are exactly why God said we NT saints should neither marry nor have children*. But we did; we screwed up (if we were Christians when we married). And that means we Bible believers who are married need to help each other in our struggles with the flesh as we try to glorify God by being Scriptural husbands and wives. And if we are *pressured or tempted* by apostates to not take seriously what God plainly says, quietly thank God for making our difficult lives a little bit easier by commanding us to politely *walk away* from bad Christians and have nothing to do with those who are subverted. And keep in mind that the male and female heroes in the Bible would be shocked and outraged at the blatant and fearless disrespect, impertinence, impudence, and insolence with which Christian wives treat their husbands (and therefore the Lord Himself) these days.

Being a Biblical wife isn't easy, because in these dark last days Self has been liberated and strengthened. It might help if we put things into perspective: Bible believers often live quiet, separated lives. Therefore, my sister, a large percentage of the tests and hardships in this life that you encounter *will involve your husband in your own home*. On its face that makes

your challenges seem relatively easy, and you should think about that fact in order to encourage yourself by thinking something like, *John is my husband, and we love each other: I can do this*. And remember, how you treat your husband is how you treat the Lord Jesus Christ (as illustrated by these brief excerpts):

Eph 5:22,24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord...Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing*.

Mt 25:37-46 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?...And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink...Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst...and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

I hope and pray this might help you better understand this topic...and to have fewer regrets than I've had. God bless you, sister.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet B3

Marital Relationships Part 3: CHRISTIAN HUSBANDS

I'm going to state some truths about marital relationships and then counter them with a big "but":

The husband is supposed to be the *head*; wives and children are his members/servants. The wife really *is* supposed to treat her husband as if he were God. Any and all arguments really *are* caused by the wife's equality, covetousness, pride, selfishness, lack of humility, lack of self-discipline, and Christian immaturity. Even if the husband is wrong, is a jerk, and is froward all of the above is true. And that Scriptural fact is plainly evident to all saints whose *principled love* (Trumpet Bravo 1) gives them a soldier's ability to overcome the threatening influence and pressure of modern Enlightened Christianity and society. *But*...we must remember the fact that part of principled love's job is to take *compassionate love* into account and decide if and when it should moderate or temporarily displace strict adherence to Scripture (such as Eph 5) – just as David did with the shewbread, as the priests did on the sabbath, and as shepherds did if a sheep fell into a pit on the sabbath. In other words, one of the responsibilities of principled love is to take into consideration both the situation and compassionate love in order to decide if applying the doctrine of *expediency* is called for in order to have compassionate love displace principled love.

Technically, compassionate love never actually displaces principled love; I word it that way just for teaching purposes. In reality, the two kinds of love are inseparably *one*, which means:

- When David "ignored" compassionate love and called upon principled love in order to execute the young man who believed in regicide, he really *wasn't* ignoring compassionate love: When the big picture of God and the War and the good of the church are taken into consideration, for example, it becomes evident that executing the man in order to cull him and to slow the spread of subversive ideology *was the loving thing to do*.
- When David "ignored" principled love and called upon compassionate love in order to feed the shewbread to his comrades, he *wasn't* ignoring principled love...because, all things considered, what he did was actually in accordance with principled love because part of the governing responsibility of principled love is to know when to apply compassionate love.

That means part of the husband's responsibility/job description as the head of his family is to draw upon his mature doctrinal understanding of principled love in order to know when compassionate love needs to be applied.

LOVE

Christian men tend to have more principled love than compassionate love. Christian wives tend to have more compassionate love and less principled love. That is because husbands represent the head (the brain) and women represent the body (the heart). Men are therefore often task oriented...while paying little attention to how they may come across to others. This often causes men, when they are zeroed in on some task, to react swiftly, sharply, and loudly when distractions arise, and it's not unusual for men, when struggling with a difficult task, to have frustrated anger intensify their efforts. Women often react differently, and it's not unusual for women, when struggling with similar tasks, to have their efforts weakened by frustrated tears.

The good news about a Christian husband is his principled-love-driven desire to accomplish the task. The bad news is men and women are different, and therefore his drill-sergeant tone of voice, temper, callous disregard for the *irrelevant* (from the perspective of the task) feelings of others, and his insistence that emotions should not be allowed to cloud the issue are likely to upset his wife. For example, if he corrects his wife for something it wouldn't be unusual for her to be hurt and/or

offended by his tone, attitude, or choice of words – even if he is right to correct her. If she reacts sinfully by starting an angry argument, the husband – if he has an immature understanding of doctrine and principled love – might react by (figuratively) grabbing her by the nape of her neck and shoving her face down into a plateful of Eph 5. If *you*, my brother in Christ, have a tendency to react in similar fashion, I think it'd be good for your Christian growth and that of your wife if we consider some things.

All of us – no matter how doctrinally mature we are, tend to have bad moments. Those bad moments should serve to remind us that we need to consider compassionate love when others around us have bad moments. Your wife is no more perfect than you are, and she might not be as mature doctrinally as you. Combine that with a woman's tendency to be more emotional and less letter-of-the-law oriented, and improper outbursts are going to happen. There's no question about that; it's a fact. The question is, are you mature enough to handle being improperly yelled at, falsely accused, maligned, and in other ways treated disrespectfully by your wife? Or are you going to lose control and start yelling, too? Or are you going to remain in control and keep arguing with her because you are "right"? *Equals* tend to yell at and argue with one another. Good *leaders* remain in complete control of themselves and speak in measured tones; and good *wives* remain in complete control of themselves and speak in respectful tones. If your wife does not speak that way perhaps it's because you are more of an undisciplined screamer and less of a wise husband who leads by example and who forms a relationship in which two imperfect Christians work together to help each other grow.

I submit that your compassionate love should cause you to work on *patience* when your wife trespasses against you. Patience requires humility and self-discipline. That means you will often have to force yourself to bite your tongue – just as you expect *her* to do when she gets mad at you. Can you lead by example? Wouldn't it be nice if you controlled your angry reaction, listened to her complaints and accusations, and had a quiet discussion with her in which you agree to try to tone yourself down a bit and she agrees to do the same? You're two comrades who love the Lord and each other, who live and work side-by-side, and are trying to help and forgive each other as we as a church struggle to serve the Lord better tomorrow than we did today.

If Christ can forgive your transgressions against Him, and if He can forgive your wife's transgressions against Him whenever she treats *you* disrespectfully, don't you think you should be able to forgive her, too? Yes, she *is* supposed to treat you as if you are the Lord. But remember, you are not the Lord – you are merely a *type* of the Lord. I say again, comrade: you and I are *nobody*; we are normal, fallible humans who tend to be carnal, selfish, arrogant, picky, impatient jerks at times. If we keep that in mind when our wives fail to treat us as if we were God Almighty it would help us react more with compassionate love and less with principled love. That reaction would help us, it would help our wives, it would please the Lord, and our resultant growth over time as we achieved better control over Self would help the church.

IGNORANCE AND HUMILITY

As mentioned earlier, doctrinal maturity is needed in order for principled love to properly evaluate when compassionate love should be applied. That means continual Bible study is needed so the Lord can broaden our understanding in ways we can't anticipate. For example, even though at every stage of my Christian growth I knew I didn't know everything about the Bible and Christianity, I *did* think my understanding of the things I had learned at that point was sufficient. But I was wrong; I had no idea how many layers or facets there are to Christianity and doctrine – such as the facets of principled love and compassionate love that are part of overall Biblical love and expediency. When I look back at some of the things I said and did and wrote in the margins of my Bible and taught to others when I was a younger Christian, I'm...humbled. (I almost said *embarrassed*, but I realize learning and growth take time and experience, which means the more we learn and grow the less *blind* we are.)

That means if you are not fully matured as a Christian (and that won't happen in this lifetime) you cannot be a perfect head of household – you're going to subject your wife to well-intentioned mistakes that you'll think, when you commit them, are absolutely Scriptural. With that truth in mind, our relationships with our families and with other Christians can be more edifying if you and I would climb down off our high horses and walk with more humility, compassion, self-discipline, and forgiveness. That's no easier for us to do than it is for our wives. In fact, I have *scared* myself sometimes when I've realized I was on the horns of the covetousness-fueled dilemma of choosing between the control-myself proper course of Christ-honoring action...and the yield-to-Self sinful course of action. *I am my own worst enemy and my biggest challenge*. I say again: With Judgment in mind during which my choices/actions/words are going to be replayed, I have frightened myself. (Which has given me a much better understanding of the fearful agony behind Rom 7:13-25 and the *necessity* to force myself to submit to all of the above.) As I've grown my thankfulness to the Lord for saving me has shifted its emphasis: As a young Christian I was thankful that He saved me from my sins; as an adolescent Christian I was thankful that He was teaching me His Book and doctrine; and as I mature I am more and more aware of how selfish and flawed I am as a person and as a servant, and I realize the Lord is forgiving, teaching, and changing *me* as a Christian man and comrade, as a husband, and as a servant...and I am so humbly thankful for those changes made (and being made) to me that – knowing with increasing certainty that I am my biggest problem and impediment – I pray that He'll continue to forgive me and mold me and make me into a vessel *meet* for Him, for my wife, and for my brothers and sisters. I hope you are beginning to understand how much accumulated *regret* over the years has gone into my titling this section IGNORANCE AND HUMILITY.

Had I not forced myself to adhere to my routine of daily Bible study sessions (many of which seemed boring and fruitless at the time), I now realize I would not have grown as much as I have...which means I'd still be back at one of those confidence-filled-but-ignorant points that now make me cringe when I look back at them. And that includes my performance as a husband. Yes, I've always tried to be fair and right and a good teacher and a humble Christian...*but I had no idea what I didn't know!* Yes, when I compared myself with other Christians, I knew more than many of them and therefore thought I was doing pretty well. But I now realize I could have done much better and wish I could go back and be more compassionate,

humble, disciplined, forgiving, and a better example for my wife. So please take it from me, brother, the humble road of suffering should be just as real for you *now* as it is for your wife...*because we are all selfish and ignorant and have a long way to go if we want to ever be good and faithful servants of Christ.*

If you and/or your wife have problems staying in control when disagreements and offences occur, you may find it helpful to have a timely reminder that we're all allies who are trying to help each other grow. As head of the household you may wish to have a short phrase with which you and your wife can remind yourselves that our duty to submit to and glorify God is bigger and more important than our emotions and our being "right." For example, if you said something that offended and angered your wife, and neither your brilliant reason nor your God-given authority are simmering her down so she can properly say something like, "I'm sorry, sir; I was out of line, I should never argue with you", and instead her emotions continue fueling her anger as she heads toward a loss of control and a real screaming match, you – as soon as you recognize that situation – may want to say something like, "I am thankful that you and I are Bible-believing comrades trying to help each other grow and glorify God by properly submitting to His word." If she had temporarily "forgotten" her Biblical duty to submit to you and to God, and if she is mature enough that the phrase helps her calm down, regain control, and say something like, "Thanks, that reminder was just what I needed. I was letting *self* get the upper hand when I should have been thankful that this latest test in my Christian walk is but another good opportunity to demonstrate my love for the Lord and to please you with my humility, my control, and my respectful attitude." If she responds that way it may help *you* put things into better perspective and reply with something like, "Thank you for that. And actually, I think I'm ready to do a little more forgiving and forgetting and a little less unnecessary lecturing. I love you. Give me a hug."

And if your wife thinks you may be getting a bit too carried away, she may want to utter the same phrase in the hope that you'll simmer down...but also to remind herself of her duty to never argue even if you don't simmer down.

I say again, the little phrase is to remind her to subdue her emotions, stop arguing, and start mending fences. And it is to remind you, when her emotions threaten to get the better of her, to subdue your righteous indignation, bear her burden, forgive her, and begin mending fences. If the two of you will help each other in that and in similar ways, your chaste conversation coupled with fear of God will cause you to grow closer and stronger as you become a rare Christian couple in this age of apostasy that actually glorifies God by subduing self and submitting to His word.

FEAR

One of the difficulties Christian husbands must face is fear. When we are born again it is not easy dealing with the fact that a doctrinally-proper Christian walk is making us weirdoes to both Enlightened Christians and to secular society. And then we are shocked to find out how *few* Christians ("Where are the nine?") really care about doctrine and Bible versions and what the Bible says. And during this time we have to deal with letting other people know we are going to change the way we do certain things because we want to make our lives Scripturally pleasing to God. At the same time, we have to figure out how to get our wives and kids under control...which may be a large and difficult transition in this Enlightened age of egalitarianism. We are going to feel increasingly *alone*.

And we are going to continue to feel alone as we deal with neighbors, friends, co-workers, relatives, preachers, pewsters, wives, kids...and perhaps some of the ways we handle certain business and financial matters.

At some point we are going realize *fear* has reared its ugly head. So, we're going to have to deal with our fear, with being alone, and with the doubts and insecurities that will accompany the realization that all of these Scripture-based decisions and actions and *upheavals* in our life *are caused by us*. We are, after all, the head of household. But what if we're wrong, or too zealous, or moving too fast? How can we deal with the accusations, the looks, the protests, the recriminations, etc. as seemingly *everybody* (including us sometimes) thinks we've gone off the deep end?

Change. Fear. Insecurity. Worry. Doubt. And all alone.

None of that is fun, brother. But it's all normal, and it's all part of becoming a Christian warrior. And it *helps* our relationship with the Lord because it makes us review what we're doing in the Bible to see if we've screwed something up. And it makes us take it to the Lord in prayer and to have the kind of humble, honest, childlike, soul-baring, emotionally gut-wrenching sessions with Him that we men often cannot have with other people...even our own wives.

In truth, *we're never alone*; we always have the Comforter and His inerrant Instruction Manual.

FORGIVENESS

You will often stumble over the difficulties and trials you encounter during your journey to becoming a submissively-obedient wife of Christ. Apply the struggles you have with Self to your wife: She has to go through many of the same things you do. And she will treat you with disrespect almost as many times as you sin against God. So as a man, as a type of Christ, have broad shoulders and bear her burdens and help her by forgiving her as Christ does you. That will not be easy to do: When your wife starts yelling at you, you'll want to release your pent-up worries and fears by yelling back. What a great opportunity to see if you are a good-enough soldier to earn a medal by biting your tongue and forcing yourself to be nine parts professor and only one part disciplinarian. Let your rebukes be more lessons than lectures, more reminders than recriminations. All the while remembering Christ will not forgive you if you don't forgive her. Therefore, if you've stumbled along and let the Lord down like I have, brother, I suggest you humble Self and forgive her *a lot*.

When your wife mouths off at you, you are correct in thinking that if she were properly submitting to the word of God she'd submit to your authority by biting her tongue. But if you angrily yell at her for her transgression let's look at your reaction from the Lord's perspective: When you start screaming at her instead of bearing the burden she is apparently too weak to bear (the "burden" of putting up with your frowardness), the Lord sees you as no different from her; you – like her – have failed to submit to the word of God where it tells you to bear her burden and forgive her transgression. Why can't you bite your tongue when she yells at you? When you were a child and your parents yelled at you, and if you were in the military and an authority

stuck his nose in your face and screamed all kinds of ugly insults at you, you could properly handle it then by biting your tongue. Of course, you might reply, you bit your tongue then because you had no choice. But the error of your Christian walk is made more apparent when we apply that underlined correct reply to your reaction to your wife's transgression: Even though the Lord gave you *no choice* when He told you to bear her burdens and forgive her, you seem to have had more respect for your earthly authorities than for the Lord God Himself. I say again, comrade: you and I have just as much trouble putting the Bible into practice as our wives do. So let's honor the Lord, humble self, and *serve* our wives by being more understanding, compassionate, and helpful...and less angry, condemning, and unforgiving. If we all submit to the Bible *because we have to* we'll see – again – that doing things the Lord's way is always the best way.

Mt 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 18:21-35 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

SUMMATION

I am not saying your wife should be allowed to treat you with disrespect all the time. You are supposed to rule well your household – and it's up to you to decide when to be a professor and when to be a disciplinarian. That means you'll need to become an expert on the Bible so your doctrinal understanding can help your principled love incorporate compassionate love so you can treat your wife – and all Christians – with discerning Christian love. And keep the big picture in mind: Whenever you subdue Self and react with Christian charity to your wife's transgressions, you're not being a poor leader as a husband; *you're shewing that you're a good, faithful, submissive wife of the Lord Jesus Christ* – how you react to your wife is a reflection on your relationship with *Him*.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet B4

FAITH, FAILING, AND BEING ALONE

Faith may be the stumblingstone more Christians trip over than any other. I say that based on my own experience, my own failures. The kind of faith I'm talking about isn't the fundamental kind such as accepting that God has preserved His inerrant word for us so we can have a sure doctrinal foundation. Neither am I talking about having problems with obvious black-and-white sins like adultery and stealing, because my *desire* to do right, to serve the Lord in spirit and in truth, makes big, obvious sins like those not a problem for me. My biggest struggles have been “little” things in my relationship with the Lord that require faith (in its *trusting* and *following* meaning) in the face of *failure* and *walking alone*.

I usually don't want anyone, Christian or pagan, to think I'm a failure. And I usually don't want to be considered as “one of those deluded losers who's way out in left field.” (The first one probably has to do with pride, and the second with peer pressure.) But the more black-and-white something is, no matter what it is or how big and scary it is, the less of a problem it is for me because my honest desire to do right doesn't have any wiggle room with issues that are black-and-white. But, if trusting the Lord to take care of me in little, non-doctrinally-obvious ways might make me look like a failure, I sometimes struggle. And if I have to be the only one who thinks a certain course of action is the proper one, especially if it could lead to failure, I sometimes struggle.

Properly dealing with big, scary things requires strength, and I think I have plenty of that. But properly dealing with things that might make me look like a loser out in left field requires humility, and, sadly, I think I have more pride than humility. It is humility that will allow me to exalt God by following Him along a path that may lead to (what others think is) failure. I need more humility. And since everything in our relationship with the Lord is based on love for Him, I obviously need more love for Him in order to have more humility. I've got work to do.

I'm not going to go into specifics here because I don't think I should, and I don't think I need to. Going into specifics might give you wiggle room by allowing you to congratulate yourself that you don't have that specific problem. By not being specific I'm allowing the Holy Spirit to make you think of whatever He knows is appropriate. In other words, by not being specific I'm actually emphasizing *faith*. I'm emphasizing the fact that the problem areas I'm referring to are often things that have more to do with our *relationship* with the Lord than they do with "thou shalt not's" in the Bible. It is important that each of us *develops* (defined as: to work on so it can grow) his relationship with the Lord. Our individual abilities to be intimate with Him, to *communicate* with Him for all of eternity starts now. That word *communicate* includes the ability to hear and heed His still small voice so He can gently let us know what we should do to please Him.

Being able to hear His still small voice (1 Kings 19:12,13) requires faith because there is no sound or voice in our heads...it's more of an *inclination* or *feeling* that emanates from our Scripture-based relationship with Him. It also requires maturity (knowing the word, plus doing the word, plus time) so our hearts can be more properly receptive to some of the subtleties involved in having an active, growing relationship with Him. Relationships are highly personal because we are all different members. Your relationship with the Lord won't be the same as mine. Right now we may not know Him very well, but because we want to know Him intimately and understand Him throughout eternity, we need to develop and build our relationships with Him *now* by developing ears that can hear by faith, and by being humble enough to glorify Him even if it makes us look like lunatics and losers to others.

Look at the dates on two of my quotes from the Wallpapers motivational Quotations page:

In the absence of fear, there can be no courage.

Len Smith 1985

Present fear is never as bad as later regret.

Len Smith 1999

The first quote is inspirational and forward-looking; it is based on hope. The second quote is introspective and backward-looking; it is based on experience.

I have always regretted the times I was conquered by my fear. I say again with love and with tears, comrade: Whenever you feel fear, train yourself to rejoice, because you are on the threshold of a faith- and courage-based accomplishment. Fear is a signpost pointing out glorious opportunities to serve with courage and humility...opportunities to grow. Regret is a reminder of those times when we let fear make us turn our backs on the Lord – just like Peter did before the cock crowed.

I have never regretted anything I've done or suffered for the Lord. Many of those things scared the daylights out of me because my fear made me think they'd be a lot worse than they turned out to be. I am glad and thankful I didn't let my fear stop me.

If – in spite of our fear – we walk by faith, our relationship with the Lord will deepen and we'll no longer feel so alone. And one day when we truly know the Lord we'll look back at fear and realize that, as bad as it *seemed*, it was actually *empty*...which makes regret that much worse.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet B5

BE A CLAY POT...AND A SHARP SWORD

We all have a tendency to be sheep – that is, wimps with a herd mentality. As a result we've become followers of men, and have therefore ended up as cookie-cutter members of religions. But if we're going to be Biblical warrior-sheep following the Good Shepherd, we must each go wherever He leads us. And if we're going to be clay in the hands of the Potter, we must allow Him to mold us and make us into whatever kind of vessel He wants.

To illustrate my point a different way: If you walk into a modern church and look at the congregation, you'll see a body made up of 100 left arms. But according to the Bible the body of Christ is supposed to be made up of different members – each having a different purpose. And the hand is not supposed to despise the foot.

1 Corinthians 12:14-21 For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where *were* the body? But now *are they* many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

According to the above we shouldn't all try to be the same; we should try to be whatever Christ wants us to be. That would cause our churches and members to be stronger: If I thought you weren't a proper member, I could approach you and say, "You shouldn't be doing so-in-so; it's a sin." But, of course, I would only do that if I weren't a wimpy sheep who could only bad-mouth you behind your back. If I loved you like I'm supposed to I'd try to help you not sin. That would give you an opportunity to find out something about me: I incorrectly think it's a sin to do so-in-so. And – if you loved me – you could

open your Bible and help me by having a doctrinal discussion about that issue. In other words, our inbreeding/close Bible-based fellowship would help us grow stronger and eliminate false doctrines.

If we were all proper Christians (different members of the same body) we'd be helping each other grow in word and doctrine. But think about it: how many doctrinal discussions have you had with members of your church in the last month? I say again: Two reasons we do not discuss doctrine with each other are:

1) We're all identical, cookie-cutter, religious members. And because we're all alike *we have no real reason to discuss doctrine.*

2) *We don't know the Bible!* And why should we, *we're all alike!*

I know whereof I speak. As I studied the Bible, the Potter gave me a different shape from all of the left arms I saw around me. As a wimpy sheep I was not only afraid to be different, I thought being different might be its own proof that I was a weirdo deluded nutcase. That made me go back to the Bible/Potter in order to see if I'd somehow done a lousy job reading plain sixth-grade-level English. Reassured, I then timidly ventured into some conversations with other Christians whom I thought to be warriors. I was shocked by what I learned about the kind of Christians they were and how little Bible they knew and how uncomfortable and reluctant they were to discuss doctrine. I began to grow rapidly. And I stopped looking to other Christians to see how to become another left arm; I looked only to the Potter and humbly accepted whatever kind of vessel He made me.

In conclusion, let me just say *iron sharpeneth iron...but there isn't much swordplay among church members!* Therefore, instead of being sharpened swords prepared for war, most Christians are nothing but dull tools.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet B6

YESTERDAY WAS A GOOD DAY

Yesterday was one of those days. It happens every now and then, and it just sneaks up on me. I get a glimpse of the big picture...and, boy, is it ugly: Christianity – the church – is in deep and serious trouble.

I thought about various doctrines and issues. I thought about what Christians are most interested in on this web site. And I thought about how Pharisaical we have been taught to be. I think the best way to describe the mood that "glimpse" put me into for the rest of the day is to quote something from my book's *Introduction*:

You will begin to feel overwhelmed, insignificant, and helpless as the massive, all-encompassing spread of leaven becomes more apparent. You will also see how frustrating it is trying to converse with other Christians about any of these topics. That is why I wrote this book; I had to go back to the beginning and walk you through this stuff step by step so you could see that each step is sound. If you take the time to search the Scriptures and verify that each step is sound, you will find at the end of the journey that you have reached a conclusion that is horrifying, inescapable, exhilarating, and challenging. *Horrifying* because the gates of hell have done much to make evil good and good evil. *Inescapable* because the Scriptures actually say it and you believe them. *Exhilarating* because you are beginning to see the truth that has been buried for so long by tradition, and because you are delighted that the Lord has brought you to the point where you are a rarity because you can by faith accept completely what He says – you really are His follower, His disciple, His friend. And *challenging* because there is much to be done in your life and in the church. There really is a war going on over doctrine and you must gird up your loins and give your life to the church as Christ did for you.

Which doctrinal chapter are Christians most interested in on my web site? *Cussing*. (!) That chapter gets more than twice as many views as the three next-most-popular chapters – the ones having to do with *sex*. (!) I am horrified by the popularity of those relatively-petty topics. I'm not saying Christians don't need to learn about those topics, but I am alarmed that Satan has "Christianized" fig-leaf morality and then built it up into such false importance that Christian men and women, tormented by guilt *over nothing*, are putting these into their search engines:

if i say oh shit in my head is that a sin

is it a sin if i sometimes think about women while i'm having sex with my husband

I see stuff like that every day. And when I consider the things that bother Christians, what is important to them, and what they spend their time doing...it saddens me. We have used pagan morality to invent doctrines that are false, that are tormenting Christians, and that *are wasting their time!* By the way, I'm just using morality as an example; it is but one of the *many* wrongs in Christianity that are taking up our valuable time...time that could be profitably spent on other things that are important.

"I wasted time, and now doth time waste me."

William Shakespeare 1595

"But at my back I always hear, time's winged chariot hurrying near."

Andrew Marvell 1650

Are our churches full of warriors? No. The basic things (like cussing and sex) we have to spend our time on (because the modern church doesn't teach them) are *horribly trivial when viewed from the big picture of this deadly war* – a war we are *losing!* Yes, it is important to teach babies how to tie their shoelaces and how to brush their teeth because we need to learn to walk before we can run. But because we don't even correctly understand basic doctrines in our Combat Manual there is no way we can develop into warriors. A quote from the *Warriors' Country* web page:

While you are going through this Bible study you'll realize you really *are* being fed. And you'll see why I say it's for mature Christians. But later, after years have combined with knowledge and experience to produce wisdom, you'll understand with a touch of sadness that AOR actually covers basic fundamentals of Christianity...that AOR only *seemed* to cover advanced material because you were viewing it from the type of blindness, immaturity, and apostasy that afflicts the modern church. If you're an older Christian you'll feel a sense of helpless sorrow as you realize you should have been taught the fundamentals in AOR when you were young so you could have the time to think, do, and learn...so you could grow into the kind of mature wisdom that is the gradual result of building on a proper foundation. If you are a younger Christian the Lord, by the time your righteousness is crowned with a hoary head (Proverbs 16:31), may have given you the kind of knowledge and wisdom that can be used to truly feed His sheep and turn them into spiritual warriors.

I was trying to say AOR was written for these reasons:

- Identify the problem: Because of false doctrines, well-intentioned Christians are running around like Don Quixote fighting windmills – *nothing!* And because the church is fighting the wrong things the gates of hell are prevailing...and today's "Christianity" has become a hypocritical, contradictory *joke*.
- The solution: Use the Bible to examine world history and Christian history to prove to Christians not only that #1 really is the problem, but that Reason is how we've gotten into this mess.
- The result: Knowing correct doctrine and knowing how to avoid Reason, Christians can begin fighting *real problems* in the church, begin building their relationships with Christ on a Scriptural foundation, and become the kind of seasoned warriors who ignore windmills and help the church resist the gates of hell.

The AOR is supposed to help you straighten out your doctrine so you can mature more quickly, view Christianity and life from God's perspective, and in so doing begin to see the big picture. As you mature you'll understand that Christianity isn't very complicated, it's fairly straightforward. There are three main components to our Christian walks when we reach maturity: The Lord, the church, and the War.

1. **The Lord.** As a mature Christian you'll understand that all of our Bible study over the decades and all of our being an obedient doer of the word was designed by God to deepen, purify, and simplify our wifely relationship with Him. Proper servanthood, defined as knowing and pleasing Him as His loyal and dependable servant-wife, is our duty and our goal. (My wife expressed it well recently when she said: "How truly beautiful and wonderful it would be to only want the Lord's will.") Achieving that proper relationship requires a foundation of Scripturally-correct doctrine because *doctrine is the structural framework that guides, assists, and directs the maturation of our soul/intellect* as we go through our Pilgrim's Progress journey developing and perfecting our outlook, our view of life. Developing that wifely relationship of always walking with the Lord via an intimate, humble, trusting appreciation and awareness is and has always been *the* goal of Christianity, *the* desired destination of our Pilgrim's Progress journey. I say again, being always with the Lord is maturity and perfection. The fact that *Christian maturity is that simple* doesn't mean it's easy to attain; it takes much work and many years and many good and bad experiences that combine to convince us that Self is the main impediment to developing Christian maturity. In order to succeed we need to work on things like love for the Lord, self-discipline, and humility. The good news is, because Christianity consists mostly of one boring day after another, we've got lots of time to spend with the Lord as we pass the time of our sojourning studying to be quiet by thinking within the proper doctrinal framework the Holy Spirit uses to shepherd/husband our thoughts. Sadly, most preachers and pewsters never properly mature because they spend their lives trying to build upon an inconsistent, contradictory, shifting-sand framework of incorrect doctrine.
2. **The church.** As a mature Christian your deepening relationship with the Lord will increase your desire to help the church. The most important ways you'll do that:
 - a) Teach young Christians (no matter how long they've been saved) *correct doctrine* so they, too, will have a proper Scriptural framework upon which to build their relationship with Christ during their lives.
 - b) Teach young Christians about the dangers of Self, and about how necessary love, humility, self-discipline, confession, and forgiveness are to proper Christian growth. Make it clear that running around putting on the pious act may look impressive to immature Christians, but the lowly "trench work" of developing the above characteristics of humble love is really the meat and potatoes of our struggles with our main enemy of Self. Let young Christians know that if they've conscientiously worked their way through "boot camp" (Trumpet W5) they've essentially learned the Bible. The reason they should continue their daily routine of Bible reading and study is not because one day some magic verse will pop out of the Bible. Their Daily Bread is daily nourishment, battery recharging, spending time with the Lord via His word, and enjoying the edifying appreciations and minor revelations that all of us Bible believers experience when fellowshipping with and around His word. That daily nourishment will help and strengthen us in our ongoing efforts to die to self, strengthen faith, and continue to grow in the necessary Christian characteristics listed at the top of this

paragraph. I say again, comrades, let young Christians know that finding “nuggets” during our Bible studies as we age is neither an objective or a necessary byproduct of Christian maturity. Christian maturity is points 1, 2, and 3, and is attainable only if the above Christian characteristics become part of who we are (which, *again*, are not easy characteristics to attain and maintain). Much of maturity is built upon “trench work”.

c) Teach young Christians about the biggest weapons in the Devil’s arsenal (covered in point 3 below) in order to help them preserve the essential essence of Christianity – their *faith* and *belief* in God and His word – from the subversive subtleties of the various ideologies, practices, and beliefs that are the offspring of Reason.

3. **The War.** Even though Satan’s biggest, most frightening weapon is our fear of mortal death (as covered in the *Sickness and Health* chapter), and as much as modern Christians rely on modern science to save them from mortal-life-threatening afflictions, life-saving medicine is *not* this era’s most *subversive* weapon in Satan’s arsenal. By that I mean getting a heart transplant is not nearly as wicked, subtle, and subversive as Reason itself. But Reason has been covered in AOR. And Reason utilizes *different methods in different eras*. For example, if we lived in OT days I’d want you to warn young Christians about the whoredom of Peor or about some of the other things we looked at in the historical section of AOR. Today, however, we should all be warning each other to beware of the leaven of theology. Years from now you young soldiers who properly mature may realize that theology has been widely exposed and discredited and is therefore shunned by all Bible believers. And your maturity may allow you to see that some new Reasonable form of science or technology (or whatever may exist) is doing more to undermine faith and belief than the old has-been theology. But *right now* the church is being guttled by the horrifying widespread acceptance of theology:

- a) Christians who hope to appear intellectually sophisticated try to mimic the idiotic fascination scholars have with the dead-language ERROR manuscripts. For example, a Baptist preacher who loved scrounging around in “the Greek” and “the Hebrew” told me during a phone conversation that he’d just uncovered another “nugget” he was going to share with his congregation: he’d discovered that one of the sins included in the many definitions of *fornication* is *child molesting*. When he told me that I replied: “That nugget doesn’t add to *my* understanding or help *my* Christian walk in any way. But I have to assume you know your congregation well enough to know you’ve got a bunch of perverts who *need* to hear that message from the pulpit.”
- b) Christians who hope to take a shortcut to scholarly piety do so by hoping their use of layman’s aids will make them look like the “intellectual elites” in paragraph a) above. It *does* make them look like the above...but not in the way they hope it does.
- c) Christians (even many who “use” the King James Bible) who don’t know any better and who may not be filled with the insecurity and guile of the two types above (in other words, they may be sincere), often have the uninformed opinion that today’s plethora of error-filled modern Bible versions is some kind of ipso facto proof that the inspired, inerrant word of God no longer exists. These Christians may be more likely to have the kind of normal Christian reaction to hearing about the singular inerrancy of the KJV that you and I had: If so, they’ll want to hear more and to look into the issue.

In closing this War paragraph: In my lifetime I have seen theology and modern Bible versions do more to overthrow faith and belief than any other tools of the Devil. Because of theology and its corrupt Bible versions Christians are no longer quiltily ignoring certain Bible verses they fear and dislike; they simply do not believe them! Therefore, the commanding authority of *Thus saith the Lord* is largely absent among modern Christians. My sounding the alarm of war about the wicked subversion of theology and modern Bible versions is not because I harbor some petty, nit-picking bias for or against this or that group or ideology. And it’s not because I’ve been emotionally or intellectually scarred. And my mother didn’t drop me on my head when I was a baby. I sound the trumpet alerting Bible believers to the dangers of theology and modern Bible versions because as I’ve matured my time in the word of God and my experiences have sharpened my vision, broadened my understanding, and deepened my horror and sadness at how those “Christian” things have eviscerated the body of Christ. I use *eviscerate* deliberately.

Eviscerate: to disembowel; to deprive of vital or essential parts (such as *faith* and *belief* in our living God and His living word.)

Jer 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

To those of you who may be too young and inexperienced to realize the truth of what I say: Stay close to the Lord and keep your eyes and ears open as you try to answer the question, *when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?* And when you find out how few there are who believe in and submit to *Thus saith the Lord* (not man), pay attention to what apostates use to “justify” their unbelief...and to subvert your belief in the promises of God.

Yesterday in thinking about all of this I felt numb, overwhelmed, horrified...and alone. The church is *very* immature. It is so immature that it hasn’t the love or the strength – the *salt* – to appreciably slow the spread of leaven. That horrifying and sobering glimpse made me cancel my plans for the day – I just wasn’t up for anything. I spent the day puttering. I sat at the window. I went and got the mail. I watched the moon come up. And I spent all that time, the whole day, with the Lord...mostly talking about my “glimpse” and talking about matters Christian and asking Him to help me and to help His church. But it wasn’t until I knelt beside by bed just before turning in that I realized something: As I reviewed the day with the

Lord I realized *it had been a good day*. Why? *Because I stayed close to Him all day*. I spent the day talking with Him about the church, I poured out my heart, I *fellowshipped*.

And that's why yesterday was a good day: It was pleasing to God, it was good for me, and ultimately it was good for the church. I say that because we have a tendency to do too much in the flesh, but the key to winning the war is to realize the Lord is our strength. Our primary concern should be pleasing and serving Him via submissive obedience to His written word. If we please Him, He'll take care of us. Yesterday was a good day because my love for the Lord and for His church made me forget about being "a good soldier" ...and I became a better *wife*. And in so doing I realized *being a better wife had made me a better soldier*...and, I hope and pray, a better *brother* to you. So, no matter how much I may appeal to your macho instincts with inspirational rhetoric about trumpets of war, swords, and soldiers fighting the good fight, always remember our primary job is being His wives and servants every single day. The key to victory is *humility* and *caring*, not macho pride.

That kind of spending time with the Lord is what made David such a spiritual warrior. Yes, he was a sinner. But David's sins drove Him into the arms of the Lord for confession, forgiveness, and fellowship. If King Saul had fellowshipped with the Lord like David did, he would have had more understanding and wisdom about some of the important things in this war...and the Lord wouldn't have had to dump him as a subversive. Saul didn't have *salt*; he didn't have the Lord as his strength. All he had was his Pharisaical Christianity. But with *David* the Lord had a close companion, a bosom buddy, somebody who actually wanted to hang around with Him. And the Lord responded by forgiving David and by strengthening him. That's what the church needs. We need warriors/wives who love the Lord enough to always hang out with Him in their inner sanctums – no matter what they're doing in their physical bodies.

I think I usually spend a lot of time with the Lord. But on my knees last night I was actually surprised by the fact that it had been a *good day*. I can interpret that surprise to either mean most days I don't spend enough/all of my time with the Lord, or I can interpret it to mean the heaviness in my heart for the church wasn't nearly as important as the time I spent with the Lord as a result of that heaviness. And I think that's it: the church needs to spend more time with the Lord. Bible study is quality time *with the Lord*. Being a doer is quality time. Helping the church is quality time. And humble, honest, heartfelt fellowship *with Him* is quality time.

The absence of that kind of intimate fellowship with the Lord is a big reason the gates of hell are prevailing over the church. We are the salt of the earth...but only *if* we have the kind of quality relationship with the Lord that David had.

We cannot win the war by not sinning. No, I need to shorten that sentence: *We cannot win the war!* The *Lord* is our arm of strength; only *He* can win the war. So let's apply the stuff in *AOR* and in these trumpets so we can dump Reason and tradition, master and live the Bible, help the church, and above all *actively and humbly and earnestly work on our relationships with the Lord*.

At the end of the day when we're on our knees before our King, let's be sure that no matter how busy or idle we were, or how happy or sad we were, that we can quietly say in Jesus' name: "It was a good day, Lord. Thank you for the good fellowship. I love you, Sir. Good night."

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet B7

WHAT MAKES WARRIORS CRY

Back in the mid '70s when I was a Navy flight instructor, my CO, Cdr. Ted Kopfman, had been a 7-year POW at the Hanoi Hilton. I loved the guy: he was a fine officer, was good to serve under, and was old-school duty, honor, country in an era when society and the military were abandoning the old ways and transitioning to the undisciplined social chaos of today. When Cdr. Kopfman read the patriotic language during a sailor's re-upping ceremony he invariably cried. When he was promoted to captain in the ready room in front of all of us pilots and with his fine wife at his side, tears streamed down his face when he repeated those patriotic words.

Later as a fighter pilot I went through survival, evasion, resistance, and escape training in the mountains east of San Diego and in the jungles of the Philippines. I endured daytime heat, sub-freezing cold at night, broken-off cactus spines embedded in my flesh, almost nothing to eat and drink, urine splashed all over me, the crap beaten out of me, water-boarding, more mind-games and insults than you can shake a stick at, biting ants swarming from head to toe, and – in freezing temps well after midnight – cold water sprayed over my naked body until I began shaking uncontrollably...and looked down and saw that I'd become a eunuch!

Did any of that make me cry? *Negative, comrade!* (Well, maybe that last part came pretty close!)

It was obvious the Commie guards' intention (in their green utilities and red-starred caps) was to break us physically so they could then break us mentally...and they were good at their jobs.

At about zero four hundred all of us "POWs" were assembled in the POW camp compound. We'd been, in just about every way, rode hard and put up wet...and were a pretty rag-tag group. The guards started screaming at us "arrogant Amerikan imperialists" and told us that because we had so far not performed as model prisoners should, they were going to stop pampering us and begin making our lives miserable. And as the threats and vitriol poured forth, the compound loudspeakers began playing music with that tinny, scratchy, echoing hollowness that metal loudspeakers and megaphones tended to have back then. The music was familiar...and the guards all took off their caps, held their hands over their breasts, faced one end of the compound...and began singing *The Star-Spangled Banner!* We POWs looked and saw the Stars and Stripes majestically

ascending a pole, stood a little straighter with hands over hearts, began croaking our national anthem, realized our ordeal was over...and cried.

Tears *streaming* down our faces, brother. Standing at attention, singing, and just as unable to stop the tears as Capt. Kopfman had been. (That's a gross exaggeration; what we went through can't begin to compare with Capt. Kopfman's POW experiences.)

Some hours later our military bus threaded its way through San Diego en route to North Island. The sun had come up and people were on the streets going about their daily lives. Head leaning against the window, I looked down at them...and almost cried again: they had *no idea* what was going on in the "real world", and, strangely enough, I felt both unappreciated and privileged. My service was giving me experiences that combined to produce an understanding that these civilians would probably never know. My devotion to duty had been deepened; my view of serving a cause larger than Self had become more enriched and idealistic.

And nobody can ever tell me that's just a bunch of syrupy cornball rhetoric.

The Lord has led me through enough that it's not unusual for some of my reactions to remind me of Capt. Kopfman and us "POWs". It can happen at the drop of a hat and take me completely by surprise. And that's neither bad nor embarrassing; there is so much that is selfless, and noble, and good – even *righteous* – about it that I realize it just comes with the territory. It is the relief that sweeps over a man who has long traveled in a dry thirsty land when he comes upon an oasis. It is the emotion that overwhelms a man when he has had his loins girded for combat for so long that he is completely caught off guard when somebody actually does something nice for him; he has gotten so used to being hardened inside that – when he realizes the flag has gone up and he's *finally* among comrades – he cannot handle the onrush of relief, appreciation, thankfulness, and love. In a way it authenticates the Bible when it says it is so *good* for us to suffer (because of *how much we learn*) that we should even rejoice when we do so.

Do I actually rejoice? Yes. When I'm in the depths of despair, and loneliness, and hurt, I am acutely aware that a lot of what I'm feeling is my old man, my carnal man. I also know I am permitting him to wallow a little, but my new man is *always* on alert and in control in my inner sanctum. And while my old man is doing his self-centered thing, my new man tends to the Lord: First, I assure Him I have No regrets, Sir! *No regrets!*

Second, I apologize to Him, because it was we, His own children, in the garden of Eden who yielded to temptation and carnality *and brought all of this pain upon ourselves!* Therefore, because of original sin, I'm part of this mess that – thank God – I now see and despise and *suffer*.

Third, I tell the Lord that, while my old man is doing his selfish thing, my new man is rejoicing with humble thankfulness. Because I've been through this before – and have been invariably thankful for the way my Good Shepherd led me – I not only *believe* all things (even suffering) work together for good, but I've witnessed the truth of that Scripture.

And fourth, believing the Lord *really is* all-present (as in, "Before Abraham was, I am."), I try to comfort Him during His anguish in Gethsemane and on the cross.

In telling some of you young comrades this, I hope to encourage and strengthen you by letting you see *it's all worth it*. I *mean it* when I tell the Lord I have no regrets. And I want you to see that all the study, all the doing, all the doubts and boredom, all the hardships, and all the pain you will suffer, *is doable*; it's not really that big of a deal – even if/when you die because of it.

Do *not* be sidetracked by the clueless Christian majority: Most Christians have no way to tap into the riches the Lord has for those selfless warriors who serve Him:

"For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the protected never know."

Sign at Khe Sanh, Vietnam 1968

The *hardest* part is being a doer *day in and day out*. There are so many little things that make us afraid along the way, so many things that can trip us up, so many things that conspire to tempt us to tell ourselves we don't really have to do *everything* in the Bible. Your job, comrade, is to be a doer. That is the test of your Christianity, and it happens every day, even in ways that we might think are mundane and unimportant. You serve the Lord by doing His word...and leave everything else to Him. He will not let you down.

And one day you'll realize you really can see the *joy* in suffering for the Lord, you'll realize why warriors cry, and you'll pass your thankful joy on to the Lord by ministering to Him from the depths of your joyful suffering – maybe even, by faith, offering Him comfort, support, appreciation, thanks, and love at Gethsemane and at Calvary.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet B8

IN SWORDPLAY AND SERVICE: Always, Ready, Willing, and Able

EFFEMINATES

There are two main reasons most Christians are not combat-ready soldiers. First, they don't *want* to be. This "effeminate" group (as I'll call them) would deny that, of course, but the fact is most of us are what we are because *that's what we want*. These effeminate Christians never loved the Lord enough, therefore they never had the kind of inner motivation to go through the training necessary to become one of the Lord's elite troops. They won't even sign up; they'll either use excuses

(many of them true about Christian hypocrites) to avoid churches and Bible studies, or they'll enthusiastically join a mega church or another of today's "Praise-Jesus-I-feel-good-but-don't-know-the-Bible" denominations.

The effeminate are the kind of Christians you typically run into. They're nice, family-oriented people who may or may not be socially active. It doesn't take long for you to identify each other, and you quickly know you do *not* want to be around each other. And it will always be the Bible that separates you: They'll offend you (and expose themselves) by saying some of the typical air-headed lightweight unscriptural crap around which and upon which most modern Christians congregate and feed. And you'll offend them by saying something that makes them realize you're not a patty-cake-playing lightweight. When you quote specific doctrine-defining Scripture to them (rather than John 3:16 or Romans 8:28 or some of the other verses that feel good in general but don't really say anything) you are proving yourself to be the type of Christian they knew from the start they did *not* want to be.

There are actually many ways effeminate Christians and combat soldiers recognize each other. From the soldier's perspective, effeminate are too smiley and too likely to flit from one lightweight topic to another as if nervously trying to avoid any and all serious and meaningful discussions. Effeminate don't have an air of gravitas; they resemble butterflies more than boulders. They come across as reeds shaken by the wind, as men clothed in soft raiment.

From the effeminate's perspective, combat soldiers are too serious and too likely to zero in on the Biblical side of topics as if they live for swordplay and won't hesitate to discuss the Bible in depth. Soldiers have an air of confidence, as if they *know* they're combat ready: they resemble boulders more than butterflies. Soldiers impress the effeminate as hard, immovable, and ready, willing, and able to defend Scripture anytime, anywhere, and any eternity against the ill-thought-out and contradictory opinions of the ignorant majority. Effeminate have never been able to seriously face *themselves* and consciously admit they are *terrified* by the very thought of being a real Christian soldier, so there is simply no way they'll be comfortable around true Bible believers. This is not to suggest that soldiers of Christ are arrogant or lack sensitivity and compassion. Proper Christian warriors have the understanding to be sensitive, the experience to be compassionate, and the strength and confidence to be humble.

WANNABES

The second reason most Christians are not combat-ready soldiers is not that they never wanted to be; they just never wanted it *enough*. I'll call this group *wannabes*. They love the Lord more than effeminate, but they don't love Him more than *self*. They start out well, and sometimes they last for decades, but invariably the thorns and cares of this world choke them and they retreat to someplace they (as in self) feel comfortable, safe, and "*happy*." These are the compromisers.

These are the Christians I ache over. Unlike the effeminate, *I got to know* these wannabes: I liked them, loved them, fought beside them, cried with them, laughed with them, and grew with them. And when they began to lag behind, *I didn't realize it was happening*. (Oh, how I wish I had so I might have been more helpful.) I was perplexed because something didn't fit, something wasn't right...but I couldn't put my finger on it. I was also frustrated because nothing I tried seemed to help. (In some cases, though, I had no chance to even try to help: they slammed the door and locked it and were suddenly and completely...*gone*.) These are the people that *bring home the tragedy* of this spiritual warfare. I have experienced a wide range of emotions because of them; some petty and selfish and perhaps wrong, and some based properly on love for them and for the Lord. I *believe* I love the brethren for the simple reason that I am a doer of the word; the Bible makes that quite clear. But it has been experiences with wannabes that showed me – by the depth of my hurt and sorrow and how long it has lasted – that my love really is genuine. And my hurt has also given me more empathy for the Lord, because His pure love makes Him hurt more than I ever will.

IDEALISTS

The good kind of Christians are those whose – I'm going to say *idealistic* – love for the Lord makes *everything* we have to suffer along the way worth it. I'm going to call this group *idealists*, because the word I want isn't *pure* because we certainly aren't that. But we do share an idealistic desire to become pure and strong and righteous in order to please the Lord. That desire has eternity in mind, which acknowledges the fact that between now and eternity we will have many trials and tribulations. Somehow our idealistic love for the Lord enables us to gird our loins in order to endure even that which we most greatly fear – whatever that may be. And our idealistic love for the Lord helps us become ready, willing, and able soldiers. Those three words actually share many attributes, but for purposes of illustration I'm going to treat them as if they don't.

Ready means unencumbered: That means we have ordered and controlled lives so we can respond to whatever needs to be done as soon as we become aware of that need. This means *anything*; from helping a fellow Christian with a relatively minor problem, to facing a deadly Goliath. It means not being encumbered with debt, social obligations, guilt, fear, or any of the other tangled worldly webs that commonly ensnare modern Christians. Ready means going through life aware that the call of duty may happen at any time, so we ensure that nothing will slow us down or stop us when the call comes.

Willing means nothing will stop us – not even the possibility of death (a fearsome Goliath). This word ultimately gets down to whether or not we love the Lord more than self. It means we have cultivated the soil of our hearts because as idealists and Bible literalists we actually believe it is right to heed some of those ignored-by-modern-churchianity verses in the Bible. (Some of the verses are at the end of the first full paragraph on AOR page H10-8. Read the whole paragraph in your Swordbearer Bible study and click all of the QuikLinks.) Willing is closely related to being a doer of the word, which is itself based upon true love for the Lord.

Able is a product of experience and time. Over time (growth requires time) the experiences in our lives that were the result of obediently doing the word increase our understanding – we *understand* why obeying the literal word of God is good. At this point we have become able, because we can earnestly contend for, teach, and edify with the holy words in our Lord's Book. As more time and experiences roll by, our understanding blossoms into wisdom. Wisdom is when the understanding

that God has given us along the way combines so that, more and more, we “get it” in such a way that the fishes and loaves of the Bible (and how life relates to the Bible) just keep multiplying.

The Lord wants us all to be ready, willing, and able. And He will help us become so...*if we love and want Him enough to endure all things – starting now.*

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet B9

CHRISTIAN MANLINESS

I had a conversation one time with a U.S. Army gunnery sergeant who’d been in Korea in 1976 during the infamous tree-trimming killings. He said the army had been accumulating some interesting data about male soldiers ever since women had been allowed in the army. When unexpected skirmishes broke out in non-combat areas containing women soldiers, exemplary male soldiers (never got into incidents out on liberty, never late, good with paperwork, excellent appearance in uniform, didn’t make sexist remarks around female soldiers, etc.) tended to *abandon their posts* because a fatherly/brotherly concern made them want to go make sure the women soldiers were OK. But the troublesome male soldiers (drunk and disorderly on liberty, sometimes late, unreliable with paperwork, disheveled appearance, tried to seduce female soldiers, etc.) remained at their posts and kept shooting at the enemy.

The gunny told me the army was wrestling with the apparent fact that the kind of soldiers you want in peacetime and for public relations reasons was the kind you did not want in battle. And the troublesome soldiers were the kind you wanted in your foxhole in combat. The army’s dilemma was how it could recruit and retain the kind of men who’ll win our wars...even as the military (and society) was transitioning into the kind of politically-correct unisex environment that women would be comfortable in. A possible solution: Let the regular military units be full of non-discriminating, women-accommodating, politically-correct metrosexuals; and make the special-forces units all male (as much as possible) environments by making the training so physically rigorous that almost no women could qualify. An example of the former: In order to accommodate women back in the 1970s, West Point eliminated its old physical requirement that cadets be able to perform at least 3 pull-ups – now all a girl had to do was hang on the bar and “unlock” her elbows...it was called a “flexed-arm hang.” She was now a combat leader of “men.” The military decided it could get away with these changes without sacrificing national security because the nature of warfare was changing: no longer were nations fighting each other with huge armies in “world wars”; fighting was increasingly being done by small groups of guerrilla units. As a result, the government considered reducing the number of military bases and regular troops, while beefing up special-forces units. At the same time the government wisely rejected the draft because a “fair” draft would recruit 50% women.

One of the hurdles I had to get over as a young Christian soldier was the issue of “personality.” Part of it had to do with the fact that men were being asked to stop being themselves and start acting like politically-correct metrosexuals. The more I became a doer of the word the more I found myself at odds with other Christians, some of whom needed to be rebuked – and it wasn’t unusual for them to tell me I wasn’t demonstrating “Christian love.” Well, I already knew I loved both God and my fellow Christians because the Bible is very clear about that: those who are doers of the word love God and His church. And those Christians who are not doers of the word – either because they never bothered to learn the Bible or because they are pussies – do *not* love Him...no matter what they say with their lips:

1 John 3:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:

OK, I loved God and His church. But what about “demonstrating Christian love” ...i.e. my personality? I had people beginning to tell me I was too hard, too aggressive, and they said I needed to let my Christian love “radiate” so others could see in me “Jesus’ love for all men.” Maybe they had a good point. Maybe they were right when they said my personality sucked (my word, not theirs) and I shouldn’t call people *pussies* just because they were demonstrating “Christian cowardliness” by letting the normal fears we all have cause them to inexcusably recoil from being doers of the word. Maybe they were right that the kind of soldiers God favors in this war are men like them with sweet personalities who shirk their duty.

One day a Christian from another church (who knew somebody I knew) came over to my house to try to convince me to be a kinder, gentler Christian. I don’t remember what I’d done to cause him to drive over to my house and introduce himself, but I do remember that at one point during our conversation he got out of his chair and sat on the rug at my feet with his legs tucked under him sideways and his hands on the arm of my chair as he sweetly pleaded with me with a cherubic face to be more “loving.” *Well, (I thought) maybe this guy is right and I do need to reform my personality...because here I am thinking he acts like a pansy, even though I don’t think he is.* Is it a sin to think that? Where does the Bible define Christian manliness and personality as clearly as it does loving God and His church? Or do I just not really understand love itself? Does Christian love mean acting and speaking in such a way that those you rebuke will still like you and won’t think you’re a jerk?

My problem was I had learned what Christian love is, but I had not learned how to have a “Christian personality.” The solution – as always – was to consult the Lord via His Instruction Manual.

I studied some of the men in the Bible. These men were perfect examples because they were heroes who had God’s approval. Take Moses, for example. At first blush we might think he had a sweet personality like many Christians today think we should have:

Num 12:3 (Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)

But then we keep reading...and find that we must question the Lord’s taste in people:

Ex 2:11,12 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

Moses’ murderous rage doesn’t make him seem “meek” to us modern Christian pussies. In the next verses he broke the tablets of stone and then tried to make his brethren choke on the golden calf:

Ex 32:19,20 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt *it* in the fire, and ground *it* to powder, and strawed *it* upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

God said Moses had “Christian meekness” – and modern “Christianity” *in practice* says God was wrong. Could it be that, since the Bible says “Christian love” for God and for the brethren *is* being a doer of the word (with nothing being said about “personality”), that God defines “Christian meekness” as “submissive obedience” to Him (with nothing being said or cared about “personality”) because we *really are* at war?

Now let’s look at one of my favorites, Phinehas:

Num 25:6-13 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were* weeping *before* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: And he shall have it, and his seed after him, *even* the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God,

John the Baptist was a pretty tough character who didn’t mince words. In fact, his uncompromising tongue got him beheaded. But our Lord not only selected John from the womb (knowing what kind of man he’d be), He said this about him:

Mat 11:7-11 And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft *clothing* are in kings’ houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist:

Other examples include:

- **Captain Jehu** (famous because he “driveth furiously” his chariots) was selected by God to do some “wet work” in 2 Kings 9. It looks like God’s selection of Jehu had everything to do with the fact that his Christian meekness/submissive obedience meant *God could rely on him to do his duty* – and it had nothing to do with Captain Jehu’s sweet personality.
- One of the Lord’s beloved prophets was **Elijah**. But Elijah (shockingly enough to sweet-personalities metrosexual pussies) actually “mocked” other people’s religion (1 Kings 18:27) and then killed 450 of their prophets (1 Ki 18:22,40). Could it be that God favored Elijah because He needs *warriors* who can be *counted on to do their duty* in this war in spite of their normal fears?

Could it be that God *forgot* to say anything about “personality” in the Bible? I submit that being a submissive doer of the word is the only “personality” God cares about – which is why He doesn’t just talk about it, *He commands it!* Let me reword that: If you aren’t the kind of Christian who overcomes your normal fears and is a doer of the word: you are not a soldier of the cross; you will not be comfortable standing around conversing with the Lord and His favored men above; and your personality sucks because God defines Christian personality as “being a meekly-submissive doer of wet work or Bible study or anything else He wants you to do.” Our AOR example of the young man who lovingly and maturely exercised the doctrine of expediency by taking “sin” upon himself by picking up sticks on the sabbath for the sick old lady is the kind of soldier I’m talking about: Christians whose love for the Lord and genuine seriousness about the war give them the strength to rebuke brothers and sisters who stubbornly resist the word of God...and the humility to truly be a servant to the church.

Could the difference between what the Bible teaches about Christian men and what modern “Christianity” teaches about men be but another indication that the Bible is not – and has not been for a long time – our “*sole authority in all matters of faith and practice*”? Could this be but another modern indication that we love God with our lips – but not in spirit and in truth?

One of the reasons our Lord *liked* these men is He is Himself not only a *man*, but a *warrior*:

Ex 15:3 The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

And the Lord teaches war:

Ps 144:1 Blessed *be* the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, *and* my fingers to fight:

The Lord is looking for men who will fight for Him in this war. Sadly, modern “Christianity” isn’t producing *men*, let alone *warriors*. Christian men today are too timid to go against the grain of tradition and morality. Why are they timid? Because 1) they don’t know the Bible like they should; 2) they aren’t doers of the word and therefore haven’t been growing into manhood – they’re still running around in spiritual short pants; and 3) they act like they’re in the world’s politically-correct regular army rather than in God’s mission-oriented special forces.

Read the bold print above in Num 25:11,13. The Lord was extremely pleased that Phinehas wasn’t the type of man who, when he saw sin in the camp, grabbed a breath mint so he could go radiate the love of Jesus; Phinehas was the kind of warrior whose love for the Lord and for His church made him grab a spear. I guarantee you, brother, when Phinehas went storming into that tent neither of the two people who had but seconds to live saw anything resembling “Christian charity” on his face...they saw nothing but murderous rage. But when the Lord looked at Phinehas, He ignored the outward appearance and saw in his heart the kind of love that actually put *God* ahead of *people* – as if Phinehas really did care about and for the Lord like a devoted wife should. Can the Lord find such men today? *You*, brother, need to be the kind of man whose love for the Lord makes you zealously and jealously contend for *Him* – even if it means having to go to the fearful and awful extreme of offending pussies with your tone of voice and emphatic mannerisms. Look around, brother: *Nobody else cares! That’s* why the Lord needs *you*. *That’s* why the Lord favors men with “warrior personalities” – fear doesn’t prevent them from doing their duty and cutting a wide swath.

The Lord doesn’t need just men; He needs men who’ll *fight*. My gunny friend said politically-correct metrosexuals don’t make good combat soldiers. And I am of the opinion that most Christian males today don’t *really* believe we’re at war. If they do, they have *no idea* what it takes to successfully wage war. And therefore, if today’s metrosexuals find themselves sitting at a table in a chow hall during the Millennial Reign they are going to feel like homos in a Hell’s Angels biker bar: At their table they’re eating with Moses the mad murderer; Elijah the mass murderer; Captain Jehu the wet-work specialist; Phinehas the disemboweller; Joshua, the most successful combat leader in history who is known for exterminating entire populations, including men, women, children, and animals (Joshua 6:21); and David, the man who (among other deeds more often spoken about) decided cutting off the foreskins of *200* soldiers he’d killed was better than doing it to a mere 100! The men at that table are going to be the kind of rough-edged, straight-talking, been-there-done-that veterans of real-world, real-life combat who will have neither respect nor patience for modern Christian males who act more like women.

We need to be men for the Lord. That doesn’t mean we should act like cocky adolescents full of hormones and no social graces. It just means we should – *via mastering and doing the word* – grow close enough and confident enough in our unselfish wifely walk with the Lord that we aren’t afraid to be *real*, to be *ourselves*, and to be zealous *for the Lord’s sake*. If we are good *wives*, the Lord will make us good *men* by teaching our fingers to fight, and our hands to make war, and our experiences along the way will make it so we’ll be comfortable carrying our trays over to our brothers’ table in the Millennial chow hall and saying, “Hey, comrades. OK if I join you?”

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet B10

DON’T CAST YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

HOW GOD KEEPS HIMSELF PRIVATE

I often use the term “love for the Lord” because it is and must be the foundation and motivation for everything we do. But in spite of the fact that it is one of the most commonly used terms in Christianity, many people misunderstand what loving the Lord is, and therefore many people use it in shallow ways and *don’t* love Him.

First, proper love for the Lord is *not* the same type of love you have for your grandmother or when you had your first tongue-tying crush in grade school. Love for the Lord may at different times inspire those feelings – and more – but true and proper love for the Lord can be more definitely identified.

True and proper love for the Lord is *knowing the Bible and being a doer of the word*. I tend to focus on the second part – being a doer – because *that’s* the true test in our Christian walk, and it is the litmus test of our love. Another reason I stress being a doer is because being a doer obviously involves/requires *knowing the Bible*. There’s more to knowing and being a doer than might at first meet the eye, but I want to zero in on something interesting in the Bible:

1 John 2:3-5 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

First point: Keeping God's commandments (being a doer of the word) *is* loving Him. I say again, all those people who run around talking about how much they love God, but they neither know the Bible nor are doers of the Bible, are – according to holy Scripture, *liars!* The fact that being a doer of the word *is* loving God is an important point, especially in today's Biblically-illiterate Christianity, and I often do make that point. But I'm not going to dwell on it here because, while the point may be novel for many, it's pretty straightforward and easy to grasp. The deeper part of it is that these verses show that true love for God is actually a two-way street, because it must include God's love for us, which is why the Scripture says "love of God" rather than "love for God." And when we put that two-way street together with the above Scripture that says love and doing and knowing are synonyms, it helps explain the following:

Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will [which paves that two-way street of "knowing"] of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

He means: "you never did My word, because you never loved Me, so you never knew Me." And the two-way street makes Him correct to also say, "I never knew you." In other words, our getting to know God and His knowing us are parts of our mutual *relationship*, and all real-life relationships are better or worse depending on how "two-way" the street/relationship is.

Second point (one we've actually covered but I think it's interesting and important): We noticed that comparing the wording in 1 John 3:3-5 shows that God uses *knowing Him* and *doing His word* as *synonyms*. What that says is if someone is an "expert" on the Bible *but isn't a doer of the word, he doesn't even know God!* We'd think (incorrectly) that learning the Bible *is* getting to know God. And we'd further think *doing* the Bible is moving beyond *knowing* God into *serving* Him. But that's not correct.

Apparently, *learning the Bible* – as important as that is and as necessary as it is to being a doer of the word – is so shallow it qualifies as *not even knowing God*. (That illustrates the above first point's importance about being a doer.) The fact that someone who learns the Bible doesn't even know God if he isn't also a doer of the word is supported by the following:

Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

It uses *worship* and *serve* as synonyms. If we understand that serving God is being a doer of the word, we can then understand that a person who isn't a doer (server) of the word, also isn't *worshipping* God – no matter how many times he goes to church. Probably the best definition of *worship* is *to honor, to exalt*: we honor God (as our Lord/Boss) not just when we serve Him, but when we serve Him in accordance with and in obedience to His word. That's why "serving" God if you don't know the Bible isn't really serving Him – it's not even *knowing* Him or *worshipping* Him. The issue in the Bible is authority: Jesus is Lord, and He must be treated, known, obeyed, respected, served, loved, and worshipped as such.

My next point is about *why* we neither *know* nor *love* God if we aren't proper *worshippers/servers* by being doers of His word. I think it has much to do with

Matthew 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine,

We know from the OT's teachings about unclean things, sin, and the Holy of Holies that God is very careful to isolate Himself from things and people that are not pure. Not casting pearls before swine is but one facet of that subject...and it is involved in the *why* behind God's designing life so people who aren't doers of His word don't *know* Him – no matter how well they know the Bible: The word of God reveals who God is, what He likes and dislikes, His character, etc. In a way the stuff the Bible reveals about God is deeply personal, and it's almost an intrusion into the Holy of Holies because God is a very private person. It probably has a lot to do with how deeply hurt He was when He so openly and completely loved His son, Lucifer...and was then rejected and betrayed. That hurt caused God to create hell and to isolate Himself in varying degrees from His own children, us, in order to protect Himself from more hurt, insult, and rejection caused by rebellious Christians. Therefore, if we are proper doers of His word, He manifests Himself to us; but if we're not, He doesn't:

John 14:21-24 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings:

In this trumpet and in some War College trumpets I've dealt with the supreme importance of the literal words of God in every context imaginable that has to do with our relationship with the Lord: faith, belief, hearing, seeing, doing, knowing, Judgment, and consummation. The topic is made simple by its consistency, and yet it's so broad it's difficult to enunciate in a concise way. A few examples:

- God’s words are the sower’s seeds. Note the synonyms in Lk 8:10-18. Verse 18 opens with “therefore (reference to *seeing* the candle’s light) how (reference to having a good heart) ye hear (the candle’s light)”, and then ends with a summation that draws upon the earlier info in vv.10-15.
- In Gen 22:12 when God said about Abe’s actions, “now I know” He was referring to the above two-way street we discussed above in the context of Mt 7...which also involves Judgment and consummation, which were damning in Matt Seven’s case because he didn’t realize the very “street” he bragged about was road-blocked by his improper relationship with the word of God. A man’s relationship with the word of God is an exact picture of his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ: those whose lack of faith in Him renders them too carnal to *know* His word by its miraculous and unique inerrancy are in danger of being shocked when He says, “I never knew you / you never knew me.”
- Abe’s obedience to God’s literal words in Gen 22, and Adam’s disobedience to God’s literal words in Gen 2 help reveal “our lane” in the two-way street of our relationship with God: At God’s end of the street He *already knew* what was in each man’s heart – but they didn’t. So Abe’s obedience in doing the word was an actual, undeniable action that showed him (and all of us) that he was a believer; and Adam’s disobedience of the word by eating the fruit was an actual, undeniable proof that he was an unbeliever.
- “Hearing” the candlelight/seed/word (above), hearing by the word of God (Ro 10:17), the word of God’s ability to *discern* what’s in our hearts (He 4:12), and the Lord manifesting Himself only to proper doers (Jn 14) are but a few examples of the fact that the Lord saves, sanctifies, and cleanses us by the word (Eph 5:26).

Those who aren’t doers of the word do not have their carnal blindness taken away; therefore their eyes don’t see and their ears don’t hear...and they don’t really know the Lord. That’s the way He designed it. He is special, and only His special people will ever really know Him. Our main reward throughout eternity *is being allowed to know Him*.

One more thing before I move on to my next topic: If you properly instruct Christians today and if you correct their misconceptions about God, the Bible, doctrine, and Christianity, they’ll often think you’re not exhibiting “Christian love”, and they’ll say all manner of things including, “If you don’t love your fellow Christians here on earth, what makes you think you’ll love them and enjoy being with them in heaven?” This unscriptural nonsense is widespread and popular, and it might plague you as you grow. You’ll wonder if you are actually contending for the faith and doctrines revealed in the Bible because you are being hateful rather than loving. How can we know if we really love the brethren or not? The answer, as always, is in Scripture:

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:

That’s why King David, who was hated by most of his kingdom, poured his heart out to God and wrote, under His inspiration for our edification:

Psalm 119:74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

The bottom line is, if we love God by learning His Book and doing it, everything else will fall into place. If you do not really love God, there is simply no way you are going to be a doer of the word.

KEEPING FAMILY MATTERS PRIVATE

In 2 Kings 20 and Isaiah 39 the Lord was apparently upset with King Hezekiah for showing pagans all the wealth and treasures within his kingdom. Why was the Lord upset, and what should we learn from the incident?

When I was a boy my parents taught us four children that we were never to let people outside of the family know certain things about our family. For example, if we ever overheard Mom and Dad discussing family financial matters, and if Mom and Dad got mad and started shouting at each other, we were never to let outsiders know about those things because certain family matters were privileged, and we were never to “cheapen” or “make common” our family by publically “airing dirty laundry on the clothesline”.

A similar example would be the sexual preferences of a husband and wife. Even though all sexual things are lawful because the marital bed is undefiled, it would cheapen the private nature of a marital relationship if those private preferences and practices were revealed to swine/outside. And even though nudity is not a sin, it wouldn’t be fitting for a wife to spread her legs and let everyone who visited her home view her treasures – because some things belong only in the privileged privacy of the marital relationship.

The Lord is so great and so holy none of us deserves to know Him or even to see Him (as discussed above). That’s one of the reasons He keeps Gentiles out of the temple, and why He keeps Bible believers out of the Holy of Holies, and why He uses Christ as a go-between.

Hezekiah was apparently too open with pagans when God thought he should have been more reserved. Instead of keeping certain things about “family finances” private/exclusive by classifying them as “Christian eyes only”, Hezekiah spread his legs to pagan visitors and treated God’s pearls as if they weren’t special by casting them before swine.

What *specific* lesson do we learn from that? None. But we do learn, in general, to keep in mind that “preach the gospel to every creature” needs to be tempered with things like Paul’s walking away from the men on Mars hill, and verses like:

Titus 3:10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

2 Cor 6:17,18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 John 7-11 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

We need to be aware of the fact that our heavenly Husband is holy and precious above all things. He is so precious that as we grow in our wifely relationship with Him we should realize how privileged it is for us to have an intimate understanding and knowledge of Him. And we must be careful not to profane certain treasured things about Him by sharing them with carnal people who simply cannot appreciate them.

Jer 9:23,24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD...

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet Archive Charlie

Trumpet C1

THE TIME IS SHORT

The time is short...they that have wives be as though they had none (1 Cor 7:29)

Everything in the Bible fits together and complements each other for the simple reason that God's literal words are both exact and true. This fact becomes more and more apparent during our Bible studies as we mature: As young Christians we read the Bible a number of times and might think, "Is that it? Shouldn't there be more?" And it's true that the Bible is only one book, and therefore it might seem finite, which might cause the carnal mind to gradually decide it's not worth our time after a few years.

As we grow, however, our continued time in the word combined with our life experiences as we do the word cause the Lord to deepen and broaden our understanding of and *appreciation* for the word. During our maturation as faithful doers, the word of God does not change. But because of our faithfulness the Word of God manifests Himself to us more and more through the word of God, and we realize those same old fishes and loaves we've faithfully and dutifully eaten over the years just keep on multiplying as surely as if we're standing there 2,000 years ago as one of the 7,000 being miraculously fed by the Lord. At times of personal revelation and growth like that we witness the amazing fact that the word is an onion with many layers that – rightly divided, here a little and there a little – manifests itself to us but not to the world. And that process of manifestation deepens our belief and confidence so we can testify in ways like this:

1 John 1:1-4 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

By the way, I don't want what I just said to detract from the fact that other forms of *communion* besides Bible study can be used by God just as much to open our understanding. For example, many truths have manifested themselves over the years during verbal communion with my wife, written communion with you comrades, silent reflection in my inner sanctum during the night and day, and during the times I immerse myself in the word of God when writing material such as these essays. Any and all forms of communion around and interaction with the word of God is good – whether we are consciously aware of it at that moment or not.

As you know, the purpose of the War College Trumpets is to sound the alarm of war and to teach Scriptural NT tactics. In those trumpets some of our brethren may think I'm being a bit too alarmist or panicky when urging Bible believers "from such turn away" in order to reduce the chances of becoming leavened and gradually overcome by apostasy. In this trumpet I am going to show that being alarmed about the welfare of the church is the proper attitude...and has been from the very beginning of the NT era, which underscores the fact that we must utilize the Lord's NT tactics of rearguard action not just for the *good* of the church, but for the *survival* of the church. And then I'm going to show some examples of how all the Scriptures fit together and complement each other – which helps illustrate that proper doctrine *must* be supported by every verse in the Bible, and which helps show why we *must* faithfully stay in the word even after we've gone through the Bible more times than we can count.

NEW TESTAMENT EXPEDIENCY IN MARRIAGE

1 Corinthians 7 says we should not marry unless we have to in order to avoid fornication. It explains why it is better to not marry:

1 Cor 7:32-35 ...He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please *his* wife...The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please *her* husband. And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

OK, that all makes sense. Before I get to the "alarm of war" read this:

1 Tim 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Now read what the Bible tells married Christian men, and note that it at first appears to contradict the above:

1 Cor 7:29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

It says "both" above because it then goes on to include the following:

1 Cor 7:30,31 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use [those who customarily resort to...as in, to have business or other dealings with] this world, as not abusing it [don't overdo it by becoming dependent upon]: for the fashion of this world passeth away [the world won't last much longer].

A careful reading of the context of the 1 Cor 7 makes it clear that this chapter is not some pipe or harp giving an uncertain sound; it is an urgently loud-and-clear trumpet calling us saints to battle by saying:

The time is short! Sound the alarm! We're in the dark last days, and for your own profit and the survival of the church drop everything and spend your time serving God and His church. If you are a single man or woman, do not marry. If you are a married man, act as if you are not married by eschewing unnecessary, time-wasting family distractions. In fact, don't even waste precious time weeping or rejoicing or taking care of normal worldly pursuits.

Obviously, when the Bible tells Christian men who are married to be as though they aren't, and when it tells men and women to not even rejoice and weep, it is telling us the church is in such dire straits we need to employ the doctrine of expediency in certain situations for the good of the church. In other words, the New Testament is building upon the fact that when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, He replaced the OT with the New, which was a major – indeed, *radical* – tactical change. For example, physical patriarchs and the Old Commission are gone, and instead we're advised not to marry; we have neither real estate nor dominion; and rather than go in among born-again brethren who are unruly or disorderly or doctrinally subverted in order to help them by arguing and convincing them to repent, we are told to “warn” and “admonish” them once or twice and then to reject them by walking away, by not eating with them or inviting them into our homes for fellowship...by *shunning them!* I say again, in this NT era of rampant apostasy the time is so short we are *no longer told to stone* fellow Christians such as incorrigible children and unrepentant members of our congregations (because that stuff is barbaric to the Enlightened society that has dominion over us, and because there are *way too many* subverted Christians around us), we are instead told to *not even risk having wives and children*, and we're told to *shun* most of the rest of “Christianity” because the risk of being around them is too great. If we think about it a little it's easy to imagine a physical church building that represents the NT body of believers...and good saints are running out of it in all directions and wisely becoming hermits in their various efforts to remain doctrinally unleavened for God's sake and that of His church and the war.

Hermit: One who lives apart from society for religious reasons.

Because the 1 Cor 7 “time is short” verse was written at the beginning of the NT era I don't think it was meant to make us think the Second Coming was just around the corner (although two days/two thousand years may be considered “short” compared with the previous six thousand years of this war; and even though today we believe the Second Coming is just around the corner). I believe the “time is short” phrase when put into the context of our marital duties to each other and to Christ, and when considering the obvious fact that the chapter tells us to keep expediency in mind, is intended to emphasize the fact that the advanced stage of leaven in the church has necessitated the NT's radical changes to our Christian lives and to the way we deal with our beloved brethren – brethren who will not endure sound doctrine and will turn away their ears from the truth, and after their own lusts (Reason) they shall be turned unto fables (tradition, morality, and theology). And all of that is intended to make us reflect upon the necessity of those changes as well as the importance of the plainly-worded NT rearguard tactics that order us to “have no company with” leavened brethren if they don't properly respond to one or two admonitions. In other words, “the time is short” phrase combined with the rest of the NT is intended to make us realize it is saying:

Situation critical: Carry out your NT rearguard tactics to avoid being leavened, and do your Christian duties...but keep expediency in mind that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

The Bible makes it clear that – *especially when among fellow sheep/Christians* – we must be watchmen who are always doctrinally vigilant and always ready to follow the Lord away from doctrinal apostasy when Christians no longer have ears to hear our words of instruction and admonition:

Mt 10:6-38 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel...And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy...And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet...Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men...Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

When we read verses like the following we note at the end we're told to “rejoice” and “weep”, which makes some people think it's contradicting 1 Cor 7:30 above. But God's word does not contradict itself, which makes us think about the other underlinings below and how they obviously rely on our Christian maturity, and on our love for God and His church so we'll utilize discernment, wisdom, and love when weighing the time-is-short call to arms above with other more “normal” Biblical exhortations such as the one below:

Rom 12:9-15 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business;

fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

With all of that in mind, I'll invent an example of a Christian husband using expediency to be as if he had no wife: A big family reunion is coming up over a long weekend 200 miles away. At the last minute something comes up with some Christian brethren that the man decides needs his attention. He talks with his wife about it and tells her to take the kids and drive to the reunion without him. As a Bible believer she understands the situation and dutifully obeys. At the reunion her parents and married siblings, upon finding out that the husband is tending to "church matters" rather than to his wife and kids, badmouth him. The wife looks at them and in no uncertain terms tells them to shut up and not mention it again. And if they do she'll pack up the kids and leave right then. She is a good and strong Christian and has her priorities (the Lord and His church) straight. But she is extremely rare and hard to find:

Proverbs 31:10-30 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her...She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life...Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her...Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

That kind of wife/servant makes me think of the aged widower, Abraham, who had a servant so beloved, faithful, and competent that Abe knew he could rely on him for anything and everything – including finding a woman from whose loins would come many generations of Christians:

Gen 24:2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had...

But if the wife in the above example were a pagan or a lousy Christian (a born-again unbeliever), and – encouraged by her badmouthing relatives – she rebels against her "fanatic" husband, he'd obviously do the best he could to handle the situation. If he fails, and if the bad wife thinks he has made her life so unhappy that she decides to leave him, then the following applies:

1 Cor 7:15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

ADULTERY AND WHOREMONGERING

When the Lord in 1 Cor 7 tells Christian men that have wives [to] be as though they had none when that particular expediency is necessary for the good of the church, He is certainly aware that He is speaking to a classification of men that includes a large percentage of sex fiends – after all, most of them wouldn't have married at all unless they thought they would commit fornication with a Christian woman if they stayed single. Therefore, it is possible that some men might be tempted to think, "Hmm, if I'm to act as though I didn't have a wife that means I can have sex with girlfriends like the bachelor Samson did, and/or consort with whores like the widower Judah did." But read this:

Heb 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: [Before the colon the topic of marriage and marital sex is introduced, and it says husbands and wives may do whatever sex acts they want.] but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. [After the colon a qualifier is added to prevent married Christian men and women from thinking "undefiled" means they can commit adultery and/or consort with prostitutes and gigolos.]

Yes, the marital bed is undefiled – as long as your sex is with your spouse. But Heb 13:4 isn't really necessary to show 1 Cor 7 isn't promoting promiscuous behavior. The expediency of "being as though they have no wives" is only to be exercised in order that the man be better able to "attend upon the Lord"...and running around having sex with other women cannot be construed as attending upon the Lord.

I have been challenged about Christian bachelors being able to consort with girlfriends and whores, and the "proof" that bachelors "cannot do so" is the fact that "whoremongering" is a sin. But we've already learned in the Bible that fornication and adultery are not the same; one applies to unmarrieds and the other applies to marrieds. For example, if a Christian bachelor screws an unmarried pagan girlfriend, no sin has been committed. But if he screws an unmarried Christian girlfriend he has committed fornication. So we turn our attention to *Thus saith the Lord* to see what we learn about whoremongering, because any English dictionary will properly define whoremongering as having sex ("consorting") with whores. We note that whoremonger appears five times in the Bible, and four of those times we learn nothing because whoremongering is merely included in lists of various sins. To understand whoremongering, therefore, we must go to Heb 13:4, which lets us learn about whoremongering and about adultery. Obviously *adultery* applies to married people, and obviously Heb 13:4 deals specifically with married people. Therefore in context both adultery and whoremongering are *sins* ("God will judge") that God is applying to *married people* – not bachelors. Therefore if we want to make whoremongering a sin for bachelors and widowers we must first find a verse in the Bible that allows us to do so...and there is none. Therefore, the reason nobody condemned Samson and Judah for their activities, and the reason neither Samson nor Judah tried to hide his activities or was ashamed of them is because their activities were Scripturally lawful...and to attempt to make the sex bachelors have with consenting girlfriends and with whores (where prostitution is legal) sins is nothing but the old Mt 15:2 scam – inventing sins not in the Bible. By the way, when Bible believers carefully examine all five applicable verses and take a minute to analyze Heb 13:4, they quickly realize it was tradition that caused them to *assume* things about whoremongering that are *not in the Bible*, which also made

them think the Biblical examples of Samson and Judah might be *misleading* at best and *errors* at worst...which illustrates the fact that *false traditions* can *subvert* faith in the inerrant truth and authority of the living word of our living God! Walk circumspectly, comrade, and be ever-vigilant watchmen by carefully paying attention to every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

WOMEN PREACHERS AND OUR CHRISTIAN DUTY

If you look in 1 Cor 7 or anywhere else in the Bible for a verse that tells Christian wives that “the time is short, so you may be as though you had no husband” you will search in vain – there is no such verse. *Why?*

It’s because men and women are different in God’s eyes. Men are *heads/masters* because they represent God; women are *bodies/servants* because they represent the church. The fact that God specifically gives husbands the expediency to act at times as if they have no wives, but He *never even hints* that women have the same prerogative gives us an indication as to how critically important women are to the war. A Christian woman – whether she has a husband who is pagan or Christian, froward or good – *is never allowed to take a “break” from serving him!* That’s because she represents the church, *and the church is never allowed to take a “break” from serving God.* In a mysterious (and to me, *ominous*) way, the fact that women are *always* supposed to be under the authority of their husbands is related to the fact that women are *always* supposed to have long hair:

1 Cor 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

It seems to me that just as God depends on and waits for us to be submissively obedient to Him before He wields His sword in this war, it may be that the church as a unit and husbands as individual Christians are somehow handicapped if Christian women in general and wives in particular are not properly under the authority of men (Jn 19:26,27; Isa 3:12-4:1). It is 1 Cor 7 that brings much that the Bible says and implies about women into sharper focus and tends to establish a pattern. I say plainly: Christian women have a very important role in this war. I don’t understand it clearly or fully, but what I do understand means God’s very clearly-stated orders that wives submit to their husband as if he is God Almighty – for better or for worse, good or froward – *must* be carried out to the letter.

All of this emphasis on the fact that Christian wives/bodies are *never* excused from their duty to be under the authority of their husbands/heads; and the related fact that women should never be “shorn” by *not* having “power on their heads” is but another proof that it is an abomination (and very bad for this cause because it somehow handicaps the church) for women to be preachers. For several reasons (some I don’t fully understand) it is harmful to the cause of Christ for women to become heads/shepherds of a church. I say again, Christian women are *never* granted the prerogative to rise up from servanthood to positions of authority over Christian men. *All* Christian women – married or single – are required to be *always* under authority...because all members of the church – male or female – are required to be always under God’s authority. When a husband exercises expediency by telling his wife to go to the reunion without him so he can help the church *he is serving God.* But when a woman decides

- to slack off on her duties to her husband for *any* reason,
- or when she decides to become a preacher

she is rebelling against God and helping Satan.

But doesn’t the existence of women prophets in the Bible mean women *can* be preachers? No. If a NT woman has a good relationship with God and He helps her learn some good stuff in the Bible, she needs to understand *that’s what Christian fellowship/verbal communion is for!* That’s how all of us, as different members with different talents on the same Body, help each other learn and grow. When a man hears something really good from a woman during fellowship he can then speak up in church and share it with the preacher and the congregation...and let everybody know from whom he learned it.

This discussion about women preachers is actually unnecessary because in other places the Bible plainly commands women to be silent in church. And the Bible also clearly states that any man wanting to be a bishop/preacher must be a husband who ruleth well his own house. Christian women are not allowed to act as if they are men, and they are not allowed to shirk their important womanly duties to God. One of the reasons a sister’s faithful performance of her duty is so important to the cause of Christ in this war is *because of the angels.* We all should understand that fact, and we should understand how difficult being Scriptural women today can be, and we should use *charity* (in its *unselfish, loving, forgiving, helping* meaning) to support and encourage them. They are precious comrades in our war.

MEN AND WOMEN AS TYPES

Men and women are different, and they have been assigned different jobs by God. Those jobs, if properly done, help the church win the war. At Judgment God will evaluate us based on our performance of our duties. I think too many Christians think they can largely ignore/shirk their earthly duties (such as being husbands and wives, and being masters of and doers of the Bible) and instead focus on “loving” God (such as reading the Bible, saying prayers, and being “good” Christians). Sadly for them the Bible plainly says *doing* our jobs as defined in the Bible *is* loving God and loving the church; and not doing our jobs is the same as not loving God – no matter how much we “feel like we’re loving Jesus”.

I’m now going to informally look at (and speculate about) some of the differences between men and women, and at some of the reasons for those differences, and at what those differences represent.

OT MEN were told to circumcise their penises, to “uncover their heads.”

NT MEN are told to “uncover their heads” by having shortened hair. Being “uncovered” exposes men’s heads – which stands for God, and which represents the ruling authority of men.

OT WOMEN were never told to be circumcised, were never told to uncover their heads, and were never told to be rulers over men or the church – they were to represent the church by *always* being under the power/authority of men/God.

NT WOMEN are specifically told to be always covered, and a woman's *hair* is her God-given covering – *if it is long* (1 Cor 11:15). And even if she does “good” things like praying (or prophesying – as in Tit 2:3-5) with shortened hair (which makes her “uncovered”), it is so shameful that she might as well be shorn. This 1 Cor 11 commandment for women to “have power on their heads”, and the fact that even hair that has been shortened a “little bit” makes it not “long” (which represents just a “little bit” Enlightened, liberated, independent, rebellious, and Satanic) stresses the “no excuses, no exceptions, no expediency” necessity/importance to the war *that women be always submissive* – just as does the fact that 1 Cor 7 never permits wives to be as though they were not wives, and just as the following verse says husbands can forsake their wives...but nowhere does the Bible say wives can forsake their husbands:

Mt 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife [the Bible never says this about *husbands*], or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

The reason these 1 Cor 11 and 1 Cor 7 imperatives exist for women and wives to remain 100% submissive is outlined for us in 1 Cor 6, which says any Christian who sins (in this case we're zeroing in on women) is a harlot who makes the whole *body/lump* of Christ a whore/leavened. This is supported by 1 Pet 3:1-7, which says twice (because it applies to both OT and NT women) that women are to be in subjection. If a wife (or husband) doesn't do her (his) Christian duty she (he) is hindering her (his) prayers and those of her (his) husband (wife) because she and he are one flesh (1 Cor 6). Jn 14 comes into play here because it says the Comforter will only help Christians who are proper doers of the word (as opposed to improper doers like Matt Seven). By the way, 1 Pet 3 is *not* saying Christian wives' good conversations (walks) might convince their hubbies to say the “sinner's prayer”. It says if her hubby is a lousy Christian her pleasing him with her 100% submissive service might cause him to repent.

OT MEN and WOMEN were told to marry in order to have physical babies to whom the Lord would give the new birth. And if the rod of correction hadn't driven foolishness from the heart of a child by the time he was 16 the child was to be executed for the good of the church.

NT MEN and WOMEN are advised not to marry unless as bachelors and virgins they won't be able to keep from having sex with another Christian, which is *fornication* because it is a sin *within* (not “without” – 1 Cor 6:18) the body of Christ. Fornication *hurts the church*. God saw that Enlightened Reason would be so widespread in the church in the NT era that He advised us not to marry so we wouldn't be joined to a wife-harlot who wasn't 100% submissive or to a hubby-harlot who wasn't 100% committed; and He advised us not to marry so we wouldn't be *jailed* for properly using *spanking* to drive foolishness from the hearts of our children; and so massive amounts of our time wouldn't be squandered trying to please a lousy husband (saved or unsaved), or dealing with a lousy wife (saved or unsaved), or trying to properly train up children (saved or unsaved). The Lord tried to keep us faithful men and women from all of those snares, distractions, and frustrating time-wasters.

MEN are heads/rulers and therefore tend to be more *cerebral* (as in *intellectually detached*) than women. Alas, however, men's lives tend to revolve around their dicks, which as King David shows, can be a huge problem. That sexual desire during the OT tended to encourage saints to carry out the Old Commission's mandate to help the church by having sexual intercourse, but it tends to be a distraction to NT saints' Great Commission duty to help the church via verbal intercourse. Men also tend to be selfish about and during sex, and – because true love is outward directed/unselfish – that means having sex is, for men, more about having fun than it is about “making love”. And that means when men commit adultery it, in general, does not mean they do not love their wives; men “take” women because they want to be “serviced”. As types, men symbolize God's desire that He have many wives who live to please Him. I tend to avoid using the word “selfish” when describing God because it generally has a bad connotation in Enlightened society, but it is good for God to want His will to be done by all of us – and it is also very good for us if we agree with Him. NT men need to use principled love to discern the modern importance of never marrying, but if they do marry they need to use compassionate love to be less selfish about the wants and needs of their wives. And if they marry they also need to keep principled love/discernment in mind for occasions when the needs of the church might necessitate their devoting less time to their families.

WOMEN are bodies/servants and therefore tend to be more *emotional* (as in *unable to keep feelings from overpowering intellectual judgment*) than men. Women, in general, also tend to be less obsessed with sex than men are, and that tends to allow women to be less selfish about and during sex. To women sex is about being cared for and it is part of unselfish love, which is why women “give” themselves to men. Women being more unselfish tends to make their love (emotional, platonic, and sexual) more important and outward-directed than it is for men. Therefore, sex tends to be a way for women to attract the care, attention, and love of men. And they tend to think adultery by their husbands is because he doesn't love them...when it's really because the husbands don't love God enough. NT women need to use discernment to understand the modern importance of never marrying, and if they do marry they need to learn how (by using discernment/principled love) to remain 100% submissive *no matter what*. Development of women's principled love will also help them understand that men's more-abundant principled love makes men more focused on duty and character, while men's less-abundant compassionate love makes men less focused on human love relationships (emotion) and personality.

SUMMATION

The NT era deemphasizes us as individuals and it deemphasizes our physical lives; the focus is on spiritual warfare and the doctrinal health and survival of the church as a whole. Therefore if we were disciplined, and if the Bible really were our sole authority in all matters of faith and practice, very few of us would be married. For most men that would mean they were not heads of households, were not husbands, and were not even *men* (I speak figuratively) – they would be women, the Lord's wives. Therefore, men's lives would (should) no longer revolve around their dicks...because the Lord would be the man/husband/head of household, and therefore as His wives (I'm now including both men and women) we'd attend upon His desire to have His children brought up right. The Lord distributes His precious life-giving seed as He sees fit (via the new birth), and we'd serve Him by having verbal intercourse in order to first, identify His children, and second, to edify and exhort them for the good of the church. That means the NT's Great Commission is very similar to the OT's Old Commission: the Husband still spreads His seed, and His multiple wives help Him train His offspring up in Jesus' name to be selfless warriors whose doctrinal understanding and proper use of Biblical tactics enables them to endure to the end.

The major NT changes to our personal lives

(such as we don't marry, don't live in a Biblical society, and are shocked at how few are saved and at how few of those are hearers and doers)

and to our Christian fellowship

(once we see that a brother doesn't believe in the inerrant truth, the sole authority, and the absolute necessity of the Bible, and doesn't have the same hunger for the Bible and the same eagerness to submit to *Thus saith the Lord* that we do, and we can't imagine how they can be so unmotivated – *we are to walk away*)...

...are supposed to make us aware of the critical importance and necessity of proper doctrine and rearguard tactics. We are to realize that we are no longer off-duty soldiers relaxing in a society of comrades (such as OT Jerusalem); we are embattled Bible believers who find themselves surrounded by the carnality of Reason, the mindless self-importance of democracy, and the outrageous assaults by theology on doctrine and on believing Bible study. All of that would make us realize how rare and almost *alone* we Bible believers are. Therefore, as our doctrinal understanding matures, so does our appreciation for *separation/rearguard tactics*...and we find ourselves – like hermits – living quietly aloof from the mindless chaos, noise, and blasphemy of this inhospitable world.

Our doctrinal maturity also makes us men and women view ourselves more and more as Christ's brides, His wives, His women. That makes doctrinally-mature Christian women pay more attention to their role as servants, and they quietly grow in humility, self-control, charity, forgiveness, unselfish patience, and *peace*. As Christian men mature in doctrine they become increasingly convinced that their passionate sermons, their brilliant arguments, and their well-intentioned "try to be a positive influence by going in among them" efforts have failed to have any measurable effect. That makes them realize God is right when He says heaven can be slowed but it can't be stopped, and therefore He knew what He was doing when He said our enemies are they of our own household, and He was right when He used the word *subverted*. All of this makes the man feel very alone like Elijah (1 Kin 19:10), so he spends more quality time in the Bible and in his inner sanctum fellowshiping with his Husband. That quiet-time fellowship makes him realize – *again* – God's way is right. So he whittles away at his male self-importance, realizes good Christians are few and far between, and therefore *all he has left is Christ!* I say again, after trying to be "busy", to be a "leader" or "shepherd" he realizes he has been wasting precious time he could have spent attending unto the Lord without distraction.

One of the things the Comforter uses to influence other Christians is our *testimony*, our *daily walk* (see 1 Pet 3:1,2 again). Therefore, when we men and women see the testimony of the doctrinally-mature woman above, the Holy Spirit helps us appreciate (as defined in Trumpet B1) the womanly humility and servanthood of being a proper Christian, and we strive to be better wives to Christ and better servants to each other. In a way, the embattled loneliness of this NT era is good for the church because it makes all of us, men and women, realize our true peace and reward comes from the satisfaction of *quietly doing our jobs as the Lord's women*. The irony in that is the fact that when the Comforter sees us humbly submitting to His word and serving each other, He – as a Man – fights for His women by wielding His Sword, by being our arm of strength, by being our Saviour.

Therefore, we Bible-believing men and women need to work on our womanly humility, self-control, charity, forgiveness, unselfish patience, and *peace* (to name just a few) so we can be good examples to each other and good wives who please our Husband.

Eph 5:15,16 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering...And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another [today]: and so much the more, as ye see the day [the millennial reign] approaching.

The time is short.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet C2

WHAT A BOOK!

I've always been a fairly conscientious guy; the kind of guy who looks into things, researches them, analyzes, compares, organizes. I'm only happy when things make sense and there are no contradictions. If something doesn't quite fit, if there are questions I can't answer, or if something isn't clear to me I realize I've got more work/learning to do.

When the Lord saved me I had a sudden hunger for the Bible. As a Roman Catholic I'd always considered myself to be fairly serious about "God", but as I began studying the Bible and comparing it with Catholicism and my life I realized how carnally blind I'd been. I responded to that realization with hungry enthusiasm: I *wanted* to be a squared-away Christian servant...and *finally* I was studying the Rule Book that told me *how*. I didn't know my rear end from a hole in the ground yet, but everything that is me was now restlessly content in a way I'd never known before. I say *restlessly* because my contentment wasn't the settle-back-and-relax kind. My contentment was that of a hungry man who finally found good food and was being nourished by it – but never got full or tired of eating...and craved more.

I attended a church that claimed the KJV to be the inspired, inerrant word of God. But the contradictions in the way they treated the KJV frustrated my penchant for order, so after I finished studying and comparing Catholic history and doctrine with the Bible, and after I finished studying creation vs. evolution (both of which interested me from the start), I began researching the Bible version issue. My studies about Catholicism and creation had made me realize how critically-fundamental the Bible is for both doctrine and world history, and the inconsistencies between what my new church *said* about the Bible and their actual *practice* made me realize I needed to find out just how sure or unsure of a foundation the Bible really is. As a black-and-white kind of guy I wanted to find out how much confidence I could put in the Bible.

The Bible version issue was an excellent foundation for my Christian growth. And I later learned from reading and conversing with non-KJVers that they lacked doctrinal consistency, mental clarity, faith in God and what He says about His Book, and therefore came across as disingenuous. It didn't just *irritate* me that they *said* the "Bible" is inerrant one minute, and the next whipped out a Greek/Hebrew dictionary and "corrected" the very thing they just got finished saying was "inerrant": it actually *offended* me. I was beginning to learn how organized, truthful, precise, and consistent God is, and the lack of respect, logic, consistency, and faith with which non-KJVers treated Him and His Book was repulsive in so many ways I can't begin to list them. In fact, the more I conversed with Christians and non-Christians, and the more I asked simply, "Oh, that's interesting; where did you learn that?" the more I frustratingly realized *almost nobody* knew his rear end from a hole in the ground! But unlike me, *they didn't care!* That realization eventually led me to sum it up in this quote from the Wallpapers' Motivational page:

"Why is it that we have a tendency to lazily assume other Christians have been the kind of dedicated, motivated, responsible, knowledgeable experts on Bible doctrines that we have never cared enough to become?"

Once I studied and compared and found out the KJV really doesn't have any errors (which was so hugely amazing to me as a young Christian because that meant God *really has* preserved His word for us, and Biblical Christianity *is* reality), I was able to confidently move on and study doctrine. I say again: Because all doctrines are supposed to come from the written word of God, and because I was holding the inerrant word of God in my hand, *I had not just the final authority, I was actually holding the one-and-only authority!* That greatly simplified my task: I didn't have to go to the bank and borrow a bunch of money so I could buy hundreds of books written by a bunch of theologians who all contradicted each other; I just had to sit down in faith believing the Comforter *really would* help me learn His word.

And that brings me to the point of this trumpet: *Praising our Saviour for the Book He has given us.* And now that I say that I'm overwhelmed. There is so much more to Him and His Book than I can say...but I'll try to put a few things into words.

The inerrancy of His Book absolutely delights me – perhaps especially because we live in an age of Reason and unbelief. Non-KJVers can bluff and bluster all they want about Greek and Hebrew and italics and human failings – but the precision I've learned from the Comforter allows me to remind them that 1) they have brazenly cast aside God's definition of His word by daring to foolishly *redefine* (!!) God's word as a collection of human errors, and 2) they need to quit wasting time talking about *differences* between their error-filled versions/manuscripts and the inerrant KJV, and admit the fact that they've *never* been able to find an error in the King James Bible. No one has ever been able to handle either of those two all-important, fundamental, and revealing points.

Moving on from the inerrancy of the Bible I have to say the order, the consistency, the rightness, and the goodness of a Biblical lifestyle reaffirms for me every day – as I look at the mess that is this world – the truth of Scripture. When I say reaffirm I mean that in a way that reaches the depths of my soul and feeds and strengthens me in ways that awe and humble me. The way the Comforter brings things about His word to my remembrance, the way He gives me glimpses of the Big Picture, and the way He uses all of that to teach me, edify me, rebuke and correct me, feed me, open my eyes, increase my understanding and wisdom, and make me a better man and servant combine in ways that actually make the things I suffer in this war *turn into more lessons that help me grow!* Like the fishes and loaves, it just keeps multiplying and getting better.

In fact, the more I grow the more I move beyond the basics of how true and reliable Scripture is. All of that is important and necessary to learn. But it's really fairly shallow, fairly basic. Beyond that is the *church* and how its members are doing in this war. Are they mastering doctrine and growing into mature warriors? That is a necessary prerequisite if we are all going to be able to help each other in a war that, I'm sorry to say, isn't going very well. And beyond the inerrancy of Scripture and the welfare of the church is *the Lord Himself*. The more I learn the more I realize how much pain, suffering, frustration, anger,

and heartache He has and is going through because of us, His own children. The more I mature the more I try to comfort *Him* and reassure *Him*.

Yes, the more I mature the more I realize *it's all about Him*. And I use that fact to remind myself how necessary and important it is for me to develop into the kind of humble, obedient, appreciative, and loving servant He'd enjoy having around forever.

Sometimes when all the years of my service, and all of my learning and joy and suffering and insight come together, and I compare it with the way I was before I was saved, I am able to see that all of this, all I know, and all of what I have become *is because of a single Book!* The things that have happened to and inside me combine to prove to me that the Lord is the Vine, I am a leaf, and His Book is the stem or branch by which I have and will continue to receive the mental and spiritual food that will help me and sustain me throughout the war. I am humbly and thankfully in awe of the undeniable fact that even though the Bible sitting on the table looks like "just a book", that same Bible *accepted and put into practice* in my life manifests itself as the supernatural living word of the living God.

Thank you, Lord, for your Book. Thank you for *You*.
In Jesus' name, amen.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet C3

DON'T WAIT: GROW NOW

Sometimes Christians think it's OK to put off serving/obeying God until either after He returns or when something "big and important" comes along. There are a number of reasons that is a bad way to be; I'll highlight three.

First, it reveals a bad attitude and a lack of love for the Lord. The attitude of a proper servant is to keep the Lord's kingdom neat and tidy by preventing anything from making it cluttered and unsightly. An evil servant is he who allows the house to be varying degrees of messy until *he thinks* it should be cleaned up. A good servant serves the Lord *now* by doing *everything*, big and small. In other words, it's wrong to think in terms of big and small because *all* jobs for the Lord are part of serving Him, they're all part of our duty, and He deserves our utmost.

Second (and this is important), self-discipline and character take *time* to develop. Self-discipline is a learning and growth process, as demonstrated by children growing up: First they learn what is expected of them as their parents make their will known. Then, when children misbehave by acting willfully and are spanked, they gradually learn through growing self-discipline to discipline themselves so they won't get another spanking. That fear-motivated behavior over time turns into respect as they understand more and more that their parents' way is the best way. And over time their proper behavior becomes automatic, it becomes part of who they are, part of their character. And, of course, during that process of maturing, their fear-turned-into-respect blossoms into *love* for their parents. *As Christians we go through that same process.* So don't put off doing the little things: Fear God enough to do them now. The understanding you'll gain from your obedience will turn your fear into respect as you begin to actually like and appreciate the kind of Good Shepherd we have...as well as the kind of man you're becoming. And over time your *respect* will blossom into proper *love* for the Lord.

Does this mean Christians who weren't spanked as young children have a more difficult time when they are born again learning the Bible and correct doctrine, and then have a more difficult time getting Self under control so they can walk the walk? Yes, it does. Christianity is a *learned discipline*: We are expected to bring everything about us (wants, needs, prejudices, values, beliefs, thoughts, words, deeds, and emotions) under strict submission to our souls' Bible-taught discernment. If our parents used the rod of correction to instill fear of and respect for authority in us during our easily-molded formative years (whether our parents understood how fundamentally-important submission to authority and self-discipline are or not) we got off to a better, faster start in life. That's why willful, spoiled brats have tougher times getting through military boot camps.

The Devil has not made spanking "evil" for no reason. He knows properly-reared Christians can mature faster than undisciplined bratty Christians. The fact that spanking is "evil" today *is but another attack on the church.*

Does this mean unspanked Christians cannot become properly-submissive brides of Christ? No.

Does this mean when we see an incorrigible child or adult, we can say his parents didn't bring him up properly? Not necessarily.

Look at God the Father and at Adam and Eve, for example. We know the Lord was a proper Parent, and yet Lucifer turned out to be evil. And we can assume Adam and Eve were good parents, and yet Cain turned out to be evil. That means there are thorns and temptations and pitfalls that can ensnare *any of us*. But the Lord ordered us to spank our kids, and He had very good and helpful reasons for doing so...and Heb 5:8 is the key to beginning to understand the importance of spanking and pain and suffering – which I don't think I need to go into here.

Two quick summational points about the above before I move on to the third point: A) spanking is good because it is an early, foundational part of proper character development; B) there is no nobler deed than the performance of one's duty – because *all* of our orders from God contribute to our glorious learning process as we prepare for our futures as ruling princes under Christ by being proper doers *now*.

My third point is that putting off the "little things" offends three Scriptures that come to mind:

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

It says *this day*, not *some other day*.

Jeremiah 12:5 If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and *if* in the land of peace, *wherein* thou trustedst, *they wearied thee*, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

If we aren't good children who do the little things now, we won't have developed the self-discipline and character to handle the big adult things later.

Mark 15:42 ...it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

We are sons and daughters of God. This is our childhood. Now is our day of preparation, our chance to grow.
Do it now.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet C4 NO NOBLER DEED

A quotation commonly used in *The Age of Reason* is,

There is no nobler deed than the performance of one's duty.

But doesn't the military Medal of Honor, which is awarded for deeds that are "above and beyond the call of duty" reveal an inaccuracy in that quote? No, it's the other way around.

If the Medal of Honor's quote, *above and beyond the call of duty* is true (rather than just ill-thought-out hyperbole) it suggests normal society is selfish and self-centered. For example, let's say a squad of soldiers was pinned down in battle by an enemy machine gun nest, and Cpl. Benson finally charged and put the nest out of action – for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. The medal's wording suggests that silencing the enemy nest wasn't the squad's job; and if it was the squad's job the other soldiers in the squad were either putting Self before country, the squad, and victory...or they were cowards.

Now let's examine AOR's quote. Let's say you were hired to paint a storefront, and while you're doing it you notice an old lady standing at the street corner, afraid to cross because of the traffic. You put down your brush, help her across, and then get back to your job of painting. Have you done anything above and beyond your duty? No, you've done what you'd be expected to do in a loving, unselfish society.

The same is true if you were Cpl. Benson charging the machine gun nest: you are unselfishly doing what is best for your squad, country, and victory. You are doing what – in an ideal society – everyone would do.

Last example. You and your family and about 100 other church members are at a Sunday service. A terrorist being chased by the police comes in and holds off the cops by taking all of you hostage. His negotiations don't go well, so he decides the cops need some convincing that he's deadly serious. He announces that he's going to shoot and kill a church member every five minutes, starting now. He turns, his beady eyes roving the congregation, and says, "OK, who's first?" His question is followed by dead silence.

What do we know so far? We know that, in practice, you are sitting there hoping he'll choose your wife, or one of your kids, or one of the other church members as his first victim – *anybody but you!* And we know that your wife and kids and fellow church members are all, *in practice*, selfishly thinking the same thing.

In an ideal Christianity that is based on love for the Lord and for His church, as soon as the terrorist's "who's first" is uttered, you'd raise your hand and say, "Take me" – and everybody else in the congregation would simultaneously, without hesitation, be doing and saying the same thing.

The Lord Jesus Christ properly and lovingly *did His duty* on the cross. I say again, by dying for us He did the job He came here to do. What He did was not above and beyond His duty; it *was* His duty, and He based it on outward-directed *love*, not inward-directed selfishness. OK, we get that. But what about you, and me, and everyone in the congregation? It's simple, if we know the Bible:

**1 John 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us:
and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.**

According to that verse, telling the terrorist to "Take me" is not merely our duty, *it's a written, plainly-worded, literal commandment from God!* And it's based on love.

OK, now we know 1 John 3:16 and how to apply it. As a comrade of ours would say, "Big whoopie." And he'd be correct because the test of our Christianity isn't *knowing* the Bible, it's *doing* the Bible. So we can sit there in church silently congratulating ourselves that we know 1 John 3:16 all we want, but until our hands go up and we say, "Take me", we are not doers of the word – we are nothing but tinkling cymbals.

There is no nobler deed than the performance of one's duty. *Doing the Bible* is our duty.

IT'S A CRUMMY JOB, BUT SOMEBODY'S GOT TO DO IT.

I spent my first, second, and third grades as a student at St. John's Catholic School in Hollywood, MD. Sister Anna Jean, my second-grade teacher, was popular and we all wanted to please her. Raising our hands to be called on, therefore, became very competitive: We'd all leave our desks and crowd forward in the aisles toward her waving our hands trying to be the one called on. In order to maintain some order, she instituted a rule: we had to remain in contact with our desks, and at least one foot had to be under our desks at all times. When we all competed to be called on, therefore, with our left hands we'd grab the right front corner of our desks, swing out of our seats into the aisle, and with our left foot back under the desk and our left hand back touching the desk corner, we'd stretch our right foot as far down the aisle as we could while we leaned forward frantically waving our right hand.

Often the competition would be when Sister wanted someone to run an errand for her: go borrow chalk from another classroom, go outside and dust the erasers, or wash the blackboard with a rag and water.

Well, one day yours truly was daydreaming in class instead of paying attention. And then I heard Sister saying, "...who'd like to do it for me?" Automatically I grabbed the right front corner of my desk, swung out into the aisle, stretched as far forward as I could and waved my hand at Sister...and realized I was the only one raising his hand. Something was wrong...and then I saw it: Sister was standing up at the blackboard next to a classmate...who had puked all over the wood flooring! Sister had asked the class who would clean it up for her!

Had I been paying attention I would not have volunteered. But, hoist on my own petard, I dutifully cleaned up the stinking mess. Sister told the class that since I was the only one who volunteered, she would reward me by making me her errand boy for the rest of the year. So it turned out to be good that I volunteered.

Ignoring the fact that I wasn't paying attention in class, and wouldn't have volunteered if I had, the episode can be used as a lesson. If there is some distasteful job in the church that needs to be done, and your preacher asks for someone to volunteer to do it, if it is at all possible you should volunteer for five reasons. First, your love for the Lord makes you want to serve Him as often as you can in any way you can. Second, your love for the brethren makes you prefer to do the distasteful jobs *so they won't have to*. Third, because of your love you *like* being around the church serving any way you can. Fourth, the Levitical priesthood is gone, replaced by a royal priesthood – *you*. So, nothing gives you more pleasure than doing your duty. Fifth, by cheerfully serving you are being a good example for young Christians who might be reluctant to humbly and lovingly volunteer to clean up someone else's puke.

In a church full of good Christians, of course, when the preacher asks who'll do the crummy jobs, all of you will lean forward waving your hands...in love preferring each other over self. We are in training to be the Lord's wife-servants forever. If we love Him properly we'll die to our selfish old man's carnality and see how we can serve Him and His church. Doing that will shew us that *charity* (defined as *unselfish love-based works*) is an important part of our duty. It is the unselfishness of charity that puts the nobility in duty.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet C5

DYSLEXIA AND OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

Faith of our fathers, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whenever we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee 'till death.

As Bible believers we take pride in our Christian heritage. It's nice to know the faith of our fathers is living still, as we carry the torch that has been passed to us by generations of men and women for whom the Bible has always been the sole authority in all matters of faith (our beliefs and doctrines) and practice (social customs).

When our founding father, President Thomas Jefferson, was old, he decided to take time to rejoice over his part in terminating the more-than-three-thousand-year line of monarchical government that had been practiced by our forefathers going all the way back to the reigns of King Saul, King David, and King Solomon. What he discovered when he looked into it has already been covered in *The Age of Reason*, so we'll examine some other facets of our "Judeo-Christian heritage", including the way men and women in our society interact with each other. God established men as types of Him, and He established women as types of His church. Let's keep that in mind in order to see if God's Scripture is consistent with His types, and to see if our *practices* are consistent with His types.

One of our social customs is the man being the head of the household. And we take pride in showing that that custom comes from *sola Scriptura*:

Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let the wives be* to their own husbands in every thing.

We find not only that our custom came from Scripture, but that both Scripture and our custom are consistent with the typology God assigned to men and women.

When we look at the Scriptural origins and consistency of our practices we're pleased to see that we've been:

**Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

Another of our customs is that men rise to their feet when a woman enters the room. With full faith and confidence in the traditions handed down to us, let us examine the Scripture from which we get that custom:

Genesis 31:33-35 And Laban...entered into Rachel's tent. Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found *them* not. And she said to her father, Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the custom of women *is* upon me.

1 Samuel 25:23,24 And when Abigail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, And fell at his feet, and said...let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

1 Sam 25:40,41 And when the servants of David were come to Abigail...she arose, and bowed herself on *her* face to the earth, and said, Behold, *let* thine handmaid *be* a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

Oops. Well, heh, heh, obviously our custom is *exactly the opposite* of the one in Scripture. And while Scripture is consistent with God's typology of men and women, our custom actually turns God's typology upside down. Not to worry; we can probably solve the problem with theology – so let's hang our theology degrees on the wall and proceed: Since there is no other Scripture in the Bible that overthrows these verses we turn to other possibilities. Finding none, we look for some reason the, uh, *embarrassing* parts in these verses are never pointed out by today's preachers.

It is believed that the reading disorder *dyslexia* may affect more than 5% of people. Preachers comprise less than 5% of society, therefore we conclude our preachers have dyslexia, which hinders their reading comprehension by changing the order of letters and words in their brains. Our theological conclusion is that dyslexia causes many preachers to think Rachel entered Laban's tent – rather than the other way around. And dyslexia makes them think Abigail didn't bow down and prostrate herself before men...she *tripped*. We do not like to bring attention to people's disabilities, so we must never mention this embarrassing subject to our preachers with reading disorders.

Glad that the above Scriptural embarrassments are not only behind us, but *already rapidly fading from our memories*, we joyfully turn to more Scriptural proof that we have been obediently basing our lives on God's Instruction Book:

We enjoy hearing women preach in church, and/or give testimonies, and/or sing solos, and/or sing in our choirs.

1 Corinthians 14:34-37 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church...If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

What are the odds!? Of all the customs we could have picked in order to examine their basis in the Bible, we happened to pick two that seem to indicate (to those who can read sentences that are neither complex nor filled with challenging vocabulary words) that the Bible is not and has not been for a long time our sole authority in all matters of faith and practice. And once again we see that while Scripture is consistent with God's typology of men and women, our custom actually turns God's typology upside down. But, hey, we hate people who live in the past and have negative, dogmatic, narrow-minded outlooks, so let's not dwell on the *negatives*; let's be progressively broad-minded by thankfully rejoicing that theologians have once again done a great service for mankind by concluding that these verses indicate our preachers are afflicted with, and have been for many generations, *dyslexia*. It was this reading disability that made them think these verses say,

Dyslexia: “**Do not let your women keep silence in the churches...for it is permitted unto them to speak.**”
(Dyslexia moved the word *not* from one place in the verse to another!)

Dyslexia: “**If they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands in church: for it is a shame for women to speak at home.**”

(Dyslexia swapped the locations of “at home” and “in church”!)

(Note: If a pastor decreed that the “official church service” was a distinct period of time during which he gave his sermon, and it included the time he and the men in the congregation might spend sharing or

discussing various topics and doctrines, and women were not permitted to speak during those sessions I'd have no problem with that because his decree acknowledges the governing authority of God's word. And if the pastor decreed that women (who were silent during his "church sessions") *could* verbally participate and fellowship during "non-church sessions" defined as "Sunday school", "Bible study", announcements, fellowship, singing, etc., I'd also applaud his attempt to exalt the literal exactness of Scripture. Shepherds have the prerogative to establish Scripture-based rules like that and to require their flocks to abide by them.

I'm reminded of my earthly father when us four kids were teenagers: He used to encourage reasoned debates during our meals at the dinner table. One evening when my two sisters were going at each other by raising their voices and standing and leaning and pointing at each other across the table, my dad intervened by raising his voice and saying, "You may raise your voices as long as you maintain control of yourself, and you may point for emphasis...but you may not bang on the table, and your arse must remain in contact with your chair at all times. *Is that clear?!*")

So now that we know dyslexia caused our churches to permit women to speak, we can take action: Because we theologians are here to help Christians, and we're motivated by Christian love, and we're willing to put feet to our faith by being doers of our love, we are going to hold meetings to discuss the possibility of holding bake sales and other fund raisers in order to contribute money to dyslexia research! And once a cure for dyslexia is found, we can reexamine our doctrines. Praise God for allowing us to focus on what's important, on the *root* of the problem – *dyslexia!* We call on all people of compassion and baking skills to join us in fighting this good fight! Let's all rejoice and sing hymn number 160 in our hymnals:

**On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

Psalm 2:4,5 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Mark 7:6-9 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me...in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men... And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Luke 6:46 Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet C6 HOLY GROUND

Exodus 3:4,5 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here *am* I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

As we saw in the previous trumpet, if we were to get our social customs from the Bible, women would stand whenever a man entered the room – rather than the other way around as it is done in our secular society. And because Abigail bowed and prostrated herself not only before David but before the men who were his servants, another Bible-based social custom would be for women to, in some cases, bow and put their faces to the ground before men. Trivial matters such as arrogance and pride have nothing to do with any of this. I'm merely pointing out that we've gone far enough astray from the Bible that we're actually doing the exact *opposite* of what God says – and as bad as that is, the fact that this stuff isn't ever pointed out from the pulpit is worse!

This is a good example of tradition's power to blind us to inconsistencies: Many people would react to the above suggestion that women stand when a man enters the room by saying it would be an arrogant, elitist custom that offends the notion of equality. And yet it doesn't bother those same people in the slightest when a gentleman stands for a lady, *which also offends equality*. Those people are proof that tradition really does blind us to inconsistencies (including those that affect our precious equality) and it really does make the word of God of none effect.

God is the Man. We are His women, His wives, His servants. If He were to appear to me, He might have to tell me to take my shoes off because I'm not used to thinking of shoes when rendering respect. But shoes or no shoes, I certainly wouldn't just stand there: I'd get down on my face like Abigail: me, the woman, honoring the Man.

Many of us would agree that we actually like the pomp and circumstance of saluting, bowing, marching, and prostrating ourselves before God. We know it is right and good to humble ourselves and to exalt and honor Him. But I want to focus on two things in the above Scripture that we can use in our daily service to the Lord.

The first is Moses answering God's call by saying, "Here am I", which is how Isaiah answered:

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am I*; send me.

You and I are in the “Here am I, Lord; send me” business. That kind of selfless service is going to be our business, our duty, our satisfaction, our reward, and our *privilege* for eternity...starting now. We are *not* in the, “Hey, there’s Larry over there; why don’t You send him?” business. So the *here am I* needs to become the way our minds work: If there is a way we can serve God and His church, we should be ready, willing, and able – *now*.

We can also apply the *holy ground* to our daily Christian walks. If we walk after the flesh, we are carnal and unclean and we are making the ground unclean. But if we walk after the Spirit by properly serving God we are on holy ground because there is nothing more noble, more dedicated, more *holy* than serving God. We need to remember we are His servants, His humble wives who have taken His name upon ourselves. When we go about our daily Christian walks, we are doing so in His name. That is a holy calling. We are on holy ground.

Let’s remember to always walk circumspectly, because being in His Majesty’s service puts us on holy ground.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet C7

FAILING, SUFFERING...AND GROWING

Sometimes in Christianity we can get a bit puffed up, self-righteous, and condemning when we hear about other Christians who commit various sins such as adultery. At times like that I think a well-placed comment about what big sins King David committed and how he remained a favorite of God’s can help make a point about forgiveness.

One of the sins in the Bible that I find especially poignant is Peter’s denying Christ three times before the cock crowed. Two things about it stand out for me. First, when Peter heard the cock crow just as he denied the Lord for the third time, the Lord heard the cock crow, too. And when He did “the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.” Second, Peter didn’t just weep, he wept *bitterly*.

Luke 22:61,62 And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

When the Lord turned and looked at Peter, it hurts me when I realize He had a betrayed-by-a-loved-one hurt and an I’m-all-alone hurt. Our Lord wasn’t just suffering from the physical beating He was taking, He was suffering the kind of *aching aloneness* that guts you when your heart has been ripped out when you’ve been selfishly betrayed and abandoned by loved ones.

The fact that Peter wept *bitterly* has caused me to reflect on some of the times I’ve betrayed the Lord. I hurt *then*, and I hurt *now* just thinking about my sins. And after I sinned, my ongoing begging, apologizing, and confessing to the Lord; and my determined repentance; and the strengthening/growth I experienced in a fairly short time as a result of my repentance have contributed to the subject of this trumpet: Sinning (in this limited application) can be a steppingstone to growth if the sorrowful pain we suffer as a result leads to genuine repentance rather than worldly repentance.

The Bible says pain and suffering are good for them that are exercised thereby. Children don’t experience this kind of character-based sorrowful pain that adults do when they are disobedient...because children’s characters haven’t yet *matured*. And therefore children *cannot* be exercised/strengthened by a type of character-based regret *that they don’t have yet*. That’s why the Lord commands us to substitute the physical pain of spanking until they grow out of the selfishness of childhood. The extremely-important formative years of childhood lose much of the “formative” part *if spanking is absent*: No pain, no gain.

Now back to us adults. We are the Lord’s *children*. And, just as physical children are self-centered and *will* sin as a result, and will *need* spanking to help them grow, so, too, do we need the Lord’s punishment in order to grow out of our carnal, original-sin, walk-after-the-flesh natures into spiritual adults who walk after the Spirit. Peter and David profited from their sins – only because they learned and repented. So, while I am not advocating going out and sinning, I am saying we need to *respond properly* to our sins because if we do we will grow into better, stronger Christians.

That’s partly why the Bible says spanking, and pain, and suffering are good. They are *corrections*. And if we are going to learn how to walk correctly, we are going to have to respond properly when we are corrected.

When we sin, therefore, we need to let it bother us, plague us, haunt us, and hurt us into *needing* to be honest about ourselves and about our selfishness when we apologize and confess to the Lord. Christianity is a fairly simple relationship with the Lord. And it is no different from human relationships. If love is present in a relationship, that love will not only give us the need/desire to be open and honest, it will give us the courage to be so.

And that same love will help us profit from our repentance when we realize the Lord loves us enough to bury His hurt by truly forgiving us. Over time we actually feel a sense of relief, thankfulness, and *trust*...because we realize we can rely on the Lord’s love for us – as long as we are honest with Him. David is a good example of the type of honesty with the Lord I’m talking about. David bared his soul to the Lord in the Psalms. Yes, David was a sinner. But his love for the Lord made him truly suffer by shedding Peter-like bitter tears because he honestly regretted his sins, which contributed to his genuine repentance, which led to growth.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet C8

I'LL HAVE MANNA, PLEASE

In fifth grade we were assigned a story to read. In it a farm boy who was a star on the school basketball team was with his parents at an athletic award event. Lots of boys who played various sports were there, as were their families, coaches, teachers, etc. The crux of the story was the basketball star's parents were older and less attractive than most of the other parents, and after a while the mother realized her son was avoiding her like the plague because he was embarrassed by her age and appearance. She was deeply hurt. I took the story to heart, and it helped me be more considerate.

One morning when I was in high school I missed the school bus. (Yes, I rode the bus.) My mother, who'd gotten up and prepared breakfast for Dad and us kids, and bagged lunches for us, said she'd drive me to school. She put a scarf over her hair curlers, and an overcoat over her nightgown and bathrobe, and we left. When we pulled up to the school entrance it was crowded with hundreds of kids waiting for the doors to open. At that age it wasn't cool to kiss your parents in public; I was accustomed to seeing other kids get out of their parents' car and flip the door closed without so much as a backward glance or a fare-thee-well. But, not wanting my mother to ever go through what the mother in the story did, I leaned over, kissed her goodbye, thanked her for the ride, and stepped out of the car.

It's good to be considerate, it's good to prefer others over self.

Romans 12:10 *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

We've probably all been to events at which the food is provided by the wives. Each woman prepares a dish or two. And sure enough, people being what they are, everybody digs into the tasty dishes and ignores the more mundane ones. Except me. I take note of which dishes are the wallflowers and load up my plate. And if I know who prepared the dishes I make sure to say something about how good it was to the woman and her husband. All of the women hoped their choice of food and their cooking would be pleasing to people, and the women who prepared the popular dishes receive ample reward. But the women whose dishes are not as popular were just as unselfish when they prepared food for us. Therefore, we can also be unselfish by making a kind gesture, saying an appreciative word, and making somebody's day a bit brighter:

Proverbs 25:11 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.*

Tell Him So

By unknown

If you hear a kind word spoken
Of some worthy soul you know,
It may fill his heart with sunshine
If you only tell him so.

If a deed, however humble,
Helps you on your way to go,
Seek the one whose hand has helped you,
Seek him out and tell him so!

If your heart is touched and tender
Toward a person, lost and low,
It might help him to do better
If you'd only tell him so!

Oh, my sisters, oh, my brothers,
As o'er life's rough path you go,
If God's love has saved and kept you,
Do not fail to tell men so.

I don't know what the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be like. It'll probably be a big, fancy affair with every kind of food on the table you can imagine. People will be telling the waiters they'll have lobster, steak, etc. But I'll ask for manna for several reasons.

First, it was specially prepared by the Lord for His people in the wilderness. It was good for them but, like the food of the Bible, the Lord prepared it in such a way that it would be a test – it wasn't always appetizing. As you know, many of His people complained because they were selfish. I'll order and eat manna because it will symbolize the fact that I want to do anything and everything the Lord wants, and I'll do it with an appreciative, heartfelt, and determined "Aye, aye, Sir!"

Second, to me manna is cool, not just because the fame and nostalgia it has acquired from being in the Bible – it's cool because it came directly from God. It is therefore special to me in a way that evokes love and humility: it is a reminder that I have chosen to forgo what *I* want; I'll satisfy myself with whatever my King provides.

Third, I am in training to be – forever – a servant who lives to carry out the Lord's will. The biggest problem, the biggest obstacle to my growth is *me!* What *I want* has turned out to be a serious pain in my ass. I want to successfully die to self. And, like Esther, I want only what my King wants.

All of the above boils down to this: Having a servant's attitude by being aware of *other people and how to help them* is the best course because our Creator designed us to be servants. I've learned that the road to dissatisfaction, shame, and regret

is Self. And the road to satisfied contentment is serving Him and His church. I am, after all, a servant. And I've learned that I *like* being His servant. I'm proud to serve. And I *want* to please Him.

Esther 2:12-17 Now when every maid's turn was come to go in to king Ahasuerus...Then thus came *every* maiden unto the king; whatsoever she desired was given her to go with her out of the house of the women unto the king's house. In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept the concubines: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name. Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her. So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal...And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head...

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet C9

RECOGNIZING UNBELIEF

I recently read an article by a guy who was trying to show that the star of Bethlehem was not an angel, and I was reminded once again about the difference between belief and unbelief.

The writer doubted that the star was an angel that led the wise men to Bethlehem because: "How could the angel 'stand over the house' where the young Child was?" I didn't have my Bible with me and didn't remember the exact wording, so I didn't realize the author was being disingenuous until I looked it up later. But as soon as I read his argument that it was unlikely that the angel "hovered in the air" above the house because most of the other angels in the Bible who reveal themselves to humans look and act like regular men – they don't fly around – I realized he is an unbeliever.

I could see his point about the unnecessary strangeness of an angel hovering over a house rather than just pointing to it. But at the same time I *could* visualize (based on his incorrect wording) an angel leading the wise men to the top of one of the hills in the Bethlehem area, and while standing there looking down at one or more houses, telling the wise men "It's that one right down there", and then disappearing. And that made me think about one of the symptoms of *unbelief*.

When an unbelieving Christian reads something strange in the Bible, he looks for a way it could be wrong. But when I read something that seems strange in the Bible, I look for a way it could be right (such as in Trumpet C1). That's because unbelievers don't believe the word of God (as defined by God – inspired and inerrant) exists anywhere on earth...and they always take a stand *against* inerrancy. But I really do believe God, so I take Him at His word...and I always take a stand *for* inerrancy.

When I later looked up the verse, I saw that it doesn't say the angel "stood over the house" like the unbeliever claimed. It says:

Matthew 2:9-11 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

I looked it up in several Bible versions; none says "stood over the house." And mentioning other Bible versions reminds me of something else. If a man doesn't use the King James Bible he is either ignorant of the Bible version issue or he is, like the above writer, an unbeliever. Why do I say he is an unbeliever? Experience.

If the KJV said, "The security camera captured the baby-killer standing over the crib with a bloody knife" the unbeliever is going to scoff: "Wow! The KJV has two errors in one verse: First, the *camera* didn't apprehend the killer, the *police* did an hour later. And second, it's ridiculous to think the killer was hovering in the air above the crib."

My example is a bit too transparent but it serves to illustrate my point that unbelievers always look for ways the Bible could be wrong. And that is why they typically have a chip on their shoulders about the KJV and about KJV-onlyers: Unbelievers always take a stand *against* inerrancy, and the only Bible version on earth that makes them look bad is the inerrant KJV. That's because they can sometimes appear to be intelligent and academic to young, ignorant Christians by easily (and correctly) pointing out errors in all *other* versions, but when they try to do that with the KJV they *must* stoop to the above tactics of ignoring the obvious ways the KJV could be right, and by building their case on the fact that an old, partially-discredited meaning of the Greek words for "standing over the crib" was "hovering above the crib." They *are* blind, but they aren't stupid: They know just as well as anybody else how lame their arguments are and how sensible the KJVers' arguments are. Therefore, unlike when they felt confident, intelligent, and academic when discussing the *other* Bible versions, they feel insecure, doltish, and unreasonably stubborn when dealing with informed King James Bible believers. And they are perfectly aware that the tables have turned: The theologian appears contradictory and petty as he stubbornly clings to the very academics that have

blinded him; and the KJVer appears confident, informed, and living by faith in Jesus alone, trusting, confiding in His great word.

In closing: If a man who is knowledgeable about the Bible version issue says the KJV has errors, *he is an unbeliever*. How can you know that to be true? Simple: Ask him where you can get your hands on a copy of the word of God that is, as defined by God, inspired and inerrant. It will take you a while to pin him down because he'll throw out a bunch of trite and lame rhetoric, but eventually he'll admit he doesn't think the inerrant word of God exists anywhere on earth. All of his earlier rhetoric about the "Bible" and the "word of God" will be based on the theological definition of the "inspired word of God" rather than God's definition:

- God's definition of His inspired word is simple: "No errors." Any book or version with errors is not His word. Accepting God's definition requires faith in what He says, it is bolstered by the proven inerrancy of the KJV, and it survives on the trust and hope that no errors will ever be found.
- Theology's definition of the inspired word is complex and contradictory but it will always say God's word has errors: "We believe the old error-filled Greek and Hebrew manuscripts contain *somewhere* in them (we're still searching) the inspired word of God. Yes, there are errors, but God has providentially kept those errors to a manageably-small number." Theologians would never use my wording, but that's exactly what they profess to "believe." The Christians who accept theology's definition do so because of their Reason and unbelief: They do not believe the inerrant word of God exists, and they feel safe with their definition because someday somebody might find an error in the KJV.

The key to any discussion is to first get them to admit that God defines His word as inerrant. *If* you can get them to do that, ask them if they can show you a copy. If they point to a modern Bible version or an old Hebrew or Greek manuscript, walk away (Acts 17:33). Yes, you might *want* to get them to admit those garbage-can versions have errors so you could point out – again – that God's word is *inerrant* in an effort to get them to...but no, it's a waste of time, comrade. Walk away, and if they want to talk with you about it later they can find you (Acts 17:34).

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet C10

HE TOUCHED ME

In John 9 Christ's disciples asked Him about a blind man as they passed by. The Lord went to the man, spat on the ground, mixed it with clay, stood, and softly spoke with him as He applied the mud to his eyes, telling him to go wash in the pool of Siloam.

Later when the Pharisees questioned the man who could now see, they rejected the man's belief that Jesus was a prophet...so they questioned his parents. Afraid of the Pharisees, the parents referred them to their son again. The son, filled with a courage his parents did not have, boldly preached to the Pharisees, who then cast him out.

When reading this Scripture I thought about how the blind man may have reacted when Christ applied the salve to his eyes, wondering if he could feel, when the Lord touched him, virtue pass from Him. As I thought about the reality of the moment with the two men face-to-face, the Lord's hands tenderly applying the clay to his eyes, I had an emotional reaction – like I often do when reading the word of God. And I realized when the Lord applied the salve He didn't just touch the blind man – He touched *me*. I once was blind but now I see.

When we read His word, the Lord uses His Holy Spirit to commune with us. Sometimes He teaches, rebukes, edifies, affirms, amazes, and fills us with quiet wonder and awe. And sometimes He *touches* us. We know He is doing so because of the way we feel. When He blesses us like that, let's be aware and considerate enough to bow our heads to worship and thank Him.

Stay in the word, comrades.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet Archive Delta

Trumpet D1

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

As a young Christian I attended a small church that was trying to grow larger. I was, am, and probably always will be a lousy singer. However, when we sang hymns I didn't hold back. I wanted the Lord to look down and see a group of His wives all singing out their love and praise to Him. I was convinced the Lord, who is the one who gave me my talents (and decided to omit singing skills) wasn't listening to our *voices*, He was listening to our *hearts*. And heartwise, brother, I'm an excellent singer – you should hear me sometime.

Well, the preacher wanted a bigger choir. I was appalled when his appeal to the congregation for more singers was, apparently, made to a bunch of tar-babies. So, willing to serve God and the church any way I could, I raised my hand...and was gladly made a member of the choir.

All was well, and the church membership swelled. More people offered to join the choir. So the preacher asked me to quit; I was no longer needed to make the choir look bigger. I dutifully resigned from the choir, but I knew something was wrong: Churches aren't about appearances, good singing, big attendance, well-dressed congregations, air conditioning, padded pews, padded kneelers, carpeting, a brightly-lit steeple...or anything else that has to do with physical life on this planet. Churches are about a family of people who all love each other because that relationship is a by-product of their love for the Lord.

If I walk into your church and you all sing a hymn, *a cappella*, and it's squeaky, off-key, wrong speed...I mean, just plain awful from a worldly standpoint, I'm going to look at your faces in an effort to see if your hearts are in it. And I'm going to hear your hearts, and I'm going to *love* your singing.

Congregations are made up of family members of different ages, cultures, backgrounds, wealth, tastes, education, abilities, looks, personalities, and current level of Bible knowledge. (I say current level because I don't care who you are, if you're a Christian you need to be one of two things: 1) An expert on the Bible (which simply means able to comfortably have a Bible discussion about any and all doctrines), or 2) actively and earnestly engaged in a program of Bible study that will bring you to doctrinal maturity. If you aren't one of those two things you need to be in some *other* church.)

Our choir director and soloist was a man of limited education, a healthy gut, a necktie whose skinny end was longer than the fat end, a wife and 6 kids, clothes that didn't always match (whoa! I'm gettin' a bit close to home with that one, brother!), and an apparently not great singing voice. He also loved the Lord (later going out-of-state to become a youth minister), was in church every time the doors opened, volunteered for everything, was a nice guy, humble, and when he sang I heard nothing but sincerity. He was fired as choir director and as soloist. The new soloist was young, very attractive, had a very nice voice, didn't love the Lord, wasn't respected by the more mature church members...but made a good impression on visitors. *Why* are we so worldly that we lose sight of the Lord by focusing on trivial appearances?

One Wednesday night when pewsters got to pick which hymn was sung, I raised my hand and said I wanted to hear the fired male soloist sing *Amazing Grace*. When I said that, he turned and gave me a look that *still* touches my heart.

When we go to church we should feel like we're going home. We should sing out, volunteer, and be humbly honest about our level of maturity, our fears, our Bible learning, and never fear to ask about and/or discuss any and all doctrines. And we should know we're loved enough by the others that we can be different: It's OK to be doctrinally young in the Lord, it's OK to be a lousy singer, it's OK to have your tie screwed up. If we would develop a proper Biblical relationship with the Lord and get over ourselves our churches would become families of Christians...rather than groups of people who might as well be at Rotary Club meetings.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet D2

MUSIC TO MY EARS

We've already established that I'm not much in the music department. That isn't to say I don't use music: The Bible says we are to pray without ceasing. That means we are to be with the Lord always, no matter what we're doing. If we are, we'll find it's very rewarding.

The way music and songs affect me has changed as I've matured. Of the three groups of music I like (hymns, marching music, and oldies), hymns have changed the least: Even though I now have a deeper appreciation for some hymns, I still use them to praise the Lord just as I always have.

Marching music has always appealed, in a general way, to the selfless, duty-oriented, devoted-to-the-cause warrior part of me. But over time as I've served the Lord, John Philip Sousa (famous writer of marching music) has become a great writer of hymns to me: When those martial strains start up, I stand a little straighter and taller, put my shoulders back, and hold my head up high. In my mind's eye I'm often back on Worden Field at the Naval Academy, but now I'm marching before the Lord. *Brigade! Pass...in...review! Right shoulder...HARMS! Company, fo-hward HAR! Company, eyes RIGHT! And*

there I am glorifying and honoring my King in a ceremony that actually has deep meaning for me. I am one of many, but we're all His devoted soldiers. We're in uniform, highly-trained, and completely in sync. Lovers of peace, but armed and ready for war.

And that brings up a point about why I love marching music. It certainly isn't because I love war; it's because I love being part of something larger and grander than I. And I love being among like-minded comrades (that's a redundancy, but I'm going for emphasis) who are not only combat experts, but are ready and willing to serve anywhere, anytime, and any eternity. Marching music tends to bring out the best in me because in a very big and very real way, it symbolizes the kind of character and the kind of man I want to be.

Secular pop music (oldies but goldies) has lost some of its luster: Since I've become a Bible believer many of the words are extremely offensive to me. But because the Lord is always on my mind, some of the words have become hymns to me:

**TOP OF THE WORLD: I'm on the top of the world lookin' down on creation
And the only explanation I can find
Is the love that I've found ever since You've been around...**

MOON RIVER: ...wherever You're going I'm going Your way.

**RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS: What I've got they used to call the blues:
Nothin' is really wrong,
Feelin' like I don't belong,
Funny but it seems I always wind up here with You.
Nice to know Somebody loves me.
Funny but it seems that it's the only thing to do,
Run and find The One who loves me.**

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU – title says it all.

**I WON'T LAST A DAY WITHOUT YOU: Day after day, I must face a world of strangers
Where I don't belong, I'm not that strong.
It's nice to know that there's Someone I can turn to
Who will always care, You're always there.
I could learn to live without the rest; I've found the Best.
When there's no getting over that rainbow,
When my smallest of dreams won't come true,
I can take all the madness the world has to give,
But I won't last a day without You.**

I'm just using music as an example; if we're constantly walking with the Lord, we can find ways to praise Him everywhere: music, the birds and the bees, the flowers and the trees...

And of course, just like there are plenty of offensive words in songs, we can use other offensive things around us by talking to the Lord about them and thanking Him for teaching us how crummy the world really is.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet D3

CHEERFULLY SITTING AT THE FOOT OF THE TABLE

I have tried to use "Today" (this day of preparation) in such a way that I'll be fairly prepared for the next day, the day of the Lord. I'll be thrilled if the Lord allows me to assemble with His church on that day. Among the traits, qualities, or characteristics I've tried to make part of who I am include charity, discipline, unselfishness, humility, perspective, and cheerfulness. I'll invent a scenario during the Millennial Reign to illustrate why I mentioned those specific traits.

Three of you Bible-believing comrades (Curly, Larry, and Moe) are standing with me at the beginning of the Millennial Reign. We introduce ourselves and all three of you say, "Wow, comrade, we downloaded *The AOR* and are so thankful that our Lord has servants like you with ears that hear and a burden to share what you learned with the church."

The four of us find out the Lord is about to assign jobs to be done during the thousand years. One of us is going to be the king of District 106 (responsible for everything about how society will function); one of us is going to be put in command of District 106's army (responsible for all matters military and for policing any problems that arise among Gentile servants); another will be in charge of teaching (maintain doctrinal correctness and help all hands mature in the Lord); and one of us will work in the stable (boarding, grooming, shoeing, and feeding horses for the saints, mucking out the stalls, polishing saddles and bridals, and keeping the stable in proper repair).

When the Lord is about to assign the kingship I kind of expect to get the job because *didn't I write AOR?* I'm a little surprised when Curly gets the job. But he does strike me as mature and truly dedicated to the Lord.

The generalship goes to Larry. I'm somewhat disappointed because I love all of that selfless devotion to duty stuff. But I also enjoy teaching...and think my Swordbearer ministry might mean I'll continue that role during the thousand years.

But the Lord makes Moe the teacher. And now I'm shocked and embarrassed because that means I'm going to be the stable boy: *A thousand years of horse shit on the soles of my shoes, leather polish staining my hands, and bits of hay, straw, and grain chaff down my shirt!*

Not what I expected or hoped for.

When the Lord makes me the stable boy, I am perfectly aware of the fact that He knows all about what is going on inside me. But my shock and disappointment dull my brain. I've got the sense not to argue or complain, but later when I have time to think about things, I'm sorry and embarrassed I didn't react better inside myself, and I'm sorry I didn't say something to the Lord that reflected more maturity.

In thinking about it, I realize you guys were better Christians than I. Yeah, I may have been your teacher for a while, but obviously your relationship with the Lord via His word caused you to surpass your teacher (Ps 119:99). I may have been a better talker, but you guys were better walkers. Good for you, and good for the Lord; He deserves the best, and you guys were obviously better wives than I was.

Then I think about my job...and realize being assigned this particular "lowly" job *has already been good for me!* It has already taught me about some shortcomings in my Christian development and in my relationship with my Husband. And my love for the Lord makes me realize my *appreciation* for Him has also grown as a result of His knowing exactly what job I needed in order to maximize my growth. This job was the wake-up call I needed, it was a gentle rebuke that has already profited me, and it will continue to help me grow *if* I'll continue to be exercised thereby.

Realizing this job is an *opportunity*, I not only make sure I learn everything about my job and do it superbly, but I also apply my job to the Lord and His church. And in focusing on how to make the Lord and you guys pleased with the kind of stable boy I am, I learn some things I should have already incorporated into my character and outlook.

First, I'm not anybody special; I'm just a cog in the wheel, a servant in a family of servants – many of them already famous in the Bible for being good and faithful servants. If I can manage to keep that *perspective* in mind it'll help me be humble enough to *actually* love the Lord and Curly, Larry, and Moe. When my three brothers got the above three jobs, I should have been pleased for the Lord and for them for *two* reasons:

1. The Lord knows what He's doing, so He obviously picked the best men for the jobs. Good for Him. I'm happy for my three brothers; they got good jobs.
2. The Lord knew I needed this job, and I'm determined to please Him with my performance and my attitude. I shall not disappoint Him again. As for me, I'm no longer selfishly disappointed: I'm *glad* I got this job because *I wouldn't wish it on any of my beloved brothers*. It's much better that I got the job because I not only won't pout, I'll be thankful – for a number of reasons – that *I* got the job.

I wish I'd been mature enough that all of this had already been part of my character. But I was obviously somewhat selfish and immature. So, being *exercised* by the Lord's gentle rebuke, I take it to Him in prayer:

"Lord, I'm sorry I was so wrapped up in self when You handed out jobs. I now realize You knew about my selfishness and therefore I subtracted from your joy during that occasion. Please forgive me, Sir. And please help me be sincere when I say I am now thankful for my job, thankful to You for giving it to me, and thankful that for the next thousand years You're going to know You've got a stable boy who is *happily* mucking out stalls – because *no task* is onerous to me if it's done for You and Your church. In fact, I should eagerly welcome onerous and fearful challenges because they are *opportunities* for me to subdue self and to glory in serving You.

"If I had been a better servant when You gave me my job, I'd not only have accepted it with a cheerful attitude, I'd have thanked You for allowing me to serve You and my brothers.

"Please continue to help me grow during the thousand years so I can be a better wife to You and a better brother to Your church."

Over the thousand years I learn more and more about being an unselfish cog in the wheel, and therefore really do begin to prefer you brothers above self, which helps me wholeheartedly serve you – in whatever way I can – to the best of my ability. And through the years, no matter how onerous or fearful the task, I find that my *forced* cheerfulness morphs first into *genuine* cheerfulness...and then into an *eagerness* to serve. And over time I realize my maturing relationship with the Lord, which is based on genuine outward-directed love, is filling me with joy and satisfaction because being an help who is meet for the Lord *is what I was created to be*. And my *selfishness* was hindering my relationship with the Lord, causing me to be less of a proper brother to you, and preventing me from having inner happiness and contentment with *any* job/jobs. I grow increasingly aware that *unselfish active love*, which is the essence of charity, is fundamental to being a servant and is the key to true happiness and satisfaction.

Therefore, whenever you walk into the stable rested and ready to ride out on some new mission in the name of the Lord, and whenever you return to the stable weary to the bone because you gave it your all, as I take your reins and help you dismount it'll bless my heart to realize, comrades, that we all have the same positive, cheerful, unselfish can-do spirit/Spirit that sustains us during good times and bad, and makes us better understand that we are the corporate body of Christ. And Christ, our Head, will win the war if we members realize that we must ...grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love (Eph 4:15,16). See also 1 Cor 12:14-27.

There is no nobler deed than the unselfish, charitable performance of one's duty...no matter what that duty is – because it is the unselfishness of charity that makes duty so noble.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.
Let all your things be done with charity.
1 Cor 16:13,14

I'm proud to serve our Head with you comrades, no matter which individual parts of His body we are. And therefore in the Millennial chow hall I'll be happy to be your 'straight man' by saying, "Pass the manna *way down here to the foot of the table*, please, brother." And as you pick up the dish and hand it down the line, realizing I've given you an opportunity for a 'shot', you quip, "Praise the Lord for His manna, comrades! By the way, Len, how's the weather way down there?" I'll rejoice in the fact that we have the kind of comradely bond of love, respect, confidence, and humility that allows all of us to enjoy a hearty, good-natured laugh. One body fitly joined together and edifying itself in love.

I'll close with a Navy fight song that expresses comradely unselfish devotion to duty – even when the going gets tough:

Shipmates stand together,
don't give up the ship!
Through fair or stormy weather,
we won't give up, we won't give up the ship!
Friends and pals forever,
it's a long, long trip.
If you have to take a lickin',
carry on and quit your kickin':
Don't give up the ship!

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet D4 INCONSISTENCIES

One time when someone angrily asked my wife why I had made such a big deal about something that he'd said, she replied, "Because he zeroes in on inconsistencies." During a conversation the man had said something that didn't fit with things he'd said earlier. Incorrectly thinking he knew what he was saying, my mind had derailed: suddenly I was no longer sure what his point was. I naively asked him a simple question, innocently assuming he'd easily set me straight and we could continue. His answer, however, seemed to be *another* contradiction. As this pattern continued my frustration built up: something was obviously wrong somewhere and until I figured it out I'd never make sense of what he was saying. Fairly quickly I began to suspect he'd made a simple, no-big-deal slip of the tongue, so my questions probed in that direction. His replies made my mounting frustration begin to edge into anger as I increasingly suspected he had been wasting my time from the minute he opened his mouth because he had no idea what he was talking about.

Because he never said something like, "Whoa! Sorry about that; I must have had my head up and locked!", there was never a point when his honest humility could salve my frustration-fed anger. As my increasingly-pointed questions began to pin him down, his embarrassment caused him to get angry in an effort to bully me into shutting up so he would never have to admit that he'd been wrong.

I always assume the people with whom I speak are normal, honorable people who know whereof they speak...or they wouldn't do so. I also assume their integrity will cause them to quickly and easily apologize when they misspeak because we all do it all the time – it's not a big deal to me or to anybody else. My real problem is that when they try to cover up their mistakes *I have no idea! I'm still taking them at their word!* And therefore I get drawn in deeper and deeper as I try to figure out what they're saying. Afterwards I often tell myself I've learned over and over that people go through life opening their mouths and spewing inconsistent nonsense, and in my disgust I've tried to tell myself to remember they don't care if what they say is true or not, so, no matter how idiotic they are, I should just glaze my eyes and reply, "Hmm, interesting."

But because truth, being responsible for what we say, consistency, and order are important to me, I stupidly and repeatedly get blindsided because I keep assuming other people are like me.

The fact is, way too many people are airheads for whom order, authority, consistency, and truth mean nothing. A few examples that show how recent society has flip-flopped:

Not long ago many preachers thought it was a sin for a man to enjoy sex with his wife. So they preached that the missionary position should be used in order to minimize the pleasure of both partners. Today we not only hear nothing about the missionary position, we hear nothing about *why* it was removed from the preaching agenda. Was a memorandum from God, or the state governors, or the denominational chiefs sent out to all churches and Bible schools telling them – with either authority or with Biblical discernment – to stop preaching that sexual pleasure is a sin against God? No. There has never been anything official. *But there has been something.*

Not long ago most parents spanked their misbehaving children. Today you could go to jail if you do so. And again, this drastic change has not happened because someone in authority researched the issue and made some kind of public decree. *But something did happen.*

Not long ago society was outraged if a *married* couple on TV appeared in bed together – even with the top buttons of their heavy flannel pajamas tightly buttoned. So they were always shown in twin beds. Today, it is impossible to watch TV without *unmarried* men and women appearing naked in beds, cars, on desks, in swimming pools, and up against walls. In fact, *married* parents on TV are almost extinct – they're all divorced or never married. How many authoritative memos about sex out of wedlock on TV, and about removing the stigma against divorced people can you find in your attic or in your parents' old filing cabinets? *Surely* there was *something* that brought about these changes?! *Oh yes.*

Not long ago children were expected to be respectful of adults and to not speak unless they were spoken to. Today...well, my disgust and frustration are mounting, so I'll just say – again – that *something* has caused the change...but nothing open or official.

No authority – from God on down to local officials – made any proclamations or decrees that society should begin living the opposite of the way it had been living. The changes are dramatic; why have they not caused an uproar in society as more and more people realize the inconsistencies should make us find out if *we* are wrong or if *our parents* were wrong? The same applies to doctrine: why did churches dramatically change doctrine by no longer basing it on what God says literally, and begin basing it on what someone else says?

God literally said: **Genesis 2:16,17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying...in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

The world's first theologian changed it: **Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:**

Inconsistencies *must* bother you; do *not* stick your head up your ass. The evidence that things are not right/Scriptural is everywhere and undeniable. I'll get into *why* these stupid changes happen in the next trumpet, but for now I just want you to analyze yourself to see not only if you've been paying attention to societal and doctrinal inconsistencies, but if they've bothered you enough to produce frustrated anger.

Inconsistencies are bad, *especially* in doctrine:

Malachi 3:6 I am the LORD, I change not;

We must learn to zero in on inconsistencies.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet D5

EVERY MAN DID THAT WHICH WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES

The moral and doctrinal inconsistencies in society have, quite simply, been because society cut off its own head. The *members* of society used to be *subjects* who were guided by their head/king. But now those subjects are *citizens* whose collective will rules over their *public servants* who were elected by the majority of the people.

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Some quotes before we proceed:

- “The so-called new morality is too often the old immorality condoned.” *Lord Shawcross, 1950*
- “The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.” *Gen. Omar Bradley, 1950* [When I said some nice things to Mrs. Bradley about her elderly husband (who was accompanied by his staff officers) years ago, she looked at me and said, “You have very fine judgment.” I've always gotten a kick out of that.]
- “I do not believe in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance.” *Thomas Carlyle 1850*
- “Democracy, I do not concede that ever God did ordain as a fit government either for church or commonwealth. If the people be governors, who shall be governed? As for monarchy and aristocracy, they are both of them clearly approved and directed in Scripture [Proverbs 8:15,16].” *Preacher John Cotton 1635*
- “We have no warrant in Scripture for democracy. A democracy is the meanest [poorest, lowest] and worst of all forms of government.” *Massachusetts Bay Colony lawyer, John Winthrop 1635*

As noted in the previous trumpet, it is common for people to lack the type of character that gives them a sense of responsibility for what they say and do. Principles (or Scripture) are not part of who they are, which means they have no moral (doctrinal) absolutes/unchanging standards to keep them from oozing along with the mindless, stinking sludge of society. That kind of sludge-dweller represents the majority of society...and always has:

- Plato taught that most people are stupid. (375 B.C.)
- Francois Voltaire spoke of the “idiocy of the masses.” (1750)

- President George Washington referred to the majority as “the grazing multitude.” (1780)
- President John Adams called U.S. citizens “the common Herd of Mankind.” (1785)
- Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton called the American majority “the unthinking populace.” (1785)
- President Thomas Jefferson said most Americans were “hackneyed rascals.” (1790)
- Other terms they used included “cattle,” “Idiots,” “a mist of ignorance,” and “the unthinking mob.”

The U.S. Founding Fathers therefore put their faith in the public school system, which was supposed to – through education – turn “the idiotic masses” into “the intellectual masses.” But it didn’t work. And the idiotic masses make up the huge bottom portion of the social pyramid, which makes them effectively the ruling portion of our democratic system. In other words, Thomas Carlyle was not just being an arrogant elitist when he correctly disputed democracy’s foundational philosophy that you get collective wisdom from the unthinking majority – educated or not.

Most people – in practice – no longer think they have to know what they’re talking about: You’ve had plenty of conversations with people (some professing to be Christians) during which they tried to overrule your quoting the Bible with some utter nonsense that made you agree with the above Founding Fathers. In fact, to illustrate that even educated people have little regard/respect for *truth*, and are blinded by the democratic arrogant elitist notion that ignorant opinions should actually be respected, I’ll tell you about two conversations I had with a medical doctor in the space of an hour.

In the first conversation, whenever the doctor *overruled* some Biblical point I’d made, I’d pin her down by demanding, “From what authoritative source did you learn that?” To which she invariably replied either, “That’s what I believe” or “That’s my opinion.” And then she’d fault me for loudly and adamantly demanding to know her source. I got so exasperated that I allowed the subject to change to other things in order to hoist her on her own petard.

After a while, I casually began the second conversation by asking a question about something that had been in the news: “Did you hear that most babies delivered by Caesarean section are born on Tuesdays because the doctors don’t want to take a chance that they’ll be called in from their Wednesday golf games to deliver babies?” “Yes, that’s terrible”, she agreed. And then I set my trap with this nonsense: “Did you know that most birthing fatalities of the mothers are the result of Caesarean sections: Those dopey doctors don’t know the intestines are in the way of Caesareans, and when they cut their way through the intestines in order to get to the baby, they’re spreading filth throughout the abdominal cavity, which gets infected and the mothers die of peritonitis.” “What!”, she demanded with incredulity. “Yeah, incredible, isn’t it?”, I said. “What?! That’s impossible!”, she loudly protested. I told her it was happening all over the country – mostly on Tuesdays. When she loudly demanded to know *what authoritative source I got it from*, I decided to give her some more rope by ignoring her demands and continuing with my mindless drivel as if I knew what I was talking about. And then she stood, leaned over the coffee table, pointed her finger at me, and screamed, “*Where’d you get that?!*”

I looked up at her with an insipid smile and said sweetly and innocently, “It’s just my opinion.” Her eyes and mouth slowly widened as she realized I’d used her as the bait to trap her into making a fool of herself. She was furiously, and gave me the silent treatment.

A review of what happened will illustrate why I used the word *blinded* above when describing most people:

- She knew I knew the Bible and she knew she didn’t. In spite of that fact, she – incredibly – insisted that her ignorant opinion that contradicted the Bible should be treated with respect. That shows blindness and arrogance.
- She knew I was largely ignorant about medical practices (and, apparently, basic anatomy!) and she knew she knew what she was talking about. But she was unwilling to tolerate my ignorant opinion. That reveals her to be not only inconsistent, but hypocritical.
- She is intelligent; but her intelligence was dumbed down by Self (what she thought was right) to the point that she not only couldn’t see her idiocy, her inconsistency, her unfounded arrogance, and her hypocrisy, but when all of that became undeniably obvious she got furiously silent and never apologized.

When modern apostate Christians try to discuss matters with Bible believers, they are unaware of how ignorant, unbelieving, inconsistent, arrogant, and hypocritical they appear. Even if the Bible believer isn’t as intelligent or as educated as the apostates around him, his foundation of proper doctrine gives him the clarity, consistency, and understanding that put him *far* above the well-intentioned-but-childish rhetoric of those who do that which is right in their own eyes.

In sum, society is – blindly and without foundation – abandoning the old ways and saying – with thoughtless disrespect – the ways of *their own parents and grandparents* are now bad and wrong. And Christians are doing the same thing by saying God’s word is no longer inspired and inerrant. And if you ask them if they know what they’re talking about, they’ll sweetly gaze at you through two OFF flags and say, “It’s just my [ignorant] opinion.”

“A society is doomed when opinions are respected more than truth.”

Len Smith 1990 (From the Wallpaper’s Motivational page Quotations)

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet D6

THY ROD AND THY STAFF THEY COMFORT ME Punishment on the Seventh Day

How do we make sense of the methods of punishment the Lord has used? Well, we start by understanding the Bible is perfect, and is a perfect instructional tool when combined with study, doing the word, and the opening of our understanding by the Holy Spirit. Let's see what we might discern about *punishment* when we apply the above to the Old Testament era and the New Testament era – including the Millennial Reign.

OLD TESTAMENT PUNISHMENT

When individuals sinned God frequently punished more than just that person. Two examples:

In this first example notice that David sinned (even when Joab advised him not to), but God punished the church. Interestingly, David reasoned with God and, because David was the transgressor and God's sheep were innocent, asked Him to spare the church by only punishing David's family! Today we would think it made no sense for a convicted felon's innocent family to be imprisoned or executed along with him.

1 Chron 21:1 And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.

3 And Joab answered...but...why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel? [To Israel? What did Joab know that the modern church doesn't?]

7 And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. [Obviously Joab understood something that we've missed.]

8 And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing...

14 So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men. [!]

17 And David said unto God, Is it not I that commanded the people to be numbered? even I it is that have sinned and done evil indeed; but as for these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, O LORD my God, be on me, and on my father's house [!]; but not on thy people, that they should be plagued.

In this next example we see something very similar:

Joshua 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan...took of the accursed thing; and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

7 And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought...us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?

10-12 And the LORD said unto Joshua...Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant...for they have even taken of the accursed thing...and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you [plural; the church] any more, except ye [plural, the church] destroy the accursed from among you [plural; the church].

20 And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:

24 And Joshua, and all Israel [plural; the church] with him, took Achan...and his sons, and his daughters [!]...and all that he had: and they [plural; the church] brought them [plural; Achan's family] unto the valley of Achor.

25 ...And all Israel stoned him [the collective *him* refers to Achan's family] with stones, and burned them [the family] with fire, after they had stoned them [plural] with stones.

In the OT God tended to punish nations and families (which represent the church) for the sins of kings and fathers. He did that to teach His people the importance of the corporate body of Christ acting as one. For example, when Achan screwed up at Ai, he introduced leaven to the body; when King David sinned, the whole body of believers suffered. That method of punishing the whole body was used because under the patriarchs Adam, Noah, and Abraham the body of Christ was united as a family and as the nation of Israel. That unity made it easy for everybody to know what was going on (such as with David's public sin and with Achan's secret sin) and to realize they were suffering (from plagues and from casualties in combat) because a member of the church introduced leaven to the corporate body of God's people, which caused God to punish them (plural) so they'd learn that their "secret sins" weren't harmless *because the whole body was affected/infected*.

NEW TESTAMENT PUNISHMENT

Because the Bible is consistent, *the same thing happens in the NT* – kind of. Let me begin my explanation by contradicting myself: The same thing doesn't happen – in practice – in the NT *because the church is no longer physically united via physical patriarchs and physical kings and nations*. Today we saints are widely scattered around the world, which means if God punished you for my sins none of us would know about it and learn from it. So today, in general, we are punished as individuals. But the Lord wants us to be able to figure out the big picture, and the big picture is identical to that during the OT: Our "individual" sins hurt the body of Christ because if my *hand* steals your wallet my whole body gets thrown into jail:

1 Cor 6:15-20: Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth

against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Therefore, our Bible studies teach us to learn about how our sins affect the body of Christ; but we don't have any way (in most cases) to actually see God punish the whole body. A local exception (sometimes) can be local churches when the preacher – in his capacity as a type of the Good Shepherd – administers church discipline when some pewster stubbornly sins and doesn't repent. Those aren't good examples, though, because only the one sinner is punished – not the whole congregation.

We need to ask ourselves: What was God's purpose during the OT when He inflicted such seemingly-harsh punishments to vast numbers of innocent Christians? Before we get to the answer we need to apply what we learn in the Bible. For example, we just read 1 Cor 6 above. Therefore if we *believe* what we read we understand that they were not innocent – *because David's sin and Achan's sin made them all harlots who deserved their punishment!* That is scary, and very sobering. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God because He is, indeed, an iron-fisted General trying to get a bunch of slovenly, lazy soldiers to wake up, shape up, and lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus who authored the NT's rearguard tactics because the good saints in the Bible who went before us cannot be made perfect without us. I say again, let's not be a bunch of *harlots!*

And now we answer the previous paragraph's question: God was "harsh" for a very good reason – leaven was causing the church to go apostate very rapidly, and He wanted to keep as many saints as far from apostasy as possible. That's not a surprising answer, but I only brought it up because I want to ask a follow-up question: Does the fact that God isn't using those public-and-dramatic punishments today mean He doesn't care about us? No, it doesn't mean that; nothing has changed:

- God's OT punishments were to shew His people (and as we saw, Joab paid attention) that individual sins are not "individual" – *they affect the entire church!*
 - We don't have those spectacular punishments to teach us that "individual" sins affect the entire church – so God *plainly* spelled it out for us in 1 Cor 6...*we just have to believe what we read in His holy word!*
- God's OT punishments were to shew His people the necessity to avoid the "accursed thing" – lest they get infected and incur His wrath.
 - We no longer have God's spectacular punishments to scare us away from leaven – so God has *plainly* ordered us to use NT tactics to keep us from foolishly thinking we should "go in among them and touch the unclean thing".

The OT saints tended to fail to remember and *apply* God's spectacular lessons such as plagues, parting waters, and fire from heaven. We NT saints are blessed because we have the Lord's lessons and reminders and explicit orders *plainly written down*. I say again, we don't have to figure out what the fire from heaven is supposed to teach us; *all we have to do is believe what we read*. The fact that most Christians today do not pay attention to *what is written* (which is better than miracles) is no surprise to us, because, once again, the Bible plainly tells us:

Luke 16:31 ...If they hear not Moses and the prophets [the written word of God], neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Another question: Since God's dramatic church-wide OT punishments obviously indicate how seriously contagious and harmful leaven was to the OT church, what lesson should we learn when we *apply* that fact? Answer: We should be as fearful as the OT saints should have been. We should not only "walk away" from apostates after one or two admonitions because the Lord obviously thinks their leaven is so dangerous, but we should consider if our not shunning apostates means *we're already leavened*. And if we *are* leavened members in danger of making the corporate body of Christ an harlot, is it possible that we, like Matt Seven, have already been unknowingly amputated from the church because – as our refusal to *walk away* demonstrates – we are not proper doers of the word of God because our subverted brains think doing what God says isn't necessary?

I say this quietly, with deadly earnest, and without macho bravado, brother: This war we're in is *not* going well. Therefore, deep within our inner sanctums we need to gird our loins against what so many of our subverted brethren are doing out there, and we need to walk very circumspectly in accordance with *Thus saith the Lord*. And we need to help each other by clearly sounding the trumpet, the alarm of war; and by

...exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* (Hebrews 10:25-31)

Now I'll get to why I said earlier, *the same thing* (group punishment) *happens in the NT*.

During the Millennial Reign the entire church will be together for the first time in history. I think it's highly possible that the Lord will administer similar punishments to the whole body or to certain sections of the body when certain individuals commit certain sins. The Lord will resume that OT type of punishment because we'll once again be united and will know each

other. The OT punishments were intended to shew the corporate body of believers that *we really are united* – and what we do really does affect the church.

If we are going to be accounted worthy to be in the assembly of saints on the Day of the Lord, we can presume/hope we'll be discerning enough and unselfish and disciplined enough to properly repent and to charitably help each other learn and grow so we can function properly and efficiently as one body – many members all faithfully, reliably, and lovingly walking *together* under the Headship of Christ. Therefore, the Lord may be able to use comparatively mild (compared with some of the times in the OT) group punishments to get all of our attention so we can straighten up and fly right.

The Lord has given us the Bible as a schoolteacher, and the NT is the key that unlocks the OT. God gave us local church discipline and 1 Cor 6 so we could compare them with OT examples (such as David and Achan) in order to perhaps be better prepared for being held accountable during the Millennial Reign for our actions: When we as individuals treat God and His saints properly, the church benefits; when we as individuals don't, the church suffers. I think we'll need some practice, and that means when the Lord applies the rod of correction we'll need to have the kind of proper repentant attitude David had.

Now, as I mentioned in War College Trumpet W12, I'll introduce a possible Millennial Reign scenario that illustrates the absolute necessity that we actually become "all for one, and one for all" by the time of the Final Battle.

What if the assembly of saints on the seventh day is the "final cut"; it's the group of saints – the entire church – that will fight the Last Battle against Satan when he is released from his thousand-year imprisonment? While he is locked up none of our mistakes will count against us because it's a "time out", a practice session to get us ready for the final battle that decides the war. Our task is to learn how to deal with our carnal selves so we can 1) *always* be with the Lord in our inner sanctums (1 Th 5:17,19), and, 2) always be a helpful member of the body of Christ by supporting our brethren (Ro 15:1-4; 1 Jn 3:16). In other words, we will need to die completely to self so we can be proper members of the body who are submissive to our Head and edifying to our brothers and sisters (Ep 4:11-16).

Here's what bothers me: What if the fact that King David's and Achan's "individual" sins (above) are meant to teach us the deadly ramifications to the body of Christ as a whole if *just one of us* gets frightened enough during the Final Battle that we – with good, but carnal, intentions – do something that's right in our own eyes instead of doing our job as part of Christ's body under His Headship...which makes the offender a 1 Co 6 harlot (above), *which makes the whole body a harlot*, which wins the war for Satan? The war started with one man's offence making death pass unto all men (Ro 5:11-19). Is it possible that history will repeat itself and one of our transgressions will again take down the whole church? That's a scary thought, but if we look at Adam, Achan, David, and some of the verses above we begin to get the impression that this war might be just as deadly serious as God says it is in His Book.

If my fear during the last battle causes me to begin to lose focus, my dear sister, I pray that you'll be strong and in control enough to notice it, grab my arm, get in my face, look into my eyes, and ask, "Len! Are you OK?!" With you helping me bear my burden I can recover my wits, say, "Oh! Yeah, thanks, Mary Jo, I needed that. I'm back on board!"

This war is serious. Let's be about our Father's business for Jesus' sake. He deserves our love and dedication.

How do we profit from these Bible lessons? By understanding that our dedicated service as individuals is important for the whole church. We must learn and grow by applying the words in the Bible to everything in life. And if we properly get Self under control, we just may be able to better help other members of the church. (Don't forget the fact that our being proper doers gets the Comforter involved...but if we're Achans the whole church suffers.) If we as Bible believers who are now widely-scattered around the globe will realize we're not really alone, that we really are **compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses**, and if we'll realize that by striving to be faithful individual wives to the Lord while it is *Today*, we'll be better prepared for when we meet each other *Tomorrow* during the seventh day and work together to deal with the challenges and stumblingstones we'll face as we learn how to glorify God by being His one body made up of wives who were meet for Him and who did not take His name upon themselves in vain.

Upon one link in the cable dependeth the might of the chain,
Who knows when thou mayest be tested, so live that thou bearest the strain.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

Trumpet D7

THE WONDER AND THE SIMPLICITY

There are times when I get flashes of insight that show me how deep and involved certain aspects of Christianity are, such as: Faith and belief (what they are, where they originate, how they grow, etc.); love (this one is extremely complex because it involves emotions but should not be confused with and by emotions, but it is so important and foundational to Christianity); and the body of Christ (it truly is a living organism, and as such has many, many layers, members, and interrelated parts).

Sometimes the flashes of insight produce wonder and awe when some of the big picture of God's kingdom and its beauty, its consistency, and its truth come into sharper focus. And there are times when I get humbling glimpses at how much I can't yet see and don't fully understand: I am but one member, one clay pot, one lowly servant in a vast and glorious kingdom.

When I see myself and my knowledge and understanding in relation to the vast intricacy of a kingdom that I can only faintly see as through a glass darkly, and I realize the "in part" of "now I know in part" (1 Corinthians 13:12), I am struck with

so much humility that I can actually feel the *fear* in it. And that element of fear in humility makes me think of the dad in Mark 9.

As all interrogators know, fear is an effective way to get to truth. If we fear God our apologies, confessions, and conversations with Him will have more humble truth in them than they would otherwise. When the dad in Mark 9 wanted the Lord to help his boy, and the Lord tied His help to *belief*, the dad, with tears of desperation cried out, “Lord, I believe.” But then his fear made him humbly add this admission/confession: “help thou mine unbelief.”

Mark 9:23,24 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things *are* possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

That Scripture has affected my prayers: For decades I have often, when telling the Lord, *I believe*, added, *help Thou mine unbelief*. And when saying, *I love You*, I often add, *help me love You*.

Because you and I love the Lord we want to serve Him properly. But we are mere clay vessels who only see through a glass darkly, therefore we need to have the Mark 9 dad’s fear-induced truthful humility so we can realize that this war, the Romans 7 conflict between our old man and our new, the deceitfulness of our own hearts, and our limited understanding of *so much* can and will confuse, blind, and lead us astray if we aren’t careful to always walk circumspectly by not straying from the strait gate:

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

This may be a good time to remind you to beware of theology. Theology is not based on faith in God, the inerrancy of His word, the things He has said about His word, fear, humility, truth, Biblical love, etc. It is based on mankind’s instinctive, traditional, well-intentioned reliance on the Greek philosophers’ Reason; an un- and anti-scriptural belief in the necessity of the Enlightenment; a pride-based hope that we see as through a clear pane of glass; and the foolish notion that our knowledge of the above wondrous mysteries of *so much* is complete enough and definite enough that we now have the ability to – *without authority* – mess with things that are *way* above our pay grade. I say again, brother: beware of theology:

Matthew 7:13 ...for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

The strait gate is actually pretty simple to identify if we have eyes that see and ears that hear. (But that’s a big *if* because there is *so much* that can get Self to go confidently striding through the wide gate.) The strait gate requires a love-based desire to glorify God, the dad’s fear-based humble honesty so we can *admit* that we’re merely servants who are ignorant of *so much*, and the *belief* to actually *be* the Lord’s humble servants.

And now I get to the “simplicity” in the title. This is the part where I repeat something I’ve said so many times, will say so many more times, and will never stop saying: Never let *anything* distract you from the fact that we have been given the second birth because God wants *servants*. Our job is to *do what He says*. We’re not here to be smart; we’re here to be lowly, humble, fearful doers of His written word. If we will keep our noses in His Book, and if we keep our feet walking exactly where it *says*, our Good Shepherd will take care of the rest. We must by *faith* actually and really *believe* that...because if we don’t we are going to be sidetracked.

The good news is the Lord rewards our being humble doers of His word by giving us *growth*, which includes knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. That growth reaffirms the fact that being an obedient servant of His written word is in fact the strait gate, and it allows us to have occasional glimpses inside ourselves when we see the carnal darkness, ignorance, pride, fear, and weakness that tempt us to go astray. When we glimpse the filthy, empty, unworthiness of *Self*, we must use it to remind ourselves to be His *sheep*, and to be careful not to stray from His little flock. And we must learn as rapidly as possible from our sins that, while being a doer of His word is a simple concept, in practice this war is deadly and deceptive...and there are many casualties.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet D8 IN JESUS’ NAME

In AOR we’ve already learned why brides basically lose their own identities by *taking* their husband’s name. The bride, having none of her own authority, is trusted to exercise her husband’s authority with great judgment, responsibility, and care by doing everything *in his name*.

In olden days women better understood the importance of their husbands’ names. When a wife ordered a couple of hired hands to accompany her to town to help her load supplies, they replied, “Yes, Mrs. Jones.” They were acknowledging and submitting to her position as John Jones’ head servant. (I can’t help but think of Abraham’s head servant being sent on the important errand of finding a wife suitable for Isaac. A head servant was respected and trusted and was a close confidant.)

In town when the bill was presented to Mrs. Jones, she was careful to sign it as *Mrs. John Jones* in order to officially signify that she was acting under his authority and on his behalf. She'd *never* brazenly sign as *Jane Jones* because women were *helpers, servants*, with none of their own authority – no matter how many capabilities and qualities they may have had.

The Bible says we are to do everything for the glory of God in the name of Jesus Christ. That's one of the reasons we pray in Jesus' name. But because we live in a modern unscriptural society in which women have been liberated from their Biblical roles, more and more Christians have no knowledge of the above Bible-based history of why women took their husbands' names upon themselves (including the fact that Eve came *from Adam*) and why they signed official paperwork as *Mrs. John Jones*.

But I'm going to look at another forgotten aspect (including the fact that we came *from Him*) of our doing things in Jesus' name – *humility*.

We have the honor and *responsibility* of being His espoused brides. But I fear tradition and habit have made us automatically and lightly end our prayers with those familiar words without understanding their gravity. As we mature in our Christian walks we may have a tendency to think of ourselves as “good Christians” whose prayers and actions are viewed favorably by God. In other words, without being aware of it, *pride* sneaks in and, like the praying Pharisee, makes our prayers abominations – no matter how proper the words are.

Whenever we say *in Jesus' name* we must remember why it is *necessary* that we do so: We are sinful, mortal abominations with none of our own authority in God's eyes...unless we humbly let Him know that we understand we are nothing without the righteousness and authority of Christ. We *are* His brides, and we're proud to humbly act as His obedient servants who live to carry out His will.

So let's try to remember that the words *in Jesus' name* should connote some respectful fear on our part, which will serve to remind us to be careful that our words and deeds should never be taken lightly. We should never get full of ourselves and forget our roles as His servants who – having none of our own prerogatives, authority, and worth/righteousness – do *everything* fearfully and circumspectly in order to ensure that we are, indeed, glorifying God in accordance with his written word...and in His glorious name.

Luke 18:9-14 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet D9

“WHEN PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED, WE MUST BE DEAF TO EXPEDIENCY”

The title quote is attributed to Stephen Decatur. Even though I don't especially like the word or concept of “principles” because it seems too secular, I do use the word for ease of communication. And I've always liked the quote because it says there are things more important than self. Or perhaps a better way to word it is to say the quote means we should never sacrifice our integrity in order to take an easier path.

TV shows often depict lawyers advising their innocent clients to use their plea as a bargaining tool: if they plead guilty to a lesser charge they'll spend less time in jail if they are wrongly convicted in a trial. That has always bothered me because it suggests a weakness of character; a lack of dedication to purity, to principles. The sinless client is being asked to become a sinner – a *liar* – in order to make his life easier.

We are the sum of our deeds: a good tree does not produce evil fruit. Therefore, a good Christian would rather be imprisoned as an innocent man (like Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon), than become a liar in order to take the easy road. That's because a good Christian knows he, as Christ's bride, is doing things in Jesus' name, and if he becomes a liar he is threatening to make the body of Christ a harlot:

1 Corinthians 6:15,16 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

Our “principles” are the teachings of the Bible, and they must become who we are. If we don't know the Bible, we are neither following nor glorifying its Author; we're following somebody else – usually self.

“I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”

Trumpet D10

WOUNDED BY HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD

I've mentioned a couple of times the heartache the Lord suffers because of His wives and children – us. I want to see if I can articulate some of that pain. Thoughtfully read the following verses.

Zechariah 13:6 And *one* shall say unto him, What *are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends.

Psalm 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.

Psalm 55:12-15 For *it was* not an enemy *that* reproached me; then I could have borne it; neither *was it* he that hated me *that* did magnify *himself* against me; then I would have hid myself from him; But *it was* thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, *and* walked unto the house of God in company. Let death seize upon them, *and* let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness *is* in their dwellings, *and* among them.

Matthew 10:36 And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household.

One clue as to the depths of our Lord's hurt is the underlined part above: The Lord hid/isolated/protected Himself from His enemies...but not from His beloved. And if He had been hurt by His enemies *He could have borne it*. That means the hurt He suffers as a result of the rebellion in His own household is *unbearable*.

Because you and I are not pure we cannot fully appreciate the depths of the Lord's love for His children. God's pure love is idealistically optimistic and naively trusting (if I may be allowed to use words that apply to humans in an attempt to understand His hurt)...and therefore He is extremely vulnerable, unprotected, and *unprepared* for the kind of emotions that blindsided Him when Lucifer turned against Him. Even if we look at the pain caused by Lucifer's independence/rejection of authority/rebellion from the standpoint of *authority alone*, we get a glimpse of the Lord's hurt: Every time Satan does another thing *on his own* it deeply hurts the Lord because 1) it's not right; 2) it offends the authority and righteousness that are who God *is*; 3) because of what love is, and because we are members of God's corporate body, *part of God Himself* feels like it has been ripped away...leaving an emptiness, an *ache*.

And authority, as always, enters into the picture. God is the Head. He created the members of His body because He loves them and therefore He will take good care of them. Members of a body *need* the head, whether they understand that important fact or not. You and I *need* the Lord to take care of us. (And according to John 14 He will come to us and Comfort us if we demonstrate our love for Him by submitting to His Headship by being doers of His word.) But when we are carnal, when we are *independent*, we are acting like we don't *need* Him, don't *appreciate* Him, and don't *love* Him. When He sees us go through our daily routines *without Him* it hurts Him very deeply because He wants to be *needed* (as in wives who *want His love*) and He wants to be *needed* (as in servants who *value His help and guidance*). During our days when we selfishly and blithely "forget" Him and proceed *independently* we are demonstrating that those two *needs* are not full-time parts of our relationship with Him. In practice, therefore, we are expecting Him to be *our* servant. I say again, we expect Him to stand by waiting for whenever we snap our fingers to signify that it's now convenient for Him to join us and listen to our prayers, help us, and in other ways carry out our wills. All of that stuff may seem trivial to us, but they hurt and offend Him very deeply because of His absolute authority and because of His pure and absolute love. I think Stonewall Jackson's love for the Lord and his servant's humility made him understand this...as demonstrated by the fact that whenever he entered a building he inwardly prayed, "Lord, won't You come in with me?"

God *lived* with Lucifer. Then He *regularly visited* with Adam in the garden. Then He *rarely spoke* with Abraham and Moses. Then He spoke *through the prophets*. And now He only speaks with us *through His Scriptures*. The hurt He suffers when He is blithely ignored and selfishly hated by His own loved ones may have caused that progression of withdrawing from us more and more. *He can't bear the hurt*. I say again: He doesn't hurt because of the drunks, the liberals, and the queers; He hurts because of the beloved members of His own household. And when it hits home, brother, it hits *hard*: our Lord God *hurts!*

These verses are a bit cryptic to me, but they convey some of the aloneness and hurt that we, the members of God's own household, caused the Lord to – dare I say – *expect* from us:

John 2:23-25 Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast *day*, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

Lucifer's rebellion and our carnality hurt the Lord because He did nothing wrong, He did everything right, He has always done everything for Lucifer's/our good, and He has done it all with a pure and *giving* love (charity). There is simply no excuse or justification for God's people to be so hateful to Him. There is a *reason* for hate – self. As we discussed in Trumpet Alpha 2, true love is unselfish. Therefore hate is based on self. Therefore all rebellion and hate are results of covetousness and are idolatry.

When Job received word that his family, livestock, and property had been killed, stolen, and destroyed, and when he was covered with sore boils, he bemoaned the day he was born, longed for a death that wouldn't come, and said the following:

Job 3:25 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

As horrible as Job's suffering was, I believe the Lord suffers more, and I'll again use His love for His beloved Lucifer as an example.

When a loved one dies, the survivor's grief gradually fades and is replaced by fond memories triggered by mementos, certain events, smells, sounds, etc...memories of good times when life was as it should be. But in the Lord's case, Lucifer didn't die, he *hated* Him. When Lucifer, filled with the evil notion of equality, rose up and began thinking and doing independently of God, he was being *carnal* – which is *violent enmity* against God. If Lucifer had died the Lord would have been able to look back with fond memories at times when life was as it should be (looking at it from our human perspective).

But Lucifer didn't die, he rebelled against his Lord, he became a traitor, he *hated* the Lord. And by doing so he robbed God of His fond memories. Those memories were no longer idyllic, they were bitter reminders that the old "togetherness" was shallow or false because the relationship was not based on true love (again, as in A2) because Lucifer's love was not *selfless*, which blocked his lane of the "two-way street" (Trumpet Bravo 10) and held onto the "last room of Self" (Alpha 7), which underscores how pernicious Self is to all good, proper, and true relationships...and is why we are told to *die to self*.

The Lord's experience with Lucifer shows that being hated by someone you love is *worse* than if that loved one had died. The Lord's love makes Him more vulnerable and more susceptible to hurt whenever His love is rejected, not shared. Our selfish sins put our Lord in more agony than Job suffered.

The fact that Lucifer was and is supposed to be the Lord's submissively obedient servant only adds to the Lord's hurt. Every day that goes by, and every single thing Lucifer does is carnal, it is enmity against authority, against *the way life ought to be*. The very act of being *independent* of God's authority is a reminder that Lucifer is actively and constantly and uncaringly living in a state of hatred for the Lord, and it is rebellion and defiance against His authority. In other words, for a servant to not be walking together with his lord via cheerful submissive obedience is a lot worse than we modern clueless apostates think: because of what *authority* is, carnality/selfishness, independence/indifference, and rebellion/hatred are *parasites* as long as the rebel lives because they suck the order, the peace, and the happiness from the life of the authority. That's why the Bible is absolutely right and good and correct when it says:

Romans 13:1,2 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

That is one of the reasons God created the lake of fire: He knows the death of those He loves is preferable to allowing them to live despising, ignoring, or being indifferent to Him.

Another verse worth thinking about in the context of this subject is Proverbs 15:17, which is helpful not merely because it states the simple truth that being in the presence of someone who hates you ruins everything, but because of the sorrow, the betrayal, and the hurt behind that truth:

**Proverbs 15:17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is,
than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.**

Because God exists, and because there is no God else besides Him, the *order* established by His authority/existence makes wholehearted submissive obedience on our parts not only right and good, but actually *necessary* if we are to survive...because God Almighty cannot allow parasitic hate to ruin His life.

I think the word *wound* is a good one to describe the type of pain Lucifer inflicted when he turned away from God. God has very deep wounds. They aren't fatal; but they are incurable. Because of who He is the pain will always be with Him. That's why the lake of fire exists. Can He use the lake of fire to wall-off His hurt? I hope so: I hope His unrequited love and His undeserved hurt won't forever be shading His joy, happiness, and satisfied *content*. But I fear they might last forever because His love (and therefore His pain) is based on pure, unchanging, eternal principles – not on the self-based ever-changing emotions that are passed off as love today.

Well, perhaps because this topic is so broad, and perhaps because it is directly related to concepts or principles such as authority and righteousness, and perhaps because mere words cannot describe the emotional, gut-wrenching agony of being hated and *not needed* by someone you love, I've lost my sense of direction with this trumpet. I began writing it because I was in one of those moments when I could empathize with some of the Lord's pain, and I wanted you to think about how much He hurts so you could minister to Him. My inability to adequately articulate this subject probably shows that I can only see through a glass darkly, that I know only in part.

Rather than wander, I'll bug out. But in closing, let's remember how much our carnality *hurts* our Lord. If we love Him, avoiding carnality by walking with discernment and obedient submission is the considerate thing to do. Carnality is self-based independence and rebellion. It is hatred. It is wrong, unjustified, extremely painful for Him, and – in every way – *inexcusable*. And yet...He forgives us. Oh, the greatness, the purity – and the pain – of His love! His love for us makes Him hurt more when we don't love Him back. So for His sake let's love Him in the proper and fullest meaning of the word.

"I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."
